

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

SAC Chairman Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivers address at 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day Parade



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing inspects the parade columns yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day Parade at Nay Pyi Taw Parade Ground yesterday evening.

Tatmadaw members from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and a female parade company of the Tatmadaw (Army), members of the Myanmar Police Force and the female police member company of MPF in relevant parade columns

gathered at Thittat Parade Ground and followed the parade agenda. Then, the bagpipe platoon and the central military band took positions at the designated places of the parade ground.

Led by Parade Commander Maj-Gen Ye Kyaw Thu followed by the flag bearer, Anawrahta Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Ye Kyaw Kyaw, Kyansitha Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Tun Naing Oo, Bayintnaung Column led by Commodore Aung Aung Naing, Aung Zeya Column led by Column Commander Brig-Gen Zaw Hein Kyaing, Hsinbyushin Column led by Column Com-

mander Brig-Gen Zaw Win Tun, Bandoola Column led by Brig-Gen Nyi Nyi Win and Aung San Column led by Police Brig-Gen Maung Maung Oo marched into the parade ground.

On the way, they were garlanded by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, Daw Than Than Nwe, the wife of the SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), the wife of the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), and wives of the

senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Tatmadaw members and families from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Tatmadaw members and families of the Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters and military stations, MPF members, service personnel from the ministries, artistes and residents gave the military columns a rousing welcome, adorning them with garlands. Tatmadaw members and MPF members from the columns marched into the parade ground by singing military songs in chorus.

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Twenty-Seven Es for Disease Prevention and Control Activities

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

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Starting point contest awards K50M to entrepreneurs

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Myanmar deports 365 Chinese nationals

NATIONAL

Investing in Agriculture and Livestock: A Path to National Prosperity and Food Security

- Agricultural and livestock products have a robust market.
- These products bolster national food security and boost income through exports.
- Entrepreneurs with financial capacity should invest in the stable agriculture and livestock sectors.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the SAC Meeting 3/2024 on 7 June 2024)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order 27/2025

14th Waning of Taboung 1385 ME
27 March 2025

Pardon Order

THE State Administration Council Chairman has remitted the punishment of four citizens of Thailand from Kawthoung Prison and three citizens of the Philippines from Hpa-an Prison under Article 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, on condition that “if more offence is committed next time, they will have to serve the new punishment together with the remitting punishment to which they were sentenced” and they are expelled from Myanmar focusing on bilateral relation of countries and humanitarian grounds.

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) KaThaMa/24/00416/Ka | Viroth Saphanthong Na Nakhon | Thai citizen |
| (2) KaThaMa/24/00417/Ka | Sunan Mongkutton | Thai citizen |
| (3) KaThaMa/24/00418/Ka | Sonpong | Thai citizen |
| (4) KaThaMa/24/00419/Ka | Thavorn | Thai citizen |
| (5) PhaAh/25/00104/Ka | Mr Jayson Corprz Jaramilla | Philippine citizen |
| (6) PhaAh/25/00111/Ka | Mrs Sun Shine Rivera | Philippine citizen |
| (7) PhaAh/25/00112/Ka | Mrs Magdalena Vicente | Philippine citizen |

By order,

Aung Lin Dwe
General
Secretary

Domestic tourism to rise this Thingyan, surpassing 2024 levels

DOMESTIC tourism is expected to increase this year during Thingyan compared to last year, according to interviews with local tour industry players. During Thingyan, one of Myanmar’s most sacred festivals, domestic tourists will visit destinations such as Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Inlay Lake in Shan State.

“Domestic travellers are expected to increase slightly compared to last year. I think they will go to Mandalay, Taunggyi, Inlay Lake, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. Most of them are from Yangon,” said a tour operator. The tourism sector is forecast to receive more travellers this year than last year, with more connecting trips.

“It’s not a huge increase, but there are more people who will go after arranging with travel companies than last year,” he said.

The Myanmar traditional New Year festival, Ata Thingyan, was inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 5 December at UNESCO’s 19th World Conference held in Asunción, Paraguay.— Htet Oo Maung/ZN



Travellers are seen enjoying a boat ride in the Inlay Lake.

Ngwehsaung Beach hotels near full capacity for Thingyan

HOTEL rooms at the Ngwehsaung Beach have been almost fully booked for the Thingyan holiday, according to travel agents and residents.

Over previous years, the visitor arrival at the beach was normal but started increasing as of this month during the school holidays. Among visitors, most are families, company employees and groups of young people, said Ko Mon Lay who gives service to accommodation and mini-Oway at the Ngwehsaung Beach.

“The visitor arrival was normal in previous months at

Ngwehsaung. In this month, the visitor arrival seems large but a visible increase on weekends and public holidays, because it is summer holiday and most of the visitors are families and employees on their company trip and friend groups. For Thingyan, almost all rooms have been booked and all will be full soon. The visitor arrival is likely to mount in this year’s Thingyan,” he said.

Visitors come from different regions and states including Yangon and Mandalay and including the beach, they go to visit Lovers’ Island, Snake

Island, Phayathonzu Island, elephant camp, Ngwehsaung Square and Bird Island, he added.

The beach’s visitor arrival is generally large from October to the end of May yearly; however, the beach is empty in monsoon so some hotels are closed during the period, according to residents.

During the Thingyan holidays, local visitors have made preparations for vacations in local famous destinations and for going on overseas trips, according to tour companies.— MT/ZS



Visitors at the Ngwehsaung Beach.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

SAC Chairman Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing delivers...

FROM PAGE 1

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation Colonel-General Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin and party, Minister for Defence of the Republic of Belarus Lieutenant-General Viktor Gennadyevich Khrenin and party, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu Kyaw Swa Lin, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung, the Council Secretary, the Joint Secretary, council members, Union-level dignitaries, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, families of the Thirty Comrades, families of retired Commanders-in-Chief, Independence Mawgun Award recipients, advisers, deputy ministers, retired Tatmadaw officer ambassadors, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, military attachés from the foreign military attaché's offices and officials, representatives from ethnic armed organizations which have signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA), chairpersons and officials of political parties, families and relatives of Aung San Thuriya title, Thiha Thura, Thura and military gallantry titles and gallantry medal winning officers and other ranks and families, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, transformed people's militia, original people's militia and members of the border guard central supervisory committee, officials from the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and Myanmar Red Cross Society, officials and staff from ministries, officials from YMBA, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), artistes in the Armed Forces Day commemorative films, winners in the military songs and marching songs, poem, short story and novel contests, officials from Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Theatrical Association and Music Association, officials from the Myan-



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, adorns a Tatmadaw member from the marching column with a garland during the parade event.

mar Institute for Strategic Studies, members of University Training Corps, faculty members and students of the University for Development of National Races, special guests and internal and external media.

The Senior General took the position on the dais. Tatmadaw members and MPF members from the parade column saluted the Senior General. Meanwhile, a MiG-29 fighter saluted the Senior General with releasing flares. Then, the Senior General inspected the parade columns.

The Senior General, together with Tatmadaw members and MPF members from the parade columns, saluted the State flag and fallen Tatmadaw members and took the four Oaths.

The Senior General delivered a speech. (The full-text of the speech is reported separately on page 4).

After the speech, the parade columns led by Parade Commander Maj-Gen Ye Kyaw Thu marched past the Senior General and left the parade ground.

On the occasion, one MTX-1A and two PT-6s flew over the parade in the trail formation, two H-125 helicopters in the trail formation with one Bell-206 helicopter flying from the left to the right, two Eurocopters in the trail formation with two H-125 helicopters in Echelon formation one Bell-206 flying to the view desk for the second time, two Eurocopters in the echelon formation for the second

time with the flying of one Beech 1900D freighter each in both right and left sides, one ATR 72 freighter, two K-8W fighters in the echelon formation, two Su-30 SME fourth generation heavy fighters in the echelon formation and two more Su-30 SME heavy fighters launching flares to salute the Senior General.

