

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Pro Tem President (Duty) Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the first 2025 Meeting of Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**T**he National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held its 1/2025 meeting at the Office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Pro Tem President (Duty) Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe

## Political solutions require dialogue at negotiation table

The National Defence and Security Council held its 2025 first meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

... the university buildings in Loikaw were destroyed in attacks by KNPP and PDF terrorists on Loikaw last year. So, the university was closed. A total of 44 buildings were damaged at Loikaw University. It needs to spend some K9 billion on repairing these buildings. Such a cost can be used in building many primary schools. It can be spent on many projects of agriculture, livestock and regional development tasks.

Win, Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, special invitees SAC Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe and Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo.

The Pro Tem President (Duty) Defence Services Commander-in-Chief explained the work process of State responsibilities served by the SAC during the six-month extended period.

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### Article

Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu): A Doyen of Myanmar language, linguistics and literature

By Myint Zan

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GACC export guidelines to be unveiled at MSME Product Expo

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Traditional Myanmar 'Poneyaygyi' introduces 10 new menu innovations



# NATIONAL

## Leveraging Agricultural Strength for Export Growth through Nationwide Collaboration

OUR country has a strong foundation for successfully operating agricultural and livestock activities and is strategically positioned to export these products based on market demand.

Collaboration among all departmental officials and citizens is essential for the development of agriculture and livestock farms.

*(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with members of the Shan State government and regional- and district-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)*



### National Objectives for 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Union Day 2025

1. To strive for the perpetual development of the Union through the Union spirit, patriotic values, a sublime state of mind and a genuine nationalist spirit.
2. To encourage collaborative efforts among all ethnic nationals to pursue dialogue for durable peace and to end armed conflicts.
3. To collectively advance cooperation amongst all national people, the government, and Tatmadaw to ensure stability and the rule of law.
4. To enhance collaborative efforts to ensure nationwide stability and tranquillity, enabling the successful conduct of multiparty general elections.
5. To promote balanced development across all regions and states, as well as enhance health, education and job opportunities for ethnic nationals.

### Mottos for 78<sup>th</sup> Union Day 2025

1. When all ethnic national brethren stand in unity, hand in hand, the Union will firmly stand.
2. Drifting in one boat, on the same voyage we float; Bound together in communion, the heart of the Union.
3. United in heart and soul, Marching towards the Union's goal.
4. Let's build peace to achieve prosperity.
5. Strong in unity, Ethnic national brethren ensure the nation's strength.

### Myanmar Gazette

#### Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE State Administration Council has appointed Dr Min Thein, Deputy Director-General of the Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as Director-General of the Department of Rehabilitation of the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## Maung Saitta's classic play adapted into film

DIRECTOR Maung Saitta's renowned play 'Phoe Kauk' is being adapted into a film by director Mel Min Bon.

Mel Min Bon has taken charge of the screen-play adaptation and will direct the film under SZ Film Production. She stated, "This project is a fresh take on a well-known classic play. While ensuring the original essence remains intact, we have carefully refined and enhanced certain scenes for a more engaging cinematic experience. Whether remaking a classic or creating an original

film, the responsibility remains immense. I have also incorporated elements that reflect my vision".

The film will feature a star-studded cast, including Academy Award winners Nay Toe and Khin Wint Wah, alongside Nay Myo Aung, Shein Tint Htoo, Nyi Nanda, Min Tayza, Lin Zarni Zaw, guest stars Su Eaint San, Myo Myo and May Aung Lan Paing.

The launch ceremony for the 'Phoe Kauk' film took place on 30 January at the Eaindawya Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon. — ASH/KZL



The filming launch for the 'Phoe Kauk' movie is in progress.



# 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.

*(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)*

# Political solutions require dialogue at ...

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#### Defence and security conditions of the State

In his clarifications, the Senior General said that the Five-Point Roadmap and nine objectives were adopted on 4 February 2023 to implement them aligned with the conditions of the State. Concerning the first point of the Roadmap “**Emphasis will be placed on ensuring peace and stability and the full rule of law across the whole Union, and on successfully conducting a free and fair multiparty democratic general election**”, some ethnic armed organizations and PDF terrorists undermine peace and stability of the regions with terror attacks on towns and villages and destroying and robbing life and property of the people. It can be seen that some EAOs taking such situations as privileges are making attempts to expand their areas. During the six months, 383 innocent people and State service personnel died in the various terror attacks and 516 education and health infrastructures including public buildings were destroyed. During the period, KIA terrorists in Kachin State joining hands with PDF terrorists attacked the China-Myanmar border region, Bhamo region, upper Sagaing Region and Indaw region whereas KNU terrorists together with PDF terrorists attacked the Kataiti region, Mepali region, Anankwin region and Kawkareik region in Kayin State. Meanwhile, AA terrorists in Rakhine State together with PDF terrorists attacked the Magway Region-Rakhine State border, Bago Region-Rakhine State border, and Ayeyawady Region-Rakhine State border. Moreover, CNF insurgents in Chin State together with PDF terrorists committed attacks on Mindat, Kanpetlet and Falam.

The acts of terrorism were initiated as a result of former Hluttaw representatives who committed electoral fraud exploiting public sentiment and inciting violence following the annulment of the 2020 general election due to electoral irregularities. It was observed that Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) took advantage of the country’s political crisis to carry out attacks under the pretext of ethnic and political reasons. Some of these groups

engaged in extremist rhetoric and mobilized support in their respective territories. Moreover, they collaborated with anti-government media at home and abroad to spread misinformation and propaganda. Coordinated efforts were made to incite widespread acts of violence across the country at strategic moments. Moreover, it was stated that threats, coercion, and pressure were exerted on conscientious citizens and civil servants. As a result, acts of violence have increased nationwide, leading to the loss of lives, homes, possessions, and extensive damage to a large number of public infrastructures. Who has truly benefited from these incidents? The answer is no one. Only the country has suffered losses. Therefore, countries and individuals advocating for democracy should reflect on these consequences. As an example, **the university buildings in Loikaw were destroyed in attacks by KNPP and PDF terrorists on Loikaw last year. So, the university was closed. A total of 44 buildings were damaged at Loikaw University. It needs to spend some K9 billion on repairing these buildings. Such a cost can be used in building many primary schools. It can be spent on many projects of agriculture, livestock and regional development tasks.** Such an amount referred to damage to a single university. Damage to remaining universities, schools, markets and public property will amount to many billion kyats. Due to naughty acts based on political affairs, residents faced losses, so security forces counterattacked those terrorists with sacrifices. **Only the residents and local terrorists in a region can either maintain stability and development or disrupt peace and cause delays in progress. The unlawful and violent acts committed by these armed terrorist groups are widely condemned by people across the entire nation. In response, the Tatmadaw is working together with peace-seeking locals to restore stability in the region and to stop these terror acts.**

The State Administration Council is implementing a public security system to ensure that each citizen, in collabora-

tion with relevant security personnel, can implement security awareness. Public security and counter-terrorism groups have already been established at the ward/village level. Therefore, **for the safety of the public and regional stability, citizens are encouraged to report any relevant information.**

As the State Administration Council is implementing two political visions – **to strengthen the genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and to build a Union based on democracy and federalism, it is necessary to hold an election without fail.** Hence, preparations are being made with utmost efforts to hold the election. **The general election must be able to show off the genuine aspirations of the people. According to the election laws and regulations, there is no prescribed minimum number of votes required for an election to be valid.**

Only the people have to protect the multiparty democratic system the people aspire to. The election must be systematic, free and fair fully and it must be prestigious. It is necessary to manage eligible voters must not be left as much as possible. To be able to do so, as it is essential for restoring peace and stability in relevant regions, Tatmadaw and security forces are accelerating security measures. As such, **all people have to participate in the peace and tranquillity of the regions and the smooth process of democratization to walk on the path of democracy they all aspire to.**

#### Increased production of agriculture and livestock products

Myanmar focuses on agriculture and livestock farms. **Some 70 per cent of the population is residing in rural areas. Of them, 45.3 per cent of the people are engaged in agriculture, fishery and forestry businesses. More than 50 per cent of the population has completed education to some extent. So, priority was given to the systematic undertaking of the agriculture and livestock sectors.** According to the climatic conditions, geographical conditions and location, Myanmar can successfully operate agriculture and livestock

farms. However, **efforts must be made to meet the target production of agriculture and livestock tasks to ease the high prices of commodities and double and triple the productivity.**

Emphasis was placed on raising the production of agriculture and livestock farms at home and reducing import commodities. Only when the country raises production will its production and services increase. If so, the country can reduce import volume as well as decline spending on foreign exchange. As a result, the domestic currency will be strong, resulting in the stability of commodity prices. Hence, supervision is focusing on doubling the production of agriculture and livestock sectors.

