

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

**ARTICLE**  
Honouring Teachers and Ancestral Wisdom: A Pathway to Renewal

By Min Min Zan **PAGE 8-9**

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India-Myanmar team continues restoration of Bagan’s earthquake-damaged ancient structures

**NATIONAL** **PAGE 11**



Job applications for 16<sup>th</sup> EPS-TOPIK candidates extended



Workers are seen in the production line of fishery products at a local cold storage facility.

**Fishery exports net Myanmar US\$278M in Apr-Dec 2025**

Myanmar continues to export seafood steadily to over 40 countries, including China, Thailand, Bangladesh and Japan, through both maritime routes and land border trade channels.

Myanmar exported more than 227,000 metric tonnes of fish during the first nine months of the 2025–2026 financial year, which began on 1 April, earning over US\$278.9 million, according

to the Department of Fisheries. Myanmar exported over 113,500 metric tonnes of fish by sea, with an estimated value of \$177.5 million. Over 114,000 metric tonnes of fish worth \$101.36 million were exported to neighbouring countries

through land borders. Myanmar’s fish export amounted to \$421 million from about 400,000 tonnes in the past FY 2024-2025 (April 2024-March 2025). Myanmar steadily ships seafood to over 40 countries, including China, Thailand, Bangladesh and Japan through maritime and land border trade channels. Fishery products like hilsa, rohu, river catfish, seabass, eel, shrimp and crab are exported to foreign markets, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation. There are over 140 fishery cold storage facilities, and the department grants annual licence renewals. — NN/KK



# NATIONAL

- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

## Shwedagon to host 18<sup>th</sup> annual Htamane Festival & Contest



This photo showcases the Htamane-making competition being held at the Shwedagon Pagoda in the previous year.

ACCORDING to the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, the 18<sup>th</sup> traditional Myanmar Htamane festival and Htamane-making competition will be held on a grand scale on 31 January at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

The ceremony of offering Htamane to Buddha images and monks and providing Htamane to pilgrims will be included in the Htamane festival. Teams representing

townships in Yangon Region and religious associations of the Shwedagon Pagoda will also join the 2025 Shwedagon Pagoda Htamane Festival.

“We are planning to hold the Htamane festival and the Htamane-making contest — a traditional cultural festival — at the Shwedagon Pagoda. For the Htamane Festival, individuals can donate K100,000 for a pan of Htamane. Htamane will be donated to monaster-

ies in the Shwedagon Pagoda precinct and devotees,” said U Bo Thinn.

The Htamane-making competition will take place at 3 pm on 31 January at the Htanpingon compound of the Shwedagon Pagoda. Htamane will be offered to the Shwedagon Pagoda at 5:30 am and rice to 64 monks at 6:30 am on 1 February at the Shwedagon Pagoda platform. — ASH/MKKS

## 54<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Health Research Conference to be held

THE 54<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Health Research Conference will be held under the theme of “Better Health through Medical Research”.

A total of 71 research papers and 45 research posters are reportedly planned to be submitted to the conference.

Researchers from both do-

mestic and international institutions will attend the conference, and four symposia and two scientific talks will be held.

The conference will be held from 26 to 30 January at the Medical Research Department (Head Office), 5, Ziwaka Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. — MNA/MKKS

## India-Myanmar team continues restoration of Bagan’s earthquake-damaged ancient structures



This photo captures ancient structures in the Bagan region being inspected by the ASI team from India, along with officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch).

A total of 73 ancient structures in the Bagan region, damaged by the 2016 earthquake, are currently being restored and preserved through a joint effort by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch).

Full restoration has already been completed for 22 structures in the first phase. In the second phase, from 2025 to 2028, restoration work will continue on 50 ancient structures, focusing on structural conservation as well as the preservation of mural and stucco paintings. In addition, officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch) have stated that 15 ancient structures will be restored during 2025-2026.

The ASI team from India, supported by the Government of India, has been undertaking structural preservation and the conservation of mural and stucco paintings in the Bagan region since 2020. — ASH/MKKS

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday 15 January 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** The weather is a few clouds over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 16 January 2026:** Light rains are likely to be isolated rains in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Shan State. The degree of certainty is 60 per cent. The weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** The sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 3-5 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, and Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Kayah, and Shan States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 January 2026:** Possibility of isolated light rain. The degree of certainty is 40 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 January 2026:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 January 2026:** Possibility of isolated light rain. The degree of certainty is 40 per cent. — DMH



NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

*(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)*

74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kayah State Day marked in Loikaw

NATIONAL Defence and Security Council Office Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, accompanied by Union ministers and relevant officials, attended the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kayah State Day celebration at Loikaw State Hall yesterday.

After the ceremonial procedures, the Executive Chief read out the message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadue Maha Thray Sithu Thadue Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing to the occasion.

Kayah State Chief Minister U Sein Oo remarked, and the Executive Chief presented honorary certificates and titles to the outstanding recipients in peace, security, rule of law and management sectors.

The Union ministers, state ministers and relevant officials then presented honorary certificates and titles to the outstanding individuals in different sectors, who won in the 26<sup>th</sup> Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competitions and 33<sup>rd</sup> SEA Games.

The Executive Chief and members watched the Kayah and Kayan traditional wrestling events and sports competi-



National Defence and Security Council Office Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe presents awards at the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kayah State Day event yesterday.

tions marking the 74<sup>th</sup> Kayah State Day, and presented awards to the winners. They observed the booths of ministries concerned marking the event.

At noon, they attended the opening ceremony of the new two-storey RCC Dwemalnaw School Building of Lawdhamma BEHS (Branch).

They had a documentary photo taken together with the attendees, and viewed around the school compound after the ceremony.

On arrival at Loikaw University, the Executive Chief and party heard the reports regarding the completed maintenance works, undergraduate and postgraduate courses for the 2025-2026 academic year, short-term courses for distance education and further work plans of the university.

The Executive Chief handed over the fund for the 17<sup>th</sup> convocation of the university, and urged the attendees to work hard to make the university lively with students as before and appreciated the efforts of faculty members who impart knowledge to the students.

The Executive Chief and party visited Sutaungpyae Myonan Cedi and donated cash.

They attended the dinner event marking the 74<sup>th</sup> Kayah State Day on the same evening.

The Executive Chief had dinner together with the attendees, enjoying traditional dances, songs and performances of Kayah cultural dance troupes. — MNA/KTZH

Naga residents urged to safeguard stability and peace

MEMBER of the State Security and Peace Commission and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, together with Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi and Dr Thet Khaing Win, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw, Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, regional ministers, attended the Traditional Naga New Year Festival for 2026 in Leshi yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister said that the traditional culture, customs, and historical heritage of the Naga ethnic people are a source of pride for the nation. Their traditional attire, elaborate headgear, and customary dances all contribute to enriching the Union. The government is striving to establish a stable and peaceful country, enforce the rule of



State Security and Peace Commission Member and Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye speaks on the occasion of the 2026 Traditional Naga New Year Festival in Leshi, Sagaing Region.



law, and advance a genuine and well-regulated multiparty democratic system. To ensure that a Union grounded in democracy flourishes, the unity of all ethnic groups, their desire for peace, and their active participation are essential keys.

During the 2025-2026 financial year, he added that the government implemented 53 projects funded by the Union budget and 208 projects funded by regional budgets to support the development of the Naga areas. In order to enable the local Naga population to engage in agriculture, livestock breeding, and other production activities for improving their socioeconomic lives, K5 billion from the State economic promotion fund was also allocated as investment.

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NATIONAL

Youth Peace Forum 2026 wraps up on third day

THE Youth Peace Forum 2026 continued into its third day yesterday at the Jade Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Youth Peace Forum 2026 was attended by member of the State Security and Peace Commission, and Chairman of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn Secretary of the NSPNC Lt-Gen Min Naing, members of the Negotiation Committee, Ministers for Social Affairs from regions and states, representatives from ministries, intellectuals and intelligentsia from various fields, youth representatives from various strata of the regions and states, ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA, diverse ethnic cultural and religious



Press briefing of the 2026 Youth Peace Forum underway yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

backgrounds, ethnic youth from border areas, and other invited youth representatives and observers.

