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Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits magnificent religious monuments in Kengtung, Shan State (East)

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Presiding Patron of Thiladhamma Kontha Tawya Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Wasipaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, the Shan State chief minister and the commander of the Triangle Region Command, yesterday afternoon, visited Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda and Abhaya Razamuni Buddha Image in the precinct of Buddha Park and Mahamuni Buddha Image, the magnificence of Kengtung in Shan State (East) and paid homage.

At the construction site for the Lawkatharaphu Pagoda to be built in the Buddha Park, the Senior General inspected progress in undertaking land preparations, construction of the main pagoda, placing of the platform, construction of the encircled Cetis, and filling the gravels at the terraces.

The Senior General supplicated the necessary measures to be taken for the pagoda construction to the Wasipaik Sayadaw and guided the officials. The Senior General stated that to prevent

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Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing beats the peace bell at the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda in the precinct of the Buddha Park in Kengtung yesterday.



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Lahu ethnics organize 42nd collective New Year festival in Kengtung



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Ngamoeeyeik Dam releases record irrigation water for summer paddy

OPINION

The people of Myanmar expect the ICJ to make a decision impartially and fairly

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NATIONAL

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

Myanmar protests and condemns Timor-Leste's conduct contravening the ASEAN Charter

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has learnt with regret of an official news release issued on 14 January 2026 by the Office of the President of Timor-Leste, titled “President Mr José Ramos-Horta receives Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) to discuss regional justice and accountability”.

Myanmar recalls that Timor-Leste invited Zin Mar Aung and members of the “NUG”, which Myanmar has designated as a terrorist group, to attend the official inauguration ceremony of its new government held on 1 July 2023 in Dili and President Mr José Ramos-Horta received them during the ceremony.

Such engagement by a sovereign state with a terrorist organization opposed to the legitimate Government of another state constitutes a breach of established international norms. In response, Myanmar summoned the Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of Timor-Leste on 5 July 2023 and conveyed him its protest. Subsequently, the Chargé d’Affaires ad interim was ordered to leave Myanmar by 1 September 2023. Furthermore, Myanmar sent a letter to all ASEAN Foreign Ministers informing its objection to Timor-Leste’s application for ASEAN membership due to Timor-Leste’s failure to adhere to the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter.

In that connection, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste met with Director-General Mr Kyaw Nyun Oo, head of the Myanmar delegation on 8 July 2025, on the sidelines of the 58th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and provided assurances of Timor-Leste’s commitment not to interfere in the internal affairs of the other ASEAN Member States and to fully respect the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. The Minister also reaffirmed these assurances in his letter dated 10 July 2025 addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar as well as during the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers on 18 September 2025, respectively. Due to these commitments of Timor-Leste, Myanmar informed the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, the then ASEAN Chair, on 9 October 2025, that Myanmar would no longer object to Timor-Leste’s application for ASEAN membership and could go along with the ASEAN consensus.

Despite these repeated commitments not to interfere in the internal affairs of other ASEAN Member States in line with the fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, the recent engagement of the President of Timor-Leste with the CHRO which submitted a criminal complaint against the Government of Myanmar to the Public Prosecutor’s Office in Timor-Leste constitutes blatant interference in Myanmar’s internal affairs.

The Government of Myanmar, therefore, registers its condemnation and formal protest against the content, nature, and implication of the said engagement. The official engagement by the Government of Timor-Leste with anti-Myanmar Government groups, which spread misinformation, seek to incite instability, and deliberately undermine peace and stability in Myanmar, blatantly violates the fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter, which obliges Member States to respect sovereignty and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other ASEAN Member States.

In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Chargés d’Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Timor-Leste to Nay Pyi Taw on 16 January 2026, handed over an Aide-Mémoire, conveying its condemnation and protest against Timor-Leste’s interference in internal affairs of Myanmar and violation of the fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter and asked for a formal clarification from the Government of Timor-Leste.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
18 January 2026

Lahu ethnics organize 42nd collective New Year festival in Kengtung



The 42nd Lahu Ethnic Collective Traditional New Year Festival in progress in Kengtung Township on 18 January 2026.

PHOTO: AUNG ZIN MYINT (IPRD)

THE Lahu ethnic group, known for its rich tradition of culture, literature, and history, celebrates its most sacred and grand festival — the collective New Year — when the pine trees bear buds and the cherry, apricot, and peach trees are in full bloom.

The Lahu New Year festival, celebrated since ancient times, is a joyful occasion where people donate rice, fruits, and belongings gathered throughout the year. A small pine tree is placed in the centre, around which people gather to play gourd flutes, perform a round dance, seek forgiveness, cleanse their sins, and young people also perform traditional hand-washing rituals for elders and respected individuals.

The 42nd Lahu Ethnic Collective Traditional New Year Festival was held in Kengtung Township, following traditional customs, at 10:30 am on 18 January in Kengtung District sports ground. The event was attended by departmental officials, mem-

bers of social organizations, local ethnic groups, and guests.

First, U Kya Lel Soe (a) U Hla Win, on behalf of the 42nd Lahu Ethnic Collective Traditional New Year Festival organization leading committee, delivered a speech. Then, U Kya Soe (a) U Kyaw Soe, on behalf of the Lahu nationals, extended New Year greetings, and a hand-washing ceremony was held in accordance with the traditional customs of the Lahu ethnic group. Afterwards, the Lahu ethnic group played gourd flutes while performing traditional cultural dances and songs. Officials and guests participated in the famous Myaywaing dance alongside the Lahu ethnic group, and honoured them with cash gifts.

The Lahu ethnic group currently resides in China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam, with a concentration in Shan State (East) and Shan State (North) in Myanmar. There are approximately 30 Lahu tribes.

— Aung Zin Myint (IPRD)/KZL

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits magnificent religious...

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water seepage and erosion, it is essential to systematically implement proper water inflow, outflow, and drainage systems from the outset of construction works. In addition, construction must be carefully designed to ensure a certain level of resilience against weather impacts, natural disasters, and earthquake hazards. Trees should also be systematically replanted on the slopes within construction areas. Moreover, when laying sun-exposed tiles on the platforms, it is necessary to prepare proper designs in advance and carry out the work in an orderly and systematic manner.

He also viewed around the construction site and observed the construction of religious structures in the park, and four magnificent venues of the Lord Buddha as birthplace, venues for enlightenment, preaching and attainment of Parinibbana.

The Senior General and party paid homage to the Buddha Image at the Thatta Thattha Maha Bawdi Pagoda in the precinct of the Buddha Park and donated cash to the fund of the pagoda for overall renovation.

They paid homage to the Buddha Image on the upper terrace and went round the pagoda clockwise. The Senior General beat the peace bell.



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits traditional foods, textiles and utensils shops opened at the traditional Lahu new year festival at the Shan State ground in Kengtung yesterday.

He viewed the operation of the Thiladhamma charity clinic in the park and the construction of the Thihadhamma Hospital, and left necessary instructions and visited the Thukha Hmatsu Flower Plantation in the park and the Buddha Museum.

The Senior General offered flowers, water and oil lights to the Abhaya Razamuni Buddha Image. He also looked into the Buddhological episodes portrayed by marble stones in the cave of the Buddha Image.

In the evening, the Senior

General paid homage to the Mahamuni Buddha Image in Kengtung. He donated cash to the overall renovation of the image to members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Senior General and party went to the 42nd tradition-

al Lahu new year festival at the Shan State ground in Kengtung and viewed round sales of traditional foods, textiles, utensils and shops, and cordially greeted vendors and people, and Lahu ethnic people and residents who enjoyed the festival. —MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 17/2026

1st Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME
18 January 2026

Announcement on Lists of Individuals Elected as Region or State Hluttaw Representatives

In the multiparty democratic general election conducted in phases starting 28 December 2025, the region and state election subcommissions have announced that the following individuals are elected as Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw representatives, listed alongside their names in accordance with the statement under the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law Section 49 (b).

