

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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.

MRAC, stakeholders join hands to nominate Myanmar tea for UNESCO intangible heritage list

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Conservation Organization and the Myanmar Tea Association (Yangon) are jointly finalizing the UNESCO-required ICH-02 form and related supporting documents and videos.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Conservation Organization, and the Myanmar Tea Association are working together to nominate Myanmar tea for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Currently, the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Conservation Organization and the Myanmar Tea Association (Yangon), under the guidance of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, are collaborating to complete the UNESCO-specified ICH-02 form and to prepare the consent letters, statement letters, and related videos.

Myanmar signed the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on 7 April 2014.

According to the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, tea culture will be submitted to UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

To be nominated for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, an ele-



A local farmer is seen picking tea in the plantation. Tea leaf salad (inset) is a traditional Myanmar dish that is both distinctive and widely cherished. It is found nowhere else in the world but Myanmar.

ment must first be included in the national list. Therefore, the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee, the

Myanmar Tea Association (Yangon and Mandalay), and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture are working together

to determine the official title of the tea-related intangible cultural heritage to be submitted to UNESCO. — ASH/MKKS



BUSINESS PAGE 7

Yangon palm oil reference price remains unchanged at K6,060



NATIONAL PAGE 11

Bagan welcomes year-on-year rise in New Year visitor arrivals

ARTICLE

Independence and the Cultural Heart of Myanmar

By Laura Htet (UDE)

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

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

Four National Objectives for 78th Independence Day 2026

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

Union Election Commission Public Notice on Advance Voting

2 January 2026

1. The Union Election Commission made arrangements in accordance with provisions of the law to enable advance voting so that eligible voters, both in and outside the country, would not lose their right to vote, which is a fundamental right of every citizen, in the Multiparty Democratic General Election that started on 28 December 2025.
2. During the election period, in accordance with stipulations of Section 47 of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law and Rule, the Myanmar Embassy, the Permanent Representative Missions and the Consulates-General conducted the early voting processes for those residing in foreign countries with the permission of the government. The advance ballots were sent to the Union Election Commission Office through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Union Election Commission Office then sent to the region and state election sub-commissions. The relevant region and state election sub-commissions invited the political parties, and counted the ballots, opening the advance ballot envelopes in the presence of the political parties, Hluttaw candidates, election representatives, witnesses and people on 25 December 2025. The number of advance votes received by each candidate was recorded on Forms 17 and 17-1, verified by Hluttaw candidates, election representatives, witnesses, and the relevant election sub-commissions, signed to confirm accuracy, and publicly displayed at the respective election sub-commission for public viewing.
3. The eligible voters who are outside their registered townships and are in voter lists in accordance with Section 45 (a) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law and Rule, such as Tatmadaw members and their families, students, trainees, detainees and inpatients cast vote at the places designated by the department heads, while the early voting for temporarily displaced persons at their respective township election sub-commissions systematically, and the early ballot envelopes were sent to the township election sub-commissions. The township election sub-commissions invited political parties and opened and counted the advance ballot envelopes that arrived no later than 4 pm on 26 December 2025, which was two days before election day, in a transparent manner and in the presence of political parties, Hluttaw candidates, election representatives, witnesses, and the public. The number of advance votes received by each Hluttaw candidate was recorded on Forms 17 (a) and 17 (a-1), verified and signed to confirm accuracy by Hluttaw candidates, election representatives, witnesses, and the relevant election sub-commissions, and publicly displayed at the respective election sub-commission for public viewing.
4. The township, ward and village-tract election sub-commissions were informed through the region and state election sub-commissions for the individuals who cannot personally come to polling stations on the election day such as those suffering from leprosy, severe illness, the elderly and infirm, women in childbirth, detainees in police custody or prisons, inpatients receiving medical treatment in hospitals, and civil servants, Tatmadaw members, and police personnel on temporary official duty beyond their registered area can cast early votes at the relevant ward and village-tract election sub-commissions between 18 and 27 December 2025. The respective election sub-commissions informed the political parties. The ward and village-tract election sub-commissions systematically arrange for early votes in accordance with rules 63 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Rules. The ballot boxes containing advance ballots, together with the list of advance voters on Form (13-a), were systematically handed over to the respective polling station officers before the opening of polling stations at 6 am on polling day, 28 December 2025, in accordance with Rule 63 (f). After polling stations closed, polling station officers retrieved the voting results from the voting machines and then counted the advance ballots. The results from voting machines and advance ballots were consolidated and recorded on Forms (17-b) and (17 (b-1)), and the voting results were publicly displayed at the respective polling stations.
5. The relevant township election sub-commissions compiled the advance voting results recorded on Forms (17-a) and (17 (a-1)) in their possession with the results from polling stations recorded on Forms (17-b) and (17 (b-1)), and systematically registered them into the township voting result forms (18) and (18-1). The region and state election sub-commissions compiled the advance voting lists recorded on Forms (17) and (17-1) with the township voting lists recorded on Forms (18) and (18-1), and registered the number of votes received by each Hluttaw candidate for each constituency into Forms (19) and (19-1). These voting forms were verified, signed to confirm accuracy by Hluttaw candidates, election representatives, witnesses, and the relevant election sub-commissions, and publicly displayed at the respective election sub-commissions for public viewing.
6. Therefore, the Union Election Commission, election sub-commissions and polling station officers invited the political parties, Hluttaw candidates, election representatives, witness and public for the processes of early voting, counting the early ballots, compiling votes and displaying results transparently in accordance with the relevant Hluttaw Election Law, Rule and procedures, and the voting results were also displayed at the relevant election sub-commissions.

Union Election Commission

78th Independence Day National Flag Salute Ceremony to be broadcast live

THE 78th Anniversary of Independence Day (2026) National Flag Salute Ceremony will be held at the square in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 4 January 2026.

The ceremony will be broadcast live at 6:30 am on,

MRTV-HD, MRTV-News, MRTV-NRC, MRTV Farmers', MRTV-Entertainment, MRTV Parliament, MITV, MWD HD Channel, MWD Variety HD Channel, Readers' Channel, Sky Net Up to Date, MNTV, Channel 9, UNI TV and Mahar TV, as well as Radio Myanmar and Padamyar FM,

Cherry FM, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, FM Bagan, Star FM, Thazin FM, and the MRTV Online Platform including MOI Website and MRTV Website, MRTV Application. — MNA

NATIONAL

Call for Unity, Steadfastness Amid Attempts To Divide

All citizens must stand orderly and united through thick and thin. We must never lose sight of our main goal and persevere it without deviation regardless of any attempt by the detractors to divide, incite and provoke us.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by General Aung San at 7:40 pm on 1 January 1947)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 1/2026

Full Moon of Pyatho 1387 ME
2 January 2026

Announcement on Lists of Pyithu Hluttaw Representative

IN the multiparty general democratic election conducted in phases starting 28 December 2005, the relevant region and state election subcommissions have announced that the following individuals are elected as Hluttaw representatives for the corresponding Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies listed alongside their names in accordance with the announcements in line with Section 41 (a) Pyithu Hluttaw Law.

No	Name	CSC No	Constituency	Representing Party/ Independent
Kachin State				
(1)	U Rel Dam Tam	1/MaKaNa(C) 036870	Nagmon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(2)	U Kwan San	1/MaSaNa(C) 012425	Mansi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(3)	U Kyaw Win	1/RaKaNa (C) 006643	Shwegu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
Sagaing Region				
(4)	U Wai Lin Tun	5/MaKaNa(C) 046668	Minkin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(5)	U Soe Paing	5/WaThaNa (C) 040811	Wuntho	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(6)	U Myint Soe Sint	5/MaLaNa (C) 030326	Mawlaik	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(7)	U Nyan Tun	12/DaGaNa (C) 010974	Kani	Union Solidarity and Development Party

(8)	U Saw Maung	5/HsaLaKa (C) 040201	Salinyi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(9)	U Soe Tint Aung	5/RaUNa (C) 008859	YeU	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Taninthayi Region

(10)	U Min Naing	6/PaLaNa (C) 049648	Yebyu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(11)	U Tint Lwin	6/HtaWaNa (C) 064050	Launglon	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Magway Region

(12)	Daw Ei Phyu Lwin	8/GaGaNa(C) 066412	Gangaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
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Shan State

(13)	U Yan Kyaw	13/LaRaNa (C) 029379	Metmung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(14)	Daw Yi Yi Hlaing	13/PhaKhaNa(C) 019129	Pekhon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
(15)	U Sai Tun Lin	13/KaKhaNa(C) 001816	Mongnai	Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party (White Tiger Party)

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Union Minister signs condolence book for late Bangladeshi PM

ON behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Union Minister for Ministry 1 of the President's Office, U Tin Aung San, yesterday signed the condolence book at the Embassy of Bangladesh to Myanmar, 11(B), Thanlwin Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, following the demise of Begum Khaleda Zia, the first female Prime Minister of Bang-

ladesh, on 30 December 2025. First, the Union minister met with and greeted the Ambassador and officials of the Embassy of Bangladesh to Myanmar at the Embassy Guest Hall and expressed his condolences, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the demise of Bangladesh's first female Prime Minister, Begum

Khaleda Zia. He conveyed his condolences to the Government and people of Bangladesh, as well as to the family of Begum Khaleda Zia, and signed the condolence book.