After cordially greeting the guests, the Senior General left the parade ground and successfully completed the Armed Forces Day parade.

Bronze statues of three emperors who established the first, second and third Myanmar empires and the torch and emblems of the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day can be seen in the Nay Pyi Taw parade ground where the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade was held. Moreover, flags of the Burma Independence Army, Burma Defence Army, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), directorates of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and colourful flags of military commands and divisions are being hoisted. The archway of the parade ground is decorated with LED strip lights in colours representing the parade columns. The banner bearing the text "We welcome the Parade columns", the State flag and the flags of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) are decorated with lighting effects. Trees on the opposite of the dais are decorated with handmade lighting. Moreover, two stars from the Tatmadaw flag are illuminated with LED strip lights. The way where the Senior General left is decorated with flag light boxes and LED strip lights.

Moreover, as a gesture of honouring the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, posters depicting the movements of soldiers from the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to ensure sharpening of patriotism are erected along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Pindaung junction. Moreover, the mottos of Tatmadaw are hung in Myanmar and English along the route to the parade ground. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Election to proceed per 2008 Constitution, aligned with regional security conditions

The following is a full-text speech delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadde Maha Thray Sithu Thadde Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing at the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day Parade yesterday.

Comrades,

Today marks the 80th anniversary of Armed Forces Day for our Tatmadaw, an institution forged in the crucible of the independence struggle and resistance against imperialism. This day stands as a defining moment in Tatmadaw's history, symbolizing its evolution from external subjugation to the proud embodiment of a self-determined National Armed Forces. It also commemorates the historic events on 27 March 1945 which launched the anti-fascist movement through the collaboration between Tatmadaw and the ethnic people. Since the legacy of our Tatmadaw is inextricably linked to the historical identity of our Nation, today, the 80th anniversary of our Tatmadaw represents an occasion of profound significance. On this momentous day, I would like to emphasize the important points you all must be cognizant of.

Comrades,

In the annals of history, our Nation has stood resolutely as the First, Second, and Third Myanmar Empires, embodying the legacy of a unified and solidified national integrity. However, the prosperous Nation was compelled to relinquish its independence and sovereignty as a result of three successive imperialist incursions in 1824, 1852 and 1885. During the colonial period, the imperialists employed strategic manipulation and instigation to sustain their rule. Such instigation exacerbated mistrust among ethnic groups, eventually spiralling into the flames of armed conflict, driven by ideological divergence in the post-independence period. As the insurgencies plunged the Nation into a shambolic state in 1949, leading to the government being ironically dubbed the 'Yangon Government', Tatmadaw made great sacrifices to save the Nation.

History bears witness that our Tatmadaw vanquished the insurgencies and triumphed over foreign intrusions, including the White China (Kuomintang) and the Mujahedeen. Amid that turbulent period, Tatmadaw took charge as the Caretaker Government in 1958,

striving to restore national stability and address the political upheaval triggered by the dissolution of political parties. By 1962, the Nation faced imminent devastation due to the inherent flaws of the 1947 Constitution, yet Tatmadaw safeguarded the Nation from this dire situation.

Furthermore, due to the inherent weaknesses of the ruling party in the late 1980's, Tatmadaw assumed responsibility for safeguarding the Nation amid the outbreak of mass violence, anarchic mobs, and the collapse of administrative control in 1988. In 2010, Tatmadaw charted the course for the long-aspired multiparty democracy and collaborated in the Nation's development under the 2008 State Constitution. This collaboration was instrumental in the foundation for the continued stability and viability of the multiparty democratic system across two successive government bodies.

The ruling party perpetrated blatant electoral fraud during the 2020 MultiParty Democratic General Election, violating the fundamental tenets of democracy, which demand fairness and legitimacy. This misconduct not only eroded democratic integrity but also engendered political corruption. Despite Tatmadaw's repeated calls for accountability regarding widespread voting irregularities, the ruling party dismissed these concerns and proceeded with the Hluttaw, attempting to usurp the Nation's authority through unlawful coercion. In response, Tatmadaw, following constitutional provisions, declared a State of Emergency and assumed the responsibility of the Nation. I reaffirm that Tatmadaw has stood firm in its commitment to protect the Nation and its people, from the independence struggle to the present, in times of danger to Our Three Main National Causes, and will remain resolutely dedicated to safeguarding our future.

Comrades,

In response to the demands of the modern era and the aspirations of the people, the 2008 Constitution which is imperative for fostering a multiparty democracy and market-oriented economic system, was ratified through a nationwide referendum on 29 May 2008. The 2008 Constitution was not adopted through the consent of any single individual or organization but was the empirical result of rigorous intellectual deliberation and careful discourse, shaped by the historical narrative etched in the

annals, and conducted by eight groups comprising over 1,000 representatives through a National Convention.

Tatmadaw is not only safeguarding the Constitution under Section 20 (F) of the 2008 Constitution, which states, 'The Defence Services is primarily responsible for safeguarding the Constitution', but also fulfilling its national political responsibility as outlined in Section 6 (F), which stipulates, 'The Defence Services shall be enabled to participate in the national political leadership of the State'. National politics grounded in our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty represent the enduring principles devoted to safeguarding the Nation's interests and its people. To elaborate further, national politics does not merely mean party politics; it embodies the essence of statecraft, dedicated to preserving national tranquillity and development.

Comrades,

In the initial phase after Tatmadaw assumed the responsibility of the Nation through the establishment of the State Administration Council, violent protests came into existence. However, certain representatives of the Hluttaw incited insurrection without consideration, exploiting public sentiment rather than resolving political matters through legitimate dialogue. This gave rise to so-called terrorist groups: the NUG, CRPH, and PDFs whose actions have spread terrorism across the Nation. Similarly, destructive media outlets, working under the aegis of opposition factions, relentlessly undermined national interests by spreading fake news and propaganda, further fuelling the escalation of political conflict. Additionally, there was a deliberate effort to incite civil servants to betray their duty and flee the Nation and its people, aiming to dismantle the administrative mechanism. Simultaneously, terror was unleashed upon individuals who refused to conform to their ideological narrative, subjecting them to brutal killings under the label of 'Dalan' or 'Colluder'. To expound upon this, the political objectives were pursued through armed terrorism and foreign support.

Furthermore, certain ethnic armed organizations have taken advantage of the Nation's political issues, exploiting the so-called terrorists, known as PDFs, to carry out insidious strategies

designed to dismantle national security and stability. Acts of terrorism, including the torture and execution of people, the premeditated arson attack on villages and towns that refuse to submit to their control, and the destruction of government infrastructure such as buildings, roads, bridges, vehicles and electrical towers through explosives, have significantly increased. Especially, these terrorist insurgents driven by 'The One-State, One-Sword Warlordism' are pursuing the disintegration of national solidarity rather than working towards eternal peace under a multiparty democratic Union.

As the battles waged by terrorist factions in their pursuit of power in their respective regions have brought destruction to the lives and property of innocent people and towns and villages, the entire people have been left with profound hatred and deep resentment. The attacks on innocent people and the armed terrorism which poses a threat to Our Three Main National Causes are intolerable, thus, Tatmadaw, with the full support of the people, will continue to carry out a 'Just War'.

Throughout Myanmar's history, Tatmadaw has never granted any tradition of acceding to intimidation through acts of terrorism. Therefore, I would like to urge all comrades to fulfil the national defence duties, embracing a venture-some spirit and a willingness to sacrifice lives to protect the lives and property of the people and safeguard Our Three Main National Causes.

Comrades,

As the seamless integration of the entire people is essential for achieving national peace, stability and effective law enforcement, a People's Security System is being implemented to strengthen security awareness through the collaboration of all individuals and relevant security forces. In this regard, all of the people, administrative bodies and relevant security forces must work together in unity and solidarity.

