

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.



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses the inauguration occasion of the Youth Peace Forum 2026 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Space for Youth in Emerging Political Landscape

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the Youth Peace Forum

1. Differences should be set aside temporarily while dialogue continues, and areas of agreement should be jointly implemented.
2. Only by building a practical, successful, and durable peace can the country's development and the well-being of the people be properly advanced.
3. It is necessary to prioritize and actively support the education of ethnic communities to ensure their access to quality learning.
4. Since the youth will create the future of the State, producing disciplined young people who are well-educated and skilled is, in effect, building the nation's future.

Concerted efforts combining the active participation of youth with the experience of elders are essential to advancing national peace and development.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that for national development to take place, armed conflicts must be halted, and political problems must be resolved through political means.

The Youth Peace Forum 2026 commenced at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, with an address by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who also chairs the National Solidarity and

Peacemaking Central Committee.

The Senior General and party were warmly welcomed by ethnic youths.

Vice-Chairman of the Commission Vice-Senior General Soe Win and eight ethnic youths cut the ribbon to open the forum.

The Senior General inaugurated the Youth Peace Forum 2026 and attached a prayer letter for peace to the peace tree.

The Senior General and the party visited the booths of the exhibition to mark the forum.

At the opening ceremony, all attend-

ees saluted the State flag. Next, a video clip on encouraging youths to join the peace and nation-building endeavours was screened.

On the occasion, the Senior General delivered a speech. He said: If there is a shared commitment to building a Union based on democracy and a federal system, the State has always welcomed and invited armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold, prioritizing the interests of the Union. We also wish to reiterate that such offers and invitations continue to be extended.

SEE PAGE 3

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.

Notification 1/2026

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

- Bhaddanta Nandacariya, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Pulaung Village, Pekhon Township, Shan State
- Bhaddanta Vasava, Nawnglyan Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Nawnglyan Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State
- Bhaddanta Vijaya, Dhamma Linkara Monastery, Taphukaing Village, Hopong Township, Shan State
- Bhaddanta Aggadhamma, Wailuwun Monastery, Ward 5, Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Candobhasa, Dhammawadi Monastery, Magyeetan Village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Jagara, Myitta Gonyi Monastery, Kangalay Village, Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Suriya, Mingala KanU Monastery, Aung San Ward, Kyonpyaw, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Pandava, Mingala KanU Monastery, Kyonkadun Village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Vitinna, Balathukha Monastery, Kyetphamwayzaung Village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Kosalla, Nyeinaye Chantha Monastery, Kawenyaungchaung Village, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Jeyacinna, Setyon Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Setpaing Ward, Ela, Nay Pyi Taw
- Bhaddanta Jotika, Shwelinpin Manijota Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Hmantan Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Uttamasara, Eikhtakayama Monastery, Boenet Village, Chaungzon Township, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Nanika, Pwintlan Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Paywetseikkon Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Vimala, Mogok Yeiktha, Mula Kaba Aye Monastery, Yedashe Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Kesara, Migadawon Meditation Monastery, Shwe Hninzi Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Viriya, The-in-gu Yadana Manaungkyauung Yeiktha, Ward 15, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Nanissara, Phayagyi Aungdhamma Yeiktha, Ward 2, Kayan Township, Yangon Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Suriya, Maha Thuriyayama Pyinnyayaung Monastery, Dayebo Village, Hlegu Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Nandiya, Seiktathukha Monastery, Kammanta Village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Sujata, Waso Mahasi Sasana Yeikha, Ward 3, Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Vigata, Setyon Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Kyonmangay, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient nuns

- Nun Daw Nandasiri, Thukhitayon Nunnery, Pyitawtha Ward, Haka, Chin State
- Nun Daw Jeyasingi, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Nunnery, Aungmingala Ward, Leshi, Sagaing Region
- Nun Daw Singicanda, Theingi Sanda Linyaungphya Nunnery, Myayne Village, Monywa Township, Sagaing Region

Title recipient laypersons

- U Thein Tun, No 7/162, Sanmyo Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
- U Myint Aung, Hsitaw Village, Mindon Township, Magway Region
- U Khin Maung Nyo, Htonton 2/92, between 52nd and 53rd streets, Htonton Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
- U Myint Oo (a) U Myat Thu, No 20, Zalun Street, North Linlun Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
- Daw Thein Thein Oo, Thadayon Road, No 2/North Ward, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region
- Daw Ohnma Myint, No 30/A, 1st Aungzeya Street, Yangonthit Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
- Daw Pyone Kyi, No 22/A, 3rd Nanmyaing Street, Ward 7, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region

Aggamaha Kammathanacariya Title

- Dr Bhaddanta Karuñadhipati, Sangha Gonyi Ponnyawady Seintalone Tawya Paticcasamuppada Training Monastery, Lawpita Model Village, Loikaw Township, Kayah State
- Bhaddanta Nandapala, Sasanahita Myoma Monastery, Khamti, Sagaing Region
- Bhaddanta Tejananda, Yadanagonyi Yeiktha, Shwepay Village, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Aggavara, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha, Yon Ward, Pyu, Bago Region
- Bhaddanta Nandasiri (a) Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Pantitayama Shwetaunggon Sasana Yeiktha, Myaynigon Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Medhankarananda, Sutaungpyae Monastery, Taunglonpyan Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Jayadisa, Naya Monastery, Mogok Dhamma Maggin Yeiktha, Theinbyu Railway Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Paññacara, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Sayaygon Ward, Wakema, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Aggadha, Santisukha Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 2, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region

Maha Kammathanacariya Title

- Bhaddanta Kesava, Aungmingala Monastery, Vipassana Centre, Aungmingala Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
- Bhaddanta Aggobhasa, Mahayadana Thaikchaung TatU Monastery, Thaikchaung

- Village, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
- Bhaddanta Jeyacinna, Setyon Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Setpaing Ward, Ela, Nay Pyi Taw
- Bhaddanta Jotika, Shwelinpin Manijota Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Hmantan Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Uttamasara, Eikhtakayama Monastery, Boenet Village, Chaungzon Township, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Nanika, Pwintlan Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Paywetseikkon Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Vimala, Mogok Yeiktha, Mula Kaba Aye Monastery, Yedashe Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Kesara, Migadawon Meditation Monastery, Shwe Hninzi Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Viriya, The-in-gu Yadana Manaungkyauung Yeiktha, Ward 15, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Nanissara, Phayagyi Aungdhamma Yeiktha, Ward 2, Kayan Township, Yangon Region
- Dr Bhaddanta Suriya, Maha Thuriyayama Pyinnyayaung Monastery, Dayebo Village, Hlegu Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Nandiya, Seiktathukha Monastery, Kammanta Village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Sujata, Waso Mahasi Sasana Yeikha, Ward 3, Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Region
- Bhaddanta Vigata, Setyon Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Kyonmangay, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws abroad

- Bhaddanta Paramananda, Pyinnya Parami Library Monastery, No 1789, Sukhumvit 66/1 Street, Bangkok, Thailand

Kammathanacariya Title

- Bhaddanta Dhammadassi, Theravada Bodhiyeiktha Monastery, Ward 5, Myawady, Kayin State
- Bhaddanta Paramañña, Dhammacakka Mogok Yeiktha Monastery, Mingun Hills, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region
- Bhaddanta Nandima, Mogok Vipassana Kelasa Shwe Monastery, Mokkahamu and Kayinsu Village, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region
- Bhaddanta Paññasiri, Chaungkan Mogok Vipassana Dhammayeiktha Monastery, Alalchaungkan Village, Zigon Township, Bago Region
- Bhaddanta Sumana, Hmansi Monastery, Pyinmabin Ward, Shwegyin, Bago Region
- Bhaddanta Maghinda, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 1, Minbu, Magway Region
- Bhaddanta Nandiya, Yadanayama Tasoe Monastery, Tasoe Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Kovida, Yadana Linkara Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha, Myothagon Village, Singaing Township, Mandalay Region
- Bhaddanta Jotika, Theravada Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha, Taungpaw Monastery, Chaungtaung Village, Ye Township, Mon State
- Bhaddanta Sujata, Mogok Vipassana Branch 236, Nyeinaye Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Kaya Ward, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Tikkhadhaja, Kyeintaung Shweyinaye Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Kya-in Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
- Bhaddanta Suriya, Thukhawatha Maggathitsa Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha Branch 730 Monastery, Mingala Ward, Shwenyaung, Shan State

Aggamaha Thirithudhamma Manijotadhara Title

- U Kyaw Soe Win (a) U Khant Sithu, 70 (La/1), Ngwe Wuthmone Avenue, Shwetaungkya Ward 1, Bahan Township, Yangon Region

Aggamaha Thirithudhamma Theingi Title

- Dr Htay Htay Khaing, 138, Block 706, 75th Street, between 32nd and 33rd streets, Mawragiwa Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
- Daw Htay Htay Win, No C-506, Kanbe Tower, Kange Station Road, Ward 11, Yankin Township, Yangon Region

TO BE CONTINUED

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)

Space for Youth in Emerging Political Landscape

FROM PAGE 1

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is what enabled the emergence of a method for resolving internal conflicts through political means rather than military action. However, due to some groups turning a blind eye to the truth, showing insufficient political will to address the root causes of the conflict, and prioritizing only their own organizations and interests, the NCA process did not advance as far as it should have. Therefore, it is also important that the NCA agreements already reached are not merely left at the agreement stage, but are practically applied and implemented.