No	Name	CSC	Representative No	Representing Party/Independent
Kachin State (FPTP)				
1	U Rawam Jone	1/PaTaAh (C) 017354	Machanbaw Representative 1	USDP
2	Daw Moe Thida Thein	1/MaKaNa (C) 018175	Waingmaw Representative 1	USDP
Kachin State (PR) Constituency 1				
3	U Chang Jaung Sar	1/PaTaAh (C) 016777	Waingmaw Representative 2	USDP
4	U Ye Yint Swe	9/SaKaNa (C) 063015	Tanai Representative 2	USDP
5	U Khau Hsar	1/WaMaNa (C) 004383	PutaO Representative 2	USDP
6	U Kwam Nga Naw Aung	1/MaKaBa (C) 001361	Chipwe Representative 2	USDP
7	U Nee Hsar	1/MaKaNa (C) 156500	Sumprabum Representative 2	Lisu National Development Party
8	ULahan Zawng Khawng	1/WaMaNa (C) 001959	Sawlaw Representative 2	New Democracy Party (Kachin)
9	U J Zar Dee	1/KhaBaDa (C) 004676	Khaunglanphu Representative 2	NUP
10	U Sam Bon Sim	1/PaTaAh (C) 027853	Nagmon Representative 2	Kachin State People's Party
11	UNwga Khi Sar	1/PaTaAh (C) 042236	Machanbaw Representative 2	MFDP
Kayah State (FPTP)				
12	U Soe Rel	2/DaMaHsa (C) 013931	Demawhso Representative 1	USDP
13	U Joseph Kyaw	2/PhaRaHsa (C) 001153	Pruhso Representative 1	USDP
Kayah State (PR) Constituency 1				
14	U Arnt Maw	7/PaMaNa (C) 115782	Loikaw Representative 2	USDP
15	U Porel Aung Thein	2/LaKaNa (C) 009175	Demawhso Representative 2	USDP
16	U Ye Win	2/RaTaNa (C) 000232	Pruhso Representative 2	USDP
17	Daw Hnin Hnin Yi	2/LaKaNa (C) 066261	Pasawng Representative 2	USDP
18	U Zaw Min Oo	2/LaKaNa (C) 053748	Meisei Representative 2	Kayah State People's Party

19	U Saw Dee De	2/LaKaNa (C) 009915	Bawlakhe Representative 2	Kayah State People's Party
20	U Soe Nyunt	2/BaLaKha (C) 000419	Shadaw Representative 2	PPP
Sagaing Region (FPTP)				
21	U Tun Tun	5/KaLaWa (C) 030764	Kalewa Representative 1	USDP
22	U Hsan Win	5/MaKaNa (C) 004983	Mingin Representative 1	USDP
23	U Tin Min Htut	5/PhaPaNa (C) 043930	Phaungpyin Representative 1	USDP
24	U Myint Tin	5/KaLaNa (C) 040448	Kyunhla Representative 1	USDP
Sagaing Region (PR) Constituency 1				
25	U Hla Tun	5/LaRaNa (C) 000413	Nanyun Representative 2	USDP
26	U Thang Ngu	5/LaHaNa (C) 019666	Lahe Representative 2	USDP
27	U Shu Maung	5/KhaTaNa (C) 014746	Lashi Representative 2	Naga National Party
28	U Min Zaw	5/MaLaNa (C) 000033	Kalay Representative 2	USDP
29	U Aung Zaw Win	5/HaMaLa (C) 037673	Homalin Representative 2	USDP
30	U Tin Maung Myint	5/KaLaWa (C) 004092	Phaungpyin Representative 2	USDP
31	U Maw Leik	5/LaHaNa (C) 012043	Tamu Representative 2	Naga National Party
32	U Aung Naing Thu	5/LaRaNa (C) 004843	Khamti Representative 2	Naga National Party
33	U Myint Kyaw	5/KaLaWa (C) 002529	Mingin Representative 2	NUP
34	Sai Aung Kham	5/HaMaLa (C) 040800	Mawlaik Representative 2	NUP
35	U Ye Naung	1/KaMaNa (C) 044005	Kalewa Representative 2	Shan-ni (Tai-Leng) Solidarity Party
Sagaing Region (PR) Constituency 3				
36	U Myo Thant	5/KaThaNa (C) 010821	Kanbalu Representative 2	USDP
37	U Kyaw Lwin Oo	5/AhTaNa (C) 000058	Katha Representative 2	USDP
38	U Kyaw Thu	5/KaThaNa (C) 002715	Kawlin Representative 2	USDP
39	Daw Khin Win Kyi	5/BaMaNa (C) 000095	Htigyaing Representative 2	USDP
40	U Kyaw Soe	5/KaThaNa (C) 010650	Bamauk Representative 2	USDP
41	U Min Aung	5/HtaKhaNa (C) 051432	Pinlebu Representative 2	USDP
42	U Thet Lwin	5/KaThaNa (C) 057536	Indaw Representative 2	NUP
43	Daw Mar Mar Win	5/KaThaNa (C) 079466	Kyunhla Representative 2	NUP
44	U Aung Zaw Min	5/KaThaNa (C) 068238	Wuntho Representative 2	NUP

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

MSMEs to boost economy, replace imports, and earn foreign exchange

- ❖ “Micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) aim to substitute imports, support the national economy, produce high-quality products, and export them to earn foreign exchange for the country.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President (On Duty) and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 3/2025 meeting of the National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31 July 2025)

Myanmar delegation attends 6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting in Vietnam

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Mya Tun Oo attended the 6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (6th ADGMIN) and related meetings with dialogue partners, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 15 and 16 January.

The 6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting was held under the theme “Adaptive ASEAN — From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence” and focused on the advancement of the digital sector in the ASEAN region. Discussions centred on cooperation to promote the safe, ethical and inclusive use of artificial intelligence, the application of AI-based systems in traditional connectivity sectors, and ways to jointly address emerging challenges.

During the meeting, the Union minister expressed support for the theme, noting that it aligns with ASEAN's objective of strengthening connectivity networks through artificial intelligence in order to build a trusted and integrated system that safeguards the interests of citizens. He stated that member states are working to establish robust and appropriate governance frameworks to ensure



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo attends the 6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and related meetings in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 15 and 16 January.

the safe and ethical use of AI, to develop secure digital infrastructure, to promote trusted cross-border data flows, and to advance citizen-centred digital government systems. He also emphasized the importance of taking into account disparities in digital technological development among member states when jointly implementing AI governance in the ASEAN region, and of allowing flexibility for national-level implementation. He further affirmed that Myanmar would continue

to cooperate with all ASEAN member states to successfully implement ASEAN's digital transformation goals under the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030.

At the meeting, participants reviewed projects implemented in 2025, approved projects planned for 2026, endorsed funding for those projects, and discussed and agreed on cooperative approaches in areas such as combating online scams, enhancing cybersecurity, and ensuring the systematic development of artificial intelligence.

The 6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting concluded on the afternoon of 16 January, following the ceremony marking the endorsement and announcement of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030. During the meeting, the Hanoi Digital Declaration was issued.

On the evening of 15 January, the Union minister attended a state banquet hosted by the Government of Vietnam at the Melia Hanoi Hotel, as well as the ASEAN Digital Awards 2026 ceremony. At the awards cere-

mony, a team from Mandalay, Myanmar — Tem Europa — competed in the Digital Start-up category with their project entitled “Green Globe: Waste Management for a Better World!” and won third prize.

On 14 January, at the invitation of the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, the Union minister attended the 2026 China-ASEAN Digital Ecosystem Cooperation Networking Event and delivered a keynote address.

In his address, the Union minister stated that digital systems are becoming increasingly trustworthy and more citizen-centred. However, as digital transformation deepens, connectivity alone is no longer sufficient; the next stage requires intelligence, adaptability and innovation. He stressed that as new technologies continue to emerge and advance, societies must also progress. As challenges increase, there is a growing need for stronger unity and collective responses. He called for cooperation not only to enhance technological capabilities, but also to expand opportunities for a better future for all people in the region. — MNA/KZL

Training workshop for sustainable dairy farming for Myanmar farmers planned to organize

BY the support of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund, a training workshop on sustainable dairy farming for Myanmar farmers has been scheduled to organize, according to Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Under the cooperation among MLF, the Myanmar Dairy Association and the Khon Kaen University of Thailand and with the special funding from the Lancang-Mekong cooperation, the training workshop will be conducted from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm on 11 February at Building 12, MICT Park in the Hline Campus.