Moreover, in alignment with every citizen's responsibility to defend the Nation, the People's Military Service Law was initiated on 10 February 2024 and is now being implemented to enable eligible citizens within the designated age range to fulfil their national defence duties. Although People's Military Service personnel hailed from different backgrounds, their combined training has

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Election to proceed per 2008 Constitution, aligned with regional security conditions

FROM PAGE 4

instilled in them a sense of uniformity in identity, views, beliefs and values alongside senior military personnel as they fulfil their duties in respective military units across the Nation. Therefore, I proudly affirm that these dutiful and conscientious citizens who have joined the People's Military Service are now fulfilling their national defence duties as a strong and unified force.

Comrades,

The State Administration Council is resolutely forging ahead with the Two Political Agendas: strengthening a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system and building a federal Union based on a democratic and federal system. In pursuing these political agendas articulated by the government, Tatmadaw is expected to actively engage in its assigned role.

To establish a Union based on democracy and federalism, it is imperative for all citizens, rooted in solidarity and the spirit of the Union, to take responsibility for safeguarding the Nation in oneness. This spirit played a pivotal role in the independence struggle throughout history and also remains the cornerstone of our future democratic Nation. As all ethnic people share the same land and resources, I want to emphasize that it is of utmost importance and necessity to cultivate the spirit of cohesion and oneness without segregating Myanmar proper and frontier areas, in times of emergency. As the saying goes, 'A Nation's strength lies within', I would like to highlight that our goal of establishing a democratic and federal Union can only be achieved through the active participation of the entire people.

Establishing a Union, eliminating internal armed conflicts and achieving eternal peace are of utmost importance. Our Tatmadaw remains committed to fully implementing the agreements outlined in the 2008 Constitution and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at the earliest opportunity, regarding the peace process. Moreover, considering the damage inflicted upon the Nation by armed conflicts and acts of terrorism, efforts are actively being made to achieve eternal peace and national development in collaboration with the people. In this regard, all ethnic armed organ-

izations, armed terrorist factions and terrorist PDF groups opposing the Nation are urged to renounce violence and pursue political solutions through dialogue - whether by engaging in party politics or participating in electoral processes. Additionally, I would like to emphasize that Tatmadaw has consistently paved the way for peace dialogues, as political solutions can only be effectively advanced through negotiations at the table.

Comrades,

Since assuming the responsibility of the Nation, the State Administration Council (SAC) laid down the roadmap and objectives for ensuring the tranquillity of the Nation and fostering a multiparty democratic system. According to the Five-Point Roadmap, the election is meant to be held in the designated time frame, leading to successfully holding a free and fair multiparty democratic election and facilitating the transfer of the Nation's power to the government formed as a result of the election.

The State Administration Council, acting on behalf of Tatmadaw, currently assuming the responsibility of the Nation, is making provisions to hold the general election this coming December. The election will be conducted based on respective regional security conditions in pursuance of the provisions of the 2008 Constitution, electoral laws and relevant regulations, and the necessary provisions are actively underway. In other words, provisions are being made to ensure that all eligible voters can exercise their right to vote, to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election that reflects the wholehearted aspirations of the people, and to become a dignified election.

Comrades,

Every soldier and unit needs to be endowed with five core qualities: 'Morale, Discipline, Loyalty, Unity and Wholesomeness of Three Capabilities' to be able to shoulder the national defence duty, the primary one of our Tatmadaw. To become a strong Tatmadaw endowed with those qualities, it has to be built with The Four Main Unit Building Tasks: 'Training, Administration, Welfare and Morale'.

The Four Main Unit Building Tasks are deeply interrelated. When righteous training, effective admin-

istration and proper welfare are provided, military personnel and their families will develop strong morale - fostering deep attachment to their units, trustworthiness in Tatmadaw and readiness to sacrifice for Tatmadaw and the Nation. Only when a strong force with high morale and unity is built, can the duties assigned by Tatmadaw be effectively fulfilled. Therefore, I would like to urge all comrades to remain focused on the Four Main Unit Building Tasks.

Comrades,

As Tatmadaw personnel shoulder national defence and security duties that others find arduous to bear, maintaining mental resilience is indispensable. This resilience is ingrained from a deep-seated desire to neither concede victory nor accept defeat. Therefore, comrades must cultivate Tatmadaw's spirit, embodying principles such as 'Not a soul in the hull, yet the ensign stays aloft', 'Fighting tooth and nail' and 'The ultimate sacrifice for the virtuous tradition of Tatmadaw'. In doing so, the duties assigned by the Nation and Tatmadaw can be successfully fulfilled through steadfast perseverance and the ultimate sacrifice of lives. As Tatmadaw is an institution built on discipline, individual commitment to this discipline is essential for the successful execution of these duties. The reason our Tatmadaw has remained steadfast in its commitment to the present is strict military discipline and obedience. Just as every single Tatmadaw personnel must adhere to the Sixty Codes of Conduct with the same certainty as fastening a longyi around the waist, it is equally vital to strictly follow battlefield discipline, workplace regulations, civil laws and internationally recognized Rules of Engagement (ROE) to become an exemplary soldier. Therefore, I strongly urge all comrades to become exemplary soldiers, upholding good morale and morality, and abiding by the law.

Comrades,

Harnessing opportunities and savouring rewards are natural acts of all living beings, yet sacrifice remains a noble virtue embodied by only a few exceptional individuals. The sacrifice of one's life and body for the Nation, its people, and national sovereignty stands as a testament to the spirit

of martyrdom, a virtue held only by those of extraordinary courage and profound dedication. Such individuals undertake duties that others find too arduous to bear, embracing sacrifice and risk with proper determination. They are bound to fight until death, displaying exceptional resolve and bravery in service to the Nation and its people, undeterred by any hardship or struggle. These are the quintessential qualities of an exemplary soldier. Therefore, I extend my deepest respect and gratitude to all members of Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, and the People's Militia who have made the ultimate sacrifice in fulfilling their national defence duties with steadfast resolve. Furthermore, I am deeply honoured to acknowledge that comrades who solemnly vow the Four Oaths every day and steadfastly fulfil their national defence and security duties are truly men and women deserving of the highest admiration and honour from the Nation.

Comrades,

In conclusion, I would like to urge you to ensure your documented involvement in the future nation-building process as exemplary soldiers entrusted by the people, in alignment with the objectives set forth on the 80th Armed Forces Day, as follows:

- To actively fulfil the three main functions of Tatmadaw: the duty to defend the Nation, the duty to undergo training, and the duty to serve the interests of the people, steadfastly upholding Our Three Main National Causes
- To implement measures for the Nation's development and the achievement of genuine, eternal peace following the resolution of armed conflicts, under the 2008 Constitution and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
- To safeguard the Nation and its people from potential threats while providing sector-wise assistance to enhance social security and foster socioeconomic development, and
- To uphold the integrity of a free and fair multiparty democratic general election by Tatmadaw, for the emergence of a Union founded on a democratic and federal system, upon the completion of the State of Emergency provisions.



NATIONAL



SAC Chairman Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attend the ceremony to present military gallantry medals to honourees in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Nation's progress rooted in peace and conflict-free stability

A ceremony to confer military gallantry honorary medals on recipients took place at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing.

First, the Senior General delivered a speech, saying that on this auspicious occasion of the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, gallantry medals of honour, recognized as symbols of the Tatmadaw's valour and capabilities, will be awarded to those who selflessly dedicated themselves to the nation and people without regard for the sacrifice of lives. Myanmar has strong historical evidence of producing numerous heroes, providing undeniable evidence of its proud heritage. Honesty, humility, compassion, and righteousness are distinctive and deeply ingrained characteristics of the people. However, when faced with injustice, they have repeatedly shown their rightful resistance and unwavering courage in defending national

pride and dignity. Whenever nationality, religion, or sovereignty is threatened, the courageous generations of Myanmar have steadfastly upheld and defended their legacy, refusing to bow down to oppression. Their unwavering patriotism serves as an inspiring example for future generations.