Bangladesh's first female Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar from 19 to 21 March 2003. She was 80 years old at the time of her death. — MNA/TH



Union Minister U Tin Aung San signs condolence book on the passing of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 2/2026

Full Moon of Pyatho 1387 ME
2 January 2026

Announcement on List of Amyotha Hluttaw Representative

IN the multiparty general democratic election conducted in phases starting 28 December 2005, the Shan State election subcommission has announced that the following individual is elected as a member of parliament for the Shan State Amyotha Hluttaw constituency (1) (FTPT) listed alongside his name in accordance with the announcement under the Amyotha Hluttaw Law Section 41 (a).

Name	CSC No	Constituency	Representing Party
U M Zaw Latt	13/KaTaNa(C)087356	No (1)	Wa National Party

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 3/2026

Full Moon of Pyatho, 1387 ME
2 January 2026

List of Elected Candidates to Region and State Hluttaws

ACCORDING to the announcements issued by the respective Region and State Election Subcommissions in the multiparty general elections held from 28 December 2025, in accordance with Section 41(a) of the Region and State Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been elected as representatives of their respective constituencies under the "first-past-the-post" system:

Kachin State

No	Name	CSC No.	"Constituency/ Representative Number"	Representing Party
1	U Aung Naing	1/RaKaNa(C)004305	Shwegu Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sagaing Region

No	Name	CSC No.	Constituency	Representing Party
2	U Htein Min	5/WaThaNa(C)014570	Wuntho Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
3	U Khin Maung Lwin	5/TaMaNa(C)003621	Tamu Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
4	U Aung Min Kyaw Thu	5/BaTaLa(C)054816	Butalin Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	Daw Sandar Thein	5/MaLaNa(C)000514	Mawlaik Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
6	U Tun Lwin	5/KaNaNa(C)049240	Kani Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
7	U Aung Zaw Oo	5/HsaLaKa(C)045170	Salingyi Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
8	U Ye Moe Naing	5/YaUNa(C)075981	YeU Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Taninthayi Region

No	Name	CSC No.	Constituency	Representing Party
9	U Khin Maung Myint	6/ThaYaKha(C)010299	Yebyu Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
10	U Aung Myo Tun	6/HtaWaNa(C)095249	Thayetchaung Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Magway Region

No	Name	CSC No.	Constituency	Representing Party
11	U Zaw Tun Oo	8/GaGaNa(C)099618	Gangaw Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Shan State

No	Name	CSC No.	Constituency	Representing Party
12	U Myint Win	13/NaMaTa(C)003289	Kyaukme Township Representative No 1	Union Solidarity and Development Party
13	U Kain Mai	13/MaHsaTa(C)021716	Kachin Ethnic Constituency	Union Solidarity and Development Party
14	U Tun Aung	13/KaTaNa(C)063135	Akha Ethnic Constituency	Akha National Development Party
15	Daw Aye Cho Sein	13/PhaKhaNa(C)000015	Kayan (aka) Padaung Ethnic Constituency	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand Against Election Disruption

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

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



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 4/2026

Full Moon of Pyatho 1387 ME
2 January 2026

List of Elected Candidates to the Pyithu Hluttaw

According to the announcements issued by the respective Region and State Election Subcommissions in the multiparty general elections held on 28 December 2025, under Section 49(b) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been elected as Pyithu Hluttaw representatives of their respective constituencies:

Union Territory

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
1	U Khin Yi	13/PhaKhaNa(C)029304	Zeyathiri	Union Solidarity and Development Party
2	U Hla Swe	8/GaGaNa(C)085996	Pobbathiri	Union Solidarity and Development Party
3	U Maung Myint	7/RaTaRa(C)079784	Zabuthiri	Union Solidarity and Development Party
4	U Khin Maung Htay	9/PaMaNa(C)013982	Pyinmana	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	U Myat Hein	12/MaGaDa(C)017455	Dakkhinathiri	Union Solidarity and Development Party
6	U Win Htay	9/SaKaTa(C)001078	Lewe	Union Solidarity and Development Party
7	U Maung Maung Ohn	8/PaKhaKa(C)167680	Tatkon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
8	U Tin Aung San	12/LaMaNa(C)089489	Ottarathiri	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Kachin State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
9	U Myint Ko	1/TaNaNa(C)000806	Tanai	Union Solidarity and Development Party
10	U Sin Som	1/PaTaAh(C)008985	Khaunglanphu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
11	U Rah Ni	1/PaTaAh(C)005063	Putao	Union Solidarity and Development Party
12	U Soe Win	1/MaNyaNa(C)000170	Moenyin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
13	U Nyunt Win	1/MaKaNa(C)037522	Myitkyina	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Kayah State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
14	U Aye Maung	2/BaLaKha(C)000416	Bawlakhe	Union Solidarity and Development Party
15	U Maung Shwe	2/LaKaNa(C)011488	Loikaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Kayin State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
16	U Thet Naing Oo	3/LaBhaNa(C)000753	Hpa-an	Union Solidarity and Development Party
17	U Khin Maung Chin	12/UKaMa(C)209013	Myawady	Union Solidarity and Development Party
18	U Saw Hae Thar Gyi	3/ThaTaNa(C)001629	Thantaunggyi	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Chin State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
19	U Salai Aung Pyae	13/TaKaNa(C)140983	Tiddim	Union Solidarity and Development Party
20	U Van Ni	4/HtaTaLa(C)000148	Haka	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Mon State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
21	U Soe Hla	10/KaHtaNa(C)007092	Kyaikto	Union Solidarity and Development Party
22	U Myo Myint	12/PaBhaTa(C)012884	Kyaikmaraw	Union Solidarity and Development Party
23	U Soe Thu	10/KaMaRa(C)131375	Chaungzon	Mon Unity Party
24	Daw Ohnma Htay	10/MaLaMa(C)001177	Mawlamyine	Union Solidarity and Development Party
25	U Kyaw Myint	10/ThaHtaNa(C)021866	Thaton	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

Participation of Hluttaw candidates in Phase I of multiparty democratic general election 2025

THE Union Election Commission yesterday issued the number of ballots for individual Pyithu Hluttaw candidates who competed in the constituencies mentioned under Announcement 4/2026 in Phase I of the Multiparty Democratic General Election 2025.

According to the announcement, U Khin Yi of Union Solidarity and Development Party, Daw Khin Myo Nwe of National Unity Party, U Kyaw Ye Naing of Myanmar Farmers Development Party, U Paing Paing of People's Party, U Zaw Myo Khant of People's Pioneer Party, and Daw Aye Thanda of Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party competed in Zeyathiri Township.

U Hla Swe of USDP, U Zin Waing of People's Party, U Sai Maung Maung Oo of NUP, U Than Myat Soe of PPP, Dr Khin Sandi Myint of SNLD, Daw Hsu Myat Sanda of MFDP and U Maung Maung Hlaing as an independent competed in Pobathiri Township.

U Maung Myint of USDP, Dr Aung Myo as an independent, Daw Yi Yi Win of PPP, U Ko Nge of NUP, U Zaw Hmaing of People's Party, U Thaug Htaik as an independent, Daw Ei Thanda Cho of MFDP and U Zaw Lwin Oo of SNLD competed in Zabuthiri Township.