Peace can only be achieved through meetings, dialogue, and the search for solutions. Therefore, in carrying out peace efforts, rather than merely stating what one wishes to happen, it is necessary to focus on what should happen and work together in a coordinated and united manner on what is feasible.

Differences should be set aside temporarily while dialogue continues, and areas of agreement should be jointly implemented. We wish to emphasize that only by building a practical, successful, and durable peace can the country's development and the well-being of the people be properly advanced.

It is widely recognized that, as a consequence of armed conflicts, weaknesses have emerged in the education, health, and economic sectors. Therefore, we must continue to make sustained efforts to achieve enduring peace throughout the entire country.

For national development to take place, armed conflicts must be halted, and political problems must be resolved through political means. However, under the current circumstances, armed conflicts continue to escalate, and as a result, peace processes are unable to move forward and face numerous obstacles. Therefore, for the peace process to advance, we must implement a peace process that actively involves the participation of the people.

To ensure peace and development, efforts are being made to ensure that the new generation of youth can enjoy full opportunities and that a system is



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explores the exhibits at yesterday's event.

established in which they can develop freely and securely, with comprehensive initiatives in place to promote all-around youth development.

It is necessary to nurture the new generation of students and young people, who will lead and shape the future of the nation, to develop love for the country and their ethnic heritage, and to become individuals with strong beliefs and good principles. Since the youth will create the future of the State, producing disciplined young people who are well-educated and skilled is, in effect, building the nation's future.

In the peace sector, which is currently one of the most essential areas for the State, it is the responsibility of young people themselves to actively participate and cooperate, so that they can leave a legacy of peace for future generations.

Youth aged between 15 and 35 make up approximately one-third of the country's population, accounting for about 33 per cent. Therefore, the correct thinking, feelings, beliefs, and attitudes of young people are essential for the nation, and they constitute a key force in achieving durable and sustainable peace.

In his speech, the Senior General continued that youth are defined as individuals aged between 15 and 35. Those aged 15 to 25 are generally still pursuing their education, while those aged 25 to 35 are mostly working, standing on their own with the knowledge and skills they have acquired. In the future, the role of young people must be strengthened, and they should be able to actively participate in peace processes.

Without formal education, individuals lack skills, and the development of human resources is limited. Deficiency in knowledge also results in fewer good and capable people, which can harm national unity. Therefore, the Union of Myanmar must have an increasing number of educated youth. Accordingly, young people should make it a habit to read and study books continuously to expand their knowledge.

Since Myanmar is organized as a Union, there are also demands for federal rights. However, due to differences across regions, these federal rights are not uniform, and the demands for federal rights are also inconsistent. This situation has been observed to result from a lack of educated individuals.

Therefore, it is necessary to prioritize and actively support the education of ethnic communities to ensure their access to quality learning.

Concerted efforts through active movement of youth and the experience of the elders must contribute to peace and the development of the nation. Similarly, those in positions of responsibility should support and uplift the youth. Even during the current elections, young people are participating as Hluttaw representatives. The time has come to provide space for youth in the upcoming political landscape.

If education is promoted in underdeveloped regions and the energy of young people, the experience of elders, and the support provided by the State are combined in implementing initiatives, regional development can be achieved, and this will also contribute to fostering peace within those regions.

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman and Union Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae presented the gifts to mark the forum to the Senior General.

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.

Space for Youth in Emerging Political Landscape

FROM PAGE 3

On behalf of the youths, Maung Htet Myat Thu from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Ma Shoon Myat Moe Kyaw from Mandalay Region spoke words of commemoration.

Artistes from the Fine Arts Department and MRTV, and external artistes performed dance and song entertainment. The Senior General presented the flower basket and K50 million as cash awards to the artistes.

Also, present at the ceremony were Commission member Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, Secretary of the Commission General Ye Win Oo, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, members of the NSPNC, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, social affairs ministers from regions and states, participants in the peacemaking process, intellectuals and intelligentsia, diplomats, departmental

officials, youth delegates, university students and observers.

The forum will be held from 13 to 15 January with the following objectives: to highlight the importance of actions taken by youth in peacemaking and social stability; to provide a constructive environment where all citizens can engage in dialogue and find solutions on relevant issues and attitudes while creating opportunities for young people; to support reciprocal communication and cooperation in peaceful

communities; to identify the practical roles of youth in the post-election period; to strengthen youth capabilities in dialogue, participation, and responsible action; and to encourage proposals from youth that can support long-term sustainable peace, national reconciliation, and future social development planning. The proposals emerging from the forum will be collected and compiled into a declaration on youth and peace to contribute to the future nation-building process. — MNA/TTA

MoD Union Minister receives Belarusian Ministry of Defence delegation



Head of the Department of International Military Cooperation and Assistant to the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Belarus Maj-Gen Valeriy Aleksandrovich Revenko calls on Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye yesterday.

UNION Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye received Maj-Gen Valeriy Aleksandrovich Revenko, Head of the Department of International Military Cooperation and Assistant to the Minister of Defence of the

Republic of Belarus, at the Ministry of Defence yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they exchanged views in a friendly and open manner on ways to further enhance defence cooperation between the two ministries,

as well as on issues related to military technology and training cooperation between the two armed forces.

The meeting was also attended by officials from the Ministry of Defence. — MNA/TH

Oral hearing against Myanmar starts

THE oral hearing concerning the case between The Gambia and Myanmar is being held from 1 to 29 January at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

On the first day of the hearing on 12 January, the proceedings started at 10

am local time with the attendance of the president of the court, the vice-president, ten judges, and two judges appointed by the two parties.

During the hearing, the president of the Court delivered the opening remark, after which the Agent of The Gambia, the

Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice, put forward an explanation. The lawyers of The Gambia made the first round of pleadings. The first-round pleadings by The Gambia continued from 3 pm to 6 pm local standard time on 13 January. — ICJ press/KTZH



The oral hearing in the case between The Gambia and Myanmar took place yesterday at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

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)



PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

Myanmar appears at the International Court of Justice - The Gambia versus Myanmar

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar is appearing before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the merits hearing of “The Gambia versus Myanmar”, showing thus its respect for international law and the judicial role of the Court.

Being a responsible member of the international community and a State party to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Myanmar has maintained a sincere intention to cooperate with the Court in good faith since the initiation of this case in November 2019. Myanmar has participated in all stages of the proceedings, following every order of the court and engaging constructively with the judicial process. Myanmar has also taken steps

to fully comply with the provisional measures indicated by the Court and has submitted periodic reports as required.

These proceedings are of the utmost importance for Myanmar, which has been accused of one of the gravest violations of international law. It is the duty of the Government to defend the honour of the country and its people and to show to the Court and to the world that biased reports, based on unreliable evidence, cannot make up for truth. Myanmar places its confidence in the wisdom, independence, and impartiality of the International Court of Justice.

We trust the Court will assess the evidence fairly and objectively, and reach its judgment based on fact and settled

law strictly within the legal framework of the Genocide Convention. Starting this Friday, 16 January 2026 – after The Gambia’s first round presentation – Myanmar will present to the Court the many reasons why the allegations made by The Gambia are flawed and unfounded in fact and law. During the proceedings, Myanmar will refrain from arguing the case in public outside the Court, in particular before the international media. While expectations are high, it is important to protect the integrity of the judicial proceedings from any outside pressure or interference.

In parallel with this Court process, the Government of Myanmar is discharging its state responsibilities and du-

ties by continuing to cooperate with Bangladesh and other international partners on humanitarian and displacement-related issues in northern Rakhine State. It will continue to do so, despite the difficult situation in northern Rakhine State.

