

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.

People Cast Votes of Their Own Free Will

Thai election observers, along with international observation teams, witnessed Myanmar's efforts to ensure a free, fair and transparent electoral process.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visiststump in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday during the latter's courtesy call on the former.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thai-

land to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visiststump, who had completed his tour of duty, at the National Defence and Security Council office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they frankly

discussed diplomatic relations and friendship measures between Myanmar and Thailand, participation of Thailand together with international election observation teams in monitoring the multiparty democratic gen-

eral election in Myanmar, observation over the activities of voting people in casting their ballots out of their own accord without any prompting, and holding a free, fair and clean election.

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Reception held at Lotte Hotel in Yangon to mark India's 77th National Day



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Strong holiday demand fills Ayeyawady beach resorts nearly 90%

ARTICLE

Beautiful Motherland

By Thet Mon Tun

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NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

1. To work together among all ethnic nationals to achieve the country's prosperity and food security, the national goal of the country.
2. To cooperate hand-in-hand with the government, Tatmadaw and all ethnic nationals in successfully implementing the measures for stability and rule of law.
3. To strive together with ethnic armed groups to establish a lasting peace, while propagating justice, freedom and equality within the country.
4. To build a Union based on democracy and federalism, practising a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system through the friendship, trust, unity and collaboration of ethnic people.
5. To cooperate, ensuring the development of education, health and socioeconomic status of ethnic nationals and the emergence of a developing country.

- 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.

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

1. Unity is strength, Unity is power, Peace is beauty.
2. Let's build lasting peace for the Union's development
3. National brethren, let's unite and join hands for the Union
4. Unity boosts friendship Harmony brings peace

54th Myanmar Health Research Congress commences

THE opening ceremony of the 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress took place at the Department of Medical Research (Head Office), No 5, Ziwaka Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, yesterday, with a video message sent by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. (The video message of the Senior General is reported on page 3.)

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win said that in implementing the key objectives of the Ministry of Health, the medical research sector is one of the most important pillars, and the ministry has been annually organizing the Myanmar Health Research Congress, and this year marks the 54th congress.

The ministry increased the research fund to be able to conduct research more frequently, and it allocated K1,500 million for 150 research projects in the 2025-2026 financial year. He also



The inauguration ceremony of the 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress is underway in Yangon yesterday, addressed by Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win.

appreciated the research papers and posters conducted with the funds of the ministry, and highlighted 71 research papers and 45 posters to be submitted at the event.

He added that the congress will feature four seminars and two talks by local and foreign re-

searchers.

The congress theme is "Better Health through Medical Research", and it includes the Myanmar-Korea Joint Symposium (2026), the Symposium on Genomic Research, in a hybrid system, and "Who Are We? Transforming the Health Professional

Educators for the 21st Century".

He emphasized that, for the medical community of Myanmar, the long-standing Health Research Congress is of great significance, as the sharing of research results and analyses by researchers, along with the experiences, knowledge sharing,

and recommendations of medical professionals and administrators, is critically important for policy-making, management, implementation work, and the development of the health sector. In order to further strengthen and broaden knowledge sharing, the researchers should not only submit papers to the congress but also continue efforts to publish their research findings in local and international research journals.

Addressing key health problems in the country requires evidence-based research findings and nationwide health surveys, which should be carried out annually with the participation and cooperation of relevant departments. As the enhancement of national healthcare also depends on the research capacity of citizens, the ministry will continue to support the development and strengthen research activities.

After the opening ceremony, the Union minister and party observed the research poster exhibition. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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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)

An honorary speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress

Everybody, Mingalaba!

I extend my warm greetings to all distinguished guests attending today's 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress on physical and mental well-being.

Myanmar's Health Research Congress have been held since 1965 with the objectives of advancing health-related knowledge through research and improving the standard of health care, as well as providing a forum for relevant health professionals to learn about and discuss the practical application of research findings. To date, the congress has been successfully convened for the 54th time.

In today's era of science and technology, everything is constantly advancing and changing at a rapid pace. Therefore, it has become essential to continuously study and keep up to date so that medical sciences, modern diagnostic and treatment tools, new drugs and therapies, and applications supported by Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology can continue to develop effectively.

At Myanmar's Health Research Congress, not only domestic researchers but also international researchers participate, presenting research papers and research posters. In addition, symposiums and subject-specific scientific talks are widely held, providing opportunities to present and discuss updated knowledge and research findings in the health field. It is encouraging and a matter of pride to see that Myanmar's health research activities are being conducted at a level comparable to international standards.

The theme of the 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress has been set as "Better Health Through Medical Research", reflecting its main objective of improving public health through the conduct of medical research.

Medical research activities utilize evidence-based research findings to make disease detection methods, prevention, and treatment programs more effective and efficient. In addition, they



help improve public health services and enable the formulation and implementation of health policies that are appropriate and up-to-date for the country. Therefore, the results of medical research contribute to raising the overall health standards of the nation and can also help extend the life expectancy of the country's population.

At present, it is necessary to control non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, which are widespread and likely to increase. To this end, the World Health Organization, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Medical Services, the Department of Human Resources for Health and the Department of Medical Research under the Ministry of Health jointly conducted the "Study on the Risk of Non-Communicable Diseases in Myanmar (2024)". According to the research findings, in addition to preventive measures to reduce the rising incidence

of non-communicable diseases, it is also necessary to support the public in adopting healthy habits, including balanced nutrition. In the 2025-2026 financial year, the government has approved K1.5 billion in funding to enable not only the Department of Medical Research but also other relevant departments and medical-related universities to carry out research activities.

In addition, with the leadership of the Ministry of Health, and in collaboration with the Department of Medical Research, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Medical Services, a nationwide study was conducted on health-related knowledge among secondary school students in Myanmar. Since secondary school students represent the future generation of the nation, it is recommended that school health services be further improved based on the findings of this research.

What I would like to emphasize next

is the need to conduct research that can help in the prevention and control of locally occurring and infectious diseases, as well as seasonal illnesses, and that can enable early detection of cancer and support successful treatment. It is necessary to carry out these studies in collaboration with international partners, applying modern laboratory technologies and research methodologies. I would like to encourage these efforts to be conducted even more effectively and on a broader scale than they are currently.

In particular, to ensure that our people have good basic health and can live long, healthy lives, it is necessary to expand research on nutrition, food safety, and practical health studies related to healthy living practices. The findings from this research should also be widely shared with the public through health education and preventive programmes.

It is also necessary to expand research on medical treatments, hospital administration, and management. In conducting health-related research, collaboration should take place with medical and pharmacy universities under the Ministry of Health, hospitals, disease control programmes, primary healthcare workers, and community-based organizations.

It is also necessary to promote our country's traditional medicine and traditional medicinal products internationally, to advance the development of traditional medicine, and to better protect the health of the people through traditional medical practices. Regarding traditional medicine, practical research should be conducted in collaboration with the Department of Traditional Medicine to obtain accurate and reliable data and findings.

Many young people and scholars in our country have a research-minded spirit, and it is necessary for them to carry out research activities systematically and ethically.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

SSPC Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Thai Ambassador to Myanmar

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump, who had completed his tour of duty, at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially emphasized friendship and cooperation measures between the two governments and two armed forces between Myanmar and Thailand, and efforts to combat measures of telecom fraud and online gambling, narcotic drug and illegal trade along the border region of both countries as a national responsibility.

They also exchanged views on plans

to be implemented by the two governments and two armed forces between Myanmar and Thailand through the collaborative efforts to reopen the border trade channels as quickly as possible to ensure the smooth flow of trade and commodities, to restore peace and stability in border regions, and to successfully conduct the multiparty democratic general election.

After the talks, they had documentary photos taken.

Also, present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw and Director-General U Thet Win. The Thai Ambassador was accompanied by the second Charge d'Affaires ad interim and officials of the Thai Embassy.

— MNA/TTA



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win shakes hands with Thai Ambassador Mr Mongkol Visitstump during the latter's call on the former yesterday.

An honorary speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress

FROM PAGE 3

To achieve this, training courses on research techniques and research ethics should be continuously offered. I would like to emphasize the importance of cultivating an understanding among healthcare workers that conducting research is essential for providing better healthcare and of fostering a thriving research culture in the country.

