



CLAWS Newsletter



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by Anjali Manhas

Political Developments

1. Myanmar's military government ended its 4.5-year state of emergency on July 31, 2025, reorganizing administrative structures and preparing for elections later in the year. Opposition groups renewed calls to boycott these elections, arguing they cannot be fair amid ongoing repression. (The associated Press)
2. On July 31, 2025, the National Defence and Security Council convened to discuss a post-emergency governance structure, a first major step toward the planned national elections. (Myanmar Transparency News)
3. Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing announced a transition into a "second chapter" for Myanmar, stressing unity in restoring peace before elections. He underscored the importance of upholding military oversight during the coming interim period. (Caliber.az)
4. A new electoral law was passed, introducing harsh penalties, including the death sentence, for anyone found guilty of disrupting the election process. (Caliber.az)
5. Tensions remain high with opposition armed groups and ethnic alliances continuing to contest any junta-organized vote, labelling participants as traitors and vowing to sabotage the process. (Global Conflict Tracker)
6. Local and international observers reported new waves of arbitrary arrests of journalists and civil society members accused of "undermining" military rule in July. (The Global New Light of Myanmar)
7. The National Unity Government (NUG) and other pro-democracy groups increased calls for international recognition, claiming over 90% domestic support. (Global Conflict Tracker)
8. Legislative decrees gave additional authority to military courts, expediting trials of political prisoners and imposing mandatory sentences. Human rights groups condemned the move. (The Global New Light of Myanmar)
9. On July 27, several regional governors appointed by the junta were dismissed or rotated in what analysts described as "consolidating military grip." (The Global New Light of Myanmar)
10. Preparations for an election "around December 2025 or January 2026" were reiterated, even as many regions remain outside effective junta control. (The associated Press)

Foreign Affairs

1. Myanmar's Foreign Ministry announced the appointment of U Zaw Zaw Soe as Ambassador to Thailand on July 24, reaffirming their intent to maintain regional diplomatic partnerships. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of The Union of Myanmar)
2. Australia and the UK released a joint statement condemning Myanmar's ongoing violence and humanitarian crisis, and called for protection of civilians and restoration of democracy. (Australian Government Defence)
3. Myanmar proactively supported ASEAN's efforts for an extended ceasefire and inclusive dialogue, though Western countries maintained non-recognition of junta-led elections. (The Wired government)
4. The new electoral law and continued state repression have drawn criticism from the US, UN, and EU, with renewed threats of economic sanctions over the junta's policies. (News 18)
5. The government cooperated with regional bodies to discuss drug trafficking, human smuggling, and cross-border security with India and Thailand in the second half of July 2025. (The Global New Light of Myanmar)
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs held multiple working-level meetings with diplomats from ASEAN and South Asian neighbours on migration and law enforcement issues. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of The Union of Myanmar)
7. The regime's attempts to repair diplomatic relations with neighbouring Bangladesh over Rohingya repatriation stalled amid continued violence in Rakhine.
8. On July 29, 2023, Myanmar's State Administration Council (SAC) Chairman and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with China's Special Envoy for Asian Affairs, Mr. Deng Xijun, in Nay Pyi Taw. They discussed strengthening Myanmar-China relations, China's support for Myanmar's peace and development, regional stability—particularly in border areas—and efforts to combat online gambling and cybercrime. China also offered aid for storm Mocha recovery and assistance in the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State. (Myanmar News Agency)

Rohingya Issues

1. No progress was reported toward voluntary Rohingya repatriation from Bangladesh, due to continued insecurity and persecution in Rakhine state. (Global conflict Tracker)
2. Militant clashes increased in northern Rakhine, with local reports of civilian displacement and at least 25 deaths since July 16. (The Global New Light of Myanmar)
3. UN agencies repeated warnings of a deteriorating humanitarian crisis among Rohingya still inside Myanmar, highlighting further restrictions on movement and humanitarian access. (Global conflict Tracker)
4. Rights activists documented at least a dozen new incidents of sexual violence and extrajudicial detention targeting Rohingya communities in July. (Global conflict Tracker)
5. Aid agencies faced renewed bans and travel restrictions, impeding food and medical deliveries to Rohingya populations. (The Global New Light of Myanmar)
6. Several Rohingya villages in Maungdaw reported forced relocations and home demolitions between July 16 and 31, sparking international condemnation. (The Global New Light of Myanmar)
7. The NUG accused the junta of using the situation in Rakhine to pressure international actors for recognition prior to the planned elections. (Council on Foreign Relations)
8. Violent confrontations between Rohingya and Buddhist nationalist militias reportedly escalated in Sittwe and Kyaukpyu during the period. (Council on Foreign Relations)

Border Security

1. The Free Movement Regime (FMR) remained suspended following recent insurgent activity; only 22 of 43 border gates were operational, with biometric passes being strictly enforced. (The Indian express)
2. Assam Rifles on the Indian side increased patrols and interdicted smugglers linked to Myanmar-based groups. Reports indicated rising seizures of contraband. (India Today) (Business Standard)

Defence Updates

1. Friendly fire incidents involving Myanmar military jets resulted in casualties among junta troops in Hpakant, Kachin State, on July 16. (MoeMaka – Burmese Community News and Media)

2. Junta airstrikes and ground offensives continued across northern Shan, Sagaing, and Chin states, encountering fierce resistance from multiple ethnic armed groups. (The Irrawaddy; Arab News; ReliefWeb)
3. Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and allied resistance units launched coordinated raids on key military outposts between July 20 and 28.
4. Military authorities claimed to have foiled at least five attempted sabotage operations targeting urban centers over the fortnight. (Myanmar Now)
5. A new conscription campaign was forcibly launched in several townships to replenish depleted armed forces, sparking major protests and desertions. (The Irrawaddy)
6. State media touted technological upgrades in surveillance and drone assets; international analysts were skeptical about their strategic impact. (ACLED)

Other Important National Security Matters

1. Humanitarian agencies highlighted intensifying food insecurity and medical shortages in conflict-affected areas, particularly Rakhine and Chin states. (UN Press Briefing; ReliefWeb)
2. Urban bombings and assassinations targeting military officials increased during July, attributed to anti-junta groups. (Times of India)
3. UN figures estimated over 3 million people remained internally displaced, with aid flows hampered by movement controls. (UN Press Briefing)
4. Security at diplomatic missions and foreign businesses was strengthened in Yangon and Mandalay in response to the deteriorating situation. (UN Press Briefing)

About the Author

Anjali Manhas is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), where she specializes in Defence and Strategic Studies with a focus on South Asian geopolitics. She completed her Master's in Defence and Strategic Studies from Rashtriya Raksha University, where she developed a strong foundation in security, international relations, and strategic analysis. Anjali's current research centers on Bangladesh, examining its security dynamics, regional relationships, and strategic posture in South Asia. Her work aims to contribute to policy development and strategic insights for enhancing regional stability and security. With a keen interest in defence and strategic affairs, Anjali is committed to advancing knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of South Asian security issues.



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