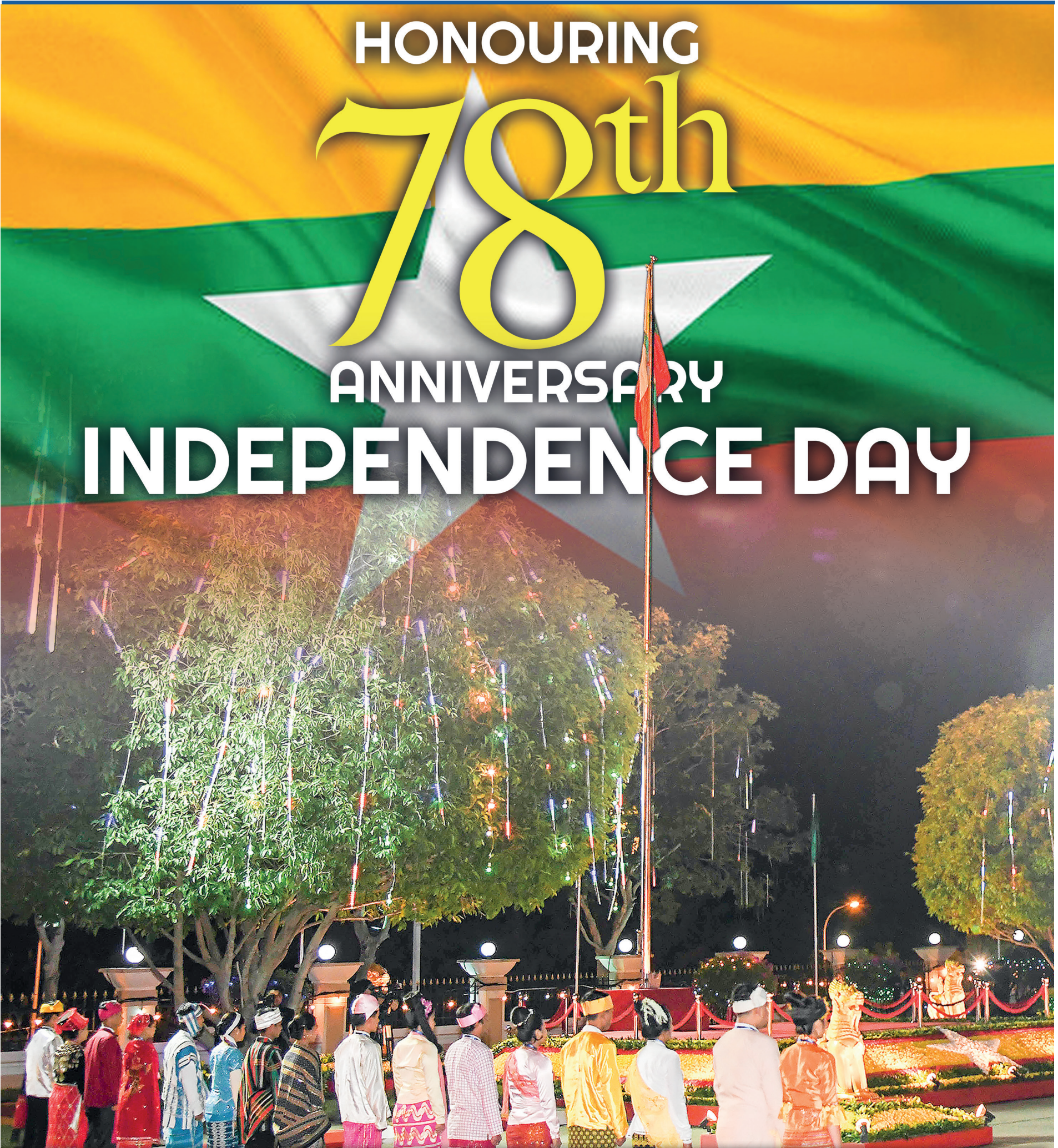


The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**



Four National Objectives for 78th Independence Day 2026

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

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Defence and Security
Council

Notification 1/2026

2nd Waning of Pyatho 1387 ME
4 January 2026

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has offered religious titles to Ganthadhura Pariyatti lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Patipatti Kammathanacariya Sayadaws, mobile missionary Sayadaws, internal and external missionary laypersons and the prominent individuals who significantly support Buddhism with four types of donations. Those members of the Sangha and laypersons were as follows: -

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title

- 1. Dr Bhaddanta Vijjananda Bhivamsa, Maha Gandayon Monastery, Shinphyu Shinhla Village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region
- 2. Bhaddanta Neminda, Shwe Inn Yeiktha Buddhism Learning Centre, Saya San Ward, Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw
- 3. Bhaddanta Paññajota, Maha Withutayama (Central) Monastery, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Region
- 4. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Naya Building, Dekkhinayama Phayagyi Monastery, Kyunlon Okshaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
- 5. Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Minkyaung Pahtamabyan Buddhism Learning Centre, Thanlyin, Yangon Region

Aggamaha Pandita Title

- 1. Bhaddanta Paññacakka, Abbot Training School, Lawdhamma Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
- 2. Bhaddanta Jotipala Lankara, Saddhamma Pajjotayon Monastery, Aungchantha Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
- 3. Bhaddanta Puññasettha, Maha Thandayon Buddhism Learning Centre, Aungthasa Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Region
- 4. Bhaddanta Paññasiri Lankara, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Mingun Hills, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region
- 5. Bhaddanta Indacariya, Tipitaka Danubyu Monastery, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
- 6. Bhaddanta Vamsapala Lankara, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Mingun Hills, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region
- 7. Bhaddanta Javanatikkha, Maravijaya Monastery, Maravijaya Buddha Park, Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
- 8. Bhaddanta Tikkhañana, Bawdiyeiktha Monastery, North Ywama Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Region
- 9. Bhaddanta Vijaya, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region
- 10. Bhaddanta Sujanalankara Bhivamsa, Maha Gandayon Monastery, Hsinswepuk Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
- 11. Bhaddanta Vayama, Thukhakari Buddhism Learning Centre, Pabedan Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
- 12. Bhaddanta Naginda, Pyinnya Linkara Buddhism Learning Centre, Ywagyitaung Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
- 13. Bhaddanta Indacariya, Pariyatti Dhammikayon Monastery, Aukywapaing Ward, Minbya, Rakhine State
- 14. Bhaddanta Vepulla, Kangyi Monastery, Ward 11, Kayan, Yangon Region
- 15. Bhaddanta Vayaminda, Shwemyaya Buddhism Learning Centre and Monastic Education Middle School, Shwemyaya Ward, Hmawby Township, Yangon Region
- 16. Bhaddanta Sucitta, Hsuhtupan Shwegyin Monastery, Natmauk Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region
- 17. Dr Bhaddanta Pandita, Sasanahita Buddhism Learning Centre, Ward 11, Hlinethaya (West) Township, Yangon Region
- 18. Bhaddanta Sucittasami, Pyinsa Nikaya Sasana Beikman Monastery, Ward 11, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
- 19. Bhaddanta Sirikancana Bhivamsa, Maha Withokdayon (Pali Tekkatho) Shwegyin Taikthit, Yedashe Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
- 20. Bhaddanta Nagita, Shwepyitha Buddhism Learning Centre, 6/10 Ward, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region

TO BE CONTINUED

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Defence and Security
Council

Notification 2/2026

2nd Waning of Pyatho 1387 ME
4 January 2026

THE Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has conferred honorary titles and medals on the following individuals for their excellent performances in diligently discharging duties for the State, carrying out the interest of the State and serving the defence and security duties of the State. Those recipients were as follows: -

Pyidaungsu Sithu Thingaha Title
Sithu Title

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | Bhaddanta Khemacara (Kengying Sayadaw) | Kengying Monastery, Shan State (East) |
| 2. | Dr Kan Zaw | Union Minister Ministry of Finance and Revenue |
| 3. | Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun | Deputy Minister Ministry of Information |
| 4. | U On Pe (Tet Toe) | Writer |
| 5. | U Soe Nyunt (Htila Sitthu) | Writer |
| 6. | Sein Bo Tint | Traditional Orchestra Professional |
| 7. | Sein Sten | Traditional Orchestra Professional |
| 8. | Kyi Kyi Htay | Actress |
| 9. | Nyunt Win | Actor |
| 10. | Wah Wah Win Shwe | Actress |
| 11. | Khin Than Nu | Actress |
| 12. | Kyaw Hein | Actor |
| 13. | Cho Pyone | Actress |
| 14. | Swe Zin Htiike | Actress |
| 15. | Moh Moh Myint Aung | Actress |
| 16. | Yan Aung | Actor |
| 17. | May Than Nu | Actress |
| 18. | Nay Toe | Actor |
| 19. | Pyae Ti Oo | Actor |
| 20. | U Thu Kha | Director |
| 21. | Maung Tin Oo | Director |
| 22. | Gita Lulin U Ko Ko | Intellectual |
| 23. | Wyne | Director |
| 24. | Than Nyunt (Pantha) | Intellectual |
| 25. | Zaw Min (Hanthamyay) | Intellectual |
| 26. | Chit Min Lu | Intellectual |
| 27. | Kyauk Phyu (Padetha) | Intellectual |
| 28. | Ko Ko Htay (Hteik Tan) | Intellectual |

Tatmadaw Gallantry Medals
Thiha Thura Title

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Major Wai Yan Lin | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. | 869814 Warrant Officer II Kee Shel | Ministry of Defence` |

Thura Title

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Major Wai Phyo | Ministry of Defence` |
|----|----------------|----------------------|

Honorary Titles for Performances
Thiri Pyanchi Title

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Bhaddanta Paññajota (Maha Myaing Thephyu Sayadaw) | Thephyu Tawya Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Yangon Region |
| 2. | Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kovida | Thiladhamma Kontha Monastery, Shan State |
| 3. | Daw Dhammatheri (Phwa Shin) | Aungthiri Monastery, Taninthayi Region |
| 4. | Dr Chaw Chaw Sein | Union Minister Ministry of Education |

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

For a nation to achieve development and stability, it is essential that every citizen be fully equipped with knowledge, skills and critical thinking. In particular, for a country like Myanmar undergoing a democratic transition, it is crucial for all of our national brethren to think critically, discern right from wrong and work together for the benefit of the nation.

