

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.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing casts vote in multiparty democratic general election 2025



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views voting process for eligible voters to cast their ballots at the polling station located at Mingala Byuha Religious Hall in Pyinmana Township yesterday.

The multiparty democratic general election 2025 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held nationwide, starting at 6 am yesterday, with all eligible voters casting their ballots at their respective polling stations.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with Commission Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Commission member Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin

and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, Tatmadaw members and families, cast votes at the polling station No 1 in Anawrahta Ward of Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

After casting the votes, the Senior General responded to queries raised by domestic and international media, as they were currently gathering election information at the polling station.

SEE PAGE 3



# 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.

## Four National Objectives for 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day 2026

1. To safeguard the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty by all citizens, as they are the most essential and suitable national objectives and national duties
2. To strive forward for national unity and Union peace to implement sustainable and balanced development
3. To establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system completely by exercising the freedom and justice in accordance with the laws and regulations
4. To advance other economic sectors and promote MSMEs based on regional products

## Honorary dinner hosted for international observers of 2025 general election

A dinner was hosted yesterday evening at Jasmine Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw in honour of international election observers who came to observe the Phase I of the 2025 multiparty democratic general election, which concluded on 28 December 2025.

The ceremony was attended by Union Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe, Commission member U Myo Hlaing, invited deputy ministers, international election observers who monitored the election process, permanent secretaries and directors-general from relevant ministries, responsible officials, officials from the Union Election Commission Office, and other invited guests.

In his opening address, the Union Election Commission Chairman said the day marked an important milestone for the country's multiparty democratic general election, as it was the conclusion of Phase 1, during which voters exercised their



Union Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe and international election observers pose for documentary group photo at the honorary dinner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

right to vote. He noted that elections are not only about choosing national leaders and Hluttaw representatives, but also about upholding democratic values such as public participation, freedom and fairness, accountability and responsibility. He explained that the honorary

dinner had been organized to recognize and place on record the collective contributions of all those involved.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Myanmar, he expressed special gratitude to all international observers for monitoring the election process

impartially. He said their observations would not only strengthen freedom, fairness and transparency, but also help build confidence among the Union Election Commission, political parties, Hluttaw candidates, voters and all others involved in the election process.

He added that the efforts of election subcommissions, polling station staff, security personnel, civil society organizations, supporting groups from all sectors, political parties, and especially voters who cast their ballots with a strong sense of civic duty, had been clearly witnessed by the observers. He said the Commission looked forward to receiving constructive findings and recommendations from the observers that would contribute to building a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system. He also expressed confidence that the successful conduct of the election would help advance Myanmar in a positive direction.

Afterwards, the UEC Chairman and attendees shared the honorary dinner together. Before and during the dinner, cultural dance and music performances showcasing traditional Myanmar arts were presented by the cultural dance troupes. — MNA/KZL



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung comforts the innocent civilian injured in a rocket attack by terrorists, at the Mandalay General Hospital yesterday.

## Mandalay Region Chief Minister provides financial support to civilians injured in rocket attack

MANDALAY Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung visited the Mandalay General Hospital yesterday morning to check on the treatment of two innocent civilians injured in a rocket attack by terrorists, offering words of encouragement and providing financial assistance.

The terrorists are carrying out attacks on peaceful civilians in towns, wards, and

villages using drop bombs and rockets. In addition, they are attempting to disrupt and sabotage the multiparty democratic general election 2025, which was held yesterday. Between 1:30 am and 2:00 am yesterday, terrorists fired four rockets, three of which landed near Nandawkyun Village in Madaya Township, while one exploded on a house in East Amarahtani

Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay.

The explosion in the East Amarahtani Ward of Aungmyaythazan Township damaged two houses. A 32-year-old man and his 30-year-old wife, residents of the ward, were injured and taken to the Mandalay General Hospital, where they are receiving necessary medical treatment and care. — MNA/TH



NATIONAL

For a nation to achieve development and stability, it is essential that every citizen be fully equipped with knowledge, skills and critical thinking. In particular, for a country like Myanmar undergoing a democratic transition, it is crucial for all of our national brethren to think critically, discern right from wrong and work together for the benefit of the nation.

*(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Dawei City Hall held on 18 September 2025)*



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing casts vote in multiparty democratic general election 2025



**FROM PAGE 1**

The full text of the interview is reported separately.

The Senior General, the Secretary of the Commission, alongside his accompanying dignitaries, observed the voting of eligible voters at relevant polling stations in Zeyathiri, Pyinmana, Ottarathiri and Pobbathiri townships in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and cordially greeted them.

Likewise, the Senior General frankly greeted election observers from the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan and Belarus who monitored the voting process of the people at the No 2 polling station in Ywakauk Ward, Pyinmana Township, and had documentary photos taken with those observers. — MNA/TTA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets of election observation team members from the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus who monitored the voting of people at polling station No 2 in Ywakauk Ward of Pyinmana Township yesterday.



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win casts ballot at the polling station No 1 in Anawrahta Ward of Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday.



State Security and Peace Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo is seen at the polling station No 1 in Anawrahta Ward of Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to cast ballot yesterday.



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)*

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hears the report by an official from the Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station during his inspection tour at the railway station yesterday.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo and officials, inspected the Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station yesterday morning.

The Senior General viewed the diesel-electric multiple unit (DEMU) down train at the station from which it would depart from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon, as well as the general functions of the railway station. After hearing the reports of officials, the Senior General provided guidance on the need to upgrade the railway station's platform, enhance tidiness and beautification in the station yard, implement systematic staff and passenger movements, and implement safety measures.

The Senior General visited Pobbathiri Township in a motorcade to explore the beautification process and urban development initiatives. — MNA/TTA

Phase I of 2025 General Election conducted across 102 townships successfully

PHASE I of the 2025 multiparty democratic general election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held yesterday, beginning at 6 am at designated polling stations in 102 townships across regions and states.

Under Phase I, Union-level dignitaries and eligible voters cast their ballots in eight townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area: Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri, Zabuthiri, Pyinmana, Lewe, Oattarathiri, Dekkhinathiri and Tatkon townships.

Voting also took place in six townships in Kachin State, two in Kayah State,

three in Kayin State, two in Chin State, 12 in Sagaing Region, four in Taninthayi Region, eight in Bago Region, nine in Magway Region, eight in Mandalay Region, five in Mon State, three in Rakhine State, 12 in Yangon Region, 12 in Shan State and eight in Ayeyawady Region, totalling 102.