In 2025, researchers and scholars under the Ministry of Health were able to attend international training courses and workshops, participate in international conferences by presenting papers and giving lectures, and serve as speakers at various events. In addition,

our country was able to host medical conferences as the host nation.

In terms of international collaboration, the Department of Medical Research has been recognized as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Research & Training on Malaria (WHO-CC) since 25 September 2003, and this recognition will continue until 2028, for cooperation in malaria research, disease diagnosis and treatment for antibiotic drug resistance. The department has been actively involved, as a WHO-CC, in research, training, education, and the collection and integration of information related to malaria and antibiotic drug resistance. This is a source of great pride and

satisfaction for the development of the national health sector.

We understand that in building our nation, it is essential for young people to have knowledge and skills, and for all ethnic communities to be healthy and resilient. Therefore, one of our objectives is "To emphasize enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State". In promoting the health sector, research activities and research conferences like this one play a very important role, and we believe they will lead to successful progress and achievements.

In conclusion, the research findings

presented at this 54th Myanmar Health Research Congress will greatly support the Ministry of Health's objectives of ensuring a long and healthy life for everyone and reducing the risk of disease for all. We also believe that by applying the discoveries from the Department of Medical Research, the health of the public can be further improved. I would like to encourage researchers to continue making every effort to conduct high-quality research that can propel the development of a health sector capable of standing alongside international standards, thereby contributing to the nation's overall progress.

Thank you all.

People Cast Votes of Their Own Free Will

FROM PAGE 1

They also talked about the requirements of initiating the cooperation between the two

governments and two armed forces to restore peace and stability in the border regions in order to ensure the betterment

of bilateral trade and commodity flow.

Moreover, they cordially underscored that concerted efforts

of the Myanmar government in combatting telecommunication fraud and online gambling, as well as eradicating narcotic drugs, are a national responsibility, and endeavours of the government to conserve the natural environment in the border region of both countries.

After the meeting, the Senior General and the Thai Am-

bassador exchanged gifts and had documentary photos taken.

Also, present at the meeting were Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw. The Thai Ambassador was accompanied by officials from the Embassy of Thailand to Myanmar. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

International election observers share remarks at Yangon ceremony

THE ceremony on the observations made by international election observers who came to observe Phase III of the multi-party democratic general election, which was successfully held on 25 January 2026, was held yesterday at the Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon.

The event was attended by the Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Than Soe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, UEC members, the Yangon Region Minister for Natural Resources, delegations from the election commissions of Cambodia and Nepal, a delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a delegation from Nicaragua, a representative from India, a delegation from the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), officials from the Yangon Region Election Subcommission, officials from the UEC Office, relevant departmental officials and invitees.

At the ceremony, the Union Election Commission Chairman talked about the invitation to the observers made by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Se-



The event on the international observations of the Phase III multiparty democratic election is underway in Yangon yesterday, addressed by UEC Chair U Than Soe.

curity and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, highlighting the appreciation of the Head of State for their observations in election Phase III.

He continued that elections are conducted in order to convene and form the respective Hluttaws and to enable the assignment of responsibilities to the government composed of the President, Vice-president, administrative bodies, and Union-level organizations, and therefore it is important that elections are successful and are

to be in accordance with the law. All three Phases of the election were successfully conducted with voter and public participation.

The recently held multiparty democratic general election is an important milestone for the country, and the role of the observers who participated in ensuring the accuracy, integrity, and reliability of the electoral process is also important. Such participation highlights the importance of transparency, freedom, fairness, and cooperation in the democratic process.

The findings and remarks will strengthen public trust in the election and contribute to the development and advancement of the democratic system.

He also stated that the country's foreign policy is a non-aligned foreign policy and maintains friendly relations with all nations, and efforts will be made to build a Union based on democracy and federalism. The fair support shown by the observers toward Myanmar represents invaluable friendship and brotherly spirit. Relations between Myanmar and the observer

countries will continue not only at the government-to-government level but also at the people-to-people level as close and friendly nations.

He then invited the observers to openly discuss and share their views and comments regarding their election observation, and the observers from Belarus, Cambodia, Nepal, Nicaragua and Cambodia made their remarks.

The UEC Chairman expressed gratitude for their remarks and concluded the event.

— MNA/KTZH

MIC approves 20 new investment projects

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held its first coordination meeting yesterday, with the attendance of Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo, Chairman of the Commission.

MIC greenlit four new foreign investments in industry and service sectors, including the capital expansion of certain existing businesses, and 16 new Myanmar citizens' investments.

The overall investments amounted to US\$62.911 million and K2,120,436.652 million, thus creating 3,382 job opportunities.

The approved projects included the production and assembly of EVs, hotel and tourism, construction, oil and natural gas, livestock breeding, education, food production and



The first coordination meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission in progress yesterday, presided over by Union Minister Mya Tun Oo.

garments.

Out of 53 countries that have invested in Myanmar until the end of December 2025, Singapore, China and Thailand are the most prominent investors in the country.

Among the 12 business sectors, they invest in energy, with 28.29 per cent of total in-

vestment, while 24.64 per cent is in oil and natural gas, and 14.65 per cent is in the industrial sector.

MIC reviews the investment proposals of local and foreign investors to permit and offer services to the current investors under the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/KTZH

1 special criminal appeal case, 3 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 5 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of U Tha Htay, Union Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, and Daw Thin Thin Nwet, Dr Ko Ko Naing, U Win Myint and Daw Thin Thin Cho, Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, was convened yesterday morning at the Zeyathiri District Court in Nay Pyi Taw, and passed judgements for one special criminal case: Case No 9/2025 (Yangon) and three special civil appeal cases: cases Nos: 38/2025 (Mandalay), 41/2025 (Bago) and 47/2025 (Mandalay).

In addition, a total of five special civil appeal cases: Nos 42/2025 (Yangon), 28/2025 (Kachin), 43/2025 (Ayeyawady), 45/2025 (Kachin), and 53/2025 (Yangon) were heard. — MNA

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NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation led by MoFA Union Minister holds bilateral meeting with Pakistani delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

AT the invitation of Mr Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a Myanmar delegation led by U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, currently on an official visit to Pakistan, held a bilateral meeting with the Pakistani delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs on 26 January 2026.

During the meeting, both sides deliberated on matters pertaining to the enhancement of cooperation between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs. They also extensively discussed further collaboration in the sectors of economy, agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, and trade. Furthermore, views were exchanged on promoting cooperation in the fields of technology, healthcare, and culture, as



Myanmar's Foreign Minister U Than Swe and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Mohammad Ishaq Dar address a joint press conference.

well as strengthening coordination within international and regional frameworks, including the United Nations, ASEAN, the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

The Union Minister and the

Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs signed an Arrangement for the Establishment of Foreign

Office Consultations between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Following the signing ceremony, the leaders of both delegations held a joint press conference.

After the press conference, the Union Minister attended a working lunch hosted by the Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

During the visit, the Union Minister visited the Myanmar Embassy in Islamabad and met the staff and families of the Embassy and the Office of the Military Attaché on the morning of 25 January 2026. At the meeting, the Union Minister emphasized that as diplomatic personnel and their families represent the country, it is imperative for them to diligently strive towards the further elevation of bilateral relations between the two countries. — MNA

Dinner reception held in Mandalay to mark India's 77th Republic Day



Certificates of appreciation presented to Indian cultural troupes at yesterday's India's 77th Republic Day in Mandalay.

A dinner reception was held yesterday evening at the Ibis Styles Hotel in Chanayethazan Township to commemorate the Republic of India's 77th Republic Day.

The ceremony was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Commander Brig-Gen Tin Min Latt of the Central Command, the chief justice of the Man-

dalay Region High Court, ministers of the regional government, Consul-General of India in Mandalay Mr Sundeep Kaushal, and invitees.

The ceremony began with the national anthems of both countries, followed by a speech from Consul-General Mr Sundeep Kaushal on the occasion of India's Republic Day.

