

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 & SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits polling stations in Yangon Region to observe people’s voting

As the election is the most important in exercising democracy, the people have to choose the future course of their country by utilizing their right to vote as a fundamental right of citizens.

Phase II of the Multiparty Democratic General Election 2025 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar commenced in relevant townships at 6 am yesterday. Eligible voters cast their ballots in large numbers at their respective polling stations, actively, orderly, and in a manner befitting responsible citizens, freely expressing their own independent will without any form of pressure.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo and officials, visited polling stations in Yangon Region to observe the casting of ballots by voters.

On his tour, the Senior General checked voter lists in the computerized system by polling station officials at relevant polling stations in Hline, Insein, and Latha townships, and observed the active participation of voters in casting



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views voting process for eligible voters to cast their ballots at the polling station No 3 in Ward 12 of Hline Township, Yangon, yesterday.

ballots. Moreover, the Senior General cordially conversed with voters about their experiences in casting votes and the MEVM use, as well as the duty-serving efforts of polling

station staff members. After the conversation, the Senior General frankly greeted voters.

Voting people who came to cast their ballots reported-

ly felt delighted as the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman, personally explored the voting process. Voting people warmly ex-

changed greetings with the Senior General and members of the delegation, and shared their experiences regarding the act of voting in the election. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

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

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

77. Bhaddanta Kesava, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Napaw Missionary Centre, Wamkaung Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State
78. Bhaddanta Kesara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Mongkhun Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State
79. Bhaddanta Vicakkhana, Thuwunnashan Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Sanpya Village, Mongping Township, Shan State
80. Dr Bhaddanta Paññalankara, Thaphankaing Parahita Monastic Education School, Thaphankaing Village, Nawngkhio Township, Shan State
81. Bhaddanta Indasiri, Myoyoe Dwaya Monastery, Bahtoo Ward, Yekyi, Ayeyawady Region
82. Bhaddanta Paññasiha, Lawkayankin Monastery, Thayetkon Village, Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region
83. Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, Dhammapala Maha Shwegyin Monastery, Ward 1, Kyaiklat, Ayeyawady Region
84. Bhaddanta Uttara, Dhammayon Shwegyin Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 2, Maubin, Ayeyawady Region
85. Bhaddanta Ñanobhasa, Aungyadana Monastery, Mangaegalay Village, Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Region
86. Bhaddanta Pandita, Tezawuntayama Padamya Monastery, Tagundaing Village, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region
87. Bhaddanta Nandikasiri, Phayalay Kwinkyauing Pariyatti Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 3, Kyaiklat, Ayeyawady Region
88. Bhaddanta Manita, Shwehintha Monastery, Hinthayoe Village, Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region
89. Bhaddanta Candavara, Dekkhinayon Monastery, Ward 3, Ngaputaw, Ayeyawady Region
90. Bhaddanta Sundara, Hsinchaung Monastery, Hsinchaung Village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region
91. Bhaddanta Sobhita Bhivamsa, Shwehintha Masoeyein Eiksathaya Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Auksu Model Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region
92. Bhaddanta Pandita, Wezayanta Monastery, Ywathit Sanpya Village, Einme Township, Ayeyawady Region
93. Bhaddanta Uttamacara, Pariyatti Wunthapala Aungyadana Monastery, Hteik-walay Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region

Tittel recipient Sayadaw abroad

94. Most Ven Khenpo Chimed Tsering, Lumbini Development Trust, Nepal

Title recipient nuns

95. Nun Daw Kumari, Themeikdawdaya Nunnery, Yuzana Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
96. Nun Daw Paññavati, East Ledi Dhammamedani Nunnery, Ledi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
97. Nun Daw Sudhammacari, Khemathiwun Theravada Buddhist Missionary Nunnery, Khemamandaing Monastery, North Ywagyi Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
98. Nun Daw Vimalañani, Sasananawdaya (Pyay) Nunnery, Ward 3, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
99. Nun Daw Ñanesi, Wanawathi Ayeyeiksan Nunnery and Nunnery School, Bogyoke Village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region
100. Dr Nun Rupacanda, Nagayittaung Dhammapala Tawya Monastery, Papukwin Village, Yekyi Township, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient laypersons

101. Pantaya U Mya Kyi (a) U Yin Tun, A/47, Aungzeya Road, Parami Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region

102. U Ben Bahadur, 11/17, Chanmyae Aungsi Road, Chanmyae Aungsi Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
103. U Aung Min, Kaya Thukha Road, Ward 2/B, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region

Saddhammajotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Manita, Sasana Mamaka Monastery, Shweset Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Uttama, Withutayon Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Mankhein Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
3. Bhaddanta Dhammasara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Saddhammajoti (Lumbini) Gurkha Monastery, Rampu Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
4. Bhaddanta Nayaka, Abbot Training School, Yuzana Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State
5. Bhaddanta Suriya, Mingala Gandayon Monastery, Aungthiha Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
6. Bhaddanta Indaka, Baymakha Monastery, Lawdhamma Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
7. Bhaddanta Pañnadipa, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Pantein Village, Meisei Township, Kayah State
8. Bhaddanta Pandita, Kawlamu Kanna Monastery, Kawlamu Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State
9. Bhaddanta Vepulla, Upper Paingkyon Kyaungthit Monastery, Ward 5, Hlaing-bwe, Kayin State
10. Bhaddanta Nandamala, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Mathonnu Village, Mindat Township, Chin State
11. Bhaddanta Kesarinda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Khwirein Village, Mindat Township, Chin State
12. Bhaddanta Subhoga, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Cindwe, Kanpetlet Township, Chin State
13. Bhaddanta Paññananda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Khaikam, Tiddim Township, Chin State
14. Bhaddanta Sakkacara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Hwethaik Village, Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
15. Bhaddanta Tejananda, Pyinnyayanthi Monastery, Mawlaikkalay Village, Maw-laik Township, Sagaing Region
16. Bhaddanta Candima, Nanpheelin Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Chaungwa Village, Khamti Township, Sagaing Region
17. Bhaddanta Aggadhaja, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Leshi, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
18. Bhaddanta Sohajja, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Gahong Village, Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
19. Bhaddanta Kundala, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Monton-laungpa (Monthwe) Village, Lahe Township, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region
20. Bhaddanta Adicca, Tilawkayon Monastery, Ward 1, Khamaukgyi, Taninthayi Township
21. Bhaddanta Sumana, Shwetaunggon Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Shwepyitha Ward, Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region
22. Bhaddanta Paññavamsa, Nakhantaw Ywale Monastery, Nakhantaw Village, Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region
23. Bhaddanta Pañnadipa, Laymine Yinngae Yeiktha Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Laymine Village, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region
24. Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Hmantaw Monastery, Hmantaw Village, Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw
25. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Maubin Monastery, Maubin Village, Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw

TO BE CONTINUED

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)

Union Minister visits Myitkyina, discusses development and hydropower projects

UNION Minister for Ministry I of the President’s Office U Tin Aung San visited Myitkyina yesterday morning and paid homage to the presiding Sayadaw of Sasana Wunsang MyoU Monastery.

He met reverends from various denominations in Myitkyina at the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC). During the meeting, the Union Minister urged religious leaders to uphold peace founded on faith and moral values and to contribute, within their respective capacities, to build a stable, peaceful, modern and developed Union. He also called for collective efforts to advance peacefully along the path of multiparty democracy desired by all ethnic nationalities. Gifts and cash donations were presented to the reverends.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met members of the Kachin State government, officials, peace-talk creation group members, religious organizations, ethnic literature and traditional cultural troupes, business owners, social organizations and residents



Union Minister U Tin Aung San meets state-level officials, religious organizations, ethnic literature and traditional culture troupes, social organizations and residents at the Maykha Hall of the state government office in Myitkyina yesterday.

at the Maykha Hall of the state government office.

In his address, the Union Minister said the meeting aimed to coordinate efforts for regional development, socio-economic progress and other essential needs of the state. He explained that, in accordance with the four-point objectives of the National Defence and Security Council, the phase I of the election was successfully held on 28 December; the phase II was being conducted that day, and the phase III would take place on 25 January.