Tatmadaw members have always demonstrated great courage in overcoming any destructive threats to the nation and their people. Likewise, they have also strived to adapt and innovate in response to advancing technologies. Therefore, not only are distinctions awarded for bravery but also for excellence in the fields of science and technology. As such, 22 individuals will be honoured with gallantry medals in recognition of their outstanding capabilities at today's ceremony. The government appreciates the contributions of individuals from various sectors, including social affairs, the economy, science and technology, and sports, who work tirelessly for national stability and development.

Given the current situation in Myanmar, Tatmadaw has been serving its duties more intensively than before, working tirelessly day and night. In addition to national

defence responsibilities, it is also engaged in training exercises and public welfare activities. Furthermore, the Tatmadaw is actively participating in the implementation of the country's Roadmap and objectives. The efforts made to ensure the security and stability of the people's lives, as well as the economic and social development of the nation, reflect the Tatmadaw's true stance and commitment.

At present, as everybody knows, efforts are being made to organize a multiparty democratic general election. To ensure that the election is free and fair, entire ethnic people need to work together in unity. Since the true strength of the nation lies within the country, this collective strength must not go to waste. Every citizen must contribute to the well-being of the nation, as only through such collective efforts can the country move forward towards a genuine and disciplined democratic state.

The development of a country is based on peace and stability free from armed conflicts. If so, more and more roads and bridges can be built, and it will help the promotion of trade and fulfil the needs of education, health and social sectors.

Instead of taking a narrow-mindedness in racism and prioritizing self-interest under the banner of ideology and ethnic group concerns while engaging in destructive actions, it is the people who will suffer the consequences. To prevent such losses and hardships, it is the duty of Tatmadaw and security forces to provide the necessary protection. Advantageous geographical location, abundant natural resources both above and below ground, and fertile land make it a target for those seeking to exploit it for their gain. In doing so, the Senior General said that the entire ethnic population must always remember and recognize the life and limb sacrifices of Tatmadaw members, families and security forces in their efforts to prevent dangers of internal and external destructive elements.

Recipients of the Gallantry Medal of Tatmadaw for exceptional bravery are patriotic heroes who have fearlessly and resolutely fought in battles, demonstrating unwavering courage and outstanding valour. They have fulfilled their national defence duties with a steadfast spirit, willingly facing all hardships and making the ultimate sacrifice for the country and its people.

The Senior General presented gallantry medals to one Major-General, three Colonels, one Police Brigadier-General, two Lieutenant-Colonels, three Majors, two Majors/Captains, three Captains, one Quartermaster Sergeant, two Sergeants, two Corporals and two Lance Corporals, respectively.

The Senior General gave a tea party to the gallantry medal recipients. After the ceremony, the Senior General cordially greeted medal recipients.

Also, present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Thray Sithu Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung and his wife, Union-level dignitaries and their wives, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, title recipient officers and other ranks and inheritors. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing lays wreath at Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw)

In honouring the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thadoe Maha Thray Sithu Thadoe Thiri Thudhamma Min Aung Hlaing laid a wreath at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday morning.

After laying a wreath at the square of the Memorial to Fallen Heroes, the Senior General together with senior Tatmadaw officers saluted the fallen heroes who sacrificed lives in serving the defence and security duties of the State.

The Senior General and senior Tatmadaw officers signed the visitors' book and visited there.

The Memorial to Fallen Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) was established to honour Myanmar's brave heroes who sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the nation. It also serves as a tribute to those who demonstrated exceptional courage and dedication after the country achieved sovereignty, giving their lives in the process. The memorial aims to ensure that these heroes are forever remembered by future generations and to instil a deep sense of patriotism and willingness to sacrifice for the nation



The Senior General alongside senior Tatmadaw officers honour fallen Tatmadaw heroes who gave their lives defending the State's security.

among the youth. It was inaugurated on 27 March 2017, under the guidance of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services. The interior walls of the memorial were decorated with the names of Aung San Thuriya, Thiha Thura, Thura

title and gallantry medal winners who sacrificed lives in serving the State defence duties carved on the granite plaques with golden letters. Moreover, statues of five Aung San Thuriya title winning Tatmadaw members and one civilian are erected outside the memorial.

Also present on the occasion were SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Maha Thray Sithu Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin

Thray Sithu Kyaw Swa Lin, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Zeya Kyaw Htin Sithu Tun Aung, retired senior Tatmadaw officers and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. — MNA/TTA



The awarding ceremony for outstanding parade companies in progress yesterday, attended by Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin.

Outstanding parade companies awarded

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin attended yesterday's award-giving ceremony for parade companies that participated in the 80th Armed Forces Day parade at the Thittat parade ground.

The parade columns led by Parade Commander Maj-Gen Ye Kyaw Thu first saluted Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin.

Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Htein Win, who is also Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Armed

Forces Day, presented the trophy and cash prizes to Navy Seals parade company representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), special task force (female) representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Central Military Band, bag-pipe band, Flag Bearers of Aung Zeya Column (female), Cavalry Company, Myanmar Police Force Band, Bayintnaung Column Military band, Bayintnaung Column Flag Bearer, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) (Female) third prize to the parade company 2 (female)

representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), while to the parade company for Airborne Troop representing that won third prize of best camp, the parade company 3 representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) for third prize in military song, the parade company (2) representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) for third prize military discipline and the parade company 1 representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) for third prize in parade. **SEE PAGE 10**

OPINION

Strictly control the use of cigarettes and tobacco for generations

“THE World Health Organization reports that smoking kills more than eight million people each year, with approximately 1.2 million of these deaths attributed to diseases caused by passive smoking. As a result, the WHO refers to the casualties from smoking as the ‘tobacco pandemic’.

An Ipsos Global Prediction report has identified the countries with the highest smoking rates worldwide, also highlighting the public health concerns associated with smoking. According to the report, Nauru, an island in the Pacific Ocean, has the highest smoking rate, with 48.3 per cent of its population identifying as smokers. It is followed by Myanmar with 44.4 per cent of the smoking rate, Indonesia with 38.2 per cent, and Timor-Leste with 38.7 per cent, all of which have significant smoking populations.

Currently, controlling the loss of life due to tobacco use is challenging due to weak policies regulating tobacco abuse, inconsistent enforcement of the rule of law, and the high production of e-cigarettes. Therefore, world leaders need to collaborate in addressing undisciplined smoking. Practically, the global facts and figures show a declining rate of smokers worldwide, thanks to the efforts of the World Health Organization and countries around the world to control tobacco use. Most countries manage the implementation of tobacco control policies by increasing taxes on the tobacco trade, prohibiting cigarette advertisements, and raising public health awareness through health warnings on tobacco packaging. However, some countries have not been successful in controlling tobacco use due to various challenges. Myanmar signed the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2003 and enacted the Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law in 2006. This law prohibits the sale of cigarettes to individuals under 18 years of age, as well as the sale of cigarettes within school compounds and a 100-foot radius of school grounds. Additionally, Myanmar’s law bans tobacco advertising, sales promotions, and the use of tobacco sales revenue for public welfare purposes. Offenders may face penalties and punishments.

As Myanmar is listed among the countries with the highest smoking rates globally, it is essential to implement strong efforts to control smoking and the tobacco trade. Officials should focus on reducing tobacco cultivation and replacing it with alternative crops for public consumption. Additionally, increasing taxes on tobacco and cigarettes is crucial to addressing the challenges associated with their use. By taking these steps, we can ensure a brighter future for the younger generations.

As Myanmar is listed among the countries with the highest smoking rates globally, it is essential to implement strong efforts to control smoking and the tobacco trade. Officials should focus on reducing tobacco cultivation and replacing it with alternative crops for public consumption. Additionally, increasing taxes on tobacco and cigarettes is crucial to addressing the challenges associated with their use. By taking these steps, we can ensure a brighter future for the younger generations.

Twenty-Seven Es for Disease Prevention and Control Activities

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

TWENTY-SEVEN Es for disease prevention and control activities are a set of essential strategies that focus on various aspects of public health interventions aimed at preventing and controlling diseases. While there may be variations in the lists of these 27 Es, they generally revolve around elements like education, environment, and engagement in health practices.

