

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.

Safeguarding Vital National Interests: A Shared Duty of People and Government

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar delegation, which defended the case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), at the Banquet Hall of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council yesterday evening.

In his honorary speech, the Senior General said that just as the people across the entire country warmly welcomed, supported, and honoured the Myanmar delegation that went to appear and present oral arguments on behalf of Myanmar at the International Court of Justice during the final round of oral hearings in the case filed by The Gambia against Myanmar alleging genocide, led by Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for

Myanmar presented clear and concrete evidence on the international stage refuting a politically fabricated label long linked to unrest in northern Rakhine State.



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the honorary speech to the Myanmar delegation, that defended the case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), at the dinner held at the National Defence and Security Council yesterday.

Salient points of the speech delivered by the Senior General at the dinner

1. This experience would serve as an important benefit, as it gave the country insight into how best to prepare and respond should similar legally-based attacks arise in the future.
2. As efforts were carried out systematically and in a coordinated, unified manner, sufficient time was available according to the originally planned strategy, and all preparations for the case were carried out thoroughly and firmly.
3. Myanmar's delegation was able to defend and present its case strongly and effectively due to thorough prior preparation.

Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, the State also, on behalf of the nation, was honouring and welcoming the delegation through the hosting of this honorary dinner.

The Senior General noted that the case filed by The Gambia against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice in 2019 had lasted for more than six years, and that the merits stage of the proceedings was completed in January 2026. He explained that after his government as-

sumed state responsibilities in February 2021 in accordance with the Constitution, it had continued to handle the case in line with its responsibilities under public international law, whereby a succeeding government generally inherits the actions and commitments undertaken by the previous government under the principle of state succession.

After the International Court of Justice began contacting them around mid-2021 regarding the continuation of the case,

the government held thorough discussions among responsible officials on whether it should assume and continue handling the matter. Taking into account the prevailing international and domestic political circumstances at the time, a decision was made to continue taking responsibility for the case, and two representatives were selected and appointed to serve as the Agent and Alternate Agent in charge of the proceedings.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL



National Objectives for 79th Union Day 2026

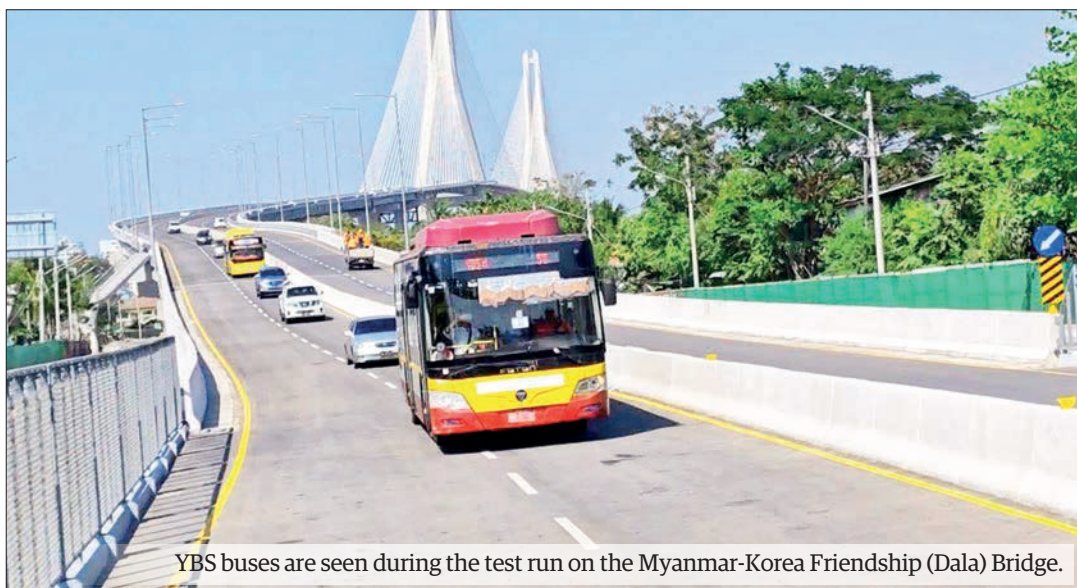
1. To work together among all ethnic nationals to achieve the country's prosperity and food security, the national goal of the country.
2. To cooperate hand-in-hand with the government, Tatmadaw and all ethnic nationals in successfully implementing the measures for stability and rule of law.
3. To strive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

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

Mottos for 79th Union Day 2026

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

YBS buses begin test runs on Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge



YBS buses are seen during the test run on the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge.

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), YBS buses have conducted test runs across the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge.

Following the bridge's inauguration on 6 February, the trial was led by YRTC member-1 U Khin Maung Htwe, alongside officials from YBPC and YUPT Public Co, Ltd.

It involved a total of four

buses from different lines to ensure operational readiness: two YBS 58 (Foton) from YUPT, carrying approximately 40 staff members per vehicle, and one YBS 72 (Ankai) and one YBS 108 (Yutong) from YBPC, carrying approximately 30 staff members per vehicle.

The bridge, connecting Dala Township to downtown Yangon, was officially opened

on 6 February. The ceremony was attended by Head of State Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Prime Minister, Union ministers, and other high-ranking officials.

With the bridge now open, commuters can travel easily from Yangon through Dala to Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon townships, as well as to the Ayeyawady Region. — MT/ZN

Yunnan Province donates solar panels and accessories to BEHS No 2 in Pyinmana



The handover ceremony for the solar-powered electricity supply project under the Connected Hearts of Yunnan Province Programme in progress at No 2 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw.

UNDER the Connected Hearts of Yunnan Province programme, the handover ceremony for the solar-powered electricity supply project, donated by Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, to No 2 Basic Education High School in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, was held at the school yesterday morning.

Pyinmana District Education Officer Daw Myint Myint Aye and Meng Fei (a) Daw Kyi Lin from Sunshine Energy Technology Co Ltd and First Secretary Zhang Zhonghu of Interim Liaison Office, on behalf of donors,

spoke words of appreciation.

Officials handed over documents related to the project and certificates of honour to Headmistress Daw Kyu Kyu Myint of the school. U Win Naung of Myanmar Trade Centre (MTC) explained the purpose of donation. Students performed the song entertainments.

At the ceremony, 80 solar panels, three invertors and related accessories worth more than K160 million were handed over to the school. The solar facilities can generate 9.24 kilowatts. — MNA/TTA

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)

Union-Level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair kicks off

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing launched the opening of the Union-level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair to mark the 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026 at the Nay Pyi Taw Square yesterday morning.

Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, U Hla Moe, Dr Charlie Than and U Chit Swe and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo cut the ribbon to open the exhibition and market fair.

The Senior General pressed the button to unveil the arch of the exhibition and market fair.

The Senior General and dignitaries watched the song entertainment with the title of “Towards Industrial Expo” to honour the exhibition and market fair and dancing entertainment of ethnic cultural troupes of regions and states.

The Senior General and attendees, interestingly, visited the booths of ministries, domestic products of regions and states and booths of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises displayed at the Exhibition and Market Fair and responded to the clarifications of curators.

Also, present at the ceremony were Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, commission members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, chief ministers of regions and states, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, chairs of MSME agencies in regions and states, Nay Pyi Taw



Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits booths displayed at the Union-level MSME Products Exhibition and Market Fair to mark the 79th Anniversary of Union Day 2026 at the Nay Pyi Taw Square yesterday.

More than 120 booths operated by ministries, MSMEs, organizations and companies are drawing large crowds, showcasing a diverse range of value-added products, traditional ethnic foods, electric vehicles and industrial goods.

Council members, departmental heads, officials of organizations, ethnic cultural dance troupes, and guests.

The Exhibition and Market Fair was held with the objectives of promoting and strengthening MSMEs, which serve as a key backbone of national economic development, to improve the socioeconomic well-being of citizens; enabling the production of value-added products based on raw materials from the agriculture and livestock sectors; boosting the domestic economy by en-

couraging local manufacturing; reducing imports and promoting import-substitution production; improving the domestic economy and expanding employment opportunities; supporting the success of One Region One Product (OROP) programmes; and fostering closer cooperation and linkages between MSMEs and domestic and foreign investors. In addition, beyond economic development alone, the event is expected to bring benefits such as fostering friendship, unity, solidarity, and mutual as-

sistance among entrepreneurs from various regions; promoting the exchange of traditional customs, cultures, and knowledge; enhancing market linkages; and enabling domestic products to be upgraded into value-added products that can be connected to international markets.