The chief minister then offered

congratulatory remarks on the 77th Republic Day of India and expressed hopes for closer and stronger friendship between the two countries. The event concluded with performances of traditional Indian dances and songs by Indian cultural troupes, who were presented with certificates of appreciation afterwards. — MNA/MKKS

International election observers return home countries

INTERNATIONAL election observer teams, which monitored Phase III of the multiparty democratic general election 2025 held on 25 January 2026, left Yangon by air yesterday. They were seen off at the airport by officials from the Union Election Commission and departmental officials.

The observation team led by Ms Volha N Chamadanova from the Republic of Belarus left the airport at 8 am, the delegation led by Indonesian Election Commission member Ms Yusti Erlina at 10:25 am, Election Commission member of Nepal Dr Janaki Kumari Tuladhar and party at 4:25 pm, the delegation led by Vice-Chair of International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) Dr Chheng Kimlong at 5:35 pm, Mr Mario Jose Armengol Campos and party of Nicaragua at 5:50 pm and the Indian delegation at 7 pm, respectively.

Likewise, the delegation led by Election Commission member Mr Yich Samethy of Cambodia will return home on the evening of 27 January. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

United strength of people can manage appropriate protection against natural disasters

- ❖ "Natural disasters cannot be completely prevented, but appropriate protection can be provided through people's preparedness, diligence, and efforts. Planting trees and conserving forests will create shade and shelter, as well as a greener and more vibrant environment."

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the national-level second tree-growing ceremony 2025 with public activity in Minbu Township, Minbu District of Magway Region, for greening 13 arid zone districts on 19 August 2025)

Reception held at Lotte Hotel in Yangon to mark India's 77th National Day

A reception ceremony to commemorate the 77th National Day of the Republic of India was held at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The reception was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs and Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and his wife; Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn and his wife; the Yangon Region Chief Minister and his wife; the Commander of Yangon Command and his wife; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and his wife; regional ministers; ambassadors; chargés d'affaires; military attachés; and invited guests from foreign embassies in Yangon.

At the outset, Mr Abhay



The reception to celebrate the 77th National Day of the Republic of India is underway in Yangon yesterday, attended by Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, and embassy offi-

cials warmly welcomed Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and

his wife, along with other invited guests.

The ceremony then opened with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of India.

Speeches were delivered by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and his wife, together with the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and his wife, cut a cake to commemorate the 77th National Day of the Republic of India.

The Union Minister and his wife and the Ambassador and his wife then posed for a group photograph with guests attending the reception, after which the Ambassador hosted a dinner for the guests. — MNA/MKKS

Cambodian repatriates Myanmar nationals linked to online scams, gambling

THE Myanmar Government is carrying out the repatriation of Myanmar nationals who were involved in online fraud and gambling activities in Cambodia for various reasons and who reported to the Myanmar Embassy to Cambodia, either voluntarily or after being transferred by Cambodian police and relevant departments. Yesterday, 163 Myanmar citizens staying at the Myanmar Embassy were repatriated by military aircraft as the third batch.

In total, 729 Myanmar nationals have been repatriated from Cambodia. In the first batch, 136 citizens returned to Manda-

lay International Airport on 23 January via Myanmar Airways International (MAI). In the second batch, 430 citizens arrived back at Mandalay International Airport and in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, on 25 January via MAI and Tatmadaw aircraft. In the third batch, 163 citizens arrived back yesterday in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, aboard Tatmadaw aircraft.

The Myanmar nationals who arrived yesterday were received back by Commander of the Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han, along with officials and departmental representatives from Myeik Dis-



The repatriation process is underway for the third batch of Myanmar nationals involved in online scams and gambling in Cambodia for various reasons.

trict and Township.

Relevant authorities will continue to collect the necessary personal information and records of Myanmar citizens returning from Cambodia, conduct required checks and complete all necessary procedures. Efforts will also continue to repatriate the remaining Myanmar citizens in Cambodia as soon as possible.

The Myanmar Government

is taking its national responsibility to combat online fraud and online gambling — both of which pose threats to the international community — seriously. It is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries, as well as international organizations, to identify, arrest and take effective and decisive action against those involved in online scam centre operations and the foreign individuals behind them. In addition, foreigners who have entered Myanmar for various reasons are being investigated in accordance with the law, with due consideration given to humanitarian concerns and friendly relations between countries, and those found to be involved in criminal activities are being repatriated to their respective countries. — MNA/MKKS

Set an aim to end armed conflicts

ALL ethnic nationalities in Myanmar have, since ancient times, lived together in unity without fragmentation, each preserving its own literature and distinct cultural characteristics. However, after more than 100 years under colonial rule and systematic divide-and-rule policies, differing ideologies began to take hold in the post-independence period.

Various organizations, factions, and political parties split apart, weakening unity, and some sought to resolve political issues through armed means and violence. As a result, with the attainment of independence, ethnic armed groups emerged in

Because of misguided armed approaches, the envisioned democratic federal union has suffered the loss of substantial human resources and many developing basic infrastructures. Resolving issues through armed struggle has produced no meaningful results for more than 70 years, while national development has remained slow. Therefore, armed conflicts must be halted, and political problems must be resolved through political means based on sincerity.

sorted to armed terrorism to create instability and unrest within the country, undermining peace and stability nationwide.

Some ethnic armed groups also incited misguided and poorly educated youths who had strayed into violent extremism, mobilizing them to wage war and expand territory. As a result, key sectors affecting local communities, including education, healthcare, and socioeconomic development, failed to improve and instead deteriorated. Actions that undermine regional peace and stability and hinder development are not only disgraceful but will also remain a dark stain in history.

Because of misguided armed approaches, the envisioned democratic federal union has suffered the loss of substantial human resources and many developing basic infrastructures. Resolving issues through armed struggle has produced no meaningful results for more than 70 years, while national development has remained slow. Therefore, armed conflicts must be halted, and political problems must be resolved through political means based on sincerity.

If there is a shared commitment to building a Union based on democracy and a federal system, and a genuine desire for the development of the country and its peoples, all armed organizations should enter the legal framework and participate in efforts that benefit both the nation and its communities. Only in this way can armed conflicts be brought to an end and the country achieve greater development and progress.

Beautiful Motherland

By Thet Mon Tun

MYANMAR, the nation living with Buddha's teachings, is globally famous as "The Golden Land" for its abundance of golden pagodas, stupas and temples across the land. People of Myanmar innately bore a peaceful mind and a non-aggressive life since ancient. Peaceful coexistence, generosity, kindness, and love are the typical characteristics of the Myanmar people.

Rakhine State is situated on Myanmar's western coast and is territorially connected with Chin State, Magway Region, Bago Region, and Ayeyawady Region, and the Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh to the west. Indigenous ethnicities living in Rakhine State include Rakhine, Kaman, Bamar, Mro, Khami, Thet, Maramagyi, and Dinat.

King Anawrahta firstly united the diverse people into a common faith and cultural identity, and established the very first Myanmar nation – the Bagan Empire – in AD 1044. Since then, daily life, ritual and traditional activities, festivals, perspectives, beliefs and cultures of the Myanmar people have been primarily associated with Buddha's thoughts and teachings.

Gifted by nature, Myanmar is one of the most beautiful countries, possessing rich natural resources and picturesque scenes from icy mountains, colourful hill ranges, seasonal forests, and beaches and archipelagos. The land is also a gateway linking

divide and rule tactics by the imperialists.

The Bengali immigrant issue became one of the unfortunate consequences. British imperialists imported Bengalis from neighbouring areas to employ them in cultivation and plantations in Myanmar during the colonial rule. Since then, people with different physical features, different facial appearances, different spoken languages, different belief and different traditional outfits started arriving in Myanmar's western land. Those people from neighbouring territory (today Bangladesh) were never brothers and sisters of ours.

Rakhine State in 2016

The ongoing court trial at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) which Myanmar is facing for committing genocide against the Bengalis can be traced back in October 2016 in Rakhine State when the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists raided Myanmar's borderline security outposts, where only approximately ten police personnel were deployed in each outpost, with disproportionately larger numbers around 400 ARSA terrorists in the attack. It was part of their plan to create the plot "Myanmar troops killing civilians" as a forerunner of genocide.

