

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.

Yangon pushes for better cleanliness and drainage to enhance cityscape

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the Yangon Region's urban development works, including the proper flow of drainage systems and the systematic management of local markets.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo and the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, made an inspection tour of the urban development undertakings, proper flow of water in drains and systematic management for markets in Yangon Region yesterday morning.

The Senior General inspected the Thamine Creek Bridges on Mindhamma Road and on Bayintnaung Road in Mayangon Township, where Mayor U Bo Htay and officials reported to the Senior General on efforts to ensure proper drainage processes.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General stressed the need to systematically manage the beautification of Yangon City and the proper drainage process at creeks and drains.

He noted that it is necessary to raise public awareness to dispose of garbage at the relevant sites and avoid littering into the drains.

Officials need to systematically manage the proper flow of water in drains, as bad smells from the blockage of creeks and drains may harm the health of the people.

The Senior General gave guidance that it is necessary to apply modern technology to inspect and assess the creeks and drains flowing through Yangon, including the Thamine Creek, to ensure



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tours on the Thiri Mingala Market and Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township, Yangon Region.

that wastewater can flow freely through their outlets into the relevant rivers and waterways without obstruction. Blocked sections along these creeks and channels need to be cleared, he added.

Although Yangon City had experienced inundation in the rainy season several times, similar occurrences of flooding were less than in the previous years due to concerted efforts of the Yan-

gon City Development Committee, which emphasizes systematic and proper flow of water in creeks and drains in Yangon City. If maintenance and repair work is carried out on Thamine Creek in Mayangon Township to improve water flow, flooding during the monsoon season in the township can be significantly reduced. In addition, unpleasant odours along the creek will also lessen. Therefore, repair and

maintenance works on Thamine Creek will be undertaken. Moreover, residents of the city have to participate in avoiding unregulated disposal to ensure proper flow of water along creeks and drains, with responsibilities, to shape the beautiful city.

The Senior General inspected the Thiri Mingala Market and Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township.

SEE PAGE 3

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

Russian delegation visits landmark destinations in Myanmar

THE Russian delegation, led by Colonel-General Aleksandr Anatolyevich Matovnikov, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Ground Forces of the Russian Federation, who attended the third Myanmar-Russia Joint Anti-Terrorism Committee Meeting, visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and paid tribute to the heroes of the past who have died while serving the country and Tatmadaw at the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes while signing the guest book and taking photos.

They proceeded to the Defence Services Museum, where the museum's curator gave an introduction to the history of the museum, the purpose of its opening, the various galleries and the exhibits. They then looked around the Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute with interest and asked questions to the gallery staff. Then, they signed



The Russian delegation, led by Colonel-General Aleksandr Anatolyevich Matovnikov, is pictured during their tours in Nay Pyi Taw.

the guest book and took group photos.

Colonel-General Aleksandr Anatolyevich Matovnikov, Deputy Commander-in-Chief

of the Ground Forces of the Russian Federation, and the delegation members visited Bogyoke Market in Yangon in the afternoon and viewed and

purchased handicrafts such as jewellery, traditional clothing, gold embroidery, silver embroidery, paintings, and sculptures. Afterwards, they visited the

Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, offering flowers, water, candles, and incense while touring the religious buildings.

The delegation led by Colonel-General Aleksandr Anatolyevich Matovnikov visited the world's largest sitting Buddha statue, Maravijaya Buddha Image, enshrined in the Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, on the evening of 9 December.

They viewed around the Maravijaya Buddha Image and the miniature Buddha Parks, miniature Myanmar traditional flower crafts, and photographs of the installation of the statue. They offered flowers, water, and oil lamps to the Maravijaya Buddha Image, rang the bell of the Saddadhipati and performed meritorious deeds. Then, they had group photos taken and they toured the stone inscription Cetis and religious buildings. — MNA/MKKS

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)

Yangon pushes for better cleanliness and drainage to...

FROM PAGE 1

At the Thiri Mingala Market, the Senior General and party cordially conversed with shopkeepers and traders and asked about the inflow of commodities, the marketing situation and daily experiences in trading.

He instructed officials to systematically supervise sanitation and tidiness in the market, clean the drains and carry out sanitation. He stressed the need to repair the damaged roofs and ensure proper ventilation in the market. Moreover, the Senior General underscored that when transporting and handling green groceries along the Hline River bank, it is necessary to ensure that waste is not dumped into the river and that all disposal practices are carried out in an orderly and systematic manner.

On arrival at the Shwe Padauk Fish Market, the Senior General cordially greeted vendors and asked about the sale of goods. He also inspected the docking of ships and boats for passengers and fishery merchants at the jetty of Shwe Padauk Fish Market on the bank of Hline River.

The Senior General gave guidance to officials on the proper flow of water in the market, systematic littering and repairing the necessary structures as quickly as possible. The Senior General and party proceeded to the Central Vaccine Cold Storage Facility (Yangon) of the Public Health Department under the Ministry of Health on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township and inspected the process of distributing and storage of vaccines. Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win reported on the storage conditions at the Central Vaccine Cold Storage Facility (Yangon), including the cold rooms capable of maintaining temperatures between +2°C and +8°C, as well as the freezers that can keep vaccines and syringes between -15°C and -25°C. Vaccines are stored in these rooms according to their respective categories.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General urged officials to ensure an uninterrupted electricity supply for medicine storage, including the use of solar systems as a backup power source, and to maintain proper temperature control inside the storage rooms. — MNA/TTA



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds the meeting with the Yangon Region cabinet members and departmental officials yesterday.

Government administrative changes set for March 2026

After the election concludes, the Hluttaw will convene to transfer State responsibilities to the newly formed government.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underlined that Yangon Region needs to take measures to ensure a 100 per cent success in holding the election with full voter participation.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met members of the Yangon Region cabinet and departmental officials at the Mingala Hall of the regional government office yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General highlighted that the country's multiparty democratic general election will be held on 28 December, and changes in the government administration will also take place at the end

of March 2026.

Regarding the election, he added that it is necessary to take measures to ensure that the election in Yangon Region is conducted at 100 per cent successfully and achieves full voter participation.

He continued that successfully holding the election reflects the national prestige, and everyone needs to work together to ensure that elections are held successfully in all areas. All must cooperate to ensure a free, fair, and credible election.

After the election is completed, the Senior General emphasized that the Hluttaw will be convened to hand over the State responsibilities to the newly formed government.

He spotted that the Union Report

of the 2024 Population and Housing Census has been released. The publication of this Union Census Report provides valuable data and statistics for the nation. The information collected reflects current demographic changes, urban-rural population conditions, citizens' educational levels, the labour force and employment situation, migration patterns, and living conditions – daily realities that shed light on the future of Myanmar. Therefore, policymakers, planners, and all data users need to make effective use of these findings.

The Senior General gave guidance that Yangon Region has to make efforts to further improve the learning grades of students. If the education sector remains weak, it will lead to weaknesses in the other sectors as well. **SEE PAGE 4**

NATIONAL

Government administrative changes set for March 2026

FROM PAGE 3

He underscored that the government places emphasis on and actively promotes initiatives to enhance education, recognizing that investments in education are purposed for the future of the nation.