The 27 Es for disease prevention and control activities expand on the principles involved in managing public health issues. These ideologies cover a wide range of strategies, from education to environmental control. The following is an expanded list that reflects key actions for effective disease prevention

and control:

- 1. Education** – Raise awareness and educate communities about healthy practices and disease prevention.
- 2. Early Detection** – Detect diseases early through screenings and monitoring to prevent further spread.
- 3. Environmental Health** – Improve environmental conditions (clean water, sanitation) to reduce disease risk.
- 4. Empowerment** – Empower individuals and communities with the tools and knowledge needed for self-care.
- 5. Epidemiology** – Collect and analyze data on the spread and causes of diseases to guide prevention efforts.
- 6. Engagement** – Engage communities in disease control measures through participation and collaboration.
- 7. Equity** – Ensure equal access to health services, information, and resources for all groups.
- 8. Evidence-Based Practices** – Use scientific research and data to develop effective disease prevention strategies.
- 9. Enforcement** – Enforce laws and policies that protect public health (e.g., vaccination requirements).
- 10. Emergency Response** – Prepare for and respond quickly to outbreaks, natural disasters, or health emergencies.
- 11. Evaluation** – Continuously assess and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention programs and interventions.
- 12. Efficacy** – Ensure that disease control measures are proven to be effective in reducing health risks.
- 13. Ecosystem Protection** – Preserve and protect ecosystems, which contribute to overall human health.
- 14. Economic Support** – Provide financial resources for public health initiatives to control and prevent disease.
- 15. Examination** – Regular medical examinations to detect diseases early and prevent complications.
- 16. Aetiology** – Study the causes and origins of diseases to better prevent and treat them.
- 17. Exclusion** – Prevent the movement of infected individuals or contaminated goods to limit disease spread.
- 18. Ethical Practices** – Maintain ethical standards in health interventions, respecting human rights and dignity.
- 19. Extrapolation** – Apply lessons learned from one community or disease to other situations or regions.
- 20. Experience Sharing** – Share successful disease control strategies and lessons learned from previous outbreaks.
- 21. Elimination** – Work towards the complete obliteration of diseases in certain areas.
- 22. Enhancement** – Enhance health systems with better resources, training, and infrastructure for disease control.
- 23. Evaluation of Interventions** – Continuously monitor and adjust disease prevention strategies to ensure their effectiveness.
- 24. Emergency Preparedness** – Develop and implement plans to address and mitigate public health emergencies.
- 25. Epidemic Control** – Use effective strategies to contain and control epidemics quickly, minimizing damage.
- 26. Eradication** – Actively works to completely abolish certain diseases from the population (e.g., smallpox).
- 27. Evaluation of Outcomes** – Measure and assess the long-term impacts of disease control efforts on public health.



Utilizing scientific research and data is essential for formulating effective disease prevention strategies that can significantly reduce the incidence and impact of various health conditions. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

- health emergencies. prevention programs and interventions.

WHEN we interact with others, the way we speak holds more power than we often realize. Words, of course, matter, but beyond the actual words we choose, our tone of voice shapes the way those words are received. A single sentence can carry completely different meanings depending on how it is spoken. A gentle, understanding tone can turn even the most difficult conversations into moments of connection, while a harsh or indifferent tone can create walls that may never come down.

Think of a time when someone spoke in a way that made us feel small,

unimportant, or misunderstood. Maybe they didn’t mean to hurt us, but their tone carried impatience, frustration, or dismissiveness. That moment may have stayed with us longer than we expected. Even if the words themselves were harmless, the way they were said left an imprint, a bruise that took time to fade. On the other hand, think of a time when someone spoke with kindness, understanding, and warmth. That moment likely stood out too, giving us comfort and reassurance. Their words didn’t just communicate information; they made us feel seen, heard, and valued.

Human emotions are complex, and



Workplaces are filled with examples of how tone of voice affects interactions. **ILLUSTRATION: CONCEPT ART**

Turning Ordinary Words into Gold or Poison

By Laura Htet (UDE)

everyone carries an invisible weight within them. Some carry stress from work, others are struggling with personal hardships, and many are simply trying to get through the day without feeling overwhelmed. In the midst of all this, our tone of voice can either add to their burden or lighten it. It can be the difference between making someone’s day harder or giving them a moment of relief.

Imagine a simple conversation between two coworkers. One asks for help, and the other responds, “What do you need?” spoken in a soft, helpful tone. The same words spoken with impatience or irritation – “What do you need?” – can make the person hesitate, feel like a bother, or even regret asking in the first place. The difference is subtle yet profound. Tone has the ability to encourage or discourage, to make people feel safe or insecure, to build trust or to break it.

This is why being mindful of how we

the child feels secure and loved. They understand that mistakes don’t define them and that their worth isn’t shaken by a bad moment.

Parents often experience this with their children. A tired, frustrated parent might snap at their child, not meaning to be unkind but simply feeling overwhelmed in the moment. The child, however, doesn’t just hear the words – they hear the disappointment, the impatience, and the sharp edge in the voice of someone they look up to. That one moment might fade for the parent, but for the child, it may be remembered as a moment when they felt unloved or unimportant. On the other hand, when a parent speaks with patience and warmth, even in times of discipline,

the same applies to friendships and romantic relationships. Arguments and disagreements are a natural part of any close relationship, but how we express frustration can determine whether we deepen our bond or damage it. A simple “I’m upset” said in a calm, controlled tone invites discussion and understanding. “I’m upset!” yelled in anger shuts down communication and may leave the other person feeling defensive or hurt. Words spoken in anger can be forgiven, but their emotional impact often lingers far longer than we anticipate.

Workplaces, too, are filled with examples of how tone of voice affects interactions. A manager giving feedback can either inspire or discourage an employee, depending on how they deliver their message. “This needs improvement” can feel constructive when spoken in a neutral, supportive tone. But with a sharp, dismissive tone, the same

phrase can feel like criticism that stings, making the employee question their abilities. In professional settings, where morale and teamwork are crucial, tone plays a significant role in shaping a positive or toxic work environment. Even in everyday encounters with strangers, our tone of voice can have an impact. A cashier at the grocery store, a barista at a coffee shop, or a fellow passenger on public transport – these brief interactions may seem insignificant, but they can leave lasting impressions. A warm “thank you” can make someone’s workday feel a little lighter. A rushed, indifferent response can make them feel invisible like they’re just another task to complete. Small moments add up, and though we may never know the full extent of how our tone affects others, it’s always worth choosing kindness.

It’s easy to forget about tone in the rush of daily life. Stress, fatigue, and frustration can make it harder to be mindful of how we sound. But awareness is the first step. Taking a moment to pause before speaking, adjusting our tone to match our intention, and making

a conscious effort to communicate with kindness can transform the way we connect with others.

There’s an undeniable truth in the idea that people may not remember what we said, but they will remember how we made them feel. This is a reminder to approach conversations with empathy, to soften our words when needed, and to use our tone as a tool for connection rather than division. The world is filled with enough harshness, enough impatience. Choosing to speak with warmth and understanding is a small act, but its impact can be profound.

So the next time we speak, we must consider not just what we say, but how we say it. A thoughtful tone can turn a simple interaction into a moment of reassurance, a conversation into a connection, and a difficult moment into an opportunity for kindness. Our voices have power – let’s use them to uplift, comfort, and remind others that they matter.

NATIONAL

SAC Vice-Chair Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife pay respect to Independence Mawgun awardees attending 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and his wife Daw Than Than Nwe paid respect to two Independence Mawgun Award second-class recipients and one Independence Mawgun Award third-class recipient, totalling three who are attending the 80th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day parade by hosting a tea party at the hall of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice-Senior General and wife, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and wife, and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Com-

mander-in-Chief asked about the health conditions of the awardees in individuals and presented fortified edible bird nests and cash assistance.

