

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.

Efforts Must Focus on Reviving and Developing Kayah State Through Inclusive Work

Only by exerting the best possible efforts in today’s construction and development can sustained progress and an improved socioeconomic life be ensured for future generations.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 74th Anniversary of Kayah State Day, which falls on 15 January 2025. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

SEE PAGE 3

Teachers Deserve Ranks Aligned with Their Qualifications

Most civil servant families and households with modest incomes depend on government schools for their children’s education.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the meeting to coordinate the promotion of the education and health sectors yesterday.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pointed out that basic education schools that meet the required standards must be systematically and neatly upgraded in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the meeting to coordinate the promotion of the education and health sectors at the meeting hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council yesterday afternoon.

In his address, the Senior General said that Myanmar needs a large number of basic education teachers, and in order to confer postgraduate degrees on teaching staff, it is necessary to upgrade teacher training colleges and education degree colleges to university status.

SEE PAGE 4

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.

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

3. Daw Nyunt Yin Win, Kanyinchaung Village, Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region
4. Daw Thida Aung, 18, Strand Road, Ward 6, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region

Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Zaw Latt, 635/G, Yoma Yeiktha Street, Ward 2, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region
2. U Tin Maung Win, D2, Kaba Aye Villa, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region

Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Daw Nang Aye Khant, 162, 22nd Street, corner of 82nd Street, West Pyigyi Kyetthayay Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
2. Daw Khin Thida, 5A/1, Malikha Street, Ward 10, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
3. Daw Khin Nyein Oo (a) Daw Snow, 44, 11th Street, Ward 5, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region

Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Thaung Aye, 1029, Yazathingaha Housing 1, at the corner of Minhla and Dawna streets, Zabudipa Ward, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
2. U Tun Min Oo, 72, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Ward 10, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region
3. U Aung Than Shwe, 16/46, Sagawah Street, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State

Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Dr Yin Wai Lwin, 447, Pwesar Street, Shwegu Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
2. Daw Myint Myint Soe, 57, Bo Thura Street, West Zaygyi Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region
3. Daw Nyein Aye, 10 (A), Inyamyaing Road, Shwetaungkya Ward 1, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
4. Daw Khin Ohn Myint, 1011/A, Myitta Road, Ward 9, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
5. Daw Khin Mar Chit, 5/69, Thirigon Housing, Waizayanta Road, Ward 16/2, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
6. Daw Cho Cho Thin, 68, 2nd Hline Myintmo Street, Ward 10, Hline Township, Yangon Region

Thudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Tun Naing, 86th street, 14th street, Pyigyi Yanlon Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
2. U Thet Tun, 705, corner of 74th and 33rd streets, Mawragiwa Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region

3. U Kyaw Lwin, 275/A, Redhill Tower, Pyay Road, South Kyundaw Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
4. U Nay Htoo Shein, 125, Hninziwah Road, Ward 30, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
5. U Tun Min Zaw, 88/89, Myakantha Road, Sawbwagyigon Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
6. U Sai Sai, 82/96, Hounglek Industrial Ward, Tachilek, Shan State
7. U Than Min, Phayangu Village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region

Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Daw Hla May, Khu (A/101), Ngwetaung Road, DawUkhu Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
2. Daw Myintzu Aye (a) Ma Nyo, 2/A, Yay Road, Peinnetaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
3. Daw Zin Mie Mie Aung, 112, 89th Street between 21st and 22nd Streets, Minte Ekin Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
4. Daw Hla Hla Yee, Room 6, Building 1, Pyay Yeikmon Housing, Nanattaw Road, Ward 8, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region
5. Daw Myint Myint Maw, 2, Upper Pazundaung Road, Ward 7, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region
6. Daw Khaing Wai Thwe, 148, Pyay Road, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
7. Dr Myat Kalya, 58, Hninzi Myaing Road, Ward 27, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region
8. Daw Phyu Phyu Myint, 22/A, Mezigon Road, Ward 7, Hline Township, Yangon Region
9. Dr Nang Phyu Hnin, 19-A(3), Kanbawza Road, Shwetaungkya Ward 2, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
10. Daw Nang Mo Kham, 15, University Villa, Thamine College Road, Ward 12, Hline Township, Yangon Region
11. Daw Zarchi Phyo, 1, Pyinnawady Road, Ward 6, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
12. Daw Chit Thinza Phu Wai, 118, 3rd Yeiktha Street, Migyaungkan Ward 1, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
13. Daw Nang Kyin Kham, 6/298, Tharaphi Road, Samseng Ward A, Tachilek, Shan State
14. Daw Shwe Sein, SaSa/150, 4th Samsaw Street, Swamsaw Ward, Muse, Shan State

Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Acting President

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed; Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations

1. The National Defence and Security Council has transferred and appointed Dr Myat Myat Thaw, Rector of Hakha University of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, as Rector of Shwebo University from the date she assumes charge of her duties.
2. The National Defence and Security Council has appointed the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Kyaw Zeya Deputy Director-General Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Director-General Dry Zone Greening Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(b) Dr San San Tint Pro-Rector University of Computer Studies (Mandalay) Department of Advanced Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology	Rector University of Computer Studies (Mandalay) Department of Advanced Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology

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)

Efforts Must Focus on Reviving and Developing Kayah State Through Inclusive Work

FROM PAGE 1
Esteemed people and national brethren in Kayah State,

Today, 15 January 2026, is a significant day for all ethnic people residing in Kayah. On this auspicious occasion, I extend greetings with my best wishes for Kayah ethnic and all union-born national brethren to enjoy physical and mental well-being.

Starting from 15 January 1952, Kayinni State, which was one of the states in the 1947 Constitution of Myanmar, was renamed Kayah State through the sentiment of the entire people under the 1951 constitutional amendment act. From then on, the significant day was designated as the Kayah State Day.

The Kayah State, located on more than 4,530 square miles of area, is the smallest area with the least population among other regions and states in Myanmar, but it is blessed with natural beauties, underground and aboveground natural resources and strengthening of traditional culture and customs similar to other regions and states. Moreover, local ethnic people have distinct characteristics of friendship, hospitality, transparency, sincerity and peace of mind. Nine tribes of Kayah ethnics are residing in Kayah State together with other ethnic people in unity and harmony through thick and thin. That is why Kayah State is standing tall with fine traditions, history and development due to the united spirit of the resident ethnic people who wish to serve the interests of the state.

All ethnic people residing in Myanmar have been maintaining unity with their own literature and culture through kinship for hundreds of years. However, the country fell under colonial rule for more than 100 years, and the systematic divide-and-rule administration of the colonislists sparked the diverse ideologies among different organizations, sections and parties with weak unity in the post-independence era. As such, they attempted to resolve the political issues through armed struggle and violent activities. As such, ethnic armed groups emerged in states, although the country has regained independence. So, everyone knows that all ethnic groups have suffered different plights without peace and stability for a long time.

Since gaining independence, successive governments have regarded internal peace and stability as the most essential requirements and have continuously endeavoured to implement peace efforts by extending invitations and engaging in talks with ethnic armed organizations. For the sake of restoring durable peace, they sought to pursue the correct political approach of dialogue and negotiation rather than misguided armed demands. During the periods after 1988, when Tatmadaw assumed national responsibilities, the Government placed emphasis on meeting and holding discussions with ethnic groups, as well as on implementing temporary ceasefires and disarmament, through which it was clearly evident that the State was able to maintain stability and tranquillity and to carry out development activities. In line with such positive traditions, during

the tenure of the first government following the transition to a democratic system, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed with some ethnic armed organizations, thereby initiating strong momentum for advancing the peace process.

Esteemed people and national brethren,

Myanmar experienced some progress in the early period of its efforts to move forward with momentum along the path of a multiparty democratic system; however, in the later period, it encountered a setback before reaching its intended goal. As is widely known, during the 2020 general election, the holding of free and fair elections – the lifeblood of a democratic system – was disregarded, and irregularities were committed to secure the single-party rule. As a result, in accordance with the Constitution of the State, Tatmadaw had to assume responsibility for the country’s situation. Taking advantage of this situation, opposition groups resorted to armed terrorist methods in an attempt to create instability, unrest, and violence within the country, thereby undermining nationwide peace and stability. Some ethnic armed organizations also incited and exploited misguided and poorly informed young terrorists, committing armed clashes and expansion of their control areas. As the saying goes, “the more chaos there is, the more it suits the interests of those who seek it,” and in this context, the various machinations of certain major foreign powers with improper intentions, together with domestic traitors who dance to their tune, have further fanned the flames. The fact that instability continues to persist up to the present time is therefore a matter that warrants serious attention.