In the upcoming February 2026, he stressed that students will take the basic education grade-level examinations. Preparatory measures need to be undertaken to ensure full participation and to improve grade-level transitions in the following academic year.

Regarding healthcare, he noted that there is still a need for medical personnel in the country. Currently, a policy has been set for newly graduated doctors from medical universities to serve in people's hospitals for a fixed period. Efforts are being made to strengthen the nation's healthcare sector.

In the agriculture and livestock sector, the Senior General remarked that efforts need to be expanded in Yangon Region to ensure food security for resi-

dents. Adequate production and supply of essential meat, fish, and eggs for urban populations are necessary to achieve fair and reasonable food prices.

He continued that since Yangon Region has many experts in the agriculture and livestock sectors, it is necessary to effectively deploy these specialists to meet the sector's needs. Only by having accurate data and records can national development be properly analyzed and planned. Therefore, operators should work diligently to achieve their targets, and data collectors must ensure that accurate records are obtained.

He underlined that if agriculture and livestock activities develop, the socioeconomic life of farmers will also improve. Increased circulation of money within the local area will, in turn, promote regional development.

The Senior General noted that everyone must strive to develop the agriculture, industrial, and service sectors. Efforts should be made to support the

growth and development of CMP (Cut-Make-Pack) enterprises and MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) businesses.

At the meeting, the Yangon Region Chief Minister reported on regional measures, agriculture and livestock activities, water and power supply, disbursement of loans from the State economic promotion fund, development of education, health and sports sectors, systematic measures for polling stations in the election, efforts for all eligible voters not to lose voting rights and the progress of party campaigns in the region.

Union Ministers Dr Thet Khaing Win and Dr Soe Win discussed the needs of health staff as well as administrative officials in the public healthcare services, progress of vaccination for pregnant women and children, assistance for the aged, and efforts to reduce disaster risks.

After the meeting, the Senior General cordially greeted the meeting attendees. Also, present at the meeting were

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting in Yangon Region

1. Successfully holding the election reflects the national prestige, and everyone needs to work together to ensure that elections are held successfully in all areas.
2. The Yangon Region has to make efforts to further improve the learning grades of students.
3. A policy has been set for newly graduated doctors from medical universities to serve in people's hospitals for a fixed period.
4. Adequate production and supply of essential meat, fish, and eggs for urban populations are necessary to achieve fair and reasonable food prices.

Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, the commander of Yangon Command, deputy ministers, regional ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

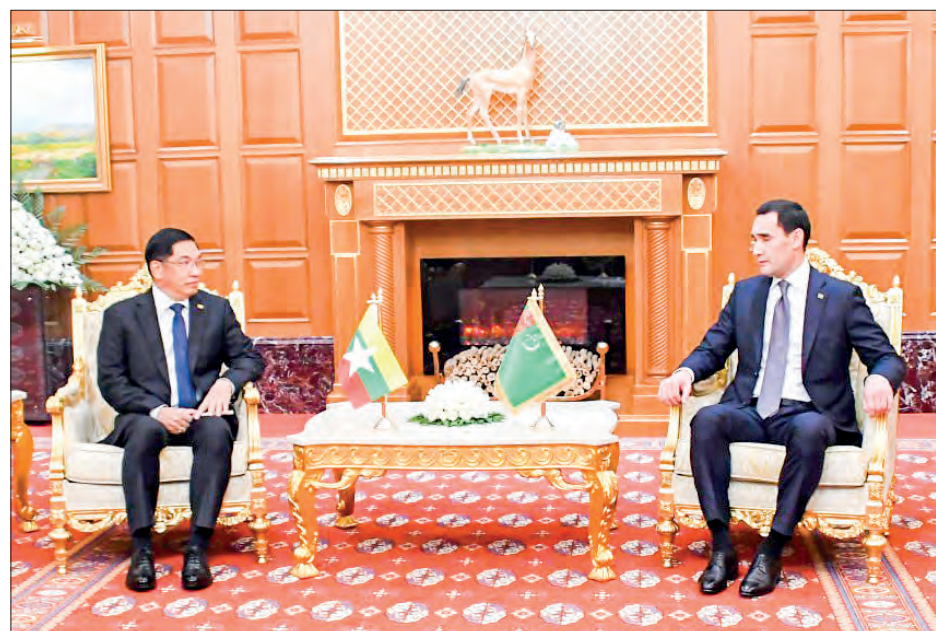
Prime Minister joins Turkmenistan's Neutrality Anniversary and holds talks with President

PRIME Minister U Nyo Saw arrived at Ashgabat International Airport in Turkmenistan yesterday morning, where he was received by Turkmen officials.

He then attended the opening ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan's Permanent Neutrality, held at the Monument of Neutrality in Ashgabat. The event was attended by invited international leaders, representatives from the United Nations and various international organizations, as well as other distinguished guests.

The programme began with a flag-raising ceremony, during which the Prime Minister, together with the Turkmen Guard of Honour, saluted the national flag before the ceremony continued as scheduled.

Later, the Prime Minister visited an exhibition commemorating the 30th anni-



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw calls on Turkmenistan's President Mr Serdar Berdimuhamedov yesterday.

versary of Permanent Neutrality, held at the Turkmenistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. There, he viewed displays on Turkmenistan's political, economic and social development, traditional handicrafts, digital and AI technologies, and records of international cooperation.

He also visited the Ashgabat horse-breeding centre, livestock facilities housing local goats, sheep and cattle, and the National Museum of Turkmenistan.

In the evening, Prime Minister U Nyo Saw met President Mr Serdar Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan. The two leaders held a cordial and open discussion on further strengthening bilateral friendship and diplomatic relations, expanding cooperation in various sectors, and continuing to advance positive collaboration on the international stage.

— MNA/MKKS

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NATIONAL

Central committee holds inaugural meeting on combatting telecom fraud and online gambling

The Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling 1/2025 meeting was held yesterday afternoon at the Areindama Hall of the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw and was attended by Central Committee Chairman and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, First Vice-Chairman and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, central committee members, and the secretary and joint secretaries, while the chief ministers of the regions and states, as well as the commanders of the military commands, who are also members of the central committee, attended online.



The first meeting of the Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling underway yesterday, attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and U Than Swe.

The central committee chairman stated that the Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling was formed on 10 December 2025 by Order 52/2025 of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council as a supervisory body serving as the main focal point for eradicating online fraud in border areas, preventing its spread to the interior, and effectively eliminating online fraud and gambling in line with the policy of the Head of State, and that the Union Territory Committee and the Region or State Committees on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling will continue to be formed.

He explained that Myanmar is planning to establish a National Anti-Scam Centre in the 2026-2027 financial year, and that the Cybersecurity Law, enacted on 1 January 2025 and in force since 30 July, together with the establishment of the Central Supervisory Committee on Combatting Telecom Fraud and Online Gambling, positions the country to implement its activities as a comprehensive organization.

