

The

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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.

Myanmar, Thailand Enhance Joint Measures Against Narcotics

Myanmar and Thai armed forces have vowed to intensify joint efforts to prevent the re-emergence of telecommunications fraud and online gambling activities along their shared border regions.



State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets the Thai delegation led by NCCC Chief General Direk Bongkarn of the Army Operation Centre of the Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief Office.

State Security and Peace Commission Vice-Chairman, Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief, and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received a delegation led by General Direk Bongkarn, Chief of the Neighbouring Countries Coordination Centre

(NCCC) of the Army Operation Centre of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army at Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They talked about the utmost efforts of the Myanmar government not to re-emerge telecom fraud and online

gambling, and to conduct anti-narcotic operations as the national responsibility, and enhancement of cooperative measures, including the exchange of information between the two countries.

They cordially exchanged views on the enhancement of relations between the two armed forces and further

improvement of friendship under the leadership of the chiefs of armed forces of both countries, efforts to further strengthen relations, continuous implementation of agreements between the two countries, and promotion of cooperation.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

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

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

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed; Head of Service Organization appointed

1. The National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) Dr Thanda Kyi	Director-General Department of Planning Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(b) U Myo Kyaw Thu	Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
2. The National Defence and Security Council has appointed U Aung Aye Han, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, as Director-General of the same organization on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notice

22 January 2026

PHASE II of the multiparty democratic general election was successfully held in 100 townships on 11 January 2026.

Under Section 102 of the relevant Hluttaw Election Rules, candidates who contested in the respective constituencies are required to submit their election expenditures in Form 20 within 30 days from the date on which the relevant Region or State subcommissions announce the names of the elected Hluttaw representatives. The submission must be made to the relevant subcommissions where the nomination was originally submitted, or to the district subcommissions designated by the commission.

If Hluttaw candidates who contested in the election and their election representatives fail to submit the election expenditures within the prescribed period, they will be declared disqualified under Rule 109 of the relevant Hluttaw Election Rules.

Therefore, Hluttaw candidates who contested in the election and their election representatives are urged to submit the election expenses within the specified period.

Union Election Commission

CHID construction loan ready to support new projects, business expansion

CHID construction loans can be applied at branches of the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development to support the operational needs of new construction projects and business expansion, said the bank.

CHID said it is in readiness for supporting the facilitation of the development of the construction sector in accordance with its goal to support the construction, housing and infrastructure development. And the CHID construction loan is

always ready for capital investment and strong cash flow, which are key components for the sustainable development of construction businesses, it added.

CHID construction loans are being offered for the imple-

mentation of new projects or business expansion in the new year, it said.

For more details, enquiries can be made to the CHID call centre numbers at 09 401010810 and 09 401010820 during office hours. — MT/ZS



This image advertises the CHID construction loan.

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)

Myanmar, Thailand Enhance Joint Measures ...

FROM PAGE 1

They also emphasized the endeavours of two governments and two armed forces between the two countries to restore peace and stability in border regions in order to ensure bilateral trade and flow of commodities into normalcy,

and the need to enforce prevention of illegal trade and unlawful businesses in border regions.

Moreover, they frankly discussed the successful completion of Phases I and II of the 2025 multiparty democratic general election in Myanmar

and the preparation to continue the election as Phase III on 25 January.

After the meeting, the SSPC Vice-Chairman and the Chief of NCCC of the Office of Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army exchanged gifts and had documentary

photos taken together with the attendees to the meeting.

Also, present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior Tatmadaw officers. The Chief of NCCC of the Office of Commander-in-Chief

of the Royal Thai Army was accompanied by Military Attaché Senior Colonel Pongphan Puttha of the Royal Thai Army to Myanmar, and officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army and the NCCC. — MNA/TTA

Public Notice

IT is a source of pride and encouragement to witness the nationwide outpouring of support for the Agent of Myanmar team, led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing, who is currently representing the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the hearings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

It is respectfully acknowledged that various organizations and members of the public have voluntarily expressed their support through social media posts, official statements, and on-the-ground campaigns, without any external prompting.

As the Agent of Myanmar team is presently engaged in legal proceedings under international law, all supporters – both those expressing views on social media and those organizing or participating in rallies across towns and villages – are earnestly urged to strictly observe the following guidelines: -

- (1) Refrain from writing or making statements that criticize, attempt to influence, or may be construed as exerting pressure on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and judges.
- (2) Avoid the use of racially discriminatory language in speeches, slogans, or on placards.
- (3) Refrain from engaging in hate speech or using the name of any group that is not officially recognized as an indigenous ethnic group.
- (4) Express support for the Agent of Myanmar team in a dignified and responsible manner, recognizing that the case is being defended in court through strong evidence and under applicable international laws. — News Team

MoFA Union Minister receives Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar



Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan, at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining

to the enhancement of bilateral relations and cooperation. — MNA

Russia-Myanmar visa-free travel agreement effective on 27 Jan

THE ordinary passport holders of Russia and Myanmar can enjoy a 30-day visa exemption starting from 27 January 2026, according to an announcement released by the Russian government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 January.

The Russia-Myanmar mutual visa exemption agreement was

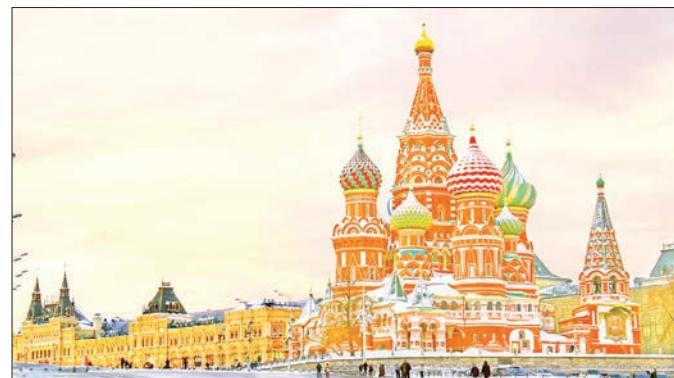
signed in Minsk, Russia, on 28 October 2025, allowing Myanmar citizens to enter the Russian Federation without a visa for 30 days per visit.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also clarified that this does not relate to obtaining permanent residency, studying, or job

purposes.

Similarly, the reciprocal visa-free travel agreement between Russia and Myanmar allows Russian citizens to stay in Myanmar without a visa for up to 30 days.

The visa-free travel must not exceed 90 days within a year. — ASH/KK



Tourist destinations in Moscow, Russia, such as the Kremlin, Red Square, Saint Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Mausoleum.

NATIONAL

Fourth South Asia Agri Forum 2026 kicks off

THE opening ceremony of the fourth South Asia Agri Forum 2026, hosted by Myanmar, was held yesterday morning at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon, attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Commerce Minister U Min Min, along with the departmental officials and guests.

At the ceremony, the deputy minister addressed the holding of South Asia Agri Forum 2026, cooperation between Myanmar and India will create further strengthened and new opportunities for mutual benefit, Myanmar exports other products such as maize, seafood, peanuts, timber and rubber, and in return, Myanmar imports pharmaceuticals and industrial raw materials to support its economic sector with exporting pulses to India, India's duty-free policy and the ASEAN-India Economic Framework have facilitated economic opportunities between the two countries, the exporting the pulses, Myanmar's rice exports, financial and banking issues between the two countries will be facilitated and the further strengthened existing



The fourth South Asia Agricultural Forum 2026 is underway yesterday in Yangon.

cooperation between Myanmar and India.