To increase agricultural produce, manufacturing must be operated by applying modern technologies with the use of agricultural products. Hence, the Senior General said that he has been touring all parts of the nation to accelerate the MSME businesses since 2022. **Operating MSME needs raw materials. Hence, a policy has been adopted for domestic raw materials. And then, efforts are being made to produce value-added products, export them, collect inputs, provide financial assistance and recruit human resources.** Only when people apply modern technologies in operating agricultural and livestock farming tasks rather than conventional methods will they have high-yield production.

Myanmar has planted more than 14.8 million acres of monsoon paddy, over 2.09 million acres of summer paddy, more than 2.1 million acres of maize, over 3.2 million acres of oil crops and more than three million acres of pulses and beans in 2024-25 cultivation season. It is necessary to meet the target cultivation for paddy and other crops. In livestock breeding, priority must be made to have a successful operation of livestock breeding tasks with the use of feeds, water and domestic raw materials systematically. As the country has many sound foundations for the production of agriculture and livestock sectors, all the people have to participate

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# NATIONAL

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in its projects successfully. In particular, arrangements have been made to reduce the import of cooking oil in 2026 as it costs over US\$500 million per year. Efforts are being made to meet the target production of sesame and expand the cultivation of sunflower to meet the domestic oil demand.

The State Administration Council has formed the **Agriculture and Livestock Development Commission, the Industrial Development Commission and the Electric and Energy Development Commission to leverage up agriculture and livestock sector, industrial sector and electric and energy sector** which are main drives for development of the State. These commissions have to take responsibility for the development of the primary sectors to improve the country and strive to effectively implement these sectors.

### Education sector

**Education is essential for the personal development of each individual, and for a nation, it is only when there is a large number of well-educated people with knowledge and skills that various sectors will be able to develop further.** According to the nature of education, it is only after acquiring basic education up to the middle school level that one can continue to learn the skills necessary for personal advancement.

All children of school age should have the opportunity to attend school, as education is a critical matter. Responsible authorities must ensure that all students receive education up to the highest level, facilitate improvements in transitions between grade levels, and focus on providing both vocational training and higher education. It is important to prioritize these efforts. Children who are of school age but not attending school not only suffer in their lives but also hinder the development of their communities and the country. Therefore, **for the future of the nation, all children must remain in school and receive an education. Local administrative organizations, teachers, parents, and town elders must work together to encourage, unite, and support the implementation of this goal.** It is important to note that over 220,000 applications have already been submitted for the upcoming KG+12 university entrance exams in March. Relevant authorities are ensuring that students can take their exams calmly and systematically.

### Health sector

Regarding the health sector, every citizen must be healthy, as only with

good health can they engage in activities such as education, social affairs, and economic work. Therefore, the policy of **'where there is a hospital, there should be a doctor'** has been established, and efforts are being made to upgrade hospitals and ensure the assignments of medical doctors in all hospitals.

### Natural disaster

Due to the heavy rainfall associated with Typhoon Yagi in Myanmar during September 2024, flooding occurred in 106 townships across eight states and regions. It has been observed that the severity of this flooding is unprecedented in the affected areas, marking the worst situation in the past 50 years. In response to the damage and casualties caused by this natural disaster, the Senior General recounted that he inspected the disaster-affected areas to initiate rehabilitation as quickly as possible. He met with the people affected by natural disasters and offered words of encouragement, provided food supplies, and discussed the causes of the disaster as well as the necessary reconstruction efforts with relevant ministry officials and experts. Moreover, the Senior General took steps to ensure that relief and rehabilitation efforts were carried out effectively and as quickly as possible.

In terms of supplies provided, a total of 447.1 million was allocated for over 440 fatalities caused by the recent natural disaster. Moreover, more than K21.2 billion was provided for damage to residential property, while over K38.9 billion was allocated for other forms of support. Furthermore, efforts are underway to compile a list of internally displaced persons and to arrange necessary supplies for them. **According to the Disaster Management Law, losses suffered by civilians due to acts of terrorism and armed conflicts are also classified under disaster-related damages. Therefore, the State will continue to provide support to internally displaced persons.** Just as the government has made a concerted effort to take action, donors from across the country, as well as domestic and international organizations, have contributed as much as they could. As a result, rehabilitation and relief efforts have been carried out effectively and swiftly. The Senior General said **he would like to express appreciation for the public's participation and generosity. As Myanmar citizens, the way they support one another during times of natural disasters and hardships demonstrates the spirit of unity and patriotism among all the people. This**

**is something we take great pride in for the nation.**

### Peacemaking processes

From the time the State Administration Council took on the responsibilities of the State, it has been working towards ending armed conflicts within the country and achieving durable peace under the 2008 Constitution and the agreements outlined in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). In this regard, the year 2022 was designated as the "Year of Peace", and ethnic armed group leaders were invited for open and unrestricted discussions without any preconditions. As the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee, from its establishment until now, a total of 114 peace negotiations have been conducted – seven with NCA signatory groups and six non-signatory groups. Moreover, 21 discussions have been held with political parties and 10 meetings with other organizations advocating for peace. Through these negotiations, agreements have been reached to facilitate discussions on certain issues in upcoming Hluttaw sessions. Further negotiations will continue to achieve more agreements.

On 26 September 2024, due to the significant loss of the nation's human resources, infrastructures, and the lives and property of the people, an invitation was extended to resolve the political issue through political means. It was emphasized that only by ending armed conflicts in various regions could a free and fair election be held. Furthermore, it was affirmed that efforts to implement the planned processes for achieving peace by ceasing armed conflicts would continue without interruption. **Since political solutions can only be achieved through dialogue at the negotiating table, it was reiterated that peace negotiations are always welcomed and encouraged.**

### Strengthening multiparty democratic system and building a Union based on democracy and federalism

Tatmadaw has paved the way for the nation to walk on a multiparty democratic path desired by the people. Likewise, it has collaborated with elected governments to strengthen the multiparty democratic system. As the State Administration Council is following the multiparty democratic system that the people aspire to, it is necessary to hold an election without fail. To facilitate the participation of political parties in the election, laws and regulations regarding political party registration have been

issued and amended. According to the enacted laws, 50 parties have applied for re-registration, while 18 parties have applied for new party registration, making a total of 68 political parties. According to Section 25 of the Political Parties Registration Law, a total of 40 political parties that did not apply for re-registration under the law have been automatically dissolved as political parties. The Union Election Commission has approved the registration of 55 out of 68 political parties that applied for re-registration or new registration and has rejected the registration of two parties by the law. As a result, there are currently 53 officially registered political parties. He accepts that to discuss regional and ethnic affairs lawfully, ethnic representatives need to participate more actively in the political platform, which is why these actions are being taken.

The Union Election Commission has held 10 meetings with political parties for discussions. During these meetings, various issues were addressed, including electoral fraud and irregularities that occurred in the 2020 multiparty democratic general elections, as well as the issue of invalid votes that resulted from past electoral practices. Moreover, discussions covered the implementation of a mixed electoral system, combining the First Past The Post (FPTP) system with a Closed List Proportional Representation (PR) system, which is considered more suitable and straightforward for Myanmar. Other topics included election-related legal frameworks, regulations concerning political parties, party membership strength, the establishment of party offices, preparations for holding elections, and the participation of both domestic and international election monitoring organizations. Agreements were reached on these matters, and political parties were urged to firmly and genuinely implement the agreements in practice.

In the 2020 general election, individuals from the NLD party involved in electoral fraud, inflated voter lists and engaged in electoral fraud not only within a single constituency but also across the entire country, ensuring an illegitimate victory. It has been observed that **the individuals responsible for electoral fraud in all townships during the 2020 election were members of the NLD party's Central Executive Committee (CEC). Since those CEC members were representatives of the NLD party, it can be assumed that the electoral fraud was committed following the party's directives.**

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#### Preparations to hold a multiparty democratic general election

The Senior General said that he has been working on organizing the general election successfully from all fronts, and during his foreign trips, he has also clarified the situation regarding the efforts to ensure the successful conduct of the election during meetings with heads of state and officials from other countries. Furthermore, when meeting with ambassadors and officials from international organizations visiting Myanmar, the Senior General recounted that he had also explained the measures being taken to organize the election. As a result of these clear explanations, Myanmar has received full support and endorsement from the international community for the election the government is leading.

All citizens with the right to vote have been able to receive citizenship scrutiny cards through the implementation of the Pankhinn Projects 1, 2, and 3, totalling 5,980,664 individuals. Furthermore, efforts are ongoing to ensure that those remaining who have not yet received their citizenship scrutiny cards will receive them before the election period concludes.