The main responsibilities of the central committee are to formulate national-level strategies, policies, and procedures for combatting online scams, coordinate

activities among the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Financial Intelligence Unit, and other relevant organizations, systematically allocate and manage the necessary manpower, technology, and funds for anti-fraud activities, collect, scrutinize, analyze, and disseminate information on international and domestic online fraud networks to relevant organizations, lead the investigation and prosecution of fraud perpetrators and scam centres in accordance with the law, combat cross-border fraud in cooperation with regional and international organizations such as INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL, seize and control funds and assets obtained from fraud, and provide timely education to the public on various forms of online scams, associated risks, and preventive measures. The central committee will also implement the following processes: accepting complaints from fraud victims and directing relevant departments to assist, working with mobile operators and internet service providers to block telephone numbers, websites, and accounts used for fraud, developing and coordinating plans to rescue citizens and foreigners

who are forced to work or are trapped in scam centres, collaborating with international organizations and embassies to safely repatriate rescued individuals to their respective countries, and leading effective legal action against fraud leaders involved in human trafficking and forced labour.

Action was taken against those illegally entering Myanmar, including those involved in telecom fraud and online gambling. From 5 October 2023 to 10 December 2025, 70,016 foreigners were identified in Shan and Kayin states and were transferred back to their respective countries in line 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 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.

The central committee chairman emphasized that these crimes should be regarded as a multi-sectoral business rather than one confined to Myanmar, noting that Myanmar is neither the source nor the primary beneficiary despite being the location of the scam centres, that not all trafficking victims are Myanmar citizens, that not all proceeds enter Myanmar's banking system, and that under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime each country bears responsibility for combatting all relevant elements and must fully play its role in accordance with international crime-prevention standards to address the problem. He said Myanmar has been able to locate and rescue victims of human trafficking from conflict areas and is actively cooperating with relevant embassies and organizations to ensure their safe return to their home countries.

The State will demolish and close 100 per cent of the buildings in the border areas to prevent the resurgence of telecom fraud and online gambling, and it has

been found that the necessary building materials, appliances, consumer goods, electricity, fuel, internet services, and other supplies for the buildings constructed in these areas are being purchased and used through a bordering country.

He also stated that the personnel needed to operate scam centres are obtained through human trafficking via illegal border routes, that illegal border trade creates money-laundering channels for the scam centres and provides transportation routes for trafficked persons, and that breaking these links requires a coordinated approach combining anti-money laundering, border security, and anti-human trafficking measures.

Central Committee First Vice-Chairman and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe stated that combatting telecom fraud and online gambling is a national issue, that the online money fraud emerging along the Myanmar border constitutes an international crime and a source of domestic armed insurgency, and that it is being decisively addressed. In some border areas of Myanmar where the rule of law is absent, international criminal gangs and ethnic armed organizations are collaborating, which can damage the country's image, and such activities are being firmly suppressed. The search, rescue, arrest, and extradition of more than 70,000 foreigners from 54 countries involved in this business represents the largest extradition operation in the world. Since crimes related to online fraud and online gambling are international in nature, full international cooperation is required.

Afterwards, the first vice-chairman and central committee members presented and discussed measures to prevent and suppress telecom fraud, online gambling, and related crimes, after which the central committee chairman delivered a concluding speech and adjourned the meeting. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL

MoFA Union Minister receives Saudi Arabian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received a farewell call from Mr Saud bin Abdullah Al Subaie, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They reviewed the existing

friendly relations between Myanmar and Saudi Arabia, discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two foreign ministries, and possible areas and opportunities for economic and investment cooperation between the two countries. — MNA



The Saudi Arabian ambassador calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

State Economic Development Fund Management Committee Coordination Meeting 3/2025 held



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw presides over the State Economic Development Fund Management Committee Coordination Meeting 3/2025 yesterday.

THE State Economic Development Fund Management Committee Coordination Meeting 3/2025 was held yesterday morning at the Internal Revenue Department, Office 46 in Nay Pyi Taw and attended by Committee Chairman Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw, Committee Members Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister for Commerce U Chit Swe, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw Than Than Lin, permanent secretaries and heads of de-

partments.

Committee Chairman Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw first highlighted that the State Economic Development Fund has been distributing concessional loans to the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, 14 region/state governments, and six self-administered regions from 1 September 2022 to 10 December 2025.

He also mentioned the loan provision for agricultural cultivation, livestock breeding and agricultural machines like the drum seeder in the specific regions.

Then, Union ministers, the deputy minister, and senior

officials discussed the provision of the loan for agriculture and livestock breeding projects in the respective ministries, states and regions.

Afterwards, the Secretary of the State Economic Development Fund Management Committee explained the status of the implementation of the decisions of its 2/2025 Meeting.

The committee has been providing concession loans under the State Economic Development Fund for the implementation of development projects in line with the four objectives of the National Defence and Security Council to improve the socioeconomic lives of the people. — MoFR

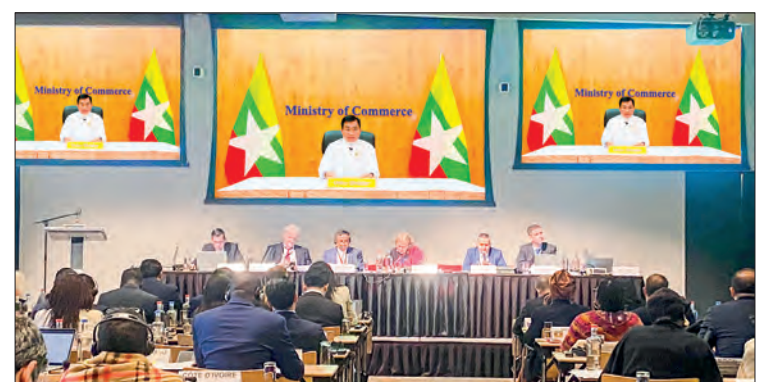
Union Commerce Minister attends 37th CFC Governing Council Meeting

AT the invitation of Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) Managing Director Dr Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Union Minister for Commerce U Chit Swe, Myanmar's Governor for CFC, attended the 37th Governing Council Meeting of the CFC held in a hybrid format on 10 December 2025 in The Hague, the Netherlands, online and delivered a National Statement on behalf of Myanmar.

In his national statement, the Union minister said that Myanmar is an agriculture-based country and that CFC-supported projects in rubber, dairy and meat, vegetables, bamboo, fisheries, and natural fertilizer production were implemented with 11 other Asia-Pacific countries from 1999 to 2022, expressing his gratitude to the CFC for the many benefits it has brought and his hope to work more closely with the CFC in various sectors in the future, including Myanmar's agriculture,

forestry, fisheries, SMEs, value-added production, climate-resilient agriculture, and market access. He also stated that his country is interested in modern and sustainable agricultural methods, climate-resilient technologies, low-carbon agriculture, digital information systems, and risk management, expressed his desire to receive CFC-supported projects annually, and voiced his support for the CFC's 2025-2035 strategic framework.

The 37th session was attended in a hybrid format by representatives from 101 member countries, private sector organizations, policymakers, development experts, researchers, development partners, and observer countries, with governors from 36 countries delivering national statements and a delegation led by U Thant Sin Oo, Minister Counsellor of the Myanmar Embassy in Brussels, Belgium, also in attendance. — MNA/TH



Union Minister U Chit Swe delivers the National Statement online at the 37th CFC Governing Council Meeting on 10 December 2025.