The fourth South Asia Agri Forum 2026 was being hosted at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon from 22 to 23 January. The forum was attended by Regional Ministers, officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Permanent Secretary Mrs Nidhi Khare from the India Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry, Indian Ambas-

sador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur, President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Pulses, Maize and Sesame Traders Association, the chairpersons and officials from Oversea Agro Traders Association (OATA Myanmar) and Bharat Subcontinent Agri Foundation (BSAF), pulse exporting companies, 161 foreign entrepreneurs including Canada, Australia, USA, Brazil, Nepal,

Bangladesh, Singapore, Russia, Sri Lanka, India, Tanzania, UAE and some countries of the European Union, 46 foreign buyers who are regular buyers of local grains and special invitees who are involved in the entire process of grain production from Myanmar to export, local and foreign experts from banks, transport companies, ports and shipping lines.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister met Secretary Mrs Ni-

dhi Khare from the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Distribution, India, who is here to attend the 13th South Asia Agri Forum 2026 at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to promote bilateral trade, Myanmar hosting the 9th Myanmar-India Joint Trade Committee Meeting, Myanmar-India Economic Dialogue and South Asia Agri Forum (2026), which is a symbol of strong and good relations between the two countries, maintaining the existing good relations and working together to increase trade between the two countries, extending the MoU on Trade Cooperation between Myanmar and India in pulses and sorghum, promoting exports of pulses, other oilseeds, cotton and agricultural products including pulses and sorghum to India, and technical cooperation to improve the quality of agricultural products from Myanmar to international standards, and more effective payment of bilateral payments to further increase bilateral trade. — MNA/MKKS

Regarding the government's ongoing provision of assistance and care to Bengalis residing in Rakhine State, the following statement was made by U Kyaw Tin Hlaing, a 100-household elder from Aungmingala Ward in Sittway.

U Kyaw Tin Hlaing (100-household elder)
Aungmingala Ward, Sittway.

MY name is U Kyaw Tin Hlaing. My Muslim name is Musa Ahmed. I am a 100-household elder from Aungmingala Ward. There are five wards namely Gontan, Kathit, Kyaunggyilan, Aungmingala, and Maulid connected with ethnic communities. There are 720 households with a population of around 4,000 people in these five wards. I have been serving as a 100-household elder since 2010. During the conflict period in June 2012, Tatmadaw and police members protected our ward. Nothing happened to our ward due to the protection provided in a timely manner.

As there were concerns about arson, the state government, in cooperation with the combined team comprising Tatmadaw and police protected our ward. At that time, tensions between groups were high, and there were fears for people's safety, so security was provided. Up to now, nothing



U Kyaw Tin Hlaing (100-household elder)

has happened to our ward.

The government provides us with rice every month. NGOs also assist frequently. In the past, there were the Myoma market and shops in our ward. There were traders, painters, masons, carpenters, and casual labourers of all kinds. After the conflict, due to a lack of harmony between communities, people stayed within the village and survived on aid.

Around 2019, after relations gradually became more harmonious, the checkpoints that had been set up were removed.

Police units were also completely withdrawn in 2020. Now, we can go to the main market outside and buy goods. Some fish vendors are also able to go to the main market to sell fish. There are no problems.

In our ward, there are also shops and clinics jointly operated with ethnic communities. At the clinic opened by the government, people of all religions come for medical treatment. There are no problems between people. At present, there is freedom.

Regarding healthcare, during the conflict period, if we needed to go to a hospital, we had to inform the authorities and go under security arrangements through the ward. Now, there is no need to do that. We can go to clinics on our own. There is also a Thaddha Clinic operating in the ward. We can get healthcare services there. The government provides medical services in the ward twice a week on a regular basis.

There used to be only one primary school in our ward for children. Now, it

has been upgraded to a middle school. The chief minister pledged that a school building will be built to be a high school from the middle school in the future. We have not yet been able to provide land, but once land is provided, the government will construct the school. For examinations, students currently go to Thetkaepin to sit for their exams. Now, if there are tenders in our area, Muslims are also able to apply for tenders through the government. We apply jointly with ethnic communities. Whoever qualifies wins the tender. Businesspeople and traders also order goods from Yangon and sell them here. Some people work as painters, masons, and carpenters at the homes of ethnic people. Harmony has been achieved. At present, there are absolutely no problems. We are also able to go to the hospital for medical treatment. As Muslims, we are required to pray at the mosque five times a day, and we can do all five prayers regularly. — News Team/ KTZH

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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



24 ex-PDF members lay down arms, rejoin legal framework in Sagaing

THE Government has been inviting individuals who are involved in armed opposition groups operating under various names, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold, and is providing necessary assistance to those who do so.

A total of 24 individuals – 22 men and two women – who had been members of groups operating under the name of the PDF and who have come to understand the peace processes of the State and Tatmadaw, entered the legal framework today together with weapons and ammunition.

These individuals decided to return to the legal fold because they could no longer accept being coerced and forcibly recruited; being compelled to threaten, arrest and kill innocent civilians and government employees for the interests of terrorist groups; and carrying out acts of terrorism such as planting mines and destroying non-military targets, including basic infrastructure, roads and bridges. In addition, they experienced internal discrimination and oppression within these groups, including abuse, killings and other violent acts



An acceptance and handover ceremony for returnees is in progress yesterday in the North-West Command Headquarters.

among members of different ranks, as well as hardship and severe living conditions. They also became demoralized as they were no longer able to withstand Tatmadaw's military operations.

Furthermore, having come to trust and accept the peace processes of the State and Tatmadaw, they chose to abandon the armed path and return to the legal fold to live peacefully under the law and to contribute once again to the State and the people, who have suffered losses

as a result of their actions.

Those who returned to the legal fold comprised 22 men and two women from Monywa Township, Sagaing Township, Kalay Township and Khamti Township. Responsible officials welcomed them and held a ceremony to formally hand them back to their parents or guardians yesterday afternoon at the Zeyathiri Hall of the North-West Command Headquarters. The ceremony was attended by Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw,

Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Thura, departmental officials, the returnees and their parents or guardians.

At the outset, the chief minister delivered opening remarks, after which the commander gave a briefing on regional stability and tranquillity, as well as on relevant legal provisions. Subsequently, those who had returned to the legal fold handed over the weapons and ammunition they had brought with them, namely two Type-81 rifles with four

magazines and 17 rounds of ammunition, and one M-4 rifle with one magazine and ten rounds of ammunition, which the commander received.

Thereafter, the chief minister and the commander provided each returnee with K2 million in cash, amounting to a total of K48 million, along with food supplies. They signed pledges, and then they were formally handed back to their parents or guardians.

The chief minister, the commander and the responsible officials then warmly greeted those in attendance and hosted them with refreshments.

Those who return to the legal fold are being welcomed, provided with necessary assistance and systematically handed back to their parents or guardians. There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those wishing to do so are urged to contact the nearest district or township administrative bodies, military camps or police stations as soon as possible, where they will be warmly received and provided with necessary assistance. Rewards will also be granted for weapons and ammunition surrendered. — MNA/KZL

283 Chinese nationals repatriated in online scam case via Myanmar-Thailand Bridge

A total of 283 Chinese nationals who illegally entered Myanmar from neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and were involved in online gambling, telecommunications fraud and other criminal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area, have been repatriated to their country of origin via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II, in accordance with legal procedures and humanitarian con-

siderations.

Officials, including Lt-Col San Shwe of the Myawady District Administration and Management Committee, coordinated with relevant departments to verify records and ensure a smooth repatriation process. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director U Kyaw Kyaw Than, of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Pub-

lic Security, including Mr Wang Tianwei from the Criminal Investigation Department, and officials from Thailand's Tak Province Immigration Office.

Myanmar authorities systematically handed over the relevant documentation to the responsible officials of the respective countries. The government continues to cooperate with neighbouring and regional countries and international or-



Immigration processes underway for the repatriation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

ganizations to take strict action against foreigners involved in online scams and criminal networks, while also ensuring the

prompt repatriation of victims of human trafficking and other affected foreign nationals. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Statements issued to support Myanmar delegation at ICJ

Myanmar-India Friendship Association (MIFA) Statement

6th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME
23 January 2026

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, is attending oral hearings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 12 to 29 January 2026 to respond under international law to allegations brought by The Gambia. This action demonstrates the responsible conduct of a sovereign State and clearly reflects Myanmar's commitment to respecting and abiding by international legal principles and norms.