Moreover, the Union Election Commission is carrying out demonstrations and practical tests related to the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine to ensure that voters can cast their votes clearly and easily, that the election results are accurate, that there is no invalid voting, that voter fraud is prevented, and that transparency is maintained.

#### Census collection

Accurate basic voter lists are essential for holding a general election. The 2024 population and household census was conducted from 1 to 15 October, and the duration was extended due to certain security issues and transport difficulties. Collecting census data is a beneficial operation for the country, and the data collected can also be used to implement supportive projects.

The provisional results of the 2024 population and housing census show a total population of 51,316,756 (over 51.3 million) on census night, 30 September 2024. The figures include 32,191,407 (32.19 million) from the census and 19,125,349 (19.1 million) from estimated data. Among them, 15,105,215 males (over 15 million) and 17,086,192 females (over 17 million) are recorded, with a gender ratio of 46.9 per cent males and 53.1 per cent females. The data that has been collected will be used as valid voter lists per electoral procedures.

The digits show a slight decline over

the past decade. Population changes are due to birth rates, death rates, and migration. It can be assumed that **the population is very low when compared to the width of the country and the population numbers. A proper population and yearly increase in population is needed to develop the country. Therefore, it needs to allocate support for education and health sectors to increase the birth rate and reduce the death rate in the country.** Regarding immigration, measures should be carried out to ensure the State's economy and stability. **The population policy suitable for the country will be drafted to achieve a possible population in the country.**

#### Cementing multiparty democratic general election

The Union Election Commission arranges to hold the multiparty general election under the Constitution (2008) and Election Law as per the electoral procedures depending on the regional security. The election should have a correct voter list and should be a free, just and transparent election. The international observers should be invited to the event. Efforts also should be made to adopt a PR system for the participation of the people in Hluttaw representing ethnic nationals and different levels of people.

**Casting a vote in an election is the free expression of a citizen's desire. Creating a situation in which all eligible voters can cast their votes is the duty of the government. Casting a vote or not is a stance of individuals.** Arrangements should be also made to curb the threat, force, encouragement and bullying of insurgents during the vote casting. Therefore, the SAC makes efforts to hold a prestigious and correct multiparty general election from the point of view of law and public opinion, to prevent all citizens from unlawful action and to be a dignified and correct election.

The general election should reflect the opinions of the majority of the people. There should be peace and stability in respective regions to achieve a multiparty democracy system as quickly as possible. Therefore, the current public security system should be accelerated with public participation.

According to the events in Myanmar and world countries, there is one thing when a nation makes a transition from one system to another, it adopts a suitable system depending on its geography, national characteristics, culture and circumstances. If it follows the international criteria or pressure of powerful countries, the stability can become worse. For example, some countries

adopt inappropriate systems and hold the general election quickly to pressure. Therefore, they have no political stability to date and are struggling in various crises. Only the citizens know most about the internal affairs of their nation. The political changes broke out due to voting fraud in the 2020 election. **SAC is making concerted efforts step by step to lead the country to a democratic pathway. Only the Myanmar citizens decide the political affairs of Myanmar. The ongoing reform and political situation will be implemented successfully depending on the internal affairs of the country rather than the international pressures, and others.**

The SAC also tries to straighten the democracy pathway that is deteriorated by the 2020 election. In doing so, the persons and certain organizations, that did not try to solve with political means, chose armed engagements. Therefore, the country faces terrorist attacks. The ethnic armed organizations also tried to grab regional authority rather than leading to a multiparty democracy pathway. Meanwhile, the government stabilizes the security sector of the country and promotes the State economy and social sectors receiving certain achievements.

However, **there are still challenges to the successful holding of the general election, especially, it needs peace and stability to hold a free, fair and just general election.** Hence, the State Administration Council submitted an extension of the six-month term for serving State responsibilities under the Constitution to implement the above-mentioned processes.

Concerning the submission of the Senior General, members of the National Defence and Security Council held discussions.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat first said that the Union Election Commission is conducting sector-wise arrangements aiming to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, and also working with ministries concerned to have correct and accurate voter lists. Compiling the voters list is conducted in detail in each poll station and systematic arrangements must be made for voters to cast votes. To do so, it is necessary to take adequate time. So, he supported the extension of six months of declaration of a state of emergency nationwide from 1 February 2025.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win also discussed that stability plays a key role in the successful holding of a multiparty general election which is the SAC's ultimate goal. The situations in Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Chin states were clarified within the last six months.

Therefore, state stability and security affairs will be conducted continuously. Hence, he supported an extension of a six-month term of the state of emergency to do these measures.

In his discussions, Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye said the current situation is a time to conduct systematic measures for a free and fair multiparty general election. There should be internal security and stability to hold the multiparty general election. To be able to conduct measures to hold the election, it is necessary to extend the term of the State of Emergency to ensure the security, peace and stability of the State. Hence, he supports the extension of a six-month term of the state of emergency.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae explained that from 1 August 2024 to 27 January 2025, the violence broke out in regions and states resulting in deaths and injuries of government employees, administrative officials, monks and students, and arrested arms and ammunition. So, he supported the extension of the term of State of emergency across the nation by the Constitution as the security, stability and law enforcement across the nation are not in normal condition.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe reported on the diplomatic ties with international countries, measures to strengthen Tatmadaws and civilian communications, enhancement of international communications, Tatmadaws and civilian cooperation in the term of SAC. He then clarified the findings on international reorganizations to adopt the Myanmar-led Myanmar Way for Myanmar Affairs, and the positive support of partner countries to hold multiparty democratic general elections freely. So, he supported the proposal for an extension of a six-month term of the state of emergency.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung said that the SAC achieved successes in implementing a five-point roadmap, peace processes and enumeration of population and household census. To maintain these solid foundations and to hold a free and fair multiparty general election, he supported an extension of a six-month term of the state of emergency.

Then, Pro Tem President (Duty) Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing declared the extension of a further six-month State of Emergency in the entire nation from 1 February 2025 and concluded the meeting.—MNA/TTA/KTZH



# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 7/2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Reconstitution of State Administration Council

THE State Administration Council has reconstituted itself under Section 419 of the Constitution as follows: -

(1) Senior General Min Aung Hlaing	Chairman
(2) Vice-Senior General Soe Win	Vice-Chairman
(3) General Aung Lin Dwe	Secretary
(4) General Ye Win Oo	Joint Secretary
(5) General Mya Tun Oo	Member

(6) Admiral Tin Aung San	Member
(7) General Maung Maung Aye	Member
(8) General Nyo Saw	Member
(9) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae	Member
(10) U Wunna Maung Lwin	Member
(11) Daw Dwe Bu	Member
(12) Porel Aung Thein	Member
(13) Mahn Nyein Maung	Member
(14) Dr Hmuh Thang	Member
(15) Dr Ba Shwe	Member
(16) Khun San Lwin	Member

Sd/  
Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Chairman  
State Administration Council

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 8/2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Union Government Reformation

THE State Administration Council has restructured the Union Government as follows, in order to more efficiently and promptly implement the five-point roadmap and nine objectives set out, under Section 419 of the Constitution.

(1) Prime Minister	Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
(2) Deputy Prime Minister	Vice-Senior General Soe Win
(3) Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister Office of the Prime Minister	Admiral Tin Aung San
(4) Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister Ministry of Transport and Communications	General Mya Tun Oo
(5) Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister Ministry of Defence	General Maung Maung Aye
(6) Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister Ministry of Planning and Finance	U Win Shein
(7) Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister Ministry of Foreign Affairs	U Than Swe
(8) Union Minister Ministry of Home Affairs	Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung
(9) Union Minister Ministry 1 at the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council	Admiral Moe Aung
(10) Union Minister Ministry 2 at the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council	U Ko Ko Hlaing
(11) Union Minister Ministry 3 at the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council	U Maung Maung Tint
(12) Union Minister Ministry 4 at the Office of the Chairman of the State Administration Council	U Aung Kyaw Hoe
(13) Union Minister Ministry of Border Affairs	Lt-Gen Yar Pyae
(14) Union Minister Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations	Dr Kan Zaw
(15) Union Minister Ministry of Legal Affairs	Dr Thida Oo

(16) Union Minister Ministry of Information	U Maung Maung Ohn
(17) Union Minister Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture	U Tin Oo Lwin
(18) Union Minister Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	U Min Naung
(19) Union Minister Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development	U Hla Moe
(20) Union Minister Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	U Khin Maung Yi
(21) Union Minister Ministry of Electric Power	U Nyan Tun
(22) Union Minister Ministry of Energy	U Ko Ko Lwin
(23) Union Minister Ministry of Industry	Dr Charlie Than
(24) Union Minister Ministry of Immigration and Population	U Myint Kyaing
(25) Union Minister Ministry of Labour	U Chit Swe
(26) Union Minister Ministry of Commerce	U Tun Ohn
(27) Union Minister Ministry of Education	Dr Nyunt Pe
(28) Union Minister Ministry of Science and Technology	Dr Myo Thein Kyaw
(29) Union Minister Ministry of Health	Dr Thet Khaing Win
(30) Union Minister Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs	Jeng Phang Naw Taung
(31) Union Minister Ministry of Construction	U Myo Thant
(32) Union Minister Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Dr Soe Win
(33) Union Minister Ministry of Hotels and Tourism	U Kyaw Soe Win
(34) Union Minister Ministry of Ethnic Affairs	U Khun Thant Zaw Htoo
(35) Permanent Secretary Office of the Union Government	U Zaw Than Thin

Sd/  
Min Aung Hlaing  
Senior General  
Chairman  
State Administration Council

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 9/2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Transfer and Duty Assignment of Union Ministers

THE State Administration Council has transferred and assigned the following Union Ministers to the duties of Union Ministers of Ministries shown against each

of their names.