Following the October 2016 outrage, the ARSA terrorists, within Rakhine State, especially

in the terroristic assaults

committed by the ARSA terrorists, at least 20-40 Myanmar police personnel were brutally killed, and some were dismembered. In response, the Myanmar Tatmadaw launched a military operation of counter-terrorism measures. It truly was a counter-terrorism measure taken against the armed terrorists by the national armed forces (Tatmadaw) in the sphere of defending the country's sovereignty. In fact, the crackdown only targeted the armed terrorists (ARSA) who attacked the country's sovereignty.

There were many solid reports that the ARSA terrorists killed more than 150 Hindus, including women, men, and children, and abducted several Hindu villagers in August 2017. Such an atrocity committed by the ARSA terrorists is deemed to be a crime against humanity. It certainly was the genocide. However, the massacre of the Hindus

killed by ARSA terrorists did not receive international attention or widespread condemnation at that time. Rapes, brutal killings, forcibly occupying the villages and fields, and setting houses and villages ablaze are the techniques usually used by terrorists against other communities in Rakhine State territory, especially in the borderline areas.

A rational argument

U Ko Ko, Chairman of the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank group, posed a logical question in the same talk show, "If we committed genocide, why is the population of those people steadily increasing over the years? Figure of their population keeps growing over the years."

Defending the motherland is not a crime

Attacking a country's Tatmadaw, security outposts, and border guard police, and mass killing the indigenous natives is one hundred per cent humiliating the sovereignty and threatening the country's national security. It is crystal clear that defending or protecting sovereignty and national security is not a crime nor genocide. There is a line between advocating human rights and defending national security in the debate of national interest. It was purely a passive defence to protect the motherland.

(Views expressed in the article solely belong to the author.)

To Starters Reading in English

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

NATURALLY, foreign language reading may be difficult for a person who is not a native speaker. Why is that so difficult? There will be several reasons for this. For starters, a non-native person can find it difficult to read in a foreign language simply because they do not know that language well. Another potential reason is that he

has no interest in the subject matter written in the language at all. The last possible reason is that any content he is reading seems like a white elephant to him for the time being. Nevertheless, reading should improve all his language skills, vocabulary, and even grammar; no matter what he has read. Here, I would like to share my probably useful thoughts on reading in English as a starter based on the British Council. How is it in the following?

Firstly, we need to find what interests us. For instance, we are likely to love sports, films, or food. We can hear announcers' words in English in football matches, actors' dialogues in English movies or series and presenters' conversation in English

in cooking programmes. On top of that, we can read about our passions in English, for example, newspapers, blogs, recipes, or even film reviews. It is of the utmost importance to read in English only whatever subject matter we read. After all, whatever our interests are, learning new vocabulary is way too easy when we are interested in the topic.

Naturally, people are curious about others. At that time, stories came into use for knowing all about others. Life stories are like windows on the world since they enable their readers to know human nature or the universal truth in meaningful words and common usage. Thus, secondly, we can begin English with short stories. As a starter, reading a whole novel in English can be hard work. Most of the time, if it is too difficult, especially due to intricate or inscrutable language expressions, we may just feel like giving up quite easily. So why not try short stories instead? Then, graded readers are great too and come in all levels and genres.

A habit is something that comes into existence after being done again and again. While beginning to take up a habit, we may resist it in a moment as



Although English is a difficult language to master, its large and flexible vocabulary across many fields, including science, medicine, and engineering, makes it exceptionally rich.

well as get bored with it sooner or later. But after quite a while, we will definitely stick to our habit so much that we cannot drop it. In the same way, thirdly, we must make it a habit to read in English. To put it better, English reading should be made a part of our daily routine. Too much reading time is not necessarily required by a foreign language starter. Five minutes with our morning coffee? A page before bed? Of course, it would be best if we did reading in English every day without fail, to the extent that we can give time to it, rather than read for long hours at a time. We ought to do that each

day, and it will soon be a natural part of our daily life. Finally, we have to try longer books if we have absorbed a reasonable amount of vocabulary and usage in the English language. If so, it will be okay for us to read more in English. In fact, English, not a dead language, is constantly living in many parts of the world; therefore, the English language has several linguistic varieties and is a rich source of lexicon and connotations till now. Despite this, we can start with a long book we already know in our own language or one from a film we have seen. It should be noticed that the language we are studying is English, not others. Hence, to conduct an effective and efficient study of the English language, we had better read monolingual books, that is, written in English only. However, I do not mean that translated or bilingual books are not advisable at all. When we already know the story, it will be much easier for us to follow in English.

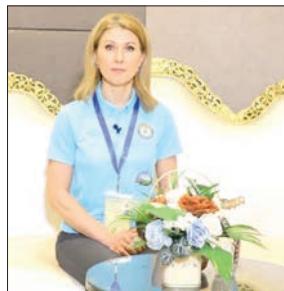
I have heard it said that English is easy to learn but hard to master. The main reason why English is not very difficult is that English words are composed of the 26 letters merely by putting consonants and vowels together in arbitrary order. On the other hand, the fact that English is a tall order means that the language has an adaptable capacity of vocabulary richness in every field of study, such as linguistics, science, medicine, and engineering, thereby giving birth to massive connotations in that language. As the Chinese saying goes, only one step starts a thousand-mile journey. That is absolutely right. Thus, now start our English bit by bit day after day by using the above-mentioned ways as best we can.

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International election observers deliver remarks on Phase III of general election

A ceremony to present remarks by international election observers who monitored Phase III of the multiparty democratic general election, which was successfully held on 25 January 2026, in 61 townships, took place at the Parkroyal Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

The event featured video messages from representatives of observation teams from the Republic of Belarus and remarks of the teams from Cambodia, Nepal, Nicaragua, and the Cambodian People's Party as follows: -



Ms Volha N Chamadanova, Chairperson of the Belarusian Party Belya Rus of the Republic of Belarus

A five-member delegation from Belarus arrived in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to observe Phase III of the election. We would like to praise the fact that the preparations made in advance for Phase III of the election, as well as the arrangements for election day, were extremely systematic and ensured security. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Head of State and to the Union Election Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the warm hospitality and well-organized arrangements provided to our delegation during Phase III of the election.

We have also noticed that Phase III of the election process was organized in accordance with democratic standards. All procedures were transparent, and it was evident that election-related information had already been disseminated to the public, resulting in active public participation. We observed that every stage of polling station preparations complied with the legal standards of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for the distinguished invitation extended to our Belarusian delegation.



their children, and it can be seen that they are ready to actively participate not only for their country but also for the future of their entire homeland. It is seen that there is transparency is important at the polling stations. I have also noted that, in addition to political parties monitoring today's election results, the people are present as well. Everything is being carried out transparently and in accordance with the law.

Based on discussions with party representatives who are serving as observers today, we know that the current situation and the voting process are being conducted systematically and without any violations of the law.

Moreover, the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine system currently used has proven to be highly effective in preventing electoral fraud and in ensuring that elections are held fairly. I believe that the people and citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are aware of this fact and will understand that no one will be able to interfere with their will in the coming elections.

Besides, I would like to express my gratitude to the Union Election Commission for granting access to visit the polling stations and for providing all necessary information. In particular, I would like to convey my best wishes to all Myanmar citizens for good health and well-being, and I wish that the country will prosper and develop even further, continue to move forward, and achieve greater progress and development.



Mr Yich Samethy, Member of the Cambodian Election Commission

Mingalabar to all distinguished Chairman and members of the Union Election Commission who are attending today's ceremony, honoured guests from various countries, officials from embassies, and all distinguished guests. On behalf of the Kingdom of Cambodia, we have come to observe the elections in Myanmar, and this marks our second visit for election observation purposes.

At the invitation of the Union Election

Commission, we also observed the first round of voting held on 28 December 2025. At that time, we visited six polling stations in Nay Pyi Taw and observed that the election was conducted properly and correctly in accordance with the relevant laws, rules, and procedures. With regard to Phase II of the elections held on 11 January 2026, although we were unable to come in person as representatives of Cambodia, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Myanmar carried out the observation. Even though we could not personally conduct the observation at that time, it was learned that no irregular or unlawful election-related practices were found. For the Phase III of the elections currently being held, we observed voting at six polling stations in Yangon. During our observation, we noted the following points.