We, the executive committee members and members of the Myanmar-India Friendship Association (MIFA), fully welcome and support the State's firm and effective efforts to address matters concerning the nation on the basis of trust in the fairness and justice of the rule of law. We believe that such legal engagement will accurately present the realities on the ground, enhance understanding within the international community, and serve as an essential foundation for building confidence and mutual trust.

Accordingly, the executive committee members and members of the Myanmar-India Friendship Association (MIFA) hereby place on record our welcome, support, and recognition of the efforts undertaken by the Myanmar delegation representing the State at the ICJ to resolve the case through legal means. We further declare that our Association stands firmly united with the State's policies and positions.

Executive Committee
Myanmar-India Friendship Association (MIFA)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Myanmar Islamic Association Statement

23 January 2026
6th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, is striving for the truth against the accusations made by The Gambia, showing the responsibility and dignity of the country at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 12 to 29 January 2026.

The Myanmar Islamic Association fully supports the firm and decisive response to the unjust accusations against our country based on the rule of law. Such action shows the actual case of Myanmar and is also an important factor in helping the international community understand and believe in the efforts that create misunderstanding and unjust accusations against Myanmar.

Therefore, the Myanmar Islamic Association expresses its support and honours the Myanmar delegation that is striving for Myanmar's dignity, sovereignty and national interests at ICJ, and the Association hereby issues this statement to affirm its full solidarity with the policies of the country.

Myanmar Islamic Association

Yangon Region Sasana Nuggaha Association Statement

23 January 2026
6th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, is attending oral hearings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 12 to 29 January 2026 to respond under international law to allegations brought by The Gambia. This action demonstrates the responsible conduct of a sovereign state and clearly reflects Myanmar's commitment to respecting and abiding by international legal principles and norms.

We, the executive committee members and members of the Yangon Region Sasana Nuggaha Association, fully welcome and support the State's firm and effective efforts to address matters concerning the nation based on truth, justice, dignity and sovereignty of Myanmar.

Executive Committee
Yangon Region Sasana Nuggaha Association

NDNF Eternal Peace Network Upper Myanmar Missionary Organization Peaceful Heart Humanitarian Foundation Statement 1/2026 for ICJ issue

3rd Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME
20 January 2026, Wednesday

1. A Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney General Dr Daw Thida Oo appeared before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, to defend the truth regarding Myanmar's sovereignty, dignity, and national interests, ensuring that the facts concerning the affairs of the entire Myanmar nation are properly represented.
2. We strongly condemn and reject any false, misleading, or inaccurate reports propagated by the Republic of The Gambia that infringe upon the sovereignty, dignity, and national interests of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and mislead international opinion.
3. Together with the Myanmar delegation appearing before the Court to ensure justice, our organization reaffirms that we stand united in support of Myanmar's sovereignty, dignity, and national interests, and advocate for the full emergence of truth regarding these matters.

Chief Patron Sayadaw
NDNF Eternal Peace Network
Upper Myanmar Missionary Organization

Unity and Development Party Statement

20 January 2026

THE Unity and Development Party (UADP) fully welcomes and supports the efforts of the Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Daw Thida Oo, who travelled to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands, to respond to the dishonest and unfounded allegations made by the Republic of The Gambia.

The delegation is responding under international law by clearly and decisively presenting the factual truth that Myanmar has not committed the alleged acts, while defending, on the international stage, the dignity and sovereignty of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as a whole. The party expresses its full support for these efforts.

Therefore, the Unity and Development Party hereby issues this statement affirming that it stands firmly with the Myanmar delegation in its efforts to uphold truth and justice, as well as national dignity and sovereignty.

Central Executive Committee
Unity and Development Party

Executive Committee of Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central) Statement

21 January 2026
4th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1387 ME

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, is striving for the truth against the accusations made by The Gambia showing the responsibility and dignity of the country at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the Netherlands from 12 to 29 January 2026.

The Young Men's Buddhist Association fully supports the firm and decisive response to the unjust accusations against our country based on the faith in law. Such action shows the actual case of Myanmar and is also an important factor in helping the international community understand and believe in the efforts that create misunderstanding and unjust accusations against Myanmar.

Therefore, the Young Men's Buddhist Association expresses its support and honours the Myanmar delegation that is striving for Myanmar's dignity, sovereignty and national interests at ICJ, and the Association hereby issues this statement to affirm its full solidarity with the policies of the country.

Executive Committee
Young Men's Buddhist Association (Central)

Preservation of ancient cultural heritage strengthens youth's patriotism

- ❖ Preserving our ancient cultural heritage without losing ancient states helps foster a stronger sense of patriotism among future generations of youth.
- ❖ Since these are historically significant heritage sites, preservation efforts must be carried out systematically and in an organized manner.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of preserving the Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace in Bago on 3 August 2025)

5 drug manufacturing sites found in Hsipaw, Mongyai

THE information was released on seizures of materials used in drug processing, including drug manufacturing sites in Hsipaw and Mongyai townships in Shan State (North) on 11, 15 and 16 January 2026.

In connection with the seizures, combined security forces continued aerial and ground intelligence and area-security operations.

At around 4 pm on 18 January 2026, about 10 kilometres southwest of Sein Kyawt Village and about two kilometres northwest of the location where seizures were made on 16 January, the items related to drug production were discovered and seized such as three warehouses containing packaging materials bearing the "1888" brand, 15 glass condenser jars, one hut containing 24 drying trays, eight residential huts, one hut containing seven distillation machines, one warehouse containing 500 sacks of (under identifying) chemical substances, one warehouse containing 103 sacks of caustic soda and 200 sacks of sodium sulfate, 18 sacks of alum, 28 sacks of charcoal powder, 469 gas cylinders, three refrigerators, one cooking shed, nine electric stoves, and two machines used in drug production.

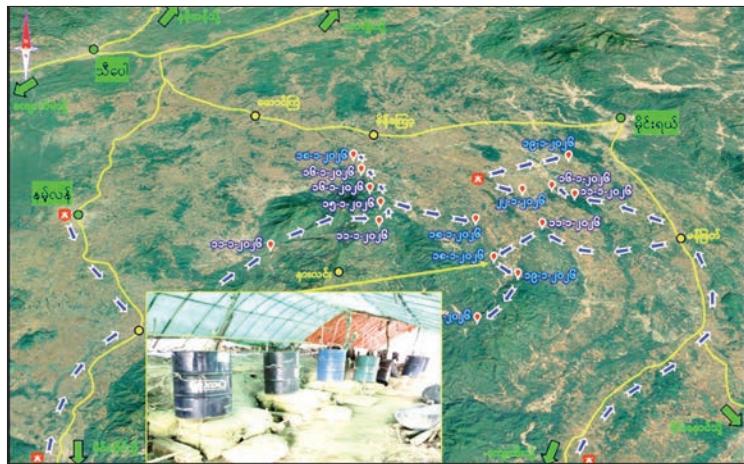
At 5 pm on the same day, about 20 kilometers west of Man Phyat Village and about seven kilometres southwest of the location where seizures were made on 11 January, the items were discovered and seized such as 17 residential huts, eight warehouses, four drug production huts, two large generators, 54 blue plastic barrels containing acid, 190 empty blue plastic barrels, 76 empty metal barrels, 75 white five-gallon containers containing acid, 60 sacks of caustic soda, one steel condenser pot used in drug production, and 39 small glass condenser jars.

At 6 pm, six kilometres

northwest of the same area, the items were seized — 67 empty plastic barrels, seven empty metal barrels, two generators, four residential huts, one warehouse containing cardboard packaging materials, one cooking shed, six metal storage racks, one gas cylinder, and 50 pieces of timber of various sizes.