In Kayah State as well, armed terrorists and destructive activities emerged, leading to the breakdown of peace and stability and causing the people to suffer various hardships. As is well known, while enduring these difficulties with resilience, efforts to restore regional peace, stability, and reconstruction have been carried out through many sacrifices of Tatmadaw members, the Myanmar Police Force and other security personnel, as well as by residents. Various sectors, including education and health, are being systematically rehabilitated, and prompt measures are also being taken to improve the daily lives of local people. As a result, Kayah State has already returned, within a short period of time, to a path of renewed peace, stability, and development. Going forward, the State will continue to make concerted efforts to ensure further progress and success.

Activities carried out by local ethnic armed organizations themselves that undermine peace and stability in their own region and slow or obstruct development are both disgraceful and reprehensible, and will leave a lasting stain on history. While it is necessary to repair the physical damage caused by armed violence, it is equally necessary to heal the psychological wounds suffered by the people. Therefore, for every aspect of the revival and development of Kayah State, I earnestly

urge the State and all local ethnic communities to make collective efforts and work hand in hand with a strong sense of responsibility.

Currently, the Government is placing strong emphasis, in line with its set objectives, on achieving a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system that the people desire and aspire to. In this regard, the free and fair multiparty democratic general election, which is fundamental and central to the democratic system, is being conducted, and at present, Phases I and II have already been successfully conducted. Phase III will be implemented in the near future. With the interests of the people as its foremost consideration, the Government is pursuing two national objectives: national prosperity and food security. At the same time, in accordance with the wishes of the ethnic peoples, it has firmly set and is implementing two political objectives – strengthening a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system, and building a Union based on democracy and a federal system. As the fundamental aspiration of all ethnic peoples is national unity, peace, and stability of the country, I would like to call upon all citizens to cooperate and work together toward these shared goals.

Esteemed national brethren,

The principal driving force for restoring the State as one that is more peaceful, stable, and more developed than before lies in the spirit, unity, and industrious efforts of the ethnic peoples living within the State. While steadfastly withstanding deliberate attempts driven by destructive intentions to push the nation toward ruin, if the people build with unbreakable unity – one that does not collapse no matter how much it is attacked or divided – and with tireless determination to move forward, they will be able to overcome any difficulty. Only through the best possible efforts in construction and development at present will it be possible to deliver progress and a better socioeconomic life to future generations in the years to come.

As such, I call upon all ethnic peoples to uphold wisdom and vigilance, and to work together with patience, tolerance, and unity, dedicating their full efforts toward achieving nationwide peace and stability in the future. As sending this message with sincere wishes and exhortations, I also earnestly urge all ethnic communities in Kayah State to share a common purpose and outlook, and to cooperate in all aspects, starting with the peace and tranquillity of the state and extending to the interests of the nation as a whole.

*Senior General Thadon Maha Thray Sithu
Thadon Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing
Acting President, the Republic of the Union
of Myanmar
Chairman, the State Security and Peace
Commission*



NATIONAL

Teachers Deserve Ranks Aligned with Their Qualifications

FROM PAGE 1

He continued that although every child who attends preschool goes on to attend primary school, not every child attending primary school has previously attended preschool. There are differences between the learning systems for children studying at KG+2 and KG+3 and those for young children taught at KG and KG+1. Therefore, it is necessary to implement age-appropriate teaching and learning systems that will support the education of children who enter KG and KG+1 without having attended preschool.

With regard to basic education schools, the Senior General emphasized that while some schools meet the required standards, others do not fully satisfy the necessary school facilities. Due to a lack of such standard compliance, some schools face difficulties in continuing the expansion and construction of school buildings.

He added that, in line with the advancing teaching systems and the increasing numbers of students, basic education schools that meet the required standards must be systematically and neatly upgraded in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

He highlighted that most civil servant families and households with ordinary incomes send their children to government schools. Therefore, government schools must be upgraded without fail, and priority must be given to ensuring that schools meet quality standards in education and that teachers are competent and well qualified.

The Senior General underscored that at the upper secondary level of basic education, not only are vocational subjects being taught, but plans are also in place to teach basic knowledge related to industry, agriculture, and livestock to students at the middle school level as well.

He noted that the State has granted entitlements in accordance with the academic qualifications of teachers. Similarly, it is necessary to provide entitlements to civil servants based on the degrees they have obtained, and to consider and implement measures to promote teachers to appropriate ranks commensurate with their qualifications.

With regard to healthcare personnel, the Senior General underlined that it is necessary to upgrade and open nursing schools in line with regions and states to support the development of the health

sector. In hospitals, nurses are assigned duties according to different levels, and those assignments vary depending on the number of beds in each hospital. Therefore, it is necessary to classify grades according to the duties performed and to enhance the entitlements corresponding to each grade.

The Prime Minister, Union ministers and deputy ministers discussed successful operating of the industrial, agricultural and livestock basic education high schools, plans to conduct vocational courses for the youths who did not pass the matriculation examination, rank promotion of teachers depending on their grades, establishment of teacher training universities to uplift the education sector of the State, participation of relevant ministries to create the syllabuses for industrial, agricultural and livestock subjects, conducting the early child care courses for preschool teachers, scheming the budgets for upgrading the basic education schools in financial years, and turning out nurses from nursing training schools and midwifery training schools to improve the health sector.

In response to the discussion, the Senior General gave guidance that physical training teachers must be appoint-

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting for education and health promotion

1. It is necessary to upgrade teacher training colleges and education degree colleges to university status to confer postgraduate degrees on teaching staff.
2. With the advancing teaching systems and the increasing number of students, basic education schools that meet the required standards must be systematically and neatly upgraded.
3. Plans are also in place to teach basic knowledge related to industry, agriculture, and livestock to students at the middle school level as well.

ed for basic education schools. Officials need to check foodstuffs at canteens of schools, whether these are healthy or not, universities need to be facilitated depending on criteria, and needs to encourage education promotion of ethnic youths from remote areas. – MNA/TTA



Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye presents foodstuffs to Tatmadaw members and their families.

MoD Union Minister meets Tatmadaw members, families at Homalin Station

UNION Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye met Tatmadaw members and their families at the Homalin Station Hall yesterday morning, where he delivered words of encouragement.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Ni Lin Aung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior Tatmadaw officers, and Tatmadaw members and their families from Homalin Station.

The Union minister first emphasized the importance of unity within the Tatmadaw, urging Tatmadaw members and their families to live in unity and mutual affection, to work together in fulfilling

assigned duties, to foster a brotherly and sisterly spirit throughout the battalion, to continuously train to improve individual and unit skills, and to understand, practise, and uphold the five qualities required of every battalion and every Tatmadaw member.

The Union minister then presented food items to Tatmadaw members and their families from Homalin Station. The items were received by officials, after which the Union minister and his team warmly greeted the attending Tatmadaw members and their families. – MNA/TH

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

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)



NDSC Executive Chief attends inauguration of New Thiri Mingala Market in Loikaw

EXECUTIVE Chief of the National Defence and Security Council U Aung Lin Dwe, accompanied by Union Ministers and relevant officials, arrived at Loikaw Airport yesterday to attend the 74th Kayah State Day, which falls on 15 January.

The Executive Chief and party were welcomed by Kayah State Chief Minister U Sein Oo, officials and Kayah cultural dance troupes.

They visited the Kyaung Htaing Monastic training school, paid homage to Kyaung Htaing Sayadaw, and donated offerings for the monasteries in Loikaw.

They then visited Thiri Mingala Taungdaw (Taungkwe Zedi) and donated cash.

At noon, they attended the opening ceremony of the New Thiri Mingala Market.

After the ceremonial proce-



National Defence and Security Council Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe presses the electric button to open the New Thiri Mingala Market in Loikaw, Kayah State, yesterday.

dures, the Executive Chief stated that, in line with the policies of the Head of State, the damaged areas had been restored and improved to a condition better than before, allowing Loikaw to be seen like a newly built city. For stability and peace in the state, it is necessary for the government, the people, and the Tatmadaw to work together on security matters. Moreover, if the government and the people cooperate for the development of the state, development will surely be achieved. As Loikaw is a city with favour-

able natural conditions, and if everyone works together, it will become a city far more developed and improved than now.

He inspected the market compound and cordially greeted the locals.

He proceeded to the 500-bed

general hospital to meet with the medical staff. The superintendent reported on the work plans of the hospital and played the video record of maintenance on the hospital that was destroyed by the insurgents.

The Executive Chief donated K5 million for the hospital. The Executive Chief and party comforted the patients, provided them with supplements and cash, and observed the hospital compound.

They visited Loikaw Baptist Church, and met with pastors of six churches and presented foodstuffs and cash.

They finally attended the award-giving ceremony of the ethnic traditional dance competition held in commemoration of the 74th Kayah State Day, and presented prizes to the winners.

— MNA/KTZH

24 medicinal plant species thrive in northern Myanmar’s glacial mountains

IN Myanmar, a country with three types of climates, 24 medicinal plant species have been reported to thrive in the glacial mountain ecosystems of the northern highlands, where ice and snow prevail.