Khon Kaen's livestock specialists will lecture about

the nutrition, farm management, reproduction and milk quality at the workshop. Seating capacity will accept 40 persons and dairy farmers and related businesses will be prioritized.

For those from other regions and states, online session has been also arranged. Registrations can be made not later than 4 pm by 31 January at <https://forms.gle/yys7aRTwmoUE76Cq6> for in-person class and more details can be requested to MLF's phone numbers- 09447730807, 09758212752 or email address- myanmarlivestock@gmail.com. — MT/ZS



The training workshop for sustainable dairy farming.

NATIONAL

Professor Stefan Talmon submits presentation to ICJ

PROFESSOR Stefan Talmon presented the burden and standard of proof as the case concerning application of the convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime genocide at the case of The Gambia versus Myanmar at the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 16 January.

He said: The Parties agree on the principle that the party alleging a fact bears the burden of proof. While the Court has held that "this principle is not an absolute one", it has consistently applied the principle in cases of alleged genocide. In such cases, neither the subject matter nor the nature of the dispute makes it appropriate to contemplate a reversal of the burden of proof.

The burden is thus squarely on The Gambia to demonstrate the existence of the facts put forward in support of its allegations of genocide. It is not for Myanmar to provide explanations of the facts alleged by The Gambia. The Gambia's methodology leads in practice to a reversal of the burden of proof, since the so-called list of indicators of genocide seeks to create a presumption of genocidal intent.

As the Court held in the Bosnia and Croatia cases, a finding of genocide requires evidence that is "fully conclusive". The

Court must be "fully convinced" that it has been clearly established that the crime of genocide or the other acts enumerated in Article III of the Genocide Convention have been committed.

Myanmar submits that fully conclusive evidence must compel a certain conclusion; it is more than just credible and persuasive evidence, it is evidence that must not be contradicted by other evidence; and it must establish a fact beyond reasonable doubt. The fully conclusive evidence standard is in fact equivalent to the "beyond reasonable doubt" standard of proof applied by international criminal courts and tribunals. This is also the view widely held in the literature.

That the standard of proof applied by the Court in genocide cases is comparable to the "beyond reasonable doubt" standard was also confirmed by the Court's President in a presentation of the Court's jurisprudence to the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly in November 2007.

While Myanmar follows the Court's approach in the Bosnia and Croatia cases, The Gambia, following in the footsteps of the FFM, tries to establish a new "indicators of genocidal intent" approach. It is so set on estab-

lishing this new approach that it referred to it no more than 25 times in its presentation on the first day alone.

According to The Gambia, documents that reference the intention to destroy a group in whole or in part may be considered direct evidence of genocidal intent. The Gambia has provided no such direct evidence, despite a claim to the contrary in its Reply. In the present case, genocidal intent can thus only be established by circumstantial evidence.

The Court first examines whether genocidal acts and other atrocities committed during an attack on a protected group have been established by conclusive evidence. In a second step, the Court then examines on the basis of four factors, which are listed in the box on the left, whether these acts form a pattern of conduct; that is to say, "a consistent series of acts carried out over a specific period of time." It is in this context, that the Court in the Croatia case identified the four "factors", which The Gambia now claims to be "indicators" of genocidal intent. If at all, these factors indicate the existence of a pattern of conduct; they are not indicators of genocidal intent. It is only in a third and final step that the Court

examines whether genocidal intent can be inferred from the pattern of conduct. Thus, while the Court found in the Croatia case that widespread attacks on localities with Croat populations, according to a generally similar modus operandi, amounted to a pattern of conduct, the Court was unable to infer a genocidal intent from that conduct.

If genocidal intent is not the only reasonable inference to be drawn from a pattern of conduct, there will inevitably be reasonable doubt as to the existence of genocidal intent. If, on the other hand, genocidal intent is the only reasonable inference; there cannot be any reasonable doubt about the existence of genocidal intent.

On Wednesday The Gambia went to great length attempting to show that counter-terrorism was not a reasonable intention to infer from the facts. What it did not do, was to demonstrate positively that genocidal intent is the only reasonable inference from a pattern of conduct.

The "only reasonable inference" standard is a general standard for inferences from circumstantial evidence whenever the heightened "fully conclusive" or "beyond reasonable doubt" standard of proof applies, and it is not limited or specific

to the inference of genocidal intent.

The only reasonable inference standard has not prevented international criminal tribunals from finding that genocide has been committed. The requirement that genocidal intent was "the only inference that could reasonably be drawn from the acts in question" also did not prevent the Court from making the finding in the Bosnia case that genocide had been committed in Srebrenica. The claim that the only reasonable inference standard makes it virtually impossible to prove genocidal intent is in reality a cry of despair by those unable to prove genocide in the present case.

The Gambia further argues that Myanmar fails to establish the existence of any other reasonable inference to be drawn from its pattern of conduct, leaving genocidal intent as the only inference that was reasonable. This argument is based on a misunderstanding of the rules on the burden of proof. Myanmar does not have to prove other reasonable inferences that could be drawn from the alleged pattern or conduct. On the contrary, it is for The Gambia to establish that genocidal intent is the only reasonable inference, which it has not done.

Ms Chiara Cordone submits her plea to ICJ

MS Chiara Cordone, the counsel and advocate for Myanmar, submitted her presentation concerning the evidential weight of evidence: general principles to the International Court of Justice on 16 January.

The Gambia does not dispute these general principles of the law of evidence, but it disregards them in practice.

The Gambia relies overwhelmingly on reports of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar ("the FFM"), as well as reports of other official bodies and NGOs.

It is for that reason, that Myanmar calls on the Court to carefully assess and weigh the

evidence put before it, especially the reports of the FFM, the IIMM and the reports of other UN bodies and NGOs.

Members of the Court, The Gambia tells you that you have relied on such reports before, but for what purpose? The Gambia does not tell you what evidentiary weight you attributed to such reports. Were the findings of fact in those reports simply noted, treated as credible, persuasive or treated as conclusive? Because it is 'conclusive' that they must be in the present case. The Court has identified the key criteria which bear on the relevance and value of such reports:

The Court has never blindly accepted the conclusions of

a report simply because it was prepared by a UN body and it should not do so in this case. In addition, the credibility of the report containing the evidence was not challenged and, in fact, was accepted by both parties to the dispute. None of the evidence submitted by The Gambia meets these qualities and none, especially the FFM and IIMM material, has been accepted by Myanmar.

Contrary to what The Gambia contends, the Court has not consistently relied on independent fact-finding reports. There is no evidence in the Court's case law of wholehearted acceptance, or even great reliance on such reports as claimed by The Gam-

bia. Reports and other evidence lacking the qualities identified earlier are not capable of being relied upon to any great extent, and certainly not to the extent necessary for establishing facts to the high standard of proof required in the present case. Myanmar asks the Court to apply the same detailed scrutiny to the evidence in this case.

Some reports of NGOs, such as Fortify Rights and Amnesty International, base their assertions on interviews with claimed eyewitnesses. However, a report written by an organization, recounting what that organization has been told by persons interviewed by that organization, is by definition mere hearsay.

The Gambia also relies on witness statements. The Gambia does not just disregard the principles of evidence, it distorts them. The Gambia argues that evidence submitted in accordance with the Court's Rules is admissible and, for that reason, the Court should accept evidence contained in, for example, unsigned statements.

This confuses two questions: the question of whether unsigned witness statements are admissible in principle, and the question of whether any weight can be attributed to such statements. While the Court may accept such statements, it must not accord them any weight.

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NATIONAL

Ms Leigh Lawrie KC presents her plea to ICJ

MS Leigh Lawrie KC, the Advocate for Myanmar, pleaded the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) at the International Court of Justice in The Hague of Netherland on 16 January.

Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, also known by its acronym "ARSA", was declared a terrorist organization by Myanmar on 25 August 2017.

The Gambia virtually ignored ARSA. Myanmar's Counter-Memorial gives other examples where extracts of NGO reports annexed to the Memorial omit pages of those reports dealing with ARSA, and gives other examples where the Memorial fails to refer to reports which discuss ARSA atrocities.

What the evidence shows is that ARSA evolved into an organized, well-trained fighting force, capable of mobilizing the Bengali community and capable of planning and executing coordinated attacks at multiple locations in 2016 and 2017, to which Myanmar was inevitably required to respond.