U Khin Maung Htay of

USDP, Daw Thi Thi Naing of NUP, U Win Htay Oo of People's Party, U Aung Thiha Zaw of PPP, U Thein Soe of MFDP, U Lin Lin Maung of SNLD and U Myint Zaw of Socio-Economic Promotion Party contested in Pyinmana Township.

U Myat Hein of USDP, U Hein Lapyae Tun of NUP, Daw Ei Ei Soe as an independent, U Thein Tun Aung of People's Party, Daw Win Myat Mon of PPP, U Thura of MFDP and U Zaw Aung of SNLD participated in Dekkhinathiri Township.

U Win Htay of USDP, U Myint Oo of NUP, Daw Phyo Phyo Thwe of People's Party, U Myo Aung of MFDP, U Sein Win as an independent, U Zin Min Oo of PPP and U Tun Myint Aung of SNLD competed in Lewe Township.

U Maung Maung Ohn of USDP, Daw Tin Tin of NUP, U Nay Myo Aung of MFDP, U Kyaw Wai Phyo of PPP, U Min Khin Yu Maung of People's Party and Daw Khin Kyawt Kyawt Tun of SNLD competed in Tatkon Township.

U Tin Aung San of USDP, U Thiha Zaw of NUP, Daw Hnin Thida Tun of PPP, Daw Kyi Kyi Htay of People's Party, Daw Myo Thida Thein of MFDP and U Nan Win Aung of SNLD participated in Ottarathiri Township.

U Myint Ko of USDP, U

Ngwa Hsa Hse of Lisu National Development Party, U Pwint Oo of New Democracy Party (Kachin), U Win Naing of NUP, U Tin Win Tun of MFDP and U Myint Win of PPP competed in Tanai Township of Kachin State.

U Hsin Hson of USDP, U Thu Hu Naing of NUP, U Lel Mel Ah Shwe Ram of LNDDP and U Aung Ye Lin of PPP competed in Khaunglanphu Township.

U Rah Ni of USDP, Daw Ahdu Dwe of NUP, U Dein Khan Dawi of Kachin State People's Party, U Sao Nwe No Kham of SNLD, Daw Moh Moh Lwin of PPP, U Michel Phonram of MFDP and U San Tun of NDP (Kachin) participated in PutaO Township.

U Soe Win of USDP, U Htay Aung of Tai-Leng (Shanni) Nationalities Development Party, U Kyaw Kyaw Win of MFDP, U Hla Din of NUP and Daw Phyu Mar Win of PPP competed in Mohnyin Township.

U Nyunt Win of USDP, U Marit Kwam Ja of Kachin State People's Party, U Kyaw Yazar Tun of PPP, U Tin Aung Soe of NUP, U Sein Win of Tai-Leng (Shanni) Nationalities Development Party, U Lan Bawm of NDP (Kachin), U L Zaw Dang of MFDP, Daw Myat Thanda Htay of People's Party and Daw Margaret of SNLD participated in Myitkyina Township.

U Aye Maung of USDP, U

Aung Thu Thein of Kayah State People's Party, U Maung Hsan of NUP and Daw Marlar of PPP competed in Bawlakhe Township of Kayah State.

U Maung Shwe of USDP, U Kyaw Kyaw Moe of KSPD, U Saw Nel Sae of NUP and U Zaw Lwin Htay of PPP took part in the election in Loikaw Township.

U Thet Naing Oo of USDP, Saw Myo Min Han of Kayin National Democratic Party, Nang Khin Thet Mar Win of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party, Min Kyaw Soe of Mon Development Party, Nang Aye Aye Than of Pa-O National Unity Party and Daw Amy Than of PPP competed in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State

U Khin Maung Chin of USDP, Saw Pyi Nel of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party, U San Win Kyi of PPP and Khun Thein Oo of PNUP competed in Myawady Township.

U Saw Hae Thar Gyi of USDP, Saw Petoerino of Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party and U Than Sit of PPP participated in Thandaunggyi Township.

U Salai Aung Pyae of USDP, U Derrick Kam Za Al of Zomi National Party and U Zin Shin Pyoung of New Chin Land Congress competed in Tiddim Township of Chin State.

U Van Ni of USDP, U Robin of New Chin Land Congress and

U Kan Lin of Khumi National Party participated in Haka Township.

U Soe Hla of USDP, Daw Ma Ma Gyi of NUP, U Thu Bo Htwe of National Interest Development Party and U Thet Paing of PPP competed in Kyaikto Township of Mon State.

U Myo Myint of USDP, Daw Myint Myint Wai of Mon Unity Party, Daw Cho Cho Aye Aung of National Interest Development Party, U Min Ko Ko Tun of People's Party, U Aung Myint Oo of PPP and Daw Thanda Hein Zaw of MFDP competed in Kyaikmaraw Township.

U Soe Thu of Mon Unity Party, U Myo Win of USDP, U Aung Ko Ko of NIDP and Daw Thae Thae Ei Lwin Po Kyaw of PPP competed in Chaungzon Township.

Daw Ohnma Htay of USDP, U Phone Win of Mon Unity Party, Daw Khin Thinza Maw of NIDP, U Hla Oo of NUP, U Lin Yaung Chi of People's Party, U Ye Hein Lwin of PPP, U Phone Hsu Min of MFDP and Daw Thida Tun of SNLD participated in Mawlamyine Township.

U Kyaw Myint of USDP, Daw Su Su Pyone of NIDP, U Maung Aye of NUP, U Than Wai of Pa-O National Development Party, Daw Ei Ei Chaw of People's Party and Daw Thida Khin Kyaw of PPP competed in Thaton Township. — GNLM

Myanma Post issues K200 special stamps to mark 78th Independence Anniversary

TWO new special postage stamps (K200) will be issued in honour of the 78th Independence Day, which falls on 4 January 2026, according to the Myanma Post.

The two K200 postage stamps will be issued and sold by the Myanma Post on 4 January 2026 (the 2nd Waning of Pyatho, 1387 Myanmar Era) (Sunday), starting at 9:30 am, at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon General Post Office, Mandalay General Post Office, and other regional and state central post offices simultaneously.

As a special programme, First Day Covers purchased on 4 January 2026 (Sunday) at the Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay central post offices will be stamped with a commemorative date stamp. — MNA/MKKS



The images illustrate special postage stamps valued at K200.

Myanmar TV drama 'Yin Hnint Ahmya' to air on MRTV-4 from 6 Jan

MRTV-4, in collaboration with the Hey Play application and the Hey Play YouTube channel, will begin broadcasting a Myanmar television drama series titled Yin Hnint Ahmya on 6 January, according to director Ei (Aryon Oo), who filmed and presented the series.

The story of 'Yin Hnint Ahmya' was written by Thet Oo Maung, while the screenplay was prepared by the Skyward Art Team. The drama was produced by Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production and directed by Ei (Aryon Oo), and it belongs to the drama genre.

"This series is a drama created for Hey Play audiences who enjoy dramatic

productions, and it will be both exciting and emotionally engaging to watch. It presents a full range of emotions, including love and longing. I would like viewers to look forward to it and give their support. The drama clearly conveys that, among the colourful forms of love filled with lies and deception, sincere love that is honest and truly cherished is far more meaningful and superior," said director Ei (Aryon Oo).

The cast includes Tyron, Aung Ye Htike, Nyi Nanda, Bhone Min Nay La, San Min Hein Htut, Thiri Soe, Snow Kyi Phyu, Hanna, Soe Moe Kyi and Thondray Oo, along with many other actors. — ASH/KZL

People should embrace the mindset of "We are Strong, We are Together" in overcoming challenges

❖ Entire people, when facing various dangers and hardships, are urged to continue cultivating and embracing the mindset of "We are Strong, We are Together" to overcome challenges with resilience.

(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)

CBM to pump 10 million yuan into importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 31 December that it would sell 10 million yuan to importers and US\$23 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector.

CBM sold over \$903,100 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$331,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on that day, along with an injection of 49,200 baht into the market.

CBM sold over \$2.65 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$4 million to fuel oil-importing companies on 30 January.

CBM sold over \$2.3 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$464,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 29 December.



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

Bidding to sell lead ore, lead refining powder called for

THE No 1 Mining Enterprise under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invited an open tender to sell rock sacks that are believed to be lead ore and lead refining powder in US dollars, according to the tender committee of the Enterprise. The invitation for open tender is to sell 1.13 tonnes of rock sacks, which are believed to be lead ore, at the Nampan border post and 59.4 tonnes of lead refining powder.