(Excerpt from the speech delivered by Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the opening ceremony of Dawei City Hall held on 18 September 2025)



All Ethnic Groups Urged to Serve National Interest in Unity

People must exercise their freedom and seek justice in accordance with the law, while a fully functional, rule-abiding multiparty democratic system is effectively implemented.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follows: -

Esteemed national brethren born in the Union,

I extend my greetings and offer my best wishes that all people and all ethnic nationalities may enjoy good health and happiness physically and mentally, and be fully endowed with dignity, prosperity, and all auspicious blessings on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, which falls on 4 January 2026.

Myanmar is a Union with a long-standing tradition in which diverse ethnic nationalities have lived together in solidarity, sharing both hardships and joys, since time immemorial. With their own distinct cultures, traditions, languages, and beliefs, they have been standing tall in the world with unity and dignity.

As a result of the evil colonial system that came to dominate the world, Myanmar was invaded three times by the British colonialists and, in 1885, lost its independence and sovereignty. All of the country's economic resources were seized by capitalist imperialists and fascists, who ruled through various forms of oppression, causing the people of Myanmar to fall into a state of servitude and suffer manifold hardships and deep poverty.

As the entire ethnic population of Myanmar fought bravely, shedding their blood and sweat in the struggle against colonialism for national independence, Myanmar regained its independence on 4 January 1948. Since then, Myanmar has been standing tall in the world as an independent and sovereign nation, and today marks the 78th anniversary of that achievement.

For over a century, Myanmar's people fought arduously to reclaim their country as an independent and sovereign nation, escape from the control of other nations, and be able to make their own decisions on all national matters. The hard-won independence, achieved after such a long struggle, can still be lost in an instant if misguided ideas, beliefs, or actions

prevail – something we must remain vigilant about in the present time.

Esteemed national brethren born in the Union,

Successive governments have made various efforts over time to cease the armed struggle that emerged as a result of colonialists' divisive rule. However, due to ethnic extremism, ideological rigidity, self-interest, and prioritizing personal gain, the nation has suffered armed conflicts and violent attacks, destroying state infrastructure and the loss of homes and lives of ethnic communities. When armed groups demand things that should not be demanded, manipulate armed struggle for their own agendas, or prioritize their own desires based on ethnic or regional loyalties, they are effectively pushing their local communities further into poverty. The current divisions in attitudes and ongoing political problems pose risks to the long-term stability of the Union and the unity of the ethnic nationalities, which is why careful attention and vigilance are required.

At present, it is well known that domestic and foreign disruptive groups, who do not wish to see the ethnic communities united and the country develop, are employing various methods to create obstacles and disturbances.

A strength of the nation lies within; the nation can only stand as a strong and resilient State that serves the national interest if all ethnic nationalities of the Union act united, closely coordinated, and with a shared sense of purpose, just as "water blends without separation".

Therefore, I would like to urge all ethnic communities to seriously embrace, as a national goal and responsibility, what is most necessary and appropriate for ensuring the long-term survival of freedom: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. They should steadfastly uphold and protect these

principles based on a spirit of Union.

Esteemed national brethren born in the Union,

At present, the most pressing need of our country is to end armed conflicts and achieve a durable peace throughout the nation. True peace goes beyond the mere absence of conflict; it is founded on the ability to resolve problems peacefully, respect differences, and show understanding, patience, and tolerance toward one another. Only by genuinely embracing and practising the principles of peace and the value of national unity can the people fully experience the fruits of peace and well-being.

The peaceful coexistence depends on each individual's intellectual maturity, thoughtful judgment, and capacity for respect and appreciation of values. Therefore, every citizen should begin from their own place of learning, cultivating and practising knowledge, education, and thoughtful reasoning, to nurture a spirit of peace and national unity.

Since misguided ideas and beliefs continue to undermine peace within the Union, all parties involved in Union peace processes must participate with goodwill. Genuine and enduring peace can only be built when there is a genuine desire for peace, peaceful negotiation, mutual understanding and trust, transparency, patience, and tolerance. It is also essential to collectively strengthen a political culture of dialogue and negotiation when acting in the interest of the nation.

It has been observed that the greatest losses and damage caused by armed conflicts and violent disturbances occur primarily in less-developed regions and states. When there is stability and peace, regional development can take place. Only with internal peace and stability can the country develop in a balanced way – not only in political, economic, and social sectors at the national level but also across all regions and states.

NATIONAL

All Ethnic Groups Urged to Serve National Interest in Unity

FROM PAGE 3

Myanmar is endowed with natural resources and also has fertile land and good water sources suitable for agriculture and livestock activities. Therefore, once stability and peace are achieved, even rural areas in historically underdeveloped regions will be able to develop over time. Considering the plight of local communities in these underdeveloped regions caused by a lack of peace, it is necessary for all relevant parties to come together with support and compassion to assist and promote their development.

All stakeholders must respect and adhere to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) in full, and work together cooperatively as committed under its provisions for the peace and prosperity of the State, global standing, and ensuring a durable peace that the entire population desires.

As such, I would like to urge all to strive for national unity and peace of the Union in order to initiate long-term stability and harmonized development.

Esteemed national brethren born in the Union,

Due to vote irregularities in the general election 2020, Tatmadaw temporarily took the State responsibilities by declaring the state of emergency under the Constitution (2008), starting from 1 February 2021. During its tenure, Tatmadaw has adopted objectives and roadmaps to ensure peace and stability of the Union, rule of law, and development of economic, social, education and other sectors. The Union Election Commission has been reconstituted with strenuous efforts to systematically hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, including carrying out of checking voter lists.

The population and household census was enumerated nationwide from 1 to 15 October 2024, with emphasis placed on the compilation of the voter list in order to ensure the correct voter list in the forthcoming multiparty democratic general election. The Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic General Elections from Obstruction, Disruption, and Destruction was enacted on 29 July 2025.

Phase I of the multiparty democratic general election was held on 28 December 2025 successfully. Moreover, Phase II of the election will be held on 11 January this year and Phase III on the designated date. The Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) is used in the election to fully ensure the secrecy of voters' ballots in the election.

A combination of the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system and the Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP) system will be used to ensure fairness, high voter representation, and stable, inclusive governance. The government that emerges from the election results will assume the responsibilities of the state in accordance

with democratic standards.

To implement the wishes and aspirations of ethnic groups through democratic means, ethnic representatives must be fully and fairly represented in the Hluttaw. Only then can the needs and goals of each group be openly discussed, collectively decided, and properly realized. National brethren must also be able to choose individuals who truly serve their interests, respect their ethnicity and region, and consider the national good. In exercising freedom and justice, citizens should vote thoughtfully and lawfully, in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations, and practise consideration and fairness, thereby nurturing and strengthening the democratic system.

Thus, with a focus on the long-term national interests of the country and through the participation of the people, I would like to urge all to exercise freedom and justice in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations, and that a fully functional, rule-abiding multiparty democratic system be fully implemented.

Esteemed national brethren born in the Union,

National development depends on the growth of the country's economic infrastructure. Efforts are being made to support and promote local income generation through micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Based on locally produced raw materials, MSME businesses are effectively supported in production, trade, and services to ensure domestic consumption security, substitute imports, and export to foreign markets. In promoting the economy, production capacity is crucial, as it allows goods to be sold and commercialized. Therefore, to encourage production, actions are being carried out under the slogan: "Let us encourage production for the prosperity of the Nation".

Similarly, as part of government efforts, measures are being strengthened to further develop MSME businesses and better connect them to international markets. This includes the use of technology, digital marketplaces and communication, collaboration between government and the private sector, as well as enhanced access to loans and technical support.

Domestic products should primarily be produced to ensure food security within the country, and through this, value-added products can be exported abroad, thereby giving emphasis to enhancing the nation's export sector.

By implementing the One Region-One Product (OROP) project, each region will utilize its locally available natural resources and modern techniques to develop the nation's production sector and increase the output of products that can substitute imported goods.

Only then can intellectuals and intelligentsia build the nation for its development. Hence, the government is implementing the free education system and the

comprehensive education system to enable every citizen to have the learning opportunity for completion of at least KG+9 school education. The government appoints more and more teachers and supplies the needs of school buildings, libraries, teaching aids, water purifiers and sports grounds. A total of industrial, agricultural, and livestock basic education high schools have been established to enable those who have passed the KG+9 education to learn vocational courses as part of turning out human resources. As such, I would like to urge everyone to support regular school attendance for school-age children, prevent premature student dropouts, and promote continuous learning to the highest levels, so that they can be trained, nurtured, and developed into skilled professionals, scholars, and experts.

For the health and fitness of every citizen, efforts are being made to ensure disease prevention, provide high-quality medical treatment when illnesses occur, and adequately staff hospitals with healthcare personnel in accordance with the policy that "every hospital must have doctors". Just as education is essential for all humans, healthcare is equally important. It is necessary for everyone to live a healthy life by practising good habits and for authorities to continue improving healthcare services, including medical treatment, preventive care, and health education.

Esteemed national brethren born in the Union,

As the government has adopted four national objectives of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day 2026 as follows: -

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

I sent a message that the entire ethnic people have to implement these four national objectives in unity and harmony with a firm vow from their respective sectors.

*Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu
Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing
Acting President of the Republic of the Union of
Myanmar
Chairman, State Security and Peace Commission*

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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

Foreign Heads of State send congratulatory messages to Acting President Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are congratulatory messages from Foreign Heads of State/Government sent to Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ON the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes. Cambodia and Myanmar share long-standing relations founded on mutual respect and cooperation. Cambodia continues to value constructive engagement with Myanmar, particularly within the ASEAN framework, and reaffirms its support for efforts that contribute to peace, security, stability and the well-being of the people of Myanmar. On this auspicious occasion, I convey my best wishes for progress and prosperity to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and its people.

Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day. Our negotiations in Moscow in March and May confirmed the friendly character of Russia-Myanmar relations. I am confident that by joint efforts we will continue to consistently develop fruitful bilateral cooperation in various fields for the benefit of our friendly nations and in the interest of strengthening security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Taking the opportunity, I would also like to convey my cordial greetings to Your Excellency on the New Year 2026. I wish you good health and success, as well as peace and prosperity to all citizens of Myanmar.

Mr Alexander Beglov, Governor of St Petersburg of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On behalf of the Government of Saint Petersburg, I congratulate you on Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar! Your country has come a long way as a sovereign state. Today, the successors of the founders of independent Myanmar continue to serve the Motherland and its citizens with dignity. Under your wise leadership, the Republic is successfully developing in various fields. I am sincerely glad that you see the future of Myanmar in cooperation with Russia. Friendly and constructive relations of Myanmar with Saint Petersburg are a matter of special pride. In March 2025, you visited our city during your official visit to Russia. I remember our meeting with warm and special feelings. Thank you for your full support of the Saint Petersburg Days in Myanmar that were held with great success in October in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. During these months, Myanmar is holding the General Election in which the citizens will decide on the future of the country. I wish you a successful election campaign and new achievements for the benefit of the Fatherland! Peace, well-being and prosperity to you and all the citizens of Myanmar! May the Russian-Myanmar relations strengthen every year.

Mr Evgeny Grigoriev, Member of the St Petersburg Government and Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of St Petersburg of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On behalf of the Government of Saint Petersburg, I sincerely congratulate you on Myanmar’s Independence Day! In the history of every state, the day of freedom is a sacred holiday. Today, the descendants of the founders of sovereign Myanmar remember the national heroes who enable your beautiful country to look confidently to the future. Myanmar can rightfully be proud of its history and rich culture. Your country is an example of an honest and reliable partner in international affairs. In 2025, Myanmar successfully celebrated the Days of Saint Petersburg. I am sincerely glad that the citizens of your country were able to learn more about our beautiful city and discover Russian cultural heritage. This was made possible thanks to your comprehensive support. Please accept my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome you extended to the Saint Petersburg delegation during their visit. Myanmar is currently holding national elections that will determine the country’s future. I wish you a successful election campaign and new achievements for the benefit of the Fatherland, and peace, prosperity, and happiness to all citizens of Myanmar.

Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I sincerely congratulate you and all people of Myanmar on Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Intensification of Belarusian-Myanmar relations in 2025 emphasises the priority of developing the inter-state cooperation. This year, our common goal is to effectively implement the agreements reached during a series of joint events and visits at the highest level, as set out in bilateral documents. I warmly recall our meeting in hospitable Nay Pyi Taw late November last year. I look forward to new contacts in Belarus, Myanmar, or in international forums. On this festive day, I convey to Your Excellency my best wishes for good health and success in your responsible position, as well as peace and unity for the people of Myanmar. Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On the occasion of the National Holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to Your Excellency and to the people of your country, and to convey my sincere best wishes. I am confident that through our shared aspirations and resolute efforts, the mutually beneficial and long-term cooperative relations between our states will continue to develop steadily in the future. Taking this opportunity, I wish Your Excellency good health, family happiness, and great success in your responsible state activities, and I wish the people of Myanmar peace, stability, sustainable development, and prosperity.

NATIONAL

Foreign Heads of State send Congratulatory messages to Acting...

FROM PAGE 5

Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and to all your compatriots on the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day. This historic day stands as a vivid symbol of the unity and creative strength of your people and serves as a clear testament to the independence of the state, its stable development and sustainability. The values of independence give your country particular significance and open the way for the achievement of ambitious goals and aspirations in the future.

I highly appreciate the cooperation based on friendship and mutual understanding between Astana and Nay Pyi Taw, founded on trust and possessing significant potential for further strengthening. In this regard, I would like to particularly note that your visit to Kazakhstan gave a strong impetus to the development of bilateral relations. I am confident that our joint efforts will continue to contribute to the prosperity of our peoples.

Your Excellency, I wish you every success in your responsible public service, and extend my sincere wishes of peace, prosperity and well-being to the friendly people of Myanmar.

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On behalf of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Cambodian People’s Party, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the government and the friendly people of Myanmar on the momentous occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Recognizing Myanmar’s strong determination, resilience and commitment to the well-being and prosperity of her people, I highly value our strong bilateral relations rooted in shared cultural and religious values, mutual respect and understanding, a strong foundation for our growing mutually beneficial cooperation.

I wish to reiterate my firm commitment to continue working closely with you to enhance our ties bilaterally and multilaterally so as to serve the best interests of our two nations.

Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On behalf of the Lao people and on my own behalf, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am deeply gratified to observe that the friendly relations and excellent cooperation between the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have been continuously developed, based on the foundation of good neighbourliness, mutual respect, and trust. I am confident that our traditional ties of friendship and good cooperation will be further strengthened and flourish, bringing tangible benefits to our two peoples, as well as contributing to peace, stability, and developmental cooperation in the region and the world.

On the occasion of the New Year 2026, I wish Your Excellency good health, happiness, and every success in your noble tasks, and may the people of Myanmar enjoy continued progress and prosperity.

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn sends Congratulatory Message to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of Myanmar’s Independence Day, which falls on 4 January.

Myanmar has been a member state of ASEAN since 1997 and remains part of the ASEAN Community. ASEAN continues to uphold its commitment to regional peace, stability, and cooperation, and to advancing ASEAN Community-building efforts in accordance with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter.

On this important occasion, I would like to convey my best wishes to the people of Myanmar for peace, progress, prosperity and harmony.

Foreign Ministers send congratulatory messages to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Ministers sent to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Please accept sincere congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

We highly appreciate relations with Myanmar, which are characterized by traditional friendship, mutual understanding and trust. We aim to consistently promote a substantive political dialogue, including through the foreign policy channels of the two countries, as well as the coordination of efforts at international and regional platforms, in accordance with the agreements reached during our meetings in March 2025 in Moscow and October 2025 in Minsk.

It is our conviction that the comprehensive strengthening of multifaceted cooperation between Russia and Myanmar will further contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in Southeast Asia and in the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish you and all your colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar good health, success and family well-being.

Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

I sincerely congratulate you on the 78th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Your country is confidently moving along the path of sustainable socio-economic development, ensuring harmony in society and improving the well-being of its people. Belarus is pleased to be among the countries assisting Myanmar in this noble endeavour.

SEE PAGE 7

NATIONAL

Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to Prime Minister U Nyo Saw on 78th Anniversary of Independence Day

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of Government sent to Prime Minister U Nyo Saw on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Mikhail Mishustin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation and on my own behalf, I extend to you my congratulations on the national holiday of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – Independence Day.

I would like to express satisfaction with the steady development of Russia-Myanmar relations, based on the principles of friendship, partnership and mutual respect for each other’s interests. Trade and economic, investment, as well as scientific and technological cooperation is further expanding, while promising joint projects in the fields of energy, industry and other areas are being implemented.

I am confident that active engagement at the governmental level will contribute to the further enhancement of practical cooperation and to the advancement of important mutually beneficial programmes and initiatives. This fully corresponds to the long-term interests of the Russian Federation and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish you, honourable Mr Nyo Saw, good health, well-being and continued success in Your responsible activities, as well as happiness and prosperity to all citizens of Myanmar.

Mr Alexander Turchin, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Belarus and personally, I congratulate you on the occasion of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

We are pleased to note that the bilateral relations between Minsk and Nay Pyi Taw have traditionally been founded on friendship and mutual understanding. The inter-state political dialogue based on deep trust has made it possible to gradually expand trade and economic cooperation, particularly in industry, agriculture, and healthcare.

I am confident that the agreements reached at the highest level in 2025 will form the basis for further dynamic development of the entire complex of Belarusian-Myanmar relations for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my sincere wishes for good health and new significant achievements in your responsible position, as well as the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, sends Congratulatory Message to U Nyo Saw, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On behalf of the Government and people of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I have the great honour to convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am delighted to note that the friendly relation and good cooperation between the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have been continuously developed and deepened over the past years and I am confident that such existing friendly relations and good cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come for the mutual benefit of the people of our two nations as well as for peace, stability and cooperation for development in the region and the world at large.

On the occasion of the New Year 2026, may I take this auspicious opportunity to extend my best wishes to Your Excellency for happiness, good health, well-being, greater success in your noble tasks and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar continued progress and prosperity.

Foreign Ministers send congratulatory messages to...

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Minsk and Nay Pyi Taw work systematically on deepening the mutually beneficial relations in political, trade and economic, scientific and technical, and humanitarian spheres. Our key priority is to untap the potential of Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation.

I look forward to further expanding the bilateral ties, also between our Ministries of Foreign Affairs, for the successful implementation of all the agreements reached in 2025.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration, and wishes for good health, happiness, strength and energy for new national achievements.

Mr Bakhtiyor Saidov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have the honour to extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the friendly people of Myanmar.

I would like to emphasize our keen interest in further developing amicable relations and enhancing bilateral cooperation between Uzbekistan and Myanmar, particularly in new areas of mutual interest.