Youth networks were first formed, and project proposals

were submitted. Experts then discussed and recommended the proposals. The proposals were voted on by youth participants, after which experts reviewed the votes and deter-

mined the awards. Finally, a rapid survey and opinion poll were conducted among the youth.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae also presented awards to the first and second-prize win-

ners in the group discussion on network-based project proposals, while Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presented awards to the third-prize winners.

Negotiation Committee Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing then presented awards and honourable mentions to the experts who participated in the forum. Negotiation Committee Member Lt-Gen Sein Win (retd) also presented awards to the winners of the painting competition. Negotiation Committee Member Lt-Gen Myo Thant Naing presented awards to the winners of the cybersecurity quiz. Negotiation Committee Member Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein (retd) presented awards to the forum coordinators, and Negotiation Committee Member Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo (retd) presented awards to the forum facilitators.

SEE PAGE 5

Youth Peace Forum 2026  
Youth Declaration

1. To promote youth participation in the peace process and nation-building efforts that will emerge on a new page of history following the successful completion of the multiparty democratic general election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Youth Peace Forum was held in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory for three days, from 13 to 15 January 2026.
2. The forum was attended by a total of 450 youth delegates, including youths from conflict-affected areas, higher education universities, private associations and civil society organizations in addition to the youth representatives from 14 regions and states and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The participants openly and constructively discussed different sectors and activities in which youth can participate in the future, for three consecutive days, and this declaration is hereby issued.
3. On the first day of the forum, youth delegates began discussions under the theme of passing on peace and promoting a peaceful society, drawing on experiences and lessons shared by senior figures who had been directly involved in managing peace processes. Fifteen youth representatives from regions, states, and the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, together with seven youth representatives from ethnic and conflict-affected areas, expressed diverse voices (perspectives) respectively.
4. On the second day of the forum, experts and young entrepreneurs presented opportunities to enhance the role of youth in future peace processes

and nation-building efforts. Youth delegates then formed groups to engage in in-depth discussions, identify solutions, and prepare for collective action through group-based networking.

5. On the third day of the forum, groups presented recommendations and practical proposals related to future peace and nation-building activities. Youth perspectives and creativity were captured through rapid surveys, and collaborative youth networks were formed. Based on these recommendations, the roadmaps and recommendations were systematically developed, ensuring national-level youth participation while exploring practical initiatives to address challenges in peace by the youths in different regions through a network.
6. Therefore, the Youth Peace Forum successfully achieved its objective “to ensure youth participation in peacemaking, unity and nation development and promote peace awareness among youth to emerge qualified leaders”. For the future peace processes and nation-building tasks, the participants pledged their determination to collectively create the following opportunities for youths: -
  - (a) To establish youth networks that support cooperation and communication among peace-minded youth communities, enabling the identification of the practical youth sector and allowing youths themselves to implement initiatives in the post-election period.
  - (b) To enhance youth capacity across sectors such as education, health, culture, sports and

economic development, fostering the understanding of diversity and combating hatred in peace processes, and to draft sector-specific youth projects.

- (c) To enable youth to take the lead in developing regionally appropriate projects for sustainable peace and unity, and social integration promotion, and to generate recommendations that support the policies and processes of the country.
- (d) To work towards reshaping international, domestic and foreign media perceptions and stances on Myanmar’s peace processes from the perspectives of local youth.
- (e) To compile recommendations emerging from the Youth Peace Forum and develop a Youth Peace Policy Paper for future nation-building.
7. Therefore, the Youth Peace Forum has successfully emphasized and advanced youth participation in building a future Myanmar, identified ways to integrate youth spirit and energy into peace and nation-building processes in the most effective forms, and the participating youth solemnly pledge to the following declaration: -
  - (a) We will strive to improve ourselves.
  - (b) We will build and strengthen our networks.
  - (c) We will contribute to peace in our communities.
  - (d) We will work for the good of our country.

Nay Pyi Taw  
15 January 2026



NATIONAL

Youth Peace Forum 2026 ...

FROM PAGE 4

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae also presented certificates of appreciation to donors who supported the ceremony and to those who composed the forum’s theme song, while Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing presented certificates of appreciation to supporting groups.

Union ministers and the youth group then reviewed the discussion on the impacts of information technology (IT), the establishment of artificial intelligence (AI) systems, cyber and online security, social media and network groups, and effective discussion on true information.

Four young people read out the Youth Declaration issued by the Youth Peace Forum 2026 for future nation-building.

The Union Ministers and forum attendees then recited the four oaths of the Youth Peace Forum 2026 – “We will strive to improve ourselves; We will build and strengthen our networks; We will contribute to peace in our communities; and We will work for the good of our country” – before releasing the declaration. (The declaration is published separately.)

Four youth representatives delivered words of appreciation on behalf of the young people who attended.

Afterwards, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing explained the results of the discussion, and NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae delivered the concluding speech before closing the ceremony. — MNA/TH

Oral hearing continues for Gambia-Myanmar case

THE oral hearings in the Gambia-Myanmar case are being held from 12 to 29 January at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, with the second day of hearings continuing at 3 pm on 13 January.

During the second day of hearings, Gambian lawyers alleged that the Myanmar Tatmadaw had carried out a counter-terrorism operation on Bengalis in northern Rakhine State, claiming that the Border Guard Police and people’s militia were involved



Ongoing oral hearings in the Gambia-Myanmar case.

in the killings, and that the Rakhine people were also involved in the killings, citing fabricated testimonies from Bengali witnesses. Gambia

conducted the first round of pleadings for the third day from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm local time on 14 January. — MNA/MKKS

Naga residents urged to safeguard stability and peace

FROM PAGE 3

With peace and stability in the Naga areas, regional development can be implemented more effectively year by year. Therefore, maintaining peace and stability in these areas is extremely important, and the people living in the Naga regions have a responsibility to protect stability and peace.

The Union Minister emphasized that the government has built a 2,628-foot-long reinforced concrete Chindwin Bridge (Htamathi), which has improved road connectivity between Homalin and Khamti districts as well as the Naga region, accelerating the flow of goods and greatly contributing to the socioeconomic life of residents.

He continued that the government distributes high-yield, high-quality, and disease-free seeds to residents to ensure local food security and the development of the agricultural sector. Local farmers have to select and adopt cultivation methods suitable for changing seasonal conditions. To strengthen local food security, emphasis should be placed on multi-cropping in the fields to increase productivity.

In the Naga areas, he noted that it is necessary to transform the slush-and-burn system to the modern highland farmland. They need to grow konjac, tea, damson, avocado, grapefruit, and oranges as regional commercial products. Based on agriculture and livestock breeding, efforts

should be made to develop small, micro, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) by producing at least one speciality product per region. By processing local raw materials into higher-value products, the regional economy can be strengthened. It is also important, rather than producing a variety of small-scale goods, to focus on producing a single product in substantial quantities and with high quality.



The Traditional Naga New Year Festival in vibrant action yesterday in Leshi, Sagaing Region.

In the education sector, he explained that policies have been effectively implemented to ensure that every school-aged child has access to basic education, to improve school retention, to enhance grade transition rates, and to reduce dropout rates before the end of the school year. These policies also aim to ensure that every citizen completes the basic education cycle (from KG+ to Grade 9). Local parents and communities have actively sup-

ported and participated in these efforts. In the health sector, the placement of doctors and nurses in local hospitals and clinics, as well as the continuous provision of medical supplies, has been consistently carried out to maintain and improve healthcare services.

Within the country, he underscored that Phase I of the 2025 general multiparty democratic elections was successfully held on 28 December 2025, and Phase II

Patron U Hla Tun of the Naga’s traditional literature and culture central committee and Chairman of Township Committee U San Mya presented a commemorative gift to the Union Minister.