At designated polling stations in these townships, local ethnic residents cast their votes in an orderly manner using the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM). Senior Tatmadaw officers, Tatmadaw members and their



Local ethnic residents cast their votes in an orderly manner using the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) at the polling station in Muse Township yesterday.

families from military commands also went to their respective polling stations to vote systematically.

To ensure that voters could cast their ballots freely, peacefully and smoothly, necessary arrangements were made in advance at polling stations, including the provision of vehicles, medical teams and security measures.

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NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

“Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority”.

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



Someone not to vote can be identified not fully understanding democratic system

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing voted at the polling station No 1 in Anawrahta Ward of Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday. After casting the votes, the Senior General responded to queries raised by domestic and international media. The full text of the interview was reported as follows:–

**Q: As one of those who planned and led the conduct of the election, to what extent can you guarantee that the election is free and fair? What message would you like to convey to the people?**

**A:** You can see that this is a free and fair election by observing today’s voting. Moreover, there were preparatory stages ahead of the vote as the pre-election period. During that time, one could observe the activities of political parties, administrative bodies, and the election commissions. Even today, after voting concludes, the results will come out in the evening, won’t they? At that point, it will be clear. We have given assurances that this election will be free and fair. Tatmadaw will not allow its name to be tarnished. In the 2020 election, the reputation was severely damaged. It was extremely serious and became an embarrassment internationally. Some people were unaware and went along with it. In reality, I personally conducted the checks, and I know that it was truly

very serious. It was so unacceptable that the situation reached this point. Therefore, I would like to say: look at the results when everything is finished. This time there will be one round today, another on 11 January, and another on 25 January—three rounds in total. Observe them, and only after that, make your assessment.

**Q: We would also like to know the Senior General’s political aspirations. How are you thinking about the post-election situation? Do you plan to serve as President?**

**A:** I am the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and a public service personnel. I can’t simply say that I want to do this or that. I am not a leader of a political party. Moreover, when the Hluttaw is convened, there are procedures within the Hluttaw regarding the selection of the President. They will carry out that process at that time. I believe it would be appropriate for us to speak about it then.



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing responds to queries raised by media yesterday.

**Q: What would you like to say to the people who are undecided about whether they should vote or not?”**

**A:** They should vote, of course. If one says they accept the multiparty democratic system, then the essence of democracy – the election – is truly something that should be carried out. Voting is something that should be done. You may like a candidate or you may not. If you do not like someone, do not vote for

them; vote for the person you like. That is where choice exists. In some parties or in some areas, there may be little or no choice; in other areas, there may be many choices. Vote for the person you prefer — that is enough. This is something that should be done. However, if someone chooses not to vote, I believe it can be said that they do not fully understand the democratic system.



Local ethnic residents cast their ballots in a peaceful manner at the polling station in Myawady Township yesterday.

Phase I of 2025 General Election conducted...

FROM PAGE 4

At polling stations located within the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior Tatmadaw officers, officers and other ranks from various offices and departments, along with their family members, began voting in an orderly manner as soon as polling stations opened at 6 am.

After the voting concluded, polling station heads and members, in the presence

of representatives of political parties and election observers, retrieved the results from the control units of the voting machines and carried out vote counting in a systematic manner, together with the counting of advance votes.

Local and foreign media organizations, as well as international election observers, also visited polling stations to observe the voting process and gather news. — MNA/KZL



NATIONAL

Rakhine State Chief Minister oversees peaceful voting in Phase I of 2025 general election

AS Phase I of the multiparty democratic general election 2025 began at 6 am yesterday in Sittway Township, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, accompanied by his wife, Union Election Commission member U Khin Maung Gyi,

state ministers and departmental officials, toured polling stations to observe voters casting their ballots peacefully. The Chief Minister and his party visited Polling Station No 1 in West Sanpya Ward, Sittway, where they warmly greeted vot-

ers and subsequently cast their own ballots alongside them. Following this, the Chief Minister, the UEC member and state ministers coordinated necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of Phase I of the gen-

eral election in Rakhine State. In Rakhine State, the election is being held in Sittway, Kyaukpyu and Manaung townships, where voters are peacefully casting their ballots at a total of 164 polling stations. Likewise, chief ministers

of regions and states cast their ballots peacefully and freely and inspected the smooth process for the eligible voter people to cast their votes at respective polling stations. — IPRD/KZL



Chief Ministers of regions and states and member of Central Advisory Body of National Defence and Security Council Khun San Lwin cordially converse with voter people at the polling stations in relevant regions and states at multiparty democratic general election 2025 yesterday.

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NATIONAL

Voting images across Myanmar



A 98-year grandma goes to polling station to cast vote in Chaungzon Township.  
PHOTO: CHAUNGZON IPRD



Voter people seen in a queue to cast votes in Pyay Township yesterday.  
PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)



A voter casts ballot in Sittway.



Officials count advance votes in Kyauktalongyi of Shan State.



People seen at polling station to cast votes in Dawei of Taninthayi Region and Pyay of Bago Region.



Crowds of eligible voters waiting for their turn to cast ballots at polling stations in Hpa-an, Mawlamyine and Lashio yesterday.



People seen at the polling stations to cast votes in Ottarathiri and Taunggyi townships.



Officials count ballots in Ottarathiri Township.



Follow health recommendations to prevent Influenza A (H3N2)

THE World Health Organization, in its global influenza outbreak report released on 10 December, stated that the Influenza A (H3N2) Subclade K virus has not yet been detected in Myanmar, and even if it is found, there is no need for special concern.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health issued a press release on 22 December to inform the public in advance so that they can take preventive measures against influenza. Seasonal influenza tends to occur during the cold periods of winter, and the H3N2

Influenza can be prevented through vaccination as well as by following hygiene and healthy living practices. As such, everyone has to follow the recommendations of health experts such as maintaining personal cleanliness, eating a nutritious diet, getting adequate rest and sleep, washing hands thoroughly with soap, covering the mouth and nose with a handkerchief when sneezing or coughing, living in well-ventilated spaces, avoiding crowded areas, and ensuring that infected individuals do not spread the virus to others.

severe fatigue, and a longer-lasting cough.