In this context, Myanmar is committed to achieving the repatriation of the persons who were displaced from Rakhine State and are currently living in camps in Bangladesh. A bilateral agreement with Bangladesh was concluded for that purpose. Myanmar has also held discussions with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on matters relating to the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State, including cooperation under the tripartite Memorandum

of Understanding with UNDP and UNHCR, and practical arrangements to facilitate safe, voluntary, and dignified returns where conditions permit.

Myanmar reiterates that the “The Gambia versus Myanmar” case before the International Court of Justice is a State-to-State legal process concerning the application and interpretation of an international treaty, the Genocide Convention, and is not a forum for political accusations. Myanmar will address the allegations before the Court in a systematic, factual, and legal manner. Myanmar remains committed to engaging with the Court respectfully and in good faith, and to upholding the rule of law in the international legal order.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank affirms country’s commitment to truth and justice at ICJ

THE Myanmar Narrative Think Tank released a statement on Myanmar’s commitment to truth and justice at the International Court of Justice on 12 January.

The statement reads, following the recent national elections, Myanmar is going to enter a pivotal new chapter and is at the threshold of commencing the implementation of nation-building initiatives. To successfully estab-

lish this new state, the constructive support and encouragement of the international community are vital. In this context, the ongoing proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are of profound national importance, as they concern all Myanmar citizens whom the State represents on the global stage.

Myanmar maintains a steadfast tradition of peaceful co-

existence and friendly relations with its neighbouring nations. Regarding the case brought by The Gambia, a high-level Myanmar delegation, led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the Office of the President, and Dr Thida Oo, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General, has departed from Yangon for The Hague, Netherlands. They will

represent the nation by standing firmly on the side of justice and truth.

The submissions presented by the delegation to the ICJ align perfectly with the aspirations of the Myanmar people, who deeply cherish peace, stability, and the truth. We fully support their efforts to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the nation through these legal channels.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank expresses its sincere hope that the honourable judges of the ICJ will uphold their noble judicial integrity and analyze the facts of the case impartially and without prejudice. A fair and objective assessment of the facts is vital for a resolution that respects both international law and the reality of the situation on the ground. — MNA/KTZH

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



09 454237515, 09 255597511

NATIONAL

Villages and wards urged to create Green Zones with tree planting

❖ “Planting trees is a vital measure to reduce heat and improve the local climate. Each village or ward should cultivate at least two acres of trees in their surroundings to establish Green Zones.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by State Administration Council Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with district and township-level officials, town elders, and MSME businesspeople from Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, on 10 July 2025)



Myanmar Narrative

Address: No. 22-24, First Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Division
Email: myannarrative@gmail.com Phone: 095004872

Press Statement: Myanmar's Commitment to Truth and Justice at the International Court of Justice

12 January 2026

FOLLOWING the recent national elections, Myanmar has entered a pivotal new chapter and is at the threshold of commencing the implementation of nation-building initiatives. To successfully establish this new state, the constructive support and encouragement of the international community are vital. In this context, the ongoing proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are of profound national importance, as they concern all Myanmar citizens whom the State represents on the global stage.

Myanmar maintains a steadfast tradition of peaceful coexistence and friendly relations with its neighbouring nations. Regarding the case brought by The Gambia, a high-level Myanmar delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the Office of the President, and Dr Thida Oo, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General, has departed from Yangon for The Hague, Netherlands. They are representing the nation by standing firmly on the side of justice and truth.

The submissions presented by the delegation to the ICJ align perfectly with the aspirations of the Myanmar people, who deeply cherish peace, stability, and the truth. We fully support their efforts to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the nation through these legal channels.

The Myanmar Narrative Think Tank expresses its sincere hope that the honourable judges of the ICJ will uphold their noble judicial integrity and analyze the facts of the case impartially and without prejudice. A fair and objective assessment of the facts is vital for a resolution that respects both international law and the reality of the situation on the ground.

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank



Myanmar Press Council

Statement 1/2026

13 January 2026

1. A Myanmar delegation led by U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the Office of the President, and Dr Thida Oo, Union Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General, is exerting efforts for justice and truth at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands.
2. The ICJ case is not a simple case for Myanmar, but a national issue that concerns the dignity, sovereignty and national interests of the country. It is just a case that Myanmar has not committed, which is being falsely accused, and false information that is inconsistent with the real facts is being used to mislead the international community. The honourable judges of the ICJ will uphold their noble judicial integrity and analyze the facts of the case impartially and without prejudice.
3. As the case concerns the dignity, sovereignty and national interests of the country, it is a matter for the entire nation. We issue this statement, indicating that we firmly stand with the Myanmar delegation, which stays put on the side of truth and justice for the country.

Myanmar Press Council

MoC Union Minister meets Pakistani Ambassador



The Pakistani ambassador calls on Union Minister U Myo Thant yesterday.

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant received Pakistan's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tariq Karim yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged open and

constructive views on measures to further strengthen the friendship between Myanmar and Pakistan, promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and improve the social and economic

lives of the people. Discussions focused on areas of collaboration such as infrastructure projects, including roads and bridges, urban and housing development, infrastructure investment, engineering-related technology exchanges, and the provision of technical assistance.

Both sides emphasized close cooperation in these matters to ensure the effective implementation of joint initiatives.

Union Minister U Myo Thant was accompanied by responsible officials from the Ministry of Construction, and officials from the Pakistan Embassy in Myanmar also attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS

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

Advertise
with us/

Hotline:



09 2555 97511
09 4542 37515

NATIONAL

Youth Peace Forum 2026 kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Youth Peace Forum, themed “Promoting Youth Participation in Peace and Nation-Building” took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, State Security and Peace Commission Member, National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Chairman and Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae stated that the youths attending the Youth Peace Forum 2026 have now been able to integrate peace with their real lives, responsibilities, and aspirations for the future. He added that the forum’s theme is “Promoting Youth Participation in Peace and Nation-Building”, and the young people, as future leaders, need to understand and accept fundamental values of peace, including respect for each individual’s language and culture, prioritizing truth and reconciliation without hate speech, and maintaining a mindset that views diversity as a source of national strength. As economic development and technology are the foundation of peace, the urban youths and young technologists need to discuss how to promote entrepreneurship, digital economies, AI-based services, and other economic and technological platforms, and how to collectively seek solutions.



The 2026 Youth Peace Forum is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Creating good economic opportunities for all young people is the best way to build peace.

He continued that creating a favourable economic environment, which is an essential need for every citizen for peace, will create high-quality human resources. Social media can be a platform for spreading hate speech, but it can also serve as a space for building unity, reconciliation, and mutual understanding. Regarding the forum’s expectations, the Youth Peace Declaration to be produced from this forum would become a practical guide incorporating the real needs, goals, and commitments of young people. It will

serve not only as a network for understanding but as a linkage for active cooperation. He then urged participants to carry the outcomes of the Peace Forum back to their respective regions so that they may spread among youth and government, and between the government and the public.

National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee Secretary then Lt-Gen Min Naing briefed on the intention of holding the Youth Peace Forum 2026 and systematic preparations to be the national level and a fair platform for all participation. He also stated that the forum brings together

young people from diverse ethnicities, regions, cultures, and social backgrounds to share their views, highlight the importance of youth participation and actions in peace and community stability, create opportunities for young people, and gather youth recommendations for drafting a long-term, sustainable peace and national unity and social development roadmap, and to identify the practical roles of youth in the post-election period.

On the first day of the forum, under the theme of passing on the legacy of peace to youth and promoting a peaceful society, peace-related presentations and surveys will be conducted with at

least 22 young participants from various regions.

On the second day, 10 experienced representatives, including scholars, skilled youth professionals, young experts, and ministry officials, will discuss designated topics, while 320 youth representatives will be divided into four groups for in-depth discussions. It will also include flash competitions and an awards ceremony.

On the third day, which is the most important part of the forum, activities will include forming and linking youth networks, presenting and discussing network-based plans and proposals, expert feedback on discussions, and evaluation and awards for proposals. The recommendations and outcomes will be systematically compiled to enable the drafting of a youth policy paper for building the future of Myanmar, based on the Peace and Future Youth Declaration and the Youth Peace Forum.

Afterwards, participants in peace processes engaged in the discussion under different topics, and the youth representatives discussed reducing and halting armed conflicts and conducted flash surveys to gather youth opinions on peace-related issues.