The tender form will be sold between 23 December 2025 and 5 January 2026. Submission of tenders will be closed at 1 pm on 6 January 2025, and tenders will be opened at 3 pm that day.

Individuals can enquire about tender forms at Office 19, Nay Pyi Taw, through the contact number of the procurement division of No 1 Mining Enterprise: 067 3409162. — NN/KK

Yangon palm oil reference price remains unchanged at K6,060

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market stayed the same at K6,060 per viss for the week ending 8 January.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt



Palm oil is prepared to sell at one grocery shop. PHOTO: KANU

market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers

Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported annually through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 2 January 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,000,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

OPINION

Transform challenges into great opportunities

CITIZENS of every country and people around the world wish for peace and prosperity in their own nations. Likewise, the people of Myanmar also desire peace for their country. If Myanmar is peaceful, and all the countries connected to Myanmar are peaceful as well, then the world itself will be peaceful. As such, may all people worldwide, including the citizens of Myanmar, live in peace.

Over the past year, Myanmar's government and all citizens, including ethnic groups, have fulfilled the duties and responsibilities they should fulfil. They have endured natural disasters and, with the government's guidance and supervision, have been able to rebuild their country and communities. Efforts have also been made systematically to advance toward a democratic nation. However, citizens must not forget that there are still plans and tasks that need to be carried out in the future.

All ethnic groups, citizens, parents, and national leaders must strive together to ensure that Myanmar continues to become a united, peaceful, and prosperous nation in the years ahead. Everyone must renew their energy and efforts to work collectively to preserve the country's enduring legacies, including religion, culture, and territorial integrity, and to strengthen and sustain them for the long term.

As the nation moves forward on its path, it will inevitably encounter difficulties. If these challenges are addressed with determination, unity, and perseverance, opportunities will arise. In fact, difficulties, problems, challenges, and setbacks can themselves become opportunities for growth and success. By confronting and overcoming these obstacles and applying the results as opportunities, while continuing to strive with patience, courage, and effort toward one's goals, one can steadily reach the target of success without deviation.

In 2026, everyone must work together to rebuild Myanmar as a modern, developed democratic nation. They must vow that it will be a year to achieve a durable peace that all citizens aspire to, and to advance the social and economic well-being of all ethnic groups. Therefore, in 2026, all citizens should learn from past experiences, based on a spirit of unity, mutual understanding, and trust, and strive together to overcome challenges successfully.

All citizens should walk on the right path, acting with love for the nation and the people, and serve the well-being of the country in all ways and means they choose. Everyone should reflect on what they have done, choose the correct path, and act decisively to avoid future regrets. Every citizen must firmly believe that the lives of the people constitute the nation, and that the nation's future exists solely for the benefit of its people.

EVERY year on the fourth of January, the people of Myanmar mark a day that carries deep historical and emotional meaning. Independence Day is not simply a national holiday; it is a moment of reflection, remembrance, and renewed understanding. It allows citizens to pause, look back at the journey of the nation, and consider the values that continue to shape daily life. While time moves forward, the meaning of independence remains a steady presence in the heart of the country.

Independence is often discussed in textbooks and formal speeches, yet its true significance is felt most clearly in everyday experiences. It is reflected in the freedom to speak one's language, follow traditions, celebrate festivals, and pass cultural knowledge from one generation to the next. Independence Day reminds people that these ordinary moments are possible because earlier generations valued self-determination and dignity.

Myanmar is a land of great diversity. Different regions, customs, and lifestyles exist side by side, forming a rich and colourful national identity. On Independence Day, this diversity becomes a source of strength rather than difference. It reminds citizens that unity does not require sameness. Instead, it grows from mutual respect, shared responsibility, and the understanding that every community contributes to the larger national story.

For older generations, Independence Day often brings memories shared through family conversations. Parents and grandparents may recall stories they heard in their youth – stories of patience, endurance, and hope for a peaceful life. These memories are passed down not to create sorrow, but to remind younger generations of the value of freedom and the importance of protecting it through wisdom and care.

For children and young people, Independence Day may appear first as a school event, a flag-raising ceremony, or a lesson in history class. However, as they grow older, many begin to understand that independence is not just about the past. It shapes their present opportunities and future choices. Education, creativity, and personal development are all strengthened when people live in a society that values freedom and learning.

Schools play an important role in shaping this understanding. On Independence Day, lessons often focus on national values such as responsibility, cooperation, and respect. Teachers encourage students to think about how independence influences their lives – not only as citizens, but as individuals. These lessons help young people see

themselves as active participants in society rather than passive observers.

Cultural heritage is another essential part of Independence Day. Myanmar's traditional music, dance, crafts, and literature are living expressions of national identity.

These cultural elements have



Independence Day in Myanmar is a time to remember, reflect, and renew. PHOTO: PHOTO COURTESY OF DENAYUNE

Independence and the Cultural Heart of Myanmar

By Laura Htet
(UDE)

survived because people cared enough to preserve them. Independence allows communities to celebrate their traditions openly and proudly, strengthening cultural confidence and continuity.

Public celebrations, when held, often include songs, performances, and exhibitions that reflect national heritage. Even in quiet observances, the presence of traditional music or historical photographs can create a sense of connection. These moments remind people that culture is not frozen in time; it grows and changes, while remaining rooted in shared values.

Independence Day also encourages reflection on responsibility. Freedom does not exist without care and effort. Living in an independent country means recognizing the importance of kindness, fairness, and understanding. Simple actions – listening respectfully, helping others, valuing honesty – are meaningful ways to honour independence in daily life.

Families often celebrate Inde-

pendence Day in simple, personal ways. Some gather to watch programs or read articles, while others spend time sharing meals and stories. These quiet moments are powerful because they strengthen bonds and encourage meaningful conversation. In these spaces, independence becomes not an abstract idea but a lived experience.

In a world that is constantly changing, Independence Day invites people to think carefully about progress. Progress is not measured only by physical development or economic growth. True progress includes emotional well-being, social harmony, and mutual respect. An independent society grows stronger when people value understanding over conflict and cooperation over division.

Young people hold a special place in this vision of the future. Independence gives them the freedom to dream, learn, and explore. Whether through education, art, technology, or community service, they have the ability to shape the direction of the nation.

ognizing effort, learning from experience, and continuing forward with hope. Each generation faces its own challenges, but the guiding values of respect, unity, and responsibility remain constant.

As Myanmar observes Independence Day, it is important to remember that independence is not a fixed achievement. It is a living principle that requires care, patience, and understanding. When people choose empathy over misunderstanding

and cooperation over isolation, they strengthen the foundation of independence.

In daily life, independence can be honoured in simple but meaningful ways – by educating children with care, supporting local communities, preserving cultural heritage, and treating one another with dignity. These actions may seem small, but together they shape the character of the nation.

In conclusion, Independence Day in Myanmar is a time to remember, reflect, and renew. It invites citizens to honour the past without being bound by it, to live responsibly in the present, and to look toward the future with hope. Independence is not only a historical moment; it is a shared value that lives in everyday choices. By protecting culture, valuing education, caring for the environment, and respecting one another, the people of Myanmar give true meaning to independence – on this day and every day that follows.