First, the voting process was peaceful. The elections were conducted peacefully, and the public participated actively and enthusiastically. Voters were able to exercise their voting rights freely, without any interference, fear, or intimidation.

Second, we observed the performance of polling station staff. The staff carried out voting and vote-counting procedures in accordance with the prescribed election laws, rules, and procedures, ensuring the integrity of the entire electoral process.

Third, there is transparency. The entire election process was transparent, comprehensive, and clearly implemented. Particularly, during the voting and vote-counting processes, all relevant stakeholders — especially political parties, international election observers, and the media — were able to participate and cooperate, which clearly demonstrated a high level of transparency.

Fourth, regarding the use of Myanmar's electronic voting machines, we observed that they were highly effective, made the voting and counting processes faster than before, and produced accurate and reliable results. Although this was the first time that many Myanmar voters used these machines, we found that they were already well informed about how to use them properly.

Another point was security. We observed that comprehensive and effective security measures were in place throughout the election process. As a result, voters, polling station staff, and all other relevant stakeholders were able to carry out their responsibilities safely

with confidence.

Finally, throughout the entire election observation mission, we did not see any form of electoral fraud or irregularities. During our observation of the 2025 elections in Myanmar, we found that the elections were conducted in accordance with the law. In this Phase III, just as in Phases I and II, we observed that the elections were free, fair, and transparent.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Union Election Commission for inviting us to observe the elections in Myanmar. In addition, we wish all representatives from each country attending this programme a safe and pleasant journey back to their respective countries. With these words, I would like to conclude. Thank You.



Dr Janaki Kumari Tuladhar, Member of the Nepali Election Commission

Mingalabar to the distinguished Chairman and members of the Union Election Commission, responsible officials of the Union Election Commission, officials from international embassies, and all honoured guests attending today.

On our part, in accordance with the guidance of the Election Commission, we were honoured to participate as international election observers in the 2025 multiparty democratic general elections of Myanmar. Moreover, we are deeply honoured to have this opportunity to deliver remarks today on behalf of the Election Commission of Nepal.

First of all, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Union Election Commission for inviting us to observe the elections. Inviting international election observers is an important demonstration of the commitment to cooperation among election management bodies, to strengthening trust in institutions, and to ensuring transparency in the electoral process. For this opportunity, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks.

In addition to inviting us, we are also especially grateful for the warm hospitality extended to us throughout our stay in

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Myanmar, as well as for the comprehensive arrangements made to support our observation mission.

We would also like to express our special appreciation for the arrangements and assistance provided regarding our accommodation, transportation, security, access to comprehensive election-related information, and all other forms of support necessary for us to carry out our election observation effectively.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar for the support and assistance extended to our delegation. The Ambassador worked closely with us to facilitate our mission and to further strengthen the friendly relations between Nepal and Myanmar.

Throughout the period of our election observation, we observed that the Union Election Commission had undertaken well-prepared arrangements for the elections. Clear and systematic operational guidelines were implemented, particularly in ensuring voter inclusion in voter lists, facilitating advance voting, and coordinating with other relevant organizations to ensure the smooth functioning of these processes.

When we visited the designated polling stations, we observed that polling station staff carried out their duties honestly, competently, and professionally. They demonstrated a clear understanding of their responsibilities and performed their tasks with full commitment and diligence.

We also observed that polling stations were under a well-managed system, and that voters did not experience confusion or uncertainty regarding the voting procedures. We further noted that Myanmar's electronic voting machines were designed and developed by local engineers in Myanmar, and that these machines operated without any external interference during the voting process.

The voting process was conducted in a well-organized and systematic environment, ensuring that voters were able to exercise their voting rights without obstruction. In addition, we observed that special arrangements were made to ensure accessibility and convenience for voters with disabilities when using the electronic voting machines.

From the perspective of international election observers, we recognize that conducting elections in any country, especially one with diverse geography, a large population, and varying administrative conditions, can present challenges and shortcomings. In such situations, it is essential to assist to ensure that voters from regions and states and ethnic communities can participate, thereby achieving an inclusive electoral process. During our observation, we noted that legal provisions and arrangements were in place to ensure that the ethnic communities

were able to exercise both their right to be elected and their right to vote.

In facilitating election observation, the Union Election Commission shared relevant information with us promptly and demonstrated openness, positivity, and active cooperation with international observers like us. We highly appreciate this transparent approach, as transparency strengthens institutional integrity, public trust, and confidence in the electoral process.

From the international observer's perspective and in line with established practice, election processes are ongoing and evolving processes. Therefore, it is important to continuously improve voter education programmes, ensure accessibility for all voters, and enhance cooperation among all election stakeholders throughout the entire electoral cycle promptly.

Distinguished Chairman and honoured guests, Nepal is scheduled to hold its election on 5 March 2026, and we continue to face challenges related to election management. At that time, having the opportunity to observe Myanmar's well-prepared, systematic, and effectively implemented election management processes has been of great value to us. The positive experiences and lessons gained from this observation will be shared and applied in Nepal as we work to ensure integrity, credibility, and public trust in our own electoral processes.

International election observation is not an administrative procedure. It is also an important part of mutual learning and cooperation. We firmly believe that exchanging experiences and knowledge among election management bodies, particularly among ASEAN countries, BIM-STEC member states, and neighbouring countries in the region, is a positive practice that contributes to the conduct of inclusive, credible, and widely accepted elections.

Holding the elections is not only an administrative process. It is an implementation of a nation's democratic standards and its commitment to the will of the people. From this perspective, we would like to appreciate the Union Election Commission for its professionalism, competence, and dedication in successfully conducting this major general election amid challenging and complex circumstances.

On behalf of the Election Commission of Nepal, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Union Election Commission, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and all institutions and departments that cooperated and contributed to the successful conduct of this election.

I would like to conclude by wishing the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar peace and stability, and continued progress and development along the democratic path. Thank you.



Mr Mario Jose Armengol Campos, Vietnam-based Nicaraguan Ambassador

Good Morning.

Esteemed Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Than Soe, and Commission members, international election observers, representatives from embassies attending this ceremony and all distinguished guests.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Nicaragua, and as a delegation representing Nicaragua, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Union Election Commission for inviting us to participate as international election observers in Phase I and Phase III of the elections organized by the Commission.

Myanmar is currently at a very important stage in carrying out its electoral processes. By holding these elections, the people are being allowed to choose the representatives who will govern them and to shape their future through democratic means. At the same time, this is also a period in which efforts are being made to strengthen institutions within the country and to accelerate national development.

The election being held demonstrates the strength, unity, and firm determination of the people of Myanmar. Although there are certain unique challenges and difficulties within the country, we observed that the electoral processes were carried out in a normal, systematic, secure, and transparent manner. It is evident that the people of Myanmar can protect their sovereignty and that the will of the people is being respected.

As an election observer, I found that the entire electoral process was implemented properly and correctly, and that the public has confidence in these elections. We were also able to confirm that holding elections is the correct path toward peace, stability, and development.

Public trust is the most fundamental and essential element in ensuring the integrity and credibility of an entire electoral process. During our observations, we also noted that the technology-based voting systems were implemented accurately and effectively.

We observed that election staff carried out their duties with full responsibility, clear understanding, dignity, integrity, impartiality, and transparency. Our country fully supports this election for its fundamental principles of sovereignty, self-determination, freedom, and fairness in every nation.

In observing the electoral processes,

we conducted our work with respect and mutual trust between our two countries, and with a correct and respectful attitude toward the will of the Government and the people of Myanmar.

With respect, I would like to recommend on behalf of our observing delegation. To further improve electoral processes in Myanmar, particularly concerning polling station operations and voter verification procedures, we suggest strengthening and enhancing the system for checking voters' identification cards.

In conclusion, we would like to thank all responsible authorities in Myanmar for inviting us and allowing us to observe these elections transparently. On behalf of our government, we also affirm that we will continue to cooperate with the Union Election Commission in matters related to elections, experience-sharing, and ongoing collaboration.

Finally, on behalf of the President of Nicaragua, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, and Comrade Rosario Murillo, we extend our best wishes to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and to the people of Myanmar for greater success, good health, and prosperity. Thank you all.