More than 120 booths including ministerial booths, MSME product booths of regions and states comprising Nay Pyi Taw, shops of traditional ethnic foods, business matches, technological booths, agricultural machinery

and product booths, small-scale industrial and producing cooperative booths, the booths of relevant organizations, booths for solar farms, SKD-prioritized electric vehicles, motorcycles, three-wheeled bikes, garment booths and the booths of companies are arranged at the exhibition and market fair. It will last till 13 February. During the exhibition and exposition period, well-known artistes will entertain the audience. People can visit and buy products there. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Safeguarding Vital National Interests: ...

FROM PAGE 1

Domestically, it was also a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was spreading severely and widespread, intense unrest of an anarchic nature was occurring. In such circumstances, the government carefully assessed the potential outcomes, weighing both the benefits and risks, before deciding to assume and continue handling the case. The main reason for this decision was that, at the International Court of Justice, the proceedings could continue unilaterally even if Myanmar chose not to participate. In such a unilateral process, the Court would consider only one-sided information, which could lead to undesirable consequences. This, in turn, could leave Myanmar with an indelible stain on its national dignity throughout history and could give rise to further unwanted repercussions. Therefore, given the conditions at that time, that course of action was chosen as the best possible solution.

As efforts were carried out systematically and in a coordinated, unified manner, sufficient time was available according to the originally planned strategy, and all preparations for the case were carried out thoroughly and firmly.

The Senior General stated that, during the final stage of the case – the oral

hearings held at the International Court of Justice from 12 to 29 January – Myanmar's delegation was able to defend and present its case strongly and effectively due to thorough prior preparation. For this reason, he expressed that the State commends and honours the Myanmar delegation, led by the two Agents.

In truth, the case Myanmar faced at the International Court of Justice was not an accusation against any individual or group of people, but rather a case brought against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Therefore, as the entire nation, including the country, its people, and the government, was being accused in the proceedings, the case directly concerned the dignity of the State and of all its citizens, making it an issue of special significance for the country.

He stated that, in this case, Myanmar's delegation was able to defend and present its position firmly and comprehensively, both legally and factually. For this reason, on behalf of the State, he wished to express special gratitude to all relevant ministries and departments that collectively supported and assisted the Myanmar delegation.

Regarding this case in which Myanmar was unjustly accused, the people of

Myanmar across the entire country stood united hand in hand with the State government, fully supporting and defending the country. It can be said that this demonstrated the moral strength of national unity.

Another significant benefit was that Myanmar was able to present, on the international stage, clear and concrete evidence of its position regarding a politically fabricated label, which had long been a source of the issues in northern Rakhine State.

From a legal perspective, the case also provided valuable international experience and knowledge. This experience would serve as an important benefit, as it gave the country insight into how best to prepare and respond should similar legally-based attacks arise in the future.

He emphasized that, as a small nation, regardless of the challenges faced in the current era of power politics and international affairs, the people and the government must continue to stand united and cooperate, just as they did in this case, to safeguard the vital national interests of the country such as non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the national responsibility for all.

The Union minister stated that, as Myanmar's delegation carried out all

preparatory work systematically, including collecting the necessary information, ensuring comprehensive and accurate historical and factual data, forming a team of senior domestic legal scholars and an advisory legal committee to obtain legal guidance, and organizing the international team of lawyers and a historical expert to participate in the case. All of these efforts were conducted in a coordinated and unified manner. He noted that, with the guidance and support of the Head of State, the delegation was able to perform its duties in the best possible way. He also expressed special gratitude for the honour of welcoming and recognizing the members of the delegation at this gala dinner.

Afterwards, the Senior General and attendee dignitaries had dinner.

Also, present at the dinner were Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Commission Member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Commission Secretary General Ye Win Oo, commission members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, chief ministers of regions and states, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and officials from the Myanmar delegation which defended the case at the ICJ. — MNA/TTA

Ethnic groups urged to preserve literature and culture

MEMBER of the State Security and Peace Commission and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, together with Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung, met officials from ethnic literature and culture associations in Taunggyi yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Shan, Pa-O, Danu, Taungyoe, Inntha, Kokang, Kachin, Htanau, Lisu, Yinkya and Yinneth Literature and Culture Associations.

During the meeting, officials reported on the current situation of ethnic cultural and

literary activities and regional development needs. The Union Minister coordinated and addressed the requirements as necessary.

In his speech, the Union Minister said that Shan State reflects unity and peaceful co-existence among many ethnic groups. He stressed that each ethnic group must preserve its literature and culture without adversely affecting the cultural traditions of others, noting that ethnic literature and culture associations form a vital grassroots foundation and must mutually respect languages and cultural values. He also urged

staff to remain free from party politics and to discharge their duties in accordance with civil service rules.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and the Chief Minister presented cash awards to the ethnic literature and culture associations..

The Union Minister and his party then visited the Shan State Office of the Department of Education and Training under the Ministry of Border Affairs, where the head of Shan State department briefed them on human resource development programmes and the operation of training schools. The Union



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presents cash awards to the ethnic literature and culture associations in Taunggyi yesterday.

Minister provided the necessary support, presented cash awards, and inspected staff housing within the compound. — MNA/KZL

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NATIONAL

Nuclear technology seen as key to developing health, agriculture, and industry

- ❖ “As nuclear energy is a form of green energy with low carbon emissions, Myanmar intends to generate stable electricity from nuclear power and use it to support national economic development.”
- ❖ “Myanmar has a high demand for electricity and is striving to supply power to small-scale industries and rural communities”.
- ❖ “In addition, efforts must be made to further develop health, agriculture, and industrial sectors through nuclear technology”.

(Except 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 World Atomic Week Forum 2025 held in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 25 September 2025)

Statement of Congratulations by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

8 February 2026

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) hereby issues this statement to express its special pride and warm congratulations.

At a special convocation ceremony held on 5 February, the University of Yangon conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA, honoris causa) upon Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission.

Throughout Myanmar’s political transition, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has led the nation through numerous challenges and difficulties, including political pressures at each phase of the transition, economic sanctions, domestic peace and national reconciliation efforts, and reforms aimed at alignment with the international community. Despite these constraints, he has systematically managed and addressed issues while striving to advance socioeconomic development for the people, ensure national stability and tranquillity, and uphold the rule of law.

In recognition of these distinguished and selfless services rendered for the benefit of the State and the people, the University of Yangon conferred upon him the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA, honoris causa). On this occasion, the UMFCCI proudly extends its special congratulations on the conferral of this distinguished honorary degree.

The UMFCCI also conveys its best wishes that, in his capacity as the Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, he may continue to shoulder responsibilities for national development and further enhance the socio-economic well-being of the people.

Patron, President and Executive Committee,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

Statement of Congratulations by the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP)

8 February 2026

THE Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP) hereby issues this statement to express its special pride and warm congratulations.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has rendered outstanding and selfless service across all sectors in safeguarding national sovereignty and advancing the building of a modern and developed nation. Amid competition among major powers, he has effectively protected national interests and strengthened diplomatic engagement. In the sphere of Myanmar’s political leadership, he has also achieved a historic milestone by successfully organising and conducting a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, which the people earnestly desire, despite numerous challenges.

In recognition of these distinguished achievements, the University of Yangon conferred upon Senior General Min Aung Hlaing the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA, honoris causa) at a special convocation ceremony held on 5 February.

On this occasion, the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP) proudly and warmly extends its special congratulations on the conferral of this distinguished honorary degree.

Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP)

Statement of Congratulation by the Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central)

7 February 2026

THE Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central) hereby issues this statement to express its special pride and heartfelt congratulations.

Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission and Life Patron of YMBA Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has demonstrated outstanding leadership and capability in systematically managing and addressing the challenges encountered during Myanmar’s political transition. Despite difficulties at every stage, he has devoted himself selflessly, making great sacrifices in serving the interests of the State and the people. Through these efforts, he has achieved notable accomplishments across multiple sectors, including the economy, education, health, security and defence, the peace process, and the successful conduct of a multiparty democratic general election.

In recognition of these exceptional merits and distinguished contributions, the University of Yangon conferred upon Senior General Min Aung Hlaing the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA, honoris causa) at a special convocation ceremony held on 5 February.

As a national organization of Myanmar, the YMBA (Central) proudly and warmly extends its special congratulations on the conferral of this distinguished honorary degree.

Central Executive Committee
Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) (Central)

Statement of Congratulations by the Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association

8 February 2026

THE Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association hereby issues this statement to express its special pride and warm congratulations.

At a special convocation ceremony held on 5 February, the University of Yangon conferred the Honorary Doctor of Public Administration (DPA, honoris causa) upon Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission.

In recognition of his distinguished and selfless services rendered for the benefit of the State and the people, the University of Yangon conferred this honorary degree upon him. On this occasion, the Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association proudly extends its special congratulations.

The Association also conveys its best wishes that he may continue to shoulder responsibilities for national development and the improvement of the socioeconomic well-being of the people.

Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association

NATIONAL

Construction Sector Development Law

(National Defence and Security Council Law 5/2026)

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

26. An advisor or an advisory group shall comply with the following rules: -
- comply with the by-laws, rules, regulations, procedures, orders, and directives issued under this Law;
 - act and perform duties in accordance with professional ethics applicable to the relevant discipline; and
 - comply with the Myanmar Building Standards Guidelines, as well as the standards, guidelines and manuals applicable to the relevant field of work.
27. An advisor or an advisory group shall be entitled to carry out the following: -
- entering into a service contract with the project owner upon agreeing on fees, and providing consultancy services relating to construction project management, supervision and inspection, and advice on safety and hazard prevention during the construction process;
 - where deficiencies in quality, improper procedures, or non-compliance with standards are identified during construction work, the suspension of work or the order of corrective measures.
28. (a) A person wishing to continue serving as an advisor or a advisory group after the expiry of a registration certificate shall apply to the Department for renewal at least 60 days before the date of expiry.
- If a renewal application is not submitted within the time limit specified in Subsection (a), the registration certificate shall be deemed invalid on the date of expiry.
 - With the approval of the Registration Certificate Scrutiny and Issuance Committee, the Department may approve or reject a renewal application submitted under Subsection (a).

Chapter VIII

Work Management Committee

29. A company or organization that wishes to operate as a Work Management Committee and meets the following qualifications shall apply to the Department in accordance with the prescribed requirements to obtain a registration certificate-
- It must include at least one holder of a registered professional construction engineer certificate and at least one holder of a senior engineer certificate relevant to each respective related field of work to be undertaken.
 - It must meet the qualifications prescribed from time to time by the Ministry.
30. When the department receives applications in accordance with Section 29, the department shall
- scrutinize whether the application complies with the prescribed requirements. If complete, it shall assess whether it is appropriate to issue the registration certificate and whether the applicant meets the prescribed qualifications, and submit its remarks to the working committee on scrutinizing and issuing the registration certificate.
 - send notice to the applicants together with the application form to repair and resubmit if they do not meet the requirements.
31. (a) When receiving the submission under Section 30 (a), if the working committee on scrutinizing and issuance of registration certificate recommends that the applicant meets the qualifications for issuance of a registration certificate, it shall seek approval from the Ministry and issue the certificate upon approval. If it determines that the applicant does not meet the qualifications, it shall reject the application and return it to the Department together with its decision.
- If the department receives approval under subsection (a), it shall collect the prescribed registration fee from the applicant and issue the registration certificate.
 - If the department receives notice of rejection under subsection (a), it shall inform the applicant accordingly.
 - The department shall systematically record all applications that are approved or rejected.
32. The work management committee shall obey the following: -
- Rules, regulations, procedures, orders, and directives issued under this Law.
 - Professional ethics relevant to the respective disciplines.

- Myanmar building standards, relevant sectoral standards, guidelines, and manuals.

33. The work management team has the right to -
- Set the fee and collect from the developers by making contracts.
 - prepare construction plans in compliance with prescribed standards, supervise construction works to ensure safety and quality, and conduct post-construction review and assessment.
34. (a) Those wishing to continue operations as a work management team after expiry of its registration certificate shall apply for renewal to the department at least 60 days before the expiry date.
- Failure to apply within the prescribed period mentioned in subsection (a) shall render the certificate void on the date of expiry.
 - The department may approve or reject the renewal application with the approval of the working committee on scrutinizing and issuance of the registration certificate.

Chapter IX

Quality Inspection Team

35. A company or organization wishing to operate as a Quality Inspection Team and meeting the following qualifications shall apply to the department in accordance with prescribed requirements to obtain a registration certificate-
- It shall include at least one holder of a registered professional construction engineer certificate or a registered professional engineer of structural design certificate relevant to the field concerned.
 - It must include at least one holder of a registered professional engineer certificate and at least one holder of a senior engineer certificate relevant to each respective related field of work to be undertaken.
 - It must include at least three registered engineers with experience in quality inspection works for on-site inspection activities.
 - It must meet the qualifications prescribed from time to time by the Ministry.
36. Upon receiving an application under Section 35, the Department shall-
- scrutinize whether the application complies with the prescribed requirements. If complete, it shall assess whether it is appropriate to issue the registration certificate and whether the applicant meets the prescribed qualifications, and submit its remarks to the working committee for scrutiny and issuing the registration certificate.
 - send notice to the applicants together with the application form to repair and resubmit if they do not meet the requirements.
37. (a) When receiving the submission under Section 36 (a), if the working committee on scrutinizing and issuance of registration certificate recommends that the applicant meets the qualifications for issuance of a registration certificate, it shall seek approval from the Ministry and issue the certificate upon approval. If it determines that the applicant does not meet the qualifications, it shall reject the application and return it to the department together with its decision.
- If the department receives approval under subsection (a), it shall collect the prescribed registration fee from the applicant and issue the registration certificate.
 - If the department receives notice of rejection under subsection (a), it shall inform the applicant accordingly.
 - The department shall systematically record all applications that are approved or rejected.
38. The quality inspection team shall obey the following: -
- Rules, regulations, procedures, orders, and directives issued under this Law.
 - Professional ethics relevant to the respective disciplines.
 - Myanmar building standards, relevant sectoral standards, guidelines, and manuals.
39. The quality inspection team has the right to:
- make contracts and receive prescribed fees from project owners or authorized entities to conduct quality inspections during and after construction.
 - order suspension or rectification of works where substandard quality, improper procedures, or non-compliance with standards are found.
40. (a) Those wishing to continue operations of the quality inspection team after expiry shall apply for renewal to the department at least 60 days before expiry.
- Failure to apply within the prescribed period mentioned in subsection (a) renders the certificate void on the expiry date.
 - Renewal may be approved or rejected by the department with the approval of the working committee on scrutinizing and issuance of the registration certificate in accordance with subsection (a).

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NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 33/2026

7th Waning of Tabodwe 1387 ME
8 February 2026

Announcement on list of Defence Services personnel representatives for Amyotha Hluttaw

IN the multiparty democratic general election held in phases starting from 28 December 2025, the Union Election Commission, having scrutinized the following Defence Services personnel candidates nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services for the Amyotha Hluttaw in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, hereby declares, pursuant to Section 31 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, that they are Defence Services personnel representatives for the Amyotha Hluttaw.