ARSA was led by a Bengali known as Ata Ullah. It was delivered by Bengali veterans and experienced foreign fighters from Pakistan and Afghanistan and took more than two years to complete. It included weapons use, guerrilla tactics and had

a particular focus on manufacture and use of explosives and improvised explosive devices, or "IEDs".

ARSA evidenced various characteristics including a command structure, an ability to launch coordinated or simultaneous attacks across different locations in a tightly controlled environment, an ability to mobilize among the Bengali community, the organization of village cells, an ability to provide at least a core group with some military training and others with basic defence training and an ability to obtain some firearms and produce some improvised explosive devices and other hand-made weapons.

Even the witness statements provided by the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) contradict The Gambia's depiction of ARSA. The Gambia places very little reliance on the IIMM material, for the very reason that it does not assist The Gambia's case.

All this evidence shows that Myanmar has not sought to inflate 'ARSA' into something akin – in size and strength to an omnipotent and omnipresent guerrilla force", as The Gambia with great exaggeration claims. Records from Myanmar's Ministry of Home Affairs assessed that

17,600 Bengalis were involved in ARSA's attacks, a figure which is supported by: The evidence of an ARSA member who estimated that, prior to the August 2017 attacks, there were 10,000 ARSA members in Maungtaw Township alone; and Amnesty International's assessment that, by 25 August 2017, ARSA was able to mobilize "around several thousand" members and supporters.

Even in the face of all this evidence, The Gambia's Reply contends that ARSA did not have sufficient resources to mount a true challenge to the Myanmar Defence Services. But the attacks planned and perpetrated by ARSA in 2016 and 2017 show this argument to be false.

The Gambia argues that ARSA's terrorist attacks were used as a "pretext" to "destroy the Rohingya". This "pretext" argument is predicated on an extremely narrow focus, that is the events leading up to ARSA's August 2017 attacks.

The plain fact is that northern Rakhine State was not at peace before August 2017. Instead, ARSA's, on 9 October, it attacked three Border Guard Police posts. These coordinated attacks hit posts in Kyee Kan Pyin, in Maungtaw Township, Nga Khu Ya, also in Maungtaw

Township and Koe Tan Kauk in Rathedaung Township.

None of this evidence about ARSA's 2016 attacks and subsequent terrorist activities appears to be disputed by The Gambia. Instead, it is simply ignored.

By starting the Court's consideration of ARSA's actions in August 2017, The Gambia is able to falsely portray the measures taken by Myanmar after the October 2016 attacks in a sinister light. The Gambia dismisses this purpose out of hand, arguing Myanmar offers no proof in support. But that is clearly not correct when it is properly considered in the context of the 2016 violence, which The Gambia ignores.

A reason for dismissing the "pretext" argument is that it is founded on a misrepresentation of the scale of ARSA's 2017 attacks. Until 31 August 2017, a further 52 ARSA attacks were orchestrated against the security services in northern Rakhine State. The Myanmar Institute for Peace and Security recorded 119 individual incidents involving ARSA, including armed clashes and IED explosions.

The appalling events in Kha Maung Seik village-tract on 25 August 2017, ARSA first struck a Border Guard Police post, before attacking the Hindu communities. The Gambia

does not appear to dispute that this massacre occurred, and presents no evidence to contradict Myanmar's evidence. In response, the Myanmar Defence Services arrived later that same day. This incident, involving the killing of nearly 100 people by ARSA, exposes the absurdity of The Gambia's "pretext" argument.

There were 16 survivors of the massacre: eight women and eight children. All were abducted and taken by ARSA to camps in Bangladesh. These women and their children were spared because they agreed to 'convert' from Hinduism to Islam and to marry men selected by ARSA fighters.

In sum, ARSA effectively and deliberately uses coercion to control the narrative given about the events of 2016 and 2017 by those living in the camps. The Gambia's claim otherwise is simply wrong.

ARSA executed multiple simultaneous deadly attacks on State security locations in October 2016, November 2016 and August 2017. Myanmar was required to respond as ARSA attacked the country's security infrastructure and personnel, massacred civilians, and threatened the stability and development of the entire area.

Ms Chiara Cordone submits her plea to ICJ

FROM PAGE 6

In the face of this clear precedent, what does The Gambia do? It relies on a mere passing reference by the Court to statements signed by those who took them to argue that the signature of interviewers (or their organizations) renders such statements reliable. This ignores the main reason why the Court did not give any evidential weight to statements not signed by the person apparently making them: there is no evidence that the interviewees have ever seen the contents of these statements.

We know that different statements submitted by The Gambia, which appear to be multiple accounts, are in fact by one and the

same person. The Court therefore must not afford anonymous statements any weight. Such statements also cannot be used to corroborate each other or other non-probatative evidence. But this is exactly what The Gambia asks the Court to do – treat multiple unsigned, anonymous statements, containing opinion and hearsay, as mutually corroborative, despite each being inherently non-probatative. The defects of these statements cannot be cured by quantity. The fact that there are many such statements does not add anything to their non-existent evidential weight.

Even where statements are named and signed, the Court must still scrutinise their evi-

dential value diligently. In the Oil Platforms case, a Kuwaiti official's testimony was rejected because it was given a decade later and did not involve direct observation of the relevant facts, thus rendering it non-probatative and unreliable. This kind of scrutiny must also apply in the present case.

The Gambia claims that 'interested witnesses' can refer only to State officials from a party to the proceedings, and does not apply to private persons. This is not supported by the Court's case-law.

The Gambia seizes on the potential corroborative value of such media articles and books and attempts to use them to cor-

roborate the existence of facts not proven by any other evidence. It therefore bears repeating that multiple documents not capable of proving facts according to the Court's jurisprudence, cannot add up to be capable of proving facts by way of corroboration.

Questions of evidential weight lie at the heart of the present proceedings, where a heightened standard of proof applies. The Gambia tries to downplay this, by asserting that the same methods of proof apply in all cases before the Court. While this is correct in principle, it ignores a basic logical inevitability: a higher standard of proof necessarily demands evidence of a higher quality as the court has explicitly

acknowledged in its evidentiary reasoning in both the Bosnia and Croatia Genocide cases.

As the Court considers the evidence before it, Myanmar urges it to adhere firmly to the rigorous evidentiary standards that secure the integrity of its rulings. In a case of accusations of exceptional gravity, those standards permit no dilution neither by quantities of poor evidence incapable of proving facts, nor by the layering of reports and opinion upon defective material. The Court is asked to judge the evidence for its substance, not its author or presentation, and have always firmly in its mind, the high standard of proof such accusations demand.

DELICACY/NATIONAL

Traditional Myanmar Delicacies

Pathein Halawa

IN the section on traditional Myanmar delicacies, we previously featured Mandalay Htomont (Mandalay Glutinous Rice Butter Cake). Across Myanmar, each region and town has its own well-known and beloved traditional treats. When visiting Mandalay, people often buy Htomont as a gift to take home. Likewise, when travelling to Chauntha or Ngwehsaung beaches, it has become a tradition to buy Pathein Halawa on the return journey. That is why Mandalay is associated with Htomont, while Pathein is instantly recognized for its famous Halawa.

Pathein Halawa - A Heritage Sweet from the Ayeyawady Delta

Pathein Halawa has been around for nearly 90 years and remains a thriving local industry for the people of Pathein. It is loved nationwide and is a staple sweet served at traditional Myanmar donation ceremonies and proudly displayed in the living rooms of Myanmar households.

So, for this week, here is a simple and delicious recipe for making Pathein Halawa at home – rich, sweet, smooth, and wonderfully satisfying.

How to Make Pathein Halawa

Ingredients

(Makes one small tray)

- Glutinous rice flour – 3 cups
- Water – 4 cups (1 cup = 240 millilitres)
- Coconut milk – 1 can (400 millilitres)
- Milk – 1 can (use the empty coconut milk can to measure)
- Salt – ½ teaspoon
- Sugar – 1 cup (about 4 tablespoons)
- Thickened toddy palm syrup – 1 cup (or about 3 tablespoons of concentrated syrup)
- Oil – ½ cup (about 8 tablespoons)
- Melted butter – ¾ cup (about 5 tablespoons)
- Poppy seeds – ¾ cup (or 4 tablespoons)

Instructions

- Lightly toast the poppy seeds over low heat until fragrant. Set aside to cool.
- In a rice cooker, combine the glutinous rice flour, water, and salt. Stir until



smooth, then cook as you would cook rice.