The Vice-Senior General and his wife joined the tea party together with the Independence Mawgun award recipients.

On the occasion, Independence Mawgun Award third-class recipient U Aye Thein, aged 97; Independence Mawgun Award second-class recipient U Ba Chaw, 97; and Independence Mawgun Award second-class recipient U Kyaw Sein, 100; expressed their good health conditions and recounted their experiences in fighting against Japanese fascists with patriotic and national spirits. — MNA/KTZH

The Vice-Senior General and his wife join the tea party with Independence Mawgun awardees.

Outstanding parade ...

FROM PAGE 7

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Soe Min Oo presented trophies and cash awards to the parade company (2) (female) representing Myanmar Police Force that won second prize, the parade company 1 (male) representing Myanmar Police Force that won second prize, the parade company 1 (female) representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) that won second prize, parade company 1 representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) that won second prize for best camp, the parade company representing Directorate of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers that won second prize for best military song, the parade company representing Directorate of Signals that won second prize for best military discipline, the parade company representing Directorate of Ordnance Services that won second prize for best parade, the parade company (female) representing MPF that won first prize, the parade company 3 (male) representing MPF that won first prize, the parade company 1 (female) representing Office of Commander-in-Chief (Air) that won first prize for Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) (female) parade, the parade company representing the office of the Chief of Air Defence for best camp, the parade company representing Office of Chief of Defence Industry that won first prize for best military song, parade company representing Directorate of Artillery Corps that won the first prize for best military discipline and parade company representing the Directorate of Armoured Corps that won the first prize for best military parade.

Afterwards, General Kyaw Swa Lin gave trophies and cash awards to the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Air) for group flying, the parade company representing the Directorate of Military Engineers that won third prize for model company, parade company representing Office of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) representing that won the second prize for the model company and parade company representing Office of Commander-in-Chief (Air) that won first prize for model company.

The event came to an end with the concluding remark of Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Kyaw Swa Lin. — MNA/KTZH



Director Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare holds talks with the Russian delegation yesterday.

Russian Public Council Chairman meets Myanmar PR Director

DIRECTOR of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun received a delegation led by Mr Pavel Nikoleaevich Gusev, Chairman of the Public Council under the Russian Defence Ministry yesterday morning at the Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) conference hall.

The meeting saw Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaw from the Ministry of Information, officials from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and members of the Russian delegation.

Discussions focused on the strengthen-

ing of military relations between Myanmar and Russia, ongoing public relations activities of the Russian Armed Forces, youth exchange programmes and the possibility of the Public Council observing Myanmar's upcoming general elections. Both sides exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for group photos.

Following the meeting, the Russian delegation toured the exhibition halls of the Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw), where officials provided explanations. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Belarus to boost healthcare ties

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win met a delegation led by Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Ambassador of Belarus based in Hanoi, Vietnam, yesterday afternoon at the reception hall of the Ministry of Health.

During the meeting, both sides engaged in open discussions on enhancing cooperation in the healthcare sector between Myanmar and Belarus. Key topics included increasing the export and distribution of Belarusian pharmaceutical products and medical supplies

in Myanmar, collaboration in pharmaceutical manufacturing, and signing memorandums of understanding to strengthen academic partnerships between medical universities in both countries for undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. They also discussed facilitating the exchange of medical and pharmaceutical professionals and fostering cooperation between hospitals in medical treatment.

Also, present at the meeting were the deputy minister,



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win presents a gift to the Belarusian Ambassador yesterday.

directors-general of the Ministry of Health, representatives

from the Honorary Consulate of Belarus in Yangon, and officials

from the Ministry of Health. — MNA/MKKS

Locals welcome military parade companies for 80th Armed Forces Day Parade



Tatmadaw members from the 80th Armed Forces Day parade in Mandalay adorned with garlands yesterday.

MILITARY parade companies heading to the 80th Armed Forces Day parade in Mandalay's royal city began their march from the gathering point to the Kyauktine parade ground at 6 am yesterday.

More than 10,000 locals including students, govern-

ment employees and residents welcomed the procession with floral tributes along the eastern and southern roads of the royal city, particularly along Yadanabon Garden Road.

At Yadanabon Garden, the parade columns were also greeted by the chief minis-

ter's spouse, the chief justice of the Mandalay Region High Court, the Central Command commander's spouse, spouses of state ministers, officers from the Central Command and their spouses, as well as government staff, students and over 10,000 residents. — Myint Maw Tun (IPRD)/KZL

Starting point contest awards K50M to entrepreneurs

THE Starting Point Business Idea Competition, which offers a grant of K50 million, will be held from 30 March at Shwe Htut Tin Ground in Tamway Township, Yangon Region. The competition is aimed at small, micro, and medium-sized entrepreneurs, including those who have already started their businesses and those who aspire to do so.

Individuals who have business ideas but lack financial capital and entrepreneurs from various business sectors are eligible to participate. The competition is open to individuals aged between 18 and 40, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

There will be only one winner, who will receive a K50-mil-

lion cash prize.

The judging panel includes U Htun Htun Naing, Chairman and Group CEO of Blue Ocean Investment Company Limited; U Nay Aung Ko, owner of Thamada Religious Goods and Thingan Shop; Dr Kay Thari Kyaw, Managing Director of Kathryn Beauty and Sein & Mya Mattress; and Daw Ei Poe Phyu, Managing Director of Shwe Zee Kwat Food Manufacturing & Int'l Export Company Limited.

The competition will be recorded and broadcast on Skynet's Up to Date Channel and Channel 9 HD. Additionally, a press conference for the event will be held on 30 March in the Hexagon Studio at Shwe Htut Tin Ground. — ASH/KNN



A glimpse of a small, micro, or medium-sized business in operation.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Myanmar deports 365 Chinese nationals



Myanmar Immigration and officials overseeing the deportation of foreign nationals yesterday.

MYANMAR authorities sent back 365 Chinese nationals, who were involved in online gambling, telecom fraud and destructive actions, via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II on humanitarian grounds and for bilateral relations yesterday.

From 30 January to 27 March, a total of 8,670 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally were identified and detained. Of them, 6,163 were systematically handed over to the relevant countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures, and the remaining 2,507 foreign nationals are ready for repatriation and are being well cared for.

The 8,670 detainees, are

from China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Pakistan, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Thailand, Rwanda, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Ghana, Bangladesh, Japan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tunisia, Algeria, Congo, Cameroon, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Madagascar, Romania, Russia, the Philippines, and Chinese Taipei, and most of them are Chinese nationals.

The government is also intensifying efforts to crack down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with international countries, including neighbouring countries, especially through the Myanmar-China-Thailand Trilateral Cooperation. — MNA/KTZH

2 Myanmar nationals repatriated from Egypt amid work struggles

THE government of Myanmar prioritises the well-being of its citizens abroad and ensures that, in times of difficulty, they receive necessary assistance. Regardless of the circumstances they face, Myanmar embassies and consulates coordinate with relevant diplomatic missions to facilitate the safe and prompt return of Myanmar nationals to their home country.

In line with this commitment, the Myanmar Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, took action to assist two Myanmar nationals, Ma Phyu Hnin Wai and Ma Mu Yon Kham, who were facing difficulties while working in Egypt. The embassy coordinated with the Egyptian National Security Agency, the

Egyptian Immigration Authority, and their respective employers to arrange their swift return to Myanmar. As a result, they departed Egypt on 26 March via the Cairo–Doha–Bangkok–Yangon route and arrived in Yangon at 9:35 pm on the same day.

Myanmar embassies and consulates continue to assist Myanmar nationals experiencing difficulties while working abroad, ensuring their safe repatriation. The timely support extended to those in distress is deeply appreciated by the workers and their families, who have expressed their sincere gratitude to the Myanmar government, embassies, and consulates for their efforts. — MNA/MKKS



Ma Phyu Hnin Wai and Ma Mu Yon Kham.