The SSPC member Union Minister for Defence, the Union ministers and officials presented aid for regional development to the Chairman of the Management and Administration Body

They also met Reverend U Sae Phauk of Myoma Baptist Church and donated foodstuffs.

They cordially comforted ethnic people receiving medical treatment at the Leshi People’s Hospital and gave them nutritious food. They inspected the domestic science school and youth training school in Leshi and fulfilled the needs.

In the evening, they joined the Naga traditional cultural bonfire for 2026 together with the ethnic people. The SSPC member Union Minister and the township Naga traditional literature and culture committee chair ignited the bonfire, enjoyed traditional dances of ethnic groups and presented the flower basket and cash awards to the dance troupes.

The Naga traditional New Year festival is held to preserve and safeguard the customs, traditions, and cultural heritage of the Naga people; promoting traditional Naga arts; fostering friendship, mutual understanding, and closer ties among Naga ethnic groups; encouraging Naga participation in regional development activities; and strengthening ethnic unity and promoting a sense of Union spirit based on the bonds of kinship and mutual respect among Naga communities. Local and foreign visitors come to the Naga traditional New Year festival with great interest to observe and learn, and they also happily participate together in the fire procession events. — MNA/TTA

on 11 January 2026. In the Naga region, Phase I of the 2025 elections was also successfully conducted. This success highlights the need to continue implementing efforts for regional peace, stability, and development in the emerging democratic nation.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw extended greetings while a Naga ethnic person explained the brief history on emergence of the Naga traditional New Year festival.

of the Naga Self-Administered Zone, U Tun Tun Win.

The Union Minister and party cordially greeted the Naga ethnic people and posed for documentary photos. The General visited the booths of the traditional cultural exhibition.

The General and party paid homage to Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sudasana, the leader of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery in Leshi and made donations.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Announcement 14/2026

13<sup>th</sup> Waning of Pyatho, 1387 ME  
15 January 2026

Announcement on Names of Pyithu Hluttaw Elected Members

ACCORDING to the multiparty democratic general election held in phases beginning on 28 December 2025, the respective State and Regional Subcommissions, under Section 49 (b) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, have announced that the following individuals have been elected as representatives of the respective Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies on a joint ticket:

Kachin State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
(1)	U Ngua Yae Sae	1/MaKhaBa(C)004689	Machanbaw	Kachin State People’s Party
(2)	U Tun Tun Aung	1/MaKaTa(C)056288	Moekaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(3)	U Kyaw Kyaw Aung	12/LaMaNa(C)138818	Waingmaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Kayin State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Individual
(4)	Daw Maw Maw Khaing	2/LaKaNa(C)048840	Demawhso	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(5)	U Sar Rel	2/PhaRaSa(C)003170	Pruhso	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(6)	U Saw Win Htein	3/PhaPaNa(C)000932	Papun	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(7)	Daw Thida San	3/LaBaNa(C)144182	Hlaingbwe	Kayin National Democratic Party

Sagaing Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Individual
(8)	U Tin Tun Lwin	5/KaLaWa(C)029747	Kalewa	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(9)	U Soe Kyaw Naing	5/KaLaNa(C)031555	Kyunhla	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(10)	U Win Naing	5/MaMaTa(C)002163	Myinmu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(11)	U Tun Lwin	5/KhaUTa(C)002140	ChaungU	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(12)	U Kyaw Min	9/MaNaMa(C)004696	Budalin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(13)	U Win Tint	12/MaBaNa(C)112894	Ayadaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(14)	U Khin Maung Tun	5/PhaPaNa(C)056269	Phaungpyin	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Taninthayi Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Individual
(15)	U Aung Kyaw Hnin	9/MaHtaLa(C)060153	Kyunsu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(16)	U Aung San Lwin	6/TaThaRa(C)018870	Taninthayi	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Bago Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Individual
(17)	Daw Theingi Myint Yi	7/PaKhaNa(C)142900	DaikU	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(18)	U Kyaw Toe	7/YaKaNa(C)007187	Shwegyin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(19)	U Kyaw Kyaw Oo	7/HtaTaPa(C)002728	Htantabin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(20)	U Tun Tun Moe	12/AhSaNa(C)009855	Yedashe	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(21)	U Kyaw Min Tun	7/ZaKaNa(C)030034	Zigon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(22)	Daw Swe Swe Thin	7/PaTaTa(C)000140	Paungde	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(23)	U Myo Swe Tun	7/PaKhaNa(C)085739	Kawa	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(24)	U Aung Zaw Lin	7/ThaNaPa(C)060937	Thanetpin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(25)	U Myo Zaw Thein	12/MaBaNa(C)018998	Paukkhaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(26)	U Ko Ko Lwin	12/MaRaKa(C)034648	Padaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(27)	Daw Zar Chi Lwin	7/MaNyaNa(C)054375	Moenyo	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(28)	U Ye Htut Aung	7/MaLaNa(C)058184	Minhla	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Magway Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Individual
(29)	U Aung Zaw Htet	8/HsaPaNa(C)050481	Seikphyu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(30)	U Zaw Htay	8/NaMaNa(C)005848	Natmauk	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(31)	U Soe Win	8/MaThaNa(C)048212	Myothit	National Unity Party
(32)	U Moe Min Oo	12/RaKaNa(C)072049	Ngaphe	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(33)	U Zaw Naing	8/SaLaNa(C)014888	Salin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(34)	U Moe Tin	8/SaTaRa(C)002311	Sedoktara	National Unity Party
(35)	Daw Sabei Min	8/MaBaNa(C)060030	Kanma	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(36)	U Soe Naing	8/MaTaNa(C)016362	Mindon	Union Solidarity and Development Party



NATIONAL

Tree planting aims to benefit future generations

❖ “The benefits of growing trees are not immediate, typically taking seven to eight years to be fully realized. We ourselves enjoy the shade and comfort of large trees thanks to past planting and conservation efforts. Likewise, we must act with the intention of passing these benefits on to future generations.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 2025 monsoon tree-growing ceremony in the Leintaw protected public forest, Meiktila District, covering 13 arid region districts, on 11 July 2025)

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Press Statement

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) strongly and categorically rejects the baseless media statement issued by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) on 22 December 2025.

MNHRC utterly condemns this statement, which is replete with unsubstantiated allegations and presents a one-sided narrative that flagrantly disregards the complex realities and the sovereign rights of Myanmar. The use of politicized and pejorative terminology such as “military junta” is disrespectful, deliberately inflammatory, and fundamentally violates the core principles of ASEAN solidarity and non-interference. Such actions fall far outside the mandated role of a National Human Rights Institution.

Myanmar is a sovereign ASEAN member state navigating a challenging path towards peace and stability. The government is taking all necessary measures to restore normalcy and facilitate a peaceful democratic process. The planning of elections is an exclusively sovereign matter, and it is wholly inappropriate for external entities to prejudge or impose conditions on these processes.

The cornerstone principle of non-interference in internal affairs, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and international law, must be respected. External interventions that ignore the primary efforts of the sovereign government set a dangerous and destabilizing precedent.

MNHRC firmly believes in constructive engagement over public condemnation. The first and second phases of the multiparty general election led by the State were conducted successfully, freely, and fairly, as witnessed by international observers. The final third phase will also proceed as scheduled.