- Once cooked, add coconut milk, milk, toddy palm syrup, oil, butter, and sugar. Mix well until fully combined, then cook again.
- When the mixture cooks for the second time, transfer it into a greased pot and place it on the stove.
- Add the cooled poppy seeds and stir continuously until the oil begins to separate from the mixture (about 15 minutes).
- Once the oil rises, pour the mixture into a tray and let it cool completely.

If prepared at night and left to cool, it will be ready to enjoy the next morning. If made in the morning, it will be perfect by the afternoon. Enjoy your homemade Pathein Halawa!

Note:

Mandalay is the capital city in Mandalay Region, while Pathein (formerly Bassein) is the capital city in Ayeyawady Region. — Moon

Ngamoeyeik Dam releases record irrigation water for summer paddy

IN Yangon Region, more than 250,000 acres of summer rice have been earmarked for cultivation. For the success of summer rice, irrigation water is essential, and the Ngamoeyeik dam is supplying the largest volume of irrigation water to summer rice fields.

Water plays a key role in crop cultivation, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is carrying out activities such as rehabilitation of dams, irrigation canals, blocked streams and canals, to ensure smooth water distribution and supply irrigation water for the coming summer after this summer's paddy season.

"For summer paddy, the Ngamoeyeik dam supplies the largest amount of water. In Taik-



Photo shows an aerial view of Ngamoeyeik Dam in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. **PHOTO: KANU**

kyi Township, the Tabu Hla dam supplies the most. In Yangon Region, irrigation water for summer paddy is supplied from the Ngamoeyeik, Tabu Hla, Lagun-

byin, Kalihtaw and Bantbwaygon dams. If there is insufficient irrigation water, yields can decline. For fields in Hlegu Township, wa-

ter is supplied from the Ngamo-
eyeik dam. To ensure the success of summer paddy, there are not only supplies from dams but also river water pumping systems and electric pumping systems.

Compared to last year's summer paddy, arrangements have been made together with the Irrigation Department to secure sufficient water to expand the plantation. Water is critically important for summer paddy," said Daw Hla Kyi, Assistant Director of the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture.

In 2024-2025, the dam provided water to a total of 35,952 acres of summer paddy, 22,133 acres from Ngamoeyeik canals, 7,250 acres from sluice gates and 6,614 acres from electric-powered water pumping projects. Moreover, the dam also supplies water, 130

million gallons in summer and 90 million gallons in monsoon, to Nyaunghnapi and Aungdagan water treatment plants in Yangon.

The Ngamoeyeik Dam is located about two miles from Phaunggyi Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, and it is 15,500 feet long, 75 feet in height and has a capacity of 180,000-acre feet of water. It supplies water to 33,852 acres of irrigated areas.

Officials also plan to distribute water from the Ngamoeyeik Dam (Mahuya Dam and Paunglin Dam), Lagunbyin Dam and Kalihtaw Dam in Hlegu Township and Tabu Hla Dam in Taikkyi Township for the farmers to expand summer paddy cultivation year by year. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

INTERVIEW

There was no mention of the word “Rohingya” during 122-year British rule in Rakhine

U Win Lwin
Retired Ambassador



When Operation Nagamin began, I was in charge of the relevant department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As there was an increase in people entering the country illegally, we conducted a census. I believe the first pilot project took place in Mingala Taungnyunt. From there, we moved on to Sittwe in Rakhine State. During this process, people who had entered Rakhine State for various reasons and lacked official registration documents fled.

When they fled, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received a report that there were about 800 people; over time, this number gradually grew into a large and widespread community. The number on the other side also grew to hundreds of thousands, and complaints were raised between the two sides. The government conducted an investigation, after which the two sides met for discussions on two or three occasions. The other side also formed a delegation led by its Foreign Minister, and we did the same. We discussed the issue extensively, and the Myanmar side stated that our country shares land and water borders with Bangladesh and that, as it was a newly independent country, we would do everything possible in accordance with our policy toward neighbouring countries. The elders decided to accept this approach: if a person residing here was found to have a legitimate claim, we would accept them. On that basis, we proceeded with negotiations.

When we say they will be accepted back, it appears that, among those who fled — numbering over 100,000, as I mentioned earlier — only a little over 3,000 people actually possess genuine Myanmar registration cards. The rest offer explanations such as having fled, having their tents burned, disappearing, being left behind, or losing their regis-

tration cards. In any case, if they are truly people who have lived in Rakhine State, Myanmar, they will be accepted, and so on.

Of the registration certificates, about 3,000 were genuine. Among the rest, some had fake registration certificates, while others had fake household cards. In any case, if a person truly had lived in Rakhine State, Myanmar, I accepted them. In total, I accepted and recognized about 130,000 — perhaps 140,000; I do not remember the exact number. In this regard, Myanmar was the first — indeed, the seventh — country in the world to recognize this. The meaning of this was to uphold a good-neighbor policy. I accepted them in a spirit of friendship.

They also insisted on taking everyone back, saying nothing and simply accepting them. This side agreed, and when it did, the process was carried out in stages. If they had lived in Rakhine State, we would accept them regardless, and we did so without further verification. Because the two countries are neighbours, the acceptance was based on friendship — in that sense.

Now, finally, this is the third time. There was a second time, and that process has ended. For the third time, Myanmar, as a neighbouring country, stated — as it had before — that if a person was genuinely from Rakhine State, they would be accepted. However, this time the other side acted differently. Their leadership was no longer the same as before, and although they had previously sent back those who were accepted here, this time they did not do so. Instead, they internationalized the issue, turning it into a global matter rather than a simple issue between two countries.

When this issue became internationalized, the entire world immediately became aware of it. Information technology was used, and Myanmar was affected. The situation was leveraged to turn it into a global problem. We do not know who was responsible — whether it was the relevant country or organizations sharing the same religion as that country. In reality, the matter was minor, and this side had accepted it honestly, as before. However, sending people back was delayed, and the case was brought before the World Court. When the case was filed, it carried severe charges.

In fact, police officers were killed in the incident. Compared with the killings and bombings taking place in the Middle East, this incident was minor and largely unrelated. For political gain, people from their own country are being targeted — undermining the ruling government and harming the nation itself. This has

damaged the relationship between two countries that must coexist, whether they like it or not. The real issue is not merely the lawsuit; it is that Myanmar has been taken to the World Court by a country with which we have never had a conflict and of which we had little prior knowledge. Consider whether this is right or wrong — whether this is truly just.

The relevant country is not simply making an accusation; the claim comes from a distant country that intervenes deliberately, conspires, and creates this problem. This has nothing to do with any individual or policy — it is, simply put, a matter of plain fact. Ideally, if someone is affected, they have the right to respond. In this case, however, the person responsible did not commit the act; it was carried out by someone far from the area and completely unrelated. So what is the difference between then and now? When two countries are neighbors and share a land border, they should cooperate for a lifetime, whether they like it or not. At a time when the world is facing such challenges, a global organization has not encouraged collaboration but has instead driven the two countries further apart. I see this as a simple matter, not caused by any individual. There are many problems in the world, and neighbors have many issues they need to handle together. I see this as a situation in which they simply do not want to face each other.

Dr Myint Thein
Member of Myanmar Historical Commission



The Rohingya people do not actually exist in our country. There is no mention of this group in the history of Rakhine, nor in the history of Myanmar. In the early period of Myanmar's history, about six documents were written concerning one hundred and one people, and none of these documents mention the Rohingya.

So how did this issue arise? Previously, they were referred to as Rakhine Muslims, Bengalis, Chattogram Thar, or sometimes Khao Taw. The name Khao Taw was still in use during the Myanma Socialist Programme Party era, up until the 1980s.