The Khakaborazi and Phonkanrazi snow-capped mountains in northern Myanmar are home to a variety of medicinal plants used in both traditional and foreign medicine, including, Ophiocordyceps sinensis (caterpillar fungus), Paris polyphylla, Saussurea obvallata, Saussurea gossypiphora (Snow Ball Plant), Fritillaria roylei, Fritillaria delavayi, Dactylorhiza hatagirea, Bergenia

purpurascens (Purple Bergenia/Elephant Ears), Rheum webbianum (Rhubarb), Rheum moorcroftianum (Moorcroft’s Rhubarb), Selinum wallichianum (Milk Parsley), Angelica sinensis (Ginseng), Aconitum nagarum, Coptis teeta, Pedicularis sp. (Elephant’s Head), Pedicularis groenlandica (Elephant’s Head), Osbeckia stellata (Hairy Osbeckia), Daphne papyracea (Nepal Paper Plant), Phlogacanthus curviflorus (Wild Nongmangkha), Rhodiola wallichiana (Golden Root), Allium wallichii (Himalayan Onion), Bistorta affinis (Meadow Bistorta), Gaultheria trichophylla (Himalayan Snowberry), and

Pleurospermum amabile.

These medicinal plants are used in the form of herbs, seeds, or roots to treat a wide range of ailments, including cancer, diseases of the lungs, liver, kidneys, stomach and heart, as well as diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic conditions.

The plant species have been recorded at altitudes exceeding 19,296 feet across 942,080 acres of the Khakaborazi glacial region and other highland areas. They are particularly abundant within the Khakaborazi National Park, where local communities use them in traditional medicine and also export them, primarily to China. — Thitsa (MNA)/MKKS



Photos show different kinds medicinal plants. PHOTO ZWE MARN

NATIONAL

Press briefing on seizures of drugs, equipment and production sites

THE information was released on 11 January regarding the combined team comprising security forces that conducted operations to expose and seize the materials believed to be used for the production of heroin, Methamphetamine, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances that threaten the survival of the entire mankind, and also the sites and equipment involved in online fraud and gambling.

Regarding the largest-ever seizures of narcotic drugs and equipment used in drug production, as well as equipment used for online fraud and gambling, a press briefing by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held yesterday morning at Anisakhan Airport in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region. The briefing was led by Commission Member and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, and Leader of the Information Team of the National Defence and Security Council and Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

The press conference was attended by ambassadors, diplomats, and military attachés from Nepal, Laos, Pakistan, Brunei, and Bangladesh, officials from National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC) of China, Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) of Thailand, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and journalists from domestic media outlets, daily newspapers, domestic television channels, and foreign media organizations based in Myanmar.

First, Commission Member



Media personnel are seen attending yesterday's press briefing.

and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung explained that Myanmar has designated drug suppression as a national duty and is prioritizing it as a key task. The drug problem does not affect only Myanmar and its people, but poses serious harm to people in all countries. Meanwhile, certain groups and countries handle this global humanitarian problem with ethnic, religious, or political bias. He reaffirmed Myanmar's unwavering commitment to serving its obligations on drug control.

He then mentioned Myanmar's drug suppression efforts from 2021 to 2025, the destruction of poppy fields, seizure and incineration of narcotic drugs and chemical substances, special anti-drug operations, and the exposure of drug manufacturing sites.

He added that while opera-

tions uncovered only small-scale production sites, the currently seized drug manufacturing bases were identified as the largest ever discovered. Analysis of the seized chemicals and equipment confirmed that massive quantities of drugs had been produced at these sites.

Myanmar continues to cooperate closely with the international community in combatting drug cases in line with its commitments. The successful exposure and destruction of a major drug production hub have significantly disrupted drug manufacturing activities. He pledged that Myanmar will continue its drug eradication efforts by using all available resources in the country as per the commitments made to international countries.

NDSC Information Team Leader Deputy Minister for In-

formation Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained that the Myanmar government regards narcotic drugs as a national threat and conducts drug eradication as a national duty. He highlighted the destructive activities of insurgents and terrorists under the name of EAOs to occur instability in the country to engage in drug production and trafficking as a major of their income, drug trafficking that support money laundering, arms smuggling and terrorism and poses threats to stability of the country, condition of Myanmar as it does not produce the chemicals and related materials used for drug production whereas insurgent groups import these materials into the country through various means from other countries, taking advantage of instability and weakened law enforcement of the country in-

cluding COVID-19 pandemic by the insurgents to expand their drug-related activities.

He continued that the government has been actively cooperating with neighbouring countries, including China, and regional partners to crack down on drug production and online gambling, aiming for complete eradication as a national task. He provided background information on the areas between Hsipaw and Mongyai in northern Shan State, and southwest of Mongyai, where large amounts of drugs and online gambling materials are seized at present.

He added that in 2013, the members of the SSPP/SSA Wamhai group entered areas south of the region, including the Haipa and Pachi road junctions, resulting in clashes with Tatmadaw. Tatmadaw conducted military operations advancing as far as the Wamhai headquarters area of the group. However, in 2015, in line with discussions and efforts toward signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), military operations were suspended. Then, the information related to narcotic drugs around these areas was received, and Tatmadaw carried out clearance activities and issued warnings to the SSPP/SSA Wamhai group.

In these areas, Tatmadaw had previously controlled, and the region was designated as a "white area." The Tatmadaw controlled areas near the road linking Hsipaw and Mongyai, including the vicinity of Sin Kyaut, Saung Kye, Hoya, and to the south, Namlan. However, following the emergence of the so-called Operation 1027 in 2023, Tatmadaw retreated temporarily from those areas, including Lashio.

In accordance with bilateral ceasefire agreements, while the Tatmadaw was required to halt operations without advancing or retreating, individuals familiar with drug production and driven by greed took advantage of the situation by cooperating with EAOs to establish drug processing bases, produce drugs and commit online fraud. These activities are like the saying... the cat jumps with joy when the forest is on fire.

SEE PAGE 7



Images show photographic records of seized drugs and related materials.

NATIONAL

Well-educated human resources key to regional and national development

❖ “Developing a region and the nation requires well-educated human resources. Therefore, we remain committed to supporting and promoting education.”
(Excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with district and township-level officials, town elders, and MSME businesspersons from Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, on 10 July 2025)

Press briefing on seizures of drugs...

FROM PAGE 6

During 2025, as Tatmadaw gradually reestablished its presence in the area, law enforcement operations were progressively intensified in cooperation with the Myanmar Police Force. As a result of these efforts, arrests were made involving foreign nationals engaged in online gambling and fraud, along with the seizure of related equipment in Mongha of Mongyai township of Shan State (north) in February 2025, Mongnaung, Kyaythee Township, Shan State (South), in November, and Taung Hteik village in Kyaukme Township, Shan State (North), in December.

In January 2026, the local ethnic residents, who did not cherish the online fraud operations which were being conducted in areas between Hsipaw and Mongyai Townships in northern Shan State and the acts committed by insurgents such as unlawful detention and torture, forced recruitment, confiscation of valuable property owned by locals, and destruction of buildings and roads, which severely damaged the socio-economic lives of the people, were unable to safely provide information to Tatmadaw. But, Tatmadaw columns successively recaptured and regained control of areas temporarily dominated by terrorist insurgents, public trust and support for the Tatmadaw grew, and the people eagerly reported to Tatmadaw columns. Therefore, Tatmadaw conducted aerial surveillance and ground intelligence many times, and found the involvement not only in online fraud but also in drug-related activities. Therefore, the government and Tatmadaw decided to conduct special operations. Tatmadaw deployed three battalions, while the Myanmar Police Force deployed three police commando units, operating at full strength. This operation became the most



Media personnel examine the drug seizure site.

extensive narcotics suppression operation in history, in terms of scale of clearance, destruction, and seizures.

The government and Tatmadaw have expressed recognition, pride, and appreciation for the security personnel who carried out their duties with dedication and perseverance under challenging conditions to ensure the success of the operation. Moreover, the government, led by the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, issued instructions to personally present cash awards to security personnel stationed in the operational areas.

While seizing the narcotic drugs, materials used in drug manufacturing, and equipment used in online fraud and gambling activities in Hsipaw and Mongyai townships of Shan State (North), the site used for online fraud and gambling was discovered about nine kilometres northwest of Narlin village, whereas a drug manufacturing base about 800 metres east of that site, first drug production site near Manphyet Village about 26 kilometres southeast of Mongyai, a second drug production site about 20 kilometres southwest of Mongyai and a third main drug manufacturing site about 19

kilometres southwest of the second site.

In the course of these discoveries, temporary shelters used for online fraud and gambling activities, computers, Starlink devices, and other related equipment were seized from the respective locations. Also confiscated were chemical liquids and related chemical materials used in drug production, tablet-press machines, packing machines used for narcotics packaging, heavy machinery and associated equipment, and buildings used in the operations. Moreover, SSPP/SSA uniforms, rank insignia, shoulder patches, and individuals connected to the organization were seized and arrested, along with those involved in narcotics manufacturing and those participating in online fraud and gambling activities.