Independence Day is not about celebrating perfection. It is about rec-

Anatomy of the Poetry Body

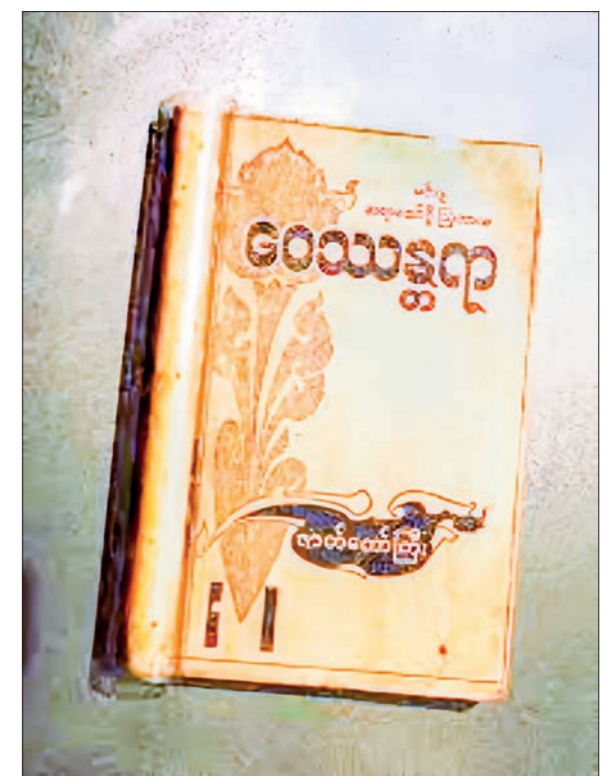
By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

IN THE world of literature, there have still been arising many of the most difficult questions have still been arising for readers or writers until today. These questions include the one, not others, 'What is poetry?'. In the field of Myanmar literature, most ancient poets once believed that poetry was a laureate's material, which possibly means that poems could be written by wise men only. By Saya Zaw Gyi, perhaps poetry is just a collection of well-thinking, well-hearing, well-seeing and well-knowing since a poet laureate is often able to do them for certain. But some superstitious poets, rightly or wrongly, supposed that a piece of writing without any rhyme was not a poem at all. Whatever is said, giving an agreed definition of poetry is indeed no easy task. Samuel Taylor Coleridge simply and clearly stated that poetry is the best words in their best order.

Although nobody can exactly tell what poetry means, we will all be able to talk about what and how poetry works to some extent. Of course, poetry tends to attempt to communicate an author's emotional and philosophical responses to his own existence and/or to his surrounding world. Thus, a poem is an expression of what is thought and felt rather than what is known as facts and figures. Even though, depending upon observation as science does, poems like

to draw comparisons between phenomena that scientists may find distant and unrelated. However, such comparisons demand a bold leap of imagination between poets and their audience, effectively reproducing emotions in the audience similar to those actually experienced by the poets. Here, a poetic licence is a theoretical concept by which a laureate is competent to verse to depart from the standard rules of logic and grammar governing ordinary prose to build up a distinct picture of a poem. After all, poetry is not prose, roughly speaking. Hence, the task of interpreting poetry into prose is always misleading and completely meaningless, as well as if a poem can be easily changed into prose, the original author will not have written the poem since the beginning; he will surely write prose, relying on the thing created as poetry. On the whole, only the subject matter that might be described as poetry is written as a poem by many authors. Honestly enough, poetry is poetry.

In global literature, a wide variety of poetry genres can be found. Generally speaking, there are six types of poetry: narrative poetry, epic poetry, dramatic poetry, satirical poetry, prose poetry, and lyric poetry. Narrative poetry, telling a story and appealing to human interest, is supposed to be the oldest type of poetry. Lots of narrative is performance poetry with the roots in a preliterate oral tradition.



An epic poem telling the story of King Vessantara. It is long, dramatic, and full of heroic deeds.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

MoH reports over 86,000 nursing and midwifery graduates since 1962



The certificate presentation ceremony for the Nursing and Midwifery Diploma.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Health, a total of 43,778 Nursing and Midwifery Diploma holders and 42,524 Integrated Midwifery Diploma holders have been produced from 1962 to 2025 academic years.

This information was shared by Dr Tin Tun, Director-General of the Department of Health Human Resources, during the certificate presentation ceremony for the 3-year diploma programme at the Nursing and Midwifery

Training School (Nay Pyi Taw).

"In line with the third objective of the National Defence and Security Council, which focuses on the advancement of national education and health sectors for sustainable national development, the Ministry of Health is implementing several strategic frameworks such as the National Health Plan, sustainable development projects, and the 30-Year Myanmar Health Vision Long-term Plan, across the country, including rural and border areas.

Altogether, 5,674 students are currently enrolled in the 3-year course, and 535 are enrolled in the 2-year programme. In the 2026 academic year, 2,080 nursing students and 582 midwifery students have already been selected for enrolment, he said, urging graduates to maintain the dignity of their profession and emphasizing the importance of teamwork, a positive mindset, an innovative spirit, collaboration and mutual respect. — MT/ZN

Eligible Myanmar children in Japan may apply for passports through Myanmar Embassy

MYANMAR Embassy in Japan said it has been approved for issuing new passports for children born to Myanmar parents, and they can contact it during office hours.

Among applications for issuing birth registration and new passports for children born to Myanmar parents living in Japan, the embassy said it has been granted approval from the respective ministry for more than 40 children.

The 42 eligible children can proceed with the consular pro-

cess, it said. For this, parents will have to provide a copy of the resident permit cards of the parents and the child, a copy of unexpired passports of the parents, an original receipt of the application fee paid to the embassy for the child's passport and birth certificate in Japan and an original document for the tax paid by one of the parents.

With these documents, parents can come to continue with the passport issuing process at the embassy during office hours, it said. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo. PHOTO-KYODO

555 online scam hub-related buildings demolished

THE Government of Myanmar is managing a combined team of security forces, administrative bodies, and local authorities to raid illegal buildings in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where telecom fraud and online gambling activities are being conducted, and to systematically dismantle the confiscated materials and illegal structures used in these activities.

Yesterday, the combined team demolished six more illegal buildings: four six-storey buildings and two four-storey buildings used for telecom fraud and online gambling in the Myawady-Maethawtalay (KK Park) area. This brings the total to 555 buildings demolished out of 635 illegal structures in the KK Park area.

The demolition of illegal



These photos show the illegally constructed six-storey flats (above) and four-storey flats (top) before and after demolition.

buildings in the KK Park area began on 14 December 2025, using machinery and explosive devices. As of today, five additional two-storey buildings have been destroyed, bringing the total number of completely demolished buildings to 91.

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

The government considers the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling a national responsibility. To ensure that such activities can no longer operate within Myanmar, it will continue these efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Bagan welcomes year-on-year rise in New Year visitor arrivals

MANY people have been travelling for leisure during the international New Year holiday period from 1 to 4 January, and more travellers are visiting Bagan compared to last year.

This year, during the December school holidays, the Kayin New Year festival, Christmas, and New Year holidays, visitors continuously visited the Bagan Cultural Heritage Site. After voting on 28 December, visitor arrivals began increasing steadily from 31 December onward. Hotels were lively with musical performances, and on New Year's Eve, travellers welcomed the New Year joyfully and with peace of mind.

"The travellers have been visiting Bagan continuously since the December school holidays. After voting, visitors have been arriving in groups right up to today, and it looks like the crowds will continue until 4 January. Nearly 5,000 travellers visited Htilominlo Pagoda yesterday, and almost 8,000 today. Compared to last year, there are clearly more visitors during the New Year period. Foreign tourists have also started to arrive. What's special is that pilgrims were able to spend the New Year happily, which is why the number of visitors increased compared to last year. Seeing these high arrivals of visitors creating more job opportunities for local people makes us



very happy," said U Tin Hla Oo, secretary of the board of trustees of Htilominlo Pagoda.

All the 18 famous pagodas and temples – Shwezigon, Culamani, Dhammayangyi, Htilominlo, Alotawpyae, Shwesandaw, Ananda, Thatbyinnyu, Gadawpalin, Buu, Maha Bodhi, Pyathetgyi, Manuha, Mya Zedi, Lawkananda, Dhamma Razaka, Hngetpyittaung and Ashe Tuyintaung – were also crowded with visitors.

"During the New Year period, nearly 100,000 domestic and international tourists per day are visiting the Bagan region, as can be seen from the visitor numbers at the 18 major pagodas and temples. Yesterday, over 18,000 tourists visited Shwezigon Pagoda, and today the number exceeded 26,000. Since tourist arrivals are continuing, the numbers may increase even more on Independence Day. Foreign tourists are

also arriving. At 5 am on New Year's Day, we held a consecration, offered early meals to 30 monks, and donated rice to 3,000 monks and nuns," said U Thein Aung, chairman of the pagoda board of trustees of Shwezigon.

This winter, due to cooler weather making travel more comfortable, visitor arrivals increased. Consequently, sales of local products, lacquerware, and food items were strong. Services such as horse carts, bicycles, and electric motorbikes performed well, and traditional painting and sand painting businesses were also in better condition than last year.