This term did not exist at that time. English records show that this name does not appear in either colonial or contemporary documents. In 1872, the British first entered Burma and began taking a census in the Rakhine State and Lower Myanmar. The census was conducted in 1881, and then again in subsequent years. Thereafter, censuses were conducted every ten years — 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931, and 1941. These censuses included information on ethnicity, population, gender, and age. In the Rakhine State censuses, the terms used were “Bengalis” and “Chattogram Thar” and sometimes “Hindustan”. Although the British did not always conduct the census with complete accuracy regarding how many people entered or left the region, this particular term did not appear until the Second World War.

This name appears relatively late. A scholar who studied this thoroughly noted that he had previously served as a British ambassador to Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos. When he studied this group, he searched for all available evidence from the British colonial period in India. He examined reports, censuses, official records, and court rulings. What he concluded from this research was that, during the 122 years that the British occupied and administered Rakhine, there was no mention of the word “Rohingya” in any of the evidence. Who is this scholar? His name is Derek Tonkin. He also confirmed that he found no occurrence of the word “Rohingya” in the historical records. Similarly, a prominent researcher on Rakhine, Jacques Leider, wrote in the Oxford Encyclopedia of Asia that this term became popular around 1950. From this, we can infer that this group is a relatively recent, newly defined community.

Another point is: when did this name emerge? The name only came into being after World War II. However, the fundamental reason for the emergence of this name after World War II was that, in 1947, Muslims in India sought to separate. When they attempted to form Pakistan, the Muslims in Buthidaung and Maungtaw stated that if they wanted to separate from India, they should be included in that new country. They approached the leader of the Pakistan secession movement, Ali Jinnah, from India and requested to be incorporated into Pakistan.

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INTERVIEW/NATIONAL

There was no mention of the word “Rohingya” ...

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But Ali Jinnah refused. In 1947, General Aung San went to London to sign the Aung San-Attlee Agreement. Afterwards, when he traveled to India, he met with Ali Jinnah and the Muslim separatist leader. During the meeting, the General said, “Relax on this matter; we have no desire to merge with any other country, and we are against all those who try to secede from it.” He also reassured them, saying, “There is no need to worry about it.” The Muslim groups in Buthidaung and Maungtaw, who had attempted to merge, eventually considered how they could establish and claim a separate state within Myanmar after the Second World War.

The problem was that, when Myanmar gained independence in 1948, the Rakhine ethnic leaders in Rakhine began demanding a separate state and an autonomous region. The Bengalis feared that granting Rakhine such independ-

ence would lead to increased oppression against them. As a result, they began considering demands for self-administration of their own and started planning how to achieve it.

One of them was that around 1948, the Mujahid leaders began making demands on behalf of their people. At that time, the Muslim liberation leader at the Muslim Conference requested a state for them as Rakhine Muslims. Then, in 1951, during the Muslim Conference held in Ale Than Kyaw village in Maungtaw, they also requested a separate state for the Bengalis. When they made this request, the term “Rohingya” was not used. They only asked for a separate state for themselves and to be recognized as Rakhine Muslims so that they could operate independently.

The Rakhine people do not like the term “Rakhine Muslim” because there are no Muslims among the Rakhine, so they do not accept it. At that time, they

were referred to as Chattogram Thar, Bengali, Rakhine Muslims, or the people of Kho Taw. Among these names, the one we preferred was “Rakhine Muslim”, but since the Rakhine people did not accept it, a new name had to be created.

When I think about it, this name began to become widespread around 1950. The word “Rowentgya” was first used around 1948 to refer to refugees who had been displaced from elsewhere. Later, a person named Abdul Ghaffar, who was elected to parliament, mentioned it in parliament around 1950. The term “Rohingya” then began to be used to refer to their people. At the same time, Abdul Ghaffar wrote a comprehensive historical article about the Rohingya in the Guardian newspaper. The article, which focused on the Sudeten Muslims, was published in 1951. Then, in May 1960, another person named MA Tahi Ba Tha wrote about it as well. Similarly, when we refer to the Row-

anghnya, we are not necessarily referring to them as Rohingya. He also explained in the Guardian how the Rowanghnya people came into being.

In other words, this name was clearly created around 1950. It is evident that this is not an indigenous ethnic group and that it was deliberately constructed later. When the census was conducted in Sittway in 1953, the people of Buthidaung and Maungtaw included all those who had come from Chattogram. They were compelled to register and were forcibly counted in the census. Among those recorded, some were listed as Rakhine Muslims, while others were listed as Rohingyas.

Therefore, we can conclude that the term they use is a fabricated ethnic name that emerged around 1950, as noted by Western researchers. It can be assumed that it was deliberately created and adopted for political purposes. — The Information Team

590 families receive cash support for earthquake recovery in Shan State (South)

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society, together with Red Cross volunteers and staff, distributed third-round cash assistance to households affected by the March 2025 earthquake in Aingdauntyi, Kayla, Innpawkhon and Heya Ywama villages in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South), on 15 and 16 January 2026.

A total of 590 households in these villages each received cash assistance at the rate of K400,000 per household, amounting to a total of K236 million.

The assistance was provid-

ed by the Myanmar Red Cross Society with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Norwegian Red Cross (NRC).

Red Cross volunteers and staff carried out systematic field assessments by visiting each household door to door in the respective villages. Lists of eligible beneficiaries were publicly announced at community locations within the villages, after which the assistance distribution process was carried out. — ASH/KNN



Cash assistance being distributed for the third time to families from the villages in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State.

Italian Embassy to host free Italy-Myanmar art and heritage fair

WITH free admission, the Italy-Myanmar art, heritage and creation fair will be hosted inside the campus of the Italian Embassy from 10 am to 9:30 pm on 8 February 2026.

It is the second time in honour of the wealth of art, heritage and creation of Italy and Myanmar, said the embassy.

This year's festival will feature film and visual narrative plus exciting programmes. With art exhibitions, contemporary art displays, workshops and the connection of culture, design, heritage and art crossing the boundaries through pictures, stories and creations, will be exhibited.

Italian foods will be served for the whole day, it said. — MT/ZS



The first Italy-Myanmar art, heritage and creation fair held in the previous year.

Fire extinguishers made mandatory in motor vehicles, compliance to be checked during inspections

THE Road Transport Administration Department announced that fire extinguishers must be installed in motor vehicles according to vehicle type, and that compliance will be checked during vehicle inspections.

The requirement was introduced following a review of vehicle fire accidents on public roads nationwide, which found that many vehicles lacked fire extinguishers, carried expired units, or used extinguishers unsuitable for the size of the

vehicle, resulting in loss of life and property.

An official from the Road Transport Administration Department (Yangon Region) said the measure aims to reduce damage in the event of accidental vehicle fires, and that at least dry chemical powder fire extinguishers must be installed according to vehicle category.

Under the directive, the minimum required fire extinguishers are: one 1-kilogramme extinguisher for saloons, jeeps,

pick-ups, station wagons and microbuses; one 2-kilogramme extinguisher for minibuses, light trucks and light vans; one 3-kilogramme extinguisher for trucks, vans, container carriers and other vehicles; two 3-kilogramme extinguishers for tankers; and two 3-kilogramme extinguishers for city buses and express buses.

Compliance will be verified during routine vehicle inspections, according to the department. — ASH/KZL

300,000 Ford vehicles recalled in Canada

TRANSPORT Canada has announced a recall for more than 300,000 Ford vehicles due to a risk that a short circuit can cause a fire, local media reported on Saturday.

According to CTV News, Transport Canada's notices covering various Ford models said that on certain vehicles, the en-

gine block heater could leak coolant.

If this happens, the block heater could short-circuit when plugged in, said the report.

Ford will advise owners by mail to take the affected vehicles to a dealership to have the block heater replaced, it added.

In the meantime, Ford

vehicle owners are advised not to use the engine block heater until repairs have been completed, CTV News said. — Xinhua

Ford will advise owners by mail to take the affected vehicles to a dealership to have the block heater replaced.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE



TEPCO faces alarm trouble in reactor restart

TOKYO Electric Power Company Holdings Inc investigated a control-rod alarm failure at its nuclear reactor in central Japan ahead of next week's planned restart — its first

since the 2011 Fukushima disaster — but has yet to decide whether to delay it, people close to the matter said Sunday.

The alarm, designed to go off when two or more

control rods are withdrawn from the reactor fuel core, did not sound during a test Saturday at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear complex. The utility is making progress in pinpointing

the cause of the problem and is examining whether the planned restart of the No 6 reactor on Tuesday needs to be postponed, the sources said. During the test, workers withdrew one

rod and then tried to pull out another, but the alarm did not activate, according to TEPCO.