No	Gazette No	Rank	Name
1	BC 25814	Maj-Gen	Kyaw Thura Aye
2	BC 20775	Brig-Gen	Hla Myo
3	BC 20834	Brig-Gen	Win Ko Ko
4	BC 23750	Brig-Gen	Aung Aung
5	BC 26114	Brig-Gen	Tun Tun Naing
6	BC 26884	Brig-Gen	Than Tun Aung
7	MAF 1962	Brig-Gen	Myint Thaung
8	BC 23923	Colonel	Soe Moe Kyaw
9	BC 23963	Colonel	Aung Aung Hein
10	BC 25077	Colonel	Soe Myint Aung
11	BC 25728	Colonel	Thet Paing
12	BC 25780	Colonel	Tin Aung Myint
13	BC 25863	Colonel	Hlaing Win
14	BC 26181	Colonel	Hsan Thwin
15	BC 26763	Colonel	Nyi Nyi Tin
16	BC 26771	Colonel	Soe Shwe
17	BC 26776	Colonel	Thet Zin Tun
18	BC 26793	Colonel	Phyo Min Win
19	BC 26834	Colonel	Min Zaw
20	BC 26886	Colonel	Zaw Min Htet
21	BC 27558	Colonel	Khin Zaw
22	BC 28195	Colonel	Myo Htut Win
23	BC 32911	Colonel	Aung Thein Lwin
24	BC 27356	Lt-Col	Win Thein
25	BC 27370	Lt-Col	Maung Maung Soe
26	BC 29372	Lt-Col	Win Myint Tun
27	BC 32845	Lt-Col	Thant Zin Tun
28	BC 33518	Lt-Col	Myo Maung Thein
29	BC 23048	Major	Za Wa Na
30	BC 28477	Major	Thet Tun Oo

No	Gazette No	Rank	Name
31	BC 32432	Major	Pyi Tun
32	BC 33565	Major	Myo Min Thant
33	BC 34711	Major	Tint Lwin Aye
34	BC 35188	Major	Naing Win Latt
35	BC 36313	Major	Thein Htaik Kyaw
36	BC 36454	Major	Kyaw Zeyar Win
37	BC 36518	Major	Zeyar Win
38	BC 39187	Major	Thein Tun Kyaw
39	BC 39224	Major	Htet Lwin Oo
40	BC 41205	Major	Phyo Wai Aung
41	BC 43004	Major	Zaw Win Htut
42	BC 45454	Major	Win Min Tun
43	BC 47761	Major	Zaw Min Latt
44	BC 52789	Major	Kyaw Zin Win
45	MN 4084	Lt-Cdr	Tin Htut
46	MN 4426	Lt-Cdr	Aung Khaing Lin
47	MAF 3214	Major	Nay Htet Lin
48	MAF 3305	Major	Than Tun Oo
49	N 721	Major	Daw Maw Maw Than
50	BC 54843	Captain	Thet Aung
51	BC 67501	Captain	Daw Khin Yadana Htin Aung
52	BC 67509	Captain	Daw Phyu Phyu Maung
53	BC 67550	Captain	Daw Phyo Phyo Wai
54	BC 69354	Captain	Khaing Soe Lin
55	BC 70181	Captain	Daw Su Myat Wai
56	BC 74294	Captain	Daw Phyo Thiri Mon

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

FROM PAGE 6

Chapter X Third-Party Organization

41. A company or organization wishing to operate as a Third-Party Organization and meeting the following qualifications shall apply to the department to obtain a registration certificate-
- (a) It must include at least one holder of a registered professional construction engineer and a registered professional structural design engineer certificate relevant to the field concerned.
- (b) It must include holders of registered professional engineer or registered senior engineer certificates and licensed senior architect or architect certificates relevant to the field concerned.
- (c) It must meet the qualifications prescribed from time to time by the Ministry.
42. When the department receives applications in accordance with Section 41, the department shall
- (a) scrutinize whether the application complies with the prescribed require-

ments. If complete, it shall assess whether it is appropriate to issue the registration certificate and whether the applicant meets the prescribed qualifications, and submit its remarks to the working committee on scrutinizing and issuing the registration certificate.

- (b) send notice to the applicants together with the application form to repair and resubmit if they do not meet the requirements.
43. (a) When receiving the submission under Section 42 (a), if the working committee on scrutinizing and issuance of registration certificate recommends that the applicant meets the qualifications for issuance of a registration certificate, it shall seek approval from the Ministry and issue the certificate upon approval. If it determines that the applicant does not meet the qualifications, it shall reject the application and return it to the Department together with its decision.
- (b) If the department receives approval under subsection (a), it shall collect the prescribed registration fee from the applicant and issue the registration certificate.

TO BE CONTINUED

OPINION

Maintain the friendship bridge as a development gift

THE State is prioritizing the development of essential infrastructure in the transportation sector, including air, water, and mountain/road and bridge systems, as well as electricity supply, to promote the social and economic development of ethnic communities in all regions and states, including Yangon Region. A good and secure transport infrastructure will enable ethnic communities to interact and travel with one another more easily, fostering greater mutual trust and harmony.

Currently, the government holds aspirations and objectives to advance the nation's collective national interests, and is diligently working toward them with constant vigilance, unwavering determination, dedication, and perseverance. To ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the country and to enable a happy and secure life for all citizens, the government is striving to implement sound and purposeful goals and initiatives.

Negotiations between Myanmar and Korea to construct the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge began in 2012. Construction officially started in 2019 with a loan of US\$157.833 million from the Republic of Korea (Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF) and an investment of US\$30.341 million from the Myanmar government, totaling US\$188.174 million. To complete the bridge, an additional K23.062 billion from the national budget was also allocated and provided for the successful inauguration.

million from the Myanmar government, totaling US\$188.174 million. To complete the bridge, an additional K23.062 billion from the national budget was also allocated and provided for the successful inauguration.

With the completion of the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge, travel between Yangon Region, including Yangon city and Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon, will now be faster and more convenient. Through this route, access to towns in the Ayeyawady Region will also become quicker. Dala has become a gateway connecting Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region, allowing goods from the area to be transported efficiently via hilly roads in a short time.

The government and the people of Myanmar express their gratitude to the government of the Republic of Korea to ensure lasting Myanmar-Korea friendship, the officials responsible for the bridge construction, the engineers and staff from the Ministry of Construction, as well as the Yangon Region government and local officials who provided support, for their efforts in completing and opening the bridge.

Among the essential requirements for the development of a region, efficient and convenient transportation plays a critically important role. To prioritize and enhance transportation, bridges are being constructed over rivers and streams that pose natural obstacles, and roads are being built, upgraded, and maintained for all-season travel. These efforts are being implemented not only in urban areas but also in remote and distant regions, ensuring balanced and comprehensive development throughout the country.

Negotiations between Myanmar and Korea to construct the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge began in 2012. Construction officially started in 2019 with a loan of US\$157.833 million from the Republic of Korea (Economic Development Cooperation Fund-EDCF) and an investment of US\$30.341

IT WAS an emotional and inspiring morning to see thousands of people waving Myanmar national flags, under the February sunshine, welcoming home our bravest and most gentle warriors from the frontline.

On 1 February 2026, the team of Myanmar Agent led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo arrived back at Yangon International Airport at around 9 am. The team's return home was saluted with a big respect and a warm welcome by thousands of Myanmar nationals from different walks of life, enthusiastically, voluntarily and respectfully.

The togetherness of the people in the crowd by singing Myanmar's national anthem while waving the national flags that morning was a perfect match that signals the solidarity of all Myanmar citizens in dealing with the genocide accusation.

Bravest and most gentle warriors with full respect and honour



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing speaking at the Yangon International Airport.

The Agent of Myanmar and the legal team led by Lead Counsel Mr Christopher Staker, including Professor Alina Miron, Mr Stefan Talmon, Ms Chiara Cordone, and Ms Leigh Lawrie represented the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Public Hearings in the Case Concerning the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia versus Myanmar) before the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

They defended not only the truth and justice, as well as the pride and prestige of our country against the accusation of the utmost gravity with their professional skills, honour and unparalleled courage before the ICJ with solid evidence, historical facts and records from 12 to 29 January 2026.

Since the case is extremely significant for Myanmar, the people of Myanmar from various backgrounds are not only closely monitoring the follow-ups and the proceedings but also standing back together with the team.

The Glorious Return



Agent of Myanmar Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President's Office U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo arrived back at Yangon International Airport on 1 February 2026.