Strong human resources can be deployed to initiate systematic economy

- ❖ “Only with strong human resources can a systematic and effective economy be developed.”
- ❖ “Everyone must strive to emerge educated human resources.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders in Myeik of Taninthayi Region to talk about regional development on 19 September 2025)

MoTC Union Minister inspects project sites in PyinOoLwin

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Mya Tun Oo inspected the location for Railway Station Hotel and supermarket construction, football stadium construction site near PyinOoLwin railway station, Yadanabon Cyber City buildings and housing of Yadanabon Myothit project, road expansion and maintenance in wards 8 and 10 in Padaytha Myothit, and National Kandawgyi Gardens yesterday.

On arrival at the location for the three-star Railway Station Hotel and supermarket project, the Union Minister instructed officials to construct using a Pile Foundation to withstand the earthquake, as the building is a four-storey building, create a conceptual plan with proper architectural design that goes

well with the design of PyinOoLwin railway station and to create systematic landscaping and drainage system.

He also stated the need to provide a suitable facility, design and market for being three-star hotel, and proceeded to the location where the football stadium will be constructed between PyinOoLwin Railway Yeiktha and the locomotive factory, and Yadanabon Myothit project sites.

He proceeded to Ward 8 in Padaytha Myothit and observed the road paving processes, and inspected along Nawarat, Theingi, Yadana and Pyithaya streets.

He also inspected the fencing and painting processes along the entrance to the National Kandawgyi Gardens in Ward 6, and implementation



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo is seen giving instructions during his inspection tours in PyinOoLwin.

works being carried out in accordance with the directive of the Head of State during his visit to the park, and cordially greeted the visitors to the flower festival. — MNA/KTZH

Union Education Minister joins UNESCO High-Level Meeting on Inclusive Education in Moscow

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein is attending the UNESCO-organized International High-Level Officials' Conference on “Current Trends in Inclusive Education”, held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, from 10 to 13 December.

The plenary session of the conference opened at 9 am local time yesterday at Miklukho-Maklaya St. 6 (RUDN University main building) in Moscow.

At the opening ceremony, RUDN University President Filippov Vladimir Mikhailovich presided over the session, and senior officials from various organizations in the Russian Federation participated in the discussions.

During the subsequent plenary session, the Union minister delivered a presentation titled “Building an Inclusive Education System: Myanmar’s Efforts”. She explained that Myanmar is actively implementing inclusive education, noting that the 2008 Constitution and national education laws guarantee free basic education and non-discriminatory access to school-



Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein puts forward the presentation at the UNESCO-organized International High-Level Officials' Conference on “Current Trends in Inclusive Education” in Moscow.

ing. She added that the National Education Strategic Plan (NESP 2021–2030) also prioritizes equitable access to education for all, including ethnic nationalities, persons with disabilities, and those living in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

She highlighted that, alongside basic education schools, Myanmar is working to

strengthen monastic education, non-formal education programmes, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) initiatives, and lifelong learning opportunities. She noted that Myanmar is also promoting mother-tongue-based education, supporting teachers with training for inclusive teaching methods, and ensuring that an

inclusive education system is implemented nationwide in the years ahead.

Ministers and senior officials from Hungary, Zimbabwe, Cambodia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Central African Republic also took part in the plenary discussions.

In the afternoon, a closed meeting titled Development Meeting of International Cooperation to Ensure Access to Quality Education was held, attended by ministers, deputy ministers, and secretaries of UNESCO national commissions.

At this meeting, Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein discussed Myanmar’s ongoing international cooperation in the education sector, including collaboration between universities and schools through MoUs and MoAs, joint programmes with organizations such as AUN-AUA, progress made under the AUN-QA Accreditation process, the work of the Myanmar National Commission for UNESCO, and efforts to strengthen international partnerships in the field of education further. — MNA/MKKS

OPINION

Support education for national development

EDUCATION is one of the most important sectors for a country's overall development. A strong education system enables a nation to continuously advance its economic, social, and political sectors. For this reason, every country emphasizes education as a foundation for national progress.

Education is the process of acquiring knowledge, understanding, and intellectual skills. Learning allows individuals to gain a deep academic and practical understanding. As information and technology advance, the ability to study, absorb, analyze, and apply knowledge becomes essential. Education develops the capacity to seek valuable information, make sound judgments, and understand what is beneficial.

Education also serves as a bridge between generations. A country can achieve sustained development only when it cultivates human resources with strong educational foundations. Beyond individual

well-being, education builds citizens who are knowledgeable, skilled, disciplined, and morally grounded, which is crucial for creating a prosperous society. Currently, education has evolved beyond traditional classroom methods. Technological advancements, including the internet and digital learning, have expanded opportunities through online and distance education. Schools now emphasize analytical thinking, creativity, innovation, and technical competence to meet changing societal needs. Lifelong learning has become essential to equip citizens for continuous personal and national growth.

For development to be effective, a nation requires a healthy, skilled, and motivated population. Idle, weak, or unskilled citizens limit national progress. Educated and capable individuals contribute to society, meet their own needs in healthcare and nutrition, and strengthen economic, agricultural, and industrial sectors. Hence, the government provides training and educational opportunities in agriculture, industry, and vocational fields. Since the 2024-2025 academic year, a total of 85 industrial, agricultural and livestock plus basic education high schools have been established nationwide.

The Ministry of Education manages the National Education Sector; overseeing the KG-Grade 12 system to ensure equal access. Schools are equipped with classrooms, libraries, laboratories, sports facilities, sanitation, hostels, teaching aids, internet access, and other resources. The Ministry also supports teacher training, curriculum guidance, student assessment, and school planning. These measures strengthen the education system, ensuring it contributes effectively to national development.

A country's sustainable progress relies on technically skilled and innovative human resources. Education cultivates intellectual capacity, problem-solving, and critical thinking, enabling citizens to meet challenges and contribute to a harmonious and prosperous society. Supporting education is a shared responsibility of the government and citizens. By educating young people – the nation's future – society ensures sustainable development. Skilled and educated human resources not only enhance economic and social life but also form the foundation for the country's continued growth.

Strengthening Financial Protection and Advancing UHC in Myanmar

(Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day 2025)

UNIVERSAL Health Coverage (UHC) Day, observed worldwide on 12 December, is a moment to reaffirm global solidarity in ensuring that every individual can access essential health services without financial hardship.

The 2025 UHC Day theme – “Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!” – highlights a growing crisis: rising healthcare expenses continue to push millions into poverty. The theme reinforces a simple truth: accessing healthcare should not come at the cost of a family's future.

UHC means that essential preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative services must be accessible, equitable and affordable for everyone. It is not only a health objective but a key driver of social stability and national development.

1. Global Foundations of UHC

The roots of UHC can be traced to the historic Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978, where Primary Health Care (PHC) was declared the foundation for “Health for All.” Alma-Ata emphasized equity, community participation, and accessible essential services. These principles remain central to UHC today.

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly formally recognized UHC as a global priority, establishing 12 December as International UHC Day. This set the stage for mobilizing countries, governments, civil society and development partners around a common agenda.

When the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015, UHC was included as a specific global target – SDG 3.8. Achieving UHC by 2030 is a shared responsibility among all nations and requires coordinated policy actions, strategic financing and resilient health

systems.

2. UHC and SDG

Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UHC is central to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being.