He added that only through elections could

a government elected by representatives chosen by the people continue to carry out state responsibilities. He noted that Myanmar had adopted policies centred on agriculture and livestock breeding to improve the national economy and was prioritizing increased productivity in these sectors.

To ensure the success of agricultural development, he stressed the need for awareness-raising activities by relevant officials. He also highlighted the importance of promoting One Region-One Product initiatives by utilizing locally produced raw materials and developing MSMEs. Relevant departments, he said, needed to provide capital and technical support to advance these efforts.

The Union Minister emphasized that electricity was essential for agricultural and livestock production, as well as for processing goods from raw materials to finished products.

He stated that, in Kachin State, it was necessary to review, discuss and implement the Ayeyawady River confluence hydropower project at the junction of the Maykha and Malikha rivers. If successfully

implemented, the project would generate electricity benefiting Kachin State and the nation, enhance productivity, and provide long-term benefits for future generations.

Subsequently, Dr Aye Lwin, an earthquake and engineering geology expert from the Ministry of Electric Power, presented a detailed briefing on seismic resistance considerations in dam construction. Union Minister for Electric Power U Nyan Tun then explained the technical aspects of the Myitsone hydropower project, including flood control measures, maintenance

of normal river flow along the Ayeyawady, navigability for vessels, sufficient electricity generation and distribution for the state and the country, and systematic technical safeguards to address public concerns.

Residents attending the meeting presented their views and discussed regional development issues and the Myitsone project.

The Union Minister later presented financial assistance to religious organizations and ethnic literature and traditional cultural troupes and delivered closing remarks.

On the same day, the Union Minister and party inspected the construction site of the State High Court building and instructed officials to ensure that quality standards were met. They also inspected the construction of seven RC valves at Yekyi Creek sluice gate implemented by the Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management, and urged that the project be completed within the designated timeframe. — MNA/KZL

For further reading

AT the news story with the headline “Kangyidaunt introduces measures for rural economic advancement” on the front page of the Global New Light of Myanmar daily issued on 11 January 2026, please read the story with more guidance given by the Senior General, stating that a bailey bridge will be built as responded to the requests of residents from Kangyidaunt for construction of a bridge linking Kangyidaunt and Thabaung. Moreover, the 25-bed hospital for Kangyidaunt and Thabaung will be upgraded to a hospital (50-bed) with assignment of 50-bed hospital-level health staff. — Ed

Youth Peace Forum to be broadcast live

THE Youth Peace Forum 2026 will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw from 13 to 15 January 2026. The forum will be broadcast live at 8:45 am on 13 January on MRTV-HD, MRTV-News, MRTV-NRC, MRTV Sports, MRTV-Entertainment and MITV, as well as Radio Myanmar and partner FMs, and the MRTV Online Platform including MOI Website and Youtube and MRTV Website, MRTV Application. — MNA

NATIONAL

Yangon Region
Chief Minister
observes voting in
townships

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, together with regional ministers, conducted field inspections yesterday afternoon at polling stations in various townships across Yangon Region to observe voters casting their ballots freely and systematically in the 2025 multiparty democratic general election phase II.

During the inspection tour, the Chief Minister and his dele-

gation visited polling stations in Pabedan, Latha, Pazundaung, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (North), Hlegu, Shwepyitha, and Htantabin townships, where they observed voting processes at ward- and village-level polling stations located in schools, religious buildings, and community centres.

The inspection focused on ensuring that voters were



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein greets an old woman who will cast her ballots at the polling station yesterday. **PHOTO:ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)**

able to cast their ballots in an orderly, smooth, and transparent manner, with polling station staff carrying out their duties

systematically.

Similarly, Yangon Region ministers and officials also carried out field inspections at poll-

ing stations in other townships across the region to observe the voting process. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

People in Mandalay cast votes in
election phase II in peace



Voter people seen in process of voting at a polling station in Mandalay Region.

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

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

people in voting.

More than one million eligible people cast votes at 1,083 polling stations in Madaya, Mahaangmyay, Amarapura, Pyigyidagun, TadaU, Singaing, Kyaukpadaung and Wundwin townships where candidates from nine political parties and three independent candidates participated in the election.

In this election, in order to prevent electoral fraud and

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

After polling stations closed at the designated time of 4 pm, the results generated by the voting machines were counted at the respective polling stations in the presence of representatives from political parties, polling station members and domestic election observers.

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

Nay Pyi Taw welcomes youth
delegates from regions, states
for Peace Forum



The Chair of the Transport, Hospitality and Accommodation Working Committee and officials welcome the youth group from Mon State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

YOUTH groups and administrators from regions and states arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to attend the Youth Peace Forum 2026 and were warmly welcomed at the accommodation desk by Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein (Retd), Chair of the Transport, Hospitality and Accommodation Working Committee and a member of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, together

with Vice-Chairs of the Working Committee Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun and Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, alongside other officials.

Afterwards, the working committee chairperson and vice-chairpersons explained to the youth groups the programmes of the Youth Peace Forum, as well as arrangements for transport, hospitality, accommodation, and meals. — MNA/KZL



Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

INTERVIEW

National Defence and Security Council Spokesperson responds to media on 2025 Election

Q: It is understood that over 52 per cent of the population cast their votes during Phase I of the election. I would like to know what kind of security measures were implemented to ensure the participation of the public in the voting process.

A: Primarily, during Phase I of the election, we saw the public coming out to vote. Watching the citizens cast their ballots was truly encouraging. As I have said before, this is not the government's victory; it is the people's victory. It is a victory for the citizens who desire democracy and peace.

Now, in Phase II, we are seeing the same thing. We can observe it together. Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in Yangon, personally visited the polling stations today. During his visit, you would have seen people voting very actively. For instance, the Senior General himself met with the public and asked them questions. You would have witnessed him personally inquiring with voters about the voting machines—asking if the paper slip produced matched the button they pressed. The answer was 'yes,' which demonstrates the

transparency of the process.

Furthermore, some people woke up as early as 4 am to cast their votes. Once the voter lists are finalized this evening for Phase II, the results will emerge. I believe it will be a success, just as I believe Phase III will be a success. Looking back at history, when the Parliamentary Democracy election was held in 1952, it was conducted in three phases and took about five months. Each phase lasted about seven to 10 days. Back then, out of eight million eligible voters, only 1.5 million participated, which was roughly 20 per cent.

Currently, there are some discussions and even campaigns being held in our country urging people not to vote; there is opposition. However, regardless of what is said, establishing a democratic system must be achieved through the electoral process. What I want to say today is that I am grateful to all the citizens who came to vote with such interest, as well as everyone supervising the polling stations, including security personnel and volunteers, for ensuring the public could vote with peace of mind.

Q: Once the election is con-



National Defence and Security Council Spokesperson Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

cluded and a multiparty democratic system emerges, to what extent do you have expectations for building international relations, including with neighbouring countries?

A: Regarding international relations, there are currently certain sanctions in place. These sanctions exist because the current administration is not an elected government. However, there are still countries we maintain relations with; we have many friendly nations. For example, our relations with neighbouring countries remain intact, and we engage with one another like true close friends. Once this election is concluded, I believe international relations will become more open and transparent as the aforementioned restrictions diminish. I also expect that more foreign investment will flow into Myanmar. Along with this, I foresee that those economic opportunities will open up significantly for all our citizens.

SEE PAGE 12

Voters speak out in Dawbon and Pazundaung as Phase II of the 2025 Election Begins

(1) Ma Aye Aye Nyein (Voter, Dawbon Township)



I am excited because this is my first-time voting. I am happy because I can vote for my favourite party in three different places. While casting my vote, I realized that a citizen's vote is important for a candidate, and that each vote is especially valuable for young people. Therefore, I want a new government that can best

shape the future of the country, its people, and women. For this reason, I happily voted for the party that I hope will do the best for the country. I also believe it will best serve the future of young women in particular.