Taking this opportunity, I wish Your Excellency good health, prosperity, and every success in your endeavours.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr Thongsavan Phomvihane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On the auspicious occasion of the 78th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the entire staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am pleased to witness that over the past years, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have strengthened friendly relations and good cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral frameworks. I look forward to working closely with Your Excellency to further enhance and flourish the traditional bonds of friendship and good cooperation in the years to come, to bring the tangible benefits to the people of our two countries, as well as contributing to peace, stability, and cooperation for development in the region and the world at large.

On the occasion of the New Year 2026, may I take this auspicious opportunity to extend my best wishes to Your Excellency for good health, happiness and greater success in your noble tasks, and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar continued progress and long — lasting prosperity.

OPINION

Safeguard independence and sovereignty against neo-colonialism

AFTER the Second World War, in early 1948, Myanmar regained its independence and sovereignty. During that period, rivalry began to emerge between two major opposing ideological blocs in the world. Notably, a significant development in postwar global politics was the establishment of the United Nations as a worldwide international organization to address and manage international affairs.

The United Nations was founded on four basic principles: the sovereign equality of all member states; the peaceful settlement of disputes between nations; the prohibition of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any state; and non-interference in the internal affairs of any country. Nevertheless, during the second half of the 20th century, major world powers manipulated smaller countries in various ways to serve their own interests, a practice that came to be known as neo-colonialism.

Thus, as the new generations continue to safeguard the independence won through the blood and sweat of their forebears, they must understand the subtle characteristics of modern neo-colonialism. It is essential to firmly build the country's political stability, economic strength, and defence capabilities. To maintain political stability, efforts must be made to achieve unity and peace. That is why every Independence Day, all citizens should keep in mind the significance of their country's independence and sovereignty and commit themselves to safeguarding and preserving it.

In the 21st century, even without directly launching military invasions or occupations, major powers can be seen – upon close observation – to create proxy wars within the territory of targeted countries and to deliberately foment internal instability in pursuit of their strategic objectives. By framing certain issues, they infiltrate and incite segments of the population, secretly providing financial support, supplying slogans, setting methods and tactics to trigger unrest and uprisings, while simultaneously applying pressure through media channels from another front.

Thus, as the new generations continue to safeguard the independence won through the blood and sweat of their forebears, they must understand the subtle characteristics of modern neo-colonialism. It is essential to firmly build the country's political stability, economic strength, and defence capabilities. To maintain political stability, efforts must be made to achieve unity and peace. That is why every Independence Day, all citizens should keep in mind the significance of their country's independence and sovereignty and commit themselves to safeguarding and preserving it.

Under neo-colonialism, direct military invasion and occupation are no longer employed; instead, control is exercised indirectly through political influence and economic dominance, such as lending money and trade. Aid, investment, and markets create economic dependence, thereby obstructing genuine economic sovereignty. Powerful multinational corporations, taking advantage of preferential policies in developing countries, gain access to cheap labour and resources and reap substantial profits. Another key aspect is cultural domination: their cultural standards come to be admired and accepted, leading to the abandonment of indigenous cultural traditions and customs. Therefore, it is necessary to be mindful that under the subtle mechanisms of neo-colonialism, nations and peoples may lose their independence without even realizing it themselves.



Book Title	-	Dale Carnegie: The Man Who Influenced Millions by Giles Kemp - Edward Claflin
Translator	-	Pe Myint
Publishing House	-	Pe Myint
Publication Date	-	January 2025 (3 rd Edition)
Price	-	K11,000

Dale Carnegie: The Man Who Influenced Millions By Giles Kemp - Edward Claflin

DALE Carnegie was a person who helped countless people discover and develop their own abilities. Today, at Dale Carnegie training centres in major cities around the world, about 150,000 trainees attend courses every year, and the number of graduates who have completed these programmes runs into the millions.

These former students speak of his teachings with great respect and admiration. Among his trainees are many successful and well-known figures, including Iacocca, a famous management guru and one of America's legendary business leaders. Carnegie's book "How to Win Friends and Influence People"

is regarded as one of the most effective and practical works for achieving success in the field of human relations. And it became so widely known and successful that it has often been described as the best-selling book in the world after the Bible.

Saya Pe Myint translated that famous book into the Myanmar language and published it twice; and the current publication is the third time.

Translator Saya Pe Myint said... the book is a biography of Dale Carnegie, researched and compiled jointly by two of his former students. The book is inseparably connected with "Dale Carnegie Institute for Effective Speaking and Human

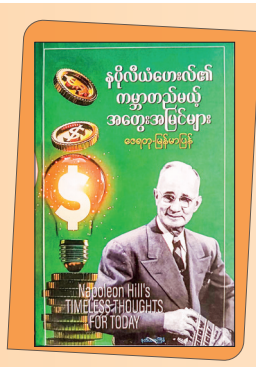
Relations", to which he devoted more than forty years of his life. Therefore, throughout the book, the two authors presented the events of Carnegie's life together with how his life experiences were reflected and applied in his training courses.

The readers will be able to trace the life journey of Dale Carnegie, from his beginnings as the poor farmer born in rural Missouri, through his self-reliant efforts, to becoming a writer who created "How to Win Friends and Influence People," the book with the highest circulation in the world after the Bible, and the founder and leader of a speaking and human relations training program that transformed and

uplifted the lives of millions. At the same time, readers will gain a vivid and detailed understanding of the famous Dale Carnegie courses, almost as if they were personally attending the training sessions themselves.

The translator explains that, to make it easier to read for the majority of Myanmar readers, certain parts have been edited, and in some places explanations and additional clarifications have been added. He also extended a heartfelt wish to the readers who read this book will develop greater awareness and motivation to improve and rebuild their lives for the better than before, and will be able to apply these ideas effectively and successfully.

The book features nine chapters (1) A Poor Rural Boy who Longed to Become More Social, (2) A Salesman, an Actor, and Then..., (3) The Life of an Unsuccessful Man in New York City, (4) Dale Carnegie Institute for Effective Speaking and Human Relations, (5) Career Advancement and Leadership Qualities, (6) From Public Speaking to Success in Life, (7) Not Only in America, But Also in the World, (8) How to Win Friends and Influence People, and (9) Passing on the Torch and the Conclusion of Life.



Book Title	-	Napoleon Hill's By Timeless Thoughts For Today
Translator	-	Zay Yatu
Publishing House	-	Apatawmyel
Publication Date	-	November 2025 (2 nd Edition)
Price	-	K9,500

Napoleon Hill's Timeless Thoughts For Today

THE first edition of Timeless Thoughts For Today by Napoleon Hill was published in 2016, and the second edition was again issued ten days after ten years.

Napoleon Hill's books remain consistently high-selling even after his death. This book encompasses Dr Napoleon Hill's philosophy and thoughts that can lead you to success. It also features writings by Judith Williamson, who served for many years as a Director at the Napoleon Hill World Learning Centre. She was not only a student of Dr Hill but also an instructor at Purdue University.

The author's teaching reaches individuals from various walks of life worldwide. She conducted Hill's courses at universities, high schools, corporations and rehabilitation organizations. Action for Success is rooted in her real-world professional experiences.

In the foreword, Don Green, Executive

Director of the Napoleon Hill Foundation, states that this book is not non-sequential writing, and one does not need to read it in order from start to finish to assume the author's inspiration. Readers can select chapters that capture their interest and apply the methods on their journey towards success.

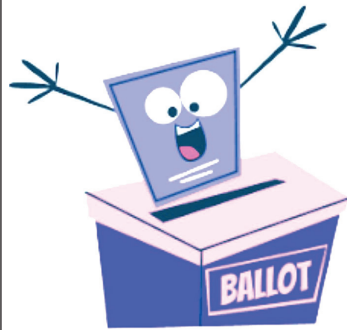
Judith Williamson pointed out that actions that will move you towards success are presented alongside Dr Hill's philosophies. You can try out a few chapters in this book, keep a record and monitor your progress to evaluate what actions work best for you. Without taking action, you will miss the key to your dreams.

First and foremost, define your path. Then, plan your route. Third, step into your journey. Measuring your progress will help you set your goals and determine which actions work best for you. You can look at this book as your treasure map. When you follow

it to your destination, you will be rewarded with finding the treasure you seek, moving towards your endless lasting success.

In the Chapter titled "Success, it seems impossible for positive shifts in such a short time as meaningful changes tend to require sustained effort and perseverance over a longer period. Everything seemed to go against my wishes in the last two years. But now, everything is happening as I imagined. It is almost incomprehensible. So, I have stopped trying to comprehend but just accept and let it be as it is. (excerpting from a letter written by Napoleon Hill on 14 May 1925 to Mrs Florence Hill from Cleveland, Ohio)

The book will cover his philosophy, Achievement, Adversity, Cooperation, Encouragement, Faith, Opportunity, Service, Success, Wisdom and Work, exploring Hill's timeless principles with actionable guidance for achieving success.



One Vote, One Future

By Min Min Zan

When the dawn of choice upon the nation breaks,
Each citizen makes a hopeful promise makes;
In orderly lines, with hearts sincere and true,
We cast our will for futures we pursue.

Through careful steps, our voices find their way,
In silent booths where conscience has its say;
One mark, one press, a choice both firm and fair;
For worthy hands to lead with faithful care.

So let each vote, though small as grains of sand,
Help build tomorrow for our cherished land.
United will, with wisdom as our guide,
A brighter nation rises from our side.

Attachment

By Mya Kyay, Translated by Myint Zan

သံယောဇဉ်

နှစ်ဟောင်းမှာလည်း
လေပေါ်မပျံနိုင်ခဲ့ဘူး
နှစ်သစ်ရောက်လည်း
လေပေါ်မပျံချင်ပါဘူး
ဘဝဟာ ခဏပဲရှိ

မှန်းသူရှေ့မှာ
ကိုယ်ရောင်ကိုယ်ဝါ တောက်ပမလို့
ချစ်သူရှေ့မှာ
ရေကြည်ချောင်းလေး ဖြစ်နေချင်လို့ ...။

မြကျေး

in the past year
i could not fly in the air

reaching the new year
i also do not want to fly in the air

life is temporary

in front of those
who hate me
i want my body to be
radiant and shimmering

for those who love me
i want to be a crystal clear brook

Apparently composed on 1 January 2026
Translated on 1 January 2026

You Don't Do It

Translated by Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Mg: Do you need any help with mashing rice?