At 9 am, on 19 January, 10 kilometres southwest of Mongyai and about nine kilometres northeast of the location where

180 feet by 50 feet by 22 feet, one under construction two-storey building measuring 120 feet by 60 feet by 22 feet, and one steel-frame building measuring 200 feet by 20 feet by 12 feet that supposed to have been used for



Images show a map of drug-processing sites and associated materials.

seizures were made on 16 January, the combined team seized five huts used for drug production, five warehouses, eight residential huts, five six-foot boilers, five five-foot boilers, four steel mixers machines, 60 steel trays, 120 glass drug-processing tubes, four tablet-pressing machines, 120 empty gas cylinders, 250 empty blue plastic barrels, 50 empty iron barrels, two large generators, and two six-wheel blue trucks.

At 3 pm, eight kilometres southwest of Man Phyat Village and about four kilometres southeast of the location where seizures were made on 18 January, one tarpaulin-roofed residential tent measuring 25 feet by 15 feet, one tarpaulin-roofed cooking shed measuring 20 feet by 10 feet, one backhoe, and related equipment used in drug production were seized.

At 7 pm on 20 January, about eight kilometers southwest of the same area, two two-storey metal-roofed buildings measuring

online fraud and gambling were discovered and seized.

On the 22 January morning, the security force conducted security measures, and reached an area about 18 kilometres northwest of Man Phyat village and about four kilometres southwest of the location where seizures were made on 16 January. There, they seized a large camp believed to have been occupied by SSA such as one metal-roofed, brick-walled residential building measuring 40 feet by 20 feet, one metal-roofed, brick-walled cooking shed measuring 40 feet by 25 feet, one metal-roofed bamboo-walled residential hut measuring 20 feet by 20 feet, one metal-roofed brick-walled residential hut measuring 20 feet by 15 feet, one metal-roofed brick-walled residential hut measuring 10 feet by 10 feet, one metal-roofed brick-walled residential hut measuring 20 feet by 20 feet, one metal-roofed wooden-walled residential hut measuring 10 feet by 10 feet, two ground-installed log bun-

kers, one communication trench measuring three feet wide, three feet deep, and 300 feet long, two thatch-roofed huts for two persons, one thatch-roofed hut for five persons, one metal-roofed brick-walled building measuring 24 feet by 12 feet, one metal-roofed brick-walled building measuring 15 feet by 12 feet, one two-storey metal-roofed plank-walled building measuring 24 feet by 24 feet, one metal-roofed brick-walled building measuring 30 feet by 20 feet, one metal-roofed brick-walled building measuring 20 feet by 20 feet, one metal-roofed brick building measuring 24 feet by 15 feet with a garage, one metal-roofed brick-walled bathroom measuring 12 feet by 8 feet, one metal-roofed brick-walled building measuring 10 feet by 5 feet containing two toilets and one metal-roofed brick-walled guard hut measuring 6 feet by 6 feet.

Through ground operations and cooperation with locals, Tatmadaw columns conducted

operations in Hsipaw and Mongyai townships in northern Shan State. Between 9 and 22 January 2026, they were able to uncover and clear 13 drug production sites and two sites suspected of being used for online fraud and gambling. Large quantities of drug-manufacturing equipment and related materials were seized. Moreover, one SSA security outpost and one permanently constructed camp located near the drug production sites were also discovered and seized.

Seized drugs will be examined by the combined teams, including experts, and transferred to relevant departments, and systematically destroyed through incineration or demolition. As there may still be additional suspicious drug-manufacturing sites in the surrounding area, security measures will be continuously carried out. Those involved in drug cases will also be thoroughly identified and effectively prosecuted. — MNA/KTZH

The entire Myanmar people fully support the Myanmar delegation

THE people of Myanmar strongly support the Myanmar delegation currently representing the country at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands. This hearing is extremely important for Myanmar, as it involves a case in which an African country, thousands of miles away, has accused Myanmar of serious violations of international law.

The Government of Myanmar is appearing before the court not only to demonstrate its respect for international law and the role of the judiciary, but also to show that one-sided reports based on unfounded information cannot reflect the truth and cannot protect the honour of Myanmar and its people. During the hearings held from 12 to 29 January, following The Gambia's submissions,

Myanmar formally replied to the court with strong, credible evidence on 16 January for the first round and on 19 January for the second round, demonstrating that The Gambia's allegations are not supported by factual or legal grounds.

Being brought before an international court with unsubstantiated information regarding a case that did not actually occur may cause some impact on Myanmar; however, it also provides an opportunity to formally present the truth to the international community.

The historical background of the case currently under allegation includes the violent acts and terrorist attacks carried out by the ARSA insurgent group in 2016 and 2017, their brutal persecution and killings of Hindus and other local ethnic groups, human rights violations, and ARSA's imposition of control and terror over villages in Maungtaw, Buthidaung, and Rathedaung townships in northern Rakhine State, as well as over Islamic Bengali communities and refugee camps across the border.

These numerous factual events have long been concealed, overlooked by international media, and neglected by biased investigative missions. As a result, the international community has largely been unaware of these facts. Being able to present strong evidence before the international court now provides an opportunity for Myanmar, which has limited media reach, to officially convey these facts.

The issue of the Bengali population in northern Rakhine State has, since colonial times, been primarily an administrative matter related to population management. Since the era of extremist Mujahid insurgent groups, some have attempted to exploit it politically, seeking to seize territory through various schemes.

Regarding the recent allegations against Myanmar based on unfounded and inaccurate information, the people of Myanmar express their full respect and support for the international court, which is being approached with trust, cooperation, and seriousness to uphold the rule of law in the field of international legal affairs.

1. The Deadliest Threat We Do Not See

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are often described as silent killers because they develop slowly, progress quietly, and frequently remain undetected until serious complications arise. Unlike infectious diseases, they do not spread from person to person, yet

they claim more lives every year than any other group of illnesses. Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes together account for the majority of global deaths today.

Globally and in Myanmar, NCDs have overtaken communicable diseases as the leading cause of mortality.

They affect people across all age groups, including those in their most productive years, resulting in major economic losses and social consequences.

Low- and middle-income countries carry the greatest share of the global NCD burden. Although NCDs were once considered diseases of affluent societies, nearly three-quarters of NCD-related deaths now occur in developing regions. Rapid urbanization, ageing populations, changing lifestyles, and limited access to preventive and curative health services have accelerated the NCD epidemic in these countries.

2. Understanding Non-Communicable Diseases

Non-communicable diseases are chronic conditions that tend to be of long duration and often require lifelong management rather than short-term treatment. The four major groups of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases, such as heart attacks and stroke, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, particularly heart disease and stroke, are the leading causes of NCD mortality, followed by cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases.

These diseases share common risk factors. Unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, and exposure to air pollution contribute significantly to their development. Over time, such behaviours lead to metabolic changes including raised blood pressure, high blood glucose levels, abnormal blood lipids, and overweight or obesity, all of which greatly increase the risk of premature death.

3. The Global Burden of Silent Killers

Non-communicable diseases account for nearly three-quar-

Silent Killers: Non-Communicable Diseases in Global and Myanmar Context

Dr Aung Tun

ters of all deaths worldwide. A particularly alarming feature of this burden is the high proportion of premature deaths occurring before the age of 70. Millions of people die each year during their most productive years, resulting in major economic losses and social consequences.

Low- and middle-income countries carry the greatest share of the global NCD burden. Although NCDs were once considered diseases of affluent societies, nearly three-quarters of NCD-related deaths now occur in developing regions. Rapid urbanization, ageing populations, changing lifestyles, and limited access to preventive and curative health services have accelerated the NCD epidemic in these countries.

and rising levels of overweight and obesity, especially in urban areas, further compound the NCD burden.

Importantly, NCDs in Myanmar are not confined to older age groups. A significant proportion of deaths occur before the age of 70, resulting in premature loss of life, reduced workforce productivity, and increased household poverty due to long-term health care costs.

lesterol levels, and overweight or obesity. Among these, elevated blood pressure is one of the leading contributors to NCD-related deaths globally and in Myanmar.