The forum will continue on 14 January. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar, Pakistan discuss boosting livestock, dairy sectors and market access



Union Minister U Min Naung receives the Pakistani ambassador yesterday.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Pakistan’s Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tariq Karim yesterday at the

Union Minister’s Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, both sides held open and constructive discussions on enhancing

bilateral cooperation in agriculture and livestock trade, production of hybrid cotton seeds for producing high-quality cotton varieties that are resistant to pests and climate change, production of new cotton varieties using biotechnology, development of dairy buffalo farming, and cooperation in research and development, including technologies for meat product production and marketing.

The permanent secretary, directors-general, and responsible officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation were present at the meeting. — MNA/MKKS

CBM Governor meets Pakistani Ambassador

GOVERNOR Daw Than Than Swe of the Central Bank of Myanmar received Mr Tariq Karim, Pakistan’s Ambassador to Myanmar, yesterday at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides held open and constructive discussions on mat-

ters related to banking cooperation necessary to enhance trade between Myanmar and Pakistan, as well as on foreign currency operations.

The meeting was attended by the vice-governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar and relevant personnel. — MNA/MKKS



Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim calls on Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe.

OPINION

Conduct effective combat against terrorists

THE Government of Myanmar has enacted the Counter-Terrorism Law on 4 June 2014 in accord with five objectives. In accordance with this law, a Central Committee on Counter-Terrorism has been formed, which carries out 19 specified responsibilities and powers. To ensure its effective implementation, three working committees and five task forces have been organized and are operating. Since all acts of terrorism are actions that bring no benefit to humanity, they must be eradicated by all people.

The terrorists not only targeted their opponents but also labelled those who did not support them and those who wished to live peacefully as enemies, attacking and killing them. As a result, innocent people, monks, nuns, village and township administrators, departmental staff, as well as women and children, were imprisoned and lost their lives.

Therefore, Myanmar participates in international cooperation on counter-terrorism by sharing information, coordinating law enforcement actions, and jointly addressing the root causes of terrorism in collaboration with INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL. As the government continues to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts, it is also necessary for the public to actively participate and cooperate.

international collaboration ensures that terrorists have no safe haven anywhere.

Terrorist groups around the world seek funding through illegal means, including drug trafficking and human trafficking. Terrorist groups in Myanmar also commit similar activities. Their drug trafficking operations have expanded widely and include smuggling chemicals for drug production, manufacturing drugs, transporting and storing them, distributing them domestically, and coordinating for overseas shipment in connection with international drug cartels.

Terrorist groups use approximately 70 per cent of the profits from drug trafficking to purchase and replenish weapons. They also collaborate with international arms-smuggling networks, engaging in cross-border crimes such as arms and stimulant exchanges, money laundering, and human trafficking.

Therefore, Myanmar participates in international cooperation on counter-terrorism by sharing information, coordinating law enforcement actions, and jointly addressing the root causes of terrorism in collaboration with INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL. As the government continues to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts, it is

AT the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands, The Gambia has filed a case accusing Myanmar of violating the Genocide Convention. This case has now reached the stage of the final hearing. On 10 January, the BBC aired an interview with The Gambia's lawyer, Mr Arsalan Suleman, regarding this case. Carefully examining the information Mr Suleman shared in this interview, one can see their true intentions, attempts to influence judicial proceedings through the media, and certain baseless accusations.

Listening to Mr Arsalan Suleman's interview, the most notable point is that he focused more on compensation and remedies rather than on justice and rights. Mr Suleman stated that at the final stage of this case, if the court decides that Myanmar committed genocide, the aim is to issue orders on how the victims should be remedied and how much compensation should be paid.

Despite their overt focus on human rights and the topic of genocide, in practice, their primary objective appears to be obtaining compensation from Myanmar, rather than seeking recognition for the Bengali community within the country. Legally, discussing compensation before the case has been decided and before the Court has issued a final ruling raises questions about the true intentions behind their actions in this case. To put it plainly, The Gambia is creating this situation with the expectation of some form of financial gain, much like the saying "watering the banyan tree for one's own benefit".

In judicial proceedings, both parties to a case have a responsibility to respect and comply with the court's procedures. Throughout the current litigation process, Myanmar's representatives have strictly adhered to legal frameworks in their actions and have not engaged in any form of media propaganda. Myanmar, as a country that respects and abides by the ICJ Statute, is carrying out the proceedings quietly and with dignity.

However, the legal team of The Gambia and its supporters behind the scenes have been excessively exploiting international media. The current BBC interview, conducted a few days before the court hearing began, is merely a pre-orchestrated media campaign aimed at influencing international public opinion before the court proceedings begin. They are merely trying to cover up their legal weaknesses by using the power of the media.

The Response to the BBC Interview with Mr Arsalan Suleman, Member of the Gambia's Legal Team

By Min Khant

The reason this case has dragged on until now is not that The Gambia's allegations are strong, but solely because the ICJ decided that it has jurisdiction. When submitting its preliminary objections, Myanmar had also pointed out important legal issues. In particular,

Myanmar argued that the real applicant in this case is not The Gambia but the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation), and that only states have the right to bring cases under the ICJ Statute, while organizations do not.

In addition, Myanmar firmly argued that there is no right to directly refer or bring a complaint to the Court because it has entered a reservation to Article VIII of the Genocide Convention. However, it is only because the Court decided that it has jurisdiction that the case

is continuing in this way. Looking at these points, it is clear that it does not mean at all that The Gambia's accusations against Myanmar are correct.

When Mr Suleman asserts that their evidence is solid, he primarily cites reports from organizations such as the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission (FFM). However, these reports disregard the actual situation on the ground and consist solely of one-sided accusations. Reports such as those by the FFM are mostly based on information that differs from the actual situation on the ground and on unverified rumours, and Myanmar has already refuted them with solid evidence.

Accordingly, the sources cited by The Gambia are merely organizations that are politically biased and operate with financial backing. There is considerable doubt as to whether their evidence meets the standard of credibility and reliability required for acceptance by the court.

One key fact that The Gambia has hidden in its interviews is the original source of the events in 2016 and 2017. According to these events, it is clear that Myanmar did not act with the intention of committing genocide. In reality, at that time, the ARSA terrorist organization carried out synchronized attacks on multiple police outposts in Rakhine State. Accordingly, it was solely a counter-terrorism operation that had to be carried out by the Government as an unavoidable response in order to safeguard state sovereignty and territorial security.

No country in the world would just stand by if terrorists attacked its security forces and residents. Furthermore, even at present, the Myanmar government's efforts to suppress the ethnic armed AA terrorist

insurgent organization in that region, in order to protect the safety and security of the local population, reflect the complex security situation there. There is also solid evidence regarding the brutal acts committed by the ARSA terrorist organization.

There are reports that the evidence to be submitted by The Gambia will include statements from defectors. These individuals are merely deserters who have violated the rules and regulations of the Myanmar Armed Forces and fled. It does bring into question whether the statements of such criminals and those who seek to evade responsibility by fleeing can be considered as the truth. They are highly likely to make statements for some kind of personal gain. Accordingly, their statements cannot be legally considered reliable.

From The Gambia's perspective, it is merely politically targeting the non-indigenous Bengali people. Their actions aim to pressure Myanmar for political purposes that have no legal validity. However, Myanmar is firmly addressing the matter in accordance with the law. Although The Gambia, in its interview, has accused Myanmar of not complying with the ICJ's provisional measures, Myanmar, in reality, is fully complying with the Court's directives. Myanmar has been submitting regular reports to the Court every six months.

Furthermore, Myanmar has been making continuous efforts to screen and receive the Bengalis who have arrived in the country. However, their failure to return is not due to any shortcomings of the Myanmar side, but rather because of the incitement and obstruction by third-party organizations, the lack of willingness on their own part to return, and their association with those seeking political gain.

This ICJ case is not an ordinary legal matter for Myanmar; it concerns the country's dignity, sovereignty, and national interests. Myanmar is legally addressing and resolving international misconceptions and unjust accusations for a crime it did not commit.

In this regard, the entire population needs to stand firmly behind the delegation representing Myanmar in court during this critical period. It is believed that the truth will eventually prevail, and the political narratives of The Gambia and the organizations behind it will be null and void before the law. For this reason, everyone should be vigilant against incitement and media propaganda at home and abroad and strongly support our representatives.



BBC conducting an interview with The Gambia's lawyer, Mr. Arsalan Suleman

Some food preservatives linked to higher cancer, diabetes risk

EATING some common food preservatives is linked to a slightly higher risk of eventually developing cancer and diabetes, according to two large French studies published Thursday.