The company judged that the glitch could threaten the reactor's safe oper-

ation and suspended the control-rod test.

The reactor contains 872 fuel assemblies and its fission is controlled by operating 205 control rods, TEPCO said. — Kyodo

IndiGo vows compliance with DGCA orders

THE Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of InterGlobe Aviation Limited on Saturday said that they are committed to taking full cognisance of the findings of the DGCA orders in relation to IndiGo's operational disruptions in December last year and "will take appropriate measures".

"We would like to take this opportunity to inform all of our stakeholders, particularly our valued customers, that the Board and the Management of IndiGo are committed to taking full cognizance of

the orders and will, in a thoughtful and timely manner, take appropriate measures," Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of InterGlobe Aviation Limited said in a message.

Additionally, an in-depth review of the robustness and resilience of the internal processes at IndiGo has been underway since the disruption to ensure that the airline emerges stronger out of these events in its otherwise pristine record of 19+ years of operations, it said. — ANI



Between 3-5 December 2025, IndiGo faced severe operational breakdowns, cancelling 2,507 flights and delaying 1,852 flights, affecting over 300,000 passengers nationwide. — ANI



Yangon Sailing Club Annual General Meeting

All members of Yangon Sailing Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date : 25 January 2026 (Sunday)
Place : Yangon Sailing Club
Time : 10:30 hrs

Hon. Secretary
Yangon Sailing Club

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SITC FUJIAN VOY.NO. (2602S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC FUJIAN VOY.NO. (2602S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

Duty-free shopping booms in Hainan FTP

ONE month into the island-wide special customs operations, Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) in south China has seen a sharp rise in duty-free purchases, official figures showed on Sunday.

According to Haikou

Customs, from 18 December 2025 to 17 January 2026, the duty-free sales supervised by customs reached 4.86 billion yuan (about US\$693.5 million), up 46.8 per cent year on year, and the number of shoppers rose 30.2

per cent year on year to 745,000, showing sustained strong consumption vitality.

To better meet the diverse needs of tourists, Hainan's duty-free policy ushered in a new round of adjustments on

1 November 2025. The categories of duty-free goods increased from 45 to 47, and the beneficiary range was expanded to include outbound travelers, attracting more international tourists to duty-free shopping. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

UK's Labour readies for EU reset fight

The forthcoming bill, expected in spring or summer, would create a legal framework for adopting EU rules, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the Brexit referendum.

BRITAIN'S long-running Brexit battles are resurfacing as Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government prepares legislation to deepen ties with the European Union. Since ousting the Conservatives in July 2024, Starmer has sought to repair relations with the 27-member bloc, hoping closer alignment will revive Britain's sluggish economy and bolster his unpopular premiership.

The forthcoming bill, expected in spring or summer, would create a legal framework for adopting EU rules, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the Brexit referendum.

Despite Labour's majority, opposition is fierce from Conservatives and Reform UK, who accuse Starmer of "Brexit betrayal." Divisions also exist within Labour, with some MPs pressing for a customs union despite Starmer's rejection, favoring instead closer integration with the single market.

Agreements already struck with EU leaders include easing trade red



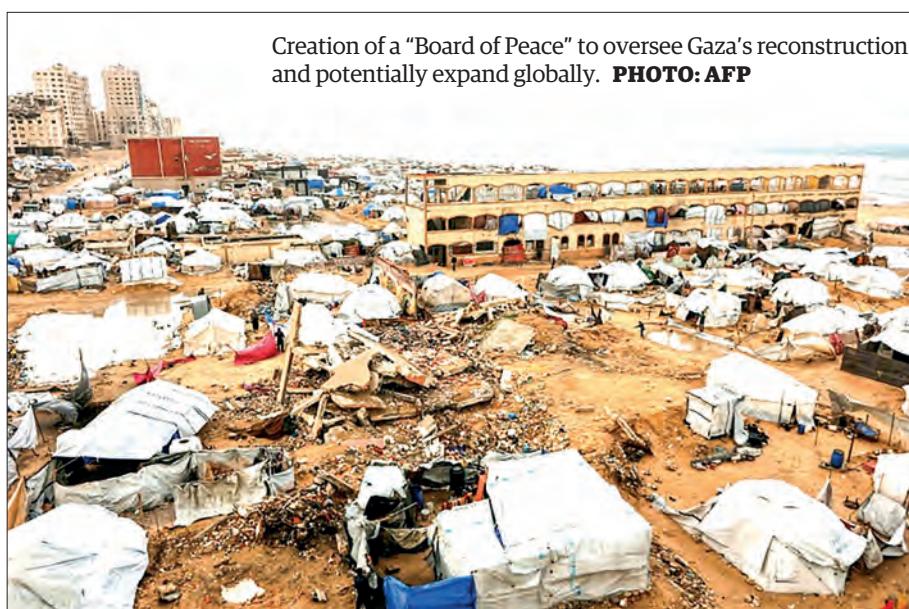
British PM Keir Starmer (L) and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen held a UK-EU summit in London in 2025. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP**

tape and a new electricity deal to lower energy costs.

Opinion polls show most Britons now regret leaving the EU, a sentiment Starmer hopes to harness. Yet critics

warn his government risks backlash from Eurosceptics, even as supporters argue alignment could boost business and repair Brexit's economic damage. — AFP

Trump wants countries to pay \$1 bln for permanent seat in Gaza Board of Peace: Reports



Creation of a "Board of Peace" to oversee Gaza's reconstruction and potentially expand globally. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE administration of US President Donald Trump is asking countries to pay over \$1 billion for the right to a permanent seat on the Gaza Board of Peace, Bloomberg reported citing the board's

draft charter.

Trump previously announced the formation of a Gaza Board of Peace, which includes US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Trump's special envoy

Steve Witkoff, the US leader's son-in-law Jared Kushner, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, World Bank President Ajay Banga, and US Deputy National Security Advisor Robert Gabriel.

"Each Member State shall serve a term of no more than three years from this Charter's entry into force, subject to renewal by the Chairman. The three-year membership term shall not apply to Member States that contribute more than US\$1,000,000,000 in cash funds to the Board of Peace within the first year of the Charter's entry into force," the draft document says, as quoted by the agency.

According to Bloomberg, Trump will be the first chairman of the council and will personally decide which countries will be invited. Decisions will be made by majority vote, but all decisions are subject to confirmation by the chairman. The document also states that Trump will be responsible for approving the official seal of the group. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kurdish forces withdraw from Syria's largest oil field

KURDISH-LED forces withdrew on Sunday from Syria's largest oil field, a conflict monitor said, as government troops extended their grip over swathes of territory in the country's north and east.

The push came after President Ahmed al-Sharaa issued a decree granting the Kurds official recognition in an apparent goodwill gesture, even as his Islamist government seeks to assert its authority across Syria after the ousting of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in 2024.

The Kurds' de facto autonomous administration, which controls large parts of the northeast, has said the announcement fell short, while the implementation of a deal to integrate Kurdish forces into the state has been stalled for months. — AFP

Portugal presidential vote wide open as far-right surge expected

PORUGAL started voting Sunday in the first round of a presidential election in which a far-right candidate could for the first time make it to a run-off, but with the final result hard to call.

Polls predict Andre Ventura, leader of the far-right Chega ("Enough") party, could top the first round but would lose round two, regardless of which of the other candidates he faces there.

This would be the first time in four decades that a candidate has not won outright in the first-round ballot, which requires securing more than 50 per cent of the vote. — AFP

Iran considers 'gradually' restoring internet after shutdown

IRANIAN authorities have said they are considering "gradually" restoring internet access after imposing an unprecedented communications shutdown 10 days ago, which rights groups say masked a violent protest crackdown that killed thousands.

Demonstrations sparked in late December by anger over economic hardship exploded into protests widely seen as the biggest challenge to the Iranian leadership in years. Iranian officials have said the demonstrations were peaceful before turning into "riots" and blamed foreign influence, namely from Iran's foes the United States and Israel. — AFP

SPORTS

Real Madrid overcome Bernabeu boos to record Arbeloa's first win

ANGRY Real Madrid fans jeered their own team before they went on to beat Levante 2-0 in La Liga on Saturday to record new coach Alvaro Arbeloa's first win at the helm.