He continued that when the seized drug-manufacturing equipment and materials were subjected to preliminary examinations by joint teams including technical experts, it was initially discovered that heroin and methamphetamine were being produced. Based on estimations derived from the chemical sub-

stances seized at the second location mentioned above, it was assessed that approximately 27 tonnes of ICE, valued at about K540 billion, could be produced. If converted into tablet form, it would be possible to produce about 810 million methamphetamine tablets. If these tablets enter the market, narcotic drugs worth an estimated K1,620 billion would have been circulated. The analysis of the seized drug-manufacturing equipment and materials from the site revealed that the facilities were capable of routinely producing quantities exceeding 27 tonnes of ICE or more than about 810 million methamphetamine tablets.

It was also observed that the packaging styles of narcotic drugs previously seized within Myanmar matched exactly the packaging styles produced using the machinery discovered at these sites. Based on examinations of the seized drug packaging bearing the label “Guan Yin Wang” and other packages labelling with Chinese characters, the volume produced and distributed from the two seized locations accounted for about 33.44 per cent of the total amount of ICE seized nationwide during 2025. The terrorist groups mainly rely on the production and transport of narcotic drugs as a major source of income. The maritime exit routes are being utilized by the AA group, routes into Thailand by the KNU, KNLA, and PDF groups, and routes into India by the PDF and CNF groups, respectively.

He also talked about the close cooperation with neighbouring countries, ASEAN members, Mekong regions, BIMSTEC members, international drug control organizations including the UN, comprehensive cooperation as a national task by every country to ensure the eradication, and proper international



Official address queries from diplomatic missions and media personnel at the seized drug-processing site.

SEE PAGE 10

Prioritize national and State interests for development nationwide

THE Head of State specially remarked at the ceremony honouring recipients of honorary titles on the occasion of the recently held 78th Anniversary of Independence Day that organizations and individuals with differing views and opinions are also once again invited to meet, discuss, and reconcile their differences.

The independence and sovereignty of the State are the very lifeblood of the nation that must be preserved and protected forever. It is necessary to learn lessons from the historical events that have occurred in our country and, in the future, build a modern, developed, stable, and peaceful nation, leaving a positive legacy for the country. Only by doing so can our generation and future generations remain loyal to the nation and fulfil their responsibilities. If stability is not maintained, the country may face a situation of collapse once again.

For the stability of independence and sovereignty, Our Three Main National Causes -- non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty -- are clearly national duties that every citizen must seriously uphold. Therefore, in building a Union based on genuine discipline, democracy, and a federal system, all ethnic nationalities across the Union must give special emphasis, actively cooperate, and faithfully implement these responsibilities.

Nation-building and State-building activities rely primarily not on the efforts of a single individual or a single group but on the collaboration of multiple sectors, bringing together intellectuals, skilled professionals, and capable individuals. Gathering and combining such strengths to implement these activities leads to greater effectiveness and success.

The collective strength of all citizens is vital for the nation. Even under the new government that emerges through elections, it is necessary for everyone to actively and energetically cooperate in nation-building and State-building activities. Only then can a stable, peaceful, and prosperous country be established. When the nation is stable and peaceful, citizens can live in harmony and prioritize both their individual well-being and the development of the country.

In carrying out nation-building and State-building activities, it is not sufficient for the government alone to make efforts and implement them. It is necessary for experts, skilled professionals, capable individuals from all sectors, and all ethnic brothers and sisters to join together and contribute their full knowledge and abilities. Only then can the envisioned democratic Union be successfully established within a short period of time. That is why responsible citizens need to prioritize the national and State interests and work hand in hand with the government as quickly as possible.

Living Longer, Living Healthier in the New Year: A Call to Action for a Healthier Myanmar

By Dr Aung Tun

1. The Paramount Importance of Health and Well-being

Health is more than the absence of disease; it is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. This fundamental truth underscores the significance of prioritizing health, not just as a personal asset, but as a crucial pillar for national development and prosperity.

A healthy population drives a vibrant economy, reduces the burden on healthcare systems, and ensures a higher quality of life for its citizens. For any nation, particularly for Myanmar as it enters the new year, investing in public health and individual well-being is the single most valuable investment for the future. The renowned economist and Nobel laureate, Amartya Sen, highlighted that health is central to human capabilities and is an end in itself.

In the context of modern life, the importance of moving beyond mere survival to focusing on 'Healthspan' -- the number of years a person lives in good health -- becomes paramount. As life expectancy increases globally, the challenge shifts to ensuring those added years are productive, free of debilitating chronic illness, and allow for active community engagement.

2. The Current State of Human Longevity: Global and Myanmar Perspectives

Over the past century, global life expectancy has seen remarkable gains, driven by advancements in sanitation, nutrition, and medical science. However, significant disparities remain between nations and regions.

Global Life Expectancy (Approximate Latest Data)

- a. **Global Average:** Approximately 73.4 years (Source: WHO/UN Estimates).
- b. High-income nations often exceed 80 years, with countries like Japan and Switzerland leading the world in longevity. These figures reflect successes in controlling infectious diseases and managing chronic conditions.

Life Expectancy in Myanmar

- c. **Myanmar's Life Expectancy (2025 Projection):** Approximately 68.14 years (Source: Macrotrends, based on UN data).
- d. While Myanmar has seen a steady rise in life expectancy from approximately 59.4 years in 2000, it still lags behind many global counterparts and neighbouring countries like Thailand and China.
- e. Furthermore, it is critical to look at Healthy Life Expectancy (HALE). In Myanmar, the HALE was estimated to be around 59.8 years in 2021. This means the average person in Myanmar spends close to eight years of their life battling illness and disability, highlighting the urgency of improving healthspan.

3. Top Causes of Morbidity and Mortality

Understanding the causes of illness (morbidity) and death (mortality) is essential for an effective public health strategy. The world is undergoing an epidemiological transition, shifting the burden from communicable to

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Global Leading Causes of Mortality

The leading causes of death globally are overwhelmingly NCDs: - Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD): The number one killer worldwide, responsible for millions of deaths annually.

- * Stroke: A major cause of death and long-term disability.
- * Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- * Lower Respiratory Infections (LRI) (the leading communicable cause)
- * Cancers (e.g., Tracheal, Bronchus, Lung)

Leading Causes in Myanmar

The disease burden in Myanmar mirrors the global transition, with NCDs being the dominant cause of death, particularly in adults:

- * **Stroke:** Consistently ranked as the leading cause of death in Myanmar.
- * **Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD):** A rapidly increasing cause of mortality.
- * **Chronic Respiratory Diseases:** Reflecting high rates of air pollution and smoking.
- * **Cirrhosis:** Notably high among young adult males, linked to excessive alcohol consumption.
- * Diabetes and Cancers: Showing increasing prevalence.

Key Insight: In Myanmar, an estimated 82% of adult deaths are due to NCDs, predominantly Stroke, IHD, and Chronic Respiratory Disease. Communicable diseases like Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS remain significant but are being eclipsed by the rising tide of lifestyle-related NCDs.

4. Possible Emerging Diseases for 2026

The interconnected world, coupled with climate change, urbanization, and ecological disruption, ensures a continuous threat from emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Preparedness for 2026 and beyond must be a national priority.

- a. **Evolving Respiratory Pathogens:** The continued evolution of the COVID-19 virus (e.g., new highly transmissible Omicron sub-lineages like NB.1.8.1) and highly pathogenic strains of Influenza (such as the new A(H3N2) subclade K) remain a threat. The convergence of these viruses in the respiratory disease season poses a significant challenge.
- b. **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** Often called the "silent pandemic," AMR is a process where bacteria and other microbes evolve to resist common drugs. This is a critical global and regional threat that could make routine infections and surgical procedures life-threatening in the absence of effective antibiotics.
- c. **Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases:** Climate change is expanding the range of vectors like mosquitoes. Diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya, and Malaria could re-emerge or increase in prevalence in new geographic areas. The risk of Zoonotic spillover, where pathogens jump from animals to humans,

remains high, demanding better animal health surveillance.

- d. **Tuberculosis (TB):** Though endemic, the development of Drug-Resistant TB strains, particularly in Southeast Asia, is a major public health emergency that requires sustained attention and resources.