The Agent of Myanmar Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and the legal team presented truths and facts of what had really happened in Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017, which the world is not able to deny and refuse, while The Gambia made accusations based on emotions and make-up narratives. Within three weeks, the Gambia failed to present the evidence objectively or failed to

meet the required legal evidentiary standards. What is more, the Gambia insisted on using the self-claimed name for the Bengalis. We, our country and our people respect human rights, but we firmly reject the groundless accusations and demands.

Accordingly, the Agent of Myanmar and Myanmar's Counsels contended, with a very detailed

presentation as per the historical facts, that those populations are culturally, ethnically and religiously part of the same group as the population living immediately across the border in Bangladesh.

Citizenship status

It goes without saying that there are differences and conditions between the statuses of 'National' and 'Citizen' all over

the world. Those who immigrated and lived in a country for a certain period of time, as prescribed by the specific laws, here in Myanmar, after three generations, with no violation nor breaching the laws of the host country, may have the right to naturalize their citizenship. Still, they must obey and abide by the Constitutional provisos and the host country's existing laws.

ARTICLE

By Thet Mon Tun

citizenship. All this has nothing to do with genocide," he added in the hearing.

Argument for the nation's pride

The Gambia unreasonably demanded a guarantee for the citizenship of the Bengalis in the country, which they claim they are being genocided. Such ridiculous and absurd demands made by The Gambia in the hearings are unprofessional and out of reason. The citizenship matter, as a matter of fact, is under Myanmar's supreme authority and thus, The Gambia or any other nation is not even qualified to criticize the 1982 Citizenship Law of Myanmar.

However, Agent of Myanmar Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing calmly explained with respect before the court about verification and scrutiny processes for citizenship statuses of Bengalis. "There are around two hundred thousand Bengalis holding citizenship cards across the country, and fifty thousand Bengalis holding NVCs in Rakhine State alone. Those who apply for an NVC and are found not to be entitled to citizenship can continue to live lawfully in Myanmar as holders of an NVC (National Verification Card)," said U Ko Ko Hlaing in the presentation.

Furthermore, "Despite this, many Bengalis in northern Rakhine State refuse to engage with the NVC process. Some refuse on political grounds. Some refuse because they are pressured by activists not to do so, or have received false information from activists that anyone who applies for an NVC will never be granted

Dr Naing Swe Oo, senior advisor to Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, expressed his view and gratitude to the Myanmar Agent team as follows: -

"The Agent of Myanmar, led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing, argued for the pride of our country. We, all Myanmar citizens, are confident that we did not commit genocide. As a think tank personnel, I also monitored the case and observed that the Gambia only relied on the reports of FFM and IIMM (Fact-Finding Mission and Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar). But the team led by the Union Minister presented very detail in the appeal. I am very proud of and thank the Agent of Myanmar and the legal team."

This article is dedicated to honouring the team of Myanmar Agent led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo, the legal team led by Lead Counsel Mr Christopher Staker, including Professor Alina Miron, Mr Stefan Talmon, Ms Chiara Cordone, and Ms Leigh Lawrie, and every member involved in the teams who defended the truth and justice for; and the pride and prestige of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its people.

The people of Myanmar value and respect every single effort of both the Agent of Myanmar and Myanmar's Counsels as the bravest but the gentlest warriors ever.

Security concerns mount as autonomous AI agents gain traction

According to creator Steinberger, this system enables AI to interact directly with computer interfaces to perform real-world digital tasks.

AUTONOMOUS artificial intelligence (AI) agents are rapidly gaining traction in the tech world, drawing global attention and intensifying concerns over security, governance and misuse. Interest surged after OpenClaw launched Molt-

book on 28 January a Reddit-style social platform designed exclusively for AI bots, where only artificial agents are allowed to post, comment and upvote. Humans can observe but not participate. The platform has quickly grown to more than 1.6 million AI

agents, generating about 185,000 posts and 1.4 million comments, according to the company. The rise of OpenClaw and similar systems took center stage Wednesday at ClawCon, which was described by organizers as the first major community gath-

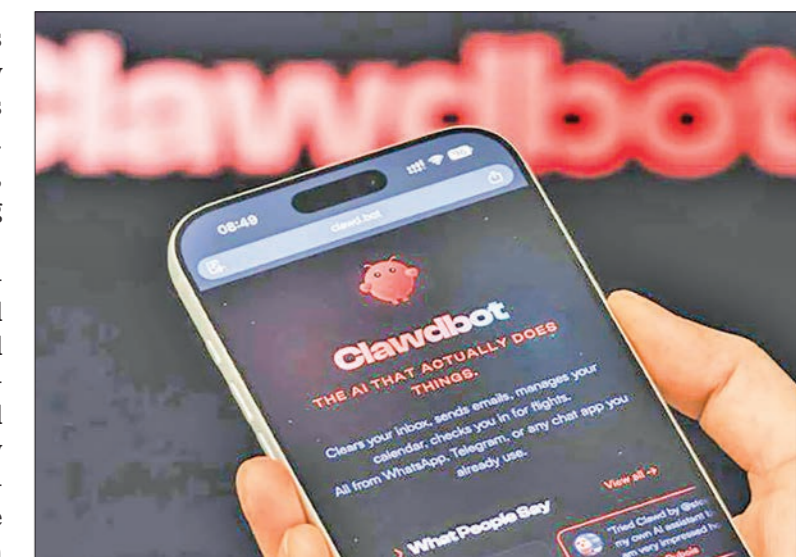
ering for the project, drawing participants from Europe, North America and elsewhere, with the chance to meet OpenClaw's creator, Austrian developer Peter Steinberger. Steinberger, who previously founded document software

company PSPDFKit, said he created OpenClaw in November 2025. The open-source project has since attracted more than 145,000 endorsements on GitHub. Tech leaders have long predicted a shift toward autonomous AI agents. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates

wrote in 2023 that such agents could fundamentally change how people interact with computers and disrupt the software industry. But as enthusiasm grows, security concerns are becoming increasingly prominent.

Taking the stage on Wednesday, Steinberger acknowledged the risks, saying security had become his top priority. He announced the hiring of a dedicated security specialist and said new safeguards aimed at filtering malicious actors, malware and hostile bots would be rolled out within days. The first measures went live on Friday.

SOURCE: Xinhua



OpenClaw is designed to give large language models digital "hands," allowing them to autonomously execute commands, manage files, and use messaging apps like WhatsApp.

DELICACY

Rakhine Mont Ti (A-Pu Hlya-Pu)

This week, we present the preparation of **Rakhine Mont Ti**, also known as **A-Pu Hlya-Pu**, a traditional dish of the Rakhine ethnic people and one of the most beloved foods among Myanmar people. Rakhine Mont Ti can be enjoyed in two styles: **Mont Ti soup (with broth)** and **Mont Ti salad**. It is commonly eaten as a daily snack, breakfast, or light meal in the morning, afternoon, or evening, and is also frequently served at religious donations and ceremonial events.

Ingredients

1. Rice noodles (Mont Ti noodles)
2. Fish of choice (golden carp, snakehead, rohu, or any pre-

- ferred fish)
3. Salt
4. Fish paste
5. Black pepper
6. Garlic
7. Bataegaw (optional)
8. Fried beans or fish cakes
9. Coriander leaves
10. Thinly sliced onions (fried shallots)
11. A-Pu Hlya-Pu chilli paste
12. Tamarind juice or Garcinia (sour fruit) juice (or lime/lemon)

How to Prepare Rakhine Mont Ti Soup

- Clean the selected fish thoroughly and boil for about three to four minutes.
- Set the fish stock aside. Remove bones and skin from the fish, then shape the flesh

into small balls by hand. (Reserve a small portion of the fish for the chilli preparation.)

- Add the required amount of water to the reserved fish stock and bring it to a rolling boil.
- Lightly crush the Bataegaw leaves and roots and add them to the pot at the beginning of boiling.
- Add finely ground black pepper and coarsely crushed garlic into the boiling stock. (Leaving the garlic unpeeled enhances the aroma.)
- Add fish paste in moderation (adjust as needed), salt, and seasoning powder or dried shrimp powder. Cover the pot and simmer for about



ရခိုင်မုန့်တီအရည်

Traditional Myanmar Cuisine



Dishes of Rakhine Mont Ti displayed with various ingredients and taste to attract consumers.