Therefore, MNHRC denounces that unfriendly statement and sternly urges SUHAKAM to immediately cease issuing such declarations, which only serve to exacerbate tensions and polarize the international community. All parties should instead support inclusive, peaceful dialogue without preconditions, respecting Myanmar’s sovereignty and the welfare of its people.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Date: 15 January 2026

FROM PAGE 6

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
(37)	U Khin Maung Htay	8/MaLaNa(C)052865	Minhla	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(38)	U Tint Swe	8/SaPaWa(C)048554	Sinbaungwe	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Mandalay Region				
No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Individual
(39)	U Tun Tun Naing	9/SaKaTa(C)060624	Singaing	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(40)	U Win Myint Maung	13/NyaRaNa(C)010009	Kyaukpadaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(41)	U Aung Thu	9/TaTaU(C)008193	TadaU	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(42)	U Aung Naing Oo	9/MaRaTa(C)004588	Pyigyidagun	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(43)	U Soe Naing	9/MaRaTa(C)015162	Mahaaungmyay	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(44)	U Myo Myint Thein	9/WaTaNa(C)108782	Wundwin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(45)	Daw Kyu Kyu Maw	9/ThaSaNa(C)002139	Thazi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(46)	U Thein Tun Oo	9/AhMaRa(C)013411	Amarapura	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(47)	U Hla Myint	9/MaTaRa(C)046638	Madaya	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Mon State				
No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Individual
(48)	Dr Khin Maung Thwin	14/HaThaTa(C)195196	Bilin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(49)	Min Wunna Gyi	10/MaLaMa(C)067907	Mudon	Mon Unity Party
(50)	U Than Shwe	10/RaMaNa(C)172225	Thanbyuzayat	Mon Unity Party
(51)	Daw Myint Than	10/RaMaNa(C)002769	Ye	Mon Unity Party
(52)	U Bo Win	10/ThaPhaRa(C)061555	Paung	Mon Unity Party

Sd/Than Soe  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

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# OPINION

## Strive to boost MSME businesses contributing to the State economy

**M**ICRO, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are a key driving force for the development of a country and also provide essential support to national economic growth. Therefore, the State is currently taking measures to promote and support MSME businesses.

The State is providing MSME loans to ensure access to financial resources. Whether an individual is an existing MSME entrepreneur or someone interested in MSME businesses who wishes to start an enterprise, MSME loans may be applied for according to the relevant

state and region. Upon application, inspections and assessments are carried out based on the type of business, such as manufacturing, processing of agricultural products, retail trade, wholesale trade, service businesses, and other sectors. Based on the findings of these assessments, enterprises are classified as micro, small, or medium, and loans are then issued accordingly.

In addition, to help MSME products gain market access, MSME product exhibitions and trade fairs are being organized in each region and state, and Union-level MSME product exhibitions and trade fairs are also being held. Holding such product exhibitions and trade fairs enables the public and consumers to become aware of the products manufactured by MSME businesses.

Myanmar's main economic sectors are agriculture and livestock breeding. From these sectors, efforts must be made to produce value-added products and to enable their

export to foreign markets. With regard to products, if the products are the same, the price must be lower; if the price is the same, the quality must be superior. Therefore, it is necessary to systematically implement production in line with market requirements, and at the same time, to strive to manufacture high-quality products that can be exported abroad.

MSME businesses require raw materials, investment, infrastructural inputs, and human resources for their production. If locally produced agricultural and livestock raw materials are utilized to manufacture products through micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and local production is promoted, it will help support the growth of the local economy. Therefore, the State is also assisting in meeting the needs of MSME entrepreneurs, including access to raw materials.

Thus, by promoting and supporting MSME businesses, the development of MSMEs will drive national economic growth and create more employment opportunities. MSMEs generate increased job opportunities for local people, raise household incomes, and improve socio-economic living standards. Through the leadership of the State and the collective participation of local communities and business operators in advancing MSME development, meaningful support will be provided for the development of the country's economic sector.

## Honouring Teachers and Ancestral Wisdom: A Pathway to Renewal

**I**N Myanmar, gratitude is not a fleeting courtesy but a way of life. It is woven into the rhythm of our festivals, the cadence of our prayers, and the gestures of our daily interactions. Among the most profound expressions of this gratitude is the reverence we show to teachers and to the wisdom of our ancestors. To honour them is to acknowledge that our lives are not solitary journeys but continuations of stories begun long before us. In a world increasingly captivated by speed and novelty, this act of remembrance and respect offers a counterbalance: a reminder that progress without roots is fragile, and that wisdom without gratitude is incomplete.

Teachers in Myanmar are often described as “second parents”. They nurture not only the intellect but also the moral compass of their students. In classrooms across the country, from bustling cities to quiet villages, teachers embody patience and resilience. They stand before rows of eager faces, imparting lessons that extend far beyond the textbooks. A teacher's words may spark curiosity about science or literature, but their example – how they carry themselves, how they treat others – plants seeds of integrity and compassion. To honour teachers, therefore, is to honour the very foundation of society. It is to recognize that the strength of a nation lies not only in its economy or politics but in the character of its people, shaped day by day in the humble space of a classroom.

This reverence finds ceremonial expression during the Thadingyut Festival, the Festival of Lights. As the rains retreat and the skies clear, families illuminate their homes with candles and lanterns, symbolizing the light of wisdom dispelling darkness. Students visit their teachers, bowing low, offering gifts of fruit, flowers, or candles. The gesture is simple yet profound: a physical embodiment of humility, a recognition that knowledge is not self-made but bestowed.

Foreign observers often marvel at this tradition, seeing in it a cultural richness that transcends mere ritual. It is a reminder that gratitude, when practised collectively, becomes a force that binds communities together.

Yet honouring teachers is only one part of the story. Equally vital is the respect accorded to ancestral wisdom. In Myanmar, ancestral voices echo through proverbs, folktales, and rituals. They remind us of moderation in times of abundance, resilience in times of hardship, and respect in times of conflict. A proverb such as “The tree with deep roots withstands the storm” is not merely poetic; it is practical advice for communities facing the uncertainties of climate change and social upheaval. Ancestral wisdom is not locked in the past – it is a living resource, adaptable to new challenges. To honour it is to keep alive a reservoir of guidance that modernity alone cannot provide.

Consider the role of ancestral wisdom in environmental stewardship. Long before the language of “sustainability” entered global discourse, Myanmar's farmers practised crop rotation, water conservation, and communal sharing of resources. These practices were not framed as scientific innovations but as moral obligations, rooted in respect for the land and for future generations. Today, as the world grapples with ecological crises, these ancestral lessons resonate anew. They remind us that caring for the earth is not only a technical challenge but a moral one, requiring humility and foresight.

The act of honouring teachers and ancestors also carries psychological depth. In societies where rapid change often breeds uncertainty, rituals of gratitude provide stability. They anchor individuals in a continuum of meaning, assuring them that they are part of something larger than themselves. For young people, this is especially crucial. In honouring teachers, they learn that success is not achieved in



isolation but through guidance and mentorship. In honouring ancestors, they learn that identity is not a blank slate but a tapestry woven from countless threads of history. Such lessons cultivate resilience, empathy, and a sense of belonging – qualities that are indispensable in navigating the complexities of modern life.

International audiences, including diplomats and educators, can find inspiration in these traditions. In many countries, Teacher's Day is celebrated, but often as a formal occasion rather than a deeply personal ritual. Myanmar's practices offer a richer model: one where gratitude is enacted not only through speeches or awards but through intimate gestures of respect. Similarly, while many cultures honour ancestors, Myanmar's integration of ancestral wisdom into daily life – through proverbs,

rituals, and community practices – demonstrates how tradition can remain vibrant without becoming stagnant. For foreign readers, these examples highlight Myanmar's potential to contribute to global conversations about education, sustainability, and cultural identity.

Of course, honouring teachers and ancestors is not without challenges. Modernization, urbanization, and globalization sometimes erode traditional practices. Younger generations may feel distant from ancestral stories, perceiving them as outdated. Teachers, burdened by limited resources, may struggle to embody the ideals expected of them. Yet these challenges do not diminish the value of the traditions; rather, they call for renewal. To honour teachers today may mean advocating for better training, fair salaries, and

supportive policies. Honouring ancestors may mean reintroducing their wisdom in light of contemporary issues, ensuring that proverbs and rituals speak to the realities of climate change, digital technology, and global interconnectedness.

The renewal of these traditions requires creativity. Imagine classrooms where ancestral proverbs are discussed alongside scientific theories, showing students that wisdom and knowledge are complementary. Imagine festivals where honouring teachers includes not only gifts but also community projects, linking gratitude to civic responsibility. Imagine public campaigns that highlight ancestral practices of environmental care, reframing them as solutions for modern sustainability. Such innovations would ensure that honouring teachers

By Min Min Zan

and ancestors is not a nostalgic exercise but a dynamic force for progress.