Dr Chheng Kimlong, Vice-Chairman, International Relations Central Committee, Cambodian People's Party, International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

Esteemed Chairman and Commission members, distinguished guests, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the opportunity to come to Myanmar at the invitation of the country and to participate as part of a delegation representing the Cambodian People's Party, as well as for being allowed to deliver remarks today.

We would like to thank the Union Election Commission for inviting us to observe such a perfect and effective election, and for making necessary arrangements to conduct the election observation mission.

We also thank all for briefing the electoral processes of the Union Election Commission and the electronic voting machines to be used in the elections on 24 January when we arrived here.

During these briefings, we received detailed information related to the 2025 elections, including the number of political parties, the number of candidates, the number of eligible voters, the number of constituencies, the number of candidates contesting under political parties, the

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number of independent candidates, the number of polling stations across townships, the electoral system, and the results obtained from Phases I and II of the elections.

On election day, we visited and observed seven polling stations in different townships. During our observations, we found that the voting process was simple, clear, and transparent, and that polling station staff performed their duties competently and effectively. The polling station environment was peaceful, stable, and secure, and we generally observed that the multiparty democratic general election was being conducted in a free,

fair, and transparent manner.

For example, throughout our observation, we noted that each polling station displayed relevant information, including polling station details, lists of political parties, voter lists, lists of independent candidates, lists of advance voters, and voting procedures presented on digital screen televisions. Seating arrangements were also provided for voters who needed to wait.

Moreover, during our observation period, we observed the presence of state-owned and private media, representatives of political parties, domestic and international election observers, and medical teams assigned to each polling station.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Union Election Commission for its efforts to successfully and comprehensively implement the elections, as well as for its close cooperation with all stakeholders involved in the electoral process.

We also conducted interviews at polling stations with local authorities, members of political parties, election commission staff, and voters. We further observed that security personnel had put in place the necessary security arrangements to ensure the successful conduct of the elections, for which we are thankful.

We would like to appreciate the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Union

Election Commission, especially the UEC Chairman and the people of Myanmar for their resilience, unity, strong sense of patriotism, and dedicated efforts to achieve peace, stability, and development while successfully holding these elections.

On behalf of the Cambodian People's Party and the people of Cambodia, we will continue to work toward building even closer, more positive, and stronger cooperation between Cambodia and Myanmar and between our two peoples.

Through these efforts, we aim to promote unity and development between Cambodia and Myanmar, not only bilaterally but also in the regions. Thank you very much. — MNA/KTZH

University of Medicine 1, Yangon, holds welcome ceremony for 2025 freshers

THE University of Medicine 1, Yangon, held the welcome ceremony for the 11/2025 academic year freshers at 9 am yesterday at its Pyay Campus on Pyay Road in Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by Rector Dr Kyaw Shwe of the University of Medicine (1), Yangon, pro-rectors, professors (heads of department), teachers, invitees, and new students who were admitted to the University of Medicine 1, Yangon, for the 11/2025 academic year.

At the ceremony, Rector Dr Kyaw Shwe delivered the opening address, warmly welcoming the freshers to the field of medicine on behalf of the University of Medicine 1 and the Ministry of Health. He encouraged them to strive to become competent and trustworthy medical professionals who will serve the nation. He also advised them that, as they enter a new academic environment and encounter new

experiences, they must be able to discipline themselves and develop the wisdom to critically distinguish between right and wrong. He emphasized the importance of maintaining good relationships and personal ethics, and urged them to uphold and preserve the long and distinguished medical history of the University of Medicine 1, which spans over 120 years. He also urged them to learn and abide by the university's rules and medical ethics, to value and respect the medical profession, and to continue studying and collaborating until they reach the end of their academic journey.

Following this, the pro-rector (academic) and the pro-rector (administration) gave words of advice to the students of the University of Medicine 1. After the ceremony, senior students entertained the freshers with songs and dance performances.

— Bala/MKKS



A freshers' welcome ceremony is underway at the University of Medicine 1, Yangon.

Strong holiday demand fills Ayeyawady beach resorts nearly 90%



Holidaymakers enjoy Ngwehsaung Beach. PHOTO: KANU

DURING the six consecutive public holidays from Union Day on 12 February to Chinese New Year on 17 February, hotels and guesthouses at Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha, Shwethaungyan and Goyangyi beaches have been nearly 90 per cent fully booked, according to the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

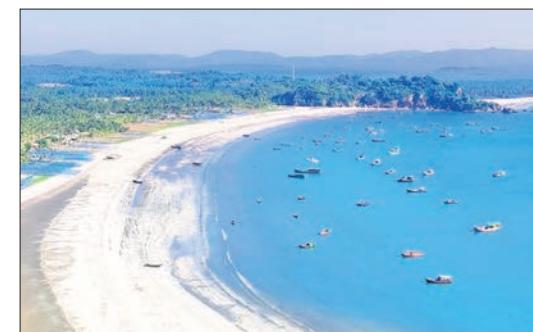
"In Ayeyawady Region, nearly 90 per cent of hotels and guesthouses, including those at Ngwehsaung and Chaungtha beaches, are fully booked for the six-day February holiday. Hotels and guesthouses are also preparing to provide full services. This year, there are expected to be more visitors than last year. Just as there were many visitors during the New Year holiday, we expect increased visitor numbers during the long February holiday as well. We are pleased about the resulting growth in job opportunities for local people, particularly in the tourism sector," said U Aung Thu Oo, Director of the Ayeyawady Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

During the international New Year holiday from 1 to 4 January, more than 22,000 domestic and foreign visitors travelled to the beach resorts, including foreign tourists from 13 countries. The largest numbers of visitors came from China, Russia, India and Thailand. Tourism service providers estimate that even

more foreign visitors will arrive during the upcoming long holiday.

Last year, 39,844 domestic and foreign visitors visited the beaches in Ayeyawady Region between 1 and 10 January. In the first half of this year, the number rose to 63,878 visitors during the same period, exceeding last year's figures.

To accommodate domestic and foreign visitors, Ayeyawady Region currently has 38 hotels and 70 guesthouses at Ngwehsaung Beach, 32 hotels and 55 guesthouses at Chaungtha Beach, six hotels and three guesthouses at Shwethaungyan Beach, and 49 hotels and 315 guesthouses in Pathein and other areas. The Ayeyawady Region government continues to provide services to facilitate travel during the tourist season. — Nyein Thu/MKKS



The scenic beauty of Goyangyi Island Beach.

Govt, public ensure 2025 multiparty democratic general election despite disruptions

THE government leads the phases of a multiparty democratic general election, which is essential for initiating the multiparty democratic system, with participation of the people, while striving to ensure a peaceful, prosperous and developed country under the multiparty democratic system. The government successfully held the multiparty democratic general election regardless of the disruption of the insurgents.

The Phase I of the multiparty democratic general election was held on 28 December 2025, in 102 townships, while Phase II was held on 11 January 2026, in 100 townships, and Phase III was held on 25 January 2026, in 61 townships. During these elections, voters were seen casting their ballots actively, peacefully, and voluntarily, from 6 am until the close of polling stations, freely expressing their own will without any form of pressure, and fulfilling their civic duty as responsible citizens.

Terrorist and destructive groups are employing various methods in an attempt to ensure the failure of the multiparty democratic general election process, which represents the path toward a multiparty democratic system desired by the people, to undermine national stability and peace, to delay the nation-building and development processes being jointly implemented by the government and the people, and to damage election-related activities. They have committed bomb attacks using sound mines, improvised explosive devices, and drop bombs, issued threat letters, and spread false propaganda and fabricated reports through malicious and exile media outlets, among other acts of sabotage.

Beginning from the pre-election period, they have committed destructive actions in 41 townships, such as they distributed and posted false propaganda pamphlets in public places, conducted agitation and incitement, wrote false messages, displayed posters, shouted slogans and insults to discourage voting, used sound boxes and speakers to incite people not



The house of the village administrator in Taungthonlon Village, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region, is seen following a fire attack by terrorists.