"We can see that there are more travellers than last year because families, private schools, and travel companies are visiting Bagan continuously. We provide hand-painting and sand-painting lessons to students from private



The above images show travellers visiting the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Area. PHOTO: KANU

schools staying at hotels, and we also paint pictures that children like for a minimum of K5,000 per person. This year, we have had to paint much more. It is not like what you hear online. There are no problems here; everything is peaceful. Being able to say "Happy New Year" joyfully this year has supported tourism development and helped the local economy. That's why local people are happy about the increased traveller arrivals at the end of the year and the beginning of the New Year," said U Aung Zeyar, a hand-painting artist from Min-

nanthu village. The Bagan cultural zone boasts more than 3,000 pagodas and temples, with over 400 major ancient monuments concentrated in one area that attracts both domestic and international visitors. It was officially recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 6 July 2019. Starting 10 December, visitors have been arriving gradually in Bagan, and during the New Year period, hotels and guesthouses were fully occupied. Monasteries were also crowded with visitors. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Anatomy of the Poetry Body

FROM PAGE 9

Epic poetry, also a major form of narrative literature, recounts in a continuous narrative the life and works of a heroic or mythological person or group of persons struggling with natural and supernatural beings, for entertaining, teaching and inspiring the listener or reader with examples of how those persons can strive and succeed against the great odds. And dramatic poetry is written in verse to be spoken or sung, using the elements of drama, chiefly a dramatic monologue, in which one or more characters speak to other characters, to themselves or to the reader. In satirical poetry, the punch of an insult delivered in verse can be many times more powerful and memorable than that of the same insult spoken or written

in prose. Strange to say, prose poetry shows the attributes of both prose and poetry as a hybrid genre. Lyric poetry, derived from the lyre and intended to be sung, is meant purely for reading, expressing a speaker's personal thoughts and feelings. The following are examples of six-type Myanmar poems.

- 1) ပညာမရှိသော သူဌေးသားအကြောင်း
By ဆားတုံဆရာတော်
- 2) ခုနစ်နေ့ဘုရားရှိခိုး
By လယ်တီဆရာတော်
- 3) သူ့မှာတမ်း
By မင်းသုဝဏ်
- 4) ဘုရားမကြိုက်တဲ့လူ
By ဦးပုည
- 5) ဝေသာန္တရာဇာတ်တော်ကြီး
By မင်းပူးဆရာတော်ဦးဩဘာသ
- 6) ဖိုးစလုံး

By တက္ကသိုလ်မြတ်စိုး

Moreover, other types of poetry can be identified as follows. An elegy, a mournful, melancholy or plaintive poem, particularly a lament for the dead or a funeral song, also reflects something probably strange or mysterious to the poet. A verse fable is merely an ancient, near-ubiquitous literary genre. But a ballad, which is a song or poem, tells a story. A sonnet, a lyric poem of fourteen lines, is almost always written in iambic pentameter, mostly following strict patterns of stanza division and rhyme. A story orally handed down from the past is a legend. And a free verse has no fixed pattern of meter, rhyme, line length or stanza agreement. A traditional story of anonymous origin that deals with goddesses, gods, heroes and unnatural events is a myth. On the other hand, a tra-

ditional Japanese form of poetry, Haiku, has three lines and seventeen syllables. As a final poem, a romance resembles the epic in length and adventurousness but places greater emphasis on love and extraordinary events. The above-mentioned poems of nine types can be included in the first described poetry genres.

I would like to conclude my article with the poem 'Poetry' by Eleanor Farjeon. As she suggested, poetry is the scent of a rose but not the rose; poetry is the light in the sky but not the sky; poetry is the gleam of a firefly but not the firefly; poetry is the sound of the sea but not the sea; poetry is what makes us but not ourselves. We can see, hear and feel anything in prose with our eyes shut, but cannot in poetry without difficulty. Why on earth will that be so? The simple reason is nothing but that poetry is poetry only.



ECONOMY WORLD

AI to broaden investment opportunities in 2026, smaller firms to benefit: Report

Smaller companies will find niches to launch profitable AI ventures.



PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

THE year 2026 is likely to witness broadening of the investment landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), with smaller companies finding specialized niches to launch profitable AI ventures, according to a report by Ambit Wealth.

The report highlights that while AI is widely recognized as a powerful productivity-enhancing tool, many companies have struggled to effectively implement and monetise AI deployments so far.

It stated, "As smaller companies will find niches to launch profitable AI ventures."

The report noted that although several productivity-enhancing opportunities through AI have been identified, execution challenges have limited the benefits for many corporates.

This gap, it said, creates a meaningful opportunity for IT companies that can help clients successfully leverage AI to drive productivity gains. In this context, mid-sized and small technology companies could perform well, as they are more agile and better positioned to address niche requirements.

In contrast, it may take significantly more effort for larger

companies to see a material impact, given their exposure to revenue cannibalisation and disruption of existing business models.

The report also pointed out that the current AI ecosystem is structurally different from earlier technology waves, such as the Internet era.

It noted that the so-called four horsemen of AI, Google, Meta, Microsoft and OpenAI, already possess the platforms and infrastructure required to deliver AI-based applications directly to end users at a global scale. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mongolia's forex reserves reach record high in 2024

MONGOLIA'S foreign exchange reserves hit a record high of US\$5.5 billion by the end of 2024, according to official data released by the country's central bank on Friday.

The figure represents an 11.81 per cent increase compared to the previous year, the Bank of Mongolia said.

Mongolia's forex reserves had significantly dwindled to \$2.6 billion in August 2022, the lowest level since 2017, due to a deepening current account deficit driven by challenging internal and external economic conditions. — Xinhua

Pakistan inflation eases to 5.6% in Dec

PAKISTAN'S headline inflation slowed to 5.6 per cent year-on-year in December 2025, according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). This reading aligns with the Finance Ministry's projection of 5.5-6.5 per cent. On a month-on-month basis, consumer prices decreased by 0.4 per cent, showing a moderation in price growth.

The CPI was 6.1 per cent in November 2025 and 4.1 per cent in December 2024. Urban inflation rose 5.8 per cent YoY, while rural inflation increased 5.4 per cent YoY. Month-on-month, both urban and rural CPI recorded slight declines of 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent, respectively, signaling easing pressure on households. — Xinhua

London stocks hit record as 2026 kicks off with global gains

STOCK markets rose Friday, the first trading day of 2026, with London's benchmark FTSE 100 index reaching 10,000 points for the first time.

After indices smashed records in 2025, ending with double-digit annual gains, London continued the trend in early new year deals.

The capital's top-tier index — featuring the likes of energy group BP, telecoms firm Vodafone and banking giant HSBC — gained more than one per cent to reach an all-time high of 10,046.25 points soon after the start of trading Friday.

It later cooled but was still showing a gain of 0.5 per cent compared with the close on Wednesday.

"The FTSE 100 hit the 10,000 jackpot level immediately



London's benchmark FTSE 100 index reaching 10,000 points for the first time. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

after rounding off a tremendous year for UK shares," noted Dan Coatsworth, head of markets at AJ Bell trading group.

The index climbed more than 21 per cent in 2025, the big-

gest gain for 16 years, helped in large part by cuts to British interest rates alongside reductions to borrowing costs by the US Federal Reserve as global inflation retreated. — AFP



Fresh clashes kill six in Iran cost-of-living protests

PROTESTERS and security forces clashed in several Iranian cities on Thursday, with

This picture shows new Iranian bank notes of one million, 500,000, and 100,000 rials on 3 August 2025. PHOTO: ATTA KENARE / AFP

six reported killed, the first deaths since the cost-of-living demonstrations broke out. The protests began on Sunday in Tehran, where shopkeepers went on strike over high prices and economic stagnation, and have since spread to other parts of the country.

On Thursday, Iran's Fars news agency reported two people killed in clashes between security forces and protesters in the city of Lordegan, in the province of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, and three in Azna, in neighbouring Lorestan province. — AFP



Orsted files lawsuit against US suspension of wind turbine leases

DANISH offshore wind energy firm Orsted said Friday its US joint venture had filed a lawsuit challenging the suspension of the lease for its nearly-completed project off the coast of New England.

The US Interior Department on 22 December said it had paused leases

for all five of the country's offshore wind projects under construction, citing unspecified national security risks and casting new doubt over the future of an industry detested by President Donald Trump.

Orsted has a 50 per cent stake in the Revolution Wind project alongside a

renewables infrastructure developer that is part of the BlackRock investment group.