SDG Target 3.8 commits all countries to:

- Achieve universal access to essential health services
- Ensure access to safe, effective and affordable medicines and vaccines
- Provide financial risk protection for all populations

Without UHC, SDG 3 cannot be achieved. Strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC), ensuring equitable service delivery and expanding financial protection remain the key pathways toward these global commitments.

3. Global Challenges in Achieving UHC

Despite progress, the world remains far from achieving UHC. According to global health monitoring reports, half of the world's population still cannot obtain essential health services. Many families are forced to pay out-of-pocket for medical care, leading to severe financial distress.

A significant number of people face catastrophic health expenditures, meaning they must use a large portion of their household income to pay for healthcare. This often forces families to reduce spending on food, education and housing, creating deeper cycles of poverty.

These financial barriers are a major obstacle to universal health access. Without strong financial protection mechanisms, such as insurance schemes, government subsidies, and social safety nets, millions continue to face preventable suffering and financial ruin.

Global UHC challenges include:

- Heavy reliance on out-of-pocket spending

- Shortage and unequal distribution of health workers
- Limited financial protection mechanisms
- Weak health infrastructure, especially in rural areas
- Insufficient investment in PHC

The 2025 theme serves as a call to action: the world must no longer accept unaffordable health costs.

For countries working toward SDG 3, financing and protecting populations from health-related financial shock remain the most challenging components of UHC implementation.

4. Myanmar's UHC Efforts

Myanmar has taken important steps to advance UHC, particularly through policy reforms, PHC strengthening and strategic health planning.

• The National Health Plan (2017-2021)

Myanmar implemented the Basic Essential Package of Health Services (BEPHS) with the ambition to deliver essential health services to all people at minimal financial burden.

These services were designed to reach the majority of the population living in:

Townships, Sub-townships, Village-tracts and Villages. BEPHS prioritizes services that are fundamental to PHC revitalization and essential for expanding UHC coverage.

• Strengthening the Health System

To ensure effective PHC delivery, Myanmar has been working to reinforce all major components of the health system, including:

- Health workforce capacity
 - Essential health infrastructure
 - Service delivery networks
 - Health financing mechanisms
- These system-strengthening

efforts aim to support equitable service expansion and improve population health outcomes.

5. Myanmar's UHC Challenges

Although Myanmar continues its efforts toward SDG 3 and UHC, several significant challenges remain:

- **Insufficient financial protection:** Many households still experience financial hardship due to high out-of-pocket health spending.
- **Gaps in health system capacity:** Workforce shortages, limited logistics and inadequate infrastructure impede service quality.
- **Inequity in access:** Rural, remote and hard-to-reach populations face barriers to essential care.
- **Service disruptions:** Emergencies, natural disasters and instability affect continuity of care.
- **Need for stronger governance and data systems:** Effective decision-making requires reliable information and coordination.

For Myanmar to advance UHC, nationwide prioritization, investment and policy commitment are essential.

6. My Participation in PHC Revitalization (Chiang Mai Consultation)

As part of efforts to strengthen UHC, I had the opportunity to participate in the Regional Consultation on Innovations in Primary Health Care, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 17-19 August 2010.

The objective of the consultation was to explore innovative approaches to revitalize PHC across the South-East Asia Region. Discussions centred on the foundational principles of PHC:

- Social equity

By Dr Aung Tun

- Universal access
 - Multisectoral collaboration
 - Community participation
- Participants agreed that these principles are essential for building strong, people-centred and sustainable health systems.

Representing Myanmar, I joined colleagues from the region in sharing national experiences and analysing the challenges of PHC revitalization. One key message from the meeting was that strengthening PHC is fundamental to achieving UHC because PHC ensures that people can receive essential services at an affordable cost.

During the consultation, I presented the collaborative effort between Myanmar's Ministry of Health and Japan's JICA titled “Using Community Resources for PHC – Healthy Mother Project (Myanmar)”.

The project demonstrated how community-based strategies and PHC strengthening directly contribute to improved maternal and child health outcomes, a key component of UHC.

7. A Collective Roadmap to 2030

UHC is more than a health target; it is a promise of fairness, security and opportunity. As the world marks UHC Day 2025, all nations are urged to strengthen financial protection, invest in PHC, and promote community participation.

For Myanmar, this is an opportune moment to reaffirm its dedication to building an equitable, resilient and people-centred health system. By prioritizing financial protection and integrating UHC principles across sectors, the country can move closer toward the global 2030 goal.

UHC is achievable when gov-



ernments, communities, health workers and partners work hand in hand.

- **Citizens**
Communities should actively engage in health programmes, understand their rights to services, participate in consultations, and support local health initiatives.

- **Health Workers**
A competent, motivated and equitably distributed workforce is vital. Health workers must uphold quality, compassion and fairness in service delivery.

- **Civil Society and the Private Sector**

Non-governmental organizations, community groups and private providers contribute to service delivery, advocacy, and innovation. Their collaboration

with the government strengthens overall health system performance. Community engagement ensures health systems respond to people's needs, uphold dignity and equity, and build trust – critical for the success of UHC.

Achieving UHC is not merely a policy ambition; it is a promise of dignity, fairness and security for all people. With strong leadership and sustained commitment, Myanmar can make significant strides toward achieving UHC and fulfilling SDG 3.

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NATIONAL

MoI launches public awareness campaigns for 2025 multiparty election at Naypyitaw State Academy and Polytechnic University

THE public awareness campaign for the 2025 multiparty democratic election was organized at Naypyitaw State Academy and Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University yesterday.

During the campaign at the Naypyitaw State Academy, Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn distributed the pamphlets that carry electoral mottos to the students and attendees.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister stated the intention of the campaign and stated that the 2025 multiparty democratic election, which will be held soon, is also relevant to students. Every citizen who has reached 18 years of age should vote in the upcoming election and has the responsibility to do



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks on the occasion of public awareness campaigns for general elections at the Naypyitaw State Academy yesterday.

so. Therefore, as educated young people, he strongly urged them to thoughtfully consider with their

knowledge when casting their vote, and to choose wisely.

The Union minister and par-

ty drew lots for 15 MRTV DTH receivers and 10 DVB-T2 set-top boxes and presented them to the

winners.

At noon, the Union minister attended the campaign at Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University.

The Union minister made a remark and drew lots for 30 MRTV DTH receivers and 20 DVB-T2 set-top boxes, and presented them to the winners.

After the ceremonial procedures and entertainment programmes, the electoral pamphlets were distributed to the students and attendees.