Me: Lest you have backache, don't do it;
I will do it.
Also, in winnowing, don't do it;
Lest you feel back pain, I will do it.
And maybe your delicate paw is strained.
Also, in eating, don't do it;
Lest your mouth have an allergy to grain,
I will do it.

မောင်မလုပ်န

မောင် ။ စပါးထောင်းကျ၊ လူလိုဦးရော။

မယ် ။ မောင် မထောင်းန၊ ခါးညောင်းတတ်လယ်
မယ် ထောင်းမယ်။
စပါးပလာလဲ၊ မောင်မပလာန
ခါးနာတတ်တယ်၊ မယ်ပလာမယ်။
လက်ဝါးနု သွေးဥတတ်လယ်။
ထမနီးစားလဲ၊ မောင်မစားန
အံယားတတ်တယ်၊ မယ်စားမယ်။

၁၉ ရာစု တောင်ရိုးခနုကျေးလက်တေး



NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 5/2026

1st Waning of Pyatho, 1387 ME
3 January 2026

Announcement on List of Individuals Elected as Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives

The Union Election Commission hereby announces that, in accordance with notifications issued by the relevant Region and State Subcommissions under Section 49 (b) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the following individuals have been elected as Hluttaw representatives for the respective Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies listed below in the multiparty democratic general election held in phases starting from 28 December 2025.

Sagaing Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
1	U Vee Hsan	5/HaMaLa(C)065257	Leshi	Naga National Party
2	U Mazoh Laung Wi	5/LaHaNa(C)006653	Lahe	Naga National Party
3	U Yaw Aye Hla	5/PaHsaNa(C)000031	Nanyun	Naga National Party
4	U Khin Maung Than	5/KaLaHta(C)052483	Kalay	Union Solidarity and Development Party
5	U Tin Htay	5/BaMaNa(C)001704	Katha	Union Solidarity and Development Party
6	U Myat Kyaw	9/KaPaTa(C)120222	Kanbalu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
7	U Gon Wam	5/KhaTaNa(C)022026	Hkamti	Naga National Party
8	U Thet Pon	13/MaMaTa(C)038988	Sagaing	Union Solidarity and Development Party
9	U Aung Ko Latt	5/TaMaNa(C)035915	Tamu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
10	Daw Nyunt Nyunt Htay	5/MaRaNa(C)125948	Monywa	Union Solidarity and Development Party
11	U Than Win Tun	12/BaHaNa(C)024843	Shwebo	Union Solidarity and Development Party
12	U Naing Naing Kyaw	5/HaMaLa(C)000328	Homalin	Shan-Ni (Tai-Lyan) Solidarity Party

Taninthayi Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
13	U Kyaw Thu	6/KaThaNa(C)002916	Kawthaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
14	Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay	6/HtaWaNa(C)011561	Dawei	Union Solidarity and Development Party
15	U Aung Lin Hlaing	6/BaPaNa(C)002638	Bokpyin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
16	U Lin Aung	7/PaMaNa(C)008175	Myeik	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Bago Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
17	Dr Thant Zaw Lwin	12/PaBaTa(C)030387	Nyaunglebin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
18	Dr Kyaw Oo	7/TaNgaNa(C)030845	Taungoo	Union Solidarity and Development Party
19	U Tint Lwin	7/NaTaLa(C)025017	Nattalin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
20	U Min Khant Kyaw	7/PaKhaNa(C)186334	Bago	Union Solidarity and Development Party
21	U Myo (aka) U Myo Aung	7/PaMaNa(C)013179	Pyay	Union Solidarity and Development Party
22	U Tin Shwe	6/KaSaNa(C)044008	Shwedaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
23	U Kyaw Thura	12/MaRaKa(C)036944	Letpadan	Union Solidarity and Development Party
24	U Win Zaw Oo	7/ThaWaTa(C)002339	Thayawady	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Magway Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
25	U Ye Tint	8/PaKhaKa(C)077304	Chauk	Union Solidarity and Development Party
26	Daw Win Maw Tun	8/RaNaKha(C)011067	Yenangyoung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
27	U Hla Win Oo	8/PaKhaKa(C)017233	Pakokku	Union Solidarity and Development Party
28	Dr Kyaw Swe	8/TaTaKa(C)102663	Taungdwingyi	National Unity Party
29	U Soe Tint Naing	8/MaKaNa(C)010256	Magway	Union Solidarity and Development Party
30	U San Yu Naing	8/PaPhaNa(C)046945	Pwintbyu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
31	U Khin Maung Yi	13/MaYaTa(C)002216	Minbu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
32	U Naing Oo Kyaw	8/ThaRaNa(C)001443	Thayet	Union Solidarity and Development Party
33	U Tin Aung Chit	12/LaKaNa(C)024861	Aunglan	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Mandalay Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
34	U Aung Myint Than	9/KaHsaNa(C)018605	Kyaukse	Union Solidarity and Development Party
35	U Thein Po	9/NyaUNa(C)035115	NyaungU	Union Solidarity and Development Party
36	U Mya Tun Oo	14/DhaNaPha(C)003856	PyinOoLwin	Union Solidarity and Development Party

NATIONAL

Announcement on List of Individuals Elected as...

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Mandalay Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
37	Daw Myint Myint Htay	9/PaMaNa(C)024632	Chanayethazan	Union Solidarity and Development Party
38	Dr Maung Thin	12/UKaTa(C)101048	Meiktila	Union Solidarity and Development Party
39	U Thaung Aye	13/LaKhaNa(C)002246	Pyawbwe	Union Solidarity and Development Party
40	U Nyunt Hsaung	9/MaMaNa(C)009269	Yamethin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
41	U Teza Kyaw	9/MaKaNa(C)007110	Aungmyaythazan	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Rakhine State

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
42	U Than Aye	11/KaPhaNa(C)005245	Kyaukpyu	Union Solidarity and Development Party
43	U San Ngwe	11/SaTaNa(C)060606	Sittway	Union Solidarity and Development Party
44	U Kyaw Than	13/MaTaNa(C)006724	Manaung	Rakhine Nationalities Party

Yangon Region

No	Name	CSC	Constituency	Representing Party/Independent
45	U Ko Ko Thin	7/NaTaLa(C)001756	Kamayut	Union Solidarity and Development Party
46	U Myo Thein (aka) U Mya Thein	12/KaTaTa(C)011258	Kyauktada	Union Solidarity and Development Party
47	U Khin Maung Myint	12/TaKaNa(C)082687	Taikkyi	Union Solidarity and Development Party
48	U Win Myint	12/TaTaNa(C)066490	Twantay	Union Solidarity and Development Party
49	Daw San San Htay	12/DaGaTa(C)005522	Dagon Myothit (South)	Union Solidarity and Development Party
50	U Nyan Win Htike	12/DaGaTa(C)006022	Botahtaung	Union Solidarity and Development Party
51	Dr Thet Khaing Win	12/KaMaTa(C)043299	Mayangon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
52	U Khin Maung Hsint	12/MaGhaDa(C)007123	Mingaladon	Union Solidarity and Development Party
53	Dr Nay Lin	12/ThaGhaka(C)012504	Hmawby	Union Solidarity and Development Party
54	Daw Than Than Aye	12/ThaGhaka(C)074814	Thingangyun	Union Solidarity and Development Party
55	U Moe Myint	9/MaMaNa(C)012898	Thanlyin	Union Solidarity and Development Party
56	U Gaday Tun	12/UKaMa(C)177266	Ahlon	Union Solidarity and Development Party

Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Foreign Ministers send congratulatory messages to...

FORM PAGE 7

Mr Md Touhid Hossain, Honourable Adviser for Foreign Affairs of Interim Government of Bangladesh sends Congratulatory Message to U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of Union of Myanmar (Excerpt)

On the occasion of the 78th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Government and people of Bangladesh extend their greetings and wishes to the people of Myanmar.

Bangladesh, as a neighbour, values its longstanding relations with Myanmar and expresses its commitment to improve them for the mutual benefit of the peoples of both countries. Bangladesh looks forward to forging constructive engagement and cooperation between the two countries for the peace, progress and well-being of their peoples, and stability of the region.

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn sends Congratulatory Message to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe

I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the 78th anniversary of Myanmar’s Independence Day, which falls on 4 January 2026.

Myanmar has contributed significantly to ASEAN Community-building efforts. It is my sincere hope that, in the spirit of unity and cooperation, ASEAN will continue to make great strides towards realizing our shared vision of a region that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, for the benefit of our peoples.

Please rest assured of the ASEAN Secretariat’s commitment to supporting Myanmar and fellow ASEAN Member States towards realizing the goals envisaged in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and its Strategic Plans.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

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

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

According to the announcement, U Vee Hsan of the Naga National Party and U Sein Tun of the Union Solidarity and Development Party competed in Leshi Township of Sagaing Region.

U Mazoh Laung Wi of NNP and U Ruh San Kyu of USDP contested in Lahe Township; U Yaw Aye Hla of NNP and U Kyaw Hsan Oo of USDP in Nanyun Township; U Khin Maung Than of USDP and U Aung Moe of National Unity Party in Kalay Township; U Tin Htay of USDP and Daw May Thu Swe of NUP in Katha Township; U Myat Kyaw of USDP, U Min Zaw of People's Party and Daw Ei Ei Htwe of NUP in Kanbalu Township; and U Gon Wam of NNP, U Min Naung Kyaing of USDP, U Aung Htay of Shan-Ni (Tai-Lyan) Solidarity Party and U Myo Myint of NUP in Hkamti Township.