(1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae	Ministry of Border Affairs
(2) Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung	Ministry of Home Affairs

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary



# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 10/2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Retirement from duty allowed

THE State Administration Council has allowed the following Union Ministers to retire from the duties of Union Ministers under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- |                        |                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) U Myint Naung      | Ministry of Labour                   |
| (2) U Min Thein Zan    | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs |
| (3) Dr Thet Thet Khine | Ministry of Hotels and Tourism       |

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 14/2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Ministers

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned the following persons to the duties of Deputy Ministers of the Ministries shown against each of their names under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| (2) U Nay Myo Hlaing       | Ministry of Education    |

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 11/2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Appointment and Duty Assignment of Union Ministers

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned the following persons to the duties of Union Ministers of the Ministries shown against each of their names under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| (1) U Maung Maung Tint    | Ministry 3 at Office of Chairman of the State Administration Council |
| (2) U Chit Swe            | Ministry of Labour   |
| (3) Jeng Phang Naw Taung  | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs                                 |
| (4) U Kyaw Soe Win        | Ministry of Hotels and Tourism                                       |
| (5) U Khun Thant Zaw Htoo | Ministry of Ethnic Affairs   |

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 15/2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Appointment and Duty Assignment of Members of Central Advisory Body

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned the following persons to the duties of Members of the Central Advisory Board under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- |                  |
|------------------|
| (1) U Shwe Kyein |
| (2) U Yan Kyaw   |

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 12/2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Appointment of Commission Member

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Toe Yi as a Member of the Anti-Corruption Commission under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 16/2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Reconstitution of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

THE State Administration Council has reconstituted the "Myanmar National Human Rights Commission" with the following persons under Section 419 of the Constitution.

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| (a) U Paw Lwin Sein                 | Chairman |
| (b) U Kyaw Soe                      | Member   |
| (c) Dr Than Myint                   | Member   |
| (d) Dr Myint Thu Myaing             | Member   |
| (e) U Tin Aung                      | Member   |
| (f) U Kyaw Myint                    | Member   |
| (g) U Win Hlaing Oo (a) Cung Zamone | Member   |
| (h) U Than Win                      | Member   |
| (i) U Tin Ko Ko                     | Member   |

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, which was formed under Order 3/2020 issued by the previous President's Office dated 14 January 2020, Order 68/2023 issued by the State Administration Council dated 3 August 2023 and Order 47/2024 dated 7 September 2024 was dissolved from today.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council

Order 13/2025  
3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Tabodwe 1386 ME  
31 January 2025

### Retirement from duty allowed

THE State Administration Council has allowed Dr Moe Zaw Tun, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, to retire from the duties under Section 419 of the Constitution.

By order,  
Aung Lin Dwe  
General  
Secretary



# OPINION

## Beware of the risk of mosquito-borne diseases

THESE are thousands of mosquito species worldwide, but three species are particularly dangerous to humans due to the diseases they transmit. The Aedes mosquito is responsible for dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF), the Anopheles mosquito spreads malaria, and the Culex mosquito causes elephantiasis.

As their natures, male mosquitoes feed only on nectar, while female mosquitoes require blood from humans in particular for reproduction. This makes female mosquitoes essential for both their reproductive cycles and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

Mosquito-borne diseases have widespread impacts on individuals and communities, killing millions annually without bearing any advantages to the society. Preventing mosquito bites through protective measures is vital to reducing the risk of these diseases. People should also seek medical advice and treatment promptly to manage and prevent further complications from these life-threatening conditions.

In response to this process, scientists at Macquarie University in Australia have developed genetically modified male mosquitoes that produce toxic proteins in their sperm, which kill female mosquitoes during mating. This strategy aims to reduce the female mosquito population, thereby preventing the spread of diseases.

The prevalence of DHF has been rising dramatically over the past five decades, largely due to climate change and different types of pollution. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that in 2000, around 500,000 people were affected by dengue haemorrhagic fever. By 2019, the number had increased to approximately 5.2 million, and in 2023, over 6.5 million people were infected. Tragically, DHF led to the deaths of over 7,300 people across 80 countries. In 2024, more than 14 million people worldwide contracted DHF, and over 10,000 people died from the disease.

Malaria, which is transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito, remains one of the deadliest diseases globally, with the highest mortality rate among mosquito-borne illnesses. The disease thrives during the early and late monsoon seasons, contributing to surges in malaria cases. WHO reported that in 2023, malaria affected 263 million people worldwide, with some 597,000 fatalities. In fact, Africa remains the most affected region, accounting for 94 per cent of global malaria cases.

Elephantiasis, caused by the Culex mosquito, also leads to severe health complications. While it is less likely to be fatal, elephantiasis causes significant suffering, particularly due to its chronic nature and the socioeconomic challenges it creates for patients. The long-term treatment costs and the daily struggles faced by affected individuals place heavy burdens on their families.

Mosquito-borne diseases have widespread impacts on individuals and communities, killing millions annually without bearing any advantages to the society. Preventing mosquito bites through protective measures is vital to reducing the risk of these diseases. People should also seek medical advice and treatment promptly to manage and prevent further complications from these life-threatening conditions.

### Contact with Saya Maung Khin Min in the last few weeks of his life

ON 2 January 2025, I telephoned Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu), (24 January 1940-28 January 2025) to wish him a 'Happy birthday'. Saya told me that his actual birthday was 24 January. In Grade XII Myanmar Sar Text where one of Saya's essays is reproduced with a brief biography, it is stated that he was born on 24 January 1940. During our conversation which was not actually on his birthday, I informed him that I had bought and had then partly read what turned out to be his second-last book titled in translation 'A Guide to Sixty Treatises on Myanmar Language and Literature' (hereafter 'Sixty Treatises'), မြန်မာဘာသာစကား ကျမ်းဂြောက်ဆယ် အညွှန်း published in November 2024. I told him that it was, to me, in parts the more difficult book among the seven or so of his books which I have read. His magisterial မြန်မာစာပေခရီး ('Journey of Myanmar Literature'), first published around 2013 and History of Myanmar Literature during the Colonial Period (ကိုလိုနီခေတ် မြန်မာစာပေ သမိုင်း) (first published 2010) was, in comparison an easier read, I told Saya. (In an obituary on 29 January 2025 GNLN it was incorrectly translated as 'Journey of Myanmar Language'. စာပေ is literature, ဘာသာစကား is language.) I requested Saya, if he will, to send me a few of his books to me. From 1979 to January 2025, he had published a total of 133 books!

Saya Maung Khin Min (hereafter MKM) is indeed an astonishing writer. In one of the essays which was reproduced in the Myanmar Sar Text for Matriculation students for the academic years 1969-70 to 1985-86, there is an article by Dagon U Tun Myint (27 June 1908-8 October 1974) titled 'An Astonishing Writer' (အံ့ဖွယ်စာရေးဆရာ). Several months ago, in another phone conversation, I complimented Saya that he was also an 'astonishing writer'.

On 20 January 2025, I sent four of my books to Saya MKM care of the Myanmar Sar Board address and Saya sent me three of his books to me. We exchanged seven books on that day. Saya signed each of the books that he presented to me. I also signed the books that I presented to him. I wrote that they were presented for his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. I also wrote as per the usual salutation but with sincerity that he may live healthily past the age of 100 (အသက်ရာကျော် ရှည်ပါစေ). Alas, it was not to be.