The Ministry of Information initiates an awareness campaign nationwide for the 2025 multiparty democratic election by cooperating with the Nay Pyi Taw Council, region and state governments, aiming at creating a better future through the election. — MNA/KTZH

Objection against Myanmar's rank in Basel AML Index 2025 of Basel Institute on Governance

1. According to the Basel AML Index 2025, released in December 2025 by the Basel Institute on Governance, an International Non-profit Organization based in Switzerland, Myanmar ranks No 1 among 177 countries and territories on the list of the highest-risk countries.
2. The Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), and Countering the Proliferation Financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction (CPF) operations are being conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which is formed with the ministers of over 40 countries and organizations, including seven major industrialized countries.
3. The member countries and associated regional bodies of FATF and other organizations like FATF are required to comply with the recommendations of FATF's Methodology. Compliance is assessed through a Mutual Evaluation (ME), and countries are evaluated as per FATF's 40 Recommendations. As of 2025, Myanmar is compliant with 26 out of 40 Recommendations through ME, and performed better than many countries in the region.
4. Although Myanmar continues implementing the AML/CFT/CPF measures following the recommendations mentioned in the FATF Methodology, it could not complete the remaining Action Plan during the fixed period due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and other matters. Therefore, the country was placed in enhanced due diligence (EDD) and not countermeasures list in October 2022. Myanmar was not added to the same level as Black List countries, North Korea and Iran, but was subject to the demand for EDD.
5. The country reported the progress to the Asia Pacific Joint Group (APJG) every four months, successively attended the plenary meetings and FATF's plenary meeting to complete the remaining Action Plan within the fixed period.
6. The country followed the recommendations of FATF, explored the ML/TF Risk, amended the Counter-Terrorism Law, The Trust Law, amended and enacted the Management and Preservation of Evidence Law, and such significant actions were recognized by FATF. In the Statement after the FATF Plenary meeting held in Paris of French in October 2025, Myanmar left only four out of eight recommendations to implement, and was placed in Enhanced Due Diligence. The relevant ministries set a timeline and make efforts to implement the remaining four effectively.
7. According to the Basel AML Index 2025 of the Basel Institute on Governance, among 177 countries and territories, Laos ranks seventh, Vietnam ranks 19th, and Nepal ranks 49th on the list, but the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran are not found on the list. Moreover, it is found that the assessments were not made in line with the standards of FATF and without drafting a methodology.
8. Therefore, the Basel AML Index 2025 of the Basel Institute on Governance has no coverage on all countries and territories of the world and all countries and territories are not included in it. It is not based on the recommendations of FATF and APG, which review anti-money laundering on the frontline, and such a release neglects the progress of Myanmar while making efforts to stabilize the political affairs and economy, and does not thoroughly review the close cooperation between FATF and Myanmar. Therefore, the statement has been released, objecting to such a release.

Working Committee on Countering Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing
11 December 2025

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

NATIONAL

Online scam hub buildings demolished, offenders arrested

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 authorities demolished 20 illegal buildings in Section 3, and a total of 381 buildings out of 635 illegal buildings have so far been demolished in the KK Park area.

Similarly, authorities deported 71 Filipinos, 42 Ethiopians, one Egyptian and one Rwandan, totalling 115 individuals,

through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II.

The combined team started searching operations in Myawady and its vicinity area starting 8 December, and found further 48 illegal buildings used for online gambling yesterday, and arrested four Ethiopians and four gambling materials in one building in 2nd Shwetaung Street, Ward 3, Myawady.

To prevent future reuse of the materials in online scams and gambling activities in KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas, 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



The map showing the demolition measures taken in KK Park Section 3, Myawady Township, Kayin State.

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/KTZH



Images reveal the illegally built two-storey flats.

Scam-related materials and items are burned in the Shwe Kokko area.

Myanmar boosts earthquake relief with additional APTERR rice agreements

UNDER the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Programme-3 (2025), Myanmar yesterday signed four Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) concerning additional rice donations for earthquake-affected communities. The agreements cover 3,000 tonnes of rice from the Republic of Korea and 275 tonnes from the People's Republic of China, as well as rice contributions under the regular programme of 2,000 tonnes from the Republic of Korea and 375 tonnes from China.

The MoAs were signed at Office 15 in Nay Pyi Taw by Director-General of the Department of Agriculture Dr Ye Tint Tun and General Manager Dr Choomjet Karnjanakesorn of the



The MoA signing ceremony in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

APTERR Secretariat. Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation's Planning Department, the Department of Agriculture, and the

APTERR Secretariat also attended the signing ceremony.

Following the major earthquake, 3,000 tonnes of rice from the Republic of Korea and 500 tonnes from the People's Republic of China had already been distributed to the affected communities under APTERR Programme-3.

The newly pledged rice – 3,000 tonnes from the Republic of Korea and 275 tonnes from China – will also be distributed to communities affected by the earthquake. Additionally, under the regular APTERR programme, 2,000 tonnes of rice from the Republic of Korea and 375 tonnes from China will be released for distribution in the event of natural disasters. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL BUSINESS



Kandawgyi to host consumer health & safety seminar on 14 Dec

PRIORITIZING Good Agricultural Practices & Organic Food for Consumer Health and Safety” seminar is scheduled to take place from 10 am to 2 pm on 14 December in Myaypadethakyun, Kandawgyi, according to the My-

anmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

This seminar is a part of the Safe Food from Safe Farm programme jointly organized by the Agriculture Department and MFVP, held once every two weeks.

Dr Than Than Sein (organic expert) and Dr Wunna Tun (GAP expert) will share good agricultural practices and organic farming

systems through the perspectives of both growers and consumers.

Those who like to eat organic food, growers who are interested in GAP and organic farming and observers can attend the seminar. Individuals from regions and states other than Yangon can also join the seminar via zoom. Those interested can register through Viber 09 43127656, as there is a limited number of attendees. — NN/KK

This image shows an invite poster for the consumer health and safety seminar.

IP Dept conducts biannual representative training

THE Intellectual Property Department under the Ministry of Commerce conducts a Representative Training related to trademark registration twice every financial year. The department also accepts trademark applications electronically, according to Dr Moe Moe Thwe, Director-General of the IP Department.

The trademark registration application can be submitted through an electronic system or at designated departments. The department notified that trademark registration applications can be opposed on the first day of each month.

This training is to reduce errors in submitting documents

asked by the IP Department, enhance representatives’ understanding, responsibility and accountability, provide quality services on behalf of trademark owners and ensure a smooth and effective communication

with the department.

Myanmar passed IP laws in 2019. Subsequently, the Industrial Design Law, Trademark Law, and Copyright Law came into effect in 2023 and Patent Law, in 2024. — ASH/KK



This image shows the discussion with representatives related to trademark registration.

TVET college offers 2nd EV workshop mechanics training

TVET Teacher Training College (Belin) of the Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) under the Ministry of Science and Technology will offer Electric Vehicles Technical Training for Workshop Mechanics 2/2025 from 9 am to 4 pm on 15-19 December 2025 on Belin-Yeywa Road, Singaing Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, to share EV technical knowledge regarding troubleshooting problems in EVs.

Trainees must be healthy

enough to execute practical work. Graduates of GTHS (AT, ET, ECT), ITC (AT), AGTI, BTEch, BE, ME, PhD (Mech, EP, EC, MC), and staff of EV private companies with a high school education are eligible to attend the training.

The training will offer both practical and technical knowledge of EVs with the use of Lab equipment. They will receive a completion certificate after five days of training.

Those enthusiastic can enrol in the training on 12 De-

cember at the TVET Teacher Training College (Belin) by providing a citizenship scrutiny card copy, a health certificate from the Township Public Health Department, copies of education certificates, a household registration copy, a police clearance certificate and three licence-sized colour photos. The training is limited to 25 trainees. Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers 09 790361553, 09 5661235 and 09 787086456. — NN /KK

CBM injects US\$150K into edible oil importers



This photo captures the facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Yangon.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$152,700 to edible oil-importing companies on 10 December.