- 15 minutes.
- Add the fish balls and let the soup boil again. Taste and adjust seasoning as desired.
- Once the flavour is balanced, the Mont Ti soup is ready.

How to Prepare A-Pu Hlya-Pu Chilli Paste

Roast a small number of green chillies together with fish paste. Pound them with a little black pepper and garlic until semi-smooth. This chilli paste is ready to be served with Rakhine Mont Ti.

How to Prepare A-Pu Hlya-Pu Chilli Sauce

In a small pot, combine the A-Pu Hlya-

Pu chilli paste, some reserved fish balls, and a small amount of Mont Ti broth. Simmer until well-cooked and slightly thickened. This chilli sauce can be mixed into the Mont Ti soup or used for the Mont Ti salad.

Serving Rakhine Mont Ti

Add rice noodles to hot Mont Ti soup, then top with fried beans or fish cakes, thinly sliced onions (optional), coriander leaves, fried shallots, and tamarind juice. Serve hot and enjoy. As the name **A-Pu Hlya-Pu** suggests, Rakh-

ine Mont Ti salad can be enjoyed with either chilli sauce or chilli paste.

Rakhine Mont Ti Salad

Place a portion of rice noodles in a bowl and add an appropriate amount of A-Pu Hlya-Pu chilli paste or chilli sauce. Season with salt, seasoning powder, and tamarind juice, and mix well. Garnish with coriander leaves, thinly sliced onions, fried shallots, fish cakes, and fried beans before serving.

(For a slightly saucy salad, use the chilli sauce; for a dry-style salad, use the chilli paste.)
– Moon

(Note: Bataegaw - ginger-like root/wild coriander/culantro (*Eryngium foetidum*); A-Pu Hlya-Pu – Rakhine-style spicy fish chilli pastes)



NATIONAL

Security forces retake control of Bamauk

WHILE temporarily occupying and controlling Bamauk and its surrounding areas, the terrorists burned local residents' homes, forcibly seized their belongings, and disrupted government administration. As a result, the residents were forced to flee to temporary IDP camps or abandon their homes, buildings, and possessions. Ad-

ditionally, it was found that during their temporary control of the area around Bamauk, the terrorist groups excessively extracted both surface and underground resources, causing significant environmental damage.

Security forces, organized into military columns, began clearing the area to retake

Bamauk on 24 September 2025. They first regained control of Pinhinkha, Shwekyang, Khopyin, Naungthaya, and Khamoe villages, Towerdaing hillock, and the surrounding areas of Pyu hill, which had been temporarily held by terrorists. On 26 October, they secured strategically important positions approximately 2,000

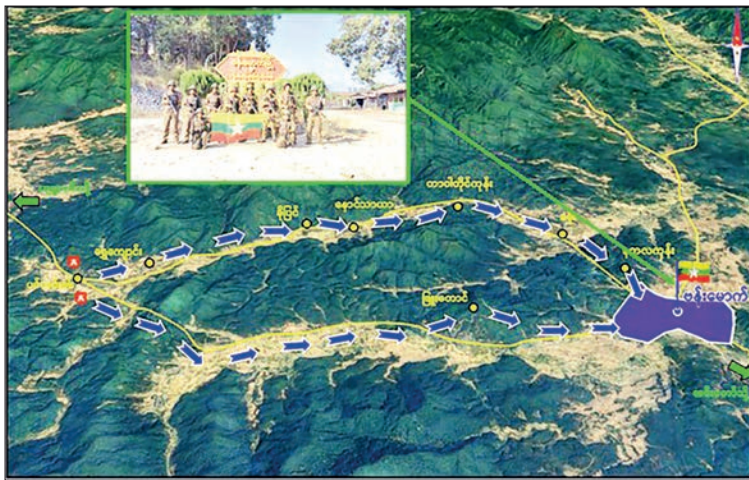
metres west and northwest of Bamauk.

The security forces continued to make necessary preparations and carry out to comb the area step by step, and took full control of Bamauk. Terrorists in Bamauk fortified religious buildings, schools, hospitals, government offices, residential buildings, hotels, and high-rises

with sandbag bunkers, using local residents as human shields to attack security forces, who, following the published Rules of Engagement (ROE), conducted a step-by-step operation lasting more than four months and fully retook control of the town, which had been temporarily under insurgent control, on 8 February.

During the operation, 69 major and minor clashes with terrorists took place, resulting in casualties among some security forces, and the seizure of 27 arms, ammunition, bombs, explosives used in terror activities, and the bodies of terrorists.

Security forces are reportedly working with local residents to help displaced people return to their homes in Bamauk and to clear debris, repair damaged schools, remove landmines, and resume reconstruction in the town damaged by terrorists. — MNA/GNLM



Images show Tatmadaw columns advancing to reclaim Bamauk, which had been temporarily seized by terrorist groups, and Tatmadaw troops at the entrance signage to Bamauk.



Photo shows the areas damage caused by the excessive exploitation of surface and underground resources by terrorist groups in the Bamauk region.

Myanmar Social Rescue Association donates relief supplies to fire-affected homes in Mandalay

IT is reported that the Myanmar Social Rescue Association (Mandalay Regional Office) donated 29 types of consumer goods to 24 families from 16 houses affected by a fire in Mandalay.

The donated items provided to each family included one 16-gallon plastic container, one handled water bucket, nine small towels, two stainless steel drinking cups, three tubes of toothpaste, three bars of laundry soap, three packs of detergent powder, one bottle of shampoo, five rolls of tissue paper, two combs, one mirror, two nail clippers, one sleeping mat, five bars of bathing soap, one pack of five razors, one handled bathing scoop, three plastic basins, one women's longyi, four packs of women's sanitary products, one brassiere, one pair of women's underclothing, one pair of footwear, two clothes-washing brushes, one sports shirt, three sachets of shampoo, one blanket, one



Donation of essential household items to fire-affected homes in Mandalay.

sleeping mat, two soap cases, and five toothbrushes.

The fire broke out at 12:45 pm on 7 February in Myantann Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, affecting residential houses. Upon receiving the report, the Myanmar Social Rescue Association (Mandalay Regional Office) dispatched water tankers with capacities of 2,200 and 3,800

gallons, ambulances, and regional office members to the scene, where they worked together with firefighters to provide assistance.

Those in need of assistance may contact the Myanmar Social Rescue Association (Mandalay Regional Office) by phone at 09767119119 or 09787119119. — Htun Htun/KZL

Plan underway to reinforce nearly 15,000 homes to be against strong winds in 2025-2026



A house damaged by strong winds.

DURING the 2025-2026 financial year, nearly 15,000 houses in eight regions and states will be strengthened and renovated under the strong winds mitigation programme at a cost of approximately K1.1 billion, according to the Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The strengthening and renovation works will be implemented in Taninthayi Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Mon State, Yangon Region, Shan State and Ayeyawady Region. Priority will be given to houses most vulner-

able to strong winds damage in each locality.

From the 2016-2017 financial year to the 2024-2025 financial year, more than 86,000 houses have already been reinforced to withstand strong winds hazards using over K34.5 billion from state funds. In order to reduce losses caused by seasonal disasters, the Disaster Management Department is continuing to carry out public awareness activities, including the dissemination of do's and don'ts, educational programmes, the distribution of pamphlets, and awareness-raising campaigns. — ASH/KNN

NATIONAL

Saltwater shrimp exports forecasted to surpass FY 2025-2026 levels

THE state is continuously developing the fisheries industry, and in the 2024-2025 financial year, Taninthayi Region—Myanmar's top exporter of saltwater fish products—earned US\$303.628 million from seafood exports, including US\$30.562 million from saltwater shrimp, an amount expected to rise this financial year compared with last year, according to the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

In the 2024-2025 financial year, the country exported approximately US\$725 million worth of seafood products, with Taninthayi Region earning US\$303.628 million from raw seafood exports, and increasing the production of finished products could bring greater benefits to both the state and fisheries entrepreneurs.