(2) Maung Aung Kaung Myat (Voter, Dawbon Township)



I was excited because it was my first-time voting. This time, I preferred voting by machine

rather than by writing. I voted for the party that I believe can support the future of our youth. Since I cast my vote without any outside influence or coercion, I can say that my vote is 'clean' and my conscience is clear. I voted for the party that I believe will bring light to our country.

(3) Ko Aung Moe (Voter, Dawbon Township)



As a citizen, I have been waiting since early morning to cast

my vote. As a citizen, I also have a responsibility to vote. Voting by machine is convenient. I believe that the party I voted for can meet international standards in education, healthcare, and the future development of the country, so I pressed all three buttons with great determination for candidates.

(4) Ma Phyo Pyae Pyae Aung (Voter, Pazundaung Township)

Young people are the generation that will one day become leaders, so we need to help improve their lives. If we further develop the education sector, many young technologists will emerge. A country without educated youth



is like a vast garden that has boundaries but lacks the beauty of blooming flowers. In today's technological era, education has become increasingly important, and because education empowers people to understand national affairs and politics, I voted for the party that will provide a bright future for the youth.

SEE PAGE 12

Interviewed by Nyein Thu (MNA)
Photos : Zwe Marn

NATIONAL

Multiparty Democratic General Election Phase II conducted in 100 townships



The Bago Region Chief Minister observes voter people at the polling station.



The Magway Region Chief Minister visits a polling station.



The Shan State Chief Minister views round voter people in a queue to cast votes.

THE Phase II of the Multiparty Democratic General Election of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at relevant polling stations in 100 townships of regions and states, starting from 6 am yesterday.

The Phase I of the election took place on 28 December 2025 with public participation under the leadership of the government. The Phase II of the election was held in Machanbaw, Mogaung and Waingmaw townships of Kachin State, Demawhso and Pruhsa townships in Kayah State, Papun and Hlaingbwe townships in Kayin State, and Kalewa, Mingin, Wuntho, Kyunhla, Myinmu, ChaungU, Budalin, Ayadaw, Phaungpyin, Mawlaik and YeU townships in Sagaing Region.

Moreover, the election was held in Yebyu, Kyunsu and Taninthayi townships in Taninthayi Region, Dauku, Shwegyin, Htantabin, Yedashe, Zigon, Paungde, Kawa, Thanatpin, Paukkaung, Padaung, Monyo and Minhla townships in Bago Region, and Gangaw, Seikpyu, Natmauk, Myothit, Ngaphe, Salin, Sedokta, Kanma, Mindon, Minhla and Sinbaungwe townships in Magway Region.

Likewise, voters cast ballots in the election in Singaing, Kyaukpadaung, TadaU, Pyigyidagun, Mahaaungmyay, Wundwin, Thazi, Amarapura and Madaya townships in Mandalay Region, Bilin, Mudon, Thanbyu-zayat, Ye and Paung townships in Mon State, and Bahan, Pabedan, Latha, Kawhmu, Kungyan-gon, Dagon Myothit (North), Dawbon, Pazundaung, Hline,



Local ethnic residents are queuing to cast their ballots in a peaceful manner at the polling station in Mongyai Township yesterday.



Ethnic people seen in queue to cast vote at relevant polling station in Shan State.

Shwepyitha, Htantabin, Hlegu, South Okkalapa, Cocokyun, Kyimyindine and Insein townships in Yangon Region.

Furthermore, the election took place in Ywangan,

Hsihseng, Kalaw, Mongkhat, Mongping, Mongphyat, Yaksaw, Tanyang, Mongyai, Kunhing, Mongton, Mongyawng, Mongyang, Mongpan, Maukmai, Mongkai and Laikha townships

in Shan State, and Kyaunggon, Kangyidaunt, Thabaung, Kyai-klat, Pyapon, Bogale, Pantanaw, Wakema and Einme townships in Ayeyawady Region.

Voter people cast their

ballots with the use of Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine-MEVM at relevant polling stations.

Eligible voters cast ballots at designated polling stations in regions and states while Tatmadaw members and families systematically voted at the relevant polling stations in the military command areas of regions and states.

To ensure that voters can cast their ballots freely, peacefully, and conveniently, necessary vehicles, medical teams for healthcare services, and security arrangements were prepared in advance at each polling station. Chief ministers and officials from the respective regions and states toured the polling stations to oversee the process and coordinated as needed to address any requirements.

At the conclusion of voting, polling station officers and staff retrieved the results from the voting machines (control units) in the presence of representatives of political parties and election observers, and systematically counted the results, along with the advance ballots, in an orderly manner.

During yesterday's general election, domestic and international media, as well as diplomats, chargés d'affaires, and officials from international embassies based in the country, visited polling stations to observe voters freely casting their ballots and to gather information. It was reported that phase III of the general election will continue to be held on 25 January 2026. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



Wuntho Township.



Ye Township.



Bogale Township.



Einme Townhsip.



Kalaw Township.



A resident who has cast vole in Kalaw Township.



Ethnic people who have voted in Hsihseng Township.

OPINION

Enthusiastically
welcome the Youth
Peace Forum 2026

YOUTH are the nation’s valuable human resources on which society relies, and they will shoulder the responsibilities of the State in the future. Youth are characterized by dynamism, alertness, physical strength, inquisitiveness, willingness to take risks, boldness, and creative capacity. Moreover, the role of youth is also of great importance in the peace process.

The important role of youth in the peace process will be highlighted through the Youth Peace Forum 2026, which will include youth representatives aged between 18 and 35. Through this forum, it will be possible to share youth perspectives related to peace, strengthen mutual trust, and identify the role of youth in promoting social harmony. Linking peace with the role of youth, only through

Therefore, in ensuring national stability and nation-building, young people from diverse regions, areas, and socio-economic backgrounds must cooperate and participate by supporting one another. As young people play a key role in shaping the country’s future peace, it is firmly believed that the Youth Peace Forum to be held will produce positive outcomes for both peace and youth.

their impacts on the peace process; issues related to youth security and protection; gender- and sector-specific vulnerabilities; challenges to inclusive citizen participation in the peace process and ways to overcome them; economic challenges and employment opportunities; access to education and skills development and gaps in education; conditions for cooperative participation in combating drug abuse; and the roles young people can play and lead in artificial intelligence technology, cyber space, and social media. Discussions in the forum will identify youth aspirations related to the peace-making process and formulate youth-focused action plans and programmes for continued engagement.

Therefore, in ensuring national stability and nation-building, young people from diverse regions, areas, and socio-economic backgrounds must cooperate and participate by supporting one another. As young people play a key role in shaping the country’s future peace, it is firmly believed that the Youth Peace Forum to be held will produce positive outcomes for both peace and youth.

Addressing Food Waste in
the Tourism Sector

By Si Thu Kyaw (MoHT)

IN the contemporary global context, waste management has emerged as a critical issue requiring systematic and immediate intervention. Rapid population growth, urbanization, and technological advancement have significantly increased both the diversity and volume of waste generated worldwide. As a consequence, the adverse impacts of waste on environmental sustainability and social well-being have become increasingly pronounced. Among the various forms of waste, food waste represents a particularly pressing challenge due to its economic, environmental, and ethical implications. This article focuses specifically on food waste within the tourism sector; a rapidly expanding industry with complex supply chains and high levels of consumption.

The tourism industry is inherently interconnected with multiple economic sectors, including accommodation, transportation, food production, catering, entertainment, and cultural services. As tourism development accelerates, these interrelated sectors expand correspondingly, resulting in increased resource consumption. Within this framework, food production and food service play a central role. Food preparation and hospitality services are not merely supportive components of tourism; rather, they constitute a core element of the tourist

experience.

In recent decades, food-centred tourism has evolved into a distinct and increasingly influential segment of the tourism industry. Forms such as Gastronomy Tourism, Culinary Tourism, and Food Tourism have gained global prominence, attracting travellers who seek authentic, destination-specific culinary experiences. Tourists increasingly engage in activities such as tasting local cuisine, observing traditional cooking methods, and participating directly in food preparation. The aesthetic presentation of food, combined with high service standards, further enhances the appeal of destinations and contributes to competitive differentiation in the tourism market.