However, outside experts called for more research and emphasized that these kinds of observational studies cannot demonstrate a direct cause-and-effect relationship.

The first study, published in the journal *BMJ*, said it observed "multiple associations between preservatives that are widely used in industrial foods and beverages on the European market... and higher incidences of overall, breast and prostate cancers".

The preservatives included nitrites and nitrates, which are often used to cure ham, bacon and sausages.

The second study, published in *Nature Communications*, also found a link between eating some food additives and developing type 2 diabetes.

Both studies were based on an ongoing research project in which

more than 100,000 French people fill out regular questionnaires about their diet.

French epidemiologist Mathilde Touvier, who supervised both studies, told AFP that "consuming products with preservatives does not mean you will immediately develop cancer".

"But we need to limit how much we are exposed to these products," she said.

"The message for the general public is to choose the least processed foods when shopping in the supermarket."

The strongest link found in the first study was between sodium nitrite and prostate cancer, which increased the risk by around a third.

However, the level of increased risk remained moderate. For comparison, heavy smoking raises the risk of getting lung cancer by more than 15 times.

Potassium sorbate, which is commonly used to stop mould and bacteria from growing in food and drink, was associated with twice the

risk of developing diabetes.

Researchers not involved in the studies praised its robust methodology but warned it was premature for consumers to change their behaviour until more research is conducted.

Tom Sanders, a nutrition expert at King's College London, cautioned that the results could be "due to an inability to completely correct for other factors already known to contribute to risk".

For example, processed meat and alcohol are both already strongly linked to higher cancer rates.

This could mean that it was not sodium metabisulphite — which is used in winemaking to kill yeast — that was causing cancer, but actually drinking the wine, Sanders suggested. But one option could be to label foods "that use nitrates/nitrites with a health warning", he added.

The studies were published days after the UK banned daytime TV, radio and online advertisements for unhealthy food and drinks that are high in fat, salt and sugar.



The preservatives included nitrites and nitrates, which are often used to cure ham, bacon, and sausages. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

NATIONAL

Myanmar donates 500 tonnes of rice to cyclone-affected Sri Lankan people

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar held a ceremony yesterday morning at the meeting hall of Asia World Port Terminal, Yangon Port, in Ahlon Township, to donate 500 tonnes of rice, equivalent to 10,000 bags, to people affected by a cyclone in Sri Lanka.

Those attending the ceremony included Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe, Yangon Region ministers, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Prabashni Ponnamperuma, the Director-General of the Department of Strategic Studies and Training under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, departmental officials, Myanmar Rice Federation Chairman U Ye



The handover ceremony of rice donations for cyclone-affected communities in Sri Lanka was held yesterday at Asia World Port Terminal in Yangon.

Min Aung and its members; and other responsible officials.

At the event, the deputy minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement delivered opening remarks, after which the Myanmar Rice Federation chairperson explained the shipping plan and preparedness arrangements.

The Sri Lankan ambassador to Myanmar then expressed her gratitude. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein formally handed over the documents for the donation of 500 tonnes of rice (10,000 bags) to the ambassador.

Afterwards, the Yangon Region chief minister and his party inspected the containers prepared for transporting the 500 tonnes of rice (10,000 bags). — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

5-year plan to boost Robusta coffee cultivation in Yangon Region

AFTER petroleum, which is the most widely traded commodity in the world, coffee beans rank second in global trade volume. Myanmar also cultivates coffee. According to the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture, more than 20,000 acres of Robusta coffee will be grown as an intercropping crop among perennial trees in Yangon, the country's commercial capital, under a five-year project starting from the 2026-2027 period.

“Robusta coffee, which is a lowland variety, has been experimentally cultivated since last year as an intercropping crop among home gardens and perennial fruit and industrial crops such as mango, durian, pomelo and rubber; under the planning and implementation of the Yangon Region government. Farmers were provided with training and seedlings so that coffee could also be grown in forest plantation areas, enabling cultivation to begin in those locations.

In Yangon Region, out of more than 40,000 acres of peren-



Images display a local coffee plantation in Myanmar (left) and samples of Myanmar coffee products. PHOTO - KANU

nial crops, over 20,000 acres have been designated for intercropped coffee under a five-year plan. As part of the 2026-2027 rainy season, coffee will initially be planted on 17 acres, and seedlings are already being raised. This is also a perennial crop that will bring tangible benefits to farmers,” said Daw Hla Kyi, Assistant Director of the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture.

In Yangon Region, more than 20,000 acres of Robusta coffee, a lowland crop, are being designated for cultivation under a five-year project from 2026-2027 to 2030-2031. Through

this initiative, areas that have traditionally produced summer paddy, monsoon paddy, oil crops and various pulses each year are being transformed into coffee-producing zones, contributing to the development of Yangon as an economically important urban centre with a balanced integration of industry and agriculture.

Coffee culture is widely appreciated in Myanmar and around the world, and demand for coffee beans continues to grow annually. In Myanmar, coffee is cultivated as Arabica in upland areas and Robusta in lowland

areas. Coffee beans produced in PyinOoLwin, Ywangan, Pinlaung, Hopong and Nawngkhio are particularly well known for their high quality. Although flavour and aroma vary according to soil, climate and seasonal conditions, Myanmar coffee has already gained recognition in the global coffee market. The State is therefore encouraging the expansion of coffee cultivation as a value-added crop.

In Myanmar, internationally traded Robusta and Arabica varieties are mainly grown. Of the more than 30,000 acres currently under coffee cultivation nationwide, over 10,000 acres are

located in Pyin Oo Lwin, where production is well established and widely recognized in the market. As part of efforts to expand cultivation, lowland coffee varieties are now being grown in Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region and Bago Region.

Coffee, which is consumed regardless of ethnicity or religion, is believed to have originated in Ethiopia around the ninth century and became widely known as “Arabian wine” in the sixteenth century. Today, coffee is consumed across the world, resulting in a strong demand for coffee beans. In Myanmar, more than 200,000 acres have been developed for coffee cultivation, producing over 9,000 tonnes of coffee beans annually. Production is concentrated mainly in Shan State and Mandalay Region, with smaller-scale cultivation in several other regions and states. In Yangon Region, following the success of pilot cultivation, a five-year project is now being implemented to expand coffee production as a commercial crop. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/MKKS

NATIONAL

Scenic PyinOoLwin-Gokteik train sees passenger boost

THE volume of passengers on the PyinOoLwin-Gokteik-PyinOoLwin scenic sightseeing train service on the Mandalay-Lashio railway has continued to rise.

Myanma Railways, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, has been operating the Gokteik 1 – PyinOoLwin-Gokteik and Gokteik 2 – Gokteik-PyinOoLwin sightseeing train services to allow domestic travellers and foreign tourists to explore the historic Gokteik Viaduct and enjoy the natural scenery of forests, mountains and rivers along the route. The services have been operating every Saturday and Sunday since 19 December.

To date, the trains have completed 18 scheduled trips, carrying 540 passengers. In addition, six charter package trips using RBE upper-class coaches, each with a capacity of 24 passengers, and two charter trips using RBE ordinary-class coaches, each



This photo reveals passengers enjoying the scenic PyinOoLwin-Gokteik train ride.

with a capacity of 40 passengers, carried a total of 224 passengers. On 12 January, Myanma Railways also operated a full charter train for 210 students and teachers from the Snow Queen Private Upper School in PyinOoLwin, using three ordinary-class coaches

and one upper-class coach. Since the start of operations, 974 passengers have travelled on the scenic train service.

Each RBE sightseeing train on the PyinOoLwin-Gokteik-PyinOoLwin route can carry up to 40 passengers. The Gokteik

1 RBE departs PyinOoLwin Station at 8 am and arrives at Gokteik Station at 11:30 am, while the Gokteik 2 RBE departs Gokteik Station at 12:30 pm and returns to PyinOoLwin Station at 4 pm. The train stops en route at Pwekawk, Wetwun, Samsel

and Nawngkhio stations.

The PyinOoLwin-Gokteik round-trip service operates regularly on weekends and public holidays. Tour companies, travel agencies, private schools and other organizations wishing to charter the train on special dates may hire a full RBE set with an upper-class coach for 24 passengers for a round trip at K30,000 per passenger, totalling K720,000.