The H3N2 Influenza A virus can be transmitted through the air. Droplets released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or breathes heavily can enter the air and infect others through the nose, mouth, or eyes. In addition, influenza viruses can also spread indirectly from contaminated surfaces such as elevator buttons, door handles, tabletops, computer keyboards, and phone screens; if someone touches these surfaces and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands, infection can occur. Because influenza can start suddenly and spread quickly, it can rapidly transmit in close-contact settings such as schools, workplaces, offices, and buses.

Influenza can be prevented through vaccination as well as by following hygiene and healthy living practices. As such, everyone has to follow the recommendations of health experts such as maintaining personal cleanliness, eating a nutritious diet, getting adequate rest and sleep, washing hands thoroughly with soap, covering the mouth and nose with a handkerchief when sneezing or coughing, living in well-ventilated spaces, avoiding crowded areas, and ensuring that infected individuals do not spread the virus to others.

virus transmission is typically higher during both the rainy and winter seasons each year.

The transmission of the H3N2 influenza virus is facilitated during the rainy season due to high humidity and close contact among family members at home. In the winter season, lower temperatures weaken respiratory immunity, making it easier for the virus to spread. Due to the virus’s natural tendency to undergo slight changes each season, individuals who had influenza last year may still be susceptible to infection this year.

Infection with H3N2 Influenza A is commonly accompanied by high fever, severe body aches, headache, sore throat, runny or blocked nose, persistent coughing, chills, weakness/fatigue, and loss of appetite, and these symptoms are generally more intense than those of a typical cold. Compared to a common cold, H3N2 influenza can start suddenly in otherwise healthy individuals, with a rapid rise in fever, intense body aches,

A Visit to Pannabhumhi University

By Maung Maung Aye



Rector Sayadaw Dr Nandamalabhivamsa.



Members of the Sangha seen going round to accept meals.

OUR bus left home in Kaba Aye at 9 am and halted temporarily at a roadside tea shop, and we got down and had a hasty breakfast. Then, we drove sluggishly through a maze of cars of different sizes, colours and models. When we got to the toll-gate on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Highway, it was well over 10 am. The sun was ablaze overhead.

After the gate, we felt as

if we had been away from the bustling city life, and our daily routine duties had been dislodged from our shoulders. The road was lined with green trees of various species and with a row of leafy neem trees and young palms with their fronds brandished in the middle. A few cars were running in a tearing rush along the road. We drove at a normal speed. Often, some villages tucked away amongst the groves of shady

trees behind vast rice fields on the roadside were passed. Now and then, we had a glimpse of glistening fishing ponds lying behind wooded lands. After a drive of 20 minutes, a distance of about seven miles and a half mile was covered, and our car turned right into a path flanked by luxuriantly green shrubberies. After a two or three-minute drive, we came to a high arched gate which read ‘Dhamma-Vinaya Centre’. Our

car rolled into the gate and followed the winding path, and in no time, ‘Pannabhumhi University’ came into sight. On either side of the path leading through it were low-lying stretches of land, some covered with rice plants and some with wild grass and a few vegetable plantations.

When our bus reached the university, I noticed that the precincts of the university occupied the entire top of a hill. The northern part was covered with monastic buildings, which served as a Pariyatti learning centre and the southern part with the monastic buildings, and we dashed towards the university whose imposing buildings caught our attention. O! It was the most beautiful university I have ever seen in Myanmar. It was shining gold in the glare of the overpowering sun, emitting the air of an international university. Air-conditioned, glass-walled and high-ceilinged academic and administrative facilities and amenities were scattered all over the sprawling estate. Across the main building were the imposing library building and a stupa, gilded and covered with vermilion, standing silhouetted in great splendour against the eastern horizon. Some lovely benches sheltered by flowering plants

were placed clustered in a space in front of the main building. Some places were landscaped with trimmed lawns, flowering shrubs and potted flowers. Some one-storeyed brick structures with glass windows, lodgings for meditators, were found huddling in the north-western corner of the premises. As the university is situated on a rise, it commands a wide view of fields dotted with small buildings at the base and forested headlands a short way from it.

The university was founded very recently by Dr Nandamālābhivamsa, a former rector of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, who acquired a great reputation as Rector Sayadaw (ဝါရုဏ်ဆရာတော်) for his ingenious preaching of the Dhamma. The English rendering for the Pali word ‘Pannabhumhi’ is ‘Land of wisdom’. It is said that the university is so called after the Bodhi tree where the Buddha was enlightened. The university aims to keep in custody the discourses delivered by the Buddha and to impose them on the mind of everyone, thereby bringing peace to the world. The university is to confer on its students diplomas, BA degrees, MA degrees and PhD degrees regarding the



Photo shows facade of University of Wisdom Land.

Dhamma. It is learnt that it is now conducting online classes for the Suddhamma diploma and BA, that tens of thousands of students from all over the world are attending the classes and that only the convocation ceremony, however, is held inside the precincts of the university.

When we had observed the entire university campus, it was already half past nine. So, we hurried to a big Dhamma hall where we were to listen to the Dhamma preached by monastery administrator Sayadaw... This Dhamma hall was one of the monastic buildings covering the northern part of the precincts. Soon after we had taken our seats in the Dhamma hall, the Sayadaw came and preached a short discourse on the

benefits of donation (Dana). Then we went to a bigger hall where cooked rice and some curries were made ready for us to offer. At 10 am exactly, over 270 monks and novices who were learning Buddhist scriptures at the Pariyatti learning centre filed into the hall where we were awaiting them. When they came into the hall, we offered them alms meals and curries prepared. Having received the alms-meal from us, the monks and novices seated themselves at the long tables placed lengthwise and partook of the alms-meal. We attended to their every need while they were having alms meals. Only after they had departed from the refectory, we were served with lunch by the staff of the Pariyatti learning centre, and we left the

university at about 1 pm.

In brief, it is found that Pannabhumhi University was a higher Buddhist academic learning centre which imparted the authentic Buddha’s teachings to the world. So, I had a great reverence for the Rector Sayadaw Dr Nandamālābhivamsa due to his phenomenally great missionary work. At the same time, I felt peace of mind, happiness and satisfaction when I saw the monks and novices from the Pariyatti learning centre in the precincts of Pannabhumhi University receive and partake of the alms meals donated by us. Anyhow, it was a rewarding trip because we got a lot of merits and were refreshed by the scenery on the way.