“Currently, we are exporting Panamei white shrimp to China and Japan, shipping them by sea at US\$5,000 to US\$6,000 per



Saltwater shrimp farms seen in operational. PHOTO: KANU

tonne, depending on the size. Although the shrimp catch at sea has decreased, farming operations are running normally. We export white shrimp to China after boiling and to Japan after freezing because that is how buyers prefer them. Last year, we earned more than US\$30 million from saltwater shrimp

exports, and this year we expect income to increase due to a rise in the number of farmers. We also need to work on increasing overall shrimp production,” said U Thet Soe, Secretary of the Taninthayi Region Fisheries Federation.

Panamei white shrimp are being farmed in the Kawthoung,

Myeik, and Dawei districts. About four million shrimp post-larvae are stocked in a two-and-a-half-acre pond and raised for three months, generating foreign income from the export of both large and small shrimp. In Panamei white shrimp farming, the number of shrimp is usually reduced during the rainy season

due to lower water salinity and increased during the summer when salinity rises.

If the market for Panamei white shrimp, which is exported annually, becomes more open, more farmers will raise and produce larger quantities, and in addition to white shrimp, there will be opportunities to export live lobster and mantis shrimp (*Harpisquilla harpax*), which are also frozen, thereby generating foreign income. Taninthayi Region, the largest exporter of seafood products, could double or even triple its income by producing and exporting finished seafood products. Producing such finished products would also pave the way for developing an international-level fish auction market and industrial zone in Myeik, capable of producing seafood on par with global standards and further increasing annual foreign income. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/TH

Myanmar eyes potential overseas markets for swiftlet bird nest products

THE Myanmar Swiftlet Nest Farming Association will be launched to export swiftlet bird nest products, which are found only in seven Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar.

The Myanmar Swiftlet Nest Farming Association was temporarily established in 2023. Currently, the association has formed a working group to organize and establish a sister organization with the Myanmar Livestock Federation (MLF). Discussions are underway to export edible bird nest products as the number

of bird breeders and edible organic bird nest producers increases.

Swiftlet bird nest products are found only in seven Southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar. The association will promote the swiftlet breeding industry in Myanmar and facilitate knowledge sharing within the sector.

Swiftlet bird breeding was previously concentrated mainly in Myeik and Kawthoung in the Taninthayi Region. However, it is now also being practised in the Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady Regions, as well as

in Rakhine State.

In South-East Asia – primarily Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar – bird nests occur naturally. Typically, swiftlet birds build their nests in rocky caverns. Bird nests are a high-value product and are exported overseas from Myanmar's coastal regions, such as the Myeik Archipelago. In recent years, edible bird nest production has increased, and nests are now being produced through home-based systems in addition to natural caves. — MNA/MKKS



This photo features swiftlet birds, a potential export item. This photo features swiftlet bird.

YSX stock trading values exceed K1.221B in Jan 2026

THE grand trading value of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) topped K1.221 billion in January 2026, indicating a significant increase compared to that of the corresponding period, according to YSX's monthly report.

“Over 380,000 shares were traded on the exchange in January 2026, up from over 160,000 shares valued at K513 million registered in January 2025. The stock trading value this year soars compared to that of the same period last year, showing a gap of K707.464 million,” said an official of the YSX.

The stock trading in 2025 amounted to K7.173 billion, showing a drastic drop of over K6 billion compared to the overall trading value recorded in 2024

(K13.959 billion).

Some market observers predict a stock market rebound in 2026.

At present, shares of eight listed companies: First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA), and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the security market (main board). Myanma Agricultural & General Development Public Co Ltd and GBS Agricultural Services Public Co Ltd are registered companies on the Pre-Listing Board. — ASH/KK

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Over 140M train tickets sold for Spring Festival travel rush

CHINA'S railway ticketing platform 12306 had sold a total of 140 million train tickets for the ongoing Spring Festival travel rush as of 8 am Saturday, according to the country's railway operator. The national railway network handled 12.845 million passenger trips on Friday, marking the fifth consecutive day that daily passenger trips topped 10 million, China State Railway Group Co, Ltd said on Saturday. For Saturday, railways nationwide are forecast to transport 13.8 million passenger trips, with 1,249 extra passenger trains scheduled to meet travel demand, according to the company. Railway authorities across the country are closely tracking passenger flows during the peak season and conducting dynamic big data analysis, ramping up transport capacity on popular routes and improving services to ensure smooth journeys for passengers. — Xinhua

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Myanma Port Authority

Invitation to Open Tender (Retender) for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Dawei River

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of the Dawei River (Tavoy River) in Tanintharyi Region and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water depth and disrupts the port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to reinvoke both international and local companies to submit.

2. Unlike a commercial dredging, this dredging work needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present their qualification in the terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV company with a local company or to have a branch office in Myanmar or to register in Myanmar if awarded.)

3. Therefore, any interested companies (both local and international) that meet the above mentioned technical and financial requirements are invited to enter the tender. The detailed tender information are as follow:

- (a) Address to purchase Tender Forms - Myanma Port Authority, Store Department, Near by Botataung Pagoda, Botataung, Yangon.
- (b) Date & Time to purchase - 11-2-2026 to 6-3-2026, Office Hour
- (c) Tender submission address and Date & Time - Myanma Port Authority Head Office - 10-3-2026 by 1300 hours

4. For further details, please contact the following numbers:
- 01-246380, 09-444714377

**Myanma Port Authority
Tender Committee**

Ministry of Transport and Communications

Myanma Port Authority

Invitation to Open Tender (Retender) for Dredging and Waterway Improvement of Thanlwin River (Darebauk)

1. The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) is planning to award the contract for **dredging** across the waterway of Bilu Island North Channel, Thanlwin River (Darebauk) in the Mon State, and for **sand export**, in order to improve the waterway and navigation channel as the sedimentation causes shallow water depth and disrupts the port operation. MPA, in this regard, would like to reinvoke both international and local companies to submit.

2. Unlike a commercial dredging, this dredging work needs to ensure a) not to incur any damage to the environment and ecosystem, by dredging at the specific shallow-water areas designated by the MPA to reach the targeted water-depth, b) not to disrupt the socio-economic conditions of the local people, and c) to assist and support to local development works and local needs if necessary. And thus, the potential bidders must present their qualification in the terms of work- and technical experience, and the strength of expert team and equipment as well as strong financial capability. (International companies may need to form a JV company with a local company or to have a branch office in Myanmar or to register in Myanmar if awarded.)

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- 01-246380, 09-444714377

**Myanma Port Authority
Tender Committee**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (161N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (161N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-2-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3601S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3601S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-2-2026** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2602S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2602S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-2-2026** 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

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD



People form a queue in the snow outside a polling station in Sapporo to vote for the House of Representatives election on 8 February 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Japan's ruling LDP certain to win lower house majority: exit polls

Takaichi, Japan's first female prime minister, vows resignation if coalition loses majority in lower chamber elections.

JAPAN'S Liberal Democratic Party led by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is set to win a majority in the House of Representatives after Sunday's election, according to Kyodo News exit polls, clearing the way for her to stay on. The LDP, which has formed a coalition with the Japan Innovation Party, is poised to win at least 233 seats in the 465-member lower house, up from the 198 it had before the

contest, according to the polls.

The ruling camp is projected to secure 261 seats in the powerful chamber, clearing a key hurdle to pursue its legislative agenda. The main opposition party, the Centrist Reform Alliance, formed in January by uniting lower house members of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and the Komeito party, is set to lose a significant number of seats, the

polls showed. Polling stations across the nation closed at 8 pm, with snowfall in wide areas, including Tokyo, feared to have affected voter turnout. Takaichi, who has maintained high popularity since becoming Japan's first female prime minister last October, has pledged to "immediately resign" as Japan's leader if the coalition fails to secure a majority in the powerful lower chamber. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian investigators looking into assassination attempt on Gen Alexeyev

RUSSIAN investigators are conducting searches to establish the circumstances of the Friday assassination attempt on Lt Gen Vladimir Alexeyev, the Russian Investigative Committee spokeswoman told Sputnik on Sunday.

"Investigative actions and searches are continuing to establish all the circumstances of the crime and identify its organizers," Svetlana Petrenko said.

More than 15 forensic examinations have been planned as part of the probe, including molecular genetics testing and fingerprint examinations, Petrenko said.