Terrorists explode railway track, RGC train

TERRORISTS attacked the RGC-125 train, which is used to inspect the Phyu-Toungoo railway section, between Nyaungchayhtauk and Kywepwe railway stations using small weapons from the side of the Yangon-Mandalay railway section yesterday, and no one was injured in the attack.

Similarly, the mine planted by terrorists at milepost 144/10-11 between Nyaungchayhtauk and Kywepwe railway stations, along the Yangon-Mandalay railway route in Ottwin, Bago



Photos showcase blast damage and ongoing repairs to fast-track the reopening of rail tracks.

Region, exploded yesterday morning. The uptrain rail track was destroyed, and the single rail system was adapted along the Nyaungchayhtauk and Kywepwe route of down train rail track.

Regional officials and security forces members proceeded to the site promptly for inspection, and the MR staff replaced two destroyed rail tracks to reopen the railway section expeditiously. After the

maintenance, the railway section was reopened.

Since 1 February 2021, these terrorist groups have been implicated in 175 mining incidents and explosions within railway areas and stations, 80 blasts on railway bridges, and 16 instances of torching stations and employee housings. Their actions aim to destabilize the rule of law and endanger the safety of travellers, drawing widespread condemnation from the public. — MNA/KTZH

Afghanistan signs US\$289-mln power supply contracts

THE Afghan interim government has inked 10 contracts worth over US\$289 million for the generation and transmission of electricity, the office of the acting deputy prime minister for economic affairs said in a statement on Thursday.

The contracts were signed between the Afghan power company known as Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and domestic and foreign private companies at a ceremony in Kabul, the statement asserted.

The contracts stipulate that seven electricity generation projects will be implemented in the provinces

of Balkh, Herat, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar and Jawzjan, while power transmission projects will be developed in the southern provinces of Kandahar, Zabul and Helmand, it said.

With the implementation of these projects, a combined capacity of 228.45 megawatts will be produced, the statement concluded.

Afghanistan reportedly produces about 300 megawatts of power from domestic sources and imports 620 megawatts annually from neighbouring Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran. — Xinhua

Japan demands exemption from US auto tariffs

THE Japanese government asked the United States on Thursday for Japan to be exempt from auto tariffs, calling the latest move by its closest ally “extremely regrettable”, a top government spokesman said.

“We strongly urged (the US government) to exclude Japan from the measure,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said, adding he was instructed by Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to have related ministers cooperate in responding to the issue. Industry minister Yoji Muto separately told reporters the government



A cargo vessel loads cars at a port in Imizu, Toyama Prefecture.

PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ KYODO/FILE

had again urged Washington to exclude Japan from the additional 25 per cent

tariff on all automobiles made outside the United States, following a similar request when he visited the country earlier this month. — Kyodo



The Kajaki Dam is a significant hydroelectric power facility located on the Helmand River in Afghanistan's Helmand Province. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Vietnam to cut import duties amid Trump tariff worries

VIETNAM said it plans to cut import duties on a range of goods including cars, liquefied gas and some agricultural products, as concerns escalate over potential US tariffs.

The announcement on the finance ministry's website late Tuesday came less than two weeks after Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said the country was reviewing duties in order to encourage increased imports from the United States. Vietnam represents the United States's third-highest trade deficit, behind China and Mexico.

There is increasing worry that Hanoi could be the next target of President Donald Trump's tariffs, which have sent shockwaves through global markets.

According to the finance ministry statement, import duties on some cars will be cut by half and the tax rate for liquefied natural gas will drop from five per cent to just two percent. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2505N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHENGDE VOY.NO. (2505N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PRIME VOY.NO. (5503S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOL PRIME VOY.NO. (5503S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (066N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (066N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-3-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVCMS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0UVCMS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-3-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Israel PM threatens to seize parts of Gaza over fate of hostages

Israel resumed military operations in Gaza just over a week ago after a January truce, leading to increased tensions and violence.



Israeli anti-government demonstrators carry pictures of hostages held in Gaza, during a protest in Jerusalem. **PHOTO: AFP**

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened Wednesday to seize parts of Gaza if Hamas did not release hostages, while the militant group warned they would return “in coffins” if Israel did not stop bombing the Palestinian territory.

Just over a week since its military resumed operations following a January truce, Israel said two projectiles were fired from the Gaza Strip, with

one intercepted and the other landing near the border. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The rocket fire came as rare protests against Hamas by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were held for a second consecutive day, with demonstrators chanting slogans against the Islamist movement and calling for an end to the war.

Israel’s resumption of

intense bombardment and ground operations across Gaza shattered weeks of relative calm brought by a fragile ceasefire, and militants returned to launching rocket attacks days later.

According to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, 830 people have been killed in the territory since Israel restarted its strikes on 18 March. No deaths have been reported on the Israeli side. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan PM tasks experts with WWII review but anniv. statement unlikely

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba plans to seek expert opinions to examine lessons learned from World War II but is not expected to deliver a Cabinet-approved statement to mark the 80th anniversary of the war, sources close to the matter said Thursday.

Based on the expert input, Ishiba is expected to speak about his understanding of historical events at a press conference and in other forums, the sources said, underscoring Japan’s commitment to peace.

Ishiba has expressed his strong desire to take a fresh look at developments in the period before the war. Among options to that end are setting up a private advisory panel under him or asking experts’ opinions individually, the sources said. — Kyodo

Austria to stop refugee family reunification in EU first: govt

AUSTRIA announced on Wednesday that it would pause family reunifications for those with asylum status from May, becoming the first in the European Union to do so.

Several EU countries are mulling stopping or tightening the right for people, who cannot safely return to their home countries, to bring their families, but so far no bloc member has a complete halt in place.

Austria has already halted family reunification for Syrians since the ouster of Syria’s leader Bashar al-Assad last December, arguing it has to reassess the situation and threatening their deportation.

Syrians make up the bulk of family reunifications, but a newly formed conservative-led government — under pressure with anti-immigration sentiment high — has insisted that it needs to stop all. — AFP

Singapore raises election spending limits before upcoming general polls

SINGAPORE has raised the maximum spending limit for election expenses to account for inflation, the Elections Department announced in a statement on Thursday.

Under the revised rules, the maximum amount candidates can spend per elector has increased from four Singapore dollars (about US\$3) to five Singapore dollars, the first adjustment since 2015.

Singapore’s electoral system consists of Single Member Constituencies (SMCs) and Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs). In an SMC, where a single Member of Parliament (MP) represents the division, a candidate’s spending cap is five Singapore dollars multiplied by the number of electors in that constituency. — Xinhua

TV BRICS launches educational television project on learning Russian language in BRICS+ nations

TV BRICS has launched a new educational television project aimed at learning Russian as a foreign language and popularizing Russian culture abroad. The series of programmes, “Russian Lessons with Tanya Semke,” is aimed at showcasing them in BRICS+ countries.

The initial video course comprises 99 episodes (four minutes each), structured in an easy and

entertaining form, that will enable people of other nations to better perceive and master the Russian language more effectively, TV BRICS reported.

After watching all the lessons, people will learn the basics of grammar, learn to read Russian, and build up a vocabulary for everyday communication. Author and teacher Tanya Semke initiated and presented the series.

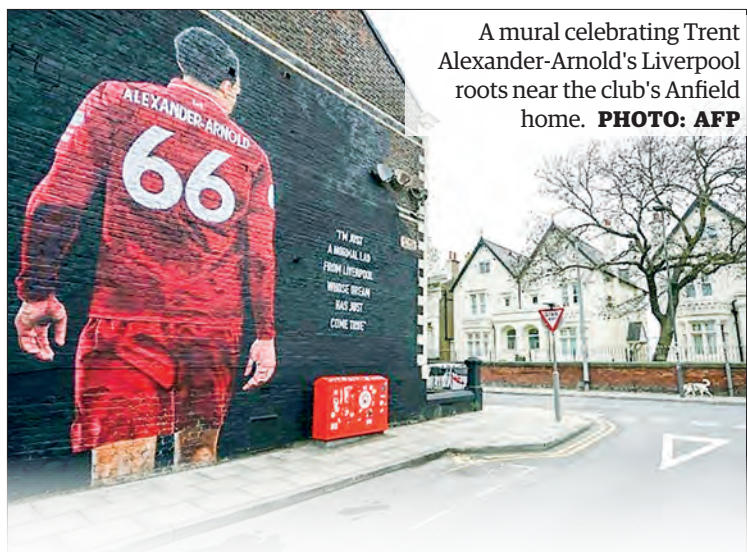
The project’s slogan is “Russian Language for Bridging Cultures”.