The park of 65 turbines off the coast of Rhode Island is 87 per cent complete and had been set to go online this year and provide power for more than 350,000 homes, according to

Orsted. "While Revolution Wind continues to seek to work constructively with the Administration and other stakeholders towards an expeditious and durable resolution of this matter, it believes that the lease suspension order violates applicable law," Orsted said in a statement. — AFP

US President Donald Trump has long complained that wind turbines ruin views and his administration has moved to halt their construction. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh slashes import duties on mobile handsets

BANGLADESH decided to slash the customs duties of imported mobile phones and mobile parts to protect the regulated market from the influx of illicit handsets.

Bangladeshi Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam announced the decision Thursday in Dhaka during a press briefing, saying that the tariff on imported mobile phones has been cut to 10 per cent from 25 per cent, while the duty on parts of locally manufactured handsets has been halved to five per cent from 10 per cent. — Xinhua

Dubai property sales hit record

Dubai's real estate market recorded its highest-ever sales in 2025, with sales value rising more than 30 percent from a year earlier, data from the Dubai Land Department showed.

Property sales in the emirate totaled 682.49 billion dirhams (about US\$185.8 billion) last year, up from 522.36 billion dirhams in 2024.

Sales in the fourth quarter reached a record 187.47 billion dirhams, an increase of 26.86 per cent from a year earlier. — Xinhua

Nepal welcomes over 1.15 million foreign tourists in 2025

NEPAL welcomed over 1.15 million foreign tourists in 2025, a rise of one per cent compared to 2024, the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) said on Thursday.

A total of 1,158,459 tourists visited Nepal, representing a 97 per cent recovery compared to the pre-COVID pandemic level of 2019, according to the NTB. While the Himalayan country witnessed steady growth in tourist arrivals throughout the year, political unrest in early September impacted visitor numbers, the NTB data show.

In September, foreign tourist arrivals declined by 18.3 per cent, but the sector recovered over the



People participate in a rally during the 19th Elephant and Tourism Festival in Chitwan, Nepal, 26 December 2025. The event aims to bring human closer with elephants, encourage wildlife protection and conservation, and promote tourism in the region. **PHOTO: SULAV SHRESTHA/XINHUA**

following three months compared to the same period of the previous

year. India remained the largest source market, accounting for 25.2 per

cent of total foreign tourist arrivals, with 292,438 visitors. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XINGHE TIMES VOY.NO. (TP2506)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XINGHE TIMES VOY.NO. (TP2506)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **03-1-2026** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S WILHELMSSEN PORT SERVICES(S) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (838N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (838N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **03-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2528S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2528S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **03-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

VENEZUELA is ready to discuss an agreement with the United States to combat drug trafficking, but it must be a serious discussion, President Nicolas Maduro said.

“The US government knows this because we’ve told many of its representatives that if they want to seriously discuss an agreement to combat drug trafficking, we’re ready,” Maduro said in an interview with journalist Ignacio Ramonet on Thursday.

The US justifies its military presence in the Caribbean region by the fight against drug trafficking. Since early September, US President Donald Trump has authorized a number of strikes targeting alleged drug trafficking vessels off Venezuela’s coasts.

In November, Trump expressed the opinion that Maduro’s days as Venezuela’s leader were numbered, while saying that Washington had no plans to go to war with Caracas.

Venezuela ready to discuss anti-drug agreement with US: Maduro

Since September, President Donald Trump authorized strikes on vessels allegedly linked to drug trafficking off Venezuela’s coasts.



President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro during the plenary session of the Outreach/BRICS Plus meeting on 24 October 2024. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

According to Sputnik Globe, Maduro also linked the issue of drug trafficking to broader geopolitical tensions. He accused Washington of using counternarcotics operations as a pretext to expand military influence in Latin America, particularly in waters near Venezuela. Maduro stressed that Venezuela has already cooperated with regional partners such as Colombia and Brazil on anti drug measures, and argued that any agreement with the US should respect Venezuela’s sovereignty.

Sputnik Globe further reported that Maduro suggested the US could benefit from direct cooperation with Venezuelan authorities rather than unilateral military actions. — SPUTNIK

Best of frenemies: Saudi, UAE rivalry bursts into view

FOR years, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates projected power in tandem across the Gulf and beyond, anchored by the close relationship between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed. That partnership has fractured as both leaders pursue diverging ambitions, with Riyadh asserting dominance through sweeping reforms and Abu Dhabi seeking influence via disruptive alliances.

The rivalry is most visible in Yemen, where the two states — nominally part of the same anti-Houthi coalition — back

opposing factions. The UAE supports the separatist Southern Transitional Council, which recently seized resource-rich provinces, while Saudi Arabia backs the internationally recognized government. Tensions escalated when Saudi forces bombed an alleged Emirati weapons shipment. Analysts argue their approaches are irreconcilable, with Riyadh preferring to preserve state authority and Abu Dhabi more willing to empower non-state actors. In Sudan, the UAE has been accused of arming the Rapid Support Forces, while Saudi Arabia supports the regular army. — AFP



The Saudi strike targeted what Riyadh said were Emirati deliveries of supplies to Yemen’s STC separatists. **PHOTO: AFP**

Mamdani sworn in as New York City’s first Muslim mayor

DEMOCRAT Zohran Mamdani was sworn in as New York City mayor on Thursday, becoming the first Muslim leader of America’s largest city by population with a vow to combat the city’s affordability crisis.

In his inauguration ceremony, Mamdani reiterated his campaign promises to make the city more affordable for working people. These include freezing rents, taxing the wealthiest, providing free buses and childcare, and launching a pilot of city-run grocery stores.

The 34-year-old mayor pledged to deliver an agenda of safety, affordability and abundance — one “where government looks and lives like the people it represents, never flinches in the fight against corporate greed, and refuses to cower before challenges that others have deemed too complicated”.

Mamdani, born in Uganda, became the first Muslim mayor of New York City after defeating former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in November last year. — Xinhua

Zohran Mamdani, a 34 year old Ugandan born Democrat, was sworn in as New York City’s first Muslim mayor.



Zohran Mamdani speaks during his inauguration ceremony in New York City, the United States, 1 January 2026. **PHOTO: ZACK ZHANG/XINHUA**

SPORTS

Myanmar to compete in 11 sports at 13th ASEAN Para Games in Thailand

MYANMAR will compete in 11 sporting events at the 13th ASEAN Para Games, which will be held in Thailand from 20 to 26 January 2026, according to the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation.

At the 13th ASEAN Para Games, host nation Thailand will include 19 sporting events. The Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation will field athletes in 11 disciplines: athletics, football, shooting, swimming, weightlifting, sitting volleyball, chess, bowling, goalball, table tennis and boccia.

“We began our training programme on 1 January 2024. We searched for and trained a new generation of athletes. In identifying new athletes, we visited places where people with disabilities could be found. We assessed their physical proportions, age and type of disability



This photo displays para athletes training in boccia.

to determine their suitability for particular para-sports. Most of them had no prior knowledge of these sports. We selected suitable disciplines based on their physical condition and disability and then began training them. If an athlete was not suited to one sport, we reassigned them to another. If they were ultimately unsuitable for all disciplines, we sent them home and continued

searching for new candidates. Through this step-by-step process, only about 30 per cent of those initially selected remained from every 100 trainees. From this group, we provided continuous training, combining them with experienced athletes, and conducted intensive training camps. Eventually, the selected athletes underwent approximately eight months of central-



This image captures a para athlete practising shooting.

ized training as national team members,” said U Min Naing Oo, General Secretary of the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation.

“In preparing for the competition, we are following the guidance and instructions of our coaches. At last year’s competition, I won two gold medals in the shot put and discus events, and a bronze medal in the javelin. This

year, I am hoping to win gold medals again, and I am training hard to achieve that goal,” said Myanmar national para-athletics athlete Htet Htet Aye.

At present, 97 athletes are undergoing training in camps. It is also reported that at the 12th ASEAN Para Games, held in Cambodia in 2023, Myanmar won a total of 56 medals, including 15 gold medals. — Bala/KZL

Arteta urges Arsenal to break New Year Premier League curse

MIKEL Arteta has urged Arsenal to break their New Year jinx as the Gunners battle for their first Premier League title in more than two decades.

Arsenal are four points clear of second-placed Manchester City at the halfway point of the season and remain favourites to claim a 14th English league crown.

However, on the previous five occasions across the past 23 years when they have ended the calendar year on top of the table, they have failed to win the title.