At its heart, this theme is about gratitude. Gratitude is often misunderstood as passive acceptance, but in truth, it is active and transformative. To be grateful is to recognize interdependence, to see oneself as part of a web of relationships. It is to acknowledge debts not with resentment but with joy, knowing that to honour those who gave is to strengthen the bonds that sustain us. In honouring teachers, we affirm that knowledge is a gift. In honouring ancestors, we affirm that identity is a legacy. Together, these affirmations create a culture of humility and resilience, capable of facing the uncertainties of the future with confidence.

As Myanmar engages with the international community, these traditions can serve as bridges of understanding. They show that the country's cultural heritage is not merely decorative but deeply instructive. They demonstrate that respect for teachers and ancestors is not parochial but universal, resonating with values cherished across cultures. In a time when global discourse often emphasizes innovation, Myanmar's voice reminds us that innovation must be grounded in wisdom, and that wisdom must be honoured through gratitude.

In brief, honouring teachers and ancestral wisdom is more than a cultural practice; it is a philosophy of life. It teaches us that progress is not a race to outpace the past but a journey that carries the past forward. It reminds us that gratitude is not a burden but a source of strength. And it invites us to see education and tradition not as separate domains but as intertwined paths toward renewal. For Myanmar, and for the world, this theme offers a vision of balance: a society that honours its roots while reaching for the future, a people who bow in humility yet stand tall in resilience.

## Memory loss can suddenly speed up with age: Study

*The research utilized an unprecedented dataset of 10,000 MRI scans and 13,000 memory tests from 3,700 cognitively healthy adults.*

**A** massive international brain study has revealed that memory decline with age isn't driven by a single brain region or gene, but by widespread structural changes across the brain that build up over time.

Analysing thousands of MRI scans and memory tests from healthy adults, researchers found that memory loss accelerates as brain tissue shrinkage increases, especially later in life.

While the hippocampus plays a key role, many other brain regions also contribute, forming a broad vulnerability rather than isolated damage. An unprecedented international research effort combining brain imaging and memory testing from thousands of adults is offering a clearer picture of how age-related brain changes affect memory.

By bringing together data from multiple long-running studies, scientists were able to examine how memory performance shifts alongside structural changes in the brain over time.

The analysis drew on more than 10,000 MRI scans and over 13,000 memory assessments from 3,700 cognitively healthy adults across 13 separate studies.

The results which tracked people across a wide age range revealed that the link between brain shrinkage and memory decline is not simple or linear. The association grows stronger in later life and cannot be explained only by well-known genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's disease, including APOE e4.

Together, the findings suggest that brain aging involves com-



The research found that memory loss is not linear; it accelerates significantly as brain tissue shrinkage (atrophy) increases, particularly in older age. **ILLUSTRATION: PIXABAY**

plex, widespread changes rather than damage driven by a single cause.

**Memory Decline Reflects Widespread Brain Changes**

Published in Nature Communications, the study titled “Vulnerability to memory decline in aging revealed by a mega-analysis of structural brain change” shows that memory-related brain changes extend far beyond one isolated region.

Although the hippocampus showed the strongest connection between volume loss and declining memory, many other areas of the brain were also involved.

SOURCE: ANI

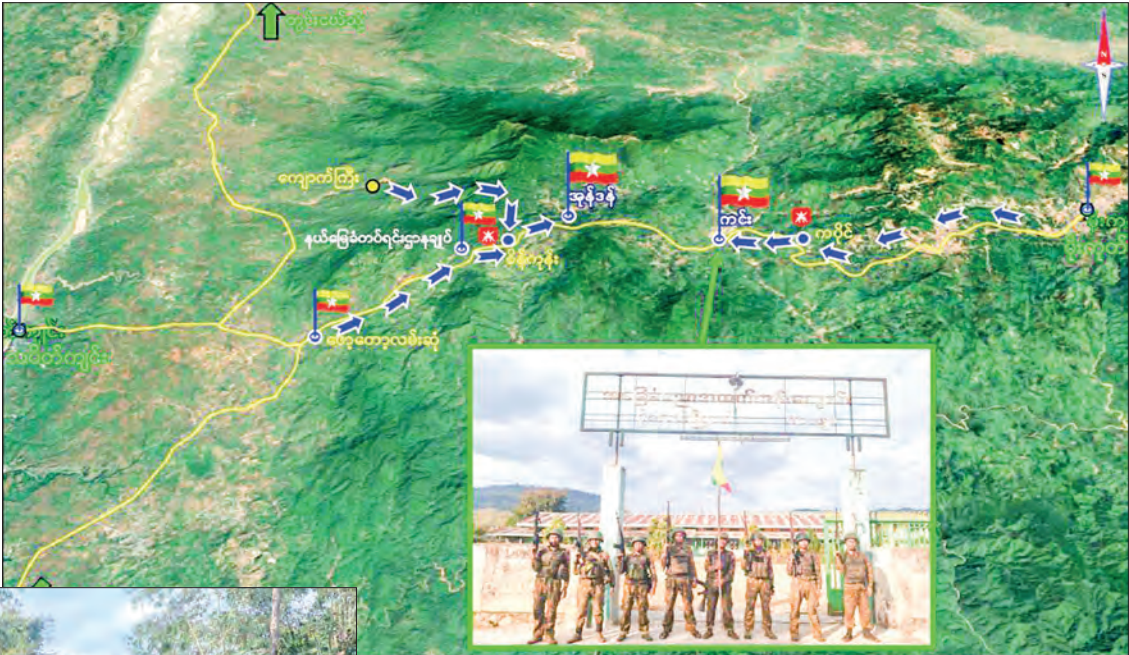


NATIONAL

Tatmadaw regains villages, terrorists' base on Mogok-Thabeikkyin route

IT has already announced that Tatmadaw columns recaptured, one by one, the areas of Ma-daya, Singu and Thabeikkyin townships in Mandalay Region that had been temporarily controlled by so-called PDF terrorist groups on 31 December 2025, and Tatmadaw also reoccupied Nyaungpintha, Poe Zar Nwe, and Kyaukhlebee villages, the regiment headquarters and vicinity areas of Seingon village along the Thabeikkyin-Mogok road on 14 January 2026.

Tatmadaw columns wiped out the terrorists hiding along



Images reveal Tatmadaw columns retaking the control of Kinn Village along the Thabeikkyin-Mogok route in Mandalay Region.

the road section between Sein-gon village and Mogok on the Thabeikkyin-Mogok road, and in order to reopen the routes, Mogok-Thabeikkyin-Mandalay, as quickly as possible, the columns were divided and carried out security operations.

Yesterday, Tatmadaw columns marching after conducting operations from the Sein-gon Village recaptured Ohndan village, while another column from Mogok reoccupied Kinn village, Kinn bridge and its vicinity areas, which were temporarily controlled by terrorists, located about 10,000 metres northwest of Mogok.

It was also found out that the terrorists used the monasteries, schools, houses and bridges as their bunkers and temporary camps to collect money.

Tatmadaw columns continue to carry out necessary area control and security operations to clear the remaining sections of the route. In cooperation with residents, efforts to strengthen area security and control will be intensified to ensure the earliest reopening of the routes connecting Mogok, Thabeikkyin, and Mandalay. — MNA/KTZH

Drugs seized in Hsipaw, Mongyai

THE information was released on seizures of related accessories used in telecom fraud, online gambling and drug processing in Hsipaw and Mongyai townships in Shan State (North) on 9, 10 and 11 January 2026, and the raids on 10 and 11 January uncovered three major drug production bases.