Despite its cultural and economic contributions – particularly in generating income for local farmers and food producers – the food and hospitality segment of tourism also generates significant negative externalities. Among these, food loss and food waste represent one of the most critical yet often overlooked challenges. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), international tourist arrivals reached approximately 1.4 billion in 2024. While comprehensive global data on food waste generated specifically by tourism activities remains limited, available regional data indicate

the magnitude of the problem. In Europe, the world’s most visited region with approximately 747 million tourist arrivals, the hotel and tourism sector accounts for around 12 per cent of total food waste, representing an estimated economic loss of no less than €35 billion. The majority of this waste originates from hotels and restaurants that serve tourists directly. Additional sources include airline catering services, cruise tourism, conferences, conventions, and large-scale events.

Food waste in the tourism sector results not only in substantial financial losses but also contributes to environmental degradation. Improper disposal of food waste leads to increased greenhouse gas emissions, while the disposal of food waste together with non-degradable materials such as plastic packaging exacerbates pollution and ecological damage.

Understanding the underlying causes of food waste is essential for effective intervention. The tourism industry is fundamentally service-oriented, with a strong emphasis on hospitality and customer satisfaction. To avoid shortages and ensure positive guest experiences, service providers frequently overestimate demand, particularly in food preparation. This practice, while intended to maintain service quality, often leads to excessive food production

and subsequent waste.

The primary causes of food waste in the hotel and tourism sector can be categorized as follows: -

Overproduction in buffet services

Buffet-style dining, commonly adopted to provide variety and abundance, often involves over-preparation to ensure the continuous availability of food. When surplus food cannot be reused or redistributed, it is discarded.

Food spoilage and expiration

Hotels and restaurants must store a wide range of food items, including fresh produce, raw ingredients, and packaged foods. Inadequate storage conditions, technical failures, poor inventory management, and failure to adhere to shelf-life guidelines frequently result in spoilage. While surplus edible food may sometimes be donated, spoiled or expired food must be discarded due to health and safety concerns.

Consumer-related plate waste

Plate waste refers to food left uneaten by consumers. Large portion sizes, individual dietary preferences, and time constraints contribute significantly to this

form of waste. In response, some establishments have introduced smaller portion sizes or “bite-sized” servings to reduce leftovers while maintaining customer satisfaction.

Booking cancellations and demand uncertainty

In popular tourist destinations, food procurement and preparation are often based on reservations and projected visitor numbers. Sudden cancellations, lower-than-expected arrivals, or short-notice changes in bookings can result in prepared food becoming surplus and ultimately wasted.

Recognizing where food waste occurs and identifying its causes enables the development of targeted mitigation strategies. The United Nations’ Global Roadmap for Food Waste Reduction in the Tourism Sector outlines several key approaches to addressing this issue.

Prevention emphasizes proactive planning and demand forecasting to minimize waste before it occurs.

Redistribution involves channelling surplus edible food to charities, hospitals, and vulnerable populations through structured donation systems.

Recycling focuses on converting unavoidable food waste



In tourist hotspots, food planning relies on reservations and visitor forecasts. Unexpected cancellations or fewer arrivals often lead to surplus meals, causing food waste. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART TEAM**

into useful outputs, such as biogas or compost.

Education highlights the importance of raising awareness among service providers, employees, and tourists regarding the value of food and the consequences of waste.

In Myanmar, respect for food has long been embedded in cultural norms and educational practices. Traditional teachings emphasize the labour-intensive nature of agricultural production and discourage wastefulness, even at the level of a single grain

of rice. Such values historically contributed to a strong culture of food conservation.

However, contemporary consumption patterns have shifted significantly. Urbanization, increased food availability, and the growing popularity of dining out, have contributed to higher levels of food waste. While some establishments have introduced measures such as penalties for excessive leftovers or awareness messages encouraging responsible consumption, these practices

are not uniformly applied across the sector.

Given Myanmar’s cultural emphasis on generosity and social responsibility, addressing food waste within the tourism industry presents both a challenge and an opportunity. By integrating traditional values with modern waste management strategies, the tourism sector can play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable consumption and reducing food waste in line with global sustainability goals.

Default Mode Network, Introduction

By Khin Maung Myint

IN psychology, the concept of the ego refers not simply to pride or arrogance, but to the mental structure through which individuals experience themselves as a continuous, separate “I”. This sense of self is essential for everyday functioning, allowing memory, responsibility, and social identity to cohere. However, contemporary neuroscience has shown that

the ego is not a single centre in the brain but an ongoing process, strongly associated with a network of interacting brain regions known as the Default Mode Network (DMN). The DMN becomes active when the mind is not focused on external tasks and instead turns inwards, thinking about one’s past, anticipating the future, judging oneself, or comparing oneself with

others.

From a psychological perspective, the DMN is where personal narratives are constructed and maintained. It continuously answers questions such as “Who am I?”, “What has been done to me?”, and “What might happen

next?”. While this narrative function is adaptive, excessive or rigid activation of the DMN is strongly associated with rumination, anxiety, depression, and ideological fixation. When the ego becomes over-identified with its own story, alternative viewpoints are experienced

not as information but as threats. This has important implications not only for individual mental health but also for collective psychology, where rigid group identities can mirror individual ego processes on a larger scale.

Research shows that when DMN activity is reduced – whether through mindfulness practices, deep contemplation, or certain therapeutic interventions – individuals often report a loosening of ego boundaries. Thoughts are experienced as mental events

rather than absolute truths, and emotions can be observed without immediate reaction. Psychologically, this state enhances metacognition: the capacity to reflect on one’s own thinking. It does not erase the self, but it softens its grip, allowing greater flexibility, empathy, and tolerance of uncertainty. Such flexibility is a hallmark of psychological resilience and mature cognition.

For public understanding, it is crucial to recognize that the problem is not the ego itself, but ego

rigidity. A flexible ego allows learning, dialogue, and ethical self-correction; a rigid ego demands constant defence and justification. The Default Mode Network, when over-dominant, can trap both individuals and societies in repetitive loops of grievance, fear, and self-righteousness. When balanced by awareness and reflection, the same system supports meaning, continuity, and responsibility.

In this sense, modern psychology converges with long-standing philosophical insights: suffering

increases when identity becomes fixed and unquestionable, and it decreases when the self is held lightly. Understanding the ego as a process rooted in brain networks rather than an unchangeable essence opens space for personal growth and social harmony. For societies under strain, cultivating psychological flexibility — at both individual and collective levels — may be as important as any economic or political reform.

DELICACY/ARTICLE



Traditional Myanmar Delicacies

WEwere delighted to read recent news that relevant authorities are making preparations to submit Myanmar’s traditional pickled tea leaves (Laphet) to UNESCO for recognition as an intangible cultural heritage. In fact, Myanmar is home to many other traditional delicacies that are equally worthy of appreciation and preservation.

Recently, at a reception hosted by a foreign embassy, guests were treated to an array of traditional Myanmar snacks, which were warmly received and enjoyed by foreign attendees. With this in mind, The Global New Light of Myanmar is pleased to announce that, starting from the first month of the New Year 2026, we

will introduce a selection of traditional Myanmar foods every Monday. This series aims to encourage not only foreign readers but also local audiences to learn about and experience these beloved traditional dishes. (Editor)

Mandalay Htoe Mont (Myanmar Glutinous Rice Butter Cake)

Mandalay is a historic city where the Myanmar kings once established their royal capital. Just as Myanmar and Mandalay are inseparable, Mandalay and Htoe Mont are closely intertwined. Although Htoe Mont originated in Mandalay, it has become a favourite snack enjoyed by people throughout the country.

As a result, Htoe Mont is commonly

served at donation ceremonies, weddings, religious and funeral events, and is also prepared at home during holidays when family members gather together. This week’s feature introduces Mandalay Htoe Mont for those who have never tasted it before, as well as for readers who may wish to try making it themselves.