“Russian Lessons”, which started on 25 March, will be broadcast twice a week. People can watch the programme on Tuesday and Thursday in English on the TV BRICS channel and on the English version of the international media network’s information portal, as reported by TV BRICS. — ANI



TV BRICS has launched a new educational television project aimed at learning Russian as a foreign language and popularizing Russian culture abroad. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/EMBASSYLIFE.RU**

SPORTS



A mural celebrating Trent Alexander-Arnold's Liverpool roots near the club's Anfield home. PHOTO: AFP

Alexander-Arnold's choice between dream Madrid move or lasting Liverpool legacy

TRENT Alexander-Arnold's proposed move from Liverpool to Real Madrid has split opinion on whether a local hero can leave Merseyside without a lasting stain on his legacy.

Alexander-Arnold joined the Reds 20 years ago as a six-year-old and has gone on to win a clean sweep of Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, League Cup, UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup titles.

His status is reflected in a mural that stands just metres from the club's Anfield stadium, emblazoned with the quote: "I'm just a normal lad from Liverpool whose dream has just come true".

However, how he will be remembered for years to come in his home city will for many be dictated by the decision he takes in the coming weeks over

his future.

Alexander-Arnold's contract expires at the end of the season, meaning Madrid do not have to pay a transfer fee for a player who has smashed Premier League records when it comes to a creative output from a right-back. Here, AFP Sport looks at the key considerations facing the 26-year-old ahead of a career-defining call.

Madrid's compelling case

Liverpool like to taunt their Premier League rivals with their six European Cups, making them by a distance the most successful English club in the competition's history.

Madrid though are in a league of their own with 15 European Cup or Champions League triumphs, including six in the past 11 years. — AFP

Myanmar to face Bahrain in AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers



The drawing lots event for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers. PHOTO: AFC

MYANMAR has been drawn into the same group as Bahrain, Bangladesh, and Turkmenistan for the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers, following the group stage draw held on 27 March in Malaysia.

The tournament will take place from 23 June to 5 July and

features 34 teams divided into eight groups. Only the top team from each group advances.

Myanmar will host Group C, while other host nations include Jordan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Cambodia and Tajikistan. With a strong position in the group,

Myanmar aims to qualify for the final round in Australia in March 2026 and ultimately secure a spot in the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup, where Australia, China, South Korea, and Japan have already earned direct entry. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

African stars Salah and Hakimi eyeing 2026 World Cup

AFRICAN football icons Mohamed Salah and Achraf Hakimi appear set to feature at the 2026 World Cup as Egypt and Morocco have built commanding leads in their qualifying groups.

However, reigning CAF

Footballer of the Year Ademola Lookman and his fellow Nigerian Victor Osimhen are facing a struggle to be involved in the 48-nation global showpiece.

Inspired by Paris Saint-Germain full-back Hakimi, Morocco boast a nine-point Group

E advantage over Niger, the biggest lead among the nine groups.

Liverpool star Salah has scored six goals in six qualifiers, helping Egypt to top Group A by five points from Burkina Faso. — AFP

Women's skating favourites falter as Liu leads at worlds

TWO-TIME US champion Alysia Liu was the shock leader after stumbles by a trio of favourites in Wednesday's women's short programme at the World Figure Skating Championships in Boston.

The 19-year-old American led 24 qualifiers for Friday's women's free dance final by winning the short programme with 74.58 points followed by Japan's Mone Chiba on 73.44 and US teen Is-

abeau Levito on 73.33.

"Doesn't really change anything," Liu said. "My goals are still the same. I want to put out a really good performance for my free skate.

"The ideal one — that would be a dream".

Three-time defending champion Kaori Sakamoto of Japan, trying to become the first woman in 65



Alysia Liu of the United States took the lead after the women's short programme at the World Figure Skating Championships. PHOTO: AFP

years to capture four consecutive world crowns, was a disappointing fifth on 71.03.

American Amber Glenn, a winner in all five of her starts this season, fell and stood ninth on 67.65. South Korean teen Kim Chae-yeon, last month's Four Continents and Asian Winter Games champion, was 11th on 65.67. Even Liu struggled to explain how she came out on top in the short programme.

"It's so strange. I really don't know," Liu said.

"I would say it's definitely my mentality. It's hard to get in whatever state of mind I have but I really like it and everyone keeps telling me it seems to 'work' — I don't know what that means but I'll just keep skating". — AFP

Israel PM threatens to
seize parts of Gaza over
fate of hostages

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WORLD



This photo shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (2nd from L) during his two-day drone inspection through 26 March 2025. PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO

DPRK top leader guides work on unmanned technology, detective electronic warfare

Kim highlighted the importance of establishing a long-term plan for the rapid development and deployment of intelligent drones, recognizing their expanding role in military operations.

THE top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) guided the defence science research work of the country's Unmanned Aeronautical Technology Complex and the detective electronic warfare research group on Tuesday and Wednesday, state media reported on Thursday.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and

president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, learned about various kinds of reconnaissance and suicide attack drones, which are newly developed and being produced by an institute and enterprises under the Unmanned Aeronautical Technology Complex, and oversaw their performance test, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The test proved the innovative

performance of a new-type strategic reconnaissance drone and demonstrated the capabilities of suicide drones to be used for various tactical attack missions, the KCNA said.

"The field of unmanned equipment and artificial intelligence should be top-prioritized and developed in modernizing the armed forces," Kim was quoted by the KCNA as saying. — Xinhua

Global Health Impact

Trump administration to cut vaccine support to developing countries: NYT

THE Donald Trump administration plans to cut funding for GAVI, a global health organization with the goal of increasing vaccine access in developing countries, The New York Times (NYT) reported.

The decision was included in a 281-page spreadsheet that the United States Agency for International Development sent to Congress on Monday night, according to The NYT, which obtained a copy of the spreadsheet.

The spreadsheet listed international aid programmes that will be dismantled by the Trump administration as well as those to be retained.

"The documents provide a sweeping overview of the extraordinary scale of the administration's retreat from a half-century-long effort to present the United States to the developing world as a compassionate ally and to lead the fight against infectious diseases that kill millions of people annually," read the NYT report. A State Department spokesperson confirmed that the terminations on the list were accurate and said that "each award terminated was reviewed individually for alignment with agency and administration priorities, and terminations were executed where Secretary (Marco) Rubio determined the award was inconsistent with the national interest or agency policy priorities," read the report. — Xinhua

Russian companies participate in Smart Cities India Expo

RUSSIAN companies participated for the first time in the Indian technology exhibition Smart Cities India Expo, TV BRICS reported. Russian Export Centre (REC), a partner of TV BRICS, reported on Russian firms' participation in the event.

REC representative in India, Anna Benediktova, noted that some participants have been

operating in the Indian market for several years. Benediktova noted that exhibitions and meetings were useful for both experienced participants and newcomers, TV BRICS reported.

Benediktova said, "Some participants have been successfully operating in the Indian market for several years, many have representatives and joint

ventures in India and experience of successful pilot projects with local governments."

For Russian companies that attended the exhibition, the REC organized over 150 B2B meetings with potential partners, providing opportunities to conclude agreements and establish business contacts, as per the TV BRICS report. — ANI



For Russian companies that attended the exhibition, the REC organized over 150 B2B meetings with potential partners, providing opportunities to conclude agreements and establish business contacts. PHOTO: ALEXANDER GASYUK /SPUTNIK