Moreover, U Thet Pon of USDP, U Tun Tun Wai of NUP, U Kyaw Ko Ko Aung of Shan and Nationalities Democratic Party, U Kyaw of Myanmar Farmers Development Party, U Tun Maw of People's Pioneer Party and U Nay Lin Phyo of People's Party competed in Sagaing Township.

U Aung Ko Latt of USDP and U Tun Shwe of NUP contested in Tamu Township; Daw Nyunt Nyunt Htay of USDP, U Soe San Kyaw Win of NUP, U Soe Ko Ko of MFDP, U Win Bo of PPP and Daw Nanda Myat Aung of SNLD in Monywa Township; U Than Win Tun of USDP and U Min Min Htet of People's Party in Shwebo Township; and U Naing Naing Kyaw of SSP, U Ye Wint Khaing of USDP and U Hsan Tun Oo of PPP in Homalin Township.

U Kyaw Thu of USDP, U Than Kyway of NUP, U Tun Tun Oo of People's Party, U Hsan Tun Oo of MFDP and U Hla Myo Kyaw of PPP took part in the election in Kawthoung Township of Taninthayi Region. Likewise, Dr Kyaw Kyaw Htay of USDP, Daw Yin Thu Lin of NUP, U Soe Win of People's Party, Daw Ei Zin Mar Phyo of MFDP and U Hla

Oo of PPP competed in Dawei Township. U Aung Lin Hlaing of USDP, U Thaung Hlaing of NUP, U Myo Kyaw of People's Party and U Aung Thu Moe of MFDP contested in Bokpyin Township. U Lin Aung of USDP, Daw San San Thwe of People's Party, U Myat Zaw Win of NUP, U Zaw Min Hlaing of MFDP and Daw Lwin Lwin Hset of PPP competed in Myeik Township.

Dr Thant Zaw Lwin of USDP, U Zaw Min Htwe of People's Party, U Myint Lwin of NUP, U Kaung Tha Shein of PPP and Daw Soe Thida of SNLD participated in the election in Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region. Dr Kyaw Oo of USDP, U Khin Maung Myint of MFDP, Daw Wai Phyo Theint of NUP, U Sein Tun of People's Party, U Aung Myo Win of PPP, U Soe Lwin of Federal Democratic Party, U Soe Oo of SNLD and Daw Ni Ni Win of Union Peace and Unity Party competed in Toungoo Township.

U Tint Lwin of USDP, U Kaung Myat Thu of Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics, U Nyan Shwe of NUP, Daw Saw Ohnma Aung of FDP, U Aung Min of PPP and U Thant Zin of SNLD took part in the election in Nattalin Township. U Min Khant Kyaw of USDP, U Kyaw Thein of NUP, U Khun Myo Thant of People's Party, U Maung Maung Htay of PPP, Daw Thin Lei Lei Oo of MFDP, Daw Myint Myint Aye of SNLD and Dr Myat Nu Khaing as an independent competed in Bago Township.

U Myo (aka) U Myo Aung of USDP, U Tin Maung Swe of NUP, Daw Khin Marlar Kyaw of People's Party, U Htin Aung Shine of SNLD, U Than Naing Htay of PPP, U Win Hlaing as an independent, U Min Aung Zaw of UPUP, Daw Khaing Zin Wint of MFDP and U Min Min Aung of FDP competed in Pyay Township. U Tin Shwe of USDP, U Zaw Myo Min of PPP, U Phyo Min Ko of NUP, Daw Nilar Soe of People's Party, U Aung Moe Han of SNLD, U Phyo Wai of MFDP and U Aung Naing Soe of FDP contested in Shwedaung Township.

U Kyaw Thura of USDP, Daw Myint Myint San of NUP, U Lin Lin Tun of PPP, U Myo Thant Khaing of MFDP, U Thein Tan of People's Party, Daw Pan Ei San

of SNLD and U Aung Win of FDP competed in Letpadan Township. U Win Zaw Oo of USDP, U Than Aung of NUP, U Phyo Thaw Zin of PPP, U Tin Htut Aung of FDP, U Win Naing of People's Party, U Min Min Soe of SNLD, U Moe Myint Lwin of MFDP and U Myo Lwin Oo of UPUP competed in Thayawady Township.

U Ye Tint of USDP, U Kyaw Lin of PPP, Daw Zin Zar Waing of People's Party, Daw Yin Yin Thein of NUP and Daw Thanda Aung of SNLD contested in Chauk Township of Magway Region; Daw Win Maw Tun of USDP, U Tin Ngwe of NUP, U Kyaw Min Min of SNLD and Daw Saw Hla Yin Min of PPP in Yenangyoung Township; U Hla Win Oo of USDP, U Myo Tint Ko of NUP and Daw Thin Thin Khaing of SNLD in Pakokku Township; and Dr Kyaw Swe of NUP, U Paik Htwe of USDP, U Zaw Myo Aung of MFDP and U Shein Htet Aung of PPP in Taungdwingyi Township.

U Soe Tint Naing of USDP, Daw Khin San Hla of People's Party, U Aung San of NUP, U Maung Maung Aye of PPP and U Chit Ko Ko of SNLD competed in Magway Township; U San Yu Naing of USDP, Daw Theint Theint Wai of NUP and U Zeyar Myint of People's Party in Pwintbyu Township; and U Khin Maung Yi of USDP, U Phyo Win Latt of NUP, U Zaw Min Aung of People's Party, Daw Khin Chaw Phyu of SNLD, U Phone Myat Min of PPP and U Phyo Ko Ko Aung of MFDP in Minbu Township.

U Naing Oo Kyaw of USDP, U Than Htay of NUP, U Thet Lwin of People's Party and Daw Tin Tin Hlaing of MFDP contested in Thayet Township; and U Tin Aung Chit of USDP, U Tun Nyi Win of NUP, U Kyaw Min Tun of People's Party and U Lin Aung Thu of MFDP in Aunglan Township.

U Aung Myint Than of USDP, U Maung Maung of NUP, U Nyan Min Thein of People's Party, U Hsaung Ko Ko Lwin of SNLD, U Myo Wai of PPP and U Aung Soe Moe of MFDP competed in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region; and U Thein Po of USDP, U Than Myint of NUP, Daw Myo Ma Ma Kyaw of People's Party, U Hla Khaing of PPP and Daw Ohnma of Social Economic Pro-

motion Party in NyaungU Township.

U Mya Tun Oo of USDP, U Win Myint of NUP, U Aye Chan Kyaw of People's Party, U Moe Wai Yan Oo of SNLD, Daw Yin Yin Nwet of PPP and U Myint Thu of MFDP competed in PyinOoLwin Township; and Daw Myint Myint Htay of USDP, Daw Naw Win Pa Pa Oo of People's Party, U Thein Swe of NUP, U Aung Kyaw Moe of PPP, U Phyo Hayman as an independent, U Win Zaw Tun of SNLD and U Myo Thaw Ko of MFDP in Chanayethazan Township.

Dr Maung Thin of USDP, U Aung Kyaw Myint of NUP, U Htay Maung of PPP, U Aye Min Khant of People's Party, U Aung Myint of MFDP and U Okkar Kyaw of SNLD participated in Meiktila Township; and U Thaung Aye of USDP, U Tun Aung of NUP, U Kyaw Win Hlaing of MFDP, U Nyein Hlaing Oo of People's Party, U Tun Kyaw of PPP and Daw Thuza Htay of SNLD in Pyawbwe Township.

U Nyunt Hsaung of USDP, U Soe Lwin of NUP, U Yan Naing Win of MFDP, U Nyan Win of People's Party, U Kyaw Min Aung of SNLD, U Zaw Min Htaik of PPP and U Zaw Win of SEPP competed in Yamethin Township; and U Teza Kyaw of USDP, U Kyaw Kyaw Win of NUP, Daw Thin Thin Aung of PPP, U Yan Naing Win of People's Party, Daw Wutyi Htoo of SNLD, U Thaw Htet of MFDP and U Nyi Nyi Myint of Democratic Force Labour Party in Aungmyaythazan Township.

U Than Aye of USDP, U Ba Thein Yin of Arakan Front Party, and U Than Hlaing Htoo of Rakhine Nationalities Party took part in the election in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State; U San Ngwe of USDP, U Tha Aye of AFP, Daw Than Than Aye (a) Daw Thet Hnin Nwe of RNP, U Kyaw Hsan Oo of Khami National Development Party, Daw Khin Zarli Zaw of Rakhine State National United Party and U Win Hlaing of Mro National Development Party in Sittway Township. U Kyaw Than of RNP, Daw Mya Khwa Nyo of AFP and U Maung Kyi of USDP competed in Manaung Township.

U Ko Ko Thin of USDP, U Win Myint of NUP, Daw San San

Wai of People's Party, U Phone Myint of PPP, U Win Myint of MFDP and U Hla Soe of SNLD competed in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region; and U Myo Thein (a) U Mya Thein of USDP, Daw Sin Thi Ma of People's Party, U Zeya as an independent, U Wai Phyo Kyaw of PPP, U Kyaw Nay Win of SNLD, U Win Maung of MFDP and U Naing Win as an independent in Kyauktada Township.

U Khin Maung Myint of USDP, U Tin Tun Aung of NUP, U Ba Soe of People's Party, U Kyaw Kyaw Han of National Political Alliance, U Paing Min Oo of SNLD, U Aung Kyaw Thet of Peace and Diversity Party, U Maung Maung Myint (a) U Aryon of Unity and Development Party, U Than Naing Soe of PPP, U Khin Maung Aye of MFDP, U Kyaw Thura of United Nationalities Democracy Party and U Ye Min Oo of Democratic Party competed in Taikkyi Township.