Ingredients

Glutinous rice flour	– 200 grammes
White sugar	– 50 grammes
Cooking oil	– 50 grammes
Butter	– 200 grammes
Poppy seeds	– ½ teaspoon
Roasted peanuts	– about 20 kernels
Coconut milk	– 200 millilitres

Water – 50 millilitres
Shredded coconut – 1 teacup
Oil for frying coconut – 1 teacup

Method

First, gently heat the water and coconut milk until warm. Add the glutinous rice flour and stir well to combine. In a separate pot, heat the oil and butter, stirring until the butter melts completely. Pour the melted butter mixture into the glutinous rice mixture and stir thoroughly. Then, continue stirring and add the sugar. Stir continuously over medium heat for about 10 minutes until the mixture becomes glossy, and then add the poppy seeds and peanuts. As the mixture turns translucent and the ingredients are evenly blended, butter oil will begin to separate. Transfer the mixture to a tray, pour over some of the oil, and allow it to cool.

Once cooled, cut into desired shapes and serve. The snack can be kept for two to three days. If it hardens, reheat in a microwave for about three minutes before serving.

Fried Coconut Topping

Heat oil in a pan and fry the shredded coconut until it turns golden brown. Remove and drain the oil. Once cooled, sprinkle the fried coconut over the cooled Htoe Mont before serving.

Alternatively, raisins, roasted cashew nuts, or other preferred toppings may be used in place of fried coconut.

Note:

The name Htoe Mont comes from the continuous stirring and pressing (Htoe) of glutinous rice flour and other ingredients over heat during preparation.

We will return next week with another interesting and delicious traditional dish, so please stay tuned. — MOON

Default Mode Network, Introduction

FROM PAGE 9

This scientific understanding aligns closely with Buddhist philosophy, which identified the problem of ego centuries before modern neuroscience. Buddhism teaches that suffering (Dukkha) arises from attachment to a fixed self, while wisdom arises from insight into Anattā, the absence of a permanent, independent ego. What psychology now describes as reduced DMN activity, Buddhism describes as loosening identification with “I” and “mine”. Both traditions converge on a shared conclusion: when the grip of self-centred thinking softens, the mind becomes clearer, more compassionate, and less prone to needless suffering.

For public understanding, this convergence is important. Mental resilience does not require suppressing thoughts or denying identity, but learning, through reflection, ethical living, and mindful awareness, to relate to the self more lightly. Whether expressed in the language of neuroscience or Buddhist philosophy, the message is the same: freedom from suffering begins when the ego is no longer the unquestioned centre of experience.

Short Bibliography

1. What the Buddha Taught – Walpola Rahula Clear, authoritative, and culturally familiar. Explains Dukkha, Anattā (non-self), and

mental suffering in plain, rational language suitable for a Buddhist-majority audience.

2. Mindfulness in Plain English–Bhante Henepola Gunaratana A practical introduction to mindfulness and mental observation, accessible to lay readers with no academic background.
3. How to Change Your Mind—Michael Pollan Useful for understanding psilocybin and modern psychology in non-technical language, with strong emphasis on caution, ethics, and supervision.
4. Altered Traits –Daniel Goleman & Richard J Davidson Connects neuroscience,

meditation, and long-term mental change, helping readers understand brain concepts such as self-focus and mental habits.

5. The Art of Living — S N Goenka Grounds psychological insight firmly within Vipassanā practice, emphasizing ethics, discipline,

and gradual insight rather than shortcuts.

This process is linked to a network of interacting brain regions called the Default Mode Network (DMN). **ILLUSTRATION: REDDIT**

NATIONAL

Accessories used in telecom fraud and online gambling, and equipment used in refining drugs seized in Hsipaw and Mongyai townships

THE Government has also taken the fight against telecom fraud and online gambling as a national duty and is actively carrying out suppression efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries, in order to prevent such crimes from establishing any foothold within Myanmar.

The information was released on 5 February 2025 on arresting foreign nationals engaged in telecom fraud and online gambling in Mongha area of Mongyai Township in Shan State (North) and seizures of related accessories used in online scams and gambling activities. On 27 November 2025, one more news story mentioned that foreign nationals carrying out telecom fraud and online gambling near Mongnawng of Kehsi Township in Shan State (South) were arrested along with seizures of related accessories, arms and ammunition. Moreover, the information about arresting those who conducted the telecom fraud and online gambling and seizures of related accessories near Taunghteik Village in Kyaukme Township of Shan State (North) was released on 1 December 2025.

On the evening of 8 January, a Tatmadaw column taking security measures in Namlan region of Hsipaw Township in Shan State (North) clashed with terrorists who took positions, some 10,000 metres northwest of Nalin. The terrorists opened fire with small arms but they withdrew in disarray. The Tatmadaw column seized five tents, trenches, two mines and related accessories, and one gate guard post.

The Tatmadaw column con-



The photo shows an outpost of terrorists occupied near Nalin Village of Namlan region on 8 January 2026.



The site where telecom fraud and online gambling activities were carried out and accessories used in these activities seized near Nalin Village of Namlan region on 9 January.

tinued pursuit operations against the terrorists who had retreated. At about 1:30 pm on 9 January, the Tatmadaw column seized 18 laptops, 35 desktop computers, 11 mobile phones and five Star Link devices from two 40 by 30 feet buildings used in telecom fraud and online gambling activities, at the site 9,000 metres northwest of Nalin Village, Hsipaw Township.

In combing the area at 4:45 pm, the Tatmadaw column further seized 11 laptops, six desktop computers, three Star Link devices, two tablet-making machines, one drug stirring machine, one tablet counter, two kilogrammes of ICE, 10 kilogramme-bucket of drug solution, one glass tube, one 10-litre container of drug solution, 25 kilogrammes of Caustic soda, 30 containers comprising 25 kilogrammes each of sodium powder, one vehicle, two generators, one backhoe, one set of green uniform with SSA badge, one set of two-star rank position, one hat with SSA badge, buildings and related accessories.

According to the above-mentioned events, aerial reconnaissance and ground intelligence operations were continuously

conducted. As a result, three suspicious locations were discovered in Mongyai Township, and security operations were carried out in the area by Tatmadaw columns, including joint forces responsible for local security. At 1:30 pm on 10 January, they seized 14 tents, six 100 feet by 25 feet buildings, 120 empty plastic barrels, 20 iron barrels containing chemical solution, 30 empty iron barrels, 60 gas cylinders, four steel steam pots, two large engines, 67 plastic acid barrels, and related accessories used in drug refining near Manphyat Village, 26,000 metres southwest of Mongyai.

At 7:30 am on 11 January, the Tatmadaw column arrested six suspects related to SSA group along with many SSA-badge uniforms and seized 50 15 feet by 20 feet buildings used in drug refining activities, 15 destroyed buildings, 600 gas cylinders, 10 refrigerators, three generators, three large steam pots, three tablet machines, 500 chemical solution barrels, 300 polyethylene bags of white powder assumed as drug powder, 300 plastic bags, 300 five-gallon acid containers, six steel trays,



The photo showcases a drug-refining area and materials seized near Nalin Village of Namlan region.

30 cartons of white powder under scrutiny, 300 packets of white powder under scrutiny in polyethylene bag, and five motorcycles at the second site, some 20,000 metres southwest of Mongyai.

Furthermore, they also cleared seven sites assumed as the drug refining activities, some 19,000 metres southwest of the second place. So, they confiscated a tent of refining drugs and 33 warehouses. Up to now, they seized 443 gas cylinders, 1,312 fibre barrels, 336 iron barrels, two three-wheeled motorcycles, 85

bags of casutic soda, four bags each of Sodium Acetate Trihydrate 20 kg in four barrels, 21 barrels of Sulphonic Acid Liquid, eight tender barrels, five brown barrels under scrutiny, 525 glass pots, 10 glass steam pots, 40 ethanol barrels, 150 steel bowls with white cream, trays and related accessories at the site, some 19,000 metres southwest of the above area at about 9:30 am. The remaining items are under scrutiny.