For groups of 150 passengers or more, Myanma Railways will operate a full-size train consisting of one upper-class coach and three ordinary-class coaches. Charter requests must be made at least three days in advance. Fares are K15,000 per passenger for ordinary class and K30,000 per passenger for upper class. Bookings can be made through the Station Master (Special Class), PyinOoLwin, by dialling 09 448538830, according to sources. — Myanma Railways (MR)/KZL

36 Academy receptionists selected for 2025 film awards ceremony

ACCORDING to Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), a total of 36 attendants have been selected for the 2025 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards ceremony to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the selection process for the 2025 awards ceremony, nearly 300 applicants applied. Candidates who met the prescribed criteria were shortlisted through a multi-stage selection process. The preliminary round was held on 21 December, followed by the second round on 29 December, with the final selection round taking place on 10 January.

“We have selected 36 receptionists from the final round of the competition. The list of these 36 successful candidates has already been announced.

Those selected are required to report to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization at 1 pm on 14 January, Wednesday,” said U Aye Kyu Lay.

The 2025 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards event is scheduled to be held on 7 February 2026 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw. — ASH/MKKS



Scene from the final selection round of Academy receptionists for the 2025 Myanmar Motion Pictures Academy Awards ceremony.

MFVP members invited to join International Horticulture Goyang Korea 2026



The Ilsan Lake Park, the venue of the International Horticulture Goyang Korea 2026.

Interested members can request inquiries about the International Horticulture Goyang Korea 2026 that will take place in the Republic of Korea, stated the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

The festival has been planned to take place at Ilsan Lake Park near Seoul from 24 April to 10 May 2026.

MFVP said it has received an invitation from



the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and interested members are invited to join the national pavilion.

Enquiries can be requested to these phone numbers: 01 218467 and 0943127656 during office hours, it stated. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

5 self-styled PDF members rejoin legal fold in Kayin State

FIVE self-styled People's Defence Force (PDF) members who accepted the peace initiatives of the State and the Tatmadaw returned to the legal fold yesterday, surrendering weapons and ammunition.

The Government has been inviting those involved in armed opposition under various group names, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold and has been providing necessary assistance to those who do so. In line with this policy, the five men said they had come to understand and accept the peace processes of the State and the Tatmadaw and therefore returned peacefully with their weapons and ammunition.

According to the returnees, they had been forcibly recruited through pressure and coercion involving family members and relatives. They said they could no longer accept acts of terrorism carried out in the interests of terrorist groups, including threats, arrests and killings of innocent civilians and government employees, as well as the planting of mines and the destruction of non-military targets such as



The reception and handover ceremony for returnees to legal framework is in progress, with rewards being provided.

basic infrastructure, roads and bridges. They also cited internal discrimination and abuse within the groups, including bullying, torture, killings and other forms of violence, harsh living conditions, declining morale, and their inability to withstand Tatmadaw offensives. They added that they wished to abandon the armed path, live peacefully within the legal framework, and make amends to the State and the people for the losses caused by their actions.

The five returnees include one man from Kyondoe in Kawkareik Township and four men from villages in the same township – two from Kyunkalay

village and two from Noepawhe village, all in Kayin State. Officials welcomed them and held a handover ceremony yesterday afternoon at Meeting Hall II of the Kayin State government office, formally returning them to their parents and guardians. The ceremony was attended by Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, Deputy Commander Col Nay Myo of the South-East Command, state ministers, departmental officials, the returnees and their parents or guardians, among other invitees.

At the ceremony, the chief minister delivered opening remarks, followed by an explana-

tion of relevant legal provisions by the Deputy Commander. The returnees then handed over the weapons they had brought with them, including one 9 mm pistol, one M16 rifle, one .30 calibre carbine, one handmade 40 mm grenade launcher, one handmade sniper rifle and eight hand grenades. These were accepted by the chief minister and responsible officials.

In accordance with regulations, the chief minister, the deputy commander and officials provided rewards and assistance to the returnees. The rewards included K5 million per assault rifle, totalling K10 million for two rifles; K2 million for one pistol;

K500,000 per handmade firearm, totalling K1 million for two handmade guns; and K300,000 per hand grenade or handmade mine, totalling K2.4 million for eight items. In total, K15.4 million in rewards, along with support materials, were provided. The returnees signed pledges and were formally handed back to their parents or guardians.

Afterwards, the chief minister, the deputy commander and officials inspected the surrendered weapons and ammunition, greeted attendees and hosted refreshments.

Authorities said that the welcoming, assistance and systematic handover process for those returning to the legal fold will continue, noting that others still wish to do so. Those who wish to return are encouraged to contact the nearest district or township administrative bodies, military camps or police stations as soon as possible. Officials said such individuals will be welcomed, provided with necessary assistance, and offered rewards for surrendered weapons and munitions, according to sources. — MNA/KZL

MCEF launches K75B Nay Pyi Taw complex project



This photo features MCEF member companies signing contracts to construct new buildings in Nay Pyi Taw.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs' Federation (MCEF), the organization will be responsible for constructing new buildings in Nay Pyi Taw valued at approximately K75 billion, and the contract for the project to be carried out by MCEF member companies was signed on 10 January.

At the contract signing ceremony, MCEF Chair U Shein Win delivered the opening speech. U Hteik Tin Han Lin, Joint Secretary and Project Director

of the MCEF, explained the technical aspects of the new buildings, while U Win Khaing, Deputy Project Director, addressed management issues related to the project.

Afterwards, the 27 assigned companies and MCEF Secretary U Ko Ko Lay signed the contracts. On behalf of the companies, U Aung Min Khant, Managing Director of Shwe Mann Magway Company, delivered words of appreciation. — ASH/TH

Myanmar deports 130 undocumented foreign entrants

MYANMAR deported 59 Kenyans, 20 Ugandans, 13 Nigerians, three Cameroonians, three Ghanaians, two Sierra Leoneans, one Liberian, one Malawian and one Burundian, totalling 103 individuals, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authorities officially handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation. Between 30 January 2025 and 13 January 2026, a total of 14,135

illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 12,107 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to deport the remaining 2,028 individuals. These individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

The immigration process underway for the deportation of undocumented immigrants.



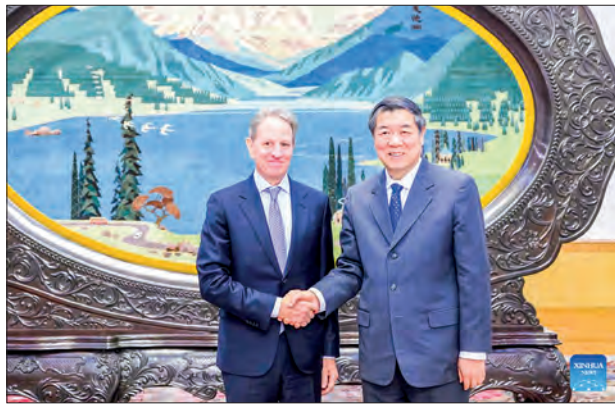
Cambodia's Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone accommodates 217 enterprises in 2025

THE number of enterprises in the Sihanoukville Special Economy Zone (SSEZ) in Cambodia reached 217 in 2025, the zone's operator said on Tuesday. The SSEZ was jointly invested and constructed by Cambodian and Chinese enterprises. In its news release, the SSEZ operator said that in 2025, the SSEZ focused on building industrial and supply chains in areas such as automobile manufacturing and parts, new energy components and machinery processing, as well as power equipment. "Last year, the SSEZ accommodated 20 more new enterprises, bringing

the total number of enterprises in the zone to 217," the news release said. Some 3,000 new jobs were created in 2025, raising the total number of employees in the zone to 35,000 so far, the news release said, adding that the zone has significantly contributed to improving the living conditions of local people. Thong Mengdaiv, deputy director of the China-ASEAN Studies Centre of the Cambodia University of Technology and Science, said the figure highlighted the SSEZ's rise as Cambodia's most advanced and globally connected industrial hub. — Xinhua

China welcomes foreign enterprises, long-term capital to continue expanding investment in China: vice-premier

CHINESE Vice-Premier He Lifeng said on Monday that China welcomes foreign enterprises including Warburg Pincus and long-term capital to continue expanding their investment in China and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with China. He, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks when meeting with former US Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner, now chairman of Warburg Pincus. The vice-premier said



Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, meets with former US Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner, now chairman of Warburg Pincus, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 12 January 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

that China is fully implementing the guiding principles of the fourth plenary

session of the 20th CPC Central Committee, in accordance with the sugges-

tions and arrangements of the 15th Five-Year Plan, and advancing the building of a unified national market, unswervingly expanding high-level opening-up and promoting high-quality economic development. For his part, Geithner said that he is optimistic about the prospects of China's economic development, and Warburg Pincus is willing to continue to deepen its presence in the Chinese market and promote the deepening of economic and trade cooperation between the United States and China. — Xinhua

ကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်နှင့်ပတ်သက်၍အများသိစေရန်
ကြော်ငြာခြင်းများသိစေရန်ကြော်ငြာခြင်း



(MM/T/2021/015605)

အထက်ဖော်ပြပါကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အား အမှတ်(၅) သီရိမုန်ပလာဇာ(၃)လမ်း၊ မရမ်းကုန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးတွင်လုပ်ငန်းတည်ထောင်ထားရှိသော SHWE TUN CO., LTD. မှ Authorized Dealer အနေဖြင့် တရုတ်ပြည်သူ့ သမ္မတနိုင်ငံ Jiangsu Nonghua Intelligent Agriculture Technology Co., Ltd. ထံမှရရှိထားပြီး မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝှမ်းလုံးသို့ တစ်ဦးတည်းကိုယ်စားလှယ်အနေဖြင့် လက်လီလက်ကား ဖြန့်ဖြူးရောင်းချနေသောပစ္စည်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။
အထက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်ကို အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာကုန်ပစ္စည်းစာရင်းရှိ Class 7 တွင်ပါဝင်သော "Agriculture machines: for JIANGDONG brand Diesel Engine, Gasoline Engine, Gasoline Water Pump, Gasoline Generator Products and Spare Parts" စသည့် ကုန်ပစ္စည်းများစပ်လျဉ်း၍အသုံးပြုလျက်ရှိပါသည်။
ဖော်ပြပါကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်ပစ္စည်းအစစ်အမှန်များအားမြန်မာနိုင်ငံအတွင်းတရားဝင်ဖြန့်ဖြူးရောင်းချခွင့်ရရှိသူမှာ SHWE TUN CO., LTD. တစ်ဦးတည်းသာဖြစ်ပြီး အဆိုပါကုန်အမှတ်တံဆိပ်အမည်အမှတ်အသားတစ်ခုလုံးကိုလည်းကောင်း၊ တစ်စိတ်တစ်ဒေသကိုလည်းကောင်း၊ တိုက်ရိုက်ဖြစ်စေ၊ သွယ်ဝိုက်၍ဖြစ်စေ တရားမဝင်ရောင်းချခြင်း၊ အတုအပြုလုပ်ရောင်းချခြင်း တို့ကိုပြုလုပ်သူမည်သူမဆိုဥပဒေနှင့် အညီပြင်းပြင်းထန်ထန် အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်းအများသိစေရန်ကြော်ငြာအပ်ပါသည်။
Jiangsu Nonghua Intelligent Agriculture Technology Co., Ltd. ၏ လွှဲအပ်ညွှန်ကြားချက်အရ U Kyi Win Associates Company Limited ဖုန်းနံပါတ်။ ၀၉-၇၈၀၀၇၂၄၉ နေ့စွဲ ။ (၁၄) ရက်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ၊ ၂၀၂၆ ခုနှစ်။

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML014)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML014)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-1-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

Advertise

with us /
Hotline

09 25597511,
09 454237515

Toyota remains top automaker by sales in 2025 for 6th year

Toyota Motor Corp remained the world's top-selling automaker in 2025 for the sixth straight year, data showed Monday, as Volkswagen AG released its full-year sales figures that fell short of the Japanese automaker's total through November. Toyota sold 10.32 million vehicles worldwide between January and November, while its German rival sold 8.98 million units over the 12 months through December, down 0.5 per cent from 2024. In China, Volkswagen's major market, the automaker sold around 2.69 million vehicles, down 8.0 per cent, amid intensified competition with domestic manufacturers. Its sales were also hit hard in North America due to US President Donald Trump's tariff measures, recording a 10.4 per cent decrease. — Kyodo

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

Registered pesticides distributing by **Golden Wish Agribusiness Co., Ltd.** in the territory of Myanmar for the product as following are transferring to **Uni Crop Co.,Ltd.** as per mutual consent from both parties. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon within (14) days.
Uni Crop Co.,Ltd. Ph:09765665462

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredien	Registration No.
1	Drone	Oxadiazon 250g/l EC	F2025-4901
2	Fun Hymex	Hymexazol 70% WP	F2025-4253
3	Fun Ipro	Iprodione 50% WP	F2025-5138

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

EU commissioner reaffirms Greenland security, warning US takeover would end NATO



This photo taken on 19 March 2025 shows the scenery of Nuuk, capital of Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE European Union (EU) could help provide security for Greenland if Denmark requests it, European Commissioner for Defence and Space Andrius Kubilius said on Monday, warning that any US military takeover of the Arctic territory would cause the end of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Speaking to media on the sidelines of a security conference in Sweden's Salen, Kubilius said he shared Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's view that a forced takeover

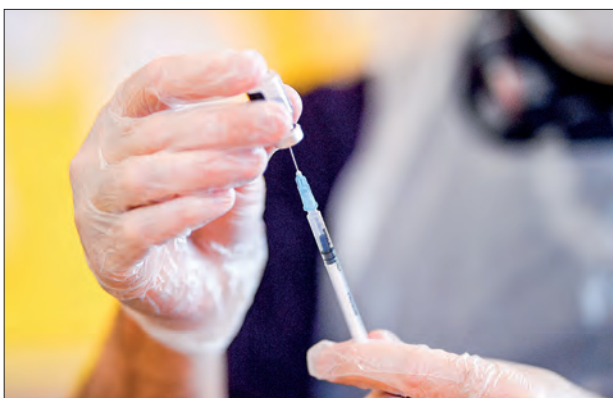
would deal a fatal blow to NATO and severely damage transatlantic ties. He added that such a move would also trigger a strong negative reaction among Europeans.

Kubilius said he did not believe a US invasion was imminent, but noted that Article 42.7 of the EU treaty obliges member states to provide mutual assistance if a member country is subjected to armed aggression. He said the bloc could step up support for Greenland at Denmark's request, including by

deploying troops and expanding military infrastructure such as naval presence and counter-drone capabilities.

Denmark and the United States, both NATO members, are scheduled to meet this week to discuss the Greenland issue. Greenland and Denmark have repeatedly said the territory is not for sale, while US President Donald Trump has insisted Washington must "own" Greenland without ruling out the use of force. — Xinhua

Most vaccine-hesitant people eventually got COVID jab: UK study



A dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is drawn up in a vaccination clinic set up at Saint Columba's Church in Sheffield on 15 December. PHOTO: AFP

MOST people who were initially hesitant about getting vaccinated against Covid-19 eventually received the jab, an England-based study said Tuesday, illustrating that widespread public vaccine scepticism can be overcome.

Developed in record time, vaccines for Covid successfully curbed the pandemic after being rolled out in early 2021. The effectiveness and safety of these vaccines have been demonstrated by the billions of jabs administered across the world.

However before they became available, many people were dubious.

"Most COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy was rooted in concrete concerns that can be addressed and successfully overcome with time and increasing availability of information," the study in The Lancet journal said. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia launches weather modification operation to curb extreme weather risks in Jakarta

INDONESIA'S National Disaster Mitigation Agency has initiated a weather modification operation in the Jakarta area on Tuesday as a preventive step to lessen the danger of hydrometeorological disasters and severe weather.

"The weather modification operation began today and will continue for the next five days," Jakarta Disaster Mitigation Agency Director Isnawa Adji said on Tuesday.

He said that the effort seeks to reduce the possibility of more flooding, after torrential rains drenched numerous neighbourhoods of Jakarta on Monday.

According to the authorities, flooding has progressively subsided, with inundation continuing in 28 neighbourhood units and six road sections where water levels vary from 10 to 60 centimetres. — Xinhua

Japan's influenza cases fall below alert level for 2nd straight week

THE number of influenza cases in Japan fell below the alert threshold for a second straight week, with health ministry data on Tuesday showing infections continued to decline in late December and early January, signalling that the outbreak is easing.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said that 33,217 cases were reported nationwide from around 3,000 sentinel medical institutions during the week through 4 January, averaging 10.35 patients per facility. The figure was 0.45 times the previous week's level, remaining below the alert benchmark of 30 cases per facility across the country.