U Win Myint of USDP, Daw Khin Marlar Tun of 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party, U Tha Hsaing as an independent, U Aung Aung Ko of PPP, U Aung Soe Win of People's Party, U Aye Ko of MFDP, Daw Aye Kyu Thin of SNLD and Nant Thin Thin Htwe of United Nationalities Democracy Party competed in Twantay Township.

Daw San San Htay of USDP, U Kyaw Thu of PPP, U Aye Hset of People's Party, Daw Hnin Yu Soe of NUP, U Tin Swe of Democratic Party, U Saw Hlaing as an independent, Daw Nyein Nyein Oo of UNDP, U Nay Win Tun of MFDP, U Win Zaw Tun of SNLD and U Than Zaw Htwe of PDP contested in Dagon Myothit (South) Township; U Nyan Win Htaik of USDP, U Aung San Lwin of People's Party, Daw Htet Htet Soe Oo of PPP and U Than Naing Soe of SNLD in Botahtaung Township; Dr Thet Khaing Win of USDP, Dr Khin Khin Kyawt as an independent, Daw May Thu Win of PPP, Daw Nang Lei Lei Myo of People's Party, U Aye Ko Ko of NUP, U Zaw Tun of SNLD, Saw Wai Yan Kyaw of UNDP and Daw Myint Myint Htay of Trustee of the Peace Party in Mayangon Township.

Participation of Hluttaw candidates...

FROM PAGE 12

U Khin Maung Hsint of USDP, Daw Kay Zar Win of People's Party, Daw Khin Khin Htar of PPP, U Hein Htet Kyaw of NUP, U Zaw Zaw of New National Democracy Party, U Naing Thu Latt as an independent, U Hla Thaw of MFDP, U Wai Lin Phyio Thaw of SNLD and U Myo Min Tun (a) U Parcy Pyi Hein of Party for People competed in Mingaladon Township.

Dr Nay Lin of USDP, U Kyaw Win of NUP, U Myo Hlaing Oo of People's Party, Daw Mie Mie Khaing of PPP, U Ngwe Thit of Democratic Party, Daw Thein Thein Swe of SNLD, U Thet Naing Oo of Myanmar People's Democratic Party, and Daw Moe Aye Hlaing as an independent contested in Hmawby Township; Daw Than Than Aye of USDP,

U Nay Win Than of NNDP, U Kyaw Swa Kyaw Kyaw of PPP, Daw Khin Wai as an independent, U Lwin Myint of People's Party, Daw Cho Nwe Oo as an independent, U Thaung Myint of NUP, U Aung Nang as an independent and U Zaw Min Htwe of SNLD in Thingangyun Township.

U Moe Myint of USDP, U Nay Myo Win of PPP, U Aung Ko Win of People's Party, U Phyio Wai Lin of NUP, U Khin Maung Win of SNLD, U Lwin Min Hein of Peace and Development Party and Daw Thin Thin Lei of Peace and Diversity Party competed in Thanlyin Township; and U Gaday Tun of USDP, U Khin Maung Yi (a) U Khaing Maung Yi as an independent, U Khun Tha of NUP, U Ye Kyaw Swa of People's Party and U Lin Maung Maung Thein of PPP in Ahlon Township. — GNLM

Fertilizer reference prices remain unchanged in Jan 2026

THE Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) announced that fertilizer reference prices for January 2026 stayed the same with the rates registered in December 2025.

The reference prices are K94,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of Urea fertilizer (large granular), and K115,000 per 50-kilogramme bag of di-ammonium phosphate.

The prices may vary a bit depending on transport charges in other regions and states, as the aforementioned prices are set for the Yangon Region, MFSPEA stated.

Additionally, reference prices will be further announced as per rules and regulations. For overcharging, consumers

can complain to the committee through contact numbers 067 410032 and 09 988539360. MFSPEA has already asked the member companies to stick to the reference prices.

At present, the Fertilizer Committee holds a quarterly meeting to ensure quality fertilizer for growers without facing shortages. Under the approval of the Fertilizer Technology Group, 12,297 fertilizer registrations have been granted after the 43rd meeting of the Fertilizer Committee. With individuals' consent, 2,088 registrations were voluntarily cancelled. The department revoked 2,867 registrations for expiration of validity, and 7,342 registrations are still under processing. — NN/KK

Mya Bayin Sugar Mill to offer sugarcane at K180K per tonne

MYA Bayin Sugar Mill informed sugarcane growers of purchasing the sugarcane at K180,000 per tonne in the 2025-2026 sugarcane season, including delivery starting from 10 January.

That sugar mill's purchase price was K200,000 per tonne in the 2024-2025 sugarcane season. This year's offer price indicated a decrease of K20,000 per tonne compared to that of the previous season.

Meanwhile, Nawaday sugar mill set the purchase price at K170,00 per tonne of sugarcane, including delivery this season. The mill requested suppliers to deliver fresh sugarcane only after cleaning dirt and roots.

The Agriculture Department hosted a work coordination meeting with sugar mills to buy sugarcane in the 2025-2026 sugarcane season on 24 October at the meeting hall at Office No 43 in Nay Pyi Taw.



A farm worker collects sugarcane at a plantation.

The meeting focused on matters related to the probability of 29 sugar processing factories to buy all sugarcanes, on-time delivery of sugarcane to factories, implementing contract farming between companies and sugarcane growers, maintenance of sugar mills, maximizing energy efficiency, installing new advanced equipment to boost sugar pro-

ductivity and quality.

The Agriculture Department coordinate matters regarding distributing good sugarcane varieties, providing technical assistance, raising awareness of the right time to harvest sugarcane for peak sweetness and post-harvest management to mitigate waste, harvesting sugarcane after measurement with a hand-held refrac-

tometer for sugar concentration and Brix content, systematic sugarcane crushing, together with traders and growers.

There are 29 sugar mills in Myanmar with a crushing capacity of over 5.37 million tonnes of sugarcane, sugar production of 543,663 tonnes and 261,895 tonnes of syrup in the 2024-2025 financial year. — NN/KK

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FELTON VOY.NO. (0UVH3S1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-1-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: 2301185
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent For:
M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0080N)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0080N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-1-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: 2301185
Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent For:
(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

JANUARY 3

Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2026 officially kicks off on 6 Jan

ARTIFICIAL intelligence will dominate CES 2026 in Las Vegas, where lofty visions meet practical limits. While science fiction imagines autonomous superintelligence, today's AI is confined to specialized tasks – language translation, health monitoring, or smart glasses. Humanoid robots remain reliant on human tele-operators.

Analysts warn the gap between hype and reality will widen, yet expect “AI-powered smart everything” devices, from TVs and appliances to cars and wearables.

The sprawling trade show, with thousands of exhibitors and over 142,000 attendees last year, will showcase robots, exoskeletons, toys, and autonomous vehicles. Amid hype and “AI washing”, experts highlight genuine advances in machine learning.

Competition among Intel, AMD, and Qualcomm drives AI-ready PCs, though soaring chip prices cast a shadow over the industry. – AFP



With thousands of exhibitors, the week-long gathering includes connected cars, heavy equipment and AI shows. **PHOTO: AFP**

JANUARY 2

Japan aims to cut 25% of clothes waste by 2030

JAPAN aims to reduce clothes waste by 25 per cent by fiscal 2030 compared with 10 years before to address the environmental impact of carbon dioxide emissions-heavy garment production.

The move to promote the reuse and recycling of clothing comes as textile product waste has become a major issue worldwide, with the fashion sector generating an estimated 92 million tons annually, according to the UN Development Programme.

This has contributed significantly to environmental pollution and accounted for about 10 per cent of global carbon emissions, the New York-based world body said in March.

Based on a new action plan to be compiled by March, the Japanese government will promote wider reuse and recycling of clothes. – Kyodo

JANUARY 1

Trump joins criticism of Clooney's French passport

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump piled on criticism Wednesday of a decision to grant Hollywood superstar George Clooney French passports after a junior government official in Paris labelled the move a “double standard”.

An official decree seen by AFP on Monday showed that 64-year-old Oscar winner Clooney, his wife Amal Alamuddin Clooney and their two children had become French citizens. Trump, whose administration has backed anti-immigration parties in Europe, said that Paris was welcome to the “Ocean's Eleven” star, a long-term Democratic supporter, fundraiser and a vocal critic of the president.

Trump claimed George and Amal Clooney, “terrible political prognosticators”, became French citizens, criticizing France's immigration policies and linking them to rising crime, in a post on his Truth Social network. – AFP

DECEMBER 31

China presses NL on supply chain barriers

CHINA on Wednesday urged the Netherlands to correct its wrongdoing and remove obstacles to restore stability in the global semiconductor supply chain, the Ministry of Commerce said.

China has reiterated that the Dutch side's improper administrative intervention in the internal affairs of semiconductor manufacturer Nexperia has triggered a global semiconductor supply chain crisis, for which the Dutch side must bear full responsibility, a ministry spokesperson said in response to a media question.

“It is perplexing that in the face of widespread anxiety and concern within the global industry, the Dutch side remains unmoved and persists in its own course, showing no sense of responsibility whatsoever for the security of the global semiconductor industry and supply chains, nor has it taken any substantive action,” said the spokesperson. China once again urges the Dutch side to refrain from acting willfully, immediately correct its wrongdoing, the spokesperson added. – Xinhua

DECEMBER 30

Filmmaker says Iran ‘to move history forward’

AWARD winning Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, who won the Cannes Film Festival's top prize in 2025 for It Was Just an Accident, voiced strong support for the wave of protests gripping Iran. In a statement shared on Instagram,

Panahi described the demonstrations as a collective cry born from shared pain, declaring that “when there is nothing left to lose, fear falls away”.

He emphasized that the uprising represents a willpower determined to persist and “move history forward”.

The protests began spontaneously in Tehran's largest mobile phone market, where shopkeepers closed their businesses in response to economic stagnation and hyperinflation. Momentum quickly spread to students across at least ten universities in the capital.