It is reported that the seized materials and equipment used in drug processing were subjected to necessary preliminary examinations by a combined team that included experts. Initial findings revealed the production of heroin and methamphetamine. Further detailed investigations will continue, and the substances will be systematically handed over to the relevant departments and destroyed by burning in accordance with procedures. Those involved will also be thoroughly identified and effectively prosecuted. — MNA/TTA



The drug refining area and necessary materials seized near Manphyat Village of Mongyai Township on 11 January.



INTERVIEW

National Defence and Security Council Spokesperson ...

FROM PAGE 5

Q: Once the election is over, the Hluttaw will be convened, a government will be formed, and the transfer of power to the newly emerged government will take place. Around which month is this schedule expected to occur? Ordinarily, such handovers take place in April. Are you able to explain the situation regarding this?

A: The Hluttaw will be convened in March. Following that, the new government will assume its duties in April. We will proceed according to the same standard schedules as were followed in the past.

Q: It is known that political parties have submitted requests

and proposals regarding advance voting to the Senior General. Regarding this matter, how will the issues be handled further?

A: This is a matter for the Commission (Union Election Commission), the Commission will handle it. Most of the discussions have indeed centred around advance voting. When advance votes are counted, all candidates are invited to observe. You have seen this for yourselves. As far as I know, some representatives do not show up, yet they voice complaints despite their absence.

For example, take Mayangon Township, which was completed during Phase I. You likely heard about it – the independent candidate, Dr Khin Khin Kyawt. Her

conduct was quite respectable. Although she lost, she went to observe the counting of advance votes herself. Upon seeing it, she noted how transparent the process was. We cannot do these things in secret; they must be done transparently.

However, I have noticed some shortcomings. The issue is that when candidates are invited to the vote counting, some fail to attend. They don't show up, but they continue to make criticisms. I am stating this based on what I have personally witnessed; I am not speaking from a one-sided perspective. That said, there might be actual flaws. If there are, they can be clarified with the Commission. You can speak with

the Commission. They will handle everything with full transparency.

Q: What is the international perspective regarding this election?

A: Regarding the international perspective, during Phase I of the election, international observation teams visited. These teams conducted thorough observations and have already shared their findings, releasing them transparently. To summarize their feedback: first, they did not expect that Myanmar would be able to conduct an election this successfully. Nor did they expect such a high voter turnout. When they went to observe, they saw people lining up at polling stations to vote, which surprised

them.

Secondly, regarding the voting machines, they studied them personally. They described the machines as transparent and 'tamper-proof', impossible to cheat. Furthermore, they openly praised the Myanmar people's love for democracy. For this second phase of the election, embassies based in Myanmar have sent over 100 observation representatives. Most are concentrated in major cities like Yangon and Mandalay, and elsewhere, such as Mawlamyine, Taunggyi, and Sagaing. These observation groups will share their findings when the time is appropriate. I would like to thank everyone.

Voters speak out in Dawbon and Pazundaung as ...

FROM PAGE 5

(5) Ma Yoon Nadi Myo Aung (Voter, Pazundaung Township)



I was a little nervous because it was my first-time voting, but I voted for the party I support. I want the country to develop further and to stand on equal footing with other ASEAN countries. I want improvements in sports and technology, and I believe young people are ready to work hard. I want to see creation of more job opportunities for young people and make it easier for them to study abroad. I also want to improve educational opportunities for young people who were unable to complete their schooling. I feel relieved because I have fulfilled my duty as a citizen. Now, the remaining responsibility lies with the candidates who received our votes. As we are young people, we have done our part, and now we wait with hope for the results.

(6) Ma Than Than Htay (Vot-

er, Dawbon Township)



As a citizen, I came to vote to ensure I don't lose my rights and to support a party capable of striving for the country's prosperity. Voting this time has been much more convenient. Since we can now cast our votes quickly by simply pressing a button on a machine for the party we prefer, the process is significantly faster. I was able to choose and vote for a party that I believe can advocate for the rights and entitlements of our women. In particular, I have high hopes for them to take action on reducing the high cost of living that those women are currently struggling with. I believe other housewives feel the same way I do.

(7) Daw Ei Mi Mon (Head for the Polling Station 2, Myothit Ward, Dawbon Township)

I am the Head for the Polling Station 2 in Myothit Ward, Dawbon Township. There are 1,269 voters registered to cast their ballots at this station, and we observed citizens waiting to vote as early as 5 am. Officials have made



all necessary arrangements to ensure that the public can vote quickly, easily, and smoothly. At this station, voters are casting ballots for six parties competing for the Pyithu Hluttaw, eight parties for the Amyotha Hluttaw, and five parties for the Regional Hluttaw. Additionally, eligible voters are casting ballots for the Kayin and Rakhine ethnic parties. We have coordinated the process to ensure that voting can take place from 6 am until 4 pm.

(8) Daw Mar Mar Nyo (Head for the Polling Station 1, Dawbon Township)



At Polling Station 1 in Dawbon Township, there are 1,361 eligible voters for Phase II of the

2026 Multiparty General Election. Since citizens began casting their votes as soon as the polling station opened at 6 am, we have made all necessary arrangements to ensure everything proceeds smoothly. Our station is staffed with a Polling Station Head, a Deputy Polling Station Head, five voting machine operators, and six voter list verifiers. Along with other officials, we have coordinated efforts to facilitate a seamless voting process. We have also been encouraging all eligible voters to come and cast their votes so they do not lose their fundamental rights as citizens.

(9) Daw Sanda Htay (Head for the Polling Station 1, Ward 10, Pazundaung Township)



We have made all necessary preparations to ensure the public can vote comfortably. To keep the voter list verification process clear and easy, we have organized our staff into two separate shifts. Since the voting machines are functioning perfectly, the public is finding the voting process very

convenient. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Philippine Embassy for visiting our polling station to observe and record the proceedings. At Pazundaung Township Polling Station 1, there are 1,147 registered voters, and we have seen a steady stream of people arriving to cast their votes throughout the morning. As the station will close at 4 pm, I would like to urge everyone to come and vote so as not to lose their rights as citizens.

(10) Daw Myint San Yie (Head for the Polling Station 2, Pazundaung Township)



Citizens have been arriving since early this morning to vote in today's Phase II of the election. Yesterday, we conducted testing to ensure there would be no technical malfunctions with the machines. Everything is proceeding smoothly. There are 1,228 eligible voters at Polling Station 2, and we are warmly and cordially welcoming all citizens who come to cast their ballots until 4 pm.

SEE PAGE 13

NATIONAL
INTERVIEW/AD

Myanmar seizes drugs and chemicals worth over K1,761B in 2025

MYANMAR'S drug control efforts have been designated a national responsibility. Anti-drug agencies, including Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, and the Customs Department, have collaborated with relevant departments to establish a nationwide drug intelligence, detection, and arrest plan and to accelerate prevention and suppression efforts.

In this way, a total of 7,562 defendants in 5,370 drug cases were arrested in 2025. Seized items

included more than one tonne of opium, over 2.1 tonnes of heroin, more than 377 million stimulant tablets, over 37.8 tonnes of ICE, more than 1.5 tonnes of kratom leaves, over 204 kilogrammes of Happy Water, and more than 15 tonnes of ketamine, along with other drugs, with a total value of K1,761.324 billion. In addition, two automatic rifles, 40 pistols, two homemade guns, 2,764 rounds of ammunition, five hand grenades, and 187,400 detonators were

confiscated.

Similarly, more than 22.7 tonnes of prohibited chemicals caffeine, 960 litres of acetone, 5,040 litres of toluene, five tonnes of ammonium chloride, two tonnes of sodium cyanide, five tonnes of sodium carbonate, 25,600 litres of acetic acid, and 3,820 litres of nitric acid were illegally imported for use in drug production. Authorities also seized an opium refining camp and related equipment near Pontat village in Mongyai Town-



Suspects arrested along with 12.5 tonnes of caffeine.

ship, Shan State (North), two ecstasy pill manufacturing camps near Monghe (Lower) village in Tachilek Township, Shan State

(East), and a pill-making machine along with related equipment from a house in Wamkaungmon village, Tachilek Township.

