

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.

State Opens Path to Peace Through Dialogue

Armed groups must recognize that their demands cannot be achieved through terrorism and that lasting conflicts can only be resolved peacefully through political dialogue at the negotiation table.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State, which falls on 15 December 2025. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

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Success in all projects depends on cooperation in the workplace
By Aung Kyaw Thant

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Union Supreme Court organizes seminar on Intellectual Property Right Laws

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NDSC Executive Chief visits Sittway for 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day celebrations



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw is seen being welcomed back on his arrival from Turkmenistan yesterday.

PM-led Myanmar delegation arrives back in Yangon from Turkmenistan

A Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw who attended the International Forum dedicated to the International Year of Peace and Trust and the ceremony to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan held in Ashgabat of Turkmenistan arrived back in Yangon yesterday evening.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed back by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Pyae Sone Lin and officials from the regional government at the airport. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

- Domestic election observers who wish to monitor the multiparty democratic general election, which will begin in phases on 28 December 2025, may apply for election observation permits at the Union Election Commission (UEC), as well as the relevant Region/State, District, and Township Election Subcommissions from today until 5 December 2025.
- The Union Election Commission announced on 16 September 2025 that domestic election observers must follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to the procedures set out for their observation activities under Notification 69/2025. These notifications are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the Union Election Commission's official website <https://www.uec.gov.mm>.
- The Union Election Commission has also announced that international election observers will be allowed to monitor the multiparty democratic general election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. In addition, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will be sent to representatives of foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission



- **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.**

Four National Objectives for 78th Independence Day 2025

1. To safeguard the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty by all citizens, as they are the most essential and suitable national objectives and national duties
2. To strive forward for national unity and Union peace to implement sustainable and balanced development
3. To establish a genuine, disciplined democratic system completely by exercising the freedom and justice in accordance with the laws and regulations
4. To advance other economic sectors and promote MSMEs based on regional products

Union Supreme Court organizes seminar on Intellectual Property Right Laws

THE Seminar on Intellectual Property Right Laws was held at the meeting hall of the Mandalay Region High Court under the supervision of the Supreme Court of the Union yesterday, via online and in person (Hybrid).

U Thein Ko Ko, the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union, and Daw Hla Myint, Chief Justice of the High Court of the Mandalay Region delivered opening remarks respectively. Then, Daw Tin Nwe Soe, Director-General of the Office of the Union Judiciary Supervision explained the implementation of awareness-raising seminars on intellectual property laws, and U Khin Maung Myint, Head of the Judicial Office of the High Court of the Mandalay Region, the objectives of the seminar.

At the Seminar, Daw Aye Aye Hlaing, the Director of the Department of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Case Specialization, gave a presentation titled “Summary of the Four Types of Intel-



The Seminar on Intellectual Property Right Laws in progress at the meeting hall of the Mandalay Region High Court yesterday, via online and in person (Hybrid).

lectual Property Laws”; U Myo Kyaw Aung, District Judge of the Zeyathiri District Court, “Cases under the Cop-

Deputy District Judge of Aungmyaythazan District Court, “Cases under Patent Law”; U Soe Khun Phyu, District Judge, Pynmana District Court, “New Patent Law and, New Issues, Challenges and Role of Intellectual Property Court”; and U Min Thant, Deputy Director of the Dispute Resolution and Case Specialization Department, “Various Aspects of Trademark Law” and discussed various topics about intellectual property law.

The Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Director-General of the Union Judicial Supervision Office, two deputy directors-general, directors and judicial officers, members of the IP Working Group attended the seminar via online, while chief justices and justices of High Court of the Mandalay Region, judicial officers and judges at district level and judicial officers from Mandalay Region, and members of the Mandalay Bar Association, totalling 109 attended the seminar in person. — MNA

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)

State Opens Path to Peace Through Dialogue

FROM PAGE 1

Esteemed national brethren in Rakhine State,

On the auspicious occasion of the 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day, which falls today, 15 December 2025, I extend my greetings and first offer my best wishes to all Rakhine national brethren residing in Rakhine State and in various regions, as well as to all Union-born ethnic national people across the country, wishing them complete physical and mental well-being and the fulfilment of all beneficial hopes and aspirations.

Rakhine State Day is a significant and prestigious occasion, rich in special significance, for the Union-born Rakhine ethnic people. Under the Constitution adopted in 1974, when regions and states were designated, Rakhine State was included as one of the states. In 1974, a nationwide referendum was held from 15 to 31 December 1973 to approve the Constitution. The Rakhine State People's Council designated 15 December – the first day of that referendum – as Rakhine State Day. The Rakhine State Day ceremony, which is an auspicious occasion for all Rakhine ethnic people, has been observed annually with grandeur and enthusiasm, and it has now reached its 51st year.

Rakhine State is a state rich in cultural heritage and artistic works, together with the long ancient history of the Rakhine ethnic people. It is a region where the Buddha Sasana has flourished brightly, and, as expressed in the saying “Digits on clusters of orchid flowers is equal to Rakhine pagodas”, it is home to many historic ancient stupas and temples, making it a state abundant in cultural heritage.

Rakhine State is geographically located along the western coastal region and covers an area of 14,200 square miles. As it shares borders with neighbouring countries, it is an important state for the nation. With forests, mountains, rivers and streams, lush green woodlands, and a long and beautiful coastline, it is rich in land and water resources. It is also a proud and scenic state capable of producing valuable natural products.

Esteemed national brethren,

Currently, this is a period during which the National Defence and Security Council is exercising and carrying out the three branches of State power – legislative, executive, and judicial – in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Until a new government that emerges from a general election is formed, the National Defence and Security Council has also set four key objectives and is continuously implementing them, namely: promoting national economic development, improving the socioeconomic lives of the people, and enhancing the national education and health sectors.

The National Defence and Security Council has formed the National Peace and Security Commission,

and at present it is proceeding, in line with the final point of the four objectives – “to implement multiparty democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multiparty democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multiparty democratic system aspired by the entire people” – to ensure the successful holding of elections.

To successfully hold the free and fair multiparty democratic general election earnestly desired by the people, to ensure that the rights of all eligible voters are not infringed, and to conduct a dignified general election that is systematic and in accordance with proper procedures, the election processes have already begun to be implemented transparently in line with the relevant laws and by-laws. As the multiparty democratic general election is to be held in phases starting from 28 December, the most essential requirement for its successful conduct is nationwide stability and peace. Therefore, it is urged that all ethnic national people work together with the Government, with a strong sense of national spirit, to collectively strive for and implement this objective.

Esteemed national brethren,

In promoting national economic development, efforts are being made to implement measures to advance sectors closely linked to the economy, including education, health, the rule of law, and transport and communications. In carrying out production activities, it is essential to ensure the growth and success of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which form the most fundamental base of the economy. If these enterprises can be integrated with technology and enabled to produce value-added products, greater benefits will be achieved, and the national economy will be strengthened. By comprehensively implementing agriculture- and livestock-based MSME activities that already have a foundation in Rakhine State, without leaving out even the most remote areas, the socioeconomic lives of ethnic national people will improve. Therefore, it is urged that regional and state governments, including Rakhine State, place strong emphasis on advancing the national economy.

For the development of Rakhine State, the Government has approved K10 billion in funding from the National Economic Development Fund to support the implementation of agricultural activities, livestock breeding, cooperative enterprises, and industrial and handicraft businesses. To date, these funds have been allocated to farmers, livestock breeders, cooperative societies, and industrial and handicraft operators, and implementation activities are already underway.

Promoting and advancing the agricultural and livestock sectors in Rakhine State in this manner will improve the socioeconomic lives of the predominantly

rural population and enhance the country's key production industries. Such efforts reflect the State's goodwill toward Rakhine State and the Rakhine ethnic people, as well as the spirit of ethnic brotherhood, a genuine sense of patriotism, and a strong Union spirit.

The Government is implementing the education sector with the KG+9 as a compulsory education to nurture a fully developed, knowledgeable, and well-rounded human community. It is encouraged that within Rakhine State, efforts be prioritized to increase school enrolment rates for all school-age children, enhance students' academic achievement, and raise promotion rates from one grade to the next.

In the future, to cultivate young people who are fully capable, well-rounded, and reliable not only for the state but also for the nation, a comprehensive education is essential. Equally indispensable is the development of knowledge, general understanding, and correct thinking and values. Therefore, it is urged that, across the entire country, efforts be jointly undertaken to successfully advance the education sector in line with its objectives.

Esteemed national brethren,

Rakhine State has faced numerous difficulties in all aspects of transportation and connectivity. However, due to the successive efforts of the government in prioritizing the development of Rakhine State, it is well recognized that the state has undergone significant improvements and progress compared to the past.

However, today, it can be observed that some powerful countries are seeking to exert influence over our nation's geopolitically important territory, taking advantage of the lack of stability and peace within the country, including in Rakhine State, by fostering unrest and violent activities to create instability.

Since October 2023, the activities of armed terrorist groups such as the MNDAA, TNLA, and AA have further worsened the socioeconomic conditions of ethnic national communities. Many innocent civilians have suffered hardship and distress due to the destructive actions of these armed groups. The continuous armed attacks by these terrorists are politically motivated, carried out based on misguided ideas, and amount to nothing more than violent acts. It has been observed that, rather than advancing along the path of multiparty democracy and working together to build a strong Union, they prioritize pursuing their own separate agendas. They have also exploited and manipulated young people through drugs, drawing them into harsh conditions during conflicts. They should now understand that their demands cannot be met through armed terrorism and that conflicts can only be resolved peacefully through political dialogue at the negotiation table. Therefore, I would like to urge them to abandon armed struggle methods and return to the correct democratic path.

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State Opens Path to Peace Through Dialogue

FROM PAGE 3

It has been observed that the regions and states most affected by armed conflicts are those with weaker development. These areas have long struggled to develop due to a lack of freedom and various historical and situational factors, and the ongoing armed conflicts have further worsened their conditions, leaving them in a state of extreme hardship, as if “hardship is piled by worsening problems”. Looking at countries around the world, it is evident that even remote rural areas achieve development when stability and peace are maintained.

Our country, Myanmar, is rich in natural resources and has fertile land and water suitable for agriculture and livestock breeding. Once stability and peace are achieved, even the historically underdeveloped areas, including rural regions, will inevitably experience development. Therefore, in consideration of the local people in underdeveloped regions who are suffering from poverty due to violent incidents, it is urged that everyone work together to maintain and promote stability and peace.

Esteemed national brethren,

All ethnic national people living in Myanmar are Union-born brethren who, for many centuries, have lived together in harmony, sharing the same land and water. At present, however, it is a critical time for everyone

to reflect and act in the interest of their regions and the nation, rather than allowing domestic traitors or powerful foreign countries to exploit ethnic groups for their own benefits, bringing hardship to the people and destroying local development and resources without consideration. It is urged to be mindful that if ethnic groups remain divided, the nation's strength will be weakened, and history will record them as people who had to follow the will of others.

Only by following the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) path for Union peace can we build the peaceful and prosperous nation that we all hope for. Achieving peace in our country can succeed only by meeting and negotiating through political means, based on the Union spirit, among national brethren, without foreign interference or domestic sabotage. The State also continues to invite dialogue, always keeping the door to peace open. As the saying goes, “The strength of the nation lies within,” it is urged that all ethnic national people work together in unity, collectively and harmoniously, to advance the national interest.

In Rakhine State, ethnic groups such as the Rakhine, Kaman, Khami, Daingnet, Maramagyi, Mro, and Thet live alongside other ethnic nationalities, including the Bamar and Chin. The peace and development of the state rely on the unity of all ethnic groups living there

and on a strong Union spirit. The active cooperation and joint efforts of national brethren residing in Rakhine State toward peace and regional development foster stability and progress within the state and serve as a source of strength for the construction of the nation.

In conclusion, the foremost requirement for the successful conduct of the upcoming multiparty democratic general election in our country is regional security and stability. If all voters actively participate, the election process can be carried out successfully, and the multiparty democratic system, earnestly desired by the people, can advance smoothly and effectively. It is also hoped that the ethnic people of Rakhine State, guided by a Union spirit and a sense of patriotism, will act in the interest of the people of the state, the state itself, and the Union. With these wishes for enduring peace, happiness, and prosperity, I respectfully send my greetings in commemoration of the 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day.

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

Winners awarded at “Hlapa Thaya Pyi Myanmar” colour photo contest

THE awarding ceremony of the “Hlapa Thaya Pyi Myanmar” (Beautiful and Pleasant Myanmar) colour photo contest marking the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day 2024 was held at the assembly hall of Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Street in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn said a total of 145 professional photographers and enthusiasts across Myanmar participated in

the photo competition with their 480 entries. Among them, prizes will be presented first, second, third places and five special prizes. The competition aims to emerge a new generation of young photographers. He appreciated the efforts of panel judges who carefully selected and evaluated the best photos among those entries to the competition. He also urged professional photographers and new generation of young enthusiasts to continue their creations reflecting

the development, pleasant and peace of the country as well as charming traditional cultures and customs through their photos.

Then, member of the Panel of Judges photographer U Sai Kham Lin briefed the attendees on the selection process.

Chairmen of Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Myanmar Libraries Foundation and Myanmar Music Association presented special awards to Htet Thu



Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn views the displayed photos at the event yesterday.

(Shwekyauingyi), U Myint Maw Tun, Aung Kyaw Tun (Panthukyi), U Chan Tha (MDY) and Min Min Tun, respectively.

The Union minister then awarded first prize winner U Soe Moe Aung, first runner-up U Kyaw Naing Lin (Layeikpyar) and second runner-up U

Myo Min Htaik (The Eagle). First prize winner U Soe Moe Aung expressed words of thanks on behalf of the recipients.

The Union Minister and party then viewed the displayed photos at the event.

The Union minister met literary scholars from

National Literary Award Selection Committee and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Selection Committee and presented them with honorariums. They discussed the development of Myanmar literature at the meeting hall of the department. — MNA/ KZL

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NATIONAL

NDSC Executive Chief visits Sittway for 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day celebrations

ON 15 December 2025, U Aung Lin Dwe, Executive Chief of the National Defence and Security Council Office, arrived in Sittway by military aircraft yesterday afternoon to attend the 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day ceremony, accompanied by Union ministers and members of the Central Advisory Body of the National Defence and Security Council.

They were warmly welcomed by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Htein Lin, Commander of the Western Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo, state ministers and relevant departmental officials.

Following their arrival, U Aung Lin Dwe and his delegation met with members of the Rakhine State government and state-level departmental officials in the government office's meeting hall to discuss regional development matters.

First, the Chief Minister of Rakhine State reported on measures taken to ensure the smooth flow of goods and price stability, support provided to departmental staff, retired personnel and residents who have relocated, agricultural and livestock activities undertaken, electricity generation through solar systems, and other efforts for regional development. He also presented Quick Win projects directly benefiting local



National Defence and Security Council Office Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe observes the music performance to mark 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day in Sittway yesterday.

communities, initiatives to advance education, health and sports sectors, preparations to ensure the successful conduct of the multiparty democracy general elections, and arrangements for the celebration of Sittway's 200th anniversary.

Subsequently, Union ministers presented updates on initiatives undertaken by their respective ministries to support the development of Rakhine State and outlined plans for

continued collaborative efforts.

In response to these briefings, the Executive Chief highlighted that the Rakhine and Bamar peoples share the same language and physical appearance, and noted that the state's current stability is challenged by those seeking political gain who spread division through provocative speeches and armed violence. These disturbances have slowed the implementation of development

projects in the region.

He also emphasized that Rakhine nationals reside not only across Myanmar but around the world, and that many outstanding Rakhine nationals have emerged. He stressed that if all parties work together, there is significant potential for the development of Rakhine State. He expressed appreciation for the departments collaborating with the state government and called

for continued joint efforts to ensure peace, stability and development in Rakhine.

After the meeting, the Executive Chief and party visited the multipurpose port in Sittway to inspect the transportation of rice, essential foodstuffs, consumer goods and construction materials from Yangon, jointly overseen by the Yangon Region and Rakhine State governments.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister and the head of the state port authority reported on the arrival of ships at the port, the loading and unloading of cargo, and the depth of the port waters. Based on this information, the Executive Chief offered guidance on necessary measures and conducted an on-site inspection along the port area.

The Executive Chief and party then visited the venue of the 51st Anniversary of Rakhine State Day celebrations to observe the music performances and the offering of charity feast, interacting warmly with local residents and offering words of encouragement.

He paid homage to the Atulamarazein Pyilanchantha Pagoda, donated funds for the renovation of the pagoda, and met with pilgrims in a cordial and friendly manner. — MNA/KZL

MoCRD Deputy Minister attends 14th AMRDPE and related meetings

A delegation led by U Thaik Soe, Deputy Minister of Cooperatives and Rural Development, attended the 7th ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Leadership Awards Ceremony, held on the evening of 11 December at the Amamtara Siam Bangkok Hotel.

The 14th ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) was held on 12 December at the Amantaara Siam Bangkok Hotel, attended by the deputy minister.

At the meeting, the deputy minister said that Myanmar's inclusive rural development strategy, consistent with the

Myanmar comprehensive and sustainable development plan, guides rural communities to innovate and transform their economies through capacity building. He added that the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development has set a plan to implement rural development projects by harnessing the combined power of the people, local capacity, knowledge, and innovation. Development processes should emphasize local participation, decision-making, and leadership, providing opportunities for village communities to identify, prioritize, and manage important infrastructure projects

themselves.

Myanmar reaffirms its strong commitment to inclusive efforts and calls on everyone to move forward with a united spirit to realize the ASEAN community's goal of leaving no one behind, he said.

On the evening of 13 December, the deputy minister and party returned to Yangon International Airport from Bangkok, Thailand, by air. — MNA/TH

Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe takes part in 14th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) in Thailand.



NATIONAL

Press conference emphasizes government efforts on national-level telecom fraud prevention process

A press conference on national-level telecom fraud prevention process of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the Studio A of the Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Leader of the Information Team of the National Defence and Security Council Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and officials replied to queries raised by media.

First, the Information Team leader Deputy Minister for Information explained that regarding the government's actions to suppress telecom fraud and online gambling activities in Laukkai and Muse areas of Shan State (North), and Shwe Kokko, KK Park, and Chongkhaed areas in Myawady Township of Kayin State, it should be noted that telecom fraud and online gambling did not originate in Myanmar. Media reports on these online fraudulent activities have repeatedly clarified that these illegal online gambling operations are being conducted by groups based in border areas controlled by armed organizations.

He also clarified that the Myanmar government does not allow these telecom fraud and online gambling activities but



A press conference on national-level telecom fraud prevention process of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in progress in Yangon yesterday.

makes efforts on active cooperation with international community in combatting these activities. After Tatmadaw assumed State responsibilities due to the voting fraud in the 2020 election, some ethnic armed organizations-EAO took advantage of the situation of political instability and provided armed and military training to those involved in the violent unrests to undermine local security and the rule of law. Exploiting the resulting weak security conditions, the online fraudulent activities has increased. Committing the illegal activities, including

telecom fraud and online gambling, were found in Laukkai area of Shan State (North) in 2022. A joint task force was formed between Myanmar and China to conduct the joint suppression operations against the telecom fraud and online gambling activities. Foreign nationals who illegally entered Myanmar and were involved in these illegal online activities were transferred to their respective countries under the law.

He also explained that exposing and arresting the suspects through the exchange of

information between the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Public Security Ministry of China in order to ensure rule of law between Myanmar and China and combat the telecom fraud and online gambling; conducting the effective suppression through the trilateral cooperation against the forced labour activities which commit the telecom fraud and online gambling at the border regions of Myanmar, Thailand and China; complete demolition of illegal buildings not to base telecom fraud and online gam-

bling activities as well as criminal activities in Myawady region again; and the policy and ways of the Myanmar government to continue suppression against the online scam and gambling activities.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw clarified strenuous efforts of Myanmar in suppressing the telecom fraud and online gambling activities while Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe explained facts about the prevention of trafficking in persons and the eradication of narcotic drugs.

Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and officials replied to queries raised by reporters from news agencies.

After the press conference, all attendees observed the seized materials used in the telecom fraud and online gambling activities and the documentary photos displayed in the hall.

The press conference was attended by members of the Information Team of the National Defence and Security Council, ambassadors and officials from the Yangon-based foreign embassies, representatives of departments, and reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, local TV news agencies and local-based foreign news agencies. — MNA/TTA

Press conference on government efforts on national-level telecom fraud prevention process held

A press conference on national-level telecom fraud prevention process of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Leader of the Information Team of the National Defence and Security Council Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun and officials replied to queries raised by media.

Before the clarification, Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun introduced

officials of the press conference: Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw, Deputy Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Khaing Lin, Deputy Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Nay Myo, Kayin State Minister for Border Affairs and Security Col Min Thu Kyaw, MPF Chief Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe, Director-General Daw Myo Pa Pa Tun of Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Leader of the Information Team of NDSC U Thet Swe, Head of the Transnational Crime

Division of the MPF Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Zeya and Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaw of the Ministry of Information to the attendees.

At today's press conference, he said that he will explain the efforts of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will provide clarifications the national-level operations to suppress telecom fraud to international diplomats and domestic and foreign media. In the clarification, he added the clarifications in sections on combatting the telecom fraud and online

gambling activities in Laukkai and Muse regions of Shan State (North), and Shwe Kokko, KK Park, and Chongkhaed areas in Myawady Township of Kayin State. First, it will be emphasized that telecom fraud and online gambling activities did not originate in Myanmar, a point that has been repeatedly clarified through the media. It will also be highlighted that the main operators of these activities are not Myanmar nationals but foreign nationals.

It is noted that these groups have been conducting such ille-

gal activities while being based in border areas of Myanmar controlled by insurgents. They have taken advantage of the security situation, where the government's administrative reach is limited, and have operated under the protection of these armed insurgents. The Government of Myanmar clarifies that it has neither permitted nor tolerated these telecom fraud and online gambling activities and continues to actively collaborate with the international community to suppress them.

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Telecom fraud and online gambling activities were traced and identified in Myanmar after 2019. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2019, travel between locations was restricted, and these difficult circumstances were exploited to expand online fraud operations within Myanmar. Following the irregularities in the 2020 general election, after Tatmadaw assumed State responsibilities, political instability emerged. Some EAO groups took advantage of the situation by providing arms and military training to violent rioters in order to undermine local security and the rule of law.

Exploiting the resulting deterioration in security conditions, the telecom fraud and online gambling locations further increased. During 2022, investigations revealed that in the Laukkai area of Shan State (North), illegal activities, including telecom fraud and online gambling activities, were being carried out. The individuals primarily responsible for these operations were those who had committed crimes internationally and were on the run, and they led and operated these activities. Therefore, telecom fraud and online gambling activities in these areas were jointly suppressed through a bilateral task force formed with China. Foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar and were involved in online fraud were transferred to their respective countries in accordance with the law. Similarly, in the Muse area of Shan State (North), telecom fraud and online gambling activities were suppressed through joint cooperation between China and Myanmar. Between Myanmar and China, information exchange was carried out between the Myanmar Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs and China's Ministry of Public Security in order to uphold the rule of law and combat telecom fraud and online gambling activities, enabling the identification and arrest of offenders.

As a result of the arrests and crackdowns in Shan State (North), individuals involved in telecom fraud and online gambling activities moved toward Shan State (South). Consequently, in January 2024, around the area of Namsang in January 2024, and in Tachilek in Shan State (East) in July 2024, a total of 1,333 illegal



NDSC Information Team Leader Deputy Minister for Information Maj-Gen-Zaw Min Tun (C), Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw (L) and Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe (R).

foreign nationals were arrested. These matters have already been officially announced through formal information releases.

During 2023, telecom fraud and online gambling activities moved into the Myawady area along the Thailand-Myanmar border and resumed criminal activities. As a result, trilateral meetings on combating cross-border crimes were held among Myanmar, Thailand, and China in Bangkok and Mae Sot, Thailand, and advance operations targeting online scams and online gambling were carried out. Myanmar, Thailand, and China are working together in a spirit of mutual understanding through effective trilateral cooperation to crack down on cases in which individuals are coerced into committing telecom fraud and online gambling activities in Myanmar's border areas. The Government has also actively cooperated with neighbouring countries to identify and arrest those involved in telecom fraud and online gambling activities. It has previously been explained how foreign nationals engaged in online gambling and online fraud activities arrived in these areas. Of those who entered the region, 99.6 per cent crossed into Myanmar via neighbouring countries. Illegal foreign nationals who entered Myanmar through unauthorized routes and were involved in telecom fraud and online gambling activities are being continuously arrested and repatriated to their respective countries.

The origins of telecom fraud and online gambling activities in the Myawady area of Kayin State can be traced back to the Shwe Kokko Project, which began in 2017. The Shwe Kokko Project refers to the Myanmar-Yatai Shwe Kokko Special Economic

Zone project jointly implemented by Yatai International Holding Group and Chit Linn Myaing Company. Preparations for the project had begun around 2016, and it is understood that consultations were held at that time with the Chief Minister of Kayin State under the NLD government. Subsequently, in April 2017, approval was reportedly sought from the Myanmar Investment Commission. When the project proposals were submitted, there were no plans included for the construction of casinos. However, in early 2019, public complaints were filed alleging that construction exceeded the approved scope. As a result, the then-responsible NLD government formed an investigation committee in August 2019, and the project was temporarily suspended. It was also noted that the matter was raised through questions and answers during the 17th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Later, individuals associated with gambling activities were found to have disseminated propaganda suggesting that the suspended project was part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in order to resume operations. Consequently, the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar officially clarified that the Shwe Kokko Project was not included in the BRI. This was further explained by Ambassador Mr Chen Hai during a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services currently the Acting President in July 2020. It was also stated that only the Shwe Kokko Project had been partially submitted to the State authorities, while other projects such as Chongkhaed and KK Park had not been submitted at all.

He continued that the Chongkhaed Garden Resort ca-

sino project being carried out in Chongkhaed Village, Myawady Township, was initiated in 2017 by Sai Kyaw Hla, a brigadier-general-level figure from the KKO group. It was also found through investigations that in November 2019, a contract was signed with Thailand-based Thai Chan Company, after which telecom fraud and online gambling activities were expanded.

It was further stated that the KK Park project was launched after a memorandum of agreement was signed in February 2020 between Mulaei Alin Company of the KNU and Thailand-based Trans Asia International Holding Group, a subsidiary of Huanya International Holding Group. It was also explained that the agreement bears the signatures, as witnesses on behalf of Mulaei Alin, of Saw Kwe Htoo Win, who is currently serving as Chairman of the KNU, and Saw Roger Khin, the head of the KNU Defence Department. In addition, investigations found that Mulaei Alin Company is owned by Saw Doe Soe Johnny, the eldest son of Saw Johnny, who holds the rank of KNLA Chief of Staff, and that on the ground the operations are being carried out by his close associates, Saw Win Kyaw and Saw Kyaw Thu.

He added that taking advantage of the national security situation following political developments after February 2021, illegal buildings had been increasingly constructed in those areas. As this was identified, instructions were issued as early as February 2023 to the relevant Kayin State government to inspect and closely supervise the situation to prevent construction of illegal buildings and occupation. Accordingly, successive levels of administrative bodies implemented these measures, legal

action was taken against holders of farmland use rights certificates (Form-7) in areas where illegal buildings were constructed, and their land-use rights have already been revoked in accordance with legal procedures.

He revealed that illegal criminal activities cannot be carried out in areas where the State government's administrative mechanisms are effective and where stability and peace prevail. It was explained that on 27 March 2021, KNU Brigade (5) launched an attack and seized the Theemuhta area-based security outpost in Papun Township, thereby violating the NCA agreements and beginning actions that undermined regional stability. On 5 April 2024, KNU and PDF groups jointly attacked and seized Thingan-Nyinaung, and terrorist groups took control of the Asia Highway between Kawkareik and Thingan-Nyinaung. Across border areas of Kayin State, the KNU and allied terrorist groups engaged in fighting against security and administrative bodies, deliberately destabilizing the region. Such actions were aimed at removing State security and administrative institutions from KNU-controlled areas, after which terrorist groups provided paid protection and unlawfully facilitated the ongoing online fraud, online gambling, and other criminal activities.

He explained that the government has regarded the eradication of online fraud and online gambling operations as a national duty and, in line with its objective to eliminate them at their roots, was able to retake control — at the cost of the lives, blood, and sweat of security personnel — of the Kyondo-Kawkareik section of the Asia Highway, which had been temporarily controlled by insurgents, in July 2025, as well as Kawkareik and the Kawkareik-Thingan-Nyinaung road section in September. Tatmadaw had to conduct difficult counteroffensives to restore stability after the KNU and allied insurgent groups used illegally obtained funds and large amounts of manpower and financial resources to undermine regional stability and the rule of law. It was further stated that on 19 October, control was regained over border areas along the entire stretch, including Laykaekaw, and territorial control and security operations were restored in the Myawady area. **SEE PAGE 10**

OPINION

Heartily Welcome Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference

THE 24th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Traditional Myanmar Medicine Symposium, involving experts from various fields with the aim of contributing to public health through traditional medicine, will be held from 15 to 17 December 2025 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

With the encouragement and recognition of the Government, and through the unified and collective participation of all veteran traditional medicine practitioners, the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference has been successfully held annually at the national level since the year 2000. As of this year, it will be convened for the 24th time. In holding the Conference, not only traditional medicine practitioners but also related experts take part, and through the exchange of experiences and viewpoints, valuable benefits will be gained in further elevating the standard of traditional Myanmar medicine.

As traditional Myanmar medicine practitioners and experts from various relevant sectors work together to advance the form and substance of traditional Myanmar medicine, the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference stands as a symbol of unity among traditional medicine practitioners. Hence, it will be seen as a conference that fosters new ideas and innovative thinking for the comprehensive development of the traditional medicine sector.

As a result, favourable conditions are already in place to enable concerted and sustained efforts towards the further flourishing of traditional Myanmar medicine.

The objectives of convening the 24th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference and the Traditional Myanmar Medicine Symposium are to further improve disease diagnosis and treatment methods through traditional Myanmar medicine; to enable the public to understand the medicinal value of plants in their surroundings and commonly used kitchen ingredients; to expand the provision of primary health care services through traditional medicine; and to preserve, safeguard, and promote traditional Myanmar medicine practices.

As traditional Myanmar medicine practitioners and experts from various relevant sectors work together to advance the form and substance of traditional Myanmar medicine, the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference stands as a symbol of unity among traditional medicine practitioners. Hence, it will be seen as a conference that fosters new ideas and innovative thinking for the comprehensive development of the traditional medicine sector.

Currently, with the support of the Government, the selfless and united efforts of senior traditional medicine practitioners working in the interest of traditional medicine, and the public's trust in and support for traditional Myanmar medicine are mutually reinforcing.

In order to further develop Myanmar's traditional medicine and pharmaceuticals, cooperation is already underway with related experts who can provide support, including specialists in pharmacology, chemistry, botany, biochemistry, and other fields of expertise. Based on traditional Myanmar herbal plants, many scholars have conducted research and have earned numerous doctoral and master's degrees, successfully identifying and demonstrating the efficacy and therapeutic properties of traditional medicines.

Consequently, they have to uphold patience, tolerance, sympathy, compassion, friendly relationships and so on at their workplaces in joining hands with workmates. Only then will they ease difficulties and overcome challenges in working processes. To be able to do so, they all have to uphold the cooperation among themselves. Cooperation among the employees is a must in the daily routine of relevant workplaces.

Success in all projects depends on cooperation in the workplace

By Aung Kyaw Thant

IN fact, we have to consider that workplaces are similar to families. Generally, if any employee can calculate their active hours except the sleeping time, they can find a deniable answer that they spend many hours of active time at their workplaces and a lesser time at home. It shows they actually spend their time on longer relationships with friends and workmates at the workplace than with their family members.

Therefore, employees must work cooperatively within their workplace to achieve the best results while strictly following the operational guidelines set by higher authorities. Merely performing one's individual duties is not enough; employees must also avoid neglecting workplace rules, failing to assist colleagues, bypassing established procedures, or taking action on matters that require reporting to higher levels without authorization. By clearly understanding and adhering to these expectations, the workplace can function properly and efficiently.

The important role of collaboration

Team members should define their roles based on mutual agreement and discussion to implement appropriate actions aligned with the organization's goals. Collaboration in the workplace increases efficiency beyond ordinary work, while enhancing comfort, motivation, and unity within the organization. Furthermore, collaboration provides a foundation for business growth, reconstruction, and technological advancement, improving employees' skills and performance. With effective collaboration, an organization can achieve higher productivity, better service quality, and stronger economic outcomes, while also minimizing time and resource costs and ensuring smooth operations.

Collaboration in the workplace is a fundamental element for success. To maintain an organization's efficiency, productivity, and quality of outcomes at a high level, agreement, discussion, and cooperation among team members are essential. Effective collaboration allows team members to coordinate their responsibilities and manage workflows more efficiently, enabling tasks to be completed step by step while minimizing the spending of time and resources.

resulting in wasted time. Moreover, the absence of collaboration can cause low trust among employees, reduced morale, and decreased workplace performance, which in turn negatively affects the organization's financial results, productivity, and the quality of its services.

A lack of collaboration can lead to miscommunication of information, delayed decision-making, and incomplete or substandard work quality. When responsibilities are not fully met and coordination is poor, business progress slows, and both time and financial costs can increase. Accountability may decline, and conflicts or resentment may arise among employees. If unnecessary interventions occur, unpleasant incidents between staff members can become inevitable. Therefore, when managing

tasks, it is essential for team members to maintain constant agreement, discussion, and sound decision-making, and prioritizing collaboration to achieve the best outcomes.

Team members should define their roles based on mutual agreement and discussion to implement appropriate actions aligned with the organization's goals. Collaboration in the workplace increases efficiency beyond ordinary work, while enhancing comfort, motivation, and unity within the organization. Furthermore, collaboration provides a foundation for business growth, reconstruction, and technological advancement, improving employees' skills and performance. With effective collaboration, an organization can achieve higher productivity, better service quality, and stronger economic outcomes, while also minimizing time and resource costs and ensuring smooth operations.

Collaboration in the workplace is fundamental to an organization's success and effectiveness, while a lack of collaboration leads to wasted

time, reduced performance, and poor organizational outcomes. Therefore, to build a successful workplace, team members must consistently prioritize agreement, discussion, and cooperative action.

Limit of the framework and authority

Employees have to thoroughly understand the limits of their framework and the authority of their superiors. They should not need to envy the authority of their superiors and should not cultivate pessimism over the authority of their superiors. In fact, those officials at the superior level have to exercise responsibility and accountability despite applying their authority in the workplace. Similarly, those at the superior level have to consider the benefits of cooperation and collaboration among the employees in operating their work processes. They do not intentionally turn a blind eye to the possibility of benefits based on collaboration for the sake of the entire workplace, even though the collaboration may harm their personal interests. If one is eager to possess authority in the workplace, it will spark unity among all.

As such, all employees have to uphold their collaborative efforts in operating their daily work, setting aside eagerness to secure authority in the framework. If they understand everything, they can know that the collaborative efforts among their friends in the workplace are better than the authority. In fact, for those who are not at the superior level, the authority in the workplace is not just an act of pride. If the authority is not granted by the relevant responsible officials, any so-called 'absolute labour rights' claimed by workers are nothing more than an illusion.

Experiences once upon a time

I would like to share my experiences in the workplace. While serving at a daily newspaper some 30 years ago, I had a great experience. Once, while working, we sat at a large table where proofreaders used it to do their work. The proofreaders I have met were older than me. Even someone close to my age was about one month older. So, as I wrote earlier, at that time, he already had over ten years of work experience because he joined the workplace at 18 years old. Now, he holds a significant position and works in a famous book publication. What I want to say is that one night, he was sitting and carrying out the proof-

reading process. He was reading the page he was assigned, and after a short while, another form of the newspaper was printed out for checking.

Back then, the proofreader worked extra jobs during the day to earn additional income. In the evening, they joined their government jobs. So, they were always exhausted. As I mentioned earlier, when another form of the newspaper appeared, it was for another proofreader who had to check it. That proofreader, being very tired, fell asleep. During the daytime, he managed his household's business on the other side of Yangon. In the late evening, he would come over to Yangon to start his government work. A single salary from one job wasn't enough to support a whole household, so he had to make do carefully. Therefore, the first proofreader who was reading his assigned form of the newspaper just now didn't disturb the other proofreader. So, he said he would read such a page himself.

Empathic relations among friends

I kept watching him closely. Like everyone else, for the sake of life and family, he had worked all day and, without rest, continued his evening duties. Life is like that. For him, once he finished checking and preparing the page he was responsible for, his duty was done. He could sleep and return home. However, seeing a friend who was just as exhausted from daytime work, he felt empathy. Even though it was past midnight, around one o'clock, and he himself wanted to sleep, he let his tired friend continue resting. Since he was reading on behalf of his friend, if any mistake occurred on that page, it would be his responsibility. Nevertheless, he carried out his duty diligently.

In this situation, the first proofreader who stepped in to help did so by fully engaging in

his friend's life challenge. If his friend had made a mistake while reading a page he was responsible for – perhaps due to fatigue or drowsiness – it would have caused problems, and everyone would have been upset. By assisting, he shared the consequences his friend might face, and no one could feel entirely at ease.

Valuable assistance

When a page appears while someone is asleep, they might feel alert and lively, and could even refuse help, thinking, "Why should I check your page?" But in this case, by helping a sleeping friend, the first proofreader's assistance became valuable. It not only benefited his friend but also brought peace of mind to those around him. Eventually, the workmate would realize that someone had supported him in this way. At the very least, the page could be completed on time, and a sense of trust and reassurance was established.

Interact with one another in society

In the workplace, employees need to interact with one another on a peer-to-peer basis with a spirit of equality, while also maintaining respect and care in hierarchical relationships, similar to that between parents and children. If every employee in a workplace embodies this mindset, it creates a joyful and positive working environment. Employees will enjoy their work and feel fulfilled.

Such a culture fosters a community where people are willing to help and support one another. When many workplaces cultivate this kind of environment, the broader human society built through their cooperation also becomes harmonious, setting aside jealousy, envy and hate. It creates a world full of fairness and justice, where peace and goodwill flourish through the valuable collaborative efforts.



Everyone has to create a workplace with harmonious and cooperative minds among employees.

NATIONAL

Press conference on government efforts on national-level...

FROM PAGE 7

It was stated that foreign nationals who entered Myanmar and engaged in illegal activities, including online fraud and online gambling, continue to be continuously arrested, detained, and repatriated to their respective countries.

From 5 October 2023, to 11 December 2025, a total of 70,135 foreign nationals from 54 countries were repatriated. In order to prevent telecom fraud and online gambling activities from reestablishing themselves in the Myawady area, illegally constructed buildings have been completely demolished and cleared. As of 13 December 2025, a total of 413 buildings in the KK Park area were demolished, and the remaining 222 buildings are planned to be cleared as well. Regarding the efforts to completely eradicate online fraud and gambling operations, it was noted that KNLA and PDF terrorist groups have been interfering by staging attacks in Myawady, Laykaekaw, and surrounding areas. Between 13 October and 8 December 2025, there were 56 such clashes, during which some security personnel sacrificed their lives. Despite this, operations to eliminate illegal criminal activities will continue until the objectives are fully achieved. In these areas, remaining illegal buildings are being destroyed to prevent the resumption of online gambling, including through demolition, controlled explosions, and cutting off water sources to ensure that operations cannot be reestablished.

Regarding the confessions of the foreign nationals who were arrested and detained, it was noted that they entered Myanmar from a neighbouring country, which has already been reported by the authorities. Their statements are now being presented, and many similar statements have also been collected. It is expected that the visiting diplomats attending this press conference will gain a detailed understanding of the statements of those who illegally entered Myanmar. By reviewing these statements, it becomes clear who was involved in the online fraud and online gambling activities.

He mentioned that as the Government of Myanmar has



Diplomats and guests view round documentary photos displayed at the press conference.

been fully responsible for the custody and care of foreign nationals under humanitarian even though their own governments have not yet come to collect them. This duty is of great importance. The state has provided for all their needs, including daily food, drinking water, bathing water, clothing, and bedding. The daily cost of food and essentials for one person amounts to at least K15,000. From 10 December 2024 to 22 November 2025, a total of over K1.336 billion (K1,336,050,000) was spent on these expenses. The government emphasizes that this action is carried out in the interest of national dignity. So, the relevant countries need to urgently send representatives to collect their citizens who are still remaining.

He disclosed that he will continue to clarify the stance, position, and policies of the Government of Myanmar regarding online scamming and online gambling. The Government of Myanmar considers online scams and gambling as a national security threat, as they undermine public trust in the government, threaten economic security, deteriorate national stability and damage the country's national dignity. Foreign nationals, some Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), armed groups, and certain unscrupulous businesspeople who have illegally entered and operated these activities within Myanmar have caused significant harm to security and stability in Shan State (North) and parts of Kayin State. As a result, Myanmar's national dignity has been diminished internationally. Therefore, the people of Myanmar have suffered severely from the consequences of online scams and crimes. The Government

of Myanmar and the Myanmar public loathe online scams and gambling even more intensely than foreign actors do. The Myanmar government also officially classifies online scamming as a crime committed against the general public.

The Government of Myanmar will take decisive action against those who commit online fraud and related crimes. There will be no second chance; no one will be given a second opportunity. There will be no political or personal protection; individuals will not be shielded for personal or political reasons. Online fraud and criminal activities often occur in areas with low stability and weak legal enforcement. These crimes are frequently conducted as international organized crime, involving unscrupulous actors from multiple countries. Therefore, the government will actively cooperate both internationally and regionally to combat these crimes. The Government of Myanmar has established Task Forces and cooperative groups to work efficiently and collaboratively, and it will continue to do so vigorously and effectively in the future.

He clarified that telecom fraud involves deception through the use of communication networks. Citizens of Myanmar have also become victims of such fraudulent activities. Between 2023 and November 2025, approximately 800 people in Myanmar experienced online fraud and filed complaints. There are likely to be many more cases with opening files that have not yet been reported or resolved.

Regarding the demolition and destruction of buildings in KK Park and Shwe Kokko are-

as, which were used for telecom fraud, it is astonishing to note criticisms from some destructive media claiming that evidence was being destroyed. Myanmar government systematically detained, registered, and investigated those present in these areas. All evidence was properly collected, and the findings, inspections, and testimonies were thoroughly examined, verified, and reported. As a result of these actions, in November and December of this year, 34 individuals involved in telecom fraud and associated evidence were captured near Mongnawng of Kehsi Township in Shan State (South). The demolition of buildings used for online fraud in KK Park and Shwe Kokko aims to prevent the recurrence of such crimes in these areas and to ensure that no illegal activities can take place there in the future. Records and investigations obtained will be released as appropriate in future public statements.

He noted that regarding online fraud, Myanmar government has been informing and warning the public through domestic media. Various awareness and precautionary measures are being communicated to prevent people from becoming victims. As some important points, the first one is that do not open links received on your phone from unknown sources, and do not view messages from unknown senders; the second, if you fall victim to online fraud, do not try to handle it alone; report it immediately to the responsible authorities. Public reporting and notifications are extremely valuable, as they allow the authorities to trace and take action against the fraudsters. The third is that citizens are requested to cooperate reliably and faith-

fully with government authorities to help prevent and combat online fraud effectively.

He continued that Myanmar government respectfully informs you about the policies and methods it will continue to implement regarding online scams and online gambling. For the first one, the government identified online scams and online gambling as serious crimes. The government's policy is Zero Tolerance: whether the offense is minor or major, there will be no leniency; all perpetrators will be aggressively investigated and punished. The second one is that the method the government will employ is the Aggressive Crackdowns Method, meaning strict and forceful action will be taken against offenders. To carry out these measures, the Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling has been established at the national level on 10 December 2025.

Moreover, he requested the Myanmar people that **dear people of Myanmar, Your Safety is Our Responsibility. Ensuring the safety of the public is our primary duty. Your Trust is Our Priority.** Your trust is our obligation and responsibility. In this spirit, we will continue to carry out our duties, and we sincerely thank you all.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw continued, saying that there are difficulties and limitations in the rule of law and administrative processes in areas where armed groups are active and online scams are being carried out in Myanmar, and that it is widely known that those running these businesses are mostly foreigners taking advantage of the current political situation. The government of Myanmar established the "Central Committee for the Supervision of Deportation and Transfer of Detained Foreigners for Illegal Entry into Myanmar" on 8 November 2023 to ensure the effective deportation of foreigners who have entered Myanmar illegally in accordance with procedures, and the central committee is continuing to form a supervisory committee, subcommittees, and secretariat to carry out its duties efficiently.

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The deputy minister said that, to eradicate online fraud in border areas, prevent its spread to the interior, and effectively combat online fraud and gambling in line with the policy of the Head of State, the government formed the “Central Supervisory Committee on Combating Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling” on 10 December 2025. The committee will be chaired by the Union Minister for Home Affairs, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, with the deputy minister serving as secretary, and is composed of representatives from relevant ministries and organizations. To carry out its duties effectively, the committee convened a meeting immediately on 11 December. On 12 December, the “Union Territory Committee on Combating Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling” and the “Region or State Committee on Combating Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling” were established under the supervision of the central committee. The Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council serves as the Chairman of the Union Territory Committee, with one Council member serving as secretary. The chief ministers of the relevant region or state governments serve as chairmen, and the ministers of security and border affairs serve as secretaries of the respective region or state committees.

The central committee will carry out tasks such as setting policies to combat telecom fraud and online gambling, forming necessary committees and assigning responsibilities, drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), coordinating with relevant countries to repatriate foreigners working illegally in these industries, and promoting international cooperation, he said.

He said that action had been taken against those entering Myanmar illegally, including individuals involved in online fraud and online gambling, and that 70,196 foreigners were identified in Shan and Kayin States from 5 October 2023 to 13 December 2025 and repatriated to their respective countries in accordance with procedures.

According to the testimonies of foreigners who were rescued in Kayin State, they entered Thailand by air and travelled from Bangkok to Mae Sot by car or plane, then illegally crossed the



Documentary photos showcased at the Press conference at MRTV.

Thaungyin River from Mae Sot to join companies in Myawady Township, Kayin State, others arrived at Yangon International Airport in Myanmar with a valid visa and travelled by car to Myawady Township to join companies there. In percentage terms, 99.6 per cent crossed from Mae Sot, while 0.4 per cent travelled through domestic routes. Although the relevant embassies have requested assistance by claiming that their citizens are victims of human trafficking, investigations revealed that some of them are not trafficking victims and are working for their own benefit. For example, although they were rescued from the Myawady region and repatriated to their respective countries, it was found that one Chinese national, one Malaysian national, five Indian nationals, and several others had re-entered the country and were again engaged in illegal activities.

Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw said that, due to the ongoing efforts of the Tatmadaw and police, 13,272 foreigners were rescued in the Myawady region between 30 January and 13 December 2025. Of these, 11,617 have been repatriated to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to transfer the remaining 1,655. He added that Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun has already ensured that their living and food needs are being met. However, some challenges remain, as the foreigners are being held in large halls, such as indoor sports halls, and come from different countries with varying personalities, making management difficult. He called on the diplomats present to assist in facilitating their return as soon as possible.

It was found that the necessary building materials, ap-

pliances, consumer goods, electricity, fuel, internet, and other resources for buildings used in online fraud activities were not sourced within the country but were purchased and supplied through other countries.

The Myanmar-China-Thailand trilateral cooperation is working to combat online fraud and online gambling in the Myawaddy region of Karen State and has held three high-level meetings and two ministerial-level meetings. The Lancang-Mekong six-country Ministerial Meeting on Joint Action Against Online Fraud was held in Kunming, China, on 14 November 2025, with the Myanmar delegation, led by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw, in attendance. Similarly, the Union Minister personally attended the 6th Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), hosted by Vietnam on 19 November 2025, where he discussed jointly combating the misuse of technology to commit violent crimes.

These crimes should be viewed as a multifaceted criminal enterprise rather than being confined to Myanmar. While Myanmar is the location of some scam centers, it is not the root cause or the main beneficiary of these crimes, and not all money generated from fraud enters Myanmar’s banking system. According to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), every country has a responsibility to combat all relevant elements of such crimes. To address this problem, all countries must fully play their roles in accordance with international standards. Myanmar has identified and rescued victims of human trafficking from conflict areas

and is actively cooperating with relevant embassies and organizations to repatriate them safely to their countries of origin.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw said the international community recognizes the challenges facing Myanmar and supports intelligence sharing, adding that practical assistance should be provided through technical and training support. He stressed that Myanmar cannot solve the problem alone and that only through international cooperation — via UNODC and other partners — can online scam networks be effectively dismantled. He urged all parties to work together rather than place blame.

MPF Chief Police Lt-Gen Win Zaw Moe said that the deputy minister has clarified measures for online scam. He will provide a summary and explanation regarding the Myanmar Police Force’s ongoing actions concerning online scams and related transnational crimes, including matters related to human trafficking, financial crimes, and narcotics offenses.

Myanmar, has designated the fight against human trafficking as a national responsibility. Section 358 of the Constitution states that “The Union prohibits the enslaving and trafficking in persons.” Myanmar has also acceded as a member to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its related protocols. Following this, Myanmar enacted the Anti-Human Trafficking Law in 2005. This law was further amended and clearly strengthened on 16 June 2022, to align with modern standards and serve as a more comprehensive law for preventing and combatting human trafficking.

Under this new law, Myanmar has expanded and established several committees to effectively combat human trafficking. These include the Central Committee for the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking, the Committee for the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims, the Committee for International Relations and Cooperation, the Committee for Legal Affairs and Prosecution, the Committee for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Human Trafficking Victims, the Committee for Implementing Myanmar’s Five-Year National

Plan for Combatting Human Trafficking and other necessary committees. These bodies have been actively working to carry out human trafficking prevention and suppression measures in a comprehensive and effective manner.

Investigations and actions have been effectively carried out to uncover human trafficking cases and impose appropriate penalties. From 1 January to 13 December 2025, a total of 139 human trafficking cases were investigated and prosecuted. Among them, 402 offenders were charged, and 116 received effective sentences. Regarding imprisonment, 14 individuals received life sentences, 25 individuals were sentenced to 20-25 years in prison, 63 individuals were sentenced to 10-15 years in prison, 14 individuals received sentences of less than eight years.

To control illegal departures abroad that could lead to human trafficking, actions have been taken against illegal transporters. From 1 January to 13 December 2025, a total of 59 cases were handled under the Overseas Employment Law, and 128 offenders (53 males and 75 females) were investigated and prosecuted to ensure effective punishment.

The country is cooperating not only domestically but also with international organizations to combat human trafficking.

On 24 April 2009, the memorandum of understanding between Myanmar-Thailand on Combatting Human Trafficking was signed. Similarly, Myanmar has signed and is jointly implementing bilateral cooperation and memoranda of understanding with China, Laos, Vietnam, and India.

Furthermore, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT MOU), involving six neighbouring countries — Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam — was signed in Yangon on 29 October 2004. According to the memorandum of understanding, Inter-Ministerial Meetings (IMM) are held once every three years, and Senior Officials’ Meetings (SOM) are held once a year. In addition, since 2011, the COMMIT Regional Task Force and the Youth Forum have been jointly organized on a rotating host basis.

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Furthermore, it was stated that since 2004, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), which includes South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, has been cooperating in operations to combat cross-border crimes, including human trafficking.

Regarding human trafficking, especially of women and children, Myanmar signed the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children on 21 November 2015, and the convention was ratified on 6 January 2017. It was stated that as ASEAN member countries, they are cooperating effectively across ASEAN sectors and among sectoral groups to implement the ASEAN Convention, ASEAN declarations, ASEAN work plans, and the comprehensive ASEAN sectoral plans (Bohol Work Plans).

He continued his discussion about information on the prevention and eradication of the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The drug problem is not confined to a single country, region, or ethnicity, but is a serious issue threatening all of humanity worldwide. The production, consumption, and trafficking of drugs are closely linked to transnational crime, corruption, arms smuggling, and terrorism, and they continue to undermine national peace, the rule of law, and security.

It has been observed that some armed ethnic groups

within Myanmar are deliberately undermining peace and stability in the country, taking advantage of the situation to engage in the production and trafficking of drugs, which is an easy source of income. Although the chemical substances and related materials used in drug production cannot be manufactured within Myanmar, they are easily smuggled in through border areas. Most of the drugs produced are then transported and sold via these border regions to neighbouring countries and other nations with high demand. As a result, efforts to prevent and suppress drug-related activities continue to face significant challenges.

Myanmar established the Central Committee for the Drug Abuse Control in 1976. To strengthen and accelerate anti-drug operations, the country expanded its Drug Enforcement Division under the Myanmar Police Force into 11 divisions and 71 sections, equipping them with modern investigative tools and continuing to carry out operations.

Regarding drug seizures and enforcement actions, from 2021 to November 2025, a total of 30,420 drug-related cases were handled, involving 36,885 male defendants and 5,874 female defendants, totalling 42,759 defendants. The seizures included over 7.2 tonnes of opium, over 9.4 tonnes of heroin, over four tonnes of marijuana, more than 1,138 million stimulant tablets, over 107 tonnes of ICE, 22.2 tonnes of ketamine, over 866 kilogrammes of Happy Water, 1,166,002 ATS tablets, and other narcotics, along with over

89.6 tonnes of caffeine and other controlled chemical substances. The total value of all these drugs and chemical substances amounted to more than K5,570.7 billion.

Furthermore, from 2021 to October 2025, among drug-related cases involving arms and ammunition, there were 174 cases with 379 male defendants and 26 female defendants, totalling 405 defendants. Authorities seized 709 various arms, 303 different types of bombs, 61 mines, 137,550 assorted bullets, 1,645 magazines, over 159 kilogrammes of gunpowder, 1,157,634 detonators of various types, and related materials.

It is reported that narcotics and chemical substances with a total value of over K1,068.66 billion in 2021, over K1,188.828 billion in 2022, over K936.723 billion in 2023, over K1,163.648 billion in 2024, and over K971.79 billion in 2025 — amounting to a total of more than K5,329 billion — were successfully destroyed by incineration.

In connection with drug-related activities, the government also carried out seizures for the State Treasury. From 2021 to October 2025, a total of 4,197 cases resulted in the confiscation of over K488 million, 3,612,120 Thai baht, 500 Chinese yuan, US\$2,000, 2.5 ticals of gold, 477 motor vehicles, 2,438 motorcycles, 596 phones, seven tricycles, five three-wheeled motorcycles, 19 bicycles, one battery-powered motorcycle, one sidecar motorcycle, 35 motorboats, one trawlergy, two air coolers, and one backpack, with a total estimated value of over K13,044 million.

Myanmar is implementing measures to prevent and control the dangers of narcotic drugs in cooperation with international partners, including ASEAN member countries, countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion, BIMSTEC member countries, and neighbouring nations. In addition, Myanmar is closely collaborating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), China's National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), and Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB).

Furthermore, actions to prevent and suppress financial crimes were explained. The Financial Crime Suppression Police of the Financial Investigation Unit under the MPF operates its functions under the Anti-Money Laundering Law by receiving Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) submitted by reporting organizations, examining and analyzing them, and distributing the results of these investigations to the relevant law enforcement authorities and concerned departments or agencies.

In connection with combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, Myanmar has established the Central Committee for Combating Money Laundering, formulating and implementing national-level strategies. To ensure that members can efficiently and promptly carry out their respective departmental duties when financial frauds and crimes arise, an "Action Task

Force for Timely Prevention and Swift Action on Financial Frauds" was formed on 21 March 2024 under Notification 13/2024. The Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar serves as the head of this task force. After its formation, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were issued on 25 June 2025 to ensure effective and rapid handling of financial fraud cases. All operations related to financial fraud are being carried out in accordance with these established SOPs.

It has been reported that illegal border trade routes play a major role in laundering funds obtained from telecom fraud. Studies on online scams and online gambling worldwide indicate that illicit proceeds from scam centres are used to purchase illegal goods in border areas. These goods are then sold across borders, converting the illicit funds into seemingly legitimate income. Equipment, food, and other supplies necessary for operating scam centers are smuggled via illegal border trade routes to evade taxes. Additionally, the workforce required to operate these scam centers is obtained through human trafficking along these illegal border routes.

In summary, illegal border trade provides channels for laundering money for scam centres and supports routes for transporting human trafficking victims. It is emphasized that, in order to block these connections, coordinated efforts are needed that combine anti-money laundering measures, border area security, and anti-human trafficking operations. — MNA/TTA/TH

Govt intensifies crackdown on telecom fraud, demolishing 16 illegal gambling sites

THE government of Myanmar manages a combined team comprising security forces, administrative bodies, and local authorities to raid illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where telecom fraud and online gambling activities are operated. The team systematically dismantles the confiscated

materials and illegal buildings used in online scams and gambling activities.

Yesterday, the authorities demolished 16 more illegal buildings in Section 3 of KK Park area. So far, a total of 429 buildings out of 635 illegal buildings have so far been demolished in the KK Park area.

The combined team started searching operations in Myawady and its vicinity on 8 December. The combine teams have also inspected six one-storey buildings, four two-storey buildings, 20 three-storey buildings and six four-storey buildings in Myawady and the surrounding areas yesterday, confirming that no illegal

foreign residents or online gambling activities were found.

To prevent reuse of the materials in online scams and gambling activities in KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas in Myawady in the future, the seized materials were incinerated systematically.

The government considers

the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling crimes as a national responsibility and, to ensure that such activities can no longer operate within Myanmar, will continue its efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries. — MNA/KZL

Hydrogen demand in India set to double to 12 million tonnes by 2030: Report

INDIA'S hydrogen demand is poised to double to nearly 12 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by 2030, according to a Nuvama Institutional Equities report. The expected rise comes mainly from fertiliser, refining and petrochemical sectors.

The report says that fertilisers will make up more than half of this demand, reaching about 6.1 mtpa by 2030, while refineries may need about

4.5 mtpa. Petrochemicals could add another 1.3 mtpa as new capacity comes up. "GH2 (green hydrogen) uptake in steel, long-haul heavy-duty transportation, shipping and power could emerge as GH2 consuming sectors in the long term," the report said.

India is trying to build this future through the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which is the main policy guide for creating green hydrogen infrastructure. — ANI



PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION/ANI

China Travel Service New Zealand launches new South America tour packages

CHINA Travel Service (NZ) Limited launched its new South America tour packages on Friday in Auckland, New Zealand, leveraging China Eastern Airlines' newly established long-haul route from Shanghai to Buenos Aires via Auckland.

Representatives from local media, the Chinese Consulate General in Auckland, the China Cultural Center in Auckland, and members of the banking and business communities attended the launch ceremony. Turning the long-envisioned "Southern Link" concept into reality, the direct Shanghai-Auck-



Staff welcome China Eastern Airlines' flight MU745, the first direct air route between China and Argentina, at Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 4 December 2025. PHOTO: ZHANG DUO/XINHUA

land-Buenos Aires route operated by China Eastern Airlines not only connects

three major cities but also significantly strengthens intercontinental mobility

between China, New Zealand and South America. — Xinhua

US forms Pax Silica with allies central to global AI and chip supply chains

PAX Silica, a US-led strategic initiative to build a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply chain, has been formed with declaration signed on Friday (local time), partnering Australia, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Israel and itself signed a declaration at the Pax Silica Summit in Washington DC.

The pact is aimed at building a secure, prosperous, and innovation-driven silicon supply

chain, from critical minerals and energy inputs to advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, AI infrastructure, and logistics.

Pax Silica aims to reduce coercive dependencies, protect the materials and capabilities foundational to artificial intelligence, and ensure aligned nations can develop and deploy transformative technologies at scale, according to a statement from the US Department of State. — ANI

Japan's green tea exports reach highest level in over 70 years

JAPAN'S green tea exports in the first 10 months of this year reached the highest level in over 70 years on the back of the booming overseas market for matcha powder and the depreciation of the Japanese yen, government and industry data showed Saturday.

Tea exports between January and October

grew 44 per cent from the same period last year to 10,084 tonnes. The United States was the top destination, importing 3,497 tonnes in the 10 months, followed by Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Germany.

Green tea exports have been increasing for nine consecutive years, reflecting the growing

overseas popularity of Japanese foods among health-conscious consumers.

Despite rising overseas sales, annual shipments remained below 10,000 tonnes after peaking at 11,553 tonnes in 1954, partly as Chinese tea grew in popularity.

Despite sluggish green tea demand with-

in Japan, tea leaf prices have been rising in recent years in line with falling production.

In 2024, Japan produced about 74,000 tonnes of tea leaves, more than 10 per cent less than a decade earlier; amid declining demand for sencha used in brewing and an aging farming population. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (355W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (355W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-12-2025** 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 SHIPPING

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Chinese diplomat says US should first reduce its own nuclear arsenal

China has always maintained its nuclear potential at the minimum level necessary for national security.



The image shows the USS Michigan (SSGN 727), an Ohio-class nuclear-powered guided missile submarine. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

THE United States should first of all reduce its own nuclear arsenal, as creation of conditions for nuclear disarmament depends of Washington, the spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in the US, Liu Pengyu, told Sputnik.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump said that he had held talks with Moscow and Beijing on the issue of denuclearization. According to the US leader, both Russia and China

are interested in reduction of nuclear weapons.

“The country with the largest nuclear arsenal must faithfully follow its special and primary responsibility in the field of nuclear disarmament, further reduce its nuclear arsenal and create conditions for complete and comprehensive nuclear disarmament,” Liu said, answering the question about what the US should do in

the light of Trump’s statements about negotiations with Russia and China on denuclearization.

China has always maintained its nuclear potential at the minimum level necessary for national security and never participates in an arms race with anyone, Liu said, adding that Beijing’s nuclear arsenal and approaches in this area contribute to maintaining global peace. — SPUTNIK

India eyed as new source of caregivers as Japan’s labour crunch worsens



Rincy George (C), who moved to Japan from India, works at a nursing home in Tokyo’s Taito Ward in August 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

INDIAN health care workers are being eyed by Japan as a promising source of caregivers, with hopes that accessing labour from the world’s most populous nation could help address personnel shortages in the sector.

Major care provider Sompo Care Inc. is stepping up efforts to train caregivers from India, helping them obtain Japanese national qualifications and encouraging them to build long-term careers in the country, which is facing a declining birthrate and an aging population.

Since 2024, the company has been recruiting Indians with nursing backgrounds and providing around nine months of training in Japanese language and caregiving skills before bringing them into the country. This year, the first group of six trainees arrived in Japan on specified skilled worker visas. — Kyodo

NEWS In BRIEF

Beijing to open new Great Wall section

BEIJING’S Great Wall section of Jiang-junguan, a historically strategic pass, will open to the public, authorities announced on Sunday.

Following restoration work, emergency reinforcement and environmental improvement, the section in Pinggu District is scheduled to open as early as the end of 2026, according to the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau.

The Great Wall in Beijing, primarily built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), stretches over 500 kilometres across several districts. Pinggu District boasts rich resources with more than 200 sites spanning over 50 kilometres. — Xinhua

Russia completes flight tests for “Ionozond” satellite system

RUSSIA has completed the flight tests of four “Ionosfera-M” satellites, which are designed to study physical processes in the Earth’s ionosphere, Russia’s state space corporation Roscosmos announced on Saturday.

“The State Commission has decided to conclude the flight tests of the ‘Ionozond’ space system, which comprises the ‘Ionosfera-M’ No 1, No 2, No 3, and No 4 satellites. The next phase is commissioning,” Roscosmos said in a statement on Telegram.

The satellites will also support radiation environment monitoring. — Xinhua

US troops in Japan prepared for nuclear war in 1970s: archive

US troops stationed in Japan held multiple mock hydrogen bomb drills in the country’s southernmost Okinawa Prefecture in the early 1970s, eyeing its use against the Soviet Union or China during the Cold War, declassified diplomatic records showed Saturday.

The documents confirmed that members of the US air force stationed in Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture held drills at least between 1971 and 1975 in Okinawa, highlighting the United States’ persistence in establishing a unit capable of using nuclear weapons despite Japan’s three non-nuclear principles of not possessing, producing or allowing nuclear weapons on its territory. — Kyodo



Myanmar wins third gold, adds five medals at XXXIII SEA Games

MYANMAR secured its third gold medal at the XXXIII SEA Games through billiards and snooker sport, adding five more medals to its tally during a productive day of competition in Thailand. The gold medal came from the men's billiards team event, while two bronze medals were claimed in Sepak Takraw, along with one bronze in equestrian and one in judo.

The Games are being held in Bangkok and Chonburi, with Myanmar athletes competing across a wide range of sports. In the men's billiards team final, Myanmar defeated Singapore by three matches to one, earning the country its third gold medal of the Games. The team's achievement was recognized with cash awards presented by officials and donors.



Myanmar judo team wins bronze medal.

Myanmar also won bronze medals in the men's and women's team regu events in Sepak Takraw, the equestrian event combining dressage, show jumping and cross-country, and the men's and women's team judo event.

As of the conclusion of

competitions on 14 December, Myanmar had won three gold medals, twelve silver medals and eighteen bronze medals, bringing the total to thirty-three medals and placing the country seventh in the overall standings at the XXXIII SEA Games. — MNA/KZL

XXXIII SEA Games: Myanmar wins gold in team billiards

MYANMAR'S national team secured a gold medal in the team billiards event at the XXXIII SEA Games, hosted by Thailand, on 14 December.

In the final, Myanmar faced Singapore and won the match 3-1. The victory came against Singapore's team, led by renowned player Peter Gilchrist, marking Myanmar's first gold medal in billiards at a Thailand-hosted SEA Games.

Myanmar won the first mini-match 100-46 but lost the second 100-68, making the remaining matches crucial. The team then claimed victories in the third mini-match 100-35 and the fourth 102-45, securing a well-deserved gold medal. The gold-winning Myanmar team included U Pauk Sa, Nay Thway Oo and Aung Htay.

With all billiards events concluded, Myanmar earned one gold and one silver medal



Myanmar billiards team wins gold medal. PHOTO: MBSF

across the two event categories. The gold came from the team competition, while the silver was won by U Pauk Sa in the individual event. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar exit women's futsal after group stage at XXXIII SEA Games

THE women's futsal group stage at the XXXIII SEA Games concluded on 14 December, with Myanmar exiting the competition after suffering defeat on the final day of group matches.

On the final day of group matches, Vietnam defeated Myanmar by four goals to two, while hosts Thailand secured a six-goal victory over Malaysia. Although Myanmar's chances of advancing to the next round had already diminished, the team delivered a strong performance against Vietnam, applying sustained pressure and even

taking the lead during the match. Ei Ei Kyaw and Wai Phoo Eain scored Myanmar's goals.

Following the completion of the group stage, Thailand finished top of Group A with six points, followed by the Philippines in second place with three points, while Malaysia lost both matches and failed to collect a point. In Group B, Vietnam topped the group with six points, Indonesia finished second with three points, and Myanmar lost both matches and ended the group stage without a point.

The semi-final matches will be held on 16 December, with Thailand facing Indonesia and Vietnam taking on the Philippines. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

SEA Games heroes back: Myanmar teams bring home 5 medals

THE Myanmar athletes including winners in billiard, Taekwondo, and weightlifting sports returned to Myanmar yesterday on Myanmar Airways International (MAI). They were welcomed back by officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, as well as by the parents and relatives of the athletes at the Yangon International Airport.

The sports teams competed in the 33rd South-East Asian Games, in Bangkok, Thailand.

In the billiard events, Nay Min Tun won a bronze medal in the men's snooker six-red balls single event, and Kyaw Wai Yan Soe won a bronze medal in the men's snooker 15-red balls event. In Taekwondo, Moe Myint Myat won a bronze medal in the women's -57-kilogramme event and Nang Thonnari Kaung won a bronze medal in the women's -62-kilogramme event. Naw Ta Bo Ra won a bronze in the women's 53-kilogramme weight-lifting event. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar men's futsal team to face Indonesia

THE men's futsal competition at the XXXIII SEA Games begins today, with Myanmar set to open its campaign against Indonesia on the first day of group play.

As only five teams are competing in the men's futsal event, organizers will stage the competition in a round-robin format, with gold, silver and bronze medals awarded based on the total points accumulated. The participating teams are hosts Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia. On the opening day, Myanmar will face Indonesia at 3:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time, followed by a match between hosts Thailand and Malaysia at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time.

Myanmar's team is under the guidance of Thai national Pattaya Piemkum as head coach and features a balanced combination of senior players and young talent. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

Myanmar athletes add medals in athletics and judo at SEA Games



Naing Lin Tun, silver medalist in men's walking race. PHOTO: MAF

MYANMAR athletes won further medals in athletics and judo events at the XXXIII SEA Games in Thailand on 14 December.

In athletics, the Myanmar walking race team secured

two silver medals. In the men's event, Naing Lin Tun won the silver, while Zin May Htet took silver in the women's event. In the men's event, Indonesia claimed the gold, Myanmar's Naing Lin Tun took silver, and Vietnam won bronze. In the women's event, Indonesia won gold, Zin May Htet of Myanmar won silver, and Thailand took bronze. The events were held in the afternoon of 14 December.

On the final day of the judo competition, the Myanmar judo team added another medal. In the mixed team event, Myanmar was narrowly defeated by the Philippines in the semifinals, earning the bronze medal, while the Philippines took gold and Thailand won silver. By the conclusion of the judo events, Myanmar had secured one silver medal and three bronze medals. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



WORLD

China's first deepwater oilfield sees full operation of secondary development project

The Liuhua Oilfield in the Pearl River Mouth Basin is China's largest offshore reef limestone oilfield, producing over 20 million tonnes of crude since 1996.



CHINA National Offshore Oil Corporation announced Sunday that the secondary development project of has fully commenced operation.

The milestone marks a major breakthrough in China's ability to develop complex deepwater oil and gas reservoirs.

Located in the Pearl River Mouth Basin, the Liuhua Oilfield is China's largest offshore reef limestone oilfield in terms of proven geological reserves. Since its initial commissioning in 1996, the oilfield has produced over 20 million tonnes of crude oil.

However, substantial reserves estimated at 140 million tonnes remain in the seabed strata, necessitating secondary development to tap into the potential.

The secondary development project comprises two oilfields, Liuhua 11-1 and Liuhua 4-1, situated in an area with an average water depth of approximately 305 metres. The project involves 32 production wells.

Since the first batch of wells began operation in September 2024, daily crude oil output has climbed to a record high of 3,900 tonnes. — Xinhua

An aerial drone photo taken on 26 April 2024 shows Haikui No 1, Asia's first cylindrical floating, production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) facility, in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province.

PHOTO: LI ZIHENG/XINHUA/FILE

S Korea's ICT export hits record high in November

SOUTH Korea's export of information and communications technology (ICT) products hit a record monthly high due to soaring semiconductor demand, government data showed Sunday.

The ICT products shipment surged 24.3 per cent from a year earlier to US\$25.45 billion in November, keeping an upward trend since February, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources.

It topped the previous high of \$25.40 billion tallied in September on the back of soaring chip demand.

Chip export spiked 38.6 per cent to reach a new high of \$17.27 billion on solid demand for high-end products, such as double data rate 5 (DDR5) and high bandwidth memory (HBM) used in generative artificial intelligence (AI) chipsets. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka to revive tourism after Cyclone Ditwah

SRI Lankan authorities will reopen most tourist destinations and roll out a series of recovery measures to revive its tourism industry affected by Cyclone Ditwah, as the peak tourism season approaches, officials said.

Deputy Minister of Environment Anton Jayakody informed journalists that the botanical gardens, which were temporarily closed due to landslides and safety concerns triggered by the cyclone, will reopen soon. He ordered relevant authorities to implement measures to address landslide risks in these areas.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan tourism officials launched a marketing campaign under the theme "Sri Lanka is ready," targeting travellers from the country's top 10 source markets through digital platforms.

Earlier on 8 December, Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority Buddhika Hewawasam revealed that a long-delayed



This photo taken on 10 January, 2025 shows a performance during the groundbreaking ceremony of the marina commercial project at Port City Colombo, Sri Lanka. The construction of the marina in Port City Colombo will promote Sri Lanka to become a new hotspot for regional tourism and investment.

PHOTO: GAYAN SAMEERA/XINHUA/FILE

visa-free entry facility for travellers from 40 countries is expected to come into effect in January 2026, as part

of broader efforts to accelerate post-disaster recovery and support the peak winter tourism season.

Over 70,000 tourists have arrived in Sri Lanka between 1 and 11 December; the latest official data showed. — Xinhua