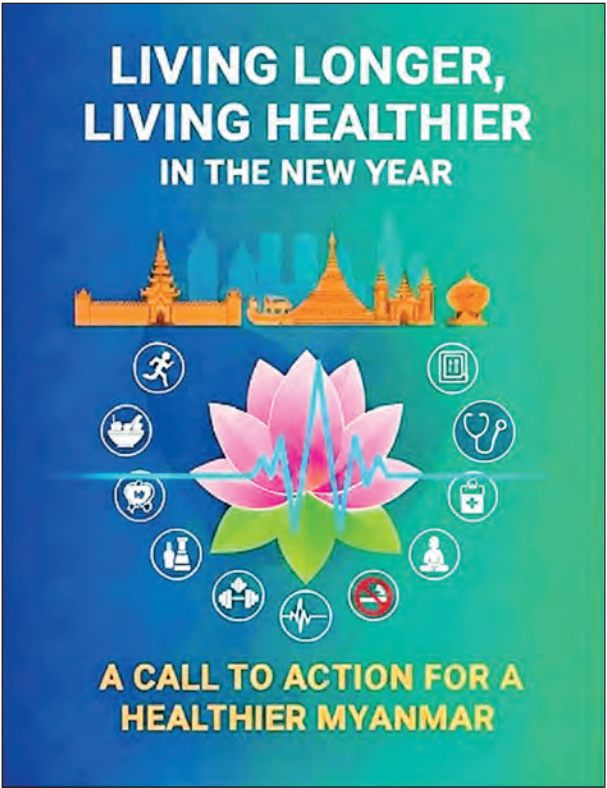
5. Fundamental Requirements for Healthy Longevity.

Achieving a truly longer and healthier life -- extending one's healthspan -- is rooted not in complex medical treatments alone, but primarily in adhering to several fundamental, interconnected lifestyle principles. These principles form the bedrock of preventative health, significantly mitigating the risks associated with the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) that dominate modern mortality statistics.

Firstly, **optimal nutrition** is paramount. A healthy diet is characterized by a high intake of whole foods, including a diverse range of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, while limiting processed foods, added sugars, and excessive salt and saturated fats. This dietary pattern supports healthy cardiovascular function, stabilizes blood sugar levels, and provides the essential micronutrients needed for cellular repair. Closely related is **regular physical activity**. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week, such as brisk walking, complemented by muscle-strengthening activities. Consistent movement is vital for maintaining a healthy weight, improving blood circulation, and enhancing bone density, all of which contribute to an active and independent later life.

Furthermore, a healthy life is impossible without sufficient **rest and recovery**. High-quality sleep, typically 7 to 9 hours nightly for adults, is essential for cognitive function, emotional regulation, and physical healing. Poor sleep hygiene is a recognized risk factor for numerous NCDs, including hypertension and diabetes. Equally important is the **avoidance of harmful substances**. This involves strict abstinence from all forms of tobacco use, which is a leading cause of cancer and chronic respiratory diseases, and the moderation or elimination of alcohol, particularly avoiding the excessive consumption linked to liver damage and heart disease.

Finally, health extends beyond the physical body to include **mental and social well-being**. Chronic stress, if left unmanaged, can inflict measurable physiological damage, making techniques such as mindfulness, meditation, or simply dedicating time to hobbies critical for mitigation. Additionally, **strong social connections** are independently linked to better health outcomes and longevity. Active engagement with family, friends, and community combats social isolation, which is a serious risk factor for mental decline and premature mortality. Collectively, these lifestyle pillars, when adopted consistently, maximize one's potential for a long-life lived in vitality and good health.



6. A Unified Call for Action

Achieving the vision of a healthier, longer-living population requires a synchronized effort from all sectors of society.

Individual Responsibility

- a. **Take Ownership:** Individuals must embrace the facts: health is a choice. Make small, sustainable changes in diet and activity. Commit to one healthy habit in the New Year.
- b. **Be Informed:** Seek reliable, science-based health information and actively participate in preventative care, such as health screenings and immunizations.
- c. **Invest in Mental Health:** Prioritize stress reduction, seek help when needed, and nurture social relationships.

Community Engagement

- d. **Create Supportive Environments:** Communities must advocate for and maintain public spaces for exercise (parks, safe walking paths) and markets with affordable, fresh produce.
- e. **Promote Health Literacy:** Community leaders, religious groups, and NGOs should run local campaigns to raise awareness about NCD risk factors (smoking, diet, alcohol use) and promote hygiene practices to combat infectious diseases.
- f. **Foster Social Cohesion:** Establish community programs for older adults to prevent social isolation and encourage active ageing.
- g. **Policy and Legislation:** Implement and enforce robust public health policies, such as strong tobacco control laws, taxing sugar-sweetened beverages, and regulating food marketing directed at children.

Government Leadership (Ministry of Health)

- h. **Strengthen Primary Healthcare (PHC):** Ensure universal access to high-quality, affordable PHC services focused on prevention, early detection, and management of NCDs like hypertension and diabetes.
- i. **Invest in Surveillance and Preparedness:** Build capacity for disease surveillance, rapid diagnostic testing, and vaccine distribution to effectively monitor and respond to emerging infectious threats and combat AMR.
- j. **Address Determinants of Health:** Coordinate cross-sectoral efforts in education, housing, water, and sanitation, recognizing that health outcomes are shaped by socio-economic factors.

7. Seizing the Opportunity

As Myanmar begins the New Year, a critical opportunity presents itself: the chance to shift the national health narrative from managing sickness to actively creating wellness. The data is clear -- the vast majority of premature deaths are preventable, stemming from lifestyle-driven non-communicable diseases. The spectre of emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance further demands immediate, proactive measures.

This article has outlined the disparity in life expectancy, the heavy burden of NCDs, and the foundational requirements for longevity. Now, the call must be heard across the nation. The government must lead with decisive policy action and investment in primary care. Communities must mobilize to create healthy, supportive environments. And, most importantly, each individual must take personal responsibility for their well-being, recognizing that a healthier personal life directly contributes to a stronger, more prosperous nation.

Living longer and living healthier is not a distant aspiration; it is the immediate, achievable goal for 2026. By embracing a holistic approach -- one that prioritizes a healthy diet, regular activity, social connection, and proactive screening -- Myanmar can ensure that its citizens do not merely add years to their lives, but add life to their years. The time for this vital commitment is now.

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- 2. **Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study - Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME):** Data on Myanmar's specific top causes of death and disability. (The most recent study, GBD 2021, covers data up to 2021/2023).
- 3. **United Nations World Population Prospects (UN WPP):** For current life expectancy and demographic trends in Myanmar and globally. (The latest revision, WPP 2024, provides estimates and projections up to 2100).
- 4. **Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) /World Health Organization (WHO) Reports on Emerging Pathogens:** Information regarding the outlook on evolving respiratory viruses, AMR, and zoonotic threats. (Reference can be made to the WHO's updated priority pathogen list, July 2024, or latest CDC Outbreak Summaries, e.g., 2025).
- 5. **Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health / National Institute on Ageing (NIA) Research:** Consensus on the five key lifestyle factors for healthy longevity (Diet, Exercise, Weight, Smoking, Alcohol). (Referencing published studies and expert consensus from key initiatives, such as research published in 2025 regarding healthy ageing and diet).

NATIONAL

Press briefing on seizures of drugs...

FROM PAGE 7

participation in anti-drug activities of Myanmar to achieve success as quickly as possible.

He continued that the Myanmar government is combatting drug production and trafficking, online fraud and gambling as a national duty, and will take effective action against any organization involved in these cases.

He further explained that drug production, trafficking, and online fraud and gambling activities are not only harmful to the citizens of Myanmar but also pose serious threats to neighbouring countries. Therefore, the entire people are urged to collectively oppose such activities and to promptly provide any information they obtain to the relevant authorities.

After the ceremony, attendees observed around the related equipment used in producing narcotic drugs, the seized items, and photos.

The Commission Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Leader of NDSC Information Team and Deputy Minister for Information, and relevant officials, together with diplomats, domestic and foreign media outlets travelled by helicopter to a drug-manufacturing site near Man Phat Village, located about 26 kilometre southeast of Mongyai in northern Shan State. At the site, temporary structures, chemical substances, and re-

lated equipment used in drug production were explained area by area. The officials and members of the security forces who participated in the exposure and seizure operations provided clarifications and answered



Officials inspect the drug seizure site.

questions raised.

The Commission Member and party then proceeded to another major drug-manufacturing site located about 19 kilometres southwest of that area. The relevant officials provided clarification and answered questions regarding the chemical substances and equipment used in drug production.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Leader of NDSC Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun presented K100million provided by Acting President and Chairman of State Security and Peace Commission for Tatmadaw members and Myanmar

Police Force members participating in anti-drug operations on behalf of the Acing President to North-East Command Commander Brig-Gen Aye Min Oo and Deputy Chief of Police of the Myanmar Police Force Police

Maj-Gen Win Bo.

Then, the temporary shelters, chemical substances, and related equipment used in drug manufacturing were explained area by area, and responsible officials and security force members involved in the exposure and seizure operations provided further clarifications and answered questions.

The Union Minister and party observed the drug manufacturing site about 20 kilometres northwest of Mongyai by helicopter and returned.