In addition, a total of 5,084.5 acres (2,057.66 hectares) of poppy plantation was destroyed in Shan State (South) and (East) during the 2025-2026 poppy cultivation season. The Myanmar Police Force reported that a joint team including Tatmadaw, MPF, relevant departments, local people's militia members, and local public security and counter-terrorism personnel continues to destroy poppy fields in Shan State (South) and (East). — MNA/TH

Voters speak out in Dawbon and Pazundaung as ...

FROM PAGE 12
(11) Daw Saw Moe (Voter, Dawbon Township)



I woke up early this morning to come and vote so that I wouldn't lose my rights as a citizen. Voting is something we simply must do. The main reason I'm here is that, as a citizen, I want to fulfil my duty and have peace of mind; furthermore, I want our

country to be peaceful. I cast my vote for the party that I believe can achieve that. The voting process went smoothly. As a citizen, I am both happy and satisfied to have voted. I truly believe that the party I voted for will be beneficial for the country.

(12) Daw Myint Myint Naing (Voter, Pazundaung Township)



I am delighted that we have the opportunity to vote. I cast my vote for the party that I believe understands the national interest as well as the lives of housewives – one that will stand up for women's rights and work towards making the cost of living more affordable. I pressed the button for the party I trust to provide equal rights without discrimination based on race or religion. Because I hope for a life where all ethnic nationalities within Myanmar can live together in harmony through thick and thin, I gave my vote to the candidate I believe can faithfully deliver on

that promise.

(13) U Myo Htwe (Voter, Pazundaung Township)



I cast my vote specifically for the party that will be beneficial to the country. I have high expectations that the party I supported will be able to drive rapid momentum in the sectors of transportation, education, healthcare,

and the economy. I chose a party that I believe will serve the interests of both the nation and its people, striving to achieve national peace, stability, and development.

(14) U Thein Tun Oo (Administrator of Ward 10, Pazundaung Township)



We have made all the

necessary arrangements to ensure today's voting process is smooth and that every eligible citizen can cast their ballot. People are arriving in large numbers to vote. Because comprehensive security measures are in place, citizens are able to cast their votes with peace of mind. Observing everyone from the 18-year-old to those over 70 coming out to vote demonstrates a profound reliance on the electoral process for national development. Clearly, everyone is hopeful for the emergence of a new government that meets the people's expectations.

Daily newspapers
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News and
Periodicals
Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (276W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (276W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (159N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (159N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-1-2026** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Somalia defence minister alleges Israel plan to relocate Palestinians to Somaliland



In December, Israel reportedly became the first country to recognize Somaliland's independence. PHOTO: ANI

Somalia's Defence Minister Ahmed Moalim Fiqi alleged that Israel is working on a plan to forcibly move Palestinians to the breakaway region of Somaliland, describing the reported move as a

"serious violation" of international law, Al Jazeera reported.

Speaking to Al Jazeera on Saturday, Fiqi claimed Somalia has "confirmed information that Israel has a plan to transfer Palestinians and to

send them to [Somaliland]".

The report said the comments came amid long-standing concerns voiced by Somali officials over the possibility of Palestinians being forcibly expelled from Gaza to Somaliland, allegations denied by

The comments surfaced in the context of wider regional tensions and debates over displacement and recognition.

both Israel and Somaliland. Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991, but has not received United Nations recognition. Al Jazeera reported that Israel's decision in December made it the first country to recognize Somaliland as independent.

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar told Israel's Channel 14 last week that the forcible displacement of Palestinians to Somaliland "was not part of our agreement". — ANI

Nepal calls for national unity while marking National Unification Day

NEPAL on Sunday marked the 304th National Unification Day, which coincides with the birth anniversary of nation-builder Prithivi Narayan Shah, calling for national unity, marking the day since the Gen-Z revolution.

Early in the morning, Nepali President Ram Chandra Paudel along with Vice President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav, Prime Minister Sushila Karki and her council of ministers, laid wreaths at Shah's statue in front of Singhadurbar.

In a message on 'Prithvi Jayanti' and National Unity Day, President Ram Chandra Paudel highlighted Prithvi Narayan Shah's efforts in building a modern Nepal by consolidating scattered states. — ANI

Trump seriously considering options for attack against Iran: Reports

US President Donald Trump has been briefed on possible attack options against Iran amid protests in the country, and he is seriously considering approving the strikes, the New York Times reported citing officials. The US president has not made a final decision yet, the newspaper noted.

According to the publication, the options presented to Trump included strikes against non-military targets in Tehran.

Senior US officials told the newspaper that at least some of the options involve attacking security forces countering the protests. At the same time, the newspaper noted that the US authorities recognize that the strikes could backfire and lead to retaliatory attacks against US military personnel and diplomats in the region. A senior US military official told the newspaper that US commanders in the Middle East, if an attack against Iran were approved, would need time to prepare



An Iranian woman lifts a national flag during a rally protesting the US attack on Iran in Enghelab Square in Tehran, on 22 June 2025. PHOTO: ATTA KENARE/AFP/FILE

defences for possible retaliatory strikes. In response to the newspaper's request for comment, the White House referred to Trump's recent comments in public and on social media.

Earlier, Trump warned Iranian authorities of consequences if any protesters were killed. On Saturday, the US president declared Washington's readiness to "help" Iran. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran would target US military, shipping if attacked

IRAN would strike US military and shipping targets in the event of a new attack by the United States during an ongoing wave of protests, the parliament speaker said on Sunday.

"In the event of a military attack by the United States, both the occupied territory and centres of the US military and shipping will be our legitimate targets," Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf told parliament in comments broadcast by state TV, apparently also referring to Israel, which the Islamic republic does not recognise and considers occupied Palestinian territory. — AFP

Egypt concludes 2025 parliamentary elections

EGYPT'S National Elections Authority (NEA) declared on Saturday the conclusion of the 2025 House of Representatives elections, bringing to an end a months-long electoral process.

NEA Chairman Hazem Badawy told a press conference that the elections, which spanned 99 days, led to the election of 568 lawmakers, thereby finalizing the composition of the House of Representatives.

The NEA reported that a total of 69,891,913 voters were registered nationwide, with 22,657,211 exercising their right to vote, representing a turnout of 32.41 per cent. Of the ballots cast, 21,150,656 were valid, while 1,506,555 were invalid.

Following court rulings that invalidated initial results, runoff elections were held in 27 electoral districts, ultimately electing 49 lawmakers from 98 candidates across 10 governorates. — Xinhua

Yemen Govt claims recapture of Hadramout, al-Mahra

YEMEN'S internationally recognized government has claimed it has retaken parts of southern and eastern Yemen from the Southern Transitional Council (STC), as thousands gathered in Aden to rally behind the secessionist group, Al Jazeera reported.

Rashad al-Alimi, head of the Saudi Arabia-backed Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), said on Saturday that government forces had regained control over two key regions and re-established authority across southern Yemen.

"As the president of the country and the high commander of the armed forces, I want to assure you of the recapture of Hadramout and al-Mahra," he said. — ANI

SPORTS

Morocco's AFCON star Achraf Hakimi: the pride of his mother's home town

ACHRAF Hakimi, Morocco's football icon and African Player of the Year, inspires immense pride in Ksar El Kebir, his mother's hometown.

The provincial city of 120,000 residents, far from the bustle of Casablanca and Marrakesh, cherishes its connection to the Paris Saint-Germain star.

Locals recall Hakimi's childhood visits and celebrate his perseverance, determination, and hard work, especially his recovery from injury to lead Morocco in the Africa Cup of Nations. His career, beginning at Real Madrid before stints at Borussia Dortmund, Inter Milan,

and PSG, is admired as a model of tenacity.

Hakimi's name graces local football pitches, and his 2022 World Cup visit spurred modernization of a stadium in his honor. Residents, from cafe owners to aspiring young players, see him as a role model whose confidence and humility resonate deeply.