"More than 15 forensic examinations have been scheduled, including genetic testing, fingerprinting, trace evidence examination, molecular genetic testing, physical and chemical testing, and a number of others," she said.

According to the Russian Investigative Committee, a gunman shot at Alexeyev, first deputy chief of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, in a residential building in Moscow on 6 February. The general was hospitalized. A criminal investigation has been opened on suspicion of attempted murder and firearms trafficking. — SPUTNIK

Greek Defence Minister says Indian subcontinent ideal for Europe migration

GREEK Defence Minister Nikos Dendias on Saturday said the Indian subcontinent could emerge as one of the most suitable partners for legal migration to Europe, citing the continent's ageing population and near-negative population growth.

Speaking at the India-EU Forum 2026, Dendias said migration was a global, long-standing phenomenon that would continue, but stressed that Europe must develop a balanced, structured migration framework.

"Migration is a world phenomenon. It was part of what was happening in the world in the past, and it will remain in the future," he said.

Highlighting Europe's demographic challenges, Dendias said population growth across the continent was "almost negative," creating a growing need for young workers.

"As you know, population growth in Europe is almost negative, so it is clear that we need young people to fill the vacuum. I think the subcontinent, with its current population structure, could be one of the best choices for legal migration," he said. — ANI

AI tools fabricate Epstein images 'in seconds,' study says

AI tools can easily fabricate convincing images of Jeffrey Epstein with world leaders, a study showed Thursday, following a surge of manipulated photos falsely linking prominent politicians to the convicted sex offender. Social media users have amplified AI-generated images purporting to show the convicted sex offender socializing with pol-

iticians such as New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani and his mother, award-winning filmmaker Mira Nair, AFP's fact-checkers have previously reported.

In a new study, US disinformation watchdog NewsGuard prompted three leading image generators to create photos of Epstein with five politicians including President Donald Trump,

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and French President Emmanuel Macron. Grok Imagine, a tool developed by Elon Musk's xAI, produced "convincing fakes in seconds" with all five, the study said. That included a fake but lifelike image purporting to show a younger Trump and Epstein surrounded by young girls. — AFP



An AI-generated image circulating online purports to show New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani as a child with his mother, director Mira Nair, disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein and Epstein associate Ghislaine Maxwell, alongside Amazon Chair Jeff Bezos, billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates and former US President Bill Clinton, in this undated illustration. **PHOTO: X/@REALALEXJONES**

SPORTS

Yangon Universities Boat Club holds rowing competition



University students take part in rowing competition to mark the 102nd anniversary of Yangon Universities boat club at Inya Lake.

THE rowing competition to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of Yangon Universities Boat Club takes place at Inya

Lake in Yangon. A total of 170 student rowers from the Yangon University, the University of Foreign Languages, the

University of Education, the University of Economics, the National Management Degree College and the Technological

University are participating in the competition.

The group stages of the competition are being held from

7 to 9 February, with the finals on the morning of 12 February.

— MNA/KZL

Lollobrigida skates to first Italian gold of Winter Olympics on her birthday

SPEED skater Francesca Lollobrigida won an emotional first gold medal for host nation Italy on her 35th birthday at the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics on Saturday.

Lollobrigida secured the title by smashing the Olympic record in the women's 3,000 metres event, clocking 3min 54.28sec at the Milano Speed Skating Stadium.

Once her victory was confirmed when the last two racers failed to better her time, the Italian sprinted off the ice to gather her young son Tommaso in her arms after a volunteer had sprinted the length of the arena to deliver him to her.

Silver went to Ragne Wiklund of Norway and Canada's Valerie Maltais took bronze.

Lollobrigida, who is distantly related to the late Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida, had



Francesca Lollobrigida celebrates Italy's first gold medal of the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics with her son Tommaso. PHOTO: AFP

previously won a silver and a bronze medal at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and has said Milan-Cortina will be her final Games. — AFP

Hojlund the hero as Napoli snatch late win at Genoa

RASMUS Hojlund's penalty deep into added-on time snatched a 3-2 victory at Genoa on Saturday and kept champions Napoli hanging on in the Serie A title race.

Denmark forward Hojlund scored a brace, taking his record for the season to eight league goals in 20 matches, while fellow former Manchester

United player Scott McTominay also found the net at the Luigi Ferraris stadium in northwestern Italy.

Victory ensured that Antonio Conte's injury-hit team remain in third and their second win in a row closed the gap to leaders Inter Milan, who play away to Sassuolo on Sunday, to six points.

Genoa had taken a third-minute lead when Ukrainian Ruslan Malinovskyi scored from the spot.

Two goals in less than two minutes turned the game on its head as Hojlund grabbed his first before Scotland midfielder McTominay put the Neapolitans in front midway through the first half. — AFP



American Breezy Johnson. PHOTO: AFP

Breezy Johnson wins Olympic downhill gold, Vonn crashes out

BREEZY Johnson won the gold medal in the alpine skiing downhill at the Winter Olympics on Sunday after Lindsey Vonn's comeback ended with a horror crash.

American Johnson, already the reigning downhill world champion, clocked 1min 36.10sec in an early run to claim her first Olympic medal on a bittersweet day for the US team in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Johnson had never claimed a podium spot in Cortina before Sunday but outshone the rest of the field from sixth on the starting list, pipping Germany's rising star Emma Aicher by just 0.04sec.

Home hope Sofia Goggia had to settle for bronze after finishing 0.59sec behind Johnson following a long wait for her run due to Vonn's dreadful crash. — AFP

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India-Malaysia deepen strategic partnership, expand defence, tech and trade ties

INDIA and Malaysia on Sunday resolved to infuse fresh momentum into their strategic partnership, significantly broadening defence and security collaboration while pushing forward joint initiatives in high-priority emerging sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence and digital payments.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described this renewed engagement as bringing “new speed and depth” to bilateral relations during his first foreign visit of 2026. Speaking at a joint press conference with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, PM Modi announced that both countries had committed to advancing their partnership in an exceptional manner; building on the steady expansion of cooperation in energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and technology.

A central element of the discussions centred on security, with both leaders agreeing to reinforce cooperation in counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing and maritime security to tackle shared concerns in the Indo-Pacific. PM Modi emphasised that defence ties would be expanded to contribute more effectively to regional stability. PM Modi stressed strengthening security ties, focusing on counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and maritime safety. Beyond security, the two sides pledged to deepen collaboration in semiconductors, health and food security, alongside continued progress in AI and digital technologies. — ANI

India and Malaysia have pledged to accelerate their strategic partnership with a focus on enhancing defence, security, and emerging technologies like AI and semiconductors.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) and Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim attend an Indian Community event in Seri Kembangan on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur on 7 February 2026. PHOTO: AZNEAL ISHAK / POOL/AFP

Thailand's House of Representatives election kicks off



A pedestrian walks past a campaign poster of the Democrat Party's prime ministerial candidate Abhisit Vejjajiva (R) on the eve of Thailand's general election in Bangkok on 7 February 2026. PHOTO: AMAURY PAUL/AFP

THAILAND'S House of Representatives election started at 8 am local time on Sunday. About 50 million eligible voters went to polling stations across the Southeast Asian country to elect a total of 500 members of the House of Representatives. In this election, all voters will receive three separate ballots. The green one is for the local candidate by constituency, while the pink one is for the party-list. Voters will also be given a third yellow ballot for a national referendum on whether to proceed with the drafting of a new constitution.

Under Thai law, out of the 500 seats available in Thailand's House of Representatives, 400 seats will be elected in constituencies across the country, with the remaining 100 allocated to political parties on a proportional basis. — Xinhua

White House hosts Board of Peace summit: 19 February

THE White House is planning a leaders' meeting for the Board of Peace on 19 February US media outlet Axios reported Saturday.

“It will be the first Board of Peace meeting and a fundraising conference for Gaza reconstruction,” an anonymous US official was quoted as saying.

The meeting is planned to be held at the US Institute of Peace, and the Donald Trump administration began reaching out to dozens of countries on Friday to invite their leaders, Axios reported. — Xinhua