Beyond Moral Failure: Understanding Sexual Compulsion, Betrayal, and Accountability through Psychology and Buddhism

By Khin Maung Myint

SEXUAL misconduct and adultery are among the most socially condemned behaviours in any society. They provoke strong moral reactions because they threaten trust, family stability, and social order. In Myanmar, as in many cultures shaped by Buddhist ethics, such acts are often understood primarily as personal moral failure deserving punishment or social exclusion. While moral accountability is essential, modern psychology and classical Buddhist teaching both suggest that condemnation alone does not prevent repetition, nor does it heal the individuals or families involved.

This article aims to provide a public education perspective by examining certain forms of repeated sexual misconduct through clinical psychology and Buddhist moral psychology, offering a more effective framework for prevention, responsibility, and recovery.

Sexual Compulsion and Repeated Misconduct

Contemporary psychiatry recognizes that some individuals engage in repeated sexual behaviour not out of romantic attachment

or deliberate betrayal, but due to compulsive patterns driven by internal distress. These patterns are described in clinical literature as Compulsive Sexual Behaviour Disorder or related conditions. Such behaviour is often ritualistic, secretive, and emotionally disconnected, even when it involves another person.

Unlike ordinary affairs that arise from marital conflict or emotional dissatisfaction, compulsive sexual behaviour frequently functions as a temporary escape from anxiety, loneliness, fear of ageing, trauma, or emotional emptiness. The individual may feel little pleasure and significant regret afterwards, yet finds themselves unable to stop without structured intervention.

This does not excuse the harm caused to spouses or families. However, it does challenge the assumption that all sexual betrayal reflects intentional cruelty or lack of love.

Guilt and Shame: Two Very Different Forces

Public discourse often fails to distinguish between guilt and shame, though the difference is crucial.

- Guilt arises from recognizing that one has harmed another person. It can motivate responsibility, apology, and ethical repair.
- Shame is the belief that one is fundamentally bad, dirty, or beyond redemption.

Research consistently shows that shame increases secrecy and repetition, while guilt – when combined with accountability – can support behavioural change. Individuals overwhelmed by shame are less likely to seek help, disclose struggles, or accept guidance. Instead, they hide, creating “double lives” that ultimately cause deeper harm.

The Buddhist Understanding of Misconduct and Punishment

Buddhism offers a sophisticated moral psychology that differs significantly from punishment-based models. Sexual misconduct (kāmesu micchācāra) is clearly identified as an unwholesome action.

However, Buddhism does not teach that suffering is imposed by an external authority. Instead, suffering arises naturally through karma—the consequences of intention and action.

- In this view:
- The suffering associated with sexual misconduct appears as inner turmoil, fear of exposure, loss of trust, and mental fragmentation.
  - Shame itself becomes part of the karmic result, binding the person more tightly to suffering.
  - There is no concept of permanent moral corruption. A person is not defined forever by past actions.
- The Buddha consistently rejected the idea that punishment alone leads to purification. Without wisdom (pañña) and ethical discipline (sīla), punishment merely hardens fear and concealment.

The Way Out: Responsibility without Destruction

Both psychology and Buddhism agree that change begins with clear awareness.

- Mindful recognition of desire as a mental event, not an identity
- Understanding causes, rather than focusing solely on condemnation
- Ethical restraint, not as punishment, but as protection of self and others
- Compassion, which reduces shame without removing responsibility

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NATIONAL

People freely cast votes for candidates in Phase I of the 2025 general election in Nay Pyi Taw

AS phase 1 of the multiparty democratic general election 2025 was held in 102 townships across the nation yesterday, eligible voters cast their ballots freely to select their favourite candidates.

At the relevant polling stations in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory including Zeyathiri, Pobbathiri, Pynmana, Zabuthiri, Lewe, Dekkhinathiri, Ottara-thiri and Tatkon townships, the polling station heads and officials displayed the ballot boxes to representatives of political parties and domestic and international election observation teams, secured these boxes with safety seals, and announced the opening of the polling stations at exactly 6 am.

Members of election sub-commissions at different levels, polling station heads, deputy polling station heads and members inspected the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVM), including the control units and ballot units, in the



Officials counting ballots after the election in Nyana Theikdi Word in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

presence of representatives from political parties and domestic and international election observers, to ensure the voting machines are free from fraud and that the voting process can be conducted more accurately and efficiently.

Even before 6 am, voters lined up at their respective polling stations to cast their

votes. When the polling stations opened, they verified their voter list numbers against their citizenship scrutiny cards and, in the private voting booths, used the MEVM machines to freely and independently vote for their favorite candidates contesting for seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Domestic and international election observation teams monitored the casting of voters in an independent, secure and peaceful manner at respective polling stations while internal and external media covered the information about electoral process.

At a time when the voting process ended, polling station

heads and members took out the cast ballots from the control unit of the MEVM in the presence of representatives from political parties and election observers to count the ballots systematically.

In the yesterday's multiparty democratic general elections 2025, there were over 24.26 million eligible voters nationwide. A total of 4,863 candidates from 57 political parties competed in 692 constituencies across the nation, including six parties contesting nationwide for the Union and 51 parties contesting within the respective regions and states.

In Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, there were 909,832 eligible voters. A total of 74 candidates from seven political parties including five independent candidates competed in the election at 626 polling stations in eight constituencies of the Pyithu Hluttaw and one constituency of the Amyotha Hluttaw, totaling nine. — MNA/TTA

Beyond Moral Failure: Understanding Sexual Compulsion,...

**From page 9**

**5. Right action, including honesty and amends where possible**

This approach does not minimize betrayal. Instead, it creates conditions in which harmful behaviour is less likely to recur, and families are more likely to experience truthful resolution—whether that leads to reconciliation or separation.

**Implications for Society**

When society responds only with moral outrage, individuals hide, families suffer in silence, and harmful patterns continue. When society combines ethical clarity with psychological understanding, it reduces repeti-

tion, encourages help-seeking, and aligns with the Buddhist principle of reducing suffering (dukkha).

Public education that distinguishes wrongdoing from worthlessness, accountability from humiliation, and discipline from punishment is not a sign of moral weakness. It is a sign of moral maturity.

**Conclusion**

Sexual misconduct will always remain ethically serious because it causes real harm. However, if the goal is fewer broken families, less secrecy, and less suffering, society must move beyond simple condemnation.

Psychology and Buddhism—each in their own way—teach that understanding is not indulgence, and compassion is not permission. True accountability arises not from fear, but from insight.