CBM sold \$500,000 from CMP companies to edible oil-importing companies on 9 December.

CBM sold \$1.185 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$481,400 to fuel oil-importing companies on 8 December, along with an injection of \$120,000 into the market.

CBM sold \$1.69 million to edible oil-importing companies on 5 December.

CBM sold over \$902,900, purchased from CMP businesses, to edible oil-importing companies on 4 December.

CBM announced on 3 December that it would sell \$30 million to those engaged in fuel oil businesses. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.736 million to edible

oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM made an injection of over \$21 million, 2.4 million yuan and 1.5 million baht in November.

CBM injected over \$2.48 million, 5.75 million yuan and 4.98 million baht in October, along with sales of over \$54 million purchased from CMP companies. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM’s notification

on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market

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

Venezuela calls on international community to condemn seizure of its tanker by US military



This screen grab from a video posted by US Attorney General Pam Bondi on her X account shows what Bondi says is the execution of "a seizure warrant for a crude oil tanker used to transport sanctioned oil from Venezuela and Iran" off the coast of Venezuela. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Venezuelan government stated that the US President publicly acknowledged the seizure of a Venezuelan oil tanker in the Caribbean Sea.

VENEZUELA accused the United States of committing an act of "international piracy" and called on the international community to condemn the seizure of its oil tanker by the US military, the country's foreign ministry said.

"The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela strongly denounces and condemns what constitutes a blatant theft and an act of international piracy ... Venezuela calls on all Venezuelans to stand firm in defense of the homeland and urges the international community to reject this vandalistic, illegal, and unprecedented aggression that seeks to normalize itself as a tool of pressure and

plunder," the ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

Caracas noted that the US President publicly admitted to attacking a Venezuelan tanker in the Caribbean Sea, and called the move part of a long-term strategy to plunder the South American country's resources.

The Venezuelan government reaffirmed that "it will appeal to all existing international institutions to denounce this serious international crime and will defend its sovereignty, natural resources, and national dignity with absolute determination," the statement added. — SPUTNIK

Chocolate prices high before Christmas despite cocoa fall

AFTER soaring for nearly two years, cocoa prices dropped sharply in 2025. However, chocolate, in demand ahead of the festive holiday season, has seen prices rise.

AFP examines the reasons for the divergence and the current state of the cocoa market.

Ivory Coast and Ghana are the world's biggest suppliers of pods — the fruit of the cocoa tree — from which cocoa beans are extracted to make chocolate.

The two west African countries account for more

than half of global production, with most of the remainder coming from Brazil, Cameroon, Ecuador, Indonesia and Nigeria.

The geographic concentration of plantations makes the cocoa market highly vulnerable to West Africa's weather patterns and tree diseases.

Cultivation is meanwhile carried out by a very large number of independent smallholders.

Cocoa harvests between 2021 and 2024 failed to meet demand, which sent prices soaring. — AFP



Ivory Coast and Ghana are the world's biggest suppliers of pods. **PHOTO: AFP**

Manuka honey production may harm New Zealand ecosystems

A new study suggested that commercial manuka honey production in New Zealand may disrupt native insect communities by introducing large numbers of non-native honey bees.

Researchers from New Zealand's Bioeconomy Science Institute (BSI), working with Maori trusts and the Department of Conservation,

compared insect activity at six manuka shrubland sites in the central North Island, half with beehives and half without, a BSI media release said Thursday.

By analyzing insect DNA from flowers and trapping flying insects, they identified more than 36,000 specimens across 14 insect orders, and 137 separate species among



Staff members work on an assembly line at a honey producing enterprise in North Island, New Zealand, on 29 October 2025. **PHOTO: LONG LEI/XINHUA/FILE**

the three most common orders, it said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC NANSHA VOY.NO. (2524S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC NANSHA VOY.NO. (2524S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO, LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0033N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0033N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-12-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

SPORTS



Myanmar athletes set sights on gold at XXXIII SEA Games



Pyae Sone Linn



Aye Aye Thin



U Htein Win



U Wunna



U Ugga Aye



Shin Htet Aung



May Thazin Phoo



Zin May Oo

Myanmar athletes are heading to Thailand to compete in the XXXIII South-East Asia Games, hosted across Bangkok, Chonburi, and Chiang Mai. The national delegation includes competitors in men's volleyball, boxing, archery, wushu, pencak silat, e-sports, and women's weightlifting. Officials and coaches accompanied the athletes as they departed from Yangon by air yesterday morning.

BOXER May Thazin Phoo said, "We have prepared extensive-

ly for the competition. Weight management is key, and I have focused on perfecting every technical detail. I won silver at last year's SEA Games in Cambodia, and this year we aim for gold".

ARCHERY athlete Pyae Soe Lin shared, "I started archery in 2015 and have been a national team member for seven years. I have trained intensively for these SEA Games to improve upon my past performance. I will compete in both Compound and Recurve events, having trained at the

camp for two years to achieve top results".

PENCAK Silat athlete Shin Htet Aung said, "I discovered Pencak Silat through regional competitions, guided by my coach, who was also a national champion. I will use my skills to overcome my competitors and aim for gold".

WOMEN'S weightlifting athlete Zin May Oo added, "I will compete in the 48-kilogramme category. Preparation has tak-

en two years, with daily training intensifying as the competition approaches. I previously won gold at the SEA Games in Cambodia, and I aim to perform my best again".

Officials also highlighted the athletes' preparation efforts.

BOXING Team Manager U Wunna stated, "Although this is the athletes' first major SEA Games, we invited the president of the Asian Boxing Federation and a Japanese coach, a 66-kilogramme champion, for training.

Eight athletes and three officials will compete across all weight classes from 13 to 16 December, aiming for gold".

ARCHERY Team Manager Daw Aye Aye Thin noted, "We have been preparing since August 2023, selecting the best athletes through competitions. Fourteen athletes, including seven men and seven women, will compete individually and in teams from 13 December onwards, aiming for medals".

PENCAK Silat Team Manager U Htein Lin added, "Athletes were selected from regions nationwide and trained for eleven months. Fourteen athletes will compete in nine events from 13 to 17 December. We are fully prepared and confident of winning gold for Myanmar".

WOMEN'S Weightlifting Team Manager U Ugga Aye said, "Seven athletes will compete across seven weight classes. Training began in October 2023, with athletes selected nationwide. Continuous monitoring ensures high-quality performance, and we aim to return with gold medals for Myanmar".

The Myanmar delegation is poised to showcase its skills and win honours at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games, continuing the country's tradition of strong performances in regional sports competitions. — Zaw Min Latt/Thiha/KZL

XXXIII SEA Games Medal Standings

RANK	COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
1	Thailand	33	16	11	60
2	Indonesia	8	15	10	33
3	Vietnam	7	7	22	36
4	Singapore	5	5	8	18
5	Philippines	4	5	18	27
6	Malaysia	3	7	14	24
7	Myanmar	2	6	3	11
8	Laos	1	1	8	10
9	Brunei	0	1	1	2
10	Timor-Leste	0	0	2	2
11	Cambodia	0	0	0	0

Myanmar team home with 6-medal haul from XXXIII SEA Games

THE XXXIII South-East Asian Games, held in Thailand from 9 to 20 December 2025, are ongoing, and Myanmar's national teams have so far secured two gold medals, three silver medals, and one bronze across various sports.