The site of a hand-made rocket blast and its shrapnel is seen near Seikphyu, Magway Region.

to vote, destroyed, toppled, or burned public awareness signboards and posters promoting successful elections for 23 times, attacked election security guard members for four times, dropped bombs for six times, detonated homemade sound bombs for two times, carried out six bomb and mine attacks using grenades, launched three rocket attacks, threatened election-related government officials and members of political parties with weapons for three times, and abducted individuals for six times, totalling 54 acts of destructive actions.

Moreover, on 28 December 2025 during the Phase I election, they exploded sound mine at polling station 82 at No 11 BEHS in Shwenyaungpin Ward of Myitkyina, Kachin State, committed bomb attacks using 107 mm rockets into Shwe Taung and Mingalar wards of Loikaw of Kayah State, exploded bomb near KBZ Bank in No 3 ward and Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge II in Myawady of Kayin State, attacked Taninthayi region government using a fixed wing

drone, blocked the way of 170 palm oil workers who are heading to polling station to vote in Aung Chan Thar village-tract of Khamaukgyi, dropped bombs using drones near polling station 2 in No 3 ward of Shwebo, attacked Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Sagaing) using six homemade rockets, dropped bomb near polling station 3 in Tamu, and attacked using heavy and small weapons from the north and south of Katha in Sagaing Region.

Moreover, they also attacked Nantawkyun village in Madaya Township and Aungmyathazan Township using 107 mm rockets in Mandalay Region, dropped bombs near the general administrative office, court and central prison lane in Myingyan Township and opened fire against polling station 64 BEPS (Pyun) in Zone 9 of NyaungU. Between 27 and 28 December evenings, they committed crimes in 11 townships out of 102 townships of Phase I, and about five locals were wounded.

During the Phase II election on 11 January 2026, they also dropped bombs using drones in Prusho, Kayah State, set fire to the administrator's house in Taungthonlon Village, Kangyi Village-tract, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region, and attacked Gangaw, Seikphyu, Salin, and Kanma in Magway Region using fixed-wing drones, rockets, bombs, and small arms. In addition, homemade rockets were launched, and bombs were dropped in ChaungU, Butalin, and Myinmu in Sagaing Region, while using drones to drop bomb attacks in Htantabin Township, Bago Region. They committed such attacks in 10 townships out of 100 townships of the Phase II election, and two governmental staff members died, two staff members and one local were injured.

On 25 January 2026, when the multiparty democratic general election phase III was held, terrorist groups carried out bomb attacks in Phakant and bridge of Nantyar village in Kachin State, dropped bombs on the Launglon Myoma police station in Taninthayi Region, Kani and Salingyi townships in Sagaing Region, attacked the Minkin gas pipeline and Yonsi-gyi village in Taungtha, BEHS (Htantaw) in Mahlaing, governmental offices and Lathit village in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, using FPV suicide drones, sound mines, heavy and small weapons, dropped bombs in Nyaungpintha village in Phy

Township, Thamininngon village in Kyaukdaga Township, Nyaungchaytauk village in Zeyawady and Yedashe Township in Bago Region. They committed attacks in 11 townships out of 61 constituencies for Phase III, and one local was injured.

Terrorist and destructive groups are employing various methods in an attempt to ensure the failure of the multiparty democratic general election process, which represents the path towards a multiparty democratic system desired by the people, to undermine national stability and peace, to delay the nation-building and development processes being jointly implemented by the government and the people, and to damage election-related activities. Beginning from the pre-election period, although they committed various destructive actions, the people who understand the peace process and development programmes of the government cast their votes for the party representatives they preferred.

In the general election that began on 28 December 2025, there were a total of 24.22 million eligible voters. A total of 57 political parties competed nationwide, including six parties contesting across the entire Union and 51 parties contesting in regions and states. The election was successfully held in 263 out of 330 townships in the presence of international election observers, diplomats, media representatives, and enthusiastic voters, in a free, fair, and transparent manner.

To continue advancing the multiparty democratic system through prudent and measured means, responsible citizens who support and welcome democracy and who desire national peace and stability, as well as the improvement of the people's social well-being, are urged to cooperate with the relevant authorities to ensure the multiparty democratic system. Hence, the people are also requested to promptly report to the relevant authorities any information on terrorist activities or suspicious matters they may encounter. — MNA/ KTZH

NATIONAL

Voices of residents living in Dar Paing (Bengali) Village, Sittway



Daw Phyu Phyu Thant (aka Rojaya)
Dar Paing Village, Sittway Township

Hello everyone. My name is Daw Phyu Phyu Thant. I live in Dar Paing. I have been living in this village for more than twenty years. I am married. I have five children. My husband also works. He does casual labour. Before the first cyclone occurred, various organizations came to the village and made announcements. "We had to stay in a safe place. The water would rise, so we needed to take protective measures. They told us to take care of the children, so we went to the cyclone centre and stayed there."

Some people did not believe it and thought it would not happen, so they did not go. Some were afraid and went. A cyclone centre was built in the Rakhine village of Thaik Chaung, where we live. We gathered and stayed there together. If we needed rice or other food, they provided it. I also saw they were given financial support and other assistance. It helped them live with peace of mind. After the cyclone hit, some people from one village could not get out, and because of that, they lost their lives. There are also villages near the coast. In some cases, the men did not leave their homes, and because they did not, the children and women were also injured. In some households, three out of four people living in one house died. But in our village, a total of only 45 people were injured. It was not a very large number. Out of those, only twenty-five people lost their lives. The government supplied food provisions and also provided pots, clothing, longyis,

and all necessary items for their safety and security. They also provided tarpaulins. Everyone was given one each.

After giving those, they went back. The organizations came to the villages and collected lists of the necessary items. Regarding health matters, they listed everything that was needed and gave words of encouragement. I saw them collecting the lists and information. Concerning employment, the situation was not favourable. They did not give it to all the villagers. They only provided support to the poor and those who could not afford it. Food supplies such as rice, water, and medicines were included. The organizations also provided us. The government also provided support. In terms of food and living conditions, it was not just me, but all the villagers; nothing was really going well for anyone. We face concerns every day, and our work and jobs are not progressing as expected.



U Kaseim
Dar Paing Village, Sittway Township

My name is Kaseim. I was born in Dar Paing and grew up in Dar Paing. I am 63 years old. I am a native of Dar Paing. I am married and have five children. I am employed in the fisheries sector. I catch fish at sea. Before Cyclone Mocha struck, the government came and repeatedly warned that the strong cyclone was going to hit. NGOs also came and informed us. Cyclone Mocha was going to hit, and it was going to be very severe. They repeatedly told us to go and stay at the Cyclone Shelter that we have here. Those who were not afraid stayed here.

Those who were afraid went and stayed there. My family did not go. Other families went and stayed there. We remained at our residence. Individuals who went to the Centre and remained there before the cyclone were given rice, food and drinks when the cyclone hit.

Our village suffered a lot of damage because of Cyclone Mocha. There are many people (victims) in our village. They offered support in the form of rice, oil, and medicine. They also provided financial assistance to those whose homes and property were affected by the cyclone. The government assisted in the cleanup of the village. Additionally, we took the initiative to clean our own village. When the Thae Chaung bridge was damaged, people could not travel back and forth. Since they could not pass, the government came immediately and repaired it, so within one or two days, it was fixed, and people were able to travel again.

Myanmar repatriates 27 foreigners linked to telecom fraud



Immigration process is underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

A total of 27 foreign nationals who were involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities have been repatriated from Myanmar to their respective countries.

The group includes 21 Chinese and two Nepalis, two Indians and one Nigerian national who had illegally entered Myanmar through border routes, conducting online gambling, online scams, and other criminal acts. The repatriation process was carried out in

accordance with the law and international cooperation, prioritizing humanitarian considerations and fostering friendly relations between countries.

In order to quickly repatriate these foreign nationals to their respective countries, the departmental officials are conducting the necessary personal information and record collection work, and are being closely monitored and coordinated by Lt-Col San Shwe, a member of the Myawady

District Administration and Management Committee, and officials.