Panahi framed the unrest as a turning point for Iranian society, suggesting that silence has been broken and there is no way back from demands for change – AFP

DECEMBER 29

Takaichi moves into PM's official residence

JAPANESE leader Sanae Takaichi relocated to the prime minister's official residence on Monday, two months after she took office.

Since becoming Japan's first female prime minister in October, Takaichi has traveled to the premier's office by car from her parliament members' dormitory in Tokyo's Akasaka district minutes away.

While Takaichi had planned to move to the official residence about a minute's walk from the premier's office soon after starting the job, an initial heavy diplomatic and parliamentary schedule precluded an early relocation, according to sources around the prime minister. – Kyodo

DECEMBER 28

Rallies took place in Somaliland

LARGE demonstrations erupted across Somalia after Israel became the first country to formally recognize Somaliland as an independent state. The move, announced in late December 2025, triggered widespread anger in Mogadishu and other Somali cities, where thousands of protesters gathered waving Somali and Palestinian flags.

Crowds filled Mogadishu Stadium and rallied near the airport, chanting slogans for national unity and denouncing Israel's decision as a violation of Somalia's sovereignty. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud condemned the recognition as a “threat to stability in the Horn of Africa” and sought diplomatic backing from allies, travelling to Djibouti and Turkey for urgent talks. – AFP

SPORTS

Ayeyawady, Yangon and Thitsa Arman claim wins in MWL

THE first day of Matchday 12 of the 2025-2026 Myanmar Women’s League took place at three venues on 3 January, with Ayeyawady, Yangon United and Thitsa Arman recording victories.

At Padonma Ground, Yangon United defeated Shan United by two goals to one. Shan United, who had shown strong form, took an early lead and stayed in front for more than 70 minutes, but conceded two late goals to suffer defeat. Yangon United continued to apply pressure in the title race after claiming back-to-back wins in the second round. July Kyaw opened the scoring for Shan United in two minutes, while Zin Moe Pyae equalized in 79 minutes, and Yoon Wati Hlaing netted the winner in 90+1 minutes for Yangon United. After the match, Yangon United stood on twenty-three points from ten matches, while Shan United had nineteen points from eleven



Yangon United forward Yoon Wati Hlaing attempts to score against Shan United. PHOTO: YUFC

matches.

At Yangon United Sports Complex, Ayeyawady beat YREO by three goals to two. Ayeyawady extended their winning run in

the second round to three matches, although they had to fight back from behind to secure the victory. Su Su Khin scored in 37 minutes, while San Thaw Thaw

added two goals in 80 and 83 minutes. For YREO, Win Sanda scored in 69 minutes and Ingyin Ko Ko added another in 72 minutes. Following the result,

Ayeyawady had twenty-seven points from eleven matches, while YREO remained on ten points from eleven matches.

At Thuwunna Youth Training Centre Ground 1, Thitsar Arman defeated Yangon City by three goals to one. After suffering two consecutive defeats and losing ground on the leading teams, Thitsa Arman returned to winning ways thanks to a hat-trick from Win Win. She scored in 12, 37, and 61 minutes, respectively, while Phyar Mya Moe Moe Aye pulled one back for Yangon City in 45+1 minutes. After the match, Thitsar Arman moved to twenty-one points from eleven matches, while Yangon City remained without a point after eleven matches.

The final day of Matchday 12 will be held on 5 January at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre Ground 1, where Myawady will face Young Lionesses. – Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Frank confident he can win over disgruntled Spurs fans

THOMAS Frank said he shares the frustrations of Tottenham fans after another lacklustre display from his team but believes he will win them over.

The Spurs boss was booed by supporters following Thursday’s drab goalless draw at his former club Brentford, who also chanted “boring, boring Tottenham”.

The result left the club, who host Sunderland on Sunday, 12th in the Premier League, with just two wins from their past 10 league games.

“We’re working very hard,” the beleaguered Frank said on Friday. “I understand (the fans’) frustrations. I share them too”.

Spurs appointed Frank in



Thomas Frank's Tottenham drew 0-0 on his return to Brentford. PHOTO: AFP

June after sacking Ange Postecoglou following a disastrous 17th-place finish in the Premier League but he has struggled to turn things around.

The Dane was asked by reporters whether he could be successful without the fans behind him.

“I will try to maybe turn that question around and say if you are successful the Tottenham fans will be behind you,” he said. — AFP

3 teams keep winning in MFF Futsal League 1



The YCDC Dream team battles reigning champions MIU on the court. PHOTO: MFF

THE second day of the 2025-2026 MFF Futsal League 1 continued at Thuwunna Football Stadium in Yangon yesterday, with the YCDC Dream team, YRG and Pacific Sun Far extending their winning streaks. All three teams secured back-to-back victories in Matchday 2, while reigning champions MIU struggled, losing consecutive games.

Key results saw TG United beat M2K 4-1, YRG overcome SGF 5-3, VUC draw 1-1 with Gold Dream, Pacific Sun Far thrash Chinland 7-2, the YCDC Dream team edge MIU 5-4, and Team Lions defeat United City 6-2. The highlight was the YCDC Dream team’s clash with MIU, where they led 2-0 at halftime and pulled ahead to 9-4 after a flurry of

second-half goals.

After Matchday 2, the YCDC Dream team, YRG and Pacific Sun Far each have six points from two wins. TG United has four points, while Gold Dream, M2K, Team Lions and VUC have three points each. SGF, United City and Chinland are still searching for their first points. – Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

India unveils Buddha gems after century abroad

The exhibition marks the first time the sacred Piprahwa gem relics of Lord Buddha have been reunited with other excavated materials since the original 1898 excavation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics, titled “The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One,” at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex here on Saturday. The exhibition marks a historic moment with the reunification of the Piprahwa gem relics of Lord Buddha, repatriated after 127 years. The display also features relics, gem relics, and reliquaries unearthed during the 1898 excavation and the subsequent 1971-1975 excavations at the Piprahwa site.

PM Modi had posted pictures from

the exhibition and exhorted visitors to experience the exposition. “This Exposition brings together: The Piprahwa relics repatriated after more than a century. Authentic relics and archaeological materials from Piprahwa that are preserved in the collections of the National Museum, New Delhi and the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

The event has drawn attention from historians, cultural enthusiasts, and Buddhist followers from across the country and abroad, showcasing India’s efforts to preserve and celebrate its ancient heritage. — ANI



“This historic event marks the reunification of the Piprahwa gem relics of Lord Buddha, repatriated after 127 years,” the Ministry of Culture said in a statement. **PHOTO: INDIAN PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (PIB)/ AFP**



The area around the Christmas Tree (L, back) in Biei, Hokkaido, is crowded with people taking pictures on 6 December 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Overtourism continues in Hokkaido town despite felling of photogenic trees

THE small town of Biei in Hokkaido made headlines in January last year when it cut down a row of photogenic white birch trees amid calls to mitigate overtourism. But busloads of sightseers have continued to descend upon it, with locals likening the situation to a “cat-and-mouse game”.

Tourism-related issues had escalated in recent years around the landmark trees in the northern Japanese town of about 9,000 people, known for its patchwork-like hills of farmland.

Residents describe ongoing overtourism as a “cat-and-mouse game”.

Visitors often trespassed into surrounding farm fields to take photos and the area was jammed at times with as many as a dozen tour buses. Local stakeholders eventually felled the trees with the town’s approval and the flow of visitors around the area initially dropped to some extent, town officials said. On 6 December, tourists flocked to Biei’s iconic

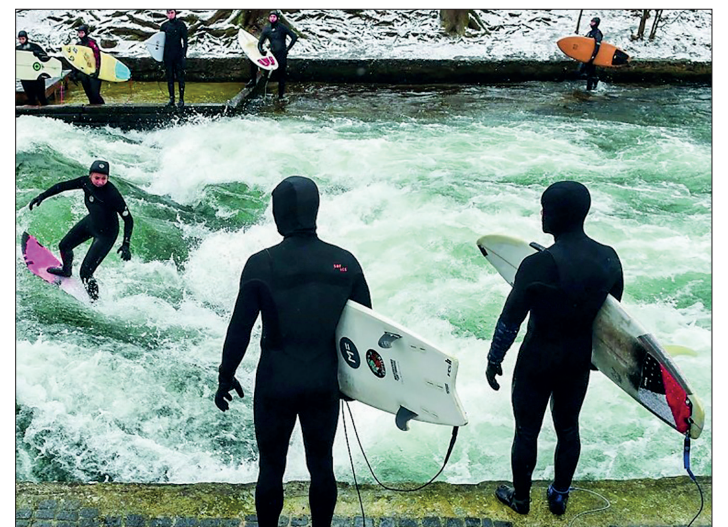
Seven Stars Tree and Christmas Tree, ignoring felled stumps nearby. Crowds caused farmland damage as visitors walked from stations, prompting the Biei Tourism Association to launch shuttle buses and increase security guards. Tourist numbers reached 2.68 million in financial 2024, with foreign visitors rising sharply. — Kyodo

Row deepens over vanished river wave in Munich

The Eisbach wave is a global symbol of river surfing.

MUNICH’S iconic Eisbach river wave, a cultural landmark for surfers since the 1980s, mysteriously disappeared after routine riverbed maintenance in October 2025. The loss sparked outrage among surfers and residents, who argued the city had destroyed a unique tradition that drew thousands of tourists each year.

On Christmas Day, activists attempted to restore the wave by secretly installing a wooden beam, briefly reviving the surf spot. However, authorities quickly dismantled the structure, citing safety concerns. The removal deepened tensions between grassroots activists and city officials, with surfers accusing the government of ignoring cultural heritage. — AFP



A surfer rides an artificial wave in the canal of the Eisbach (ice creek) river at the English Garden park in Munich, southern Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**