In connection with the seizures, combined security forces continued aerial and ground intelligence and area-clearing operations. At 2:30 pm yesterday, suspicious structures used for drug manufacturing were discovered about 34 kilometres northwest of Mongyai in northern Shan State, about 14 kilometres northeast of Narlin village, and about 2.5 kilometres north of a previously seized major drug production site. The security forces seized the items used in drug production such as 3,500 blue containers and 507 steel barrels containing acids (still examining) 243

gas cylinders, two generators, nine tablet-pressing machines, one factory warehouse suspected to be producing Happy Water, 50 tablet-drying trays, 12 huts, seven warehouses storing acid containers, one hut used for drug production equipped with glass condensers, three warehouses, two warehouses storing raw materials for drug production, and two ration warehouses.

Seized drugs will be examined by the combined teams, including experts, and transferred to relevant departments, and systematically destroyed through incineration or demolition. As there may still be additional suspicious drug-manufacturing sites in the surrounding area, security measures will be continuously carried out. Those involved in drug cases will also be thoroughly identified and effectively prosecuted. — MNA/KTZH



Images show the crackdown on drug-processing sites in Hsipaw Township, northern Shan State, alongside seized drug-refining equipment and related raw materials.



NATIONAL

Gushar from snow-capped mountains fetches US\$600

GUSHAR (*Fritillaria delavayi*), a medicinal plant that grows in the snow-capped mountains such as Phonkanrazi, located between 12,000 and 16,000 feet above sea level in northern Myanmar, is valued at over \$600 per kilogramme.

Gushar root, a medicinal plant that grows along the snow-capped mountains such as Phonkanrazi, the Ganlangrazi, Khakaborazi and the Himalayas, Tibet and India, is one of the most popular medicinal plants in the snow-capped region. It has been used in traditional Chinese medicine for over 2,000 years to treat lung diseases and is still renowned for its healing properties.

The Gushar tree grows in isolation in the rocky, snow-capped area. It grows slowly and blooms from June to October after five years. It produces only one leaf per year, and each Gushar tree grows from three to five leaves. If the Gushar tree is cut down, the plant will change its shape to match the environment. Researchers have documented that the Gushar tree changes its original shape and colour.

The Gushar tree often changes its appearance so that it cannot be seen by seekers. It changes its colour like the rocks on the cliffs and cliff edges. It changes its appearance to match the environment.

Since the green plant and the light green flower are more medicinal than the green plant and the light green flower, the Gushar tree collectors often risk their lives to find the source.

“There are two types of Gushar: flat and mountain. Mountain Gushar is uncovered when the ice melts, and flat Gushar is harvested in the winter season. Mountain Gushar is more popular with foreign buyers because it is of better quality. Cur-

rently, one kilogramme of Gushar is valued at over US\$600. Other medicinal plants and Cordyceps are also selling well. The rarer the medicinal plants, the better the price,” said U Mans Jin Liang of PutaO Market.

One kilogramme of Gushar, which is the size of a fingernail, is valued at over US\$600, and dealers sell to local warehouse markets in PutaO, as well as exporting to China. — Thitsa (MNA)/MKKS



Photos capture a rare Gushar (*Fritillaria delavayi*) plant emerging from rocky terrain and a Gushar hunter struggling to scale Mountain Gushar in Kachin State. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**



Job applications for 16<sup>th</sup> EPS-TOPIK candidates extended



The Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF)

THE Government Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) will conduct a job application renewal process for candidates who passed the 16<sup>th</sup> EPS-TOPIK for the Agriculture/Livestock, Service 2, and Construction sectors but have not yet been selected by an employer at the Panglong Hall of the POEA office from 9 am to 3 pm.

Schedules include application Issuance on 26-27 January and submission on 29-30 January for service 2 (female), and application issuance on 28 January and submission on 2 February for agriculture/livestock, construction, service 2 (male).

Applicants must appear in person and present the documents, such as an original passport, three photos, a health certificate, a Citizenship Scrutiny Card copy, a copy of the bank account at a state/private bank, a household register, education certificates, trips to the Republic of Korea and their details, and the date of arrival in Myanmar. The photo used in all cases must be of the same person. Medical check-ups must be performed only at designated clinics, and only those who pass the medical exam are eligible to submit a job application.

The passport must have at least one year of validity remaining. All information, including phone numbers, personal data, and supporting documents, must be accurate, it stated. — MT/ZN

MRF releases rice prices for Jan's home delivery

JOINTLY implemented by the Myanmar Rice Federation and the Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, rice is currently sold through home delivery service in order to make prices stable, and prices have been released according to different types for selling in January, said MRF.

Under the MRF announcement, the price per bag weighing 108 pounds (24 Pyi) for old Shwebo Pawsan is K182,000 and K155,000 for new Shwebo Pawsan, while the price per bag for new Ayeyawady Pawsan (Kyapyan) is K130,000, new Ayeyawady Pawsan is K112,000, 90-day is K75,000 and Aemahta containing 15 per cent broken rice is K52,000.

Consumers can place an order to MRF by dialling 09 400067240, 09 400067250 and 09 400067260 or by sending an SMS or Viber message about rice type, address and phone number. MRF will send the KB-



Selling rice by home delivery as a part of the joint effort to ensure rice prices are stable.

ZPay number for prepaid, so consumers will need to make sure the payment is sent to MRF numbers only and confirm the payment via Viber.

Delivery will arrive in three

days after the payment, and MRF will inform ahead of time about the delivery time, said MRF, and added that an extra charge will be needed to pay for those living in high-rise buildings. — MT/ZS



NATIONAL

Indian Ambassador visits Kawthoung, key hub for Myanmar-India coastal trade and tourism

THE Indian ambassador to Myanmar and his delegation visited Kawthoung, a strategically important city for Myanmar-India coastal maritime trade and tourism, on 12 January, according to reports.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur, accompanied by his wife, Mrs Surabhi Thakur, and Naval Attaché Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey, travelled by air to Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region, where they held discussions on border trade and the flow of goods.

During the visit, the Ambassador and his delegation met with Kawthoung District Administrator U Ye Myat Tint and responsible officials to



Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur and his wife Mrs Surabhi Thakur arrive in Kawthoung.

discuss border area development and the current situation of cross-border trade. The

delegation also toured and inspected Kawthoung Main Jetty, border immigration and

inspection checkpoints, the Royal Deep-Seaport, Bayintnaung Point (Victoria Point), the Bayint-

naung statue site, and the scenic viewpoint on Point 555 hill, where documentary photographs were taken.

In addition, the Ambassador and his delegation visited the Sri Krishna Hindu Temple in Aung Thukha Ward and met about 100 members of the local Hindu community and religious leaders in Kawthoung. On 13 January, they also travelled to islands in the Kawthoung sea area.

Located at Myanmar's southernmost point and facing India's eastern coastline, Kawthoung holds strong potential for cooperation with India in coastal maritime trade routes and tourism development. — ASH/KZL

CBM to sell over US\$25M to fuel oil import sector on 14 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 14 January that it would sell US\$25 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.3 million to edible oil-importing companies, in addition to an injection of over 1.88 million baht into the market on the same day.

CBM sold over \$1.39 million to edible oil-importing companies on 13 January 2026 after an injection of over 965,550 yuan and over three billion baht into the market.

CBM sold \$50,000 to edible oil-importing companies on 12 January 2026, along with an injection of 659,000 yuan and over 2.18 million baht.

CBM pumped over \$320,000 to fuel oil-importing companies and \$200,000 to edible oil-importing companies, in addition to an injection of over two million baht purchased from the CMP companies into the market on 10 January

CBM sold over \$1.17 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$315,900 to fuel oil-importing companies on 9 January, in addition to sales of over 643,000 yuan and 1.9



The general view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Yangon.

million baht.

CBM sold over \$1.69 million to edible oil-importing companies, along with an injection of over 5.77 million baht and over 331,000 yuan into the market on 8 January.