Environmental factors also play a major role. Indoor and outdoor air pollution contribute significantly to cardiovascular diseases, stroke, chronic respiratory diseases, and lung cancer. In Myanmar, exposure to household air pollution from solid fuel use, as well as in-

advantaged populations are disproportionately affected. Limited access to health services, lack of early detection, and delayed treatment contribute to higher rates of complications and premature death. Without strong health systems and social protection mechanisms, the growing NCD burden risks reversing hard-won development gains.

7. Prevention and Control: From Policy to Personal



5. Risk Factors: Behavioural, Metabolic and Environmental

The major risk factors for NCDs can be grouped into behavioural, metabolic, and environmental categories. Behavioural risk factors include tobacco use, unhealthy diets high in salt, sugar and unhealthy fats, harmful use of alcohol, and insufficient physical activity. These behaviours are strongly influenced by social norms, commercial practices, and the physical environment. Behavioural risks often lead to metabolic changes such as raised blood pressure, high blood glucose, abnormal cho-

creasing urban air pollution, remains a major public health concern.

6. Socioeconomic Impact and Development Consequences

Non-communicable diseases pose a serious threat to national development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Chronic illness reduces productivity, increases absenteeism, and places long-term financial strain on households. Many families affected by NCDs face catastrophic health expenditures that can push them into poverty.

Vulnerable and socially dis-

Action

The good news is that many non-communicable diseases are preventable. Cost-effective, evidence-based interventions exist to reduce exposure to major risk factors and to promote healthier lifestyles.

Strong tobacco and alcohol control policies, promotion of healthy diets, encouragement of physical activity, and actions to reduce air pollution can significantly lower NCD risk at the population level.

While government policies and health systems are criti-

cal, individual actions remain central to preventing NCDs. Every person can take practical steps to protect their health:

- Avoid all forms of tobacco use and protect family members from second-hand smoke.
- Choose a healthy diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, while reducing salt, sugar and unhealthy fats.
- Engage in regular physical activity, such as walking or cycling, for at least 150 minutes per week.
- Limit or avoid alcohol consumption.
- Maintain a healthy body weight.
- Check blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels regularly, particularly after the age of 40.
- Seek early medical advice and adhere to treatment if diagnosed with hypertension, diabetes, or other chronic conditions.

Early detection and continuous care are essential. Strengthening primary health care to provide screening, diagnosis, and long-term management of NCDs is a cost-effective approach that saves lives and reduces the need for expensive hospital-based treatment.

9. Myanmar's Response to the NCD Challenge

Myanmar has taken important institutional and policy steps to address the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. Within the Ministry of Health, a dedicated Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Unit was established under the Department of Public Health (DOPH) around 2015 to provide leadership in NCD prevention and control. The NCD Unit is responsible for developing and implementing national strategies, policies, and action plans aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality from major NCDs.

A cornerstone of Myanmar's

the world, NCDs are now the leading cause of death and a major challenge to health systems, economic productivity, and sustainable development. Myanmar's response — anchored in strong institutional leadership, primary health-care-based interventions such as WHO PEN, improved surveillance through STEPS surveys, and multi-sectoral collaboration — demonstrates a clear commitment to tackling this growing epidemic.

However, sustained political commitment, adequate investment, and active community participation remain essential to translate policies into measurable health gains. By combining effective national programmes with individual responsibility for healthier lifestyles, Myanmar can move from reacting to silent killers toward preventing them. Making NCDs visible, preventable, and manageable is essential for protecting lives today and securing a healthier future for generations to come.

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NATIONAL BUSINESS

Yangon Port handles 728 container vessels in 2025

A total of 728 container vessels arrived at the Yangon Port in 2025, the Myanma Port Authority announced.

A total of 62 container vessels in January 2025, 53 in February, 58 in March, 62 in April, 65 in May, 62 in June, 60 each in July and August, 59 in September, 68 in October, 60 in November and 59 in December.

Yangon Port handled 633 container vessels in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon



An overseas-bound merchant vessel is seen docking at Yangon Port.

River was found, the draft extension work was acceler-

ated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The

35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. Three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run to fulfil the seaborne trade requirements in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems, preventing sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 meters, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/KK

YCDC to lease billboards for coming financial year

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) invited business entities to submit applications to lease advertising billboards for the upcoming financial year 2025-2026.

YCDC will cast the lots to rent out 45 feet by 15 feet billboards located within the YCDC area in the 2026-2027 FY. Interested business entities

can apply for it via the official website www.ycdc.gov.mm.

Applications can be submitted between 16 and 30 January. Drawing lots will be held at 9:30 am on 4 and 5 March 2026. The venue for the lottery process will be the main meeting Hall on the first floor of the City Hall. Individuals can enquire about details from the Administration Department via 09 250179779 and 09 450030672. — NN/KK

from January 16 to 30, 2026. The lottery-based leasing process will be held at 9:30 am on

4 and 5 March 2026. The venue for the lottery process will be the main meeting Hall on the first floor of the City Hall. Individuals can enquire about details from the Administration Department via 09 250179779 and 09 450030672. — NN/KK

CBM to inject US\$25M to fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 21 January that it would sell US\$25 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector.

CBM continued injecting 3.95 million baht into the foreign exchange market after selling over \$649,000 to the edible oil-importing companies on 21 January. CBM injected over 3.4 million baht into the foreign exchange market along with the sales of over \$938,000 to edible oil-importing countries on 20 January.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over \$1.75 million to edible oil-importing companies on 19 January, in addition to an injection of \$700,000 and over three million baht.

CBM announced on 16 January that it would sell 30 million baht to importers.

CBM sold over \$1.83 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$470,500 to fuel oil-importing companies on that day after an injection of over 4.8 million baht on 16 January.

CBM injected over \$1.5 million into edible oil-importing companies and over \$2 million into fuel oil-importing companies on 15 January, along with sales of \$844,000 and over 7.35 million baht.

CBM announced on 14 January that it would sell \$25 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.3 million to edible oil-importing companies, in addition to an injection of over 1.88 million baht into the market on the same day.

CBM pumped \$34 million, 11 million baht and 300,000 yuan into the market in December

2025. CBM made the injection of over \$21 million, 2.4 million yuan and 1.5 million baht in November and over \$2.48 million, 5.75 million yuan and 4.98 million baht in October, along with

sales of over \$54 million purchased from CMP companies. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been

collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt

to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

285 consumer complaints received in 2025

ACCORDING to the Department of Consumer Affairs, a total of 285 consumer complaints regarding losses and grievances were received throughout 2025, including 48 complaints related to goods and 237 complaints related to services, and 244 of them have been settled.

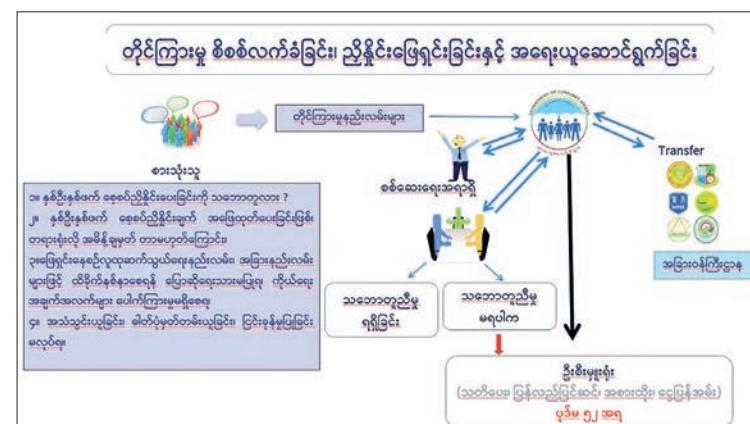
Yangon Region has the highest number of complaints with 163 cases, followed by Mandalay Region, Bago Region and Nay Pyi Taw.