His presence is believed to intimidate opponents and unite communities, with streets emptying during matches and erupting in celebration afterward. As Morocco chases its first continental title in 50 years, Ksar El Kebir eagerly awaits his next triumph. — AFP



Morocco captain Achraf Hakimi. PHOTO: AFP

Medvedev warms up in style for Australian Open with Brisbane win



Daniil Medvedev hits a return during his men's singles final against Brandon Nakashima at the Brisbane International. PHOTO: AFP

THREE-TIME Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev warmed up for an assault on this year's opening Grand Slam in perfect fashion by winning the Brisbane International final on Sunday.

The Russian world number 13 was too strong for American Brandon Nakashima and ran out a 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) winner in 96 minutes on Pat Rafter Arena for his 22nd ATP Tour title. Medvedev broke a shell-

shocked Nakashima twice in the first set and looked on course for a quick victory. Nakashima rallied in the second to force a tiebreak but the towering Russian raced to a 5-0 lead in the breaker and the match was as good as over. "I started pretty strong but then Brandon found his way back, saved some match points then almost got it to a third set," Medvedev said. The Australian Open begins in Melbourne next Sunday, 18 January.

"It's been a great start to the year," said Medvedev, who made the final in Brisbane in 2019. "I said then that I would try and come back and win it. I came back seven or eight years later and I'm happy to hold the trophy." — AFP

Liverpool's Bradley out for the season with 'significant' knee injury

LIVERPOOL right-back Conor Bradley is set to undergo surgery on a serious knee injury which will rule him out for the rest of the season. The Northern Ireland international suffered the injury in the closing stages of Thursday's 0-0 draw at Arsenal. Gunners' forward Gabriel Martinelli apologized after the match for attempting to push Bradley off the field in the mistaken belief he was time-wasting. "Liverpool FC can confirm Conor Bradley has sustained a significant knee injury," the

English champions said in a statement. "Bradley will undergo surgery in the coming days and then begin a period of rehabilitation." The BBC reported that the injury is not an anterior cruciate ligament tear but does involve damage to the bone and ligament. Bradley is also a major doubt for the World Cup should Northern Ireland navigate two play-off matches in March, starting with a trip to Italy. His absence is a major blow to both club and country. — AFP



Liverpool's Conor Bradley is set to miss the rest of the season. PHOTO: AFP

Egypt beat Ivory Coast to reach Africa Cup of Nations semis

MOHAMED Salah scored as he edged closer to a first Africa Cup of Nations winners medal by captaining Egypt to a 3-2 victory over defending champions Ivory Coast in a thrilling quarter-final on Saturday.

Omar Marmoush and Ramy Rabia scored for Egypt, then Ahmed Aboul-Fetouh conceded an own goal before half-time. Salah doubled the lead soon after the break and Guela Doue pulled one back. — AFP



Russia adds almost 500 mln tonnes in commercial oil reserves in 2025: Rosnedra

Oil output in 2025 is expected to remain flat at 516 million tonnes, while gas production will hold near 685 billion cubic metres, matching 2024 levels.

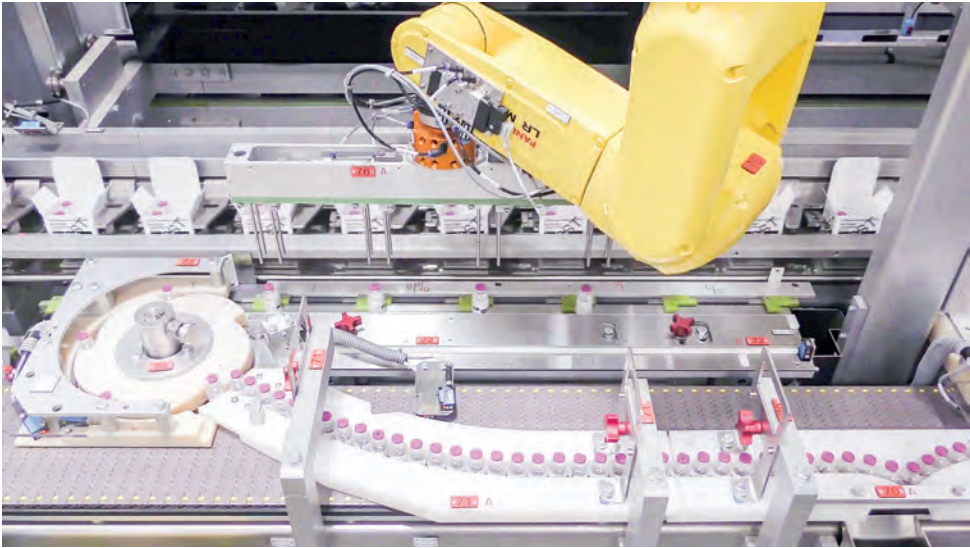
THE preliminary increase in commercial, or production-ready, oil reserves in 2025 was 490 million tonnes, while gas reserves will increase by 650 billion cubic metres, Oleg Kazanov, the head of Russia's Federal Agency for Mineral Resources (Rosnedra), told Sputnik. "It's worth noting that some sites are still undergoing assessment, but according to preliminary data, we have seen an increase in oil reserves of approximately 666 million tonnes, of which 490 million tonnes are ABC1 commercial reserves, meaning they are ready for pro-

duction. Gas reserves are 679 billion cubic metres, of which 650 billion cubic metres are commercial reserves," he said. Russian oil production in 2025 will be roughly the same as last year, at 516 million tonnes, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak announced in late December. Gas production increased by 7.6 per cent year-on-year in 2024, reaching approximately 685 billion cubic metres, he said earlier. Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev told reporters in mid-December that he expected this figure to be maintained in 2025. — SPUTNIK



Tatarstan, a major Russian republic, is a significant oil producer, home to the giant Romashkinskoye field, one of the world's largest, discovered in 1948. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

India must accelerate AI, industrial automation to unlock manufacturing potential



The image displays a robotic vertical cartoning system used for pharmaceutical packaging. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ GEOMETRIXAR

INDIA must accelerate AI-led innovation, industrial automation, and the adoption of frontier technologies to fully realize its manufacturing ambitions, according to The Make-in-India Upgrade: Advanced Manufacturing Trends, a December 2025 chartbook by Ionic Wealth. India stands at a critical juncture in its industrial journey, with advanced manufacturing emerging as a decisive lever for long-term economic competitiveness.

The report noted that failure to unlock advanced manufacturing could leave India with a manufacturing GDP gap by 2047 Viksit Bharat vision. Under a business-as-usual scenario, manufacturing GDP would reach only US\$2.3 trillion, far below the US\$7.4 trillion potential, highlighting what the report calls a "significant gap" if decisive action is not taken. At the core of the recommended

strategy is AI-led innovation and productivity gains, combined with automation, digitization, and product and process innovation. The report stated that AI-led innovation and productivity gains, along with industrial automation and adoption of frontier technologies, are the key enablers to foster India's manufacturing progress. Technologies can help Indian firms move up global value chains, reduce costs, and compete with manufacturing powerhouses. India has already made progress on foundational reforms. The report noted advances made in labour code implementation, GST rationalization, easing of FDI norms, land reforms, and infrastructure modernization, including single-window digital clearances under PM Gati Shakti and the rollout of the National Logistics Policy. Large investments such as Micron's US\$2.75 billion semiconductor assembly plant and Google's combined US\$25 billion commitment to digitization and AI-led data centres are cited as early indicators of momentum in the report. — ANI

Sri Lanka orders rapid elephant fence restoration

SRI Lanka's Minister of Environment Dammika Patabendi has directed officials to renovate elephant fences damaged by Cyclone Ditwah within one week. The ministry announced on Sunday that the order was issued during a progress review meeting held on Saturday on the restoration of fences severely affected by last month's cyclone. The ministry said extensive damage has been reported across a number of areas affected by the Human Elephant Conflict (HEC). HEC is a serious problem in certain parts of Sri Lanka. According to official data, there were 438 elephant deaths and 158 human deaths in 2025. — Xinhua