This season, the nationwide average exceeded the alert level five weeks earlier than last season, with cases surpassing 50 patients per facility during the week through 23 November. The ministry, meanwhile, said Tuesday that 3,629 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Japan from about 3,000 sentinel medical institutions during the week from 29 December, averaging 1.13 patients per facility. — Kyodo

Venezuelan acting president meets EU, Swiss, UK diplomats on advancing ties

VENEZUELA'S acting president Delcy Rodriguez met on Monday with members of the diplomatic corps from the European Union, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil said.

Describing the talks as "frank", Gil said participants reviewed the state of bilateral relations and agreed on the importance of advancing a productive relationship and seeking deeper dialogue.

Gil said Rodriguez's message was clear, stressing that "within a framework of respect and equality of states, we are willing to advance a new agenda" for the well-being of the peoples.

He said the Venezuelan side also used the occasion to assess the events of 3 January, when Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife were forcibly taken into custody by the United States. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Alonso leaves Real Madrid, Arbeloa appointed as coach

REAL Madrid said on Monday coach Xabi Alonso has left the Spanish giants by mutual consent, to be replaced by Alvaro Arbeloa.

After losing the Spanish Super Cup final against Barcelona on Sunday the club decided to part ways with the Basque coach, in charge for less than eight months, and immediately appointed former Madrid player Arbeloa who was coaching the reserve side.

"Real Madrid announces that, by mutual agreement between the club and Xabi Alonso, it has been decided to bring his

tenure as first-team coach to an end," said Los Blancos in a statement.

In a separate statement Madrid then announced Arbeloa would take Alonso's place, without specifying the length of the 42-year-old's contract.

"Arbeloa has been the coach of Castilla since June 2025 and has developed his entire coaching career in Real Madrid's academy since 2020," said Los Blancos.

Arbeloa's first match at the helm is a Copa del Rey last-16 visit to face second-tier Albacete on Wednesday. — AFP



Real Madrid's new coach Alvaro Arbeloa (L) leads a training session at Real Madrid Sports City in Valdebebas, in the outskirts of Madrid, on 13 January 2026. PHOTO: AFP

New Indonesia coach Herdman targets 2030 World Cup

NEW Indonesia coach John Herdman on Tuesday targeted qualification for the 2030 World Cup, warning there were no more excuses.

"This is going to be an exciting project," the 50-year-old Englishman told reporters in the capital Jakarta at his first press conference as Indonesia boss.

Fans of the football-mad country deserve to see their team "winning on the world stage", said Herdman.

"I will bring my passion... to help bring this country to, hopefully, a place it's never been before. It's time."

Herdman said Indonesia "is ready, it has no more excuses".

The former Canada coach comes in following the departure of Barcelona and Dutch great Patrick Kluivert.

Kluivert left the Indonesia job after failing to get them to this year's World Cup.

Indonesia have been to the World Cup once, in 1938, when they were under Dutch colonial rule.

The Indonesian football association, PSSI, has hailed Herdman's appointment as "the beginning of a new era".

Herdman guided Canada's men to the 2022 World Cup, their first appearance in 36 years.

He took Canada's women to the quarter-finals of the 2015 World Cup hosted by the country.

In Indonesia, a country of more than 280



John Herdman (L) and Erick Thohir, chairman of the Indonesian Football Association (PSSI) hold the Indonesian jersey after press conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, 13 January 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

million, "80-90 per cent of people are football mad", said Herdman.

"They love their football. This is the place to be." — AFP

Salah and Mane meet again with AFCON final place on the line

THREE years after they last appeared together, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah meet again on Wednesday on opposing sides as Senegal and Egypt clash for a place in the Africa Cup of Nations final.

The last-four showdown in the Moroccan city of Tangiers will be the first time the former Liverpool teammates have shared a pitch since the Anfield club lost to Real Madrid in the Champions League final in May 2022.

Shortly after that, Mane left for Bayern Munich before moving to Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League a year later.

Salah, meanwhile, has been heavily linked with a move to Saudi Arabia in the near future but remains for now at Liverpool despite falling out of favour with coach Arne Slot before coming to the Cup of Nations.

The Egypt captain is a man on a mission in Morocco, having scored four goals in four appearances on the Pharaoh's run to the semi-finals as he targets winning AFCON for the first time.



This combination of pictures created on 13 January 2026 shows Egypt's forward (10) Mohamed Salah (L) during the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) in Agadir on 5 January 2026 and Senegal's forward (10) Sadio Mane in Diamniadio on 14 October 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Salah, who turns 34 in June, is running out of time to win a major international honour with his country having suffered the agony of two final defeats in the competition.

After being part of the Egypt side beaten by Cameroon in the 2017 final in Gabon, Salah skippered the team beaten on penalties by Senegal in 2022 in Yaounde.

Mane had a penalty saved in normal time on that dramatic night at the Olembe Stadium, but recovered to score the decisive kick in the shoot-out as Senegal became African champions for the first time.

Salah was due to take Egypt's next penalty but would not get the chance to step up and was already on the verge of tears as Mane prepared to strike the decisive blow.

Less than two months later, the teams met again in a decisive World Cup qualifying play-off and once more penalties were needed — Salah missed, Mane scored and Senegal won. — AFP



Scientists warn of hidden cancer risk in popular fatty liver treatment strategy

BLOCKING a key cellular enzyme, an approach thought to protect against fatty liver disease, may instead increase the risk of chronic liver damage and cancer as people age, Australian researchers warned on Tuesday.

Published in *Science Advances*, the study found that loss of the enzyme Caspase-2 drives abnormal growth in liver cells, triggering inflammation, fibrosis, and a significantly higher risk of liver cancer, according to a news release from Australia's Adelaide University.

The findings challenge growing interest in Caspase-2 inhibitors as a potential therapeutic strategy to treat and/or prevent fatty liver disease and highlight the need for caution when targeting this pathway, the release said.

Caspase-2 plays a critical role in maintaining the genetic stability of liver cells while also having an independent role in controlling fat levels in the liver, said lead researcher Loretta Dorstyn from the Centre for Cancer Biology.

"Liver cells normally have extra copies of genetic material, known as polyploidy, and while this feature can help the liver cope with stress, our study shows that without the enzyme Caspase-2, abnormally high levels of polyploidy in the liver can be damaging," Dorstyn said.

In mice lacking the enzyme, or had a version of it that no longer worked, liver cells were abnormally large with an excessive amount of genetic and cellular damage, said the researchers. — Xinhua

China launches new AI model for agriculture



A farmer harvests Chinese cabbages in Huiting Town of Xiayi County, Shangqiu City of Central China's Henan Province, 5 January 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINA'S Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU) has introduced Sinong, the country's first open-source, vertical large language model (LLM) dedicated to the general agricultural sector.

This release marks a significant breakthrough in foundational AI model research and its applications for agriculture in China, the *Science and Technology Daily* reported on Tuesday.

The model is trained on a vast, structured agricultural dataset, covering specialized data from fields such as animal science, agricultural economics and management, agricultural resources and environment, horticulture, smart

agriculture, veterinary medicine, plant protection, and crop breeding.

The model, named after the ancient Chinese officials overseeing agriculture and finance, integrates content from nearly 9,000 books, over 240,000 academic papers, approximately 20,000 policy documents and standards, and extensive web-based knowledge.

To tackle common challenges in specialized LLMs such as hallucination and knowledge obsolescence, which often end up with generating incorrect information, the team implemented comprehensive technical solutions. Beyond conventional instruction fine-tuning, the training process incorporated mul-

ti-dimensional data, including chain-of-thought and contextual references, significantly enhancing the model's comprehension and generative capabilities for professional agricultural knowledge, according to the report.

Sinong is now fully open-sourced on platforms like ModelScope and GitHub. This open-source strategy aims to reduce barriers to AI application in agriculture, empowering research institutions, enterprises, and developers to build upon Sinong for secondary development and innovation, thereby fostering a collaborative ecosystem for smart agriculture solutions, the NAU was quoted as saying. — Xinhua

Social media harms teens, watchdog warns, as France weighs ban

SOCIAL media harms the mental health of adolescents, particularly girls, France's health watchdog said Tuesday as the country debates banning children under 15 from accessing the immensely popular platforms.

The results of an expert

scientific review on the subject were announced after Australia became the first country to prohibit big platforms including Instagram, TikTok and YouTube for under 16s last month, while other nations consider following its lead. Using social media is not

the sole cause of the declining mental health of teenagers, but its negative effects are "numerous" and well documented, the French public health watchdog ANSES wrote in its opinion, the result of five years of work by a committee of experts. — AFP



A boy poses at his home as he looks at social media on his mobile phone in Sydney on 8 December 2025. PHOTO: AFP