Only by addressing both the mind that acts and the harm that follows can individuals and societies step out of the shadow of secrecy and toward genuine moral responsibility.

**Further Reading (Selected Core Texts)**

**1. What the Buddha Taught**

A clear and widely respected introduction to Buddhist teachings on desire (taṇhā), suffering (dukkha), karma as cause-and-effect, and moral responsibility without eternal

condemnation.

**2. Out of the Shadows**

A foundational clinical work explaining compulsive sexual behaviour as driven by shame, secrecy, and emotional distress rather than simple moral failure. Useful for understanding repetitive misconduct.

**3. Shame and Guilt**

An authoritative academic text distinguishing guilt (which can promote repair) from shame (which fuels secrecy and repetition). Essential for public moral education.

**4. The Body Keeps the Score**

Explains how unresolved trauma manifests as com-

pulsive behaviours, including sexual acting out. Helps readers understand why punishment alone rarely leads to change.

**5. The Noble Eightfold Path**

Presents ethical discipline (sīla), mental training, and wisdom as a practical path out of suffering, aligning closely with recovery-oriented approaches in modern psychology.

Together, these five works provide a balanced framework that combines ethical clarity, psychological insight, and Buddhist wisdom, supporting accountability while reducing shame-driven secrecy and harm.

**End**

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and The Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

International and embassy observers monitor 2025 multiparty general election in Nay Pyi Taw

INTERNATIONAL election observers and observers from foreign embassies based in Myanmar are monitoring the 2025 multiparty democratic general election being conducted by the Union Election Commission under the slogan “From a credible election to a new democratic State”.

The observers visited polling stations in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, where they met polling station officials and voters, held discussions, and observed various aspects of the election process.

Demonstrating international support for Myanmar’s efforts to hold a free, fair, transparent and dignified multiparty democratic general election, a total of 162 international election observers are taking part in monitoring the election’s phased implementation.

Yesterday, delegations led by Mr Sholban Kara-Ool, Deputy Chair of the Russian State Duma; Mr Igor Borisov, Member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation; Mr Deng Xijun, Special Representative for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China; Ms Chen Xuanbo from the



International election observers and diplomats observe the voting machine and election process at the polling station in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Mr Alexei Bashan, Deputy Chair of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus; and Mr Yerman Mukhtar, Deputy Chair of the Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with Union Election Commission member U Myo Hlaing, visited polling stations in Zabuthiri, Pyinmana and Pobbathiri townships.

The polling stations visited included Polling Station No 1 at

Basic Education High School No 14 in Shwe Kyapin Ward, Zabuthiri Township; Polling Station No 2 at Mingala Byuha Religious Hall in Ywakauk Ward, Pyinmana Township; Polling Station No 1 at BEHS No 13 in Zawanadipa Ward, Pobbathiri Township; Polling Station No 1 at BEHS No 20 in Nawaday Ward, Pobbathiri Township; Polling Station No 3 at BEMS No 140 in Aungzabu Ward, Zabuthiri Township; and Polling Station No 4 at BEHS No 3 in Ywakauk Ward, Pyinmana Township.

During their visits, the observers witnessed voters freely casting their ballots for candidates using the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM). They also observed the implementation of election procedures in accordance with international standards and best practices, as well as measures taken to ensure a free and fair election. In addition, they met voters and polling station officials and discussed matters related to the election process.

Meanwhile, another del-

egation led by U Than Tun, Director-General of the Department of Protocol under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with Mr Yich Samethy, Member of the National Election Commission of Cambodia; Mr Nguyen Duc Thinh, Head of International Relations of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Mr Mario Jose Armengol Campos from Nicaragua; Mr Sahni Arun Kumar, a retired Maj-Gen from India; representatives of the Myanmar-Japan Association (MJA); as well as international election observers and observers from foreign embassies based in Myanmar, also visited polling stations in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. They met polling station officials, candidates and voters, and held discussions while monitoring the election.

In the ongoing multiparty democratic general election, more than 24.26 million eligible voters are registered nationwide across 692 constituencies. A total of 4,863 candidates from 57 political parties are contesting the election, including six parties competing nationwide and 51 parties contesting in individual regions or states. — MNA/KZL

Yangon voters freely cast ballots in phase I of 2025 general election

THE first phase of the 2025 Multiparty Democratic General Election was held at designated polling stations in Yangon Region beginning at 6 am yesterday, with voters freely casting their votes for Hluttaw candidates of their choice.

Local and foreign media outlets are freely reporting on the 2025 multiparty democratic general election (Phase I) in Yangon Region, while diplomats from foreign embassies based in Yangon, along with local and international election observation teams, observed voters freely casting their ballots.

As part of the election (Phase I), 1,313 polling stations were opened in Kamayut, Kyauktada, Taikkyi, Twantay, Dagon Myothit (South),



People are queuing at the polling station to cast ballots in Phase 1 of the general election 2025 in Yangon yesterday.

Botahtaung, Mayangon, Mingalardon, Hmawby, Thingangyun, Thanlyin, and Ahlon townships in Yangon Region. On 11 January, Phase II of the General Election will be held in Bahan, Panbedan, Latha, Kawhmu,

Kungyangon, Dagon Myothit (North), Dawbon, Pazundaung, Hline, Shwepyitha, Htantabin, Hlegu, South Okkalapa, Cocokyun, Kyimindine, and Insein townships, with 1,171 polling stations. Phase III will be held on 25

January in Dagon, Lanmadaw, Seikkyi-Khanaungto, Dala, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (East), Mingala Taungnyunt, Thakayta, North Okkalapa, Tamway, Yankin, Kyauktan, Kayan, Thongwa, Sangyoung,

Hlinethaya (West), and Hline-thaya (East) townships, with 1,300 polling stations.

In the general election, 3,784 polling stations will be opened across 45 townships in Yangon Region, with 4,938,823 eligible voters. A total of 982 Hluttaw candidates from 20 political parties, along with 46 independent candidates, will compete.

To ensure that the 2025 multiparty democratic general election is free and fair, the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) has been used, and polling station supervisors, Red Cross societies, and social organizations have been working together to help voters cast their ballots smoothly at polling stations in Yangon Region. — MNA/TH



# INTERVIEW

## A free and fair multiparty democratic general election that will pave the way for the nation’s future

PHASE I of the 2025 multiparty democratic general election was held yesterday in the respective areas. The following is the voices and remarks of voters who fulfilled their civic duty and of international election observers.