### Very few glimpses at very few of Maung Khin Min's books

One of the three books that Saya sent me was the book which he wrote in a colloquial style. It may be the first and probably the last book he wrote in that style. The title in translation is 'Notable Events, Notable Statements' အမှတ်တရဖြစ်ရပ် အမှတ်တရစကား. Saya wrote brief vignettes of 40 personages. They were his teachers, and senior colleagues from his kindergarten days through University until his retirement and post-retirement years. Coincidentally, almost ominously I finished reading the book around 12:45 am after midnight on 28 January 2025. This apparently was perhaps within half an hour of Saya's demise.

I also telephoned Saya to wish him his real birthday on 24 January 2025 when he reached the venerable age of 85 years. I stated that I had finished reading his treatise on Guide to Sixty Treatises. I queried and made brief comments on the treatises

# Saya Maung Khin Min (Danubyu): A Doyen of Myanmar language, linguistics and literature



Front covers of books by the late Sayagyi Maung Khin Min (Danubyu).

of the second Kyaw Aung San Htar Sayadaw of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, writer and the brilliant linguist and leftist the late Min Latt Yin Gaung's treatise in the early 1960s regarding Myanmar linguistics. I praised Saya's efforts in collating, researching and presenting the sixty treatises in a compact, concise but very informative format. Saya had been mostly complimentary of most of the authors of the sixty treatises. But a few critiques of a few Chapters perhaps are natural and justifiable. In particular, MKM critiqued the gratuitous comment of U Thein Pe Myint (10 July 1914-15 January 1978) regarding linguistics which appeared in his column 'Let me talk frankly' ဖွင့်ပွင့်လင်းလင်း ပြောပါရစေ of 15 February 1972. U Thein Pe Myint was a prominent author in the contemporary literary firmament. Nevertheless- dare I say it- he was not an expert in Myanmar linguistics as Maung Khin Min was. Hence Saya's brief criticism of U Thein Pe Myint's article of more than 52 years ago if belated was justified.

### A brief glimpse at Maung Khin Min's academic career and scholarly contributions

A few-indeed very few snippets concerning Saya's achievements and his illustrious career may

be stated. Saya MKM passed the Matriculation exam in 1959 with distinctions in Burmese (as it was then formally called) and Mathematics. Saya wrote that during that year the Matriculation pass rate was less than four per cent. Contrast this with the pass rate of around 56 per cent for Grade XII Matriculation results in 2024. And Saya was the only candidate to obtain distinction in Burmese in the whole country that year! Saya thanked his own Sayagyi Burmese Professor U E Maung (27 February 1905-1 February 1985) in his 'Notable Events, Notable Statements' book for awarding to him the sole Burmese distinction and therefore the highest mark in the country (on page 76). One could add that Sayagyi U E Maung also awarded or approved the sole Burmese distinction (in the year 1955) to the matriculation paper of Saya ဝုဇ်ထူး U Thein Naing (born 27 March 1936). Saya U Thein Naing is, as of 29 January 2025, hopefully, recovering and recuperating from an operation at a hospital in Yangon. One can only provide best wishes and send Metta to Saya U Thein Naing for his full recovery. Poet Saya Tin Moe (19 November 1933- 22 January 2007) also obtained distinction in Burmese in Matriculation in 1957. I have read the distinction-winning essays of

By Myint Zan

both Saya U Thein Naing and Saya Tin Moe. But not that of Saya Maung Khin Min. I do not know whether or not Saya MKM has rewritten his distinction-winning essay and produced it in one of his 133 books.

In those days of old the compulsory Burmese essay question was worth 25 marks out of 100. Ordinarily, three unseen topics were given and candidates had to choose one to write an essay. From what I recall there is no limitation of how many paragraphs students must write. Nor is there an outline of the essays which students must adhere to which has been the practice of Matric exams in Myanmar Sar papers for perhaps the past 15 years or so.

Saya began as a tutor in Burmese in 1963 and he had been posted to various Colleges and Universities including in Bassein (later Patheingyi) College, Prome (later Pyaw) College, Rangoon Arts and Science University (as it was then formally called), Institute of Education and of course as Professor and Head of the Department of Myanmar in University of Yangon. He was also a Visiting Professor of Myanmar from 1997 to 1999 at the University of Foreign Languages in Osaka, Japan. Saya MKM retired from full-time teaching in 2002. Free of his full-time teaching duties he produced more literary work during his post-retirement of 22 years than he had when he was in government service. The title of the book he published in his 76<sup>th</sup> year was '76<sup>th</sup> book of my 76 years'. It was published in 2016. It was his 87<sup>th</sup> book.

From 1979 to 2002 when he was a full-time academic Saya published 18 books. From January 2003 to January 2024 the month he passed away he published 115 books! To repeat MKM was really a contemporary author nonpareil as far as Myanmar language, linguistic and literature genre is concerned.

In his book about his own Sayas, Sayamas and senior colleagues Saya sadly recounted the last days - sometimes a few years - where some of his own Sayagyis and Sayamagyis did not recall their own former students. A few were bedridden for months and even a few years. One of them was Sayagyi U E Maung, who was his mentor. MKM wrote that his own Sayagyi U E Maung was bedridden for a few years before his passing.

### Activities and contributions in his last days

In contrast, Saya MKM lived to the age past eighty-five. He was active till the very end. Social media posts on the day of his passing (28 January 2025) showed a video of his teaching Myanmar Sar on 23 January 2025 at the State Sangha University in Yangon. Another social media post stated that on 25 January 2025, he attended a teacher homage ceremony at the (now) University of Education for students he taught in the years 1971 to 1977. (Contrast this with his own Sayagyi E Maung who in his seventies, due to health reasons, was unable to attend the teacher homage ceremony that was held in the early 1980s.) On 24 January 2025 his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday he was at a monastery for donation and gave homage to the monks. On 27 January 2025 hours before he passed away, he attended the Myanmar Sar board meeting. Two elderly members of the Myanmar Sar board stated that Saya looked slightly tired on that particular date and went back to his apartment inside the car of a student around 2:30 pm. Sadly, about 10 hours later, Saya was no more.

I may be allowed to end this humble tribute with a personal note. On 20 January 2025, Saya kindly phoned me that he had received the books that I presented for his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. He stated that he had sent three of his books to me. He, in particular, mentioned his collection of his essays titled in translation 'Research Papers Concerning Language and Literature'. There are 14 essays in the Myanmar language and four essays in English in the book. He mentioned that a few of the essays were papers he presented at international conferences. He stated with humility, so unselfconsciously and shall I say with the charm that his 'English is not very good' ကျွန်တော် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာက မကောင်းပါဘူး. And he asked me to make comments or correct his writings in English. I am touched by Saya Maung Khin Min's humility. I stated to him in an earlier phone conversation that in his commentaries in 'Sixty Myanmar Language Treatises' he was critical of parts of only two treatises. His comments on Saya U Thein Naing's မြန်မာစာပေ သမိုင်း (Commentary on Myanmar Sar) first published in 1968 is largely complimentary. Still, at the conclusion of his comments, he made the observation (not quite a critique) that some parts of Myanmar Sar Hti Kar were quite extensive but some were brief. MKM wrote that the short Chapter seems more like coaching high school students on grammar. I mentioned that his comments were not critical but merely pointed out a small anomaly in Myanmar Sar Hti Kar. Saya MKM said that I read his treatise very carefully. (ဆရာက သေချာဖတ်သားပဲ).

Saya MKM with politeness called me 'Saya'. I am considerably younger than and junior to him. I feel reluctant အားနာတယ် to request him just to call me 'Ko Myint Zan'. Throughout this humble tribute, I have eschewed the more revered and perhaps in a few contexts (only) the slightly contrived term 'Sayagyi'. Let me state now that Sayagyi Maung Khin Min's demise constitutes a great loss. His bereaved family, the very few senior colleagues that survive him, many of his junior colleagues, and former and indeed current students (since Saya was teaching three days before his demise) will fondly miss him. The solace is that his scholarly contributions have been immense, he lived his life to the full and was active socially and scholastically to his last day.



# NATIONAL

## MoI Union Minister inspects preparations for Academy Awarding



UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, in his capacity as Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Myanmar Film Academy Award

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn views the preparatory work for the 2024 Film Academy Awards presentation event.

Ceremony, inspected preparations for the event at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw, along with Deputy Minister U Ye Tint and other relevant officials.

The Union minister and his team first observed the archway, photo booth, interview booth, red carpet, stage construction at Jade Hall, LED signboard installation, sound and lighting system installation, seating plans, and media zones.

The Union minister instructed that all processes should be completed by the specified date, ensuring no issues with sound or lighting and that rehearsals be conducted to ensure the event runs smoothly according to the program.