CBM pumped \$34 million, 11 million baht and 300,000 yuan into the market in December 2025. CBM made an injection of over \$21 million, 2.4 million yuan and 1.5 million baht in November and over \$2.48 million, 5.75 million yuan and 4.98 million baht in October, along with sales of over \$54 million purchased from CMP companies.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

YCC to host Health & Beauty Fair 2026 from 6 to 8 Feb

THE Health & Beauty Fair 2026 is scheduled to take place from 9 am to 5 pm on 6-8 February 2026 at the Yangon Convention Centre.

The fair will showcase skincare and cosmetics products in the same place. It is a great platform for import and distribution companies, importers, aesthetic clinics, and beauty and healthcare service professionals to connect.

The categories include cosmetics and makeup, international skincare products, aesthetic clinics and wellness

centres, beauty salons, dental clinics, healthcare services, hospital services, supplements, beauty spas, local beauty products, fashion and lifestyle products, fitness centres and jewellery.

This fair aims for business matchings. Interested exhibitors can enquire about details of the mall and event via +959 970733234, +959 254277355, +959 790614713, +959 450045003 +959 777773929 and +959 777737923, and Ms Sarapee Sripankaew (Thailand) at +666 19616587. — NN/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 15 January 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,000,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

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# Swiss regulator opens enquiry into Microsoft licence fees

THE Swiss Competition Commission said Thursday that it had opened a preliminary enquiry into Microsoft's licensing fees, after complaints by rivals over what it called "significant" price hikes for the Microsoft 365 software suite.

"Recent fee increases may constitute indications

of an unlawful restriction of competition," the agency said. Microsoft 365 is widely used "by private businesses as well as numerous government agencies, public companies and other government-related bodies", it added.

The US software giant has faced numerous regulatory battles in Europe

over the years concerning claims of market dominance, which it contests.

"Microsoft is committed to complying with Swiss competition law and will cooperate with the Swiss Competition Commission in its preliminary investigation," a spokesman told AFP on Thursday. — AFP



Recent fee increases may constitute indications of an unlawful restriction of competition. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# BP reveals multibillion-dollar hit on energy transition

BRITISH energy giant BP on Wednesday revealed a write-down of up to \$5 billion linked to its energy transition efforts that will be reflected in the company's upcoming annual

results.

In an update on the final quarter of 2025, BP added that group oil trading was "weak" amid cooling crude prices.

BP last year shelved

targets on reducing its carbon emissions and in December appointed industry veteran Meg O'Neill to be chief executive from April, replacing Murray Auchincloss. The

fourth-quarter results are expected to include "impairments... in the range of \$4 to 5 billion, primarily related to our transition businesses", the company said in a statement said.

"These charges are primarily attributable to the gas and low carbon energy segment," it said, adding that "The oil trading result is expected to be weak." Its share price was down 1.4 per cent following the update and with oil prices falling in early London deals.

"BP shares are trading lower this morning after it highlighted a significant impairment and weaker oil prices," said Victoria Scholar, head of investment at traders Interactive Investor. — AFP



BP shares are trading lower this morning after it highlighted a significant impairment and weaker oil prices. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# India's Dec exports dip marginally

INDIA'S overall exports in December 2025 stood at US\$74.01 billion, marginally lower than US\$74.77 billion in December 2024, while imports rose sharply to US\$80.94 billion from US\$76.23 billion a year ago, according to official data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday.

The country's overall trade deficit widened significantly to US\$6.92 billion in December 2025, compared with US\$1.46 billion in the same month last year.

The increase in the

trade gap was driven primarily by higher imports, even as exports remained broadly stable on a year-on-year basis.

The data covers combined trade in merchandise and services.

A closer look at merchandise trade shows a modest improvement in exports. Merchandise exports increased to US\$38.51 billion in December 2025 from US\$37.80 billion in December 2024, reflecting steady outbound shipments despite global economic uncertainties.

— ANI

# S Korea's forex trading falls in Q4

SOUTH Korea's foreign exchange trading fell in the fourth quarter of 2025 due to weaker demand for the US currency, central bank data showed Wednesday.

The daily average transaction of foreign

currencies and derivatives in the domestic inter-bank market declined US\$2.69 billion from three months earlier to \$39.15 billion in the October-December quarter, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). It was affected

by lower demand for the US currency, of which the daily average trading shrank \$2.65 billion. The daily average transaction of the Chinese currency slipped 1 billion dollars in the cited quarter.

Demand for FX

swaps added \$0.72 billion over the quarter to \$18.94 billion in the fourth quarter, while the transaction of other derivatives, including currency swaps and options, was up \$0.09 billion to \$2.62 billion. — Xinhua

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0081N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0081N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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# ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Trump slaps 25% tariff on certain advanced microchips**

US President Donald Trump has enacted a 25 per cent tariff on the import of certain advanced microchips, according to an executive order published by the White House. “I have also determined that it is necessary and appropriate to impose an immediate 25 per cent ad valorem duty rate on the import of certain advanced computing chips and certain derivative products,” the executive order said on Wednesday.

Trump added that the tariff would take effect at 12:01 am EST (05:01 GMT) on 15 January. — SPUTNIK

**Venezuelan shot in another federal agent action in US Minneapolis**

A US federal agent shot and injured a Venezuelan man Wednesday night in Minneapolis, the largest city in the state of Minnesota, said the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Federal law enforcement officers were conducting a traffic stop in Minneapolis while the man — identified by the DHS as being in the United States illegally and fleeing in his vehicle — crashed into a parked car and then ran on foot, before an officer caught up with him, the DHS said.

When the two struggled on the ground, two other individuals emerged from a nearby apartment and attacked the officer with a snow shovel and a broom handle. — Xinhua

**S Korea considers restoring military agreement with DPRK**

SOUTH Korea is reviewing whether to restore the suspended 19 September military agreement with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), said national security chief Wi Sung-lac on Wednesday.

Restoring the agreement is the South Korean government’s “basic direction” and a guideline set by the president, said Wi, quoted by Yonhap News Agency.

No final conclusion has been made as related discussions are ongoing, he said. — Xinhua

## US, Denmark, Greenland to set up work group as “fundamental disagreement” persists

*Denmark asserts that Greenland’s long-term security is best ensured within the “current framework” of the Kingdom of Denmark.*

THE United States, Denmark and Greenland have agreed to establish a “high-level working group” to explore possible areas of compromise since a “fundamental disagreement” persists over the future of Greenland, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said here Wednesday.

His remarks came just after US Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio met him and Greenlandic Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt at the White House.

Though calling the meeting “a frank but also constructive” discussion “focused on how to ensure the long-term security in Greenland,” Rasmussen said at a press conference that Denmark and Greenland’s “perspectives continue to differ” from the United States.

“I must say, the president (US President Donald Trump) has made his view clear, and



Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen (left) and Greenland’s Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt speak during a news conference at the Danish Embassy in Washington, DC, on 14 January 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

we have a different position,” Rasmussen said, asserting that in Denmark’s view, Greenland’s long-term security “can be ensured inside the current framework.” “We agreed that it makes sense to try to sit down on a high level to explore whether there’s possibilities to accommodate the concerns of the president while we at the same time, respect the red lines of the Kingdom of Denmark. So this is the work we will start,” he said, adding that the working group is expected to meet for the first time “within a matter of weeks”. — Xinhua



Saudi Arabia announced a massive \$506 million (SR1.9 billion) development package for Yemen that includes the official opening and operation of a hospital on the island of Socotra. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

## Saudi Arabia says will invest \$500M in Yemen development projects

SAUDI Arabia is to invest over \$500 million in development projects in Yemen, the Gulf monarchy’s defence minister said on Wednesday, after Riyadh-backed forces in recent weeks repelled an offensive by separatists supported by the United Arab Emirates.

The Saudi defence minister, Prince Khalid bin Salman, wrote on the social media platform X of the launch of “development projects and initiatives in vital sectors at a cost of 1.9 billion riyals (\$506 million)” across 10 Yemeni governorates.