The Myanmar government continues to actively identify, apprehend, and take strong action against foreigners involved in online scam centres and other criminal networks. Myanmar collaborates closely with neighbouring countries, regional partners, and international organizations to ensure effective law enforcement. — MNA/MKKS

Union-Level MSME Product Fair to run in Nay Pyi Taw, 10-15 Feb

ORGANIZED by the Work Committee for the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), a Union-Level MSME Product Exhibition and Fair (Nay Pyi Taw) will be held in Nay Pyi Taw in commemoration of the 79th Union Day, according to the Ministry of Industry.

The event will take place for five consecutive days from 10 to 15 February at Tabaung Ground near the Uppatasanti Pagoda.

The exhibition is expected to provide various benefits, including the opportunity to showcase MSME products from different regions and states, engage directly with consumers, expand markets, and promote

mutual learning and exchange.

At the Union-Level MSME Product Exhibition and Fair, approximately 100 booths will be set up, including ministerial booths, MSME booths from Nay Pyi Taw and various regions and states, ethnic traditional food stalls, business matching activities, technology booths, agricultural machinery and product displays, small-scale industrial and handicraft enterprise booths, production co-operative booths, association booths, solar farm displays, priority SKD electric vehicle, motorcycle and three-wheeled vehicle booths, and CMP garment manufacturing booths. — ASH/KNN



This image illustrates the MSME Product Exhibition and Fair in the previous year.

China's chain supermarkets, convenience stores report steady gains in 2025

CHINA'S chain supermarkets and convenience stores reported steady operational improvement in 2025, industry surveys have shown.

A recent survey released by the China Chain Store and Franchise Association revealed that 50 per cent of surveyed companies reported year-on-year growth in total sales in 2025 — up from 38 per cent in 2024 — while 46 per cent reported an increase in net profits.

Among comparable stores, standard supermarkets and community supermarkets outperformed large-format supermarkets, according to the survey.

More than half of all supermarket outlets saw continued increases in customer traffic and online business, while 72 per cent of surveyed



Customers select products at a supermarket in Zaozhuang, east China's Shandong Province, 9 January 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

companies reported higher online sales than year prior.

Many companies reported that they had carried out store renovations and adjustments to improve customer

experience and product competitiveness.

More than 90 per cent of companies that made such adjustments achieved performance growth, with bakery products playing a nota-

ble role in boosting store visits, capturing instant consumption demand and strengthening store image.

Over half of all surveyed chain supermarket companies said they plan

to pursue further development in 2026 through a range of measures, such as facility upgrades, a deepened regional presence and cross-regional expansion.

Overall, the sector is shifting from a scale-driven approach to growth toward a focus on quality and efficiency, with the foundation for growth strengthening gradually, according to the results of the survey.

A separate survey on convenience stores, which was also carried out by the association, showed that more than 60 per cent of convenience store companies reported year-on-year sales growth in 2025, with the increase resulting mainly from comparable-store sales growth, followed by incremental sales from store expansion. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka's export earnings surpass US\$17.2 bln in 2025

Sri Lanka's export sector recorded sustained growth in 2025, with total export earnings exceeding US\$17.2 billion, according to official statistics.

Total exports, including merchandise and services, recorded a year-on-year growth of 5.6 per cent amid improving external trade conditions and recovering global demand. The performance represents over 94 per cent of the country's export target for the year, said Export Development Board Chairman Mangala Wijesinghe. For the full year, merchandise export earnings increased by 6.32 per cent to \$13.58 billion. Services exports also expanded on an annual basis, growing by an estimated 2.79 per cent to reach \$3.67 billion, driven largely by ICT and business process management, transport and logistics, construction, and financial services.

— Xinhua

Thailand's investment pledges reach new heights in 2025

THAILAND'S investment pledges reached an all-time high of 1.88 trillion baht (about US\$60.42 billion) in 2025, soaring 67 per cent from a year earlier, in a strategic shift towards a high-tech and innovation-driven economy, official data showed on Monday. The Southeast Asian

country's overall investment applications rose 11 per cent from the previous year to 3,370 projects, with foreign direct investments alone jumping 66 per cent to 1.36 trillion baht, according to the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI).

The robust uptake in key strategic sectors,

particularly digital infrastructure and advanced electronics, reflects Thailand's successful policy alignment with global trends and its strong appeal as a destination for international investors, said BOI Secretary General Narit Therdsteerasukdi. — Xinhua

Vietnam, Laos vow to elevate trade turnover to US\$10 bln

LEADERS of Vietnam and Laos on Monday pledged to promote economic, trade and investment cooperation, striving to achieve bilateral trade turnover of US\$10 billion, Vietnam News Agency reported.

The commitment was made during talks

between To Lam, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and Thongloun Sisoulith, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee and Lao president, during the latter's state visit to Vietnam. Con-

gratulating Thongloun on his re-election as general secretary of LPRP Central Committee, Lam appreciated his selection of Vietnam as the first country to visit immediately after the successful conclusion of the new-term party congresses of the two parties. — Xinhua

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by EastChem Co., Ltd is changing from LionChem (Myanmar) Pte., LTD to Agro Rich World Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	NameActive	Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Golden check 50 EC	Lambda-cyhalothrin 50g/l EC	F2022-3487

Agro Rich World Co., Ltd
Contact Phone: 09-407 111 120

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09 454237515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML016)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML016)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED



China's chain supermarkets, convenience stores report steady gains in 2025

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India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of the European Council António Costa, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, India's President Droupadi Murmu and India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh attend the country's 77th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi on 26 January 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

India fêtes EU at Republic Day parade ahead of trade deal

EUROPEAN Union leaders joined India's Republic Day parade as the guests of honour on Monday, a day before New Delhi and Brussels are expected to seal a long-awaited free trade agreement.

Military bands and horse and camel cavalry units paraded through capital New Delhi, while fighter jets buzzed overhead and India's latest military hardware was put on display.

"The occasion inspires us in our col-

lective resolve to build a developed India," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said before the parade.

The fanfare also featured Indian air defence systems — including missiles and drones — that were deployed in the four-day conflict with arch-enemy Pakistan last year. European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen are both in attendance, before an EU-India summit Tuesday, when the two sides are widely

expected to announce a landmark free trade deal and security partnership.

They had been working on a trade agreement for over a decade before US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs pushed India and the 27-nation EU to expedite their efforts last year.

Republic Day marks the adoption of India's post-independence constitution in 1950 with the parade staged along a colonial-era boulevard that also hosts important government buildings. — AFP

Thailand enhances screening of flights originating from Nipah Virus high-risk region

THAILAND'S Civil Aviation Authority announced that it will implement comprehensive screening for all flights arriving from India's West Bengal, a high-risk region for Nipah virus, starting from 00:00 local time on Monday to prevent the virus from entering the country.

In a statement released on Sunday, the authority said the screening measures will be adjusted dynamically based on the evolving situation.

Key protocols currently in place involve airlines conducting preliminary health checks at the point of departure. Passengers who exhibit symptoms that call for further testing are required to present relevant medical certificates before boarding and must adhere to public health guidelines throughout the flight.

Upon arrival in Thailand, all travellers will undergo temperature checks and be required to fill out a health declaration form. Dedicated screening stations have been set up in the jet bridge areas of designated airports.

According to Thai media reports, direct flights operate between Kolkata in West Bengal and three major Thai airports — Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, and Phuket, where the screening measures have already been rolled out.

No Nipah virus cases have been reported in Thailand so far, authorities said on Sunday. — Xinhua

World not ready for rise in extreme heat, scientists say

NEARLY 3.8 billion people could face extreme heat by 2050 and while tropical countries will bear the brunt cooler regions will also need to adapt, scientists said Monday.

Demand for cooling will "drastically" increase in giant countries like Brazil, Indonesia and Nigeria, where hundreds of millions of people lack air condi-

tioning or other means of beating the heat.

But even a moderate increase in hotter days could have a "severe impact" in nations not used to such conditions like Canada, Russia and Finland, said scientists from the University of Oxford.

In a new study, they looked at different global warming scenar-

ios to project how often people in future might experience temperatures considered uncomfortably hot or cold.

They found "that the population experiencing extreme heat conditions is projected to nearly double" by 2050 if global average temperatures rise two degrees Celsius above preindustrial times. — AFP



A man takes a shower to cool off from the high temperatures on a street in the Guaratiba neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 27 December 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**