The 2024 Myanmar Film Academy Award ceremony is set to take place on 9 February at MICC I in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA/MKKS

## MSWRR Union Minister attends Arctic Safety Workshops and Conference in Russia

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, who is currently in Arkhangelsk, Russia attended the opening ceremony of an exhibition on advanced technological equipment used for early warning and response to potential hazards in the Arctic region. The event took place on the morning of 30 January at the Northern Arctic Federal University.

During the exhibition, the Union minister observed various technological innovations, including unmanned small aircraft, small helicopters and motor vehicles used for hazard detection, automatic fire suppression and emergency response. He also examined specialized rescue suits designed for saving lives in extremely cold climates and advanced equipment for search and rescue operations and emergency medical care. He engaged in discussions and asked



Union Minister Dr Soe Win and Myanmar delegates participate in the International Conference on Arctic Security in Russia.

questions about the exhibited technologies.

Union Minister Dr Soe Win then attended a roundtable discussion at the university. The session was led by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Management of the Russian Federation, the Mayor of Arkhangelsk, the Rector of the Northern Arctic Federal University and senior officials. The discussion focused on key challenges and threats to Arctic regional security.

During the discussions, Russian officials shared their experiences in managing risks in

the Arctic, issuing early warnings and ensuring effective and swift responses to hazards. They also highlighted the increasing global interest in the Arctic and the challenges associated with its security and environmental protection.

In the afternoon, Dr Soe Win participated in an international conference on Arctic security, where various countries shared their experiences in disaster management. Representatives from the Russian Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Management, universities and social organizations presented

their research findings and experiences regarding the safety of Arctic communities living under extreme weather conditions.

Myanmar representatives also discussed the country's disaster management efforts and future collaboration opportunities with international partners.

In the evening, the Mayor of Arkhangelsk hosted a formal dinner at the city hall in honour of the Arctic safety initiative. During the event, attendees delivered speeches reflecting on the importance of the programme. — MNA/KZL

## GACC export guidelines to be unveiled at MSME Product Expo

THE Ministry of Commerce will brief at the MSME product exhibition on how to get GACC for exports to meet the requirements of each destination country, according to U Tun Tun Htwe, deputy director-general of the Department of Agriculture, secretary of the Subcommittee on Exhibition Display.

He said at the press conference for this exhibition and competition to commemorate the 78th Union Day to be held from 10 to 14 February at the Tabaung Stadium near the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

“Ministries such as Industry, Commerce, Science and Technology, Agriculture, Livestock and Irriga-

tion, and others related to MSME products will share information, explain technology and provide solutions to entrepreneurs at once,” he continued.

Product booths include bamboo, cotton, rubber, coffee and fruit-related goods. During the exhibition, MSME products, local goods, agricultural and industrial products, and traditional foods from regions and states will be displayed and sold, with traditional music entertainment.

Visitors can buy products, taste traditional foods and learn the culture and customs of ethnic groups in a single place. Preparations are underway in each sector to successfully hold the exhibition. — Htun Htun/ZN



This image showcases the Union-level MSME Product Exhibition and Competition in commemoration of the 77th Union Day 2024.



# NATIONAL

## People's Military Service Training 7 concludes



The graduation parade for the People's Military Service Training 7 underway yesterday.

THE graduation parades for the People's Military Service Training 7 took place yesterday morning at various training depots across the country, organized by relevant military commands. The ceremonies followed the training graduation schedule with the graduates taking an oath while holding the national flag.

Officials awarded top-performing trainees with distinctions in categories such as Best Trainee, Best Training, Code of Conduct, Best Marksmanship, Best Mine Handling, and Leadership in Section Strategy.

Senior officials, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, chief ministers from regions and states, commanders, and other

senior personnel, attended the event. Officials delivered congratulatory speeches to graduates.

The seventh training batch, which started on 26 November 2024, provided military training covering both theoretical and practical aspects of military strategies.

The graduates received teamwork, nationalism, patriotism, team spirit and esprit de corps after the training, and they will serve duties at different regiments and units for national defence and security.

In the evening, dinners were hosted at each training depot in honour of the graduates of the People's Military Service Training 7. — MNA/KTZH

### Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

1. Ministry of Defence  
<https://www.mod.gov.mm>
2. Ministry of Legal Affairs  
<https://www.mlis.gov.mm>
3. Ministry of Information  
<https://www.moi.gov.mm>
4. Myawady Webportal  
<https://myawady.net.mm>
5. Myanmar National Portal  
<https://myanmar.gov.mm>

### Counter-argument to false information

## False reports claim security forces burned villages near Sinphyukyun

MALICIOUS news media are spreading false information, claiming that security forces burned down Ohntaw and Kahnyat villages near Sinphyukyun in Magway Region.

A security official confirmed that this news is not true. Terrorists are disturbing peace by extorting money, forcing people

to join them, and threatening civilians. They are also burning the villages that do not support them.

Security forces are working to keep the area safe. However, malicious news media are using fake images to spread lies and mislead the public about security forces. — MNA/KZL

## Graduation ceremony held for People's Military Service Training 7



The graduation event for the People's Military Service Training 7 in progress yesterday.

THE graduation ceremony for the People's Military Service Training 7 was held yesterday morning at the No 1 Tatmadaw Advanced Training Depot in Chingon Village, Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and relevant officials attended the event.

The ceremony commenced with the commandant and graduating companies paying respects to the national flag. The commandant then received the salute from the graduating companies and conducted an inspection, followed by the oath-taking ceremony of the Tatmadaw personnel from the graduating companies.

The commandant then presented various awards including the Best Trainee Award, Outstanding Military Training

Award, Sharp shooter Award, Soldierly Conduct Award, Mine handling Award, section fighting, combatting and Best Dormitory Award to deserving trainees.

Following the awards presentation, Brig-Gen Myo Min Than, the commandant of the local training depot delivered an opening speech.

He stated that the Tatmadaw was established alongside Myanmar's struggle for independence and remains committed to its national duty, upholding the Our Three Main National Causes. He emphasized that Tatmadaw comprising all ethnic groups has upheld its historical traditions since its founding on 27 December 1941 as the Burma Independence Army (BIA). He noted that, despite political instability,

foreign invasions and internal armed insurgencies, the Tatmadaw has always stood firm to protect national sovereignty and ensure the security of the people's socioeconomic lives, a fact well recorded in history. He urged the graduates to continue the noble traditions of the Tatmadaw, uphold the Four Oaths and strive to become reliable soldiers for the future of the Tatmadaw and the nation.

The ceremony concluded with a military parade in which the graduating companies saluted the school principal. During the training, the trainees received lecture in physical fitness, military drills, small arms training, tactics and strategy, battlefield engineering, field administration and general subjects. — Hsan Kyaw Oo (IPRD)/KZL



# NATIONAL

## Myanmar delegation attends 4<sup>th</sup> Political Consultations meeting between Myanmar and Brazil

THE Myanmar Delegation led by U Lwin Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Political Consultations meeting between Myanmar and Brazil at the Deputy Foreign Minister-level held on 28 January 2025 at Ruy Barbosa Room, Palacio Itamaraty of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on Myanmar's preparation for the general election, peace process, and repatriation process for displaced persons, trade and investment, development for international cooperation, combatting transnational crimes and consular affairs. Under the context of regional and multilateral affairs, they discussed Myanmar's implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point consensus, Brazil's preparation for hosting the United Nations Climate Change

Conference (COP30) to be held in Belem in 2025, and BRICS. Subsequently, they frankly exchanged views on other matters of common interest of both countries.

After the meeting, the Myanmar delegation and the Brazil delegation took the commemorative group photo together. Then, they exchanged gifts. Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the lunch hosted by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil Mrs Maria Laura da Rocha.

Later that afternoon, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs visited the Myanmar Embassy in Brazil. Following a tour of the embassy, he met the embassy staff and gave necessary guidance to them.

On the evening of 30 January 2025, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs met separately



The commemorative group photo of the fourth Political Consultations meeting between Myanmar and Brazil on 28 January.

with Mr Paco Britto, Secretary of the International Relations of Federal District Government and Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Lopes da Silva, Acting Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).

During the meetings, they

discussed the issues related to the reciprocal exchange of diplomatic land plots for the Embassy premises between Myanmar and Brazil, the potential for greater cooperation between the Myanmar Government and the Brazilian Feder-

al Government, improving the quality of snake anti-venom in Myanmar according to the technical agreement under the South-South Cooperation for developing countries, and other potential areas of cooperation. — MNA

## Surge in apartment sales in South Okkalapa Township

COMPARED to houses and lands, apartment sales have increased in Yangon Region's South Okkalapa Township, according to estate agents.