A total of 38 team members, including national athletes, managers, and coaches, returned to Yangon by air yesterday evening. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, officials from the Department



Gold, silver, and bronze medallists are seen being welcomed at Yangon International Airport.

of Sports and Physical Education, students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), presidents and officials from Myanmar sports federations, students,

parents, and members of the public. The chief minister also presented honorary cash awards to the returning national teams. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

THAILAND 2025 XXXIII SEAGAMES 2025 9th - 20th December 2025

SPORTS

Myanmar bags 11 medals at XXXIII SEA Games, standing out in taekwondo and canoeing

MYANMAR'S national teams in taekwondo and canoeing achieved notable successes at the XXXIII South-East Asia Games, held across Bangkok, Chonburi, and Chiang Mai in Thailand.

The men's 200-metre canoe double team claimed two silver medals, while Myanmar athletes also secured two bronze medals in the Women's kayak slalom and the judo (Nage-no-Kata) pairs competitions.

Myanmar athletes competed in a wide range of sports, including shooting, jujitsu, cricket, kabaddi, petanque, billiards and snooker, rooster fighting, taekwondo, basketball, judo, gymnastics, volleyball, skating, athletics, archery, rowing, tennis, hockey, kayak, swimming, karate, and football.

On the morning of 11 December, officials from the Myanmar Olympic Committee, together with representatives from the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Ministry of Information, the Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister, Myanmar sports federations, and other agencies, attended competitions in Bangkok to support Myanmar athletes.

In the jujitsu events held at the Ronnaphakat Building,



The above and left photos highlight the Myanmar's contingent's sporting prowess, particularly in taekwondo and canoeing.

Navaminda Kasatriyadhiraj Air Force Academy, Myanmar competed in men's and women's weight categories (-48, -57, -69, -85 kilogrammes) and in team events. In the women's -67-kilogramme taekwondo

event, Myanmar's Kay Thwe Mon Lin won the silver medal after competing against an athlete from Thailand.

In the men's 200-metre canoe double, Myanmar's Myo Hlaing Win and Htut Khaung

Zaw claimed silver, while in the women's kayak slalom, Myanmar's Po Po Aung secured the bronze medal. In the judo (Nage-no-Kata) pairs, Myanmar's La Yaung Shan and Hlaing Min Khant earned

bronze with 375 points, finishing behind Vietnam and Thailand.

Myanmar also recorded victories in petanque, snooker, and rooster fighting events, while experiencing narrow defeats in team competitions such as football and the women's three-person petanque.

Following the competitions on 11 December, Myanmar's national teams had accumulated a total of 11 medals: two gold, six silver, and three bronze, ranking seventh overall among participating countries. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar women's team falls 2-0 to Vietnam, exits SEA Games

MYANMAR'S women's football team bowed out of the XXXIII South-East Asia (SEA) Games following a 2-0 defeat to Vietnam in their final Group B match on 11 December in Chonburi, Thailand.

Having won their first two group matches, Myanmar needed only a draw against Vietnam to reach the semifinals. However, the loss in the final group game ended their campaign, marking the first time Myanmar exited at the group stage and narrowly missing out on a medal for the second

consecutive SEA Games.

Head coach Yuki fielded a squad that included Myo Mya Nyein, Yupa Khine, San Thaw Thaw, and Win Theingi Tun. Vietnam applied intense pressure from the outset, forcing Myanmar into errors and creating scoring opportunities. Within the first 15 minutes, Myanmar conceded two goals – Ngo Thi Binh in eight minutes and Nguyen Thi Vy in 14 minutes – and struggled to mount a meaningful attack thereafter.

Meanwhile, in Group B's other match, the Philippines

defeated Malaysia 6-0 to secure a semifinal spot. Vietnam topped the group, the Philippines finished second, and Myanmar, tied on points with the Philippines, Malaysia, was eliminated due to goal difference.

The semifinals are scheduled for 14 December, featuring Vietnam versus Indonesia and host Thailand versus the Philippines. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Myanmar faces Vietnam in their final Group B match. **PHOTO: MFF**





ASEAN-China Year of People-to-People Exchanges 2024-2025 closes in Malaysia

A celebratory event took place along Jonker Street in Malacca, featuring traditional drum performances and lion dances.

The closing ceremony, co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, was held from Tuesday to Wednesday.

The closing ceremony of the ASEAN-China Year of People-to-People Exchanges 2024-2025, co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, was held in Malacca, Malaysia, from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim sent a congratulatory letter to the event. Yang Wanming, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, led the Chinese delegation and delivered remarks.

About 300 participants from the Chinese Embassy to Malaysia, Chinese ministries, 11 Chinese provincial-level regions, as well as the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN Secretariat and some friendship organizations in ASEAN countries attended the event.

The event kicked off along Jonker Street in Malacca with drum performances and lion dances as guests toured the

historic quarter to revisit the long-standing friendship between Malaysia and China before jointly planting a China-ASEAN

Friendship Tree.

During the closing ceremony, awards were presented to the top ten projects and

best-organized programs for the year. A China-ASEAN people-to-people exchange roundtable was also held. — Xinhua



About 300 participants from the Chinese Embassy to Malaysia, Chinese ministries, 11 Chinese provincial-level regions, as well as the ASEAN-China Centre, ASEAN Secretariat and some friendship organizations in ASEAN countries attended the event. **PHOTO: CHENG YIHENG/XINHUA**

South Korea joins SputnikPro

Russian-Korean humanitarian cooperation has a long history. Our countries actively interact in the fields of culture, media, and education," noted Seokyeong University professor Janna Ballod. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**



THE international news agency and radio Sputnik has held the first-ever session of its educational project SputnikPro for one of the leading universities of the Republic of Korea — Seokyeong University.

Head of Sputnik's International Cooperation Directorate, Vasily Pushkov, spoke at the Faculty of International Business and Foreign Languages, telling students interested in journalism about the principles of operation of an

international news agency in the 21st century, as well as the problems and challenges currently facing the media industry.

Participants of the workshop took an active part in the discussion and asked the speaker questions. In particular, students Kim Ho Joon and Han Sea asked how modern media outlets compete with the growing rivalry from social networks and remain relevant in the constantly changing media landscape.

"Russian-Korean humanitarian cooperation has a long history. Our countries actively interact in the fields of culture, media, and education. Today, each of us here is part of this important dialogue. Moreover, in international journalism, proficiency in several languages is the key to honest and in-depth communication," noted Seokyeong University professor Janna Ballod. — SPUTNIK

Trump launches Gold Card visa programme

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) launched the Trump Gold Card, which offers more benefits than a green card.

Trump announced at a roundtable event that his "gold card" immigration policy, which the President said would fast-track visas for certain immigrants in exchange for a hefty fee, is officially launching on Wednesday.

"Very excitingly, for me and for the country, we've just launched the Trump gold card. About 30 minutes from now, the site goes up and all funds go to the United States government," the president said.

The president previewed the gold card immigration programme first in February and then signed an executive order in September calling on his administration to establish an application for the gold card. — ANI