**Mr Yerman Mukhtar**  
Deputy Chairman of the Election Commission of Kazakhstan

“I am Mr Yerman Mukhtar, Deputy Chairman of the Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan. First of all, I would like to express my pride and pleasure that the election is being held. From our observations, we see that this election is organized well-manneredly. Among the voters, we noticed a large number of young people, which is a very positive sign. The Union Election Commission showed us the electronic voting machines manufactured in Myanmar that are being used in the election. We have also observed that these voting machines are being used effectively. In addition, we saw that conditions have been created at

polling stations to allow the public to vote calmly and peacefully.



**Mr Sholban Kara-Ool**  
Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to come to Myanmar and observe the voting process. We are here as part of an international election observation group. From the very first day of our arrival, we were able to see how the public votes – how people stand in line waiting to cast their ballots. From this alone, it is clear that the people are actively and genuinely choosing their future and a legitimate government. We also observed the Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Sen-

ior General Min Aung Hlaing, coming to inspect and supervise the process, and he recently greeted us as well. This shows that both the people of Myanmar and the country’s leaders are taking the voting process with great interest and enthusiasm. In terms of my overall view of Myanmar’s election, the people who come to the polling stations are making choices for a legitimate government and rightful leaders. We can also see that they are casting their votes secretly. The arrangements appear to be well organized. It is the same type of process we have in our own country. This will be a genuine election, and I firmly believe that a legitimate government will emerge. From what I have observed, we can see that many parties are competing in the election. The people are deciding to vote for the parties whose policies align with their interests. If this system continues, it represents a very good path for democracy. The enthusiasm of the voters shows that they are working to ensure their country develops in the right and proper way. From our perspective, the election is being carried out with great effort to ensure its success. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is also actively supporting the conduct of the election. Soon, the election will conclude, a new parliament will be formed, and the government will be organized through the parliament. The President will be

elected, and these plans will continue to be implemented. Through this process, the people will know whether the party they chose is legitimate. Conducting the election in this manner primarily ensures that the new government can maintain the stability of the country. From there, it can further lead to the nation’s development and progress, which I strongly believe will be possible.



**Mr Mario Jose Armengol Campos**  
Vietnam-based Nicaraguan Ambassador to Myanmar

I am Mr Mario Jose Armengol Campos, Ambassador of Nicaragua to Myanmar, based in Vietnam. First of all, I would like to express my pleasure and honour

**SEE PAGE 13**

## “The public’s enthusiastic participation in voting shows a desire to improve the country”.

FROM around 5 am yesterday, voters eagerly lined up at their respective polling stations to cast their ballots, and once the polling stations opened, they were able to vote freely.

Election observers from international organizations and foreign embassies visited polling stations in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory to observe and discuss voters’ aspirations for the future, their level of voter education and awareness, any difficulties encountered during voting, and whether conditions allowed for free voting. They met with polling station officers and candidates to inquire about the voting procedures, including the ease and speed of voting using Myanmar’s electronic voting machines, as

well as other election matters.

The opinions of election observers from international organizations and foreign embassies for Myanmar’s multiparty democratic general election were presented as follows: -

**Mr Siarhei Mialeskin**  
Member of the Standing Commission of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus

“I am here to observe the elections being held in Myanmar today. During the course of this on-site observation, I see that people coming to vote are very interested and enthusiastic. The procedures arranged for voting are in accordance with the law. We saw that arrangements have

been made to ensure that voters can cast their ballots peacefully and conveniently. The people is also seen voting in line with the prescribed rules and regulations.

**Mr Sholban Kara-Ool**  
Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

Systematic arrangements have been made to enable people to cast their ballots in this way. Similar to our country, elections are conducted in the same manner. Being able to hold the election in this way gives confidence that a legitimate government will emerge. From what I observe, many political parties are contesting in this election.

### Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

Based on the parties’ policies, the public is deciding and selecting leaders who are suitable for the country. If this system proceeds along the democratic path, it is a good and well-prepared system. The public’s enthusiastic participation in voting shows a desire to improve the country. The election is being conducted successfully, and the country’s leaders are also actively creating conditions to make this possible. After the election, the Hluttaw will be formed, and the government will be established. The new government will continue to work to ensure national stability and peace, and from there will be able to build a new, developed nation.

“Under the motto ‘From

elections accepted by the public to a new democratic nation,’ the Multiparty Democratic General Election 2025 will be successfully held. Phase I of the election will be held in 102 townships on 28 December 2025; Phase II in 100 townships on 11 January 2026; and Phase III in 63 townships on 25 January 2026.

In recognition of efforts to ensure that the Multiparty Democratic General Election 2025 of Myanmar are free, fair, and transparent, it is reported that a total of 162 international election observers will participate in monitoring and studying the successful conduct of the elections in their respective phases. — Thura Kyaw Swa/TTA



# INTERVIEW/NATIONAL

## A free and fair multiparty democratic general...

**FROM PAGE 12**

for having the opportunity to come to Myanmar and observe the process in this way. From our observations, we can see that the public in Myanmar is voting safely, freely, and according to their own wishes. Regarding the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines, I think it is a good idea. Using these machines allows for faster voting and enables results to be obtained more quickly. We have also observed that the election is being conducted securely and successfully.

**Mr Alexei Bashan**  
Deputy Chairman of Central Election Commission of Belarus

I came here to observe the voting process. From what I have seen while fol-

lowing the process, everyone who comes to vote does so in an orderly manner. They arrive with interest and enthusiasm to



cast their ballots. Those managing the process also follow the law and carry out their duties in an organized way without any disruptions, which is very reassuring. On my view, both the organizers and the voters are operating smoothly. Everyone is adhering to the established rules and regulations.

1. Since this is my first experience of voting, I feel very excited. I am also very satisfied and feel that I have fulfilled my duty as a citizen. We young people have high hopes for a good leader who will benefit us. Whoever is elected, we hope it will be someone who will bring great benefits to the country.

2. I came from Pinyinana to cast a vote. It is my first experience. I would like to call for all eligible young people like me

to cast their votes for the development of the State.

3. Using the MEVM machine makes voting more accurate. I just pressed it for the party I wanted once, and it gave a precise result. So, it's very easy. Since I am Bamar, I only had to vote for three positions. I cast my votes for the Hluttaw representatives who I believe will serve the best for our country. Today, I feel that I have fulfilled my duty.