"Recently, apartment transactions have increased in South Okkalapa, while other property sales have been few. Buyers are people who relocated as well as residents," said a local estate agent.

Similarly, apartment sales have also risen in Thingangyun Township. In previous months, most realty transactions are apartments only in the two townships.

"Buyers prefer apartments because the price is around K100 million and the condition is ready to live. Apartment transactions have been seen more in South Okkalapa," he added.

In September 2024, rental was larger than buying and selling the Yangon real estate market. Among apartment and condominium tenants, some people moved to Yangon from other regions and states. — Thit Taw/ZS



Apartments are seen in South Okkalapa Township.

## Traditional Myanmar 'Poneyaygyi' introduces 10 new menu innovations

ACCORDING to the market sources, there are 10 menu items created from traditional Myanmar food, Poneyaygyi (fermented horse gram paste), sold in Bagan.

These menu items include fried pork Poneyaygyi rice, fried chicken Poneyaygyi rice, fried pork Poneyaygyi noodles, fried chicken Poneyaygyi noodles, pork Poneyaygyi curry, chicken Poneyaygyi curry, pork Poneyaygyi steamed rice, fried pork Poneyaygyi vegetable rice, Poneyaygyi vermicelli, pork Poneyaygyi clay pot, and Chinese and Thai dishes, according to Ko Nay Myo Hlaing, who created them. "In the past, many restaurants in Bagan-NyaungU sold only three types of Poneyaygyi curries- pork-mixed curry, salad rice and salad Poneyaygyi. We have developed many new menus in the five years since we opened our shop because we have our



A traditional Myanmar 'Poneyaygyi' cuisine.

unique taste and new ways. My curries are not pre-cooked, but served hot and freshly cooked when guests order," he continued.

The fried pork Poneyaygyi was the first to succeed, and the rest new items followed suit among tourists. The pork Poneyaygyi steamed rice in a clay pot is now the most popular — about 90 out of 100 like it. The prices range from a few thousand to K3,000 to K9,000, he said.

Hot and sour pork Poneyaygyi noodles will be his eleventh creation as a new menu item, he added. — MT/ZN

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## Japan's Takeda Pharma names US head as first woman CEO

TAKEDA Pharmaceuticals has named Julie Kim as the first woman to lead the 244-year-old Japanese drugmaker, a rarity in senior management in the world's fourth-largest economy.

Kim, a US citizen and head of the firm's US business, will next year succeed Christophe Weber who in 2015 became the drugmaker's first non-Japanese CEO, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

French-born Weber oversaw a reorientation that included the \$62 billion acquisition of British Shire in 2019.

But its share price has underperformed,

falling 0.5 per cent over the past five years. Its US-listed shares have dropped almost 30 per cent in the same period.

There are only 13 women chief executive officers across the approximately 1,600 top-listed companies in Japan, according to a survey published by Kyodo News last year.

The government wants firms to raise the proportion of female executives to 30 per cent or more by 2030.

In fiscal 2023, the figure was 16.2 per cent, compared with rates of 30-40 per cent in North America and Europe, Kyodo said.— AFP



Kim, a US citizen and head of the firm's US business, will next year succeed Christophe Weber who in 2015 became the drugmaker's first non-Japanese CEO.

PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

## Qatar's Ooredoo to lay 'strategic' Gulf data cable, CEO says

QATAR'S Ooredoo is to build a "strategic" undersea cable connecting Gulf Arab states and eventually boosting data transfers between Europe and Asia, the telecom operator's chief executive told AFP ahead of a Thursday announcement.

Ooredoo's Fibre in the Gulf (FIG) project,

in partnership with France's Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN), will connect seven countries in the region — Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq — positioning the Qatari telecom firm to meet growing demand in Europe and other parts of Asia. — AFP

## Air India to restart flights to Tel Aviv from March 2025

Air India will resume non-stop flights between Delhi and Tel Aviv from March 2025, operating five times weekly using its Boeing 787 Dreamliner after earlier suspensions due to regional tensions.

AIR India on Wednesday announced that it will resume its non-stop services between Delhi and Tel Aviv from 2 March onwards, the airline said in a statement.

"Air India will operate 5x weekly to Tel Aviv, using its Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft that offers 18 flat beds in Business Class and 238 spacious, cushioned seats in Economy Class," the statement added.

Bookings for flights between Delhi and Tel Aviv are open on all channels, including Air India's website, mobile app, and through



travel agents. Air India's decision to resume operations on the Delhi-Tel Aviv route follows the requisite approvals, it said. The air-

lines had suspended flights to and from Tel Aviv after the Hamas group's attack on the Israeli on 7 October 2023. The service was brief-

ly resumed in March 2024 but in August it was again suspended amid tensions between Israel and Iran. — ANI

### Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor — Apex Agrochem Co.,Ltd. to Shwe Khit Myay Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticide manufacture by Apex Agrochem Pte.,Ltd.

Apex Agrochem Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

No	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No
1	Notify	Triazophos 20% EC	P2024-6463
2	Antic	Fenprothrin 20% EC	P2024-6461

Apex Agrochem Co.,Ltd. No (A-5), Room (102), Mindama Condo, Mindama Street, Mayangone, Yangon. 09-406045950

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (448N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V METHI BHUM VOY.NO. (448N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **1-2-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BBC KIMBERLEY VOY.NO. (1125065)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BBC KIMBERLEY VOY.NO. (1125065)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-2-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT-5** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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



## GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK



**T**HE artificial intelligence (AI) community is abuzz with excitement over DeepSeek-R1, a new open-source model developed by Chinese startup DeepSeek.

Released on 20 January it quickly soared to the top of Apple's app store's free charts by Monday, surpassing OpenAI's ChatGPT.

According to DeepSeek, in tasks such as mathematics, coding and natural language reasoning, the performance of this model is comparable to the leading models from heavyweights like OpenAI, but only at a fraction of the cash and computing power of its

# DeepSeek's AI breakthrough making waves in the tech world



Liang Wenfeng, the founder of Chinese AI startup DeepSeek, speaks at the symposium presided by Chinese Premier Li Qiang to hear opinions and suggestions on a draft government work report on 20 January 2025. **PHOTO: CCTV PLUS**

*DeepSeek's affordable AI model challenges traditional high-cost development, potentially democratizing advanced AI technology.*

competitors.

Here's what DeepSeek has done and why it is taking the AI industry by surprise.

Officially known as DeepSeek Artificial Intelligence Fundamental Technology Research Co., Ltd., the firm was founded in July 2023. As an innovative technology startup, DeepSeek is dedicated to developing cutting-edge large

language models (LLMs) and related technologies.

DeepSeek, an emerging player in the AI industry, has gained significant atten-

tion for its breakthrough in developing an advanced AI model, DeepSeek-V3, at a remarkably low cost.

The model's manufacturing cost of

around \$5.57 million is a stark contrast to the hundreds of millions or even billions typically invested by US companies in similar technologies. — Xinhua

## UK unveils 'counter-terror style' police powers to stop migrants

THE UK government introduced legislation Thursday designed to give law enforcement officials "counter-terror style powers" to break up gangs bringing irregular migrants across the Channel in flimsy boats.

The UK government has introduced a new Border Security, Asylum, and Immigration Bill, aiming to strengthen its efforts against illegal migration, particularly the dangerous crossings of the English Channel.

This bill would grant law enforcement agencies greater powers to combat people smugglers by allowing them to impose interim orders on suspected

smugglers even before criminal charges are filed.

These orders would include banning suspects from using communication devices, accessing finances, or interacting with specific individuals. The bill also introduces harsher penalties for handling items used in illegal crossings, such as small boat parts, with offenders facing up to 14 years in prison.

It also empowers law enforcement to seize mobile phones and laptops from migrants upon arrival at the border and allows for arrests before illegal crossings occur. — AFP

## Brazil's Lula hits back at Trump's tariff threat on BRICS nations

HOURS after US President Donald Trump warned BRICS nations including Brazil of tariffs if they go with a separate currency, Brazilian President Lula da Silva affirmed that if Washington does take any such action, Brasilia will respond in kind, Al Jazeera reported.

Speaking at a news conference in Brasilia on Thursday, Lula emphasized that Brazil seeks a relationship with the US based on "mutual respect".

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's recent comments, made in response to US President Donald Trump's threats of higher tariffs on Brazilian goods, suggest a tense trade relationship between the two nations.