Today, security forces who participated in the operation to uncover and seize drug produc-

tion sites answered questions from the media as follows: -

A police member

We arrived at Mongphyat on 8 January. On 9 January, police, Tatmadaw, and commando units all gathered carefully and then marched together from Mongphyat. It had taken us two days to come this far. We also had to cross creeks. One of the creeks was about 20 feet wide and eight feet deep, and we crossed it carefully to avoid any danger. During this operation, we arrested suspects. In addition, there were uniforms that were recovered as well. These buildings were also secured intact, without any damage. We carried out the operation according to the procedures of the Myanmar Police Force, following the directives of the Union Minister for Home Affairs, instructions from the Chief of Police, and under the close supervision of responsible officers. The Myanmar Police Force will continue to collaborate with Tatmadaw in eradicating illegal drugs.



Interviewees: Tatmadaw and Police personnel.

A Tatmadaw member

Starting on 9 January, we marched from Mongphyat. The main reason for this operation was that we had received orders from higher authorities to eradicate narcotic drugs, so we studied the terrain and set out. The fighting occurred in a short time. At the beginning of our march, we captured one person – a 37-year-old man. Later, after reaching the area and completing the security operations, six more men were arrested, bringing the total to seven. When we arrived, we went up a difficult mountainous area, not the location the targets had expected. The creek nearby was quite deep, with a strong current. Crossing it together with both Tatmadaw column and the police commando units was risky and could have taken a long time. Therefore, I advised the police Major to separate the forces into two groups to cross the creek more efficiently. By 7 am, we had fully raided the area. At that time, those from the drug-related area fled in disarray. — MNA/KTZH



Myanmar deports foreign nationals linked to online scams and gambling

THE government is investigating and identifying foreign nationals who have been residing illegally in border areas and have been involved in criminal activities, including online gambling and online fraud, and is systematically deporting them to their respective countries in accordance with relevant laws and procedures.

In this process, a further 16 foreign nationals were identified and detained after having entered sites in and around Myawaddy Township, Kayin State, through illegal routes via Thailand and some neighbouring countries. They



Immigration process underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

included nine Chinese nationals, three Sri Lankan nationals, two Ethiopian nationals, one Vietnamese national and one

Malaysian national. The individuals were screened as part of deportation procedures.

In order to expedite their repatriation to their respective countries, departmental joint task forces are currently collecting the necessary personal information and records. These activities were inspected by the Chairman of the Myawaddy District Administration and Management Committee and District Administrator U Kaung San Lin, together with responsible officials, who also coordinated and facilitated the required measures.

The government is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries, as well as international organizations, to identify and arrest those involved in online scam centre operations and the foreign nationals masterminding such activities, and to take effective and severe legal action against them. At the same time, effective coordination is being carried out to ensure the prompt repatriation of foreign nationals who are in distress for various reasons and those who have been trafficked. — MNA/MKKS

Youth Peace Forum 2026 enters second day

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

The Youth Peace Forum 2026 ceremony 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 Nang, members of the Negotiation Committee, Ministers for Social Affairs from regions and states, representatives from ministries, experts and professionals from various fields, youth representatives from various strata of the regions and states, youth representatives from ethnic armed organizations that have signed the NCA, youth representatives from diverse ethnic cultural and religious backgrounds, ethnic youth from border areas, and other invited youth representatives and observers.

At the forum, young experts led discussions on topics such as identifying recovery



The second day of Youth Peace Forum 2026 underway in the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I), Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

and reconstruction strategies for those affected by conflict; engaging youth in efforts to reduce and prevent conflicts; youth perspectives on modern and progressive politics; fostering a patriotic union spirit; linking social, educational, cultural, and sports priorities relevant to today's youth with the peace process; promoting employment opportunities and peace; nation-building; creating regional economic and job opportunities; youth entrepreneurship and technology initiatives; support-

ing youth business start-ups; youth health, psychological support, and drug control; the impact of information technology (IT); the effective use of artificial intelligence (AI) in promoting peace, nation-building, and social harmony; and issues related to cyber and online security, social media, and networking.

The youth were gathered in groups to discuss designated topics, and NSPNC Chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, along with Union Minister for Information U Maung

Maung Ohn, visited the groups and offered words of encouragement.

Afterwards, the youth representatives attending the Youth Peace Forum 2026 divided into four groups to discuss and propose solutions on the following topics: cessation of armed conflicts; youth participation in nation-building; rehabilitation and reconstruction; promotion of social, educational, and cultural development; coexistence of various ethnic groups; cultural exchange and sports;

economic and employment opportunities; entrepreneurship and a technology-based economy; youth health, psychological support, and combating drug abuse; impacts of information technology (IT); establishment of artificial intelligence (AI) systems; cyber and online security, social media, and networking groups; and effective dissemination of news and information.

In the afternoon, the group discussions were summarized and presented, and experts provided feedback on the findings. The participants also engage in a short quiz competition, a peace-related drawing contest, and a cybersecurity quiz competition, awarding prizes to the winners. Additionally, they prepared group-based work plans for networking. The Youth Peace Forum 2026 will continue on 15 January, focusing on the importance of youth participation in promoting peace and social stability, creating employment opportunities for youth, defining the practical role of youth in the post-election period, and formulating a plan for sustainable peace, national unity, and social development. — MNA/TH

Announcement on People's Pioneer Party

14 January 2026

1. Political parties are required to comply with the provisions of Section 407 (c) and Section 408 of the Constitution, and Section 6 (c) of the Political Parties Registration Law, which stipulate that political parties must not directly or indirectly receive or use money, property, or any other assistance from any foreign country's government, religious organizations, other organizations, or any individual, nor accept their influence. Failure to comply will result in the cancellation of registration as a political party. In this regard, the Union Election Commission (UEC) informed all political parties by letter dated 11 August 2022, Letter 5/NaNgaRa-Supervision (49)/KaMaRa, and this has already been notified.

2. In addition, political parties are required to submit prior reports to the Union Election Commission and obtain approval before meeting with any foreign organizations or individuals. Such meetings will be permitted only after scrutiny under appropriate arrangements. This was again notified to all political parties by the Union Election Commission's letter dated 23 August 2022, Letter 5/NaNgaRa-Supervision (51)/KaMaRa.

3. As it was learnt that the People's Pioneer Party was secretly meeting with embassies and organizations, the Union Election Commission issued a warning by letter dated 22 December 2025, Letter 5/NaNgaRa-Supervi-
- sion (201)/KaMaRa, addressed to the Chairperson of the People's Pioneer Party, stating that meetings must be held only after submitting a request and obtaining approval from the Union Election Commission, and that if meetings were held without approval, action would be taken under Section 12 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

4. Dr Thet Thet Khine, Chairperson of the People's Pioneer Party, and Daw Htet Htet Hlaing, a Central Executive Committee member, without submitting a request for approval to the Union Election Commission, reportedly held an illegal and secret meeting, wearing masks, with certain individuals from a foreign embassy at a restaurant on Natmauk Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, from approximately from 2 pm to 3 pm on 18 December 2025. Investigations conducted into the above matter confirmed the report to be true, and Dr Thet Thet Khine and Daw Htet Htet Hlaing also admitted that it was true.

5. Thus, it is hereby announced that legal action will be taken under the law against Dr Thet Thet Khine, Chairperson of the People's Pioneer Party, and Daw Htet Htet Hlaing, Central Executive Committee member.

Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

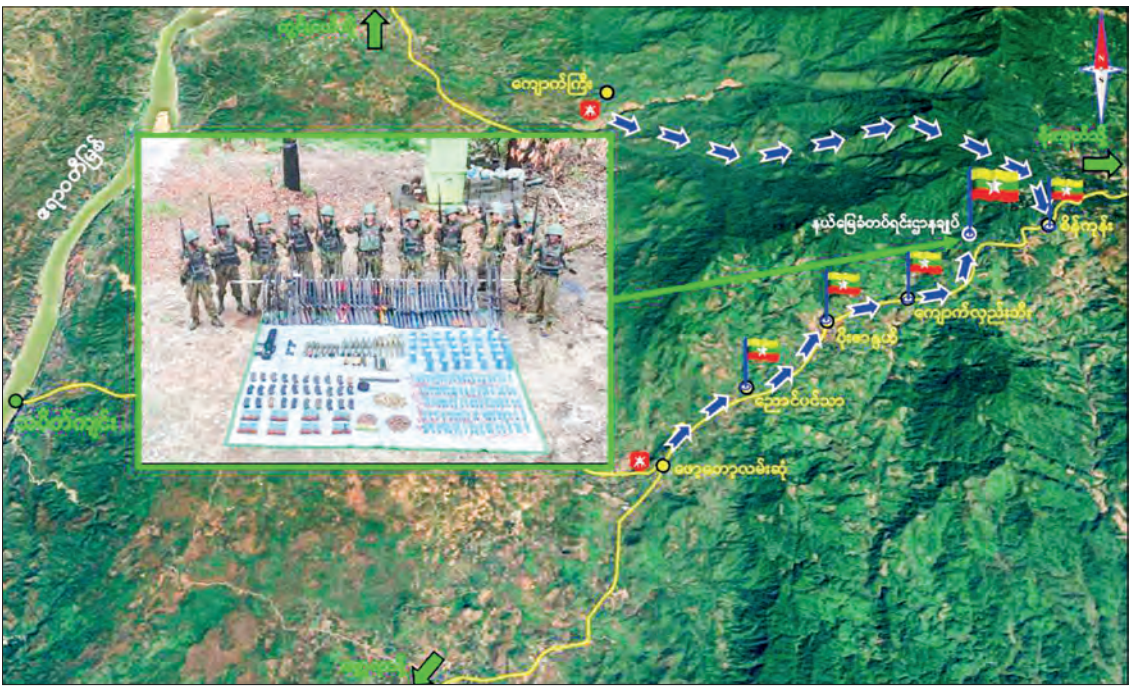
Tatmadaw retakes key areas in Mandalay Region, restores security and trade routes

TATMADAW columns recaptured, one by one, the areas of Madaya, Singu and Thabeikkyin townships in Mandalay Region that had been temporarily controlled by so-called PDF terrorist insurgent groups.