U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, deputy director general of the DOCA, stated last December that the most common complaints from the Yangon Region in order involved Wi-Fi/internet services, failure to provide advertised services after a purchase and

missing facilities promised during apartment purchases.

As a member of the ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection, the department also handles international cases. If citizens travel to ASEAN countries for medical treatment or shopping and face issues upon their return, the department coordinates with the consumer protection agencies of the respective countries to resolve the matters.

The Consumer Affairs Department is currently collaborating with relevant associations to conduct awareness programmes, meeting with entrepreneurs to discuss and educate them on codes of conduct and settling the issues to ensure consumers' rights are protected. — MT/ZN



This diagram explains the process of complaint verification, mediation, and legal action.

NATIONAL

MCEF conducts carpenter training for conservation of Inlay stilt houses

THE Technology Development Committee of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation will conduct a carpenter training course in southern Shan State's Nyaungshwe Township to conserve the traditional stilt houses of the Inlay region.

Organized by the committee, the ceremony of the course curriculum introduction was held in Nyaungshwe on 19 January, said MCEF. The training of trainers (TOT) course, scheduled from 20 to 30 January, will accept 20 trainees, and after it, on-the-job training will continue for 100 trainees as the cascade model.

MCEF joint general secretary, the Technology Develop-

ment Committee secretary and programme manager U Aye Lin gave a presentation about the training, and U Than Htike Aung from Swiss Contact and U Bhone Kyaw and U Myo Nyunt from Mya Nan Dar Consultant Team introduced the course curriculum.

The committee also organized a mason training of trainers in Mandalay, which started on 7 January and concluded on 17 January after completing teaching techniques, methods, assignments, construction safety, site survey, knowledge sharing, practical assessment, exam and feedback collection, said MCEF.

— MT/ZS



The carpenter training course curriculum introduction ceremony.

MRCS boosts earthquake safety measures, holds preparedness drills



SAR team conducts preparatory drill in action.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has released a set of safety guidelines to mitigate the impact of earthquakes, noting that because these disasters occur suddenly without warning, they often result in significant loss and damage. To prepare before an earthquake, the public is advised to avoid storing heavy items in high places or sleeping near glass windows and doors. Householders should repair any decaying structures within the home, familiarize themselves with the location of the main

electrical switch, and keep torches, candles, and first-aid kits ready. Furthermore, the MRCS recommends that schools implement earthquake drills and disaster education programmes.

During the earthquake itself, it is essential to remain calm. If inside a building, one should stay indoors rather than rushing out, seeking shelter under a sturdy table away from glass. Those already outdoors should remain there, moving clear of power lines, pylons, trees, and brick walls that could collapse. The

advisory also warns against striking matches near gas tanks, using lifts, or driving onto bridges and flyovers; motorists should instead pull over in a safe area. Those near the coast must immediately flee to higher ground to avoid potential tsunami waves, while occupants of high-rise buildings are urged not to cause a stampede when attempting to exit.

Once the shaking has subsided, individuals should inspect electrical wiring, water pipes, and fuel tanks, cutting off supplies if damage is detected. Caution is advised regarding live wires, and the electricity department should be notified to isolate power where necessary. The MRCS further advises staying away from the sea and damaged buildings, using telephones only for emergencies, and following local community emergency plans. Should evacuation be required, essential emergency supplies must be taken along. — ASH/MKKS

ACC launches public feedback programme to reduce corruption



The Anti-Corruption Commission office conducts an edutainment programme to promote integrity among students and youth.

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has announced the launch of the Public Feedback Programme (PFP) to help reduce corruption by collecting feedback from the public.

Under the programme, the Commission is working in cooperation with relevant departments to gather public feedback through an SMS-based system. According to the PFP, citizens who receive services from government offices and departments will be sent questions related to those services via SMS using the short code "1111", enabling the authorities to collect public responses.

The programme aims to

improve the quality of services provided by government departments and organizations while reducing corruption. Through public responses submitted via SMS to the short code "1111", the authorities will be able to identify service-related needs and weaknesses within government offices and organizations and make the necessary improvements.

In addition, coordination has been made with telecommunications operators to allow the public to respond to SMS messages at affordable rates, thereby encouraging broader public participation in anti-corruption efforts, the Commission said. — ASH/KZL

ECONOMY WORLD

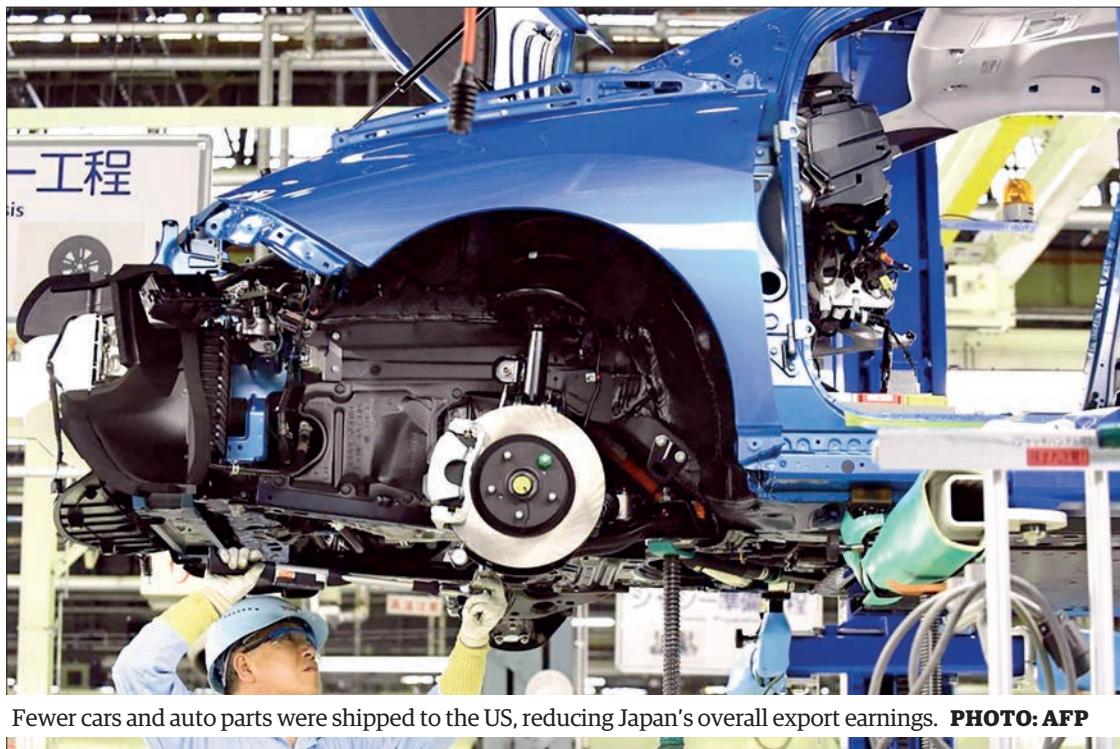
Japan's exports to US fall as tariffs bite

Higher purchases of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), cereals, and power-generating machinery raised Japan's import bill.

JAPAN'S exports to the United States dropped 11.1 per cent in December and slipped more than four per cent last year, official figures showed Thursday, as tariffs bite.

In 2025, Japan's exports to the United States fell 4.1 per cent, contributing to a 12.6 per cent decline in Tokyo's trade surplus with Washington to 7.5 trillion yen (\$47 billion), finance ministry data showed.

A drop in the number of cars and auto parts exported, as well as rise in imports of liquefied petroleum gas, cereals and power-generating machines, were primary factors in Tokyo's shrinking trade surplus with Washington, according to the data.



In December, Tokyo's exports to Washington fell 11.1 per cent to 1.81 trillion yen (\$11.4 billion), with the trade surplus shrinking 31.7 per cent to 690.6 billion yen (\$4.4 billion).

In July, Tokyo and Washington announced a trade deal lowering tariffs to 15 per cent from a feared 25 per cent.