Lula warned that if Trump imposes tariffs, Brazil would respond in kind. His comments reflect a broader trend of protectionist policies pushed by Trump, aiming to boost US domestic industries while pressuring other countries to comply with US demands, such as on manufacturing and migration. Brazil, under Lula's

*“Brazilian President Lula warns of retaliation if Trump imposes tariffs, signaling potential trade war tensions.”*

leadership, has signaled its intention to assert its sovereignty and protect its economic interests.

Trump has also made similar threats against other countries, including Colombia, Mexico, Canada, and the European Union, fuelling fears of a potential trade war. Earlier, Trump's tariffs were at the center of a dispute with Colombia when President Gustavo Petro resisted US policies on undocumented immigrants.

The tit-for-tat nature of these tariff threats reflects the broader shift toward more nationalist economic policies in the US and globally. — ANI



Border Force vessel 'BF Volunteer' carrying migrants picked up attempting to cross the Channel from France. **PHOTO: AFP**



# SPORTS



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. PHOTO: AFP

## Guardiola fears Man City burnout with Real clash looming

PEP Guardiola fears Manchester City's bid to knock holders Real Madrid out of the Champions League will be hampered by the gruelling demands of the Premier League schedule.

After beating Club Brugge on Wednesday to scramble into the knockout stages, Guardiola's side were pitted against the 15-time European champions in Friday's play-off round draw.

City will host Real in the first leg on 11 or 12 February before travelling to Madrid for the return leg a week later.

It is part of a brutal period for City, who travel to Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday and have top-flight matches at home to Newcastle

and Liverpool either side of the second leg.

They also have an FA Cup fourth round trip to Leyton Orient and a league game at Tottenham in February.

"Well it looks like a derby already, four years in a row facing Madrid," Guardiola told reporters on Friday.

"The draw could have been nicer? Yes. Bayern Munich was extremely difficult. Real Madrid difficult, we know that."

With City battling to qualify for next season's Champions League, as well as trying to win this year's tournament, Guardiola will have difficult selection decisions to make throughout the crucial period. — AFP

## Roma face Porto in Europa League play-offs, Man Utd learn possible opponents



The draw for the Europa League play-offs took place on Friday. PHOTO: AFP

FORMER winners Porto were drawn Friday to face Claudio Ranieri's Roma in the stand-out tie of the Europa League knockout phase play-offs, while Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur were among the clubs to discover their potential opponents in the last 16.

Porto, who won the Europa League in 2011 as well as its predecessor, the UEFA Cup, in 2003, will be at home in the

first leg on 13 February with the return in Italy a week later.

Other notable play-off round ties will see Jose Mourinho's Fenerbahce come up against Anderlecht and Ajax play close neighbours Union Saint-Gilloise of Belgium.

The eight winners from the play-off round will go through to the last 16, where they will join the top eight teams from the league phase. Lazio finished on

top of the standings, just ahead of Athletic Bilbao, with United and Spurs coming third and fourth respectively.

With the draw for the last 16 based on a pre-determined bracket, the two Premier League sides know they will face either the winners of the play-off tie between AZ Alkmaar and Galatasaray, or that between Midtjylland of Denmark and Real Sociedad. — AFP

## Tennis: Japan, Britain split Davis Cup opening singles matches

JAPAN'S Kei Nishikori returns a shot to Britain's Jacob Fearnley in the second singles match in their first-round tie of the Davis Cup team tennis qualifiers on 31 January 2025, in Miki, Hyogo Prefecture.

Yoshihito Nishioka won, but Kei Nishikori lost Friday as Japan split the first two singles matches with Britain



Japan's Kei Nishikori returns a shot to Britain's Jacob Fearnley in the second singles match in their first-round tie of the Davis Cup team tennis qualifiers on 31 January 2025, in Miki, Hyogo Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

in their best-of-five first round of the Davis Cup team tennis qualifiers.

Nishioka defeated Billy Harris 7-5, 6-1 before world No 77 Jacob Fearnley powered to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over 70<sup>th</sup>-ranked Nishikori at Bourbon Beans Dome in Miki, Hyogo Prefecture.

"It's a good start for Japan and me," Nishioka said after his win. "The players from the two teams are pretty close in ranking, so I was a bit worried. As the match progressed, I was able to play my style of tennis."

Yosuke Watanuki and Takeru Yuzuki will play a doubles match on Saturday against Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski, followed by the reverse singles matches.

The winning team will advance to the second round in September to compete for a spot in the finals. — Kyodo





**M**OSCOW unveiled a themed metro train on Wednesday to mark the start of the Spring Festival, the traditional Chinese New Year according to the lunar calendar.

Speaking at a ceremony dedicated to the launch of the train, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui noted that the Spring Festival is gaining popularity in Russia, becoming an important part of Moscow's cultural life and a bright symbol of the friendship between the two countries.

"The train, decorated with elements of the Chinese Spring Festival, will attract the attention of Muscovites and tourists from all over the world," the Chinese ambassador said.

"They will be able to experience the culture of this wonderful holiday in a new way and share the joy and good fortune that it brings to the Chinese people," he added.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said this joint project is implemented within the framework of the China-Russia Years of Culture in 2024 and 2025. "The photographs and symbols featured on the train will help our citizens learn more about China in a natural setting," she said.

According to Moscow Deputy Mayor Maxim Liksutov, this unique metro train serves as a symbol of the good relations between the two countries and a tribute to the Chinese people. It will give Muscovites and visitors to the Russian capital an opportunity to learn more about the Chinese culture and the traditions of the Chinese New Year. — Xinhua

## Russia launches themed train to mark Chinese New Year

*Moscow introduced a themed metro train to celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival. The train, featuring Chinese New Year symbols and the snake zodiac, highlights the cultural friendship between Russia and China.*



This photo taken on 29 January 2025 shows a view of a themed metro train in Moscow, Russia, on 29 January 2025. Moscow unveiled the themed metro train on Wednesday to mark the start of the Spring Festival, the traditional Chinese New Year according to the lunar calendar. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Australia's southeastern goldfields nominated for World Heritage List

THE Australian government has nominated the goldfields in the country's

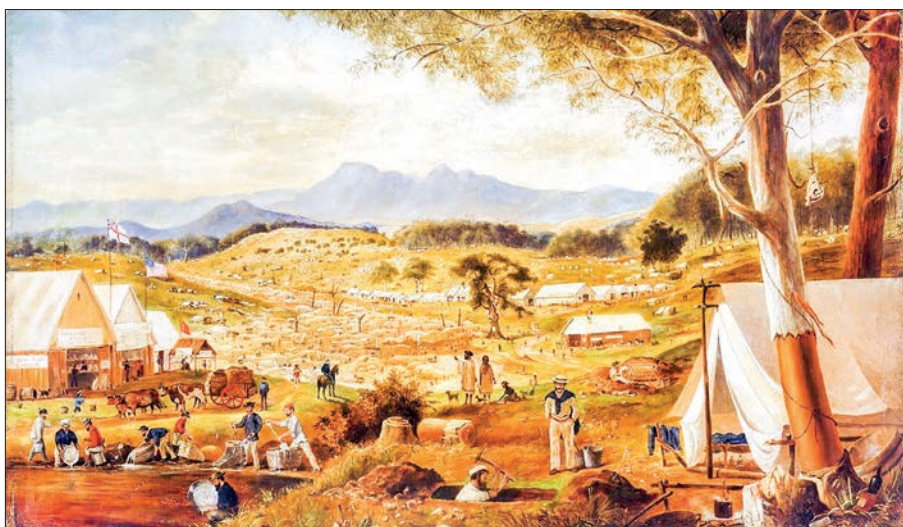
southeast for World Heritage status. Tanya Plibersek, minister for the

Environment and Water, on Friday announced that the goldfields in the state of Victoria have been added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.

It is the first formal step towards having the area recognized on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

Plibersek said in a joint statement with the government of Victoria that the goldfields, which encompass a large central area of the state, also known as the Golden Triangle, tell the story of Indigenous communities and early migration to Australia.

The goldfields are strongly associated with the gold rush of the 1850s and 1860s that drove a migration boom. — Xinhua



The artwork "Gold Diggings, Ararat, c.1858" by Edward Roper is an oil painting that captures the historical moment during Australia's 19<sup>th</sup>-century gold rush.

**ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

## Mexican President writes to Google over Gulf of Mexico name change

FOLLOWING Google's decision to comply with US President Donald Trump's order to rename the Gulf of Mexico, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has sent a letter to the tech giant arguing the US cannot change the name, CNN reported.

Showing the letter to reporters Sheinbaum argued that according to the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea, US sovereign territory only extends up to 12 nautical miles.

"In the case of Mexico, where are we completely sovereign? In the area is established as 12 nautical miles from the coastline, and this applies to all countries worldwide. — ANI