4. This is my first experience of voting in the 2025 general election. Since there is privacy, the voting process is smooth. I am happy to be able to vote for the person I want. I believe that the government that emerges from this election will create a better future for the people, including the youth.



## People in Mandalay cast votes in election phase I in peace

ELIGIBLE voters in Mandalay Region peacefully and freely cast votes at relevant polling stations in the phase I of the multiparty democratic general election 2025 from 6 am to 4 pm yesterday.

Polling stations in relevant townships in Mandalay Region opened at 6 am. People followed prescribed disciplines in casting votes while staff of polling stations and officials helped the people in voting.

More than 1.3 million eligible people cast votes at 1,242 polling stations in Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, NyaungU, Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Meiktila townships where candidates from nine political parties and three independent candidates participated in the election.

Chairman of the Mandalay Region Election Subcommittee U Kyaw Than Tun said: "In the previous days, advance voting procedures were carried out sys-

tematically and successfully. For today's election, arrangements have been made to ensure that the public can cast their votes freely and peacefully, and the second phase of the election will also be conducted in accordance with the prescribed directives. Elections are an indispensable foundation that must be passed through in a democratic system. All citizens are urged to cast their valuable votes, according to the respective Hluttaw, to ensure the success of this major election. By voting in this way, we encourage everyone to strive to be a responsible citizen."

Daw Chaw Su Kyi, the head of the polling station at No 8 Basic Education High School in Aungmyaythazan Township, stated: "At our No 1 polling station, 12 staff are assigned. In preparation for the polling station, all technical arrangements, fire safety measures, and security have been put in place. We have also prepared four voting

machines. At our polling station, there are 2,072 eligible voters plus 61 advance voters. As arrangements have been made to ensure that the public can vote with peace of mind at our polling station, we invite voters to come and cast their ballots."

In this election, in order to prevent electoral fraud and to make the voting process more accurate and efficient, the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) is being used. As a result, people can cast their votes easily and quickly by pressing the button next to the name and logo of their preferred political party or candidate.

Daw Maw Maw San, an eligible voter, expressed her delight, "Voting today was very smooth and convenient. There were no difficulties at all. The polling station officials also provided assistance whenever it was needed. Having cast my vote, I feel that I have fulfilled my duty as a citizen, and that



Crowds of voter people are queuing at the polling station to cast vote in Mandalay yesterday.

makes me very happy. I have full confidence in voting by machine. I am also glad to be able to vote again at the age of 55."

After polling stations closed at the designated time of 4 pm, the results generated by the voting machines were counted at the respective polling stations in the presence of representatives from political parties, polling

station members, and domestic and international election observers.

In the election, candidates from various political parties contested for seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region Hluttaw, and ethnic constituency within the Mandalay Region. — Maung Aye Chan/TTA



ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD/AD

# Political parties register candidates ahead of Thailand's general election

THAILAND'S Election Commission on Sunday began accepting applications for party-list candidates and notifications of prime minister nominees from political parties ahead of a general election set for February.

Speaking at a press briefing, Election Commission Secretary-General Sawaeng Boonmee stated that the registration process for party-list members of the House of Representatives went smoothly, with 52 political parties submitting applications in the morning. Upon verification, officials confirmed that all party documents



Thailand's Election Commission started accepting party-list candidate applications and prime minister nominee notifications on 28 December 2025, for the upcoming February general election. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ SHUTTERSTOCK**

submitted were correct and complete, Sawaeng said, adding that the lottery for party list numbers, which will be used for campaigning, was successfully conducted.

He noted that 32 parties have submitted a total of 68 prime ministerial candidates for consideration by the House of Representatives, with the registration window open until the end of December. — Xinhua

NEWS In BRIEF

## BrahMos: Russia-India missile project gains worldwide attention

THE Russian-Indian BrahMos supersonic cruise missile project is attracting many countries worldwide, Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar told Sputnik.

"It is also well known that the two countries have expanded their defence cooperation from procurement of equipment to joint ventures and joint production, I would say even joint design. Brahmos missile project is a very good example of joint design and production; this is a cruise missile system which is today attracting the interest of many third countries," Kumar said.

BrahMos Aerospace, a Russian-Indian joint venture established in 1998 and named after the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva. The company produces ground-, air-, sea-, and submarine-launched supersonic cruise missiles. — SPUTNIK

## Greek Coast Guard rescues 840 migrants south of Crete over five days

THE Greek Coast Guard has rescued 840 migrants over the past five days in waters south of the island of Crete.

According to island police, coast guard units rescued 131 migrants earlier today off the southern coast of Crete. On the previous day, a further 395 people seeking to reach the European Union were rescued off the small island of Gavdos, south of Crete.

The migrants, whose nationalities have not been identified, were transferred to the port of Gavdos. — ANI

## Majority of Germans back major pension reform

A public opinion poll released on Sunday shows that a strong majority of Germans believe the country's statutory pension system requires a fundamental overhaul, while confidence in the current governing coalition to deliver such reform remains low. According to the survey conducted by the Civey Institute for the Funke media group, 82 per cent of respondents said comprehensive pension reform is necessary. Only 9 per cent disagreed, while another 9 per cent were undecided.

Despite broad public support for reform, just 20 per cent of those surveyed said they trust a coalition government of the conservative CDU/CSU bloc and the center-left Social Democratic Party to implement major changes. By contrast, 69 per cent expressed skepticism, and 11 per cent had no clear opinion. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB551A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC SUPARNA F VOY.NO. (SB551A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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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Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (276N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT/MITT** 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.

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY.NO. (219N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-12-2025** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE



SPORTS

Shan United extend winning run in Myanmar Women's League

SHAN United continued their winning momentum in the 2025-2026 Myanmar Women's League with a convincing 3-0 victory over YREO on the opening day of Match 11, played at Thuwunna Training Ground-1 on 28 December.

Shan United secured back-to-back wins in the second round after overcoming YREO once again. Although their chances of lifting the title this season remain slim, the Shan-based side has continued to apply pressure on teams at the top of the table.

Shan United took the lead in 45+2 minutes through Yu Yu Naing, before Nant May Thazin doubled the advantage in the 60<sup>th</sup> minute. Yupa Khine sealed the win with a penalty in the 90<sup>th</sup> minute.

After this match, Shan United have collected 19 points from 10 matches, while YREO remain on 10 points from 10 matches.