The most recent occasion was three seasons ago when Arteta’s men finished the campaign five points behind Pep Guardiola’s City.

The Arsenal boss, speaking Friday, on the eve of the Gunners’ trip to Bournemouth, said he was not aware of the dispiriting statistic but added: “Let’s break it”.

Arteta said his players were desperate to be crowned English champions for the first time since 2004

after finishing as runners-up three times in a row. “That’s what they transmit every single day when they’re with us, training or in every match,” he said. “You can see the desire, you can see the energy they put in, how much they want it, and that’s what we need. — AFP

Mikel Arteta’s Arsenal are four points clear at the top of the Premier League. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



YR Chief Minister’s Cup Lethwei Finals marks Independence Day



Nyan Lin Aung (North Okkalapa) and Wyne Ko Ko (Hmawby Township) competing in the men’s 56-kilogramme bout.

TO mark the 78th Independence Day in 2026, the Yangon Region Government Chief Minister’s Cup inter-township Lethwei tournament finals were held at 3 pm yesterday at the Yangon Boxing Training Camp in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region.

The final bouts were attended by Yangon Region Government Sports and Physical Education Committee Patron and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Region ministers, officials from relevant departments, and Lethwei enthusiasts, who watched and cheered on the competitions.

Following the matches, an award ceremony was held, during which first, second and third-prize winners in the men’s and women’s categories, by weight class, received medals and

cash prizes presented by Yangon Region ministers and the Director of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department. The Yangon Region chief minister also presented awards to outstanding athletes and awarded the perpetual trophy to Mingaladon Township, which secured first place with three gold medals and one bronze medal.

More than 100 athletes from 19 townships competed in the tournament, which featured junior category bouts for athletes aged 15 to 18, open category bouts for those aged 18 to 25, and women’s category bouts for athletes under 25.

The tournament was held from 30 December 2025 to 2 January 2026. — Bala/KZL



Settlement on Iran's nuclear programme within reach: Russian Foreign Ministry

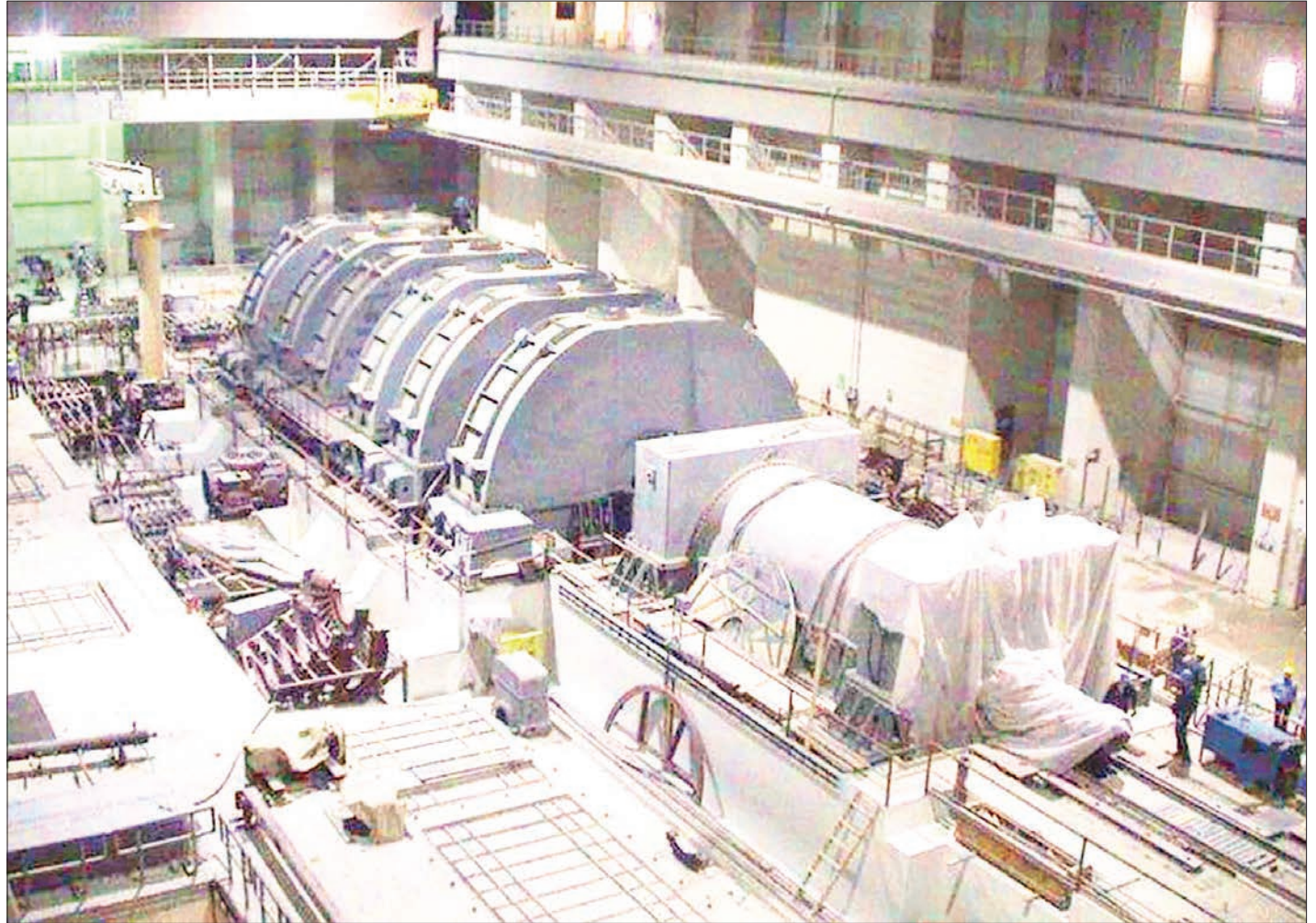
A settlement is possible if all parties show political commitment.

A RESOLUTION to the standoff over Iran's nuclear programme is achievable if all sides show sufficient political will, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official told Sputnik.

"We believe that with the necessary political commitment from all parties involved, a settlement around the Iranian nuclear programme is entirely possible. Any progress in this direction would be welcome," said Oleg Postnikov, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control.

Postnikov added that Russia acknowledges Iran's compliance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), as well as its comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Western policy toward Iran's nuclear program is a deliberate dead end, Postnikov underscored previously, as he criticized last year's failed negotiations. — SPUTNIK



Iran has repeatedly claimed its nuclear programme is entirely for civil purposes. PHOTO: IRAN ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION / AFP/FILE

Jakarta ranks world's largest city as Tokyo slips to 3rd: UN report

JAKARTA ranked as the world's largest city with 41.9 million inhabitants followed by Dhaka, while Tokyo slipped to third against the backdrop of population growth in the developing nations and Japan's graying society, a recent UN report on urbanization prospects shows.

The population of Japan's capital has grown more slowly than those of Indonesia and Bangladesh, and consequently, its rank among the world's most populous cities descended from first in 2000 to third by 2025, according to the report, which uses an assessment method designed to facilitate international comparisons. Looking ahead, the

Tokyo urban area's population is expected to shrink from 33.4 million in 2025 to 30.7 million in 2050, dropping to seventh in rank as Dhaka takes the top spot with 52.1 million people, followed by



Photo taken on 23 January 2022 shows the cityscape in Jakarta, Indonesia. PHOTO: XU QIN/XINHUA/FILE

Jakarta, Shanghai, New Delhi, Karachi and Cairo.

The term "city" in the report is defined as "any agglomeration of contiguous geographic area" with a density of at least 1,500 inhabitants per square kilometre and a total population of at least 50,000. Under the methodology used by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which issued the report in November, the total for Tokyo counts only the city's urban areas, together with those of neighbouring Saitama, Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures. The official population of Tokyo as a whole is about 14 million. — Kyodo

Saudi Arabia launches 480MW data centre

SAUDI Arabia on Thursday broke ground on the Hexagon Data Center in Riyadh, a facility officials say will be the world's largest government-owned data centre by megawatt capacity, the state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The facility is slated to have a capacity of 480 megawatts and will cover more than 2.8 million square metres. To be operated by the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA), the project is designed to provide "maximum availability" for the kingdom's rapidly expanding suite of electronic government platforms and digital services, according to the SPA. — Xinhua