Crucially, that reduction included the auto sector, an industry that accounted for 30 per cent of Japanese exports to the United States in 2024.

However, Tokyo officials and business leaders have said the 15 per cent tariffs are still high compared with the period before the second Trump administration. — AFP

India-EU FTA may face hurdles from non-tariff barriers like CBAM: Jefferies

WHILE India and the European Union move closer to finalizing a long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA), concerns remain for India on non-tariff barriers, particularly the upcoming Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), highlighted Jefferies in its latest report on the India-EU trade deal.

The report said that a key

concern for India is the presence of multiple non-tariff barriers for its exports to the EU, with limited scope for relaxation. It specifically pointed to CBAM as a major challenge, noting that this mechanism could impact Indian exports going forward. Jefferies stated "Key concern for India is the many non-tariff barriers such as the upcoming

CBAM mechanism for its exports. We see limited scope of relaxation here".

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is the EU's policy to put a fair price on carbon emissions from imported goods, making them cost the same as domestically produced goods, thus preventing "carbon leakage". — ANI



NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea's economy grew just 1% in 2025

SOUTH Korea logged its slowest growth in half a decade in 2025, the country's central bank said Thursday, while exports rose on the back of a boom in artificial intelligence.

Asia's fourth-largest economy has struggled with sluggish demand, a troubled housing market and the fallout of former president Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration, which plunged the country into political chaos.

Last year's one per cent growth was the slowest since 2020, when the economy shrank following the outbreak of COVID-19.

Exports were a bright spot, rising by 4.1 per cent, the country's central bank said, while imports were up 3.8 per cent. — AFP

UK annual inflation rises more than expected in December

BRITAIN'S annual inflation rate rose more than expected in December, official data showed Wednesday, reinforcing expectations that the Bank of England will hold off on cutting interest rates next month.

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose to 3.4 per cent in December, compared to 3.2 per cent in November, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

The analysts' consensus forecast had been for inflation of 3.3 per cent. However, price pressures are widely expected to ease in 2026, with inflation set to move closer to the Bank of England's two-per-cent target.

The ONS attributed December's rise to higher tobacco prices, airfares and food costs. — AFP

Ubisoft unveils details of big restructuring bet

UBISOFT on Wednesday ended a months-long wait for details of a restructuring the French games giant hopes will power it up to face a competitive market – at the price of a string of cancelled games and a new round of belt-tightening. A wave of disappointed social media posts from fans mourned the highest-profile axed title, a remake of the beloved 2000s-era classic "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time", which was cut after teams sunk several years into its development.

A further five games have been cancelled outright, including four unannounced titles and one mobile game, while seven more have been delayed.

The cuts and delays make up a large chunk of an expected one-billion-euro (\$1.2 billion) operating loss in Ubisoft's 2025-26 financial year. — AFP

China home to over 6,000 AI firms in 2025

CHINA had more than 6,000 artificial intelligence (AI) enterprises last year, while the scale of the country's core AI industry was expected to exceed 1.2 trillion yuan (about US\$171.39 billion) in 2025, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Wednesday.

In 2025, domestic companies released multiple AI chip products, and the country's intelligent computing power capacity reached 1,590 EFLOPS last year, Zhang Yunming, vice minister of industry and information technology, said at a press conference. — Xinhua

Maharashtra's first Innovation city to be built near Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA is set to build its first 'Innovation City' near Mumbai, bringing in multiple investors and global innovation ecosystems to India, said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Speaking to ANI on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Fadnavis highlighted on Wednesday that the idea was proposed under the AI and the Innovation Ecosystem theme of the 2025 WEF conference before more than 400 in-

vestors, and this year the location has been finalized with the project set to begin in six to eight months.

"The city will bring global innovation ecosystems to Mumbai, India. Our goal is to make Mumbai a hub where anyone in the world can easily access a plug-and-play innovation system. Tata Sons has committed \$11 billion to develop the Innovation City, including a data centre.

Following this announcement, international investors are now ex-

pecting serious interest in investing in this city. We

are set to build India's first innovation city near Mumbai," CM Fadnavis told ANI. — ANI



The idea was proposed under the AI and Innovation Ecosystem theme of the 2025 WEF conference. **PHOTO: ANI**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (277N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (277N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM8AS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM8AS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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ACTEUS GROUP COMPANY LIMITED (the "Company")

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules
(Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

As per special resolutions duly passed in writing on 20.1.2026 by all of the members of the company:

1. The process of members' voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from 20.1.2026.
2. U Sai Aung Sar (CPA No.1105), Insolvency practitioner registration number (105516) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members' voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company's affairs in respect of such winding up; and
3. All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before 20.2.2026 with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

**U Sai Aung Sar
CPA, Liquidator**

**U Aung Nay Myo
Advocate (No. 17955)**

Level 16, Unit 1605, Sule Square 221, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Tel: 09 952211180

LASSIPA COMPANY LIMITED (the "Company")

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**U Sai Aung Sar
CPA, Liquidator**

**U Aung Nay Myo
Advocate (No.17955)**

Level 16, Unit 1605, Sule Square 221, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
Tel: 09 952211180

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to TIMI AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

Sr. No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Rainspray 720 SL	2,4-D Dimethylamine Salt 72% SL	P2024-6513

RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD
Phone : 09456060160, 09456060180

ROLLING UPDATES



US President Donald Trump (right) speaks with NATO's Secretary-General Mark Rutte during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on 21 January 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

US, Denmark to renegotiate 1951 Greenland defence pact: source

While European allies plan to strengthen Arctic security, the idea of placing US bases in Greenland under American sovereignty was not discussed.

THE United States and Denmark will renegotiate a 1951 defence pact on Greenland, a source familiar with talks between President Donald Trump and NATO chief Mark Rutte told AFP Thursday.

The source said that European allies would also step up Arctic security, but insisted that placing American bases

on Greenland under US sovereignty had not been discussed.

"The 1951 agreement will get renegotiated," the source said. The defence agreement, updated in 2004, already gives Washington freedom to ramp up its troop deployments, provided it informs the authorities in Denmark and Greenland in advance. The US currently

has one base on Greenland – the Pituffik Space Base on the northwest of the island that constitutes a crucial link in the US missile defence system. Trump on Wednesday announced a framework deal after talks with Rutte at the World Economic Forum in Davos, but the details of the purported agreement remained vague. — AFP

EU ready to deliver on powerful agenda with India: EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas

THE European Union is looking forward to a major comprehensive deal with India, which is likely to be inked during the visit of the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council to India.

Speaking in the European Parliament, Kaja Kallas EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said,

"Europe is ready to deliver on a powerful new agenda with India. Today, the EU agreed to move forward with the signature of a new Security and Defence Partnership. It will expand our cooperation in areas such as maritime security, counterterrorism, and cyber defence. I look forward to signing it next week during the EU-India Summit in New Delhi." — ANI

The European Union and India will hold the 16th summit in New Delhi, where a new EU-India comprehensive strategic agenda is expected to be adopted.

Earlier, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated that the European Union is close to finalizing a Free Trade Agreement with India. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Several missing after landslide hits holiday park

SEVERAL people, including children, are missing after a large landslide struck a holiday park at the base of Mount Maunganui in New Zealand's Bay of Plenty region on Thursday.

Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell said search and rescue efforts were continuing at the Beachside Holiday Park.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand commander William Pike said rescuers initially heard voices from under the debris but none since, and no survivors had yet been found.

The slip swept through campervans, cars, tents, hot pools, and a shower block at around 9:30 am local time, triggering evacuations across the site. Emergency services have been working to locate anybody who remains in the area. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka drug seizures hit record high in 2025

SRI Lanka's security forces seized a record volume of narcotics in 2025, more than doubling the amount confiscated the previous year, a senior policeman said on Thursday.