The projects, to be delivered by the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen, include the construction of Yemen’s first desalination plant, the restoration of the airport in southern city Aden, the opening of a hospital on the island of Socotra and the construction and equipping of 30 schools, he said. — AFP



SPORTS

Team Myanmar arrives in Thailand for XIII ASEAN Para Games

THE Myanmar Para Sports Team, including officials, coaches, and athletes, has arrived in Thailand to compete in the XIII ASEAN Para Games, which will be held from 20 to 26 January 2026 in Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

The delegation of 147 members, led by Maj-Gen Hla Moe, President of the Myanmar Disabled Sports Federation, and Dr Tin Maung Hlaing, Vice-President (International Affairs), includes sports managers, coaches, and athletes across 11 disciplines: swimming, track and field, boccia, bowling, chess, football, goalball, shooting, table tennis, sitting volleyball, and weightlifting.

The team arrived at Don Mueang International Airport at 6:45 am local time yesterday, where Myanmar Ambassador U Zaw Zaw Soe and Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Thu Lin welcomed them. Accommodation has been arranged at



Members of Team Myanmar pose for the group documentary photo before departing for Thailand.

multiple hotels: guests, officials, and NPC representatives at Kantary Hotel and Sima Thami Hotel; track and field, swimming, shooting, and sitting volleyball teams at Games Village Korat; chess (blind) team at The Imperial Hotel Korat; goalball (blind) and seven-a-side football teams at Fortune Hotel Korat; table tennis team at Louis Residence Hotel Korat; weightlifting team at Centre Point Hotel Terminal 21 Korat; and bowling team at Graph Hotel, Bangkok. — MNA/KZL

Arbeloa must act fast to avert Real Madrid crisis

IN the space of just four days, Real Madrid lost a final to bitter rivals Barcelona, sacked coach Xabi Alonso and were knocked out of the Copa del Rey by a second division team, leaving them hurtling into a crisis.

New coach Alvaro Arbeloa will lead the team into battle on Saturday at the Santiago Bernabeu against Levante in La Liga, knowing that anything other than a victory would be a brutal blow to their hopes of deposing Barcelona from the domestic throne.

His first match at the helm ended in humiliation, a 3-2 defeat by Albacete in the Copa del Rey last 16 on Wednesday, sapping morale from the squad and disrupting any positive momentum his appointment might have brought.

Arbeloa celebrates his 43<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Saturday and the ideal gift would be three points against the 19<sup>th</sup>-placed visitors to cut back Barca's four point lead at the top of the table and offer Madrid a platform to build on.

Next week, the 15-time European champions host Monaco in an important Champions League match, as they bid to finish in the top eight of the league phase and avoid the treacherous play-off round.

First comes Levante, and even though the Valencian side are struggling near the bottom of the table, they are more than capable of causing an upset if Madrid do not improve sharply. — AFP

Hosts Morocco set up Senegal AFCON final showdown

MOROCCO will face Senegal in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations final this Sunday in Rabat. Senegal secured their place in the final with a narrow 1-0 victory over Egypt, thanks to a decisive goal from Sadio Mané. Meanwhile, hosts Morocco overcame Nigeria in a dramatic penalty shootout, winning 4-2 after a tense 0-0 draw.

This marks Morocco's first AFCON final appearance since 2004, while Senegal are aiming to defend their continental crown after winning the tournament in 2022.

The final will be played



Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou celebrates with Brahim Diaz after the AFCON hosts beat Nigeria on penalties in their semi-final. **PHOTO: FRANCK FIFE/AFP**

at the Stade Moulay Abdellah in Rabat, with kick-off scheduled for the evening. Fans are eagerly anticipat-

nance with back-to-back championships.

Tickets for the match are available through official AFCON channels, with prices ranging from \$57 to \$74 depending on category.

Senegal's path to the final has been defined by strong defensive performances and the leadership of Mané and captain Kalidou Koulibaly. Morocco, on the other hand, has relied on the brilliance of goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, who made two crucial saves in the semifinal shootout, and the creativity of Hakim Ziyech in midfield. — AFP

Alcaraz career Grand Slam at 22 would be 'crazy': Federer

ROGER Federer said on Thursday that Carlos Alcaraz winning the Australian Open to complete the career Grand Slam aged just 22 would be "crazy".

Spain's Alcaraz already has six major titles but success on the Melbourne Park hard courts is a glaring hole in his resume.

Should the world number one snap his Australia drought at the tournament starting on Sunday, he would become the youngest man to seal a career Grand Slam.

"At his young age to be able to complete the career Grand Slam already would be crazy," Swiss legend Federer said at Melbourne Park, where he will headline a "Battle of the World No 1s" at the official launch of the 2026 Australian Open on Saturday.

"Let's see if he's able to do 'crazy' this week. I hope he does because for the game that would be an unbelievable and special moment."

Alcaraz is aiming to surpass retired compatriot Rafael Nadal, who secured all four majors by the age of 24, but the top seed has not made it past the quarterfinals in four previous Australian Opens. Federer, a six-time Melbourne champion, compared Alcaraz's wait to lift the title there to Rory McIlroy's agonizing attempts to win a first Masters in golf. — AFP



US, Denmark, Greenland to set up work group as “fundamental disagreement” persists  
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# WORLD

## Türkiye opposes military operation against Iran, says FM

**T**ÜRKIYE opposes any military operation against Iran and supports efforts to preserve regional stability, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said in Istanbul on Thursday.

At a press briefing, Fidan said he hoped the United States and Iran would resolve the matter between themselves, either through mediators, other parties, or direct negotiations.

He stressed that dialogue remains the only viable path to resolving disputes, warning that any large-scale instability in Iran would exceed the region’s capacity to absorb its consequences.

Emphasizing Türkiye’s close ties with its eastern neighbor, Fidan said developments in Iran are of direct concern to Ankara.

Fidan added that Iran must address its internal problems, resolve disputes with neighbouring countries, and pursue diplomacy on the nuclear issue to remove the structural causes of its economic difficulties. — Xinhua

*Fidan warned that large-scale instability in Iran would create a crisis exceeding the region’s capacity to manage the fallout.*



Hakan Fidan officially succeeded Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu as Türkiye’s foreign minister during a handover ceremony in Ankara on 5 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Hydrogen planes ‘more for the 22<sup>nd</sup> century’: France’s Safran



Andries warned that ideas must align with today’s aviation ecosystem, not just future visions. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AIRBUS**

HYDROGEN-POWERED airplanes, touted by some as a way to slash carbon emissions from flying, are unlikely to prove a viable technology anytime soon, the head of French engine maker Safran said Wednesday.

“Hydrogen in aviation is more for the 22<sup>nd</sup> century,” Olivier Andries told a French parliament committee.

Pan-European planemaker Airbus has been working for years on putting a hydrogen plane into service in the 2040s, but acknowledged last year that progress had been slower than expected.

Burning hydrogen only produces water, which is why the aviation and automobile industries have looked at it as possibility to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from travel. Safran, a major engine supplier to both Airbus and Boeing, already has engines that can be fuelled with hydrogen, Andries said.

But liquid hydrogen, even at -253 degrees Celsius (-423 F), takes up four times as much space as kerosene, which is what planes use at present.

That makes it impossible to use with current plane designs, while requiring billions of euros of investment in hydrogen storage infrastructure at airports worldwide.

“You cannot only come up with ideas that are incompatible with today’s ecosystem,” Andries told lawmakers. — AFP

## Experts growing new skin for Swiss fire victims

THE Cell Production Centre at Lausanne University Hospital is working flat out trying to grow new skin for badly-burned survivors of Switzerland’s New Year bar fire tragedy.

The centre, with its skin production facility, is the only one of its size in Europe.

“There is a lot of emotion,” said Laurent Carrez, the pharmacist technical manager at the centre in Epalinges, on the outskirts of Lausanne in western Switzerland.

But he added: “For now, we’re focused on action.”

“The priority is to help these patients as much as possible,” whether they are in hospitals in Switzerland or abroad, he told AFP.

The 1 January disaster at Le Constellation bar in the Swiss ski resort of Crans-Montana killed 40 people, mostly teenagers, and injured 116 others. — AFP