Match 11 will continue on 29 December, with Young Lionesses set to face Yangon United at the Yangon United Sports Complex. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



Shan United and YREO players compete during their Myanmar Women's League match. PHOTO:MWL



Master Lock Comanche won the Sydney-Hobart race on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Master Lock Comanche wins Sydney-Hobart ocean race for fifth time

MASTER Lock Comanche took line honours in the 80<sup>th</sup> Sydney-Hobart ocean race on Sunday, ending LawConnect's bid for a third straight title.

It was the fifth line honours victory in the 628-nautical-mile bluewater classic for the 100-foot supermaxi Comanche, which was skippered by Matt Allen and James Mayo.

The yacht crossed the fin-

ish line on the River Derwent in Tasmania's capital Hobart in two days, five hours, three minutes and 36 seconds, greeted by beaming sunshine and hundreds of supporters.

Comanche holds the race record set in its 2017 victory when finishing in one day, nine hours, 15 minutes and 24 seconds. Comanche also won line honours in 2015, 2019 and 2022. — AFP

Late penalty miss denies Uganda AFCON win against Tanzania

UGANDA'S Allan Okello missed a late penalty as his side had to settle for a 1-1 draw against East African neighbours Tanzania at the Africa Cup of Nations on Saturday.

Okello's failure to convert from the spot denied Uganda a precious victory in the Group C clash after Uche Ikpeazu had scored a late equaliser for the Cranes in front of 10,540 fans at Al Medina Stadium in Rabat.

Before that it looked like Tanzania, winless in 10 previous matches across four AFCON tournaments, might finally break their duck when Simon Msuva put them in front from the penalty spot.

But Ikpeazu, who plays in the Scottish second tier for St Johnstone, headed in a cross by fellow substitute Denis Omedi



Uganda's Allan Okello blazes his late penalty over the bar against Tanzania at the Africa Cup of Nations. PHOTO: AFP

to level the scores with 10 minutes remaining.

"I have a very bad feeling because I think we didn't deserve this draw. I think we had more opportunities," said Uganda coach Paul Put.

Of the missed penalty he

said: "That is very, very painful but that is also football".

The stalemate between the regional rivals, who will co-host the 2027 Cup of Nations along with Kenya, does little to help their chances of progressing to the last 16 from Group C. — AFP



Nkunku breaks Serie A goal duck to fire AC Milan top

CHRISTOPHER Nkunku fired AC Milan top of Serie A with a brace in Sunday's 3-0 win over Verona at the San Siro, the France forward's first goals in Italy's top flight.

Christopher Nkunku scored twice for AC Milan against Verona on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Nkunku ended a league goal drought stretching back to February when he doubled Milan's lead two minutes after half-time with a penalty he earned.

Five minutes later he was on hand to tap home the third and give the hosts a two-point lead over local rivals Inter Milan.

The 28-year-old's only pre-

vious goal for Milan since signing from Chelsea for an initial 37 million euros (\$43.6 million) in August came against Lecce in the Italian Cup in September.

Inter can reclaim top spot later on Sunday when they make the short trip to Bergamo to face Atalanta who have been revitalised since Raffaele Palladino took charge last month. — AFP





## Ye a r e n d e r :

# Asia-Pacific rides AI boom to unlock tech-empowered growth

*November APEC declaration  
prioritizes AI for innovation,  
productivity, and resilience.*

AS 2025 draws to a close, the Asia-Pacific region is positioned at the forefront of a global technological revolution, with artificial intelligence (AI) emerging not just as a transformative force, but as the defining catalyst for its economic growth, cross-border collaboration, and long-term regional resilience.

Employees in Asia-Pacific are adopting generative AI tools faster and more enthusiastically than their global peers, according to a Boston Consulting Group report.

With one-third of the world's population, the region is rapidly expanding its innovation footprint, standing at the centre of AI transition. According to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report, the technology juggernaut is expected to inject nearly US\$1 trillion in economic gains over the next decade across Asia alone.

In November, leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) adopted a joint declaration, recognizing the potential of AI to fundamentally reshape economies worldwide by unlocking new frontiers for innovation, enhanced productivity, improved competitiveness, economic prosperity and resilience.

For the first time, APEC placed AI on its core agenda, adopting an AI initiative to accelerate deeper coop-



The APEC CEO Summit Korea 2025 occurred in Gyeongju, South Korea, from 28-31 October. The image depicts its venue. Key discussions covered energy transition, digital innovation, and AI. People walk outside the Gyeongju Art Centre, the main venue for the 2025 APEC CEO Summit. **PHOTO: JUNG YEON-JE / AFP / FILE**

eration among Asia-Pacific economies.

As China, according to the UNDP, holds nearly 70 per cent of global AI patents, the region is increasingly looking to China's technological capacity, policy experience and application-driven innovation to help translate

AI potential into inclusive growth and shared benefits.

At this year's APEC meetings, China pledged to work with all APEC members to enhance AI literacy and bridge the digital and AI divide in the Asia-Pacific region. — Xinhua

## Tarim Oilfield in NW China's Xinjiang records solar generation of over 2 billion kWh

THE annual solar power generation at PetroChina Tarim Oilfield, the country's third-largest onshore oil and gas field, has surpassed two billion kWh as of Sunday.

To date, Tarim Oilfield has completed five centralized solar power projects with a total installed capacity of 2.6 million kilowatts, along with 239 distributed photovoltaic projects at production stations and individual oil and gas wells, totalling 63,000 kilowatts.

"Based on the national residential electricity consumption in 2024, the two billion kWh of green electricity generated here can meet the annual electricity needs of more than 1.8 million people," said Liang Yulei, head of the new energy department at Tarim Oilfield. "This is equivalent to replacing 600,000 tonnes of standard coal and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1.07 million tonnes." — Xinhua



Workers patrol at a station of the Tarim Oilfield in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 6 February 2023. **PHOTO: LI XIANG/XINHUA**

## Iran warns full-scale war looms

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that Iran is fighting a "full-scale war" with the United States, Israel and Europe.

"Western pressures aim to prevent Iran from rising, but the unity of the people is capable of thwarting conspiracies," Pezeshkian said in remarks published on the Iranian Supreme Leader's website, according to Iran's Mehr news agency.

"Israel's bets on the collapse of the regime during the 12-day war failed," he said.

Pezeshkian added that Iran will overcome sanctions and that any new attack would face a harsher response, citing increased readiness of Iran's armed forces. — SPUTNIK