Police Media Spokesperson and Assistant Superintendent of Police F U Wootler stated at a media briefing that the national anti-drug operation had achieved significant success in curbing the spread of illicit drugs.

He said police seized a total of 10,871 kilogrammes of heroin, cannabis, crystal methamphetamine, hashish, and cocaine in 2024, while the figure more than doubled in 2025. — Xinhua

S Korea's former PM Han Duck-soo jailed 23 years

A South Korean court sentenced the country's former prime minister Han Duck-soo to 23 years in prison for abetting then-President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief imposition of martial law in December 2024, state media has reported.

The ruling was delivered on 21 January by the Seoul Central District Court in a nationally televised verdict, Yonhap reported, adding that the presiding judge ordered Han to be placed in custody, citing concerns he could destroy evidence.

Presiding Judge Lee Jin-kwan defined Yoon's imposition of martial law as an act of insurrection that "could have pushed South Korea back into dictatorship" and convicted Han of "playing a key role in an insurrection." — ANI



Speaking in the European Parliament, Kaja Kallas EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said, "Europe is ready to deliver on a powerful new agenda with India." **PHOTO: ANI**

SPORTS

Myanmar athletes claim 16 medals at XIII ASEAN Para Games

AS of 22 January 2026, Myanmar athletes have secured a total of 16 medals at the XIII ASEAN Para Games, held from 20 to 26 January in Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. The tally includes seven golds, six silvers, and three bronzes across swimming and athletics events.

Myanmar competitors have taken part in multiple disciplines, including blind football, goalball, swimming, sitting volleyball, shooting, table tennis, track and field, seven-a-side football, boccia, and bowling.

In swimming, Nyi Nyi Lin Htet claimed gold in the S3-S4 men's 200-metre freestyle with a time of 3:36.31. Other medalists included winners in S6 men's 200-metre freestyle, T44/T64 and F44/F56 athletics,



Images showcase Myanmar's prize-winning parar-athletes and highlights from the swimming competition.

and table tennis Class 7.

In team events, Myanmar defeated the Philippines and Indonesia in sitting volleyball, Malaysia in seven-a-side football, and the Philippines in blind football. In boccia BC1 men's individual, Min Min Htike emerged

victorious over a Philippines competitor, while Toe Tat Aung won in table tennis Class 7 semifinals against a Thai athlete.

The medal presentation ceremony was conducted with officials from the Asean Para Sports Federation (APSF) and

the Myanmar Paralympic Committee, led by Maj-Gen Hla Moe, presenting awards to winners.

Myanmar athletes will continue to compete on 23 January in athletics, swimming, sitting volleyball, blind football, seven-a-side football, goalball, shoot-

ing, weightlifting, and boccia events.

Currently, the Myanmar team ranks sixth in the overall medal standings, maintaining its tally of seven golds, six silvers, and three bronzes. — MNA/KZL

Reeling Napoli face Juve after 'unacceptable' Champions League showing

NAPOLI are reeling ahead of Sunday's clash with fierce rivals Juventus after more European disappointment left the Serie A title holders on the brink of being eliminated from the Champions League. Trailing leaders Inter Milan by six points ahead of their trip to Turin, Napoli have to pick themselves up after a poor 1-1 draw at 10-man FC Copenhagen.

Scott McTominay's goal, which came shortly after Thomas Delaney was sent off for Copenhagen towards the end of the first half, looked to have sent

Napoli on the way to a key win for their hopes of securing a play-off berth.

Instead Napoli were pegged back and as a result dropped into the elimination places with one match remaining, a horrible result for both Napoli and Italy's dwindling reputation on the continental stage. "We should have won that game, it's unacceptable," McTominay told Sky. "We should have scored the second and third goals to close out the game... It's really disappointing that we didn't". — AFP



Scott McTominay will try to help pick up Napoli against Juventus after defeat at FC Copenhagen. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Ayeyawady Team tops Myanmar Women's League after Matchweek 16

THE 2025-2026 Myanmar Women's League Matchweek 16 took place on 21 and 22 January, with defending champions ISPE FC settling for a draw, allowing Ayeyawady Team to move to the top of the table.

In Matchweek 16, Ayeyawady Team defeated Young Lionesses 4-0, Yangon United overcame YREO 3-1, and Myawady Team beat Yangon City 3-1. Shan United and ISPE FC played out a goalless draw. ISPE FC slipped in the title race following the draw and dropped to second place. To retain the championship, they must win both of their remaining matches, including the decisive clash against Ayeyawady. Meanwhile, Ayeyawady capitalized on ISPE FC's draw to regain the lead by one point and now needs only four points from its final two matches to secure the title.

After Matchweek 16

of the 2025-2026 Myanmar Women's League, Ayeyawady Team leads the standings with 36 points from 14 matches, followed by ISPE FC with 35 points from 14 matches. Thitsar Arman has 30 points from 14 matches, Yangon United has 29 points from 14 matches, and Shan

United has 24 points from 14 matches. YREO has 11 points from 15 matches, while Young Lionesses and Myawady Team each have 8 points from 14 matches. Yangon City remains at the bottom of the table with 1 point from 15 matches. — Ko N y i Lay/KZL



The Ayeyawady Team in action against Young Lionesses. PHOTO: AYEYAWADY FC

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defence pact: source
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WORLD



Russian President Vladimir Putin travels aboard the Raptor boat during his visit to Saint Petersburg on Navy Day, Russia on 27 July 2025.
PHOTO: SPUTNIK /FILE

Putin to keep tabs on response to maritime law violations by unfriendly nations

The session focused particularly on violations of maritime law by unfriendly states and how Russia intends to respond.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will be briefed on how Russia plans to respond to violations of international maritime law by unfriendly countries, the Maritime Collegium said on Wednesday.

"The Chairman of the Maritime Collegium [Nikolai Patrushev] will brief the President of Russia on the outcomes of the meeting and the response measures developed," the statement read.

The Presidium of the Maritime Colle-

gium met on Wednesday to address issues related to ensuring the safety of navigation along strategic maritime routes. Particular attention was paid to concerns arising from violations of international maritime law by unfriendly states. — SPUTNIK

China welcomes Canada's new EV trade measures: spokesperson

A Chinese Ministry of Commerce spokesperson on Thursday welcomed Canada's new trade arrangements for electric vehicles (EVs) exported from China, calling them "a positive step in the right direction".

Spokesperson He Yongqian made the remarks when answering a question on the agreements on EVs and rapeseed reached

between the two countries.

According to the adjusted arrangements, Canada will grant China an annual quota of 49,000 EVs. Vehicles within this quota will enjoy the most-favoured-nation tariff rate of 6.1 per cent and be exempted from the 100 per cent additional tariff, with the quota volume set to increase year by year at a

certain ratio.

Regarding rapeseed, He noted that China has always advocated resolving trade differences through dialogue and consultation. The country will fully consider Canada's reasonable demands within the framework of established rules and make a final ruling based on facts and evidence. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 3 November 2025 shows a new energy vehicle assembly line of BYD, China's leading NEV manufacturer, at the plant of BYD in Zhengzhou, Central China's Henan province. **PHOTO: XINHUA /FILE**

South Korean law to regulate AI takes effect

SOUTH Korea became the first country to have a wide-ranging law regulating artificial intelligence take full effect on Thursday, including specific provisions targeting deepfakes.

The country, home to memory chip powerhouses Samsung and SK hynix, has said it aims to join the United States and China as one of the top three AI powers.

"The AI Basic Act comes into full effect today," President Lee Jae Myung said.

The law requires companies to give users advance notice when services or products use generative AI.

It also says they must clearly label content, including deepfakes, that cannot readily be differentiated from reality, among other requirements.

The act, passed in December 2024, is meant to "establish a safety- and trust-based foundation to support AI innovation", the Ministry of Science and ICT said in a statement.

Violations are punishable by a fine of up to 30 million won (\$20,400). South Korean media said it was the first comprehensive AI regulation law in the world to take effect. — AFP