To restore peace and stability in the Mandalay-Madaya-Singu-Thabeikkyin area and to ensure that locals and travellers could use communication and transport routes safely, area security operations were continuously carried out. As a result, the Mandalay-Madaya-Singu-Thabeikkyin transport route was fully brought back under control and reopened on 31 December 2025.

As the Tatmadaw recaptured these areas, residents developed greater trust and confidence in the armed forces and began offering their support with increased enthusiasm. They also started providing timely information on terrorist activities to nearby Tatmadaw units.

Losing public support caused members of the so-called PDF terrorist insurgent groups to become disillusioned with their violent activities. They also found it unacceptable that bullying, coercion and acts of brutality had arisen within their own ranks. With a growing understanding and acceptance of the State's and Tatmadaw's principles, some members of these groups contacted nearby military camps and responsible authorities in their areas, surrendering within the legal framework and bringing their weapons and ammunition



The image reveals Tatmadaw columns recapturing and securing the entire local station area and its surroundings near Seingon Village on the Thabeikkyin-Mogok Road.

with them.

To ensure the safety and security of social and economic life in and around the Thabeikkyin-Mogok area, to facilitate smooth and efficient trade, and to enable the systematic management of above-ground and underground natural resources contributing to national economic development, Tatmadaw columns have been working to reopen the Thabeikkyin-Mogok transport route as quickly as possible.

Efforts were made to recapture and regain control of local battalion headquarters and surrounding areas that had been temporarily dominated by terrorist insurgents. Based on systematically consolidated and assessed information provided by residents and defected



Residents who endured brutal harrassment by terrorists warmly welcome Tatmadaw columns in Kyaukhlebee Village.

members of the PDF groups, area security operations were conducted through balanced and coordinated advances by Tatmadaw columns.

As a result, Tatmadaw units fully recaptured Nyaungpintha Village on 11 January 2026, Poezanwe Village on 12 January, Kyaukhlebee Village on 13 January, and, on 14 January, the local battalion headquarters along the route and the surrounding area of Seingon Village.

During the operations to retake the area, fierce and de-

termined attacks were carried out without regard for personal safety. In total, 37 engagements—both large and small—occurred with terrorist insurgents. Fifteen enemy bodies were recovered, along with 34 weapons of various types, ammunition, and related equipment. Some Tatmadaw officers and soldiers were killed or wounded in the process.

After recapturing Nyaungpintha, Poezanwe, and Kyaukhlebee villages, and proceeding with area-clearing operations, residents who had endured severe abuse and oppression at the hands of the terrorists warmly welcomed the Tatmadaw columns. Elderly people, children, men and women alike gathered in large numbers, joyfully greeting the troops while holding victory flowers and garlands—a scene that was both heartening and moving.

Tatmadaw columns will continue necessary area control operations within the region, targeting and eliminating terrorist insurgents hiding along the road between Seingon Village and Mogok. In coordination with residents, they will also work to restore the smooth and efficient flow of trade and ensure that travellers can move safely and with peace of mind. Efforts are being made to reopen as quickly as possible the transport routes connecting Mogok, Thabeikkyin and Mandalay. Tatmadaw units will continue to intensify area security and control operations to achieve these objectives. — MNA/KZL



The meeting for the selection of outstanding athletes in 2025 in progress yesterday.

Sports bodies hold meeting on the selection of outstanding athletes for 2025

THE Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, the Myanmar Olympic Committee, and the Myanmar Sports Media Federation held a discussion on the selection of outstanding athletes for 2025 at 10 am yesterday at the Myanmar Sports Media Federation office, located within the Department of Sports and Physical Educa-

tion compound at Kyaikkasan Sports Ground, Tamway Township, Yangon.

At the meeting, Federation Chair U Nyan Htun (writer Lay Ko Ko) delivered opening remarks on the selection process for outstanding athletes. Vice-Chairs U Myint Swe (Myint Swe Myint) and U Wunna (Mar J),

along with executive members, discussed the selection of the best male and female athletes for 2025.

They also reviewed plans for organizing article, poetry, short story, and photography competitions to be held in connection with the sixth edition of the 2025 sports competitions. — Bala/KZL

Coffee farming, post-harvest processing course set for 26-30 Jan in PyinOoLwin

THE coffee farming and post-harvest coffee processing course will be conducted on 26-30 January in Pyin Oo Lwin.

The course will cover coffee processing for developing high-quality coffee, studying ideal growing and soil conditions for coffee plants, coffee species, selecting species based on land conditions, nursing coffee plants from seed and propagating them from cuttings, control of pests in coffee crops, and sustainable coffee farming practices.

Additionally, systematic coffee harvesting and crushing coffee seeds, dried natural process, fully washed process, honey process, wet coffee fermentation, waterless coffee fermentation, anaerobic fermentation, natural fermentation, yeast coffee fermentation, storing coffee seeds



The main image and inset depict thriving coffee plants at a local plantation, along with coffee beans.

at the right temperature and humidity, know-hows of speciality coffee production and maintaining quality.

Trainers are Daw Mee Mee Myint (retired Deputy Director) from the Coffee Research and Technology Dissemination Centre in PyinOoLwin, U Maung Maung Min Zin, Q Arabica Grader - CQI (Coffee Quality Institute), Q Processing Professional - CQI (Coffee Quality Institute), Rio Grande Coffee Roasters & Flavour Specialty Coffee Shop (Founder) and Daw Nge Nge Khin, SCA Brewing, Barista, Sensory, Green Coffee Profession, and Q Grader.

The course fee is K950,000, and interested individuals can contact 09 250848637 and email riograndecoffeemyanmar@gmail.com. — NN/KK

CBM secures over \$1.3M injection for edible oil import sector on 13 Jan



Greenbacks are seen at the money changers counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.39 million to edible oil importing companies on 13 January 2026 after injecting over 965,550 yuan and over three million 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 and 1.9 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 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 the 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

Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee invites EOI for luxury housing project

NAY Pyi Taw Development Committee invited interested entrepreneurs and companies to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the development of high-end housing projects in Nay Pyi Taw.

Engineering Department (Building) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee called for interested developers to submit EOI for the development

of four-storey building (Project 7) on eight acres of land near the police office in the north of Pyinmana-Taungnyo Street, Thabyaygon Ward in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw and three high-end housing projects with six-storey building lots on 14 acres of land near Thri Yadana Market in the east of Shwekyapin Street in Mingala Theikdi Ward and on 16 acres of land

near a monastery in the south of Wazira Shwepyi Street in Mingala Theikdi Ward.

The EOI form is available at the Engineering Department (Building) of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, and the tender submission deadline is 4 pm on 30 January 2026. Individuals can enquire about the project details by dialling 067 8108212. — NN/KK

MNA invites bids to operate domestic charter services with two aircraft

THE Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), operated under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, invited private domestic business operators with aviation experience to operate two planes (ATR 72-600)

under a charter system for domestic routes, according to MNA's Tender Committee.

Tender documents are available starting from 14 January 2026 at MNA. Tenders can be submitted between 10

am and 4 pm on 6 February.

Tender will be opened on 6 March 2026. Interested business entities can contact the MNA Tender Committee at 09 43039170 and 01 371589. — NN/KK

ROLLING UPDATES/AD
WORLD

India and Greece hold inaugural Joint Services Staff Talks



Discussions aimed at expanding the scope and depth of military-to-military cooperation, reflecting the shared strategic outlook of the two nations. PHOTO: ANI

The landmark meeting underscored the growing convergence between the two countries in the realm of defence and security cooperation.