Villarreal, third, stumbled to a 2-0 defeat at Real Betis, hampering their attempts at mounting a title challenge.

Arbeloa's debut after replacing Xabi Alonso ended in a humiliating Copa del Rey defeat in midweek at second-tier Albacete, but second-half goals from Kylian Mbappe and Raul Asencio secured Madrid three vital points at a moody Santia-

go Bernabeu.

Second-place Madrid cut the gap on leaders Barcelona to one point before the in-form Spanish champions visit Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Star players Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham came in for ire from the home fans after a disastrous week. Mbappe also started but was spared the jeers.

The French forward had been expected to return for the Champions League game against Monaco next week as he manages his recovery from a knee sprain. — AFP



Real Madrid's Spanish defender Raul Asencio and forward Kylian Mbappe scored in the win over Levante on Saturday as Alvaro Arbeloa's side triumphed. **PHOTO: AFP**

Marchand closes Austin Pro Swim with 200m breaststroke win

FRENCH swim star Leon Marchand out-dueled Denis Petrashov to win the 200m breaststroke at the Austin Pro Swim Series on Saturday, closing out the meeting with his third victory of the week.

Marchand, who counted the 200m breaststroke among his four gold medals at the Paris Olympics, was third at the 100m mark.

He had taken a narrow lead at the final turn, but it wasn't until the closing meters that he gained a decisive advantage, touching in 2min 09.72sec to beat Kyrgyzstan's Petrashov by 1.03sec.

Marchand, now training in Austin with former Michael Phelps coach Bob Bowman, added the victory to the 200m and 400m individual medley titles he captured earlier this week. — AFP



French swim star Leon Marchand closed the Austin Pro Swim Series with a 200m breaststroke victory. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar Parasports Federation President reviews athlete classification ahead of ASEAN Para Games



Myanmar athletes seen at the classification sessions in preparation for the XIII ASEAN Para Games.

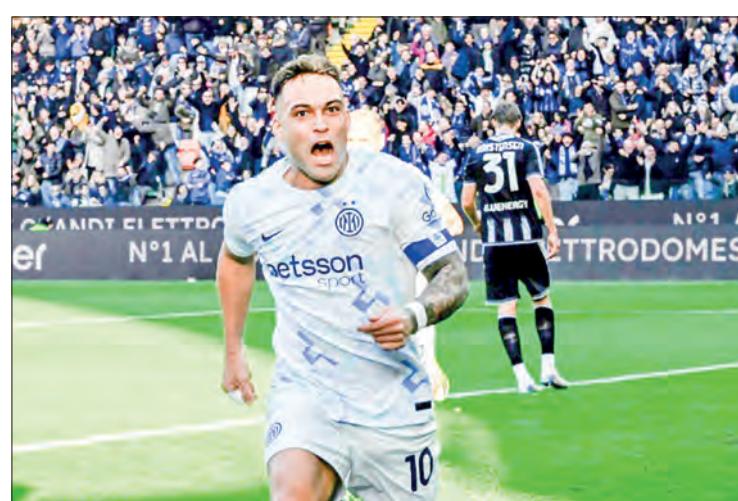
PRESIDENT of the Myanmar Parasports Federation Maj-Gen Hla Moe yesterday morning visited the classification sessions of Myanmar athletes preparing for the XIII ASEAN Para Games. Accompanied by vice presidents and officials, he observed the assessment of disability levels for the national team.

The delegation first visited the classification room at the football field of Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University in Thailand, where seven members of the Myanmar men's sitting volleyball team were evaluated. The president met with the athletes, offered encouragement, and discussed

any required support with officials and coaches.

The delegation also observed classification assessments for athletes in boccia, goalball, athletics, sitting volleyball, shooting, table tennis and powerlifting, as well as training sessions for the boccia and goalball teams. — MNA/KZL

Skipper Martinez fires Inter six points clear, injury-hit Napoli battle on



Lautaro Martinez's winner at Udinese was his 11th goal of the Serie A season. **PHOTO: AFP**

LAUTARO Martinez fired Inter Milan six points clear at the top of Serie A with the only goal in Saturday's 1-0 win at Udinese, as Napoli responded to the pressure by beating Sassuolo 1-0 while Juventus lost at Cagliari by the

same scoreline.

Martinez expertly poked home the winner in the 20th minute in Udine to continue Inter's nine-match unbeaten run in Italy's top flight ahead of Tuesday's key Champions League clash

with Arsenal.

Inter were the better team from start to finish, putting pressure on Udinese high up the pitch as Cristian Chivu wants his team to do.

"What we're displaying on the pitch is a testament to the desire of these players, because it's not easy to change habits," Chivu told DAZN. "We defend high up the pitch and we start with pressure from the forwards and it comes from their work, the desire for our midfielders to win duels and from the courage of our defenders in maintaining a high line". Inter have collected 25 points from a possible 27 since losing the Milan derby in late November and again showed a ruthlessness in dealing with the smaller sides that both AC Milan and Napoli have lacked. — AFP

UK's Labour readies
for EU reset fight

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WORLD

Chinese researchers develop smarter EV range estimation

A group of Chinese researchers has proposed a novel data-driven framework for real-time online estimation and analysis of the remaining driving range of electric vehicles (EVs).

Range anxiety is still one of the major issues embarrassing the EV drivers despite more eco-friendly limos speeding on the roads. Accurate estimation of the remaining driving range can effectively address this problem.

However, in real-world operations, the coupling effects of factors such as driving behavior, ambient temperature, and battery aging pose significant challenges to accurately estimating the remaining driving range.

To help EV drivers be more confident of the endurance mileage of their cars, the researchers from the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics (DICP), the Chinese Academy of Sciences, figured out a method for calculating energy consumption and state of health based on real vehicle operation data, according to a research article published in the journal *Applied Energy*. — Xinhua



This aerial view taken by Mads Schmidt Rasmussen and handed out by Arctic Creative shows people as they take part in a demonstration that gathered almost a third of the city population to protest against the US President's plans to take Greenland, on 17 January 2026 in Nuuk, Greenland. **PHOTO: MADS SCHMIDT RASMUSSEN / VARIOUS SOURCES / AFP**

Trump says US to impose tariffs on 8 European nations over Greenland

10 per cent tariffs on all goods starting 1 February 2026. 25 per cent tariffs beginning 1 June 2026, if no agreement is reached.

The United States will impose 10-per-cent tariffs on all goods from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, Britain, the Netherlands and Finland over Greenland starting on 1 February, US President Donald Trump said on Saturday.

Those tariffs would increase to 25 per cent on 1 June, and would continue until a deal is reached for the United States to purchase Greenland, he said on social media.

Trump's statement came after several NATO members, including Britain, France and Germany, that oppose the US attempt to acquire Greenland, sent troops and diplomatic assets this week to the Arctic territory. Trump claimed that his country needs to take control of Greenland to protect US national security.

"These Countries, who are playing this very dangerous game, have put a level of risk in play that is not tenable or sustainable," Trump wrote in a post.

"Therefore, it is imperative that, in order to protect Global Peace and Security, strong measures be taken so that this potentially perilous situation end quickly, and without question."

He also said that the United States "is immediately open to negotiation with Denmark and/or any of these Countries that have put so much at risk, despite all that we have done for them, including maximum protection, over so many decades." — Xinhua

Iraq takes full control of airbase following US withdrawal



THE Iraqi Defence Ministry said on Saturday that the Iraqi army has taken full control of the Ayn al-Asad Airbase in western Iraq's Anbar province following the withdrawal of US troops.

A statement issued by the ministry said Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army Abdul Amir Yarallah oversaw the assignment of duties and responsibilities to the various military units and formations at the base, following the

withdrawal of US forces.

Yarallah stressed the importance of ensuring the security and protection of the base, which is the second-largest airbase in Iraq.

The handover follows an announcement in late December by the Iraqi military, which confirmed the completion of the mission of the US-led coalition against the Islamic State at the site. — Xinhua

US soldiers clearing rubble at Ain al-Asad military airbase in the western Iraqi province of Anbar on 13 January 2020.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE