

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.

MALI steps up efforts to boost year-on-year seafood exports

Myanmar exports more than 300 varieties of fishery products to over 40 countries, with its seafood steadily reaching markets in Japan, the Middle East, European Union member states, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Australia.



Workers are seen processing fishery products designated for exportation.

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI), in cooperation with Myanmar Fisheries Federation and stakeholders in the supply chain and value chain in the industry, is exerting concerted efforts to ensure quality fishery products and increase exports year on year.

The ministry will assist in the value-added production of the fishery products in order to boost exports. Fishery exports also generate foreign

revenues. The ministry is willing to meet the needs by incorporating different perspectives to meet international standards to ensure safety and quality of fishery products while making efforts for export growth.

Myanmar ships over 300 types of fishery products to over 40 countries. Myanmar's seafood is steadily flowing into Japan, Middle East countries, European Union member countries, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Australia.

The Fisheries Department and MFF are closely working together for fishery export growth.

Furthermore, the department and exporters are also working closely together to meet the standards and market demands of importing countries and to ensure uninterrupted fishery exports, while Myanmar is striving to maintain access to markets with stricter import regulations, such as China. — ASH/KK

Article

Mekong Ganga Quick Impact Projects:Unlocking a stream of developmental partnership

By Abhay Thakur **PAGE 8-9**

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MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

NATIONAL

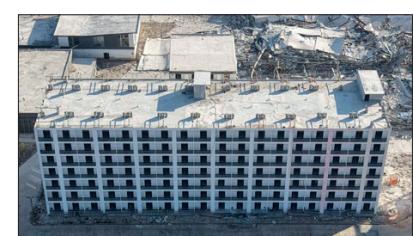
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Youth Peace Forum aims to nurture qualified youths for nation-building

NATIONAL

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Govt pushes ahead with demolition of illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko and KK Park

NATIONAL

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

19. Bhaddanta Meghiya, Dekkhinayama Buddhism Learning Centre, Pyitawtha Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
20. Bhaddanta Paññavara, Shwegen (Jar) Buddhism Learning Centre, Kangyi/Magyi Ward, Kungyangon, Yangon Region
21. Dr Bhaddanta Nandasiri, Kyaunggyi Buddhism Learning Centre, Aungyadana Monastery, Ohbo Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region
22. Bhaddanta Tejaniya, Pali Tekkatho Nyaungdon Monastery, Kyatawya Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
23. Bhaddanta Jotika, Zaytawun Aungsan Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 14/2, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
24. Bhaddanta Tejosara, Yadana Beikman Monastery, West Ohbo Ward, Twantay, Yangon Region
25. Bhaddanta Kancana, Hline Yadana Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 7, Shweipyitha Township, Yangon Region
26. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Kaba Aye Shwehinsi Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
27. Bhaddanta Ñanika, Mingala Thukha Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Boelein Aungmingala Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region
28. Dr Bhaddanta Nannita, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
29. Dr Bhaddanta Indacariya, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Ward 33, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region
30. Dr Bhaddanta Vinayacara, Zeyathukha Buddhism Learning Centre and Monastic Education School, Ward 7, Namkham, Shan State
31. Bhaddanta Jagara, Nandayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 12, Maubin, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaw abroad

32. Bhaddanta Kusala, Linjutaung Buddhist Missionary Centre, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China

Nun

33. Nun Daw Kalyasingi, Thameikdawdaya Nunnery, Ayechanthagyi Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region

Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Khemissa Lankara, Dhammapiya Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 3, Hpa-an, Kayin State
2. Bhaddanta Ñanavamsa, Maha Weikza Theikpan Monastery, Phayagyi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Dhammapiya Lankara, Laykyunmyay Brick Buddhism Learning Centre, Laykyunmyay Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Nanaloka, Maha Thandayon Monastery, Aungthitsa Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
5. Bhaddanta Candavara, Saddhammajotaka Thubawdayon Monastery, Nandawun Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
6. Bhaddanta Manita, Gawthitayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Kanyon Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
7. Bhaddanta Silananda, Htugyi Buddhism Learning Centre, Hlepyinkwe Village, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
8. Bhaddanta Kesarinda, Maha Wizitayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Aungzabu Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
9. Bhaddanta Adhibhu, Withokdayon Baranasi Monastery, Nawin Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
10. Bhaddanta Candobhasa, Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Hsandaw Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
11. Bhaddanta Vicitta, Sasana Zawtika Buddhism Learning Centre, Myodwingyi Ward, Bago, Bago Region
12. Bhaddanta Paññasara, South Shwegen Buddhism Learning Centre, Buttaung Ward, Pyu, Bago Region
13. Bhaddanta Vimala, Maha Thudatthanayama Buddhism Learning Centre, Hsandaw Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
14. Bhaddanta Kovida, Kyakhatwaing Monastery, Thunphaya Ward, Bago, Bago Region
15. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Waizayanta Buddhism Learning Centre, ShweUdaung Ward, Monyo, Bago Region
16. Bhaddanta Paññinda, Maha Withutaya (Central) Monastery, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Region

TO BE CONTINUED

Notification 2/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Theikpa Kyaw Swa Title

1. U Khin Aung Kyi	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Science and Technology
2. U Tin Myint	Vice Chair	Myanmar Iron and Steel Association
3. U Yin Htwe Thet	Member	Myanmar Engineering Council
4. Dr Mya Mya Oo	Member	Myanmar Engineering Council
5. Dr Ye Hla	Chair	Measles Eradication Verification National Committee
6. U Myint Lwin	Patron	Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council
7. Professor Dr Myo Nyunt	President	Myanmar Red Cross Society

Tatmadaw Gallantry Medal

Gallantry Medal

1. Lt-Col Naing Pyae Sone Lwin	Ministry of Defence
2. Major Pyae Phyo Kyaw	Ministry of Defence
3. Lieutenant Kyaw Zeya	Ministry of Defence
4. PaSa-153455 Lance Corporal Nyo Thuta	Ministry of Defence
5. PaSa-166685 Lance Corporal Pyae Sone Win	Ministry of Defence

Gallantry Medal of Myanmar Police Force

Ye Thurein Medal

1. Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Lin

Myanmar Police Force

Honorary Titles for Excellent Performance

Medal for Excellent Performances in Administrative Field

(First Class)

1. U Thint Myat Thu	Director-General	Ministry of Transport and Communications
2. U Myo Zarni Win	Director-General	Ministry of Industry
3. U Mya Win	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Border Affairs
4. U Maung Maung Khaing	Principle (Retd)	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
5. U Ko Lay Win	Director-General (Retd)	Ministry of Education
6. Dr Theingi Shwe	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Education
7. Dr Si Si Hla Bu	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Education
8. Dr Tha Tun Maung	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Education
9. Dr Myo Thant	Director-General (Retd)	Ministry of Education
10. Dr Khin Maung Latt	Director-General (Retd)	Ministry of Science and Technology
11. Dr Maung Maung Latt	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Science and Technology
12. Dr Maung Maung Win	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
13. Professor Dr Myo Win	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
14. Professor Dr Thein Kyu	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
15. Professor Dr Myat Thanda	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
16. Professor Dr Marlar Win	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
17. Professor Dr San San Nwe	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
18. Professor Dr Theingi Hlaing	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
19. Professor Dr Khin Hla	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
20. Professor Dr Win Htay Aung	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Health
21. Daw Nang Kham Noung	Patron, Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation	

Medal for Excellent Performances in Administrative Field

(Second Class)

1. U Myint Swe	Permanent Secretary	Union Civil Service Board
2. U Ye Nyunt	Director-General	Ministry of Finance and Revenue
3. U Thein Swe	Director-General	Ministry of Finance and Revenue
4. U Kyi Zin Tun	Managing Director	Ministry of Finance and Revenue
5. U Win Naing Oo	Managing Director	Ministry of Finance and Revenue
6. U Min Thu	Managing Director	Ministry of Industry
7. Dr Aung Khaing	Managing Director	Ministry of Industry
8. U San Shwe Aung	Director-General (Retd)	Ministry of Border Affairs
9. Dr Thida San	Director-General (Retd)	Ministry of Legal Affairs
	Legal Expert	
10. Dr Yi Aye	Rector (Retd)	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Foreign Heads of State send congratulatory messages to Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are congratulatory messages from Foreign Heads of State/Government sent to Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency and, through you, to the people of Myanmar our sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

As immediate neighbours with shared cultural and religious heritage, Thailand and Myanmar have enjoyed long-standing amicable bonds of friendship built on mutual trust, mutual respect and shared interests, as well as strong people-to-people ties.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Thailand's unwavering determination to continue working closely with Myanmar to advance further our bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of our two countries and our peoples. Thailand always stands ready to support Myanmar on its path to realizing lasting peace and national reconciliation.

Mr Anura Kumara Disanayaka, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON behalf of the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and on my own behalf, I extend my warm felicitations and sincere best wishes to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar on the special occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sri Lanka and Myanmar share a long-standing friendship rooted in Theravada Buddhism and shared cultural values, which has been further strengthened by the spirit of solidarity and cooperation between our two countries, particularly during times of need.

I am confident that the friendly relations between our two nations will continue to grow in the years ahead, to the mutual benefit of our peoples.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Foreign Head of Government sends congratulatory message to Prime Minister on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following is message of felicitations from Foreign Head of Government sent to Prime Minister U Nyo Saw on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dr Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

IT is with great pleasure that I extend my warm felicitations and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sri Lanka and Myanmar share long-standing and cordial relations, firmly rooted in deep religious, cultural, and historical bonds.

I am confident that the friendly ties between Sri Lanka and Myanmar will continue to deepen in the years ahead, bringing mutual benefit to our peoples.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

34th Deputy Township Judges' On-the-Job Training opens

UNION Chief Justice U Tha Htay delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Deputy Township Judges On-Job Training Course 34, which was held yesterday at the Judicial College of the Supreme Court of the Union.

The ceremony was attended by the Chief Justice of the Union together with the judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, and the permanent secre-

tary, directors-general, deputy permanent secretary, deputy directors-general, directors, and a total of 51 trainees, including 26 male and 25 female trainees. The training period will be 13 weeks, from 5 January 2026 to 3 April 2026. — MNA

Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay speaks on the opening occasion of the judges' on-the-job training yesterday.



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)

Foreign Ministers send congratulatory messages to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following is the messages of felicitation from the Foreign Ministers sent to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its people on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Thailand and Myanmar have enjoyed long-standing and cordial relations that are built on a strong foundation of mutual respect, shared interests, and cultural bonds. Peace and development of our two countries are closely intertwined, while the close people-to-people ties and economic cooperation have been key pillars of our bilateral relations.

I firmly believe that, in the spirit of friendship and good neighbourliness, the ties between our two countries will continue to grow from strength to strength, while jointly addressing common challenges and promoting common peace, prosperity and sustainable development for our two countries and peoples.

With the current election in Myanmar, we wish that it would further advance the peace process in Myanmar for the benefit of your people.

Mr Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I have the great pleasure in conveying to you my sincere best wishes on the happy occasion of the 78th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sri Lanka and Myanmar share long-standing and historic ties, underpinned by deep religious and cultural bonds. These enduring connections continue to form a strong foundation for close relations between our two countries.

It is my sincere hope that the existing friendly relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar will be further diversified into new areas of cooperation in the years ahead for the benefit of our peoples.

Ms Choe Son Hui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sends Congratulatory Messages to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On the occasion of the 78th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend my congratulations to you and look forward to continued development of friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries in the years ahead.

MoFA Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed the matters on the further consolidation of the existing Pauk-Phaw relations and expansion of cooperation between Myanmar and China, continued implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects, the continued constructive support of China on the efforts of Myanmar to achieve lasting peace and socioeconomic development for its people, and to continue co-



The Chinese ambassador calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

operation in combatting online scamming and other illegal activities in border areas.

Both sides reaffirmed their mutual support at the regional and multilateral levels. — MNA

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed Dr Ko Ko Naing, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Marine Administration under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Civil service personnel must clearly distinguish between party politics and state affairs

❖ “It is essential for civil service personnel to remain free from party politics and to clearly differentiate political matters from state responsibilities. They must manage the country’s affairs with diligence, integrity, and competence in performing their assigned duties.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with teachers at the assembly hall of No 3 Basic Education High School, PyinOoLwin, on 11 June 2025)

UEC Chairman meets political parties

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) held a meeting with the political parties yesterday at the UEC office’s conference hall.

Speaking at the meeting, UEC Chairman U Than Soe said the election Phase I was successfully held on 28 December 2025, and arrangements are being made to hold Phase II and Phase III. Sixty days were permitted for election-related speech and campaign activities, and following the completion of Phase I, campaign periods were also approved for the coming Phases II and III.

He then urged them to follow the law and regulations in conducting electoral campaigns, and warned that insulting or defaming rival parties or candidates during campaigning could be recognized as a criminal offence and also as an electoral malpractice. Such actions, he



The meeting between the UEC Chairman and political parties is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

said, should be regarded as unethical actions and would tarnish both the image of the election and that of the political party concerned.

He also added that the lists of elected Hluttaw representatives after Phase I are being released, and the expenses

must be submitted in time in accordance with rule 102 of the relevant Hluttaw Election Rule, and those who fail to submit will be declared disqualified.

He highlighted the activities of UEC for the election regarding displaying voter lists three times, transparent electoral pro-

cesses for advance voting and displaying of results at the relevant election subcommissions.

He continued that about 1,544 observers, including international election observers, international and local journalists, were allowed to cover news, aiming to recognize the

multiparty democratic general election as a free, fair and transparent election, whereas the international election observers made positive comments saying it was a successful election as they saw the voters casting votes actively.

He mentioned the ongoing work plans of the UEC in holding free and fair elections accurately and transparently in accordance with the laws, rules and procedures, and forming respectful Hluttaws through dignified elections.

The attendees coordinated the discussion, and the UEC chairman concluded the meeting.

The meeting was attended by members of UEC, officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of Immigration and Population, UEC office, chairpersons and leaders of 47 political parties. — MAN/KTZH

Youth Peace Forum aims to nurture qualified youths for nation-building

THE third coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, who is also Chairman of the committee, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is the Committee Vice-Chair, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing, committee members, deputy ministers, and permanent secretaries, while social affairs ministers from regions and states joined via videoconferencing.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the importance of the role of youth in peace will be illustrated through the upcoming Youth Peace Forum. The forum will help identify and nurture qualified youth for nation-building,



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae addresses the third coordination meeting of the Steering Committee on Holding Youth Peace Forum.

link peace-building efforts with the role of young people, and highlight that only with peace can the future of youth be bright, and only by nurturing youth can a peaceful environment be created. He added that discussions will also focus on creating a harmonious environment and shaping young people with strong moral character. The creative young people will be identified,

and highly capable youth will emerge for the future of the nation through this forum.

Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing briefed on approval to be sought, a different format of the coming forum that features discussions conducted exclusively by youth, holding of the forum aiming to strengthen the role of young people for the future and proper arrangements for

the forum.

Deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, permanent secretaries, directors-general, and regional and state social affairs ministers discussed sectoral tasks, after which Committee Vice-Chair U Maung Maung Ohn discussed essence of forum for the country, message to be sent to the youths as it carries the special emphasis of government for the youths and chance to receive safe and peaceful community through the forum, building of trust between youths and government and between people and government.

The chairman of the steering committee delivered a concluding speech and adjourned the meeting.

The forum places strong emphasis on youth participation in nation-building and aims to integrate the spirit and energy of

young people into the country’s peacebuilding processes in the most effective ways.

Through the forum, to clearly understand and recognize the voices of youth and formulate the future youth programmes, studies and discussions will be conducted on factors such as cases that create conflicts and their impact on the peace process, security and protection of youths, gender-based sensitive condition, challenging and solution for public participation in peace process, economic challenges and employment opportunities, access to continued education and educational gaps, opportunities to participate in combating drug abuse, the roles that youth can play in artificial intelligence (AI), cyber, and social media spaces, and the perspectives, and voices of youth in peacemaking. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 7/2026

3rd Waning of Pyatho, 1387 ME
5 January 2026

Announcement on Lists of Individuals Elected as Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives

IN the multiparty general democratic election conducted in phases starting 28 December 2005, the region and state election subcommissions have announced that the following individuals are elected as Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, listed alongside their names in accordance with the statement under the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law Section 49 (b).

Chin State (FPTP)

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
1	U Paung Lunn Ming Thang	4/TaZaNa (C) 002404	1	Zomi National Party
2	U Thalal Thang	4/HtaTaLa (C) 020981	6	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Chin State (PR) Constituency 1

3	U Cint Tong Mang	5/TaMaNa (C) 000544	7	Union Solidarity and Development Party
4	U Kee Pie	4/KaPaLa (C) 000026	8	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	U Aung Min Naing	6/HtaWaNa (C) 004300	9	Union Solidarity and Development Party
6	U Zaw Lunn Aung	11/MaPaNa (C) 059173	10	Union Solidarity and Development Party
7	Daw Ciin Ngaik Mang	9/MaKaNa (C) 000813	11	Zomi National Party
8	U Nan Khin Zam	4/TaZaNa (C) 001256	12	Zomi National Party

Rakhine State (FPTP)

9	U Min Min Tun	11/MaAhNa (C) 044166	1	Arakan Front Party
10	U Mya Lin	11/KaPhaNa (C) 006510	2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
11	U Than Tun	11/MaTaNa (C) 000713	3	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Rakhine State (PR) Constituency 1

12	U Kyaw Sein	11/PaNaTa (C) 003653	7	Union Solidarity and Development Party
13	U Kyaw Sein Hla	11/SaTaNa (C) 047752	8	Union Solidarity and Development Party
14	Daw Mya Mya Thet	11/SaTaNa (C) 033066	9	Arakan Front Party

Rakhine State (PR) Constituency 2

15	Dr Khine Khine Hsu	12/PaBaTa (C) 031534	10	Arakan Front Party
16	U Zaw Zaw Myint	3/BaAhNa (C) 073103	11	Union Solidarity and Development Party
17	U Aung Thein Htay	11/YaBaNa (C) 047353	12	Rakhine Nationalities Party

Sd/ Than Soe

Chairman

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 8/2026

3rd Waning of Pyatho, 1387 ME
5 January 2026

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

IN the multiparty general democratic election conducted in phases starting 28 December 2005, the region and state election subcommissions have announced that the following individuals are elected as Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw representatives, listed alongside their names in accordance with the statement under the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law Section 49 (b).

Chin State (FPTP)

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
1	U Paung Zalan	13/YaSaNa (C) 003305	Tiddim Township Representative 1	Zomi National Party
2	Dr Wong Sun Thang	12/PaZaTa (C) 018927	Haka Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Chin State (PR) Constituency 1

3	U Kaw Lyan Thang	4/PhaLaNa (C) 004194	Paletwa Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
4	U San Oak Mang	4/HtaTaLa (C) 027042	Haka Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	U Thant Sin Oo	9/PaMaNa (C) 186767	Matupi Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party

SEE PAGE 7

NATIONAL

Producing large quantities with higher quality and at lower price

- ❖ If the products are the same, the price should be lower; if the prices are the same, the quality should be better.
- ❖ Only then will sales in the market increase.
- ❖ It is necessary to produce to sell large quantities of high-quality products.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of the Forum on Rebuilding Myanmar: Post-Earthquake Economic Recovery held on 30 May 2025)

FROM PAGE 6

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
6	U Tin Kar Cin	4/MaTaPa (C) 000171	Tiddim Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
7	U Aung Kyaw Htay	12/YaPaTha (C) 051441	Thantlang Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
8	U Thang Shin Thawng	4/TaTaNa (C) 051425	Mindat Township Representative 2	Zomi National Party
9	U Zam Shin Dal	4/TaTaNa (C) 000655	Tonzang Township Representative 2	Zomi National Party
10	U Dal Lam Mone	5/KaLaHta (C) 285963	Kanpetlet Township Representative 2	Zomi National Party
11	U Wang Lian Thang	9/MaYaMa (C) 008092	Falam Township Representative 2	New Chinland Congress Party
Rakhine State (FTPT)				
12	U Kyaw Swe Lin	11/KaPhaNa (C) 042643	Kyaukpyu Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
13	U Naing Oo	12/ThaKaTa (C) 121115	Sittway Township Representative 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
14	U Tun Win	11/MaAhNa (C) 021479	Manauung Township Representative 1	Arakan Front Party
Rakhine State (PR) Constituency 1				
15	Dr San Shwe	11/SaTaNa (C) 014915	Sittway Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
16	U Kyaw Soe	11/SaTaNa (C) 031195	MraukU Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
17	U Myint Soe Win	11/PaNaTa (C) 052812	Kyauktaw Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
18	U Tha Tun	11/MaPaTa (C) 019604	Pauktaw Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
19	U Htin Lin Oo	11/KaPhaNa (C) 037376	Myebon Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
20	U Saw Thein Tun	11/SaTaNa (C) 062407	Minbya Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
21	U Tin Maung Win	12/ThaKhaNa (C) 100834	Buthidaung Township Representative 2	Arakan Front Party
22	U Aye Thar Aung	11/PaTaNa (C) 038547	Ponnagyun Township Representative 2	Arakan Front Party
23	U Ba San	11/SaTaNa (C) 050568	Rathedaung Township Representative 2	Rakhine Nationalities Party
24	U Aung Kyaw Zaw	11/BaThaTa (C) 012526	Maungtaw Township Representative 2	Rakhine Nationalities Party
Rakhine State (PR) Constituency 2				
25	Daw Khine Zin Oo	7/PaMaNa (C) 005714	Yanbye Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
26	U Mya Than	11/MaTaNa (C) 000860	An Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
27	U Zaw Zaw Aung	11/TaKaNa (C) 073839	Thandwe Township Representative 2	Union Solidarity and Development Party
28	U Aung Saw Thein	11/KaPhaNa (C) 042777	Kyaukpyu Township Representative 2	Arakan Front Party
29	U Thein Myint	11/KaPhaNa (C) 022600	Gwa Township Representative 2	Arakan Front Party
30	U Zaw Lin Aung	11/KaPhaNa (C) 155634	Taungup Township Representative 2	Rakhine Nationalities Party
31	Daw Cho Thae Mon	9/MaHtaLa (C) 189198	Manauung Township Representative 2	Rakhine Nationalities Party
Rakhine State Hluttaw (Chin Ethnic Constituency)				
32	U Tin Hla	11/MaPaTa (C) 001733	Chin Ethnic Constituency	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Than Soe

Chairman

Union Election Commission

Candidates of the Amyotha Hluttaw in FPTP and PR systems compete in Phase I of general election 2025

THE Union Election Commission yesterday issued the number of ballots for the candidates elected for the Amyotha Hluttaw in the First-past-the-post (FPTP) system, competing in relevant constituencies in Phase I of the Multiparty

Democratic General Election 2025.

U Paung Lun Ming Thang of Zomi National Party, U Lyan Za Khup of Union Solidarity and Development Party, U Kai Khant Mang of New Chin Land Congress and U Arkar of Peo-

ple's Pioneer Party competed in Constituency 1 of Chin State; and U Tha Lal Thang of USDP and U Myo Thura Lin of PPP in Constituency 6 of Chin State.

USDP, Zomi National Party, PPP and New Chin Land Congress participated in the

election for PR Constituency 1 of Chin State.

U Min Min Tun of Arakan Front Party, U Tin Nyo of Rakhine Nationalities Party, Dr Khin Soe of USDP and U Tin Htet Hlaing of PPP competed in Constituency 1 of Rakhine State; U Mya Lin of USDP, U Tin Tun of AFP and U Ba Shein of RNP in Constituency 2; and U Than Tun of USDP, Dr Aye

Maung of RFA, U Aung Myat Thu of RNA, U Swe Hsan Oo of PPP and Daw Nyo Mar Win of Mro National Development Party in Constituency 3.

USDP, RFA, RNA, PPP and Mro National Development Party contested in the PR Constituency 1 of Rakhine State; and RFA, USDP, RNA and PPP in the PR Constituency 2 of Rakhine State. — GNL

OPINION

ARTICLE

Nurturing the Sasana heroes through Tipitaka examinations

ORGANIZED by the Government, the 78th Tipitakadharma, Tipitakavida Selection Examination is being held for 33 days, from 21 December 2025 to 22 January 2026, at the Mahā Pāsāna Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon. A total of 526 members of the Sangha are sitting the recitation and written examinations as translators and examinees.

For the oral recitation test, candidates must recite in full for 18 days, with a total of nine sessions each day. The written test on doctrinal analysis will be held for five days. In the examination, the venerable monks who participate in the oral recitation and written test are religious heroes of the Sasana. For the various Pitaka treatises, they have without interruption undertaken rigorous and

disciplined training, constantly studying, memorizing, and reciting with great diligence and perseverance, together with unwavering aspiration, focused concentration, and exceptional wisdom.

The examination is conducted with the objectives of identifying and bringing to prominence exceptional individuals within the Buddha's Sasana who are fully endowed with great merit and extraordinary wisdom; of giving the highest level of support and promotion to the Pariyatti Sasana; and of recognizing and honouring outstanding persons who are true repositories of the Pitaka and worthy to be pillars of the Sasana.

Till this year, 17 venerable monks emerged as Sasana heroes and were conferred the titles of Tipitakadharma and Tipitakavida. It is firmly believed that in the current year as well, venerable monks who will receive the Tipitakadharma, Tipitakavida titles and be recognized as Sasana heroes will continue to emerge. Furthermore, after obtaining these titles and upon completing at least five additional years of service, the State confers the title of Tipitakadharma Dhammabandhāgārīka.

The curriculum of the three Pitaka treatises in the Pāli Canon comprises five volumes of the Vinaya Pitaka, three volumes of the Suttanta Pitaka and twelve volumes of the Abhidhamma Pitaka. If a candidate can recite all of these texts in full with distinction, the title of Tipitakadharma is conferred. The recipient is granted special privileges by the State, including the provision of monthly offerings, as well as attendants – among them two ordained disciples and the highest level of support in travel by land, water, and air.

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Therefore, the emergence of Sasana heroes signifies the further flourishing of the Dhamma, representing an extraordinary and exceptional development within the Sasana. Accordingly, in the 78th Examination, new Sasana heroes have also emerged, fulfilling the aspirations and hopes of the faithful in the Sasana.

Mekong Ganga Quick Impact Projects:Unlocking a stream of developmental partnership

By Abhay Thakur,
Ambassador of India to Myanmar

गङ्गे तव सुधा भवतजिनपदेऽपसाधनम्
शुभोऽयं प्रवाहो दीप्यते समृद्धौ जनानाम्

O Ganga,
Your waters are like nectar, becoming a means of prosperity for the land.
Your auspicious flow shines as a source of well-being and abundance for the people.

THE Ganga is the sacred river of India, whose banks, central to many Hindu epics, have nurtured and nourished ancient Indian culture and tradition over millennia. The Mekong is similarly revered in folk traditions of the Mekong Region and its people as "the River of the Lord Buddha". These rivers flow as living symbols of faith, purity, and sustenance for millions, venerated as sacred, shaping the imagination and livelihoods of the thriving communities along their banks. Just as these two sacred rivers have sustained civilizations for centuries through agriculture, fisheries, and trade, the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) initiative between India and five ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) draws its sustenance from the

same spirit. In particular, the Quick Impact Projects or QIPs under the MGC initiative channel the same nurturing essence into contemporary development efforts, transforming local aspirations into economic progress and shared prosperity.

The QIP scheme was launched by the Government of India in 2015 to deliver short-gestation, high-impact development outcomes across partner countries, including Myanmar. QIPs act like a modern, practical version of our belief that small, timely interventions can water and irrigate local hopes and produce visible benefits fast, helping unlock the underlying potential for wider socio-economic development of the areas around it. Over 175 QIPs have been undertaken under the MGC initiative so far.

Each QIP is kept deliberately compact, capped at US\$50,000 and typically implemented within a year, so results are immediate and easily seen by communities. The funding envelope behind these interventions has grown over time, reflecting increased commitment and broader ambition: the India-CLMV Revolving Fund began at US\$1 million per year, was raised to US\$1.25 million and later to US\$2 million to support more projects and a deeper reach. In Myanmar, the Framework Agreement of 2021, renewed in 2025, supports grassroots initiatives across renewable energy, civic infrastructure, agriculture, education, health, handloom and disaster risk reduction with a committed annual contribution that enables rapid, tangible work on the ground. It

is heartening to note that 13 such projects have been inaugurated over the last twelve months.

The value of QIPs lies in their clarity of purpose and speed of delivery. A modest solar-water supply system sustains a round-the-year water supply for village households and for agricultural plantations and livestock, especially through dry months in water-scarce areas, turning subsistence plots into surplus income sources. Expressing the community's gratitude for one such QIP in Magyisaunt village in Mandalay region, a local villager shared, "I am very thankful to the Government of India and the Dry Zone Greening Department for their collaboration in donating water, as this is incredibly helpful not only for the residents of

Magyisaunt Village, Mandalay

Dashashvamedh Ghat at the banks of the Ganga in Varanasi, India.

Region but also for the students, teachers, and school staff." Similarly, the new village community centre in Lahe Township of Naga Self-Administered Zone provides space for youth, women and the community in general to come together to discuss and deliver modest day-to-day socio-economic activities. The residents also expressed their hope that similar regional development initiatives would continue in the long run.

These voices underscore an essential design choice of QIPs that developmental projects should be implemented in consultation and coordination with local bodies and community members so that priorities and outcomes truly match needs and local ownership. A refurbished training centre in Yangon or a renovated girls' school in Mandalay with modern computers, teaching aids, and e-books makes an immediate difference to study hours and attendance. Many beneficiary institutions of QIPs in Myanmar have expressed appreciation for India's support, noting that their new or upgraded facilities have strengthened capabilities and enhanced efficiency. These are not

sustained engagement and replicate successful models across numerous districts and states/regions of Myanmar. This continuity is essential for turning one-off gains into lasting improvements in livelihoods, health and education outcomes.

A diverse range of 10 new initiatives across key socio-economic sectors in Myanmar, expected to commence later this year, will prioritize vulnerable but high-need areas such as

earthquake relief and reconstruction, cultural preservation, agriculture, education, renewable energy, and disaster resilience – reflecting the comprehensive and people-centric nature of India's development partnership. Together, these projects embody the spirit of the MGC – fostering sustainable development, cultural connectivity, and grassroots cooperation between India and Myanmar.

Quick Impact Projects demonstrate that well-targeted, small-scale investments can produce big returns in human welfare. They embody the holy Ganga's ancient promise in a practical form, modest, life-affirming flows that generate renewal and prosperity, much like the folk narratives of the Mekong, which is believed to bestow fertility and protection upon riverside communities. When communities see results quickly and are involved in design and operation, projects stop being external aid and become local achievements. Those achievements, narrated by teachers, farmers, health workers and youth leaders, are the true measure of success.

The lasting legacy of these projects will be measured in daily routines restored, small businesses sustained and new civic confidence built, which are modern proofs of the promise that when people are allowed to take the lead in small ways, it unlocks new energies and prosperity follows on a large scale. It is this spirit of partnership and local ownership that lies at the heart of India's endeavours to share the fruits of its own development with its neighbours.

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



A flexible rapier loom weaving machine from India was provided under the QIP scheme.



ARTICLE

DISREGARDING an avalanche of criticism, Myanmar went to the polls on 28 December. The landmark elections, meant to usher in a meaningful political transition, despite violent disruptions from Non-state Armed Groups (NSAG), will last nearly a month. Two more rounds will be held – one on 11 January and another a fortnight later. These three-phased elections will set the stage for the formation of a new civilian government.

Once concluded, these polls will end the military takeover of the country, which took place in February 2021, under severely trying and exceptional circumstances.

Critics have labelled the ongoing elections as a sham, pointing out that free and fair polls are impossible due to the raging violence in many parts of the country, the military's alleged mal-intent, and the decision by the National League of Democracy (NLD), still on paper led by Aung San Suu Kyi, who is behind bars, to boycott the polls.

Nothing could be farther than the truth. Before throwing mud at the government, these analysts have to understand that elections in Myanmar have, since its independence, always been held in troubling political contexts, and have never been perfect. This one is no exception either.



Nawnghkio residents are seen casting their votes on 28 December 2025.

Take, for instance, the 1951 poll – Myanmar's first founding elections. It took place at a time when the country was encountering multiple insurgencies that had immediately followed Myanmar's independence in 1948.

The post-independence government of U Nu was labelled as the "Yangon Government", as it was unable to extend its writ beyond Yangon, the former capital. But in a bold counteroffensive that was launched in 1950, government forces succeeded in wresting control over major urban centres. Consequently, a decision was taken to hold elections as promised

Why Myanmar can hope for a bright future after landmark elections

By Atul Aneja

in 1951.

Those landmark elections, too, were held in three phases, but lasted an extended period of over fourteen months. Starting in June 1951, they concluded in April 1952.

However, polls could not be held in many border zones, where ethnic states had been formed. In fact, polling failed to materialize in nearly 11 per cent of central Myanmar's regions due to fighting. But, despite the odds, U Nu's Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League won handsomely. A decade of peaceful and prosperous democratic rule followed.

Fast forward to 2010, when another imperfect but highly consequential poll took place. In that year, the military-led State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) convened elections, following the adoption of the 2008 Constitution through a referendum.

the dim view of critics, the Thein Sein administration introduced pathbreaking 360-degree reforms, comprising political, economic and humanitarian domains. Consequently, for another decade, Myanmar plugged into the international mainstream. Foreign investments poured in, imparting forward momentum to the economy. Besides, political stability returned following the "Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement" with eight Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).

Though the international context has entirely changed – the Western-dominated unipolar world hurtling towards multipolarity now – the 2025 elections do faintly echo the 2010 situation.

Several international organizations have dismissed the credibility of the polls, as the majority of the country's remote regions are still engulfed in serious armed conflicts.

Yet, it is important to peer through the international media haze in order to evaluate the factual situation. For instance, the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC) is all set to hold elections in 265 townships. This would cover a whopping 80 per cent of the total 330 townships in the country.

On 28 December, 102 townships went to the polls. Voters in 100 townships will head to the polling stations on 11 January, culminating in the third phase of balloting on 25 January 2026.

Contrary to the views of the poorly informed or biased external observers, who have billboarded that the elections cover less than half the population, the facts on the ground reveal otherwise. For instance, the 2024 national census shows that only 13 per cent of the total population lives in 65 townships where elections have been cancelled.

Not only are these 65 townships sparsely populated because of their remote locations, but they have also suffered heavy migration to neighbouring countries from these conflict-prone areas, further reducing the population density there.

Despite the structural difficulties, the UEC has imparted innovation and freshness to these polls.

For instance, Myanmar's polling authorities have introduced the new Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP) system to these polls, to make them more representative. This has meant that a



system of proportional representation has been introduced to Amyotha Hluttaw, or the Upper House of the parliament, as well as State and Region Hluttaws or assemblies.

Consequently, these provisions have encouraged many ethnic political parties to stand for elections, as half of the seats will be reserved for smaller parties.

In contrast, in the last three elections, the largest national parties – both the Union Solidarity and Development Party and the NLD – benefited from the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) electoral system, as this was the only game in town.

Consequently, the smaller ethnic political parties representing Kayin, Kayah, Chin, and Pa-O groups never won a substantial number of seats, leading to significant alienation among the ethnic groups, many of whom took up arms.

Besides, the military authorities are reportedly supporting the proposed change to Section 261 of the Constitution. As a result, certain ethnic political parties will be allowed to choose their Chief Ministers, imparting a deeper connection among ethnic groups to the political process.

Taken together with the creation of larger constituencies for proportional representation, the MMP system has provided breathing space to ethnic political parties residing in conflict-prone states. This can greatly encourage the national reconciliation process.

For instance, in highly conflict- ridden regions such as Rakhine and Chin States, where elections to the Pyithu Hluttaw or the Lower House have been largely cancelled, some candidates can still hope to enter the Amyotha Hluttaw or the Upper House because of the proportional representation system. Unsurprisingly, five Rakhine political parties and three Chin political parties are contesting in the upcoming elections, despite their smaller size, taking advantage of the MMP system.

The introduction of the non-armed ethnic leaders to the legislature has another important fallout. The presence of these lawmakers can encourage a peaceful dialogue with those ethnic groups who have taken up arms.

SEE PAGE 11

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Why Myanmar can hope for a bright future after ...

FROM PAGE 10

It is interesting that in these elections, nearly 18 per cent of the candidates are women — the highest since polls in Myanmar began. This has raised hopes of greater participation in the peace processes of women, who have been active advocates of the cessation of conflicts and the promotion of women's and youth rights.

Finally, the UEC has introduced Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs) to counter vote-counting irregularities and raise the level of transparency and accountability through the use of modern technology.

Besides, the use of voting machines erases the possibility of "invalid votes" — a major problem that was encountered when handwritten procedures were used

in the past. In fact, the ratio of wasted invalid votes was as high as five per cent in all three previous elections where paper ballots were used.

The UEC has gone out of its way to ensure that the MEVMs remain tamper-proof. This has been done by ensuring that the machines are based on a simple design and have no provisions to be connected to the internet.

The success of the three-phased elections in Myanmar is not only important for spurring a process of peace and reconciliation, prosperity and cultural accomplishments, but they can also significantly encourage stability in the broader Asian region. A frontier state, bridging India and China — two major civilizational states — Myanmar is a unique country

where the national interests of Beijing and New Delhi do not collide. In fact, there is a convergence of interests as both India and China can draw significant benefits from political stability in Myanmar. India's Act East policy of greater engagement of Southeast Asia can succeed only if there is peace and security in Myanmar, a country that is a key geographic link between India and the 10-nation ASEAN. The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) can also only succeed if Myanmar remains conflict-free.

A forward-looking Myanmar post-election can encourage the border process of multipolarity, as Naypyidaw has shown keen interest in joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS — two organizations that spearhead the

international movement towards multipolarity.

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

(Columnist and journalist Atul Aneja observed the Multiparty General Election held on 28 December as an international election observer, accompanying the election observation delegation from India. He is also an Adviser to the Myanmar Narrative Think Tank.)

Original Article Link

https://www.geopolitika.ru/en/article/why-myanmar-can-hope-bright-future-after-landmark-elections?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.geopolitika.ru%2Fen%2Farticle%2Fwhy-myanmar-can-hope-bright-future-after-landmark-elections

Candidates of Region or State Hluttaw and ethnic Hluttaw candidates compete in Phase I of general election 2025

U Tin Hla of Union Solidarity and Development Party and U Kyi Tin of Rakhine Nationalities Party contested in the Chin ethnic constituency of Rakhine State.

U Paung Zalan of Zomi National Party, Dr Kaung Htet Khaing of USDP and Daw Wong Thwel Kein of New Chin Land Congress competed in Tiddim Township;

and Dr Wong Sun Thang of USDP and U Lyan Kyel O of NCLC in Haka Township for the Region or State Hluttaw under the First-past-the-post (FPTP) system in the 2025 Multiparty Democratic General Election Phase I.

USDP, Zomi National Party and New Chin Land Congress competed in the PR

Constituency 1 of Chin State.

U Kyaw Swe Lin of USDP, U Khin Saw of AFP and U Tin Shwe of RNP contested in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State for the Region or State Hluttaw under the FPTP system; U Naing Oo of USDP, U Thein Tun Oo of AFP and U Zaw Tun of RNA in Sittway Township; and U Tun

Win of AFP, Daw Kyi Kyi Zin of RNA and U Maung Tin Aye of USDP in Manauing Township.

USDP, AFP and RNA participated in the election in the RP Constituency 1 of Rakhine State; and USDP, AFP and RNA in the PR Constituency 2 of Rakhine State. — GNL

MoC Union Minister meets Chinese Ambassador, Lao Ambassador separately

UNION Minister for Commerce U Chit Swe held separate meetings with Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, and with Mr Bounphieng Chanthavong, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Myanmar, at the reception hall of the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and afternoon, respectively.

Both sides held open and cordial discussions on prospects for enhancing bilateral trade and investment. Topics included the reopening of border gates to increase trade, collaboration in the machinery and technology sectors to ensure that goods exported from Myanmar to China meet quality standards, expanding the number of items allowed to be exported to China duty-free, and joint initiatives to promote economic benefits for the border communities of both countries.

Discussions with the Lao Ambassador also focused on increasing exports of



Union Minister U Chit Swe receives Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia yesterday.

key commodities, including agricultural and aquatic products, to Laos. Measures to facilitate smoother cross-border movement of goods and people through the Kenglek-Si En Kok bridge were considered, including upgrading it to an international entry/exit crossing. Both sides also discussed further development of the Wampon-Ban Maung (Wang-

phon-Banmaungmang) border post and other areas requiring continued bilateral coordination.

The meetings were attended by the permanent secretary, the deputy permanent secretary, the deputy directors-general, and other responsible personnel from the Ministry of Commerce. — MNA/MKKS

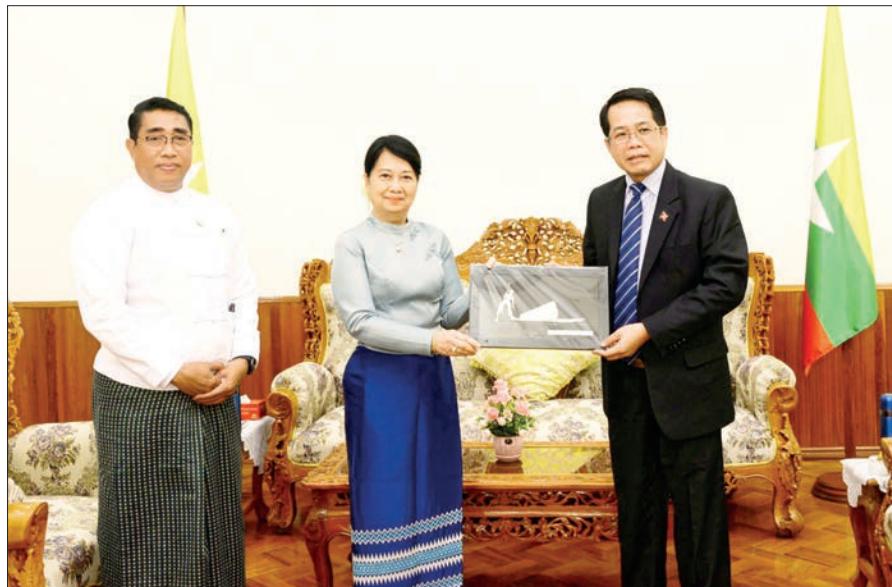
U Zaw Win Myint appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to People's Republic of China

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission has appointed U Zaw Win Myint, Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China. — MNA

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NATIONAL



Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein and Lao Ambassador Mr Bounphien Chanthavong exchange commemorative gifts during the latter's call on the former.

Union Education Minister meets Lao Ambassador to strengthen bilateral cooperation

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein received Mr Bounphien Chanthavong, Ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Myanmar, at the reception hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The two sides held open and cordial discussions on expanding areas of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, enhancing collaboration in

student exchange programmes, and further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the education sector in the future. The meeting concluded with the exchange of commemorative gifts.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing, Director-General of the Department of Higher Education Dr Than Zaw Oo, and officials from the Ministry of Education. — MNA/MKKS

Entries open for 21st Japanese Literature Translation Contest



This image shows an invitation poster for the 21st Japanese Literature Translation Contest.

THE 21st Japanese Literature Translation Contest 2026 (advanced level and entry level) has been scheduled to be held, and applications are open now, said the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

The translation contest aims to encourage new Japanese translators, and any Myanmar national is eligible to participate in the event for translating Japanese contemporary literature into the Myanmar language.

The advanced level is scheduled on 14 February from 9 am to noon via Zoom, and applications can be submitted to <https://forms.gle/MQdbWQKGJB4VUNbFA> as of 5 January until 18 January.

The entry level, which aims to encourage Japanese language learners to be more enthusiastic about Japanese literature, is the contest for translating the script into simple Japanese into the Myanmar language. Any Myanmar nationals learning N3 are eligible to participate, but N1 and N2 levels are ineligible.

Applications for the entry-level translation contest, scheduled on 15 February from 9 am to 11 am via Zoom, can be submitted from 5 January until 18 January to <https://forms.gle/TShnYt4XsQoaLgAt5>.

More information about the contest will be sent to applicants by mail before the contest, and enquiries can be requested to MAJA's telephone numbers: 09 428612151 and 09 262602121. — MT/ZS

Govt pushes ahead with demolition of illegal buildings in Shwe Kokko and KK Park

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

Yesterday, the combined team dissolved 26 more illegal buildings – five one-storey build-

ings, 15 two-storey buildings, four three-storey buildings, and two five-storey buildings used in telecom fraud and online gambling activities in the Myawaddy-Maethawtalay (KK Park) area. Therefore, a total updated number of 610 buildings out of 635 illegal buildings have been demolished in Section 2 of the KK Park area.

To destroy the illegal buildings within Section 3 of KK Park area, these buildings were demolished using machinery and fire barrels starting from 14 De-

cember, and as of yesterday, five more four-storey buildings have been destroyed, and a total of 106 buildings have been totally destroyed.

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/MKKS



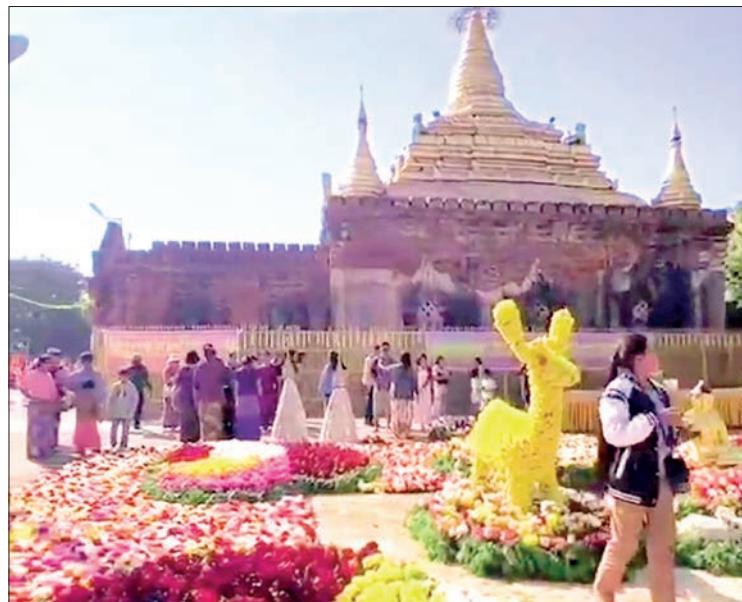
An illegally built five-storey flat is seen in the KK Park area before and after demolition.

NATIONAL

Thousands flock to Alodawpyae Pagoda for New Year's flower ceremony

ON New Year's Day and the full moon day of Pyatho, 1 January 2026, a flower offering ceremony was held at the northern archway of Alodawpyae Pagoda in Bagan, attracting over 10,000 visitors who came to make merit.

"The Myanabon Hotel has hosted the Lotapyaeson Flower Festival annually for six years. The festival is not organized by officials from Alodawpyae Pagoda. On New Year's Day, Myanabon Hotel donated alms to the pagoda and offers flowers. They also created a page for the public to request flowers for donation. This year, over 10,000 travellers visited the New Year's Flower Festival. The number of visitors was especially high due to New Year's Day and the long holi-



Visitors exploring the flower ceremony on 1 January 2026. **PHOTO:**
ZWE MARN

days," said U Hla Myo, head of Board of Trustees. In the Bagan Cultural Zone,

which is home to numerous ancient cultural sites, several seasonal festivals are held, including the Alodawpyae Pagoda Festival on the full moon day of Nataw in December and the Ananda Pagoda Festival on the full moon day of Pyatho in January. The annual Lotapyaeson Flower Festival at the northern archway of Alodawpyae Pagoda is particularly popular with travellers visiting to make merit.

On 2 January, the full moon day of Pyatho, the Ananda Temple Buddha Pujaniya Festival attracted visitors from nearby villages, who donated alms to the pagoda using monks' bowls. Pilgrims from Magway, Yenangyoung, Chauk, Myingyan, Meiktila, and Kyaukpaduang

townships also attended, selling local products. In addition, participants from 24 villages brought bullock carts carrying offerings and agricultural products, creating a grand festival with a wide variety of food and goods for sale.

During the Alodawpyae Pagoda Festival, held on the full moon day of Nataw, 5,000 fruits and 5,000 flowers are offered to the Buddha Image, and cash donations are given to 528 monks. Each year, on New Year's Day, various flowers are offered to the Buddha at the northern archway of Alodawpyae Pagoda. This year, over 10,000 pilgrims participated in the flower offering ceremony. — Thitsa (MNA)/MKKS

MEOMA expands membership across 8 regions and states

THOSE who want to join the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association (MEOMA) in eight regions and states can apply for membership, MEOMA announced on 5 January.

MEOMA accepts membership from those who own oil mills and are registered at the industrial supervisory and inspection department, as well as edible oil crop farmers, commodity exchange centres, companies and traders across regions and states.

It has now invited new members from eight regions and states, including Yangon Region, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region, Sagaing Region and Mandalay Region. Interested members can contact the phone numbers of MEOMA's regional or state officers.

Established in 2016, MEOMA aims to fulfil the need of domestic consumption, encourage sustainable edible oil crop production and help consumers access healthy edible oil. — MT/ZS

India-Myanmar Mekong-Ganga Projects launched to boost agriculture and research collaboration

A commemorative ceremony marking the completion and commencement of two research and technology projects under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework, aimed at developing Myanmar's agricultural sector, was held yesterday morning at the Centenary Hall of the University of Agriculture (Yezin). The projects include the "Drying Machine and Drying Facility Project" and the "ACARE Knowledge Repository Project".

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Dr Tin Htut, Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Investment, directors-general of relevant departments, invitees, the Rector and professors of the University of Agriculture, associate professors and researchers, and postgraduate students.

During the event, Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut emphasised the importance of sustaining and further developing the completed projects. He urged the relevant departments to ensure the proper operation, maintenance, and systematic



Deputy Minister Dr Tin Htut and Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur are pictured during the launch event of India-Myanmar Mekong-Ganga Project.

management of the drying machinery and facilities. He also highlighted the need to continuously update the ACARE Knowledge Repository with new information, strengthen communication and collaboration between research departments, extension programmes, and farmers, and implement successful pilot projects as models to be replicated and expanded to other regions.

Afterwards, the Indian ambassador highlighted that the essence of India-Myanmar relations is that of a friendly partnership based on good neighbourliness and mutual trust. He emphasised that the successful implementation of

these two projects under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) framework represents a notable achievement in the sustainable economic and technological collaboration between the two countries. The ambassador further stated that the Government of India will continue to support Myanmar as a partner in the modern development of its agricultural sector, rural development, and human resource capacity building.

Subsequently, video clips documenting the implementation and completion of the projects were presented, and commemorative gifts were exchanged between the delegations of the two countries.

The deputy minister, together with officials from the Indian Embassy, then unveiled a commemorative plaque marking the completion of the Drying Machine and Drying Facility Project. They also visited the ACARE Knowledge Repository Project at the University of Agriculture's Department of Advanced Agricultural Research and Education to observe its implementation.

These projects are designed to help farmers tackle challenges such as post-harvest losses, reduced crop quality, and diminished market value by providing drying technology and essential infrastructure. They aim to reduce losses, improve the quality and standards of exports, increase the value of agricultural products, and enhance market competitiveness. The ACARE Knowledge Repository serves as an important central hub, compiling agricultural research results, knowledge, and data, enabling researchers, policymakers, extension workers, students, and other stakeholders to access necessary information easily, make informed policy decisions, and support innovation. — MNA/MKKS

ROLLING UPDATES

Snow and ice disrupts travel in UK, France and Netherlands

SOME of the winter's coldest weather so far hit travel in Britain, France and the Netherlands on Monday, closing roads, grounding flights and forcing train cancellations, including on Eurostar, just days after a power outage caused major disruption.

Eurostar, which links the UK to the European mainland, told passengers travelling between London and the Netherlands to postpone their journeys, as services could not operate beyond Brussels due to the Dutch weather.

Rail traffic through the Channel Tunnel had only resumed on New Year's Eve, after an electricity failure stranded thousands

of passengers and even trapped some for a night on a powerless train.

"Due to expected adverse weather conditions, the traffic is suspended in the Netherlands today," Eurostar said in a live service update, urging travellers affected not to turn up to the station.

Six trains between London St Pancras International and Paris Gare du Nord were cancelled, with most others delayed, the timetable indicated.

British railway authorities meanwhile deployed snowploughs in Scotland to try to clear tracks hit by heavy snow, which reached up to 52 centimetres (20 inches) on Monday morn-



A pedestrian walks with an umbrella next to the Jardin des Tuileries covered in snow in Paris on 5 January 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing in Tomintoul, near Inverness in northeast Scotland.

NS Dutch railways

said services were severely disrupted on Monday, especially in the Amsterdam region, and fewer trains

would run in some parts of the country on Tuesday.

The UK's Met Office issued fresh weather warn-

ings for Monday and Tuesday for snow and ice for Scotland, Northern Ireland and parts of northern England and said cold weather health alerts for all English regions would remain in place until Friday.

The disruption follows a cold snap in recent days in the UK.

Temperatures dropped to a low of -10.9C in the high hills of Shap in Cumbria, northwest England, on Sunday night.

"Overnight into Tuesday temperatures will once again fall below freezing for much of the country, with the lowest temperatures over lying snow possibly dipping to -12C," the Met Office said. — AFP

Latin Americans, Spanish supporters rally at US Embassy in Madrid over Venezuela

MIGRANTS and descendants from across Latin America, joined by Spanish supporters, gathered outside the US Embassy in Madrid on Sunday to protest what they described as US interference in Venezuela. Participants carried Latin American flags and chanted slogans in support of the country's sovereignty.

Andean pan flute music provided the backdrop

to the demonstration. Alberto Calderon, a member of a traditional Andean music group and descendant of Peruvian migrants, led the rhythm and guided the chorus.

He said the melodies, rooted in the Andean highlands and shared across Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and parts of Argentina and Chile, predate modern national borders and were adapted to address Vene-

zuela's current situation.

"Venezuela, an immortal nation," the crowd chanted. "For your resistance, the peoples of the world stand with you." Araceli Munoz Rojas, one of the participants, said she joined the rally to protest what she described as US military interference in Venezuela, calling it a violation of international law and national sovereignty. Miguel Sanchez, a dual

Spanish-Argentine citizen, warned that external intervention could set a precedent across the region.

As the rally concluded, the music and chants gradually faded, leaving participants emphasizing solidarity and the ongoing memory of foreign intervention in Latin America. "Even if time passes, I can't forget you, it's impossible," the crowd sang. — Xinhua

Singapore's retail sales extend upward trend in Nov

SINGAPORE'S retail sales rose 6.3 per cent in November from a year earlier, extending a 4.4 per cent increase in October, official data showed on Monday.

On a month-on-month basis, retail sales were flat in November. Total takings were estimated at 4.4 billion Singapore dollars (about US\$3.4 billion), with online sales accounting for 16.9 per cent.

Most retail sectors recorded year-on-year gains,

led by recreational goods and watches and jewelry, which rose 13.9 per cent and 13.1 per cent, respectively.

Sales in the food and beverage services sector increased 2.5 per cent from a year earlier, unchanged from October. Total revenue in the sector was estimated at 1 billion Singapore dollars (about US\$772.2 million), with online transactions making up 24.8 per cent. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SEAGULL VICTORY VOY.NO. (07/2025)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SEAGULL VICTORY VOY.NO. (07/2025)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V LIBRA CONFIDENCE VOY.NO. (2508)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V LIBRA CONFIDENCE VOY.NO. (2508)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** 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: 2301928

Shipping Agency Department
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M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

SPORTS

Diplomatic Golf Tourney staged in celebration of 78th Independence Day

IN commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day in 2026, a Diplomatic Golf Tournament was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and held yesterday morning at the Yebya Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw. The event was attended by the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, deputy ministers, diplomats from foreign embassies based in Yangon, participating golfers, and special guests.

The award presentation ceremony for the 78th Anniversary Independence Day Commemorative Diplomatic Golf Tournament was subsequently held in the afternoon. A luncheon was hosted in honour of the participating golfers, diplomats, and distinguished guests. — MNA

The Diplomatic Golf Tournament in action yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Union Minister U Than Swe.



Amorim sacked by Man Utd after 14-month reign

RUBEN Amorim has been sacked as Manchester United manager 14 months after arriving at Old Trafford, the Premier League club announced on Monday.

The dismissal follows growing tensions between Amorim and the Old Trafford hierarchy, including director of football Jason Wilcox, in recent days.

United said in a statement that the Portuguese had left his role, with the club's leadership having "reluctantly made the decision that it is the right time to make a change".

The club added: "This will give the team the best opportunity of the highest possible Premier League finish.

"The club would like to thank Ruben for his contribution to the club and wishes him well for the future."

Current under-18s coach Darren Fletcher will take charge of the team against Burnley on Wednesday. — AFP



Manchester United's Portuguese head coach Ruben Amorim reacts at the end of the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, on 30 December 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar to compete in 5 shooting events at 13th ASEAN Para Games

MYANMAR will compete in five para shooting events at the 13th ASEAN Para Games, which will be held in Thailand from 20 to 26 January 2026. "The shooting has not been included in the Games for about a decade.

"Since it is being reinstated this year, the host country has been making extensive preparations. Other participating countries, like us, are also pre-

paring accordingly. For the competition, nine athletes were initially selected, and seven were chosen based on their performance. The four qualified ones out of seven have been undergoing one section training starting from 1 May 2025.

"Shooting is a sport that requires precision and mental stability. Shooting is not something that can be done by

memorization, but it requires hands-on practice," said U Hla Moe, coach of the Myanmar Para Shooting Team. The athletes are making efforts to train and prepare so that the para shooting team can bring honour to the country at the 13th ASEAN Para Games.

At the 12th ASEAN Para Games, Myanmar won a total of 56 medals, including 15 gold medals. — Bala/KTZH



Team Myanmar shooting players are pictured participating in the previous ASEAN Para Games.

Real Madrid cruises, Atletico loses ground in La Liga title race

YOUNG striker Gonzalo Garcia scored a hat-trick as Real Madrid kept track of FC Barcelona at the top of La Liga with a comfortable 5-1 home win over Real Betis on Sunday.

Garcia, who started due to Kylian Mbappe's knee injury, opened the scoring with a far-post header in the 20th minute and doubled the lead with a volley early in the second half.

Raul Asencio was left unmarked to make it 3-0 with a header, before Cuchu Hernandez pulled a goal back for Betis. Garcia then completed his hat-trick with a back-flick and Fran Garcia scored the

fifth in injury time.

Atletico Madrid dropped two points in the title race after a 1-1 draw to Real Sociedad, whose new coach Pellegrino Matarazzo was making his debut.

Alexander Sorloth put Atletico ahead after 50 minutes, but Takefusa Kubo set up Goncalo Guedes to level just five minutes later.

Atletico currently sits fourth in the standings, seven points behind Real Madrid and 11 behind Barcelona.

Luis Castro's reign as new Levante coach got off to a good start, as his side notched a 3-0 away win over Sevilla.

Iker Losada put Levante ahead on the stroke of halftime after a sharp exchange of passes. Carlos Espi's first ever league goal doubled the lead with 13 minutes left to play and Carlos Alvarez sealed the win in stoppage time.

Real Oviedo, which also looks to have improved under Guillermo Almada, played out a 1-1 draw away to Alaves.

Federico Vinas put Oviedo ahead in the second half and missed a great chance to double the lead, while Lucas Boye made Oviedo pay for the misses when he equalized with a stunning free kick in the 69th minute. — Xinhua

Snow and ice disrupts travel in UK, France and Netherlands

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Xi holds talks with ROK President Lee Jae Myung

CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Lee Jae Myung in Beijing on Monday.

Xi said he and President Lee have met twice and conducted reciprocal visits, reflecting the importance both sides attach to China-ROK relations. As both friends and neighbours, China and the ROK should increase exchanges and maintain frequent communication.

China has consistently placed relations with the ROK high on its regional diplomatic agenda and maintained continuity and stability in its policy towards the ROK, Xi said, adding that China is willing to work with the ROK to firmly uphold the direction of friendly cooperation, adhere to the principle of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes, promote bilateral strategic partnership along a healthy path, effectively enhance the well-being of both peoples, and contribute positively to regional and global peace and development.

Xi said the fourth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China reviewed and adopted the recommendations for formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan, outlining a blueprint for China's development over the next five years and offering broad opportunities for countries worldwide.

China and the ROK share close economic ties with industrial and supply



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Lee Jae Myung in the Northern Hall of the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China, 5 January 2026. Xi held talks with Lee, who is on a state visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

chains deeply interwoven, and the bilateral cooperation is mutually beneficial, Xi said.

He said the two countries should fur-

ther align their development strategies, strengthen policy coordination, expand the pie of common interests, and achieve more

cooperation results in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, green industries, and the silver economy. —Xinhua

Danish PM says US has no right to annex Greenland, urges end to threats

DANISH Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said on Sunday that the United States has no right to annex Greenland,

urging Washington to stop making threats against a close ally and the Greenlandic people.



People march to protest in front of the US Embassy in Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, on 29 March 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"I have to say it very directly to the United States," Frederiksen said in a statement. She rejected the idea that it would be necessary for the United States to take over Greenland, stressing that "the United States has no right to annex" any of the three parts of the Danish Realm — Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Frederiksen underlined that the Kingdom of Denmark including Greenland is part of NATO and therefore covered by the alliance's security guarantee. She added that a defence agreement between the Kingdom of Denmark and the United States already gives Washington broad access to Greenland.

The prime minister called on the United States to stop threats directed at "a historically close ally" as well as "another country and another people" who, she noted, have made it clear they are not for sale. —Xinhua

Russia boosts industrial exports to Iran - trade representative

RUSSIA has been increasing exports of machinery and electrical equipment to Iran, the acting Russian Trade Representative in Tehran, Alexei Yefimov, told Sputnik in an interview published on Monday.

"We see rising deliveries of Russian machinery, pump equipment, and electrical products — this segment is developing actively as part of the efforts to replace [Western] imports and deepen industrial cooperation," Yefimov said.

Yefimov emphasized that trade between Russia and Iran in 2025 retained the trends observed in previous years, while also becoming more diversified.

Russia mainly exported grain crops (wheat, corn, and barley), vegetable oils (sunflower oil), metallurgical products (steel, semi-finished goods and rolled products), wood, pulp and paper goods, as well as equipment and components used in energy, petrochemical and transport. — SPUTNIK