IN a significant step towards strengthening bilateral defence ties, India and Greece successfully conducted the inaugural India-Greece Joint Services Staff Talks in New Delhi. The landmark meeting underscored the growing convergence between the two countries in the realm of defence and security cooperation.

The talks were co-chaired by senior officials from India’s Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and the Hellenic National Defence General Staff of Greece. Senior representatives from both sides engaged in detailed discussions aimed at expanding the scope and depth of military-to-military cooperation, reflecting the shared strategic outlook of the two nations. A key focus of the deliberations was on enhancing collaboration through structured exchange programmes, capability development initiatives, and practical measures to strengthen operational engagement between the armed forces of India and Greece. The discussions also reviewed existing defence engagements and ongoing initiatives, ensuring continuity while identifying new opportunities for cooperation across domains. — ANI

Iran protests Trump remarks to UNSC

IRAN has formally appealed to the United Nations Security Council and the UN Secretary-General, accusing the United States of inciting violence, interfering in Iran’s internal affairs, and threatening military action, according to an official letter circulated by Iran’s Permanent Mission to the UN. In the letter, Iran’s Permanent Representative, Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani, expressed what he described as grave concern over recent remarks by the President of the United States directed at protests inside Iran. Tehran claims the comments encouraged unrest and suggested external support for attempts to seize state institutions, which Iranian officials argue amounts to an explicit threat against the country’s sovereignty and national security. — ANI

Israel cuts ties with 3 global organizations

ISRAEL’S foreign ministry said it was severing ties on Tuesday with three international organizations, including two UN agencies, following the United States’ withdrawal from 66 global bodies last week. The ministry added that its chief, Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, had also instructed it to review Israel’s continued cooperation with an unspecified number of other organizations. In a statement on X it said that “Saar has decided that Israel will immediately sever all contact with the following UN agencies and international organizations”. — AFP

At least 22 dead, 55 injured after crane collapse derails train in Thailand

AT least 22 people were killed and 55 others injured after a passenger train collided with a collapsed construction crane in northeastern Thailand’s Nakhon Ratchasima province on Wednesday, local media reported. Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn said he has instructed agencies to conduct a transparent, comprehensive investigation to determine the cause and prevent recurrence. — Xinhua



This photo taken with a phone on 14 January 2026 shows the accident site in Sikhio District, Thailand’s Nakhon Ratchasima Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (156W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (156W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-1-2026** 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.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

SPORTS

Man City environment 'perfect' for Semenyo

ANTOINE Semenyo believes he is in the perfect place to thrive after scoring in each of his first two games for Manchester City. The Ghana international has made an instant impact since his £65 million (\$87 million) move from Bournemouth last week and netted the opening goal in City's 2-0 League Cup semifinal, first leg win at Newcastle on Tuesday. Semenyo, who scored in a 10-1 thrashing of Exeter in the FA Cup on Saturday, also had a second goal controversially ruled out by a lengthy VAR review at St James' Park. "The whole environment here is perfect. Everyone is confident and wanting to achieve the best. I have come into that and they helped with my confidence and made me feel welcome," said Semenyo, who now has 12 goals in all competitions this season. "It's been a lot but I have enjoyed it so far. I am picking things up very quickly and enjoying it. — AFP



Antoine Semenyo believes he is in the perfect place to thrive after scoring in each of his first two games for Manchester City. PHOTO: AFP

Soe Lin Oo set to face Worapon in ONE Friday Fights 139 in Thailand



MYANMAR fighter Soe Lin Oo will take on Thailand's Worapon in a scheduled bout in Thailand on 23 January. The match will be featured at ONE Friday Fights 139. For Soe Lin Oo, this bout marks his return to the ONE Championship stage after nearly a year, following his last fight on 8 March 2025. Soe Lin Oo has competed six times in ONE Championship, recording three wins and three losses. He will be aiming to end a run of three consecutive defeats. His opponent, Worapon, is 23 years old and has fought 11 bouts under the ONE banner, with a record of six wins and five losses. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Liverpool's Robertson blasts Szoboszlai for 'unacceptable' back-heel

LIVERPOOL defender Andrew Robertson slammed Dominik Szoboszlai's mistake in the FA Cup win over Barnsley as "unacceptable", admitting his side still have room for improvement despite their recent unbeaten run. Szoboszlai was guilty of a careless blunder when his miscued back-heel inside his own penalty area allowed Barnsley's Adam Phillips to score in Monday's third round tie at Anfield. Liverpool were leading by two goals at the time of Szoboszlai's miscued pass and went on to clinch a 4-1 win against their third-tier opponents. Szoboszlai had scored a superb long-range opener earlier in the game, but Liverpool boss Arne Slot said he would speak to the Hungarian about what he called a "weird" decision. Robertson was equally frustrated by Szoboszlai's needlessly casual error, which led Barnsley manager Conor Hourihane to accuse Szoboszlai of disrespect. — AFP



Manchester United confirmed Michael Carrick as interim manager until the end of the season on Tuesday, tasking him with leading the Red Devils back into the Champions League. PHOTO: AFP

Man Utd appoint Carrick as manager to end of the season

MANCHESTER United confirmed Michael Carrick as interim manager until the end of the season on Tuesday, tasking him with leading the Red Devils back into the Champions League. "Having the responsibility to lead Manchester United is an honour," said Carrick, 44, who won 12 major trophies in his 12-year playing career at United. The former midfielder previously had an unbeaten three-game stint as caretaker boss at Old Trafford in 2021. Carrick then took on his first permanent managerial role at second-tier Middlesbrough in October 2022 and was sacked in June last year after the club finished 10th in the Championship. He has a daunting first task, preparing his men to face local rivals Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday. United are seventh in the table but are in the race to qualify for the lucrative Champions League for the first time in three seasons. — AFP



SCIENTISTS on Wednesday sealed ancient chunks of glacial ice in a first-of-its-kind sanctuary in Antarctica in the hope of preserving these fast-disappearing records of Earth's past climate for centuries to come.

The two ice cores taken from Europe's Alps are the first to be stored in a purpose-built snow cave on the frozen continent that one day should house an invaluable archive from across the globe.

Hosted at Concordia Station at 3,200 metres (10,500 feet) altitude in the heart of Antarctica, the ice sanctuary will protect the collection in natural cold storage at minus 52C without any need for refrigeration.

Ice cores shed precious light on climate conditions of millennia past, and these samples could help scientists of the future unlock their mysteries long after the glaciers themselves have melted away.

"To safeguard what would be otherwise irreversibly lost... is an endeavour for humanity," said Thomas Stocker, a Swiss climate scientist and chair of the Ice Memory Foundation, which spearheaded the initiative.

The ambitious project was nearly a decade in the making, and posed not just logistical but unprecedented diplomatic challenges. — AFP

World-first ice archive to guard secrets of melting glaciers

This initiative, led by the Ice Memory Foundation, aims to preserve a record of Earth's climate history before the world's mountain glaciers melt due to global warming.



On 14 January 2026, scientists officially inaugurated the world's first sanctuary for glacial ice cores in Antarctica.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ICE MEMORY FOUNDATION

WHO says sugary drinks, alcohol getting cheaper, should be taxed more

SUGARY drinks and alcohol are getting relatively cheaper, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, urging countries to hike taxes to reduce consumption levels and boost health funding.

The WHO said consistently low tax-

es on the products in most countries were fuelling obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancers.

"Weak tax systems are allowing harmful products to remain cheap while health systems face mounting financial

pressure from preventable non-communicable diseases," the UN health agency said.

The organization said that while such drinks generate billions of dollars in profit, governments capture a relatively small share of that through health-driven taxes, leaving societies to bear the long-term health and economic costs.

"Health taxes are one of the strongest tools we have for promoting health and preventing disease," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

"By increasing taxes on products like tobacco, sugary drinks, and alcohol, governments can reduce harmful consumption and unlock funds for vital health services."

Tedros told a press conference that in poorer countries left struggling as aid funding dries up, such taxes could help make the transition towards sustainable self-reliance in running health systems. — AFP

France to open consulate in Greenland in February

FRANCE will open a consulate in Greenland on 6 February, the foreign minister said Wednesday, calling the move a "political signal" over the strategic Danish territory, which US President Donald Trump has vowed to seize.

The comments came on the day that Denmark's top diplomat is to meet senior US officials at the White House for talks over the future of vast, mineral-rich Arctic island. Since returning to office nearly a year ago, Trump has repeatedly mused about taking over Greenland from long-time ally and European Union member Denmark.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told French RTL broadcaster that the decision to open the consulate was taken last summer, when President Emmanuel Macron visited Greenland in a show of support. "For my part, I went there at the end of August to plan the consulate, which will open on 6 February," he said. — AFP



Sugary drinks became more affordable in 62 countries and beer in 56 countries between 2022 and 2024 because taxes haven't kept pace with inflation and income growth. PHOTO: AFP/FILE