

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

Value-added products drive regional growth

Local businesspersons are urged to prioritize the cultivation of Robusta coffee, cocoa, durian, cashew, coconut, and other crops in Taninthayi Region to boost agro-based industries.

ACTING President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, yesterday morning met departmental officials and town elders at the city hall of Dawei in Taninthayi Region to talk about regional development undertakings.

In his speech, the Senior General recounted that on his inspection tour in recent years, he permitted construction of the new city hall in Dawei and upgraded the Shwewei Thiri Stadium and the Dawei Airport.

He pledged that the government will assist in ensuring a smooth process of exporting raw rubber products abroad. If these products are of higher quality, they can fetch the market share and good prices. Production of quality rubber products such as tyres, tubes and personal goods will grasp the market share, benefiting the businesspersons.

He noted that, as the country always requires rubber products, efforts must be placed on the development of the rubber-based industries.

The Senior General vowed to improve



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks around the booths where MSME products from Taninthayi Region are displayed at yesterday’s event.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with departmental officials and town elders in Dawei

- 1. The government is striving to upgrade the Dawei Airport to run the island circular rights to the Bokpyin, Kawthoung and others, to dredge the silt in the Dawei River and to improve the Dawei port.
- 2. Local businesspersons were urged to emphasize cultivation of Robusta coffee, cocoa, durian, cashew, coconut and others in Taninthayi Region in order to boost the agro-based industries.
- 3. The government vowed to improve offshore and inshore fishery activities in Myanmar’s territorial waters.

offshore and inshore fishery activities in Myanmar’s water territory. Likewise, the government will fulfil the requirements of fish and prawn farming measures.

The Senior General unveiled that the government is striving to upgrade the Dawei Airport to boost domestic businesses and speed up transport measures. Arrangements will be made to run the island circular routes to the Bokpyin, Kawthoung and others. A plan is underway to dredge the silt in the Dawei River to be

able to admit the driving of vessels, while the Dawei port will be upgraded.

He urged businesspersons to successfully operate livestock farms, as the government has issued loans to them.

The Senior General stressed that illegal trade reflects higher prices of goods, reducing the inflow of tax to the State fund. Taninthayi Region authorities have to strive to regional and State economy by boosting the volume of products.

NATIONAL



2025 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

- Domestic election observers who wish to monitor the multiparty democratic general election, which will begin in phases on 28 December 2025, may apply for election observation permits at the Union Election Commission (UEC), as well as the relevant Region/State, District, and Township Election Subcommissions from today until 5 December 2025.
- The Union Election Commission announced on 16 September 2025 that domestic election observers must follow the Code of Conduct for Observers, issued under Notification 68/2025, and adhere to the procedures set out for their observation activities under Notification 69/2025. These notifications are available for viewing and can be downloaded from the Union Election Commission's official website <https://www.uec.gov.mm>.
- The Union Election Commission has also announced that international election observers will be allowed to monitor the multiparty democratic general election. Invitations will be extended directly to representatives of relevant countries and international organizations. In addition, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, invitations will be sent to representatives of foreign embassies, consulates, and permanent missions that maintain diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Union Election Commission



- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Office of the State Administration Council
https://sacoffice.gov.mm | 4. Ministry of Information
https://www.moi.gov.mm |
| 2. Ministry of Defence
https://www.mod.gov.mm | 5. Myawady Webportal
https://myawady.net.mm |
| 3. Ministry of Legal Affairs
https://www.mlis.gov.mm | 6. Myanmar National Portal
https://myanmar.gov.mm |

Thai Air Force Chief visits Yangon for bilateral talks



The Thai Air Force Chief, his wife, and his delegation are pictured at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

AT the invitation of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), General Tun Aung, a delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Punpakdee Pattanakul, and his wife, who arrived to conduct Bilateral Engagement Activities aimed

at further strengthening friendship between the air forces of Myanmar and Thailand, visited Kaba Aye Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda and Bogyoke Aung San Market in Yangon yesterday morning.

Afterwards, the delegation left from Mingaladon Air-

base to Thailand via a Royal Thai Air Force ATR-72 aircraft and was seen off by the senior officers from the Myanmar Air Force, the Air Attaché of the Royal Thai Air Force to Myanmar, and responsible officials yesterday afternoon. — MNA/MKKS

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MPT celebrates 11th anniversary with “MPT BOGO” promo and K150M lucky draw

THE MPT launched its nationwide “MPT BOGO” special promotion and award ceremony for the winners of the Mingala New Year K150 million lucky draw promotion at the MPT Training Centre, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, yesterday.

MPT Bogo special promotion offers customers nationwide customized weekly buy-one-get-one extra benefits starting from 18 September 2025. After subscribing to the “MPT BOGO” offer, customers can get instant benefits, including on-net (MPT-MPT) calls, on-net (MPT-

MPT) SMS and data with a PAYG (pay as you go) rate customized to each user.

The officials of MPT offered cash prizes to the winners of the Mingala New Year with a K150 million lucky draw promotion from Mandalay and Yangon regions.

This “11 years of Gratitude: MPT BOGO” offer to our users nationwide is not only a celebration of our journey, but more importantly, a heartfelt expression of gratitude to our customers,” said Mr Yoshinori YAGI, Advisor to CCO of MPT. “The MPT

new BOGO promotion is designed as a simple yet meaningful way of saying thank you to the millions of people who have chosen MPT as their trusted partner in communication. We are also glad to offer cash prizes to the winners of the Mingala New Year K150 million lucky draw promotion”.

U Khin Maung Htwe from Mandalay Region won a K100 million cash prize, whereas K10 million cash prizes respectively went to U Phyo Wai Lin and U Kyaw Aung Min from Yangon Region. — Ottha/KTZH



A K100 million cash prize is awarded to the winner, **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Value-added products drive regional growth

FROM PAGE 1

He highlighted that efforts to ensure food security in the Dawei region will affect the better circulation of currency in the region, contributing much to the local economy. Likewise, efforts must be made to increase the per-acre yield of other crops.

He urged local businesspersons to emphasize cultivation of Robesta coffee, cocoa, durian, catchew, coconut and others in Taninthayi Region to boost the agro-based industries.

Likewise, he emphasized that business people have to produce value-added products made of bamboo and rattan to develop the regional economy.

To operate businesses, he stated that the region needs to produce well-versed human resources. He urged all to raise the student grades of all school-age children in Taninthayi Region.

He revealed that the government will provide the necessary support for the socio-economic development of Taninthayi Region, while residents are also urged to make collective efforts for the progress of their region.

At the meeting, the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region reported to the Senior General on success in the agriculture sector in the region, efforts to boost per-acre yield of crops, operations of crude oil and oil mills for ensuring oil security, production of rubber and coffee, development of livestock farms, running of fish resources and marine product factories, supply of electricity, arrivals of tourists in the region, opening of the basic education schools,



The Senior General and his wife pay homage to the Lawka Marazein Buddha Image in Dawei yesterday.

the pass rate of the matriculation exam, opening of industrial, agriculture and livestock high schools, healthcare services, conservation of mangrove forests, growing of trees on a manageable scale, and development undertakings of Dawei region.

Town elders and officials from organizations requested the Senior General to ease export of raw rubber with the high profits, assist in development of the fishery sector in Dawei District, run the flights to islands, develop MSME, and ensure betterment of the transport sector in the Dawei region.

Union ministers discussed criteria adopted by the international community for export of Myanmar's rubber, fetching higher prizes in export of rubber products in the legal route set by the State, cultivation of

kitchen crops and application for the plot to establish a small industrial zone, borrowing the loan for businesses through the State economic promotion fund under the disciplines, a plan to establish the Agriculture and Livestock University in Ayeyawady Region in 2025-26 academic year, chances of students from Taninthayi Region to attend the new university, cultivation of Robusta coffee in the region, aid from the State for seawater shrimp breeding, running of the State-owned and private airlines, upgrading of the airports to admit landing and taking off of cargo flights to transport marine products to foreign countries, a plan to upgrade the jetty in Dawei, and opening of universities, colleges and basic education schools for development of human resources

in the science arena.

After the meeting, the Senior General visited the MSME product booths of Taninthayi Region.

Also, present at the meeting were Commission Secretary and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo, Union Ministers U Min Naung and Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Coastal Region Command, and deputy ministers.

At Dawei Home for the Aged, the Senior General paid respect to older persons and presented nutritious foods and clothes. He asked about the health conditions of those older. He gave necessary guidance to officials and made cash donations to the fund of home.

The Senior General inspected

ed downtown Dawei and Seikkantha Road by motorcar.

While in Dawei, the Senior General, his wife and party paid homage to Lawka Marazein Buddha Image and Shwetaung-sar Pagoda and presented cash donations to officials.

The Senior General gave guidance to officials to offer gold foils to the Shwetaung-sar Pagoda.

Arriving at the Shwewei Thiri Stadium and Gymnasium, the Senior General inspected the potential for improving the stadium.

At Dawei Airport, the Senior General heard reports on the upgrade of the Dawei Airport and its runway and gave guidance on systematic calculation for the project and other requirements. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Citizens need knowledge, skills, and critical thinking

Acting President and SSPC Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing honoured Ma Myat Yadana Thin of Dawei, who achieved six distinctions in the matriculation examination.

A CEREMONY to inaugurate the new city hall in Dawei of Taninthayi Region took place yesterday morning, attended by Acting

Region Command, officials, town elders, departmental officials, students and residents. On the agenda, Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo,



Acting President and State Security and Peace Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveils the new Dawei City Hall yesterday.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. On arrival at the new city hall of Dawei which will be opened, Acting President and SSPC Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Secretary of the Commission and Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Union ministers and senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, was warmly welcomed by the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region, the commander of Coastal

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, and Commander of the Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han cut the ribbon to open the city hall. The Senior General unveiled the new city hall building of Dawei. In the city hall, the awarding of outstanding students took place as the second section of the ceremony. The chief minister of the region reported on measures for the new city hall building. The Senior General, on his inspection tour of Dawei in 2022, allowed the construction of the

city hall, which was necessary for Dawei. The Dawei City Hall was built starting from 2023-24 financial year, and it is a one and a half storey RCC building with 40,364 square feet of area. In his speech, the Senior General outlined that for a nation's development and stability, every citizen must be equipped with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking. He continued that to achieve this, education for all citizens is essential. Therefore, the government has adopted the motto: "Let us ensure the education sector for the development of the Nation." The Senior General highlighted that the State presents handsome prizes to outstand-

ing youths and those who have outstandingly passed the matriculation examinations yearly while enhancing the education sector. This year, Ma Myat Yadana Thin will be honoured for her outstanding performance in the matriculation exam with distinctions in all subjects.

He recounted that looking at the matriculation examination pass rates in Taninthayi Region since 2021: in 2021, the pass rate was 45.95 per cent; in the 2022-23 academic year, it rose to 68.03 per cent; and in 2023-24, it stood at 48.38 per cent. For the 2024-25 academic year, the pass rate reached 50.58 per cent, showing an improvement compared with the previous year. In the exam, he added that there were 23 students with six distinctions during the four years, 62 students with five distinctions, 110 students with four distinctions, 164 students with three distinctions, 420 students with two distinctions and 1,663 students with one distinction. During the period, one student stood first in the entire nation in the arts and science combination at the matriculation exam. Such progress in the education sector is attributed not only to the dedication and responsible efforts of parents and teachers but also to the hard work and perseverance of the students.

SEE PAGE 5

Salient points from the speech of the Senior General in the opening of the Dawei City Hall and honouring the outstanding student

1. The State presents handsome prizes to outstanding youths and those who have outstandingly passed the matriculation examinations yearly, while enhancing the education sector.
2. Progress in the education sector is attributed not only to the dedication and responsible efforts of parents and teachers but also to the hard work and perseverance of the students.
3. Parents and teachers are urged to guide, instruct, and train their children and students.

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand
Against Election Disruption

“Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority”.

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



Prime Minister-led Myanmar delegation
arrives back in Nay Pyi Taw from China

THE Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw, who attended the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit held in Nanning of the People’s Republic of China, left Nanning by the special aircraft yesterday morning for Nay Pyi Taw.

The Prime Minister and party were seen off at the Nanning International Airport by Mr Wang Weiping, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Committee of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Tin Maung Swe, the Myanmar Consul-General in Nanning, officials and cultural dance troupes.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party arrived back



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw is seen being welcomed upon his arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Airport yesterday.

in Nay Pyi Taw. They were welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw

Tatmadaw Airport by members of the State Security and Peace

Commission and Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe, Union minis-

ters, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials.

On the evening of 17 September, the Prime Minister and party visited the China-ASEAN AI Innovation Centre (CAAIC) in Nanning. Officials screened a video clip on the CAAIC history applied by AI at the centre, enhancement of the AI technology, cooperation among ASEAN countries in all sectors applying AI, implementation of projects in social relations, medical and treatment measures, agriculture and transport sectors with the use of AI technology, AI-applied equipment used at the Super League and the forum, measures of the China-ASEAN data zone and the security service zone. The Prime Minister enquired about certain points he wanted to know. — MNA/TTA

Citizens need knowledge, skills, and critical ...

FROM PAGE 4

Over the past four years, from 2021 to 2025, the Senior General spotted that among those who passed the matriculation examination, 18 are attending medical universities, 152 are attending technological universities, and 196 are studying at Dawei Polytechnic University.

In addition, he noted that four industrial, agriculture and

livestock high schools have been opened in four districts of Taninthayi Region, where students are being trained in basic vocational skills for their livelihoods.

He retold that just like Ma Myat Yadana Thin, from the Dawei region has produced many distinguished individuals known across the nation and the world, such as Prime Ministers U Ba Swe and U Sein Win, Colonel

Ba Htoo, hot-air balloon innovator U Kyaw Yin, Thura Ma Chit Po, artist U Ngwe Kyaing, Auditor-General of the State U Ohn Tin, Maung Dawei U Pe Aye, and weightlifting champion of the peninsula games U Pe Aye, among many others who cannot all be mentioned here. These figures are a source of pride for Taninthayi Region.

He urged parents and teachers to guide, instruct,

and train their children and students to become knowledgeable, upright, and capable individuals, and students, in turn, should listen attentively to their parents’ and teachers’ guidance and teachings, absorb and apply them, and strive to become well-educated, skilled, and outstanding in various fields—good citizens of the nation who are reliable and dependable for the country’s future, he added.

The Senior General and his wife presented the honorary award to Ma Myat Yadana Thin from Dawei Township of Taninthayi Region, who secured six distinctions in the science combination of the matriculation examination 2025.

After the ceremony, the Senior General cordially greeted the six-distinction winner, Ma Myat Yadana Thin and her parents. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Union Defence Minister attends 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum

AT the invitation of the President of the China Association for Military Science and the President of the China Institute for International Strategic Studies, a delegation led by Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, who is also a member of the State Security and Peace Commission, attended the 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum held in Beijing.

On the afternoon of 17 September, the Union minister met Admiral Dong Jun, Minister of National Defence of the People's

Republic of China, at Bayi Hall in Beijing. They cordially and openly discussed matters including enhancement of cooperation in various defence sectors, stability and rule of law in border regions of both countries, further promotion of military technology cooperation, training and exchange of trainees, and strengthening of fraternal and cordial relations between the two armed forces.

On the morning of 18 September, the delegation led by the Union minister attended the



The 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in progress on 17 September in Beijing, participated by Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye.

forum's opening ceremony and plenary meetings, where Admiral Dong Jun delivered the opening address.

Later, during the forum's 2nd Plenary Session, the Union minister took part in discussions under the theme "Strategic Mutual Trust and Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region".

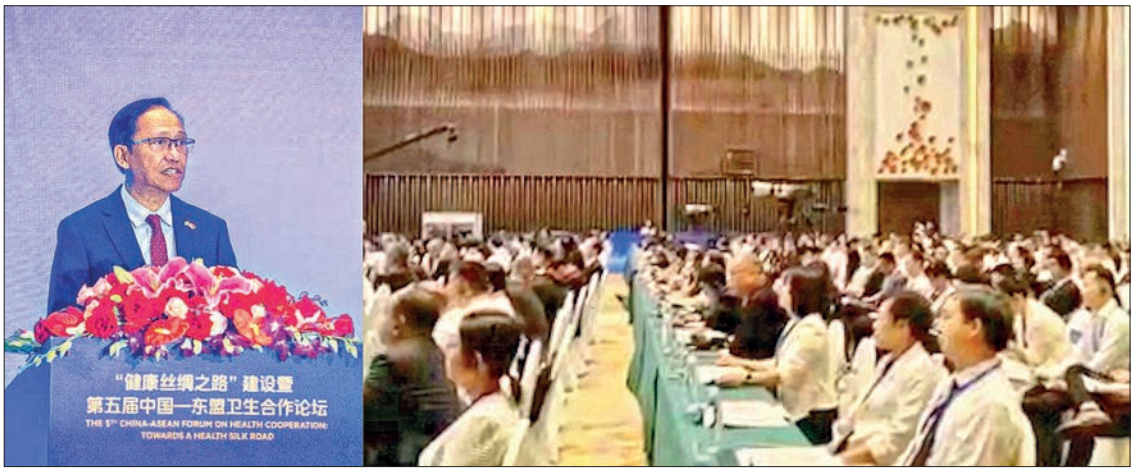
More than 500 delegates, including defence ministers, deputy ministers, and chiefs of staff from over 100 countries, participated in the forum. — MNA/KZL

MoH Union Minister attends 5th China-ASEAN Health Forum

THE opening ceremony of the fifth China-ASEAN Health Forum was held on 16 September at Wuxiang Resort in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the People's Republic of China. A delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win attended the event.

At the opening, speeches were delivered by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, the Vice Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, senior officials from the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China, health ministers and deputy ministers from ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Secretary-General, the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and officials from the World Health Organization.

In his remarks, the Union minister highlighted that this year's theme, "Health for Com-



Union Health Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win speaks on the opening occasion of the fifth China-ASEAN Health Forum held in Nanning, China, on 16 September.

mon Development in the Age of Digital Intelligence", underscores the importance of advancing technologies in enhancing social well-being and healthcare services across China and ASEAN countries. He emphasised that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) would facilitate greater sharing of health information, joint medical care, and improved access to quality healthcare for people in remote areas. He also encouraged collaboration in AI-based patient registration, disease diagnosis, treatment, and medical record management, while stressing the need for mutual exchange of technology and expertise.

Later, health ministers, deputy ministers, and special guests pressed a digital button to inaugurate the China-ASEAN Healthcare Cooperation Centre at Guangxi University Hospital in Nanning and visited the China-ASEAN Special Medical Centre at the hospital.

The Health Industry Development Sub-Forum then continued, where Deputy Director-General Dr Nanda Win

discussed under the topic "Intelligently Steering the Health Industry: Building a New Health Silk Road," and Deputy Director-General Dr Htet Lin spoke on "Health Care Services in Myanmar".

On 15 September, the Union minister and his delegation visited Sun Yat-sen Hospital in Nanning, where hospital officials explained the functions of the emergency department, surgical unit, laboratory, radiology department, and modern equipment. They also presented advanced diagnostic technologies using artificial intelligence (AI), as well as the hospital's history and current healthcare services.

In the evening, the delegation attended a state dinner hosted by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. — MNA/KZL

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

NATIONAL

Improving health sector and promoting healthy choices boost national development

- ❖ Since health is fundamental to education and work, it is essential to focus on improving the health sector for the benefit of the population.
- ❖ Reducing the consumption of unhealthy food and drinks, as well as unnecessary spending, will not only benefit individuals and families but also contribute to the country's economic development.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Union government meeting held on 17 January 2025)

Myanmar and Timor-Leste hold bilateral talks to promote relations

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Mr Bendito dos Santos Freitas paid a working visit to Myanmar from 17 to 19 September 2025.

During the visit, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar U Than Swe and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste Mr Bendito dos Santos Freitas held discussions on bilateral matters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two Foreign Ministers underlined the importance of upholding the fundamental principles of ASEAN and the ASEAN Charter, particularly non-interference in the internal affairs of member States. They also pledged to promote diplomatic



Union Minister U Than Swe holds talks with Mr Bendito dos Santos Freitas, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste yesterday.

relations between Myanmar and Timor-Leste.

Moreover, Timor-Leste officially proposed to the Myanmar Government to open an Embassy in the capital city, Dili. Timor-Leste reaffirmed its commitment not to allow the activities of illegal organizations against the Myanmar Government, as well as opening offices in Timor-Leste.

In consideration of the interests of the two countries and the peoples, the Foreign Ministers discussed the signing of bilateral agreements on visa exemption for the holders of diplomatic and official passports and visa waiver for Tourism purposes. These agreements are to be signed among the ASEAN member States. — MNA

Union Industry Minister calls for strong industrial cooperation

UNION Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than attended the 2025 China-ASEAN Industry Ministerial Roundtable Meeting in Nanning, China, on 17 September.

The Union minister discussed that the establishment of an industrial cooperation system can ensure the competitive development in the industry sector and promote the sustainable social and economic growth through constructive competition. The collaboration in capacity building for technological staff, training and vocational sectors is essential for the development of industry and human resources. If the ecosystem with drafted policies and procedures with the promotion of MSMEs and youth participation is established, the industrial growth in the China-ASEAN regions can be promoted further. The Union minister also called for constructive industrial cooperation to strengthen the China-ASEAN region.

The meeting approved to strengthen coordination in industrial policies and strategic cooperation, to build a regional



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than participates in the 2025 China-ASEAN Industry Ministerial Roundtable Meeting in Nanning, China, on 17 September.

innovation ecosystem, enhance collaboration on standards in areas of industrial transformation through digital, green, and artificial intelligence technologies, upgrade digital infrastructure, to develop digital platforms, to support the advancement of satellite navigation services, explore cooperation in emerging industries including the digital economy and new energy sectors, promote the facilitation of trade and investment in new energy vehicles in China and ASEAN, explore cooperation in industrial development with AI and AI-powered applications, en-

hance collaboration in the field of electric motorcycles, strengthen cooperation in the textile and garment sector, deepen cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry, reinforce joint training for technical personnel in the industrial sector, and promote the integration of SMEs into industrial cooperation mechanisms in a fair and balanced manner.

The Union minister met with Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region officials and attended the China-ASEAN Emerging Exchange and Promotion Event with other industrial ministers of ASEAN.

The Union minister met the Chinese Industry and Information Technology Minister, and exchanged views on the enhancement of the industrial sector and human resources development of the two countries, investment in Myanmar, cooperation in MSMEs, production of iron, steel, medicine, garment and bamboo products and further technical cooperation in the agriculture-based industrial sector, cotton, cooking oil and rice mill. — MNA/KTZH

Eliminate exploitation to combat trafficking in persons

HUMAN trafficking is a modern form of slavery and, as a global issue, it poses challenges to countries worldwide. Following the illicit drug trade, human trafficking has become the second most lucrative source of profit, and as a result, criminal groups are committing transnational crimes, targeting foreign countries.

In Myanmar, 56 per cent of the human trafficking cases occurring annually are domestic trafficking, while 44 per cent involve cross-border trafficking. Domestic trafficking mainly includes forced prostitution and forced labour, whereas cross-border trafficking involves forced marriages, forced prostitution, forced labour, debt bondage, illegal adoption, child sales, and forced begging.

According to changing patterns of human trafficking, some young men from neighbouring countries have entered Myanmar under various pretexts. Instead of marrying Myanmar women out of genuine affection, they have deceitfully paid money to wed them, arranged formal marriage registrations in court, and then legally tak-

en them to their countries. In addition, there have been cases where certain nationals from regional countries entered Myanmar on tourist visas, opened language schools in name only, and organized efforts to have Myanmar women marry their compatriots.

Since 1997, Myanmar has designated anti-human trafficking efforts as a national responsibility. Currently, Myanmar is successfully implementing annual action plans under the Fourth National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking (2022-2026). Human trafficking is an inhumane crime that treats people as mere commodities for profit. To completely eradicate human trafficking within Myanmar's society, all forms of exploitation and commodification of human beings must be fully eliminated.

In Myanmar, the social groups most at risk of falling victim to human trafficking include low-income communities, the unemployed, adolescents and young men and women, and the homeless. Relevant organizations must continuously provide awareness-raising, education, and protective measures to safeguard these vulnerable groups.

Starting from March 2023, an operational framework focuses on preventing the trafficking of Myanmar women who marry foreign people under initiatives of intelligence gathering, preventive measures, and enforcement actions. Relevant ministries and regional/state governments have been working closely together to combat fake marriage arrangements that serve as a cover for trafficking. The initiative's specific goal is to safeguard Myanmar women from deceptive activities and to ensure that such matters are treated in a timely and lawful manner.

Since 1997, Myanmar has designated anti-human trafficking efforts as a national responsibility. Currently, Myanmar is successfully implementing annual action plans under the Fourth National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking (2022-2026). Human trafficking is an inhumane crime that treats people as mere commodities for profit. To completely eradicate human trafficking within Myanmar's society, all forms of exploitation and commodification of human beings must be fully eliminated.

CONNECTING ON THE UNIVERSAL DANCE OF WORDS

By AUGUSTIN

his age to learn.

But the monk didn't give up. He studied diligently, day and night. Before long, he became a master of religious texts.

One day, the monk went back to the palace, holding a wooden pestle with a small branch tied to it. He told the king, "Your Majesty, the pestle has grown a sprout," symbolizing that he had become learned.

This story teaches us that nothing is impossible if you have determination. That's why people use this saying to describe an underdog's amazing success, proving that hard work can make the impossible happen.

SIMILAR IDIOMS
Dark horse

Definition: A person who is little known but unexpectedly wins or succeeds.

Example: No one expected her to win the competition, but she was a real dark horse.

Come out of nowhere

Definition: To appear or succeed suddenly and unexpectedly.

Example: The young athlete came out of nowhere to break the world record.

Against all odds

Definition: Despite very low chances of success, someone achieves something remarkable.

Example: Against all odds, the underdog team won the championship.

From rags to riches

Definition: To rise from a poor or humble background to great success or wealth.

Example: His story is truly inspiring; he went from rags to riches through hard work and determination.

မကိုခင်မှ ဥကိုခင်

Cherish the hen first, then you will cherish the eggs.

ဒီစကားပုံလေးက အရမ်းစိတ်ဝင်စားဖို့ကောင်းတယ်။ “မကိုခင်မှ ဥကိုခင်” တဲ့။ လွယ်လွယ်ပြောရရင် ယောက်ျားတစ်ယောက်က သူ့မိန်းမအပေါ် တကယ်ချစ်ခင်မှ သူတို့ရဲ့သားသမီးတွေကိုလည်း တန်ဖိုးထားပြီး ချစ်တတ်တာပေါ့။

ဒီလိုတွေးကြည့်ရအောင်။ ငှက်ဖိုတစ်ကောင်က ငှက်မကို အရင်ချစ်မှ သူတို့ရဲ့ဥလေးတွေ၊ အသိုက်ကလေးတွေကိုလည်း တကယ်တန်ဖိုးထားပြီး စောင့်ရှောက်တာမျိုးပေါ့။ အဲဒီလိုပဲ ယောက်ျားတစ်ယောက်က သူ့ဇနီးကို တကယ်စိတ်ရင်းနှဲ့ ချစ်မြတ်နိုးမှ သူတို့ရဲ့သားသမီးတွေကိုလည်း အသည်းပုံစံမျိုး ချစ်တတ်တာက ဒီစကားပုံရဲ့ အနှစ်သာရကို အပြည့်အဝဖော်ပြနေတာပဲ။ ချစ်ခြင်းမေတ္တာဆိုတာ အရင်းခံအတိမြစ်ကနေစပြီး တည်ဆောက်မှ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ကလူတွေအပေါ်ကိုပါ ပျံ့နှံ့သွားတာမျိုးပါ။

That Myanmar saying, “ Cherish the hen first, then you will cherish the eggs,” is really interesting. This proverb means that a man must truly love and cherish his wife before he can genuinely love and

value their children. The proverb uses the metaphor of a male bird (the husband) and a female bird (the wife) to illustrate this idea. The logic is that the male bird must care for and value the female bird first; only then will he also value the eggs she lays and their nest. This concept is extended to human relationships to emphasize that the love a father has for his children is a direct reflection of the love he has for his wife.

SIMILAR IDIOMS
Charity begins at home

Definition: One should take care of one's family or closest relationships before extending care to others.

Example: He believes charity begins at home, so he always prioritizes his wife before focusing on the children.

You can't have a rainbow without a little rain

Definition: You must appreciate or endure the source or foundation (even if challenging) before enjoying the outcomes.

Example: She knows that you can't have a rainbow without a little rain, so she cherishes her marriage as the foundation of her family.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Definition: Don't value or rely on results before ensuring the source or cause is secure.

Example: He always supports his wife first, knowing not to count his chickens before they hatch.

First things first

Definition: Prioritize the most important or foundational matters before others.

Example: He believes in loving and supporting his wife first – first things first – before focusing on the children.

ကံမခိုင် သံတိုင်အိမ်ဆောက်သော်လည်း ကံမှောက်လျှင် ကျိုး
Even a house built with iron pillars will fall if destiny is against it

ကံမခိုင် သံတိုင်အိမ်ဆောက်သော်လည်း ကံမှောက်လျှင် ကျိုး ဆိုတဲ့ စကားပုံက တကယ်ကို မှတ်သားစရာပဲနော်။ အဓိပ္ပာယ်ကတော့ ရှင်းပါတယ်။ ကိုယ့်ရဲ့ကံတရားက မကောင်းတဲ့အခါ၊ ဘယ်လောက်ပဲ ခိုင်မာတဲ့အရာတွေနဲ့ တည်ဆောက်ထားပါစေ၊ မကြာခင်မှာ ပျက်စီးဆုံးရှုံးတတ်တယ်ပေါ့။ ဒီလိုမျိုး စဉ်းစားကြည့်ရအောင်။ သံတိုင်ကြီးတွေနဲ့ ခိုင်ခိုင်မာမာ ဆောက်ထားတဲ့အိမ်ဟာ ဘယ်လိုမှ ပြိုကျစရာမရှိဘူးလို့ ထင်ရတယ်။ ဒါပေမဲ့ ကံတရားက ညံ့နေတဲ့အခါ၊ မထင်မှတ်ဘဲနဲ့ သံတိုင်တွေတောင် ကျိုးပဲ့ပြီး အိမ်က ပြိုကျသွားနိုင်တယ်။ ဒါဟာ ကံမကောင်းတဲ့အချိန်မှာ ဘယ်လောက်ပဲ ကြိုးစားအားထုတ်ပါစေ၊ အရာရာက အလွဲလွဲအချော်ချော်တွေ ဖြစ်တတ်တယ်ဆိုတာကို ပြောပြချင်တာပါ။ ဒီစကားပုံကို လူတွေက ဘယ်အချိန်မှာ အသုံးများလဲဆို

တော့ ကံဆိုးတာတွေကို ညည်းတွားတဲ့အခါ၊ ဒါမှမဟုတ် ဘယ်လိုပဲ ကြိုးစားကြိုးစား အဆင်မပြေဖြစ်နေတဲ့အခြေအနေမျိုးကို ပြောတဲ့အခါမျိုးမှာ သုံးလေ့ရှိပါတယ်။ ဥပမာ - “ အစွမ်းကုန် ကြိုးစားပေမဲ့ ကံမခိုင်တော့ သံတိုင်အိမ်ဆောက်သော်လည်း ကံမှောက်လျှင်ကျိုးဆိုသလိုပဲ ဘာမှမဖြစ်မြောက်ဘူး” လို့ ပြောတာမျိုးပါ။ ဒီစကားပုံက ကံတရားရဲ့ လွှမ်းမိုးမှုကို တင်စားပြီး ပြောတာပါ။

That Myanmar saying, “Even a house built with iron pillars will fall if destiny is against it,” is a powerful one.

Simply put, it means that when your luck or destiny is bad, anything you build – no matter how strong or stable – can easily be destroyed or lost.

Think of it this way: a house built with solid iron pillars seems impossible to knock down. But if fate is working against you, those pillars could unexpectedly break, and the house could collapse. The saying highlights how, in times of bad luck, no matter how hard you try, things just seem to go wrong.

People often use this saying when they are complaining about a streak of bad luck or when things aren't working out despite their best efforts. For example, someone might say, “I've tried so hard to build a good life, but my luck is so bad that it's like building a house with iron pillars and having it fall anyway.” The saying is a way of expressing how much influence fate can have.

SIMILAR IDIOMS
When It Rains, It Pours

Definition: When one bad thing happens, a lot of other bad things happen at the same time.

Example: “First, I lost my job, then my car broke down. When it rains, it pours.”

Down on Your Luck

Definition: Having a period of bad luck.
Example: “After losing his business, he was really down on his luck.”

The Fates Are Against You

Definition: Said when a series of unfortunate events seems to be caused by destiny or an external force.

Example: “I've tried everything to get this project done, but it seems the fates are against me.”

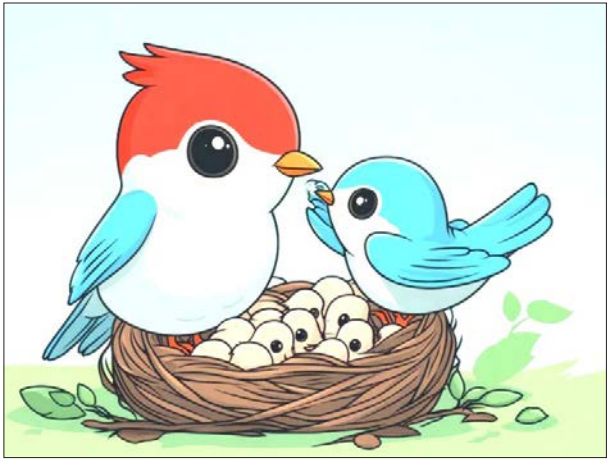
In a Vicious Circle

Definition: A difficult or bad situation that seems impossible to escape from because the problem keeps causing itself.

Example: “He couldn't get a job without experience, and couldn't get experience without a job. He was in a vicious circle.”



ကျည်ပွေ့ အတက်ပေါက်
A pestle grows a sprout



မကိုခင်မှ ဥကိုခင်
Cherish the hen first, then you will cherish the eggs.



ကံမခိုင် သံတိုင်အိမ်ဆောက်သော်လည်း ကံမှောက်လျှင်ကျိုး

NATIONAL

4th respect-paying ceremony for aged theatrical performers

THE Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) organized its 4th respect-paying ceremony for aged theatrical performers in Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, the director-general of the Department of Fine Arts, invitees and aged theatrical performers.

The Union minister, the region chief minister and the director-general of the Department of Fine Arts made speeches respectively.

The Union minister donated K3 million, 20 MRTV DTH and 100 set-top boxes receivers and set boxes, and the region's chief minister donated K25 million and



The 4th respect-paying event for elderly theatrical performers in progress yesterday in Yangon, attended by Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein.

500 bags of rice. Chairman U Phoe Chit of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) expressed gratitude to officials and pledged to make efforts to improve the members and the theatrical field.

The patrons, chairman and executive members of the association and attendees paid respect to the aged theatrical performers and presented gifts to them.

Afterwards, the young theatrical performers and experts of the affiliated committees of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) performed singing, Hsing (traditional Myanmar music), dance, Myaywine Zat (traditional lower-stage drama), circus and magic show. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar yesterday joins 11th St Petersburg International Forum of Cultures



Deputy Minister Daw Nu Mra Zan participates in the 11th Saint Petersburg International Forum of United Cultures in the Russia Federation on 10-13 September.

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Daw Nu Mra Zan, attended the 11th St Petersburg International Forum of United Cultures held on 10-13 September in Russia.

The forum themed "Return to Culture, New Opportunities" was attended by ministers and deputy ministers of culture from world countries, members of international organizations, artists and observers.

On 10 September, the deputy minister-led delegation visited Saint ISACC's Cathedral and Kazansky Cathedral in St Petersburg.

They also observed the Hermitage Museum, which is one of the world's largest museums, and

the museum officials clarified the structure of the museum.

On 11 September, the deputy minister attended the cultural ministers' and deputy ministers' meeting at the Russian Museum of Marble Palace.

Speaking at the meeting, she said Myanmar is a concentration of traditions for having living heritages of all ethnic people of today and the Pyu and Bagan eras. Cultural exchange is not only sharing arts and customary law but also discussion among hearts. The country is also ready to work with other countries to protect the valuable, respect and hand over the cultural heritages to the new generations. The collective efforts serve as a guiding star for cultural unity, mutual

respect, and peace across the entire world.

On 12 September, the delegation attended the final session led by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova at the Hermitage General Staff Building. Russian Culture Minister Mrs Olg Liubimova made an opening speech, and the attendees discussed different topics.

The delegates observed around the booths at the General Staff Building, and they attended the Plenary Session at Catherine Palace in Pushkin and a speech-delivering session of Russian President Putin in the same evening. On 13 September, they attended the Hermitage Prize awarding ceremony at the Winter Palace. — MNA/KTZH

Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 18 September 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and due to the easterly waves, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and, northern Shan States and fairly widespread

to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and, (southern and eastern)Shan States with regionally and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady abd, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon and, Rakhine States during 21 September to 26 September 2025. Occasional squalls with rough seas are will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour.

Wave height will be about 10-13 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH

NATIONAL





Myanmar's First Voice on ABA Board!

Myanmar Tourism Bank elected to the Asian Bankers Association Board of Directors (2026-2027)

09 - 682 682 682 www.mtb.com.mm

MTB elected to ABA Board for 2026-2027

AS a historic milestone for the Myanmar banking sector, Myanmar Tourism Bank (MTB) has been elected to the Asian Bankers Association (ABA) board of directors for 2026-2027, said MTB.

MTB appointed to the ABA Board of Directors for 2026-2027.

This is the first-ever for the Myanmar banking sector that MTB has been appointed as a board member of ABA, which was founded in 1981. MTB CEO U Win Lwin will take the role representing Myanmar, and MTB will bring new ideas for regional business development through making a network with top Asia-Pacific banks, and continue implementing its sustainable and

advanced banking goals together with innovative ideas and the extended engagement in the banking sector. This achievement is a moment of pride that is not for MTB alone but for the entire Myanmar banking community, it said. Through cooperation, MTB will create a brighter banking future by building bridges across Asia, it added. — MT/ZS

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Thursday 18 September 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Tropical Depression over South china sea has moved West-Northwestwards and intensified into a Tropical Storm “MITAG”. It is likely to moved Northwestwards and cross the Southern coasts of China around 20 September 2025.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 19 September 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Rakhine State, scattered in Mandalay and Bago Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Northern Shan States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Regions and Kachin and Eastern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, and Taninthayi Region. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 5-7 feet in off and along the Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago and Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2025: One or two rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

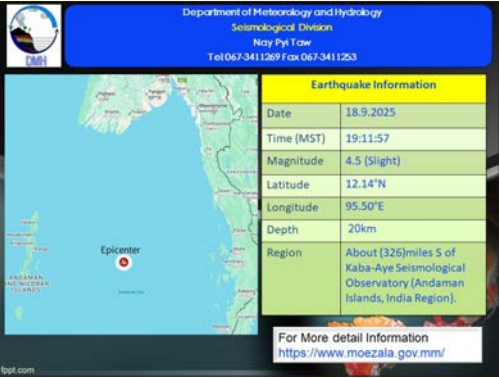
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 September 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 7:30 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 Richter Scale with its epicentre outside Myanmar (Andaman Islands, India Region), latitude 12.14°N, longitude 95.50°E, depth 20 kilometres, about 326 miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 19 hours 11 minutes 57 seconds MST on 18 September 2025. — DMH



17 undocumented foreign nationals arrested in Myawady



The immigration process underway for the deportation of 17 foreign entrants.

AUTHORITIES have arrested 17 Indonesians who illegally entered Myanmar through border routes after transiting some neighbouring countries. They were found yesterday in the KK Park area of Myawady Township, Kayin State, where they had been involved in online gambling, online fraud, and other criminal activities. The departmental teams, in collaboration with one another, are now compiling personal information and records of the detainees so that they can be repatriated to their respective countries as soon as possible. The inspection process is being overseen by Deputy Director U Myint Bhone of Kayin State of the Ministry of Immigration

and Population, together with responsible personnel. From 30 January to 18 September 2025, a total of 9,404 foreign nationals who entered Myanmar illegally have been arrested. Among them, 9,305 have already been repatriated in accordance with legal procedures through Thailand to their respective countries. The remaining 99 are being held securely and are ready for handover. The State continues to cooperate actively with the relevant countries to promptly identify, arrest, and systematically repatriate foreign nationals who engage in online fraud, online gambling, and other criminal offences in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL BUSINESS

MEOMA urges millers not to hoard oilseed cake to raise prices



Edible oil bottles are neatly organized for sale at the supermarket.

MYANMAR Edible Oil Millers Association called for millers not to store by-product oilseed cake on purpose to raise prices.

According to the MEOMA's statement dated 18 September, bean, sesame, sunflower, canola, Niger seed and soybean meal, by-products obtained after oil extraction, are the main ingredients in feedstuff processing for the livestock sector.

The prices of oil meals are gradually rising in the market. Consequently, the hike in oil meal resulted in high prices of egg, meat and fish. To meet growing demand for feedstuffs, soybeans have to be imported.

Thus, the association requested millers not to store oil meals intentionally to manipulate the market and hike prices. — NN/KK

MEOMA warns millers against large-scale oil cake hoarding



Soya bean oil cakes.

LOCAL edible oil mills have been warned of a large-scale stock of oil cakes that may lead prices to rise, said Myanmar Edible Oil Millers' Association (MEOMA) in a notice issued on 18 September.

Currently, prices of oil cake have gradually risen in the domestic market, according to sources.

The surge in oil cake prices may lead to increased prices of meat, fish, eggs, and dairy products as a result of an animal feed shortage, and drive the country to import soybean oil cake abroad, it said.

Oil cakes from groundnuts, sesame, sunflower, canola, and soybeans, byproducts of oil extraction, are major goods for Myanmar's livestock sector. — Htun Htun/ZS



Greenbacks are seen at the exchange counter.

CBM sells over US\$1.15M to edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.15 million to edible oil-importing companies on 17 September.

CBM announced on 16 September that it would pump \$25 million into the fuel oil import sector.

In addition to the injection of \$100,000 and over 566,400 yuan on that day, CBM sold over \$1.6 million to edible oil-importing companies, \$437,000 to fuel oil-importing companies and over \$140,300 to those who made non-trade payments.

CBM sold \$1.25 million to edible oil-importing companies on 15 September after sales of \$1,488 million to CMP companies.

CBM sold over \$2.76 million to the edible oil importing companies on 12 September, in addition to selling \$30,000 to fuel oil importing companies and \$83,805 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments.

CBM sold over \$1.79 million to the edible oil-importing companies and over \$353,900 to the fuel oil-importing companies on 11 September.

CBM also injected over \$372,000 into the market, after sales of over \$241,000 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments.

CBM sold over \$1 million, 11 million yuan and four million baht in August. Furthermore, CBM also pumped over \$32 million, purchased from the companies working on a Cut, Make, and Pack basis, into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

TTI to launch export business startup course

THE Trade Training Institute of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce will conduct a short course on how to start an export business (Batch 14) from 9 am to 4 pm on 22-26 September 2025.

The Institute is located at 228/240, the corner of Strand Road and Shwebontha Street. The maximum number of trainees is 50. Trainees can register at the Institute, providing an application form, three licensed size photos, a bachelor's degree certificate, a matriculation pass certificate, a citizenship scrutiny card copy and other necessary documents.

The first batch of the course was conducted in September 2014. Over 1,000 persons have completed the courses so far.

Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of the Institute at 01 8250871, 09 795308195, and 09 442134380. — NN/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 18 September 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,980,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Nyaungshwe, PhaungdawU festivals to feature Inlay boat races



A spectacular traditional Inntha boat race.

NYAUNGSHWE Pagoda Festival and Inlay PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival will add Traditional Inntha boat races, said U Tin Aung, chair of the Inntha traditional boat race organizing subcommittee.

Boat races will take place on 26 September during the Nyaungshwe Pagoda Festival in front of the Yayle Guest Hall and in the Nankat Creek, Kanna Street, Nyaungshwe, on 28 September.

During the PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival, boat races will be held on 8 and 9 October.

“This annual boat race aims to preserve culture, tradition and customs passed down from generations. Both male and female nearby villagers will take part in the race. Students from each school will also participate in the boat race,” said U Tin Aung.

Different categories of leg-rowing boat races are male boat races with over 100 men, female boat races with 26 women, student boat races (with 26 persons) and solo boat races. — ASH/KK

Myanmar film ‘Bawako Sar Thaw Kein Ganan Myar’ premieres 19 Sept

THE Myanmar film ‘Bawako Sar Thaw Kein Ganan Myar’ (Numbers That Devour Life) will premiere in cinemas on 19 September, and it will be shown at high-standard theatres, according to reports.

Wai Yan Lu wrote the story, plot and script of the film, while co-directors Min Thura, Linka Nyo and, Lay Naing Soe, and director Academy Award winner Tin Aung Soe (Mann Myotaw) produced and directed the film for Yadana Aung Film Production.

Actress Su Pan Htwar, who stars in the film, said: “In this movie, I am portraying a woman in her forties, still

single. She has gone through relationships with men who left her behind. Actually, some parts of the story are based on true events. It carries educational messages. If audiences can take away some awareness from it, I will be satisfied”.

The cast includes Htet Aung Shine, Tayza Linyaung, Tayza Kyaw, Henry San, Wai Lary, Su Lin Shein, Tun Pale Yadana, Cho Madee Thwin, Academy Award winners Khant Si Thu and Soe Myat Thuzar, Khaing Hnin Wai, Su Pan Htwar, and Academy Award winner Chan Thar Kyi Soe, among others. — ASH/KZL



Cast members of ‘Bawako Sar Thaw Kein Ganan Myar’ are seen at the film introduction event.

Sphinx unearthed in Inwa to be temporarily preserved at museum



This photo features a sphinx, discovered during excavations for the construction of the tooth-relic building, on 7 September.

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch) announced that a sphinx, discovered during excavations for the construction of the tooth-relic building in the ancient city of Inwa, located in the Inwa Ancient Cultural Zone of the Mandalay Region, is being temporarily preserved at the museum.

The Inwa tooth-relic building, built in 1183 ME by King Bagyidaw of Sagaing, is now in ruins, and preliminary preparations are underway to restore it to its original state. Excavations are currently being carried out

to remove the collapsed soil around the building.

“During the excavations on 7 September, when we reached the northeast corner of the site, the team discovered a large marble-like figure beneath a tree. On closer inspection, they realized it was a sphinx statue. The statue is now being temporarily kept at the Inwa Museum. The statue originally stood on the right side of the entrance gate to the palace in Inwa, within the palace grounds. It is difficult to find such a statue in complete form, which is why it is considered extremely rare — not only because of its survival but also because of its craftsmanship. Discovering a statue of this kind is like recovering a priceless piece of cultural heritage for us,” said an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Mandalay Branch).

The statue, a marble work of art from the Amarapura period carved during the reign of King Bagyidaw of Sagaing and considered extremely rare for its craftsmanship and value, is planned to be returned to its original location once the reconstruction of the Inwa tooth-relic building is complete. — ASH/TH

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD/AD

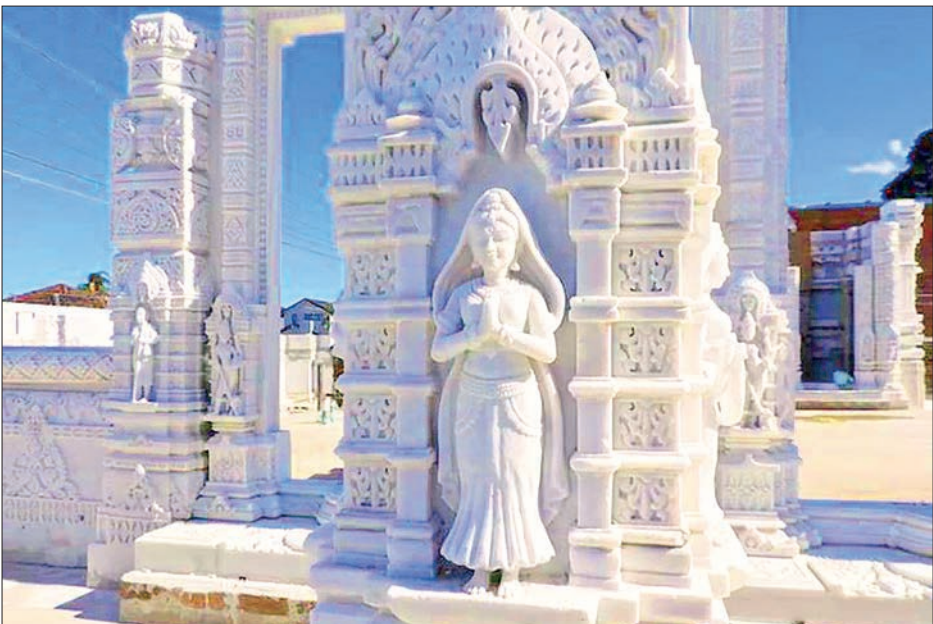
3,000 tonnes of Rajasthani marble to shape Jain temples in Australia

Rajasthan's timeless marbles: the same stone that built the Taj Mahal are heading to Australia.

THE Australian High Commission in India on Thursday announced that marble from Rajasthan, the same stone used in building the Taj Mahal, will be sent to Australia for the construction of new Jain temples in Melbourne and Sydney.

Nearly 3,000 tonnes of Rajasthani marble will be shipped to fulfil the long-awaited dream of Australia's 6,000-strong Jain community.

Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green highlighted the development in a post on X. "Rajasthan's timeless marbles — the same stone that built the Taj Mahal are heading to Australia. Nearly 3,000



The projects are a significant milestone for Australia's Jain community, estimated at around 6,000 people. **PHOTO: ANI**

tonnes will soon shape new Jain temples in Melbourne & Sydney, as Australia's 6,000-strong Jain community builds a legacy of faith & heritage," he wrote. Earlier in June, the High Commission shared about Victoria's first Jain temple under construction in Melbourne. — ANI

Berlin district orders “comfort women” statue to be removed by 7 Oct



File photo taken in July 2025 shows a “comfort women” statue installed on publicly owned land in the Mitte district of Berlin. **PHOTO: KYODO**

A district in Berlin has ordered a statue symbolizing Korean women in Japanese wartime military brothels to be removed from publicly owned land by 7 October local authorities said Wednesday.

The status of the piece, installed by a pro-South Korean civic group in 2020, has gained attention as the display of similar “comfort women” statues in South Korea and a number of other countries has been a source of tension between Tokyo

and Seoul.

In 2022, then Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida asked his German counterpart, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, to help effect the removal of the statue located in the Mitte district of the German capital.

In September 2024, the district ordered it removed by the end of the next month. The civic group filed for a reprieve, and a court in April this year allowed the statue to remain until 28 September.

The district had proposed relocating the statue to privately owned land about 100 metres away, but the group refused. It claims the statue symbolizes the victims of sexual violence and must remain on publicly owned land. — Kyodo

Pentagon completes draft of Golden Dome missile defense system

THE US Department of War has prepared a draft for the establishment of the Golden Dome missile defence system.

Space Force General Michael Guetlein, who leads US President Donald Trump's project to build the Golden Dome air and space missile defence network, has completed the draft, Bloomberg reported.

Two months ago, Guetlein promised to provide details on the blueprint, including the cost, but the Pentagon has for now declined to provide more information on it. "It is currently undergoing review and no additional information is available at this time, keeping operational security top of mind," the Pentagon said in a statement quoted by Bloomberg.

Partially refurbished clamshell radar towers that were once part of the national Nike Hercules missile site system established in the US during the Cold War at Arctic Valley. — SPUTNIK

Japan's popular tourist spot Okinawa to levy accommodation tax

THE prefectural assembly of Okinawa, one of Japan's most popular tourist destinations, on Thursday passed an ordinance to impose a two per cent accommodation tax to support local tourism.

Due to take effect in fiscal 2026, which begins next April, it will be the first such tax of its kind at the prefectural level.

The move comes amid growing local expectations for more tourists following the July opening of the Junglia Okinawa theme park, which has apparently boosted both domestic and foreign visitor numbers to the prefecture. The tax for hotel and inn stays will be capped at a maximum 2,000 yen (\$14) per night. Those participating in school trips and extracurricular activities will be exempted.

The revenue, estimated at about 7.8 billion yen annually, is expected to be used to preserve the scenic landscape, secure tourism workers and enhance safety measures for marine recreation, a major attraction in Okinawa.

The prefectural government and local municipalities will split the revenue evenly, except for five that are planning to introduce their own accommodation tax. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC KANU F VOY.NO. (SB536A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC KANU F VOY.NO. (SB536A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-9-2025** 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.

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SPORTS

Ayeyawady secure clean-sheet win in Myanmar Women's League

AYEYAWADY earned a 4-0 clean-sheet victory over Young Lionesses in the third day of Matchweek 7 of the 2025-2026 Myanmar Women's League at Padonma Stadium in Yangon on 18 September.

Ayeyawady, who are competing closely with Thitsa Arman and Yangon United at the top of the table, secured the win without error to remain firmly in the race for the mid-season

championship title. The squad, led by key players Phyu Phyu Win, Naw Htet Htet Wai, San Thaw Thaw, and Zun Yu Ya Oo, faced a Young Lionesses side built around youth selections.

Ayeyawady took control early, with striker San Thaw Thaw netting a hat-trick at three, 26, and 31 minutes to give her side a commanding first-half lead. In the second half, Ayeyawady managed the game comforta-

bly, before midfielder Phyu Phyu Win added the fourth goal in 65 minutes.

Following the result, Ayeyawady have 14 points from six matches, while Young Lionesses remain on six points after the same number of games.

Matchweek 7 will conclude today with Yangon City facing Myawady. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Ayeyawady and Young Lionesses players in action during the match. PHOTO: MWL

Pakistani kabaddi coach arrives to train Myanmar team for SEA Games



A welcome ceremony at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

PAKISTANI kabaddi coach Mr Arshad Muhammad arrived in Yangon yesterday morning to help the Myanmar kabaddi team achieve success at the XXXI-II SEA Games and to support the development of kabaddi in Myanmar. Myanmar Kabaddi Federation President U Kyaw Naing, vice-presidents, and executive members welcomed him at the airport.

Mr Arshad Muhammad previously served as a coach in China, Iran, Bangladesh, Sweden, Oman, and Turkiye. He came to

Myanmar under the arrangement of the general secretary of the Pakistan Kabaddi Federation and the Pakistan Ministry of Sports.

The Myanmar Kabaddi Federation stated that the Pakistani coach will provide training to Myanmar kabaddi players until the end of the competition to ensure success at the SEA Games. Myanmar will compete in the men's three-a-side and five-a-side kabaddi events at the XXXIII SEA Games. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Hodgkinson settles nerves in Tokyo after injury doubts

OLYMPIC 800 metres champion Keely Hodgkinson cruised through her heat on Thursday and then admitted she was sweating on her place at the world championships until the last minute.

The 23-year-old Briton was sidelined for months by lingering hamstring problems after

winning gold in Paris last summer and only returned to the track in August. She showed no signs of rust after winning her heat in the Japanese capital in a time of 1min 59.79sec but she said that as recently as July she had not been sure if she would be able to compete. "It was a matter of literally day by day,

week by week on what the plan was for a period of time — there was no plan," said Hodgkinson, who won world championships silver in both 2022 and 2023.

"We were just going with what my body was reacting to. Luckily we made it here and we did enough and I'm in this great place." — AFP



Olympic champion Keely Hodgkinson won her 800 metres heat at the world championships in Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

Germany drops out of top 10 in FIFA rankings

GERMANY slipped from ninth to 12th in FIFA's latest men's world rankings released Thursday, adding to the pressure on the four-time World Cup winner.

After lifting the trophy at Brazil 2014, Germany crashed out in the group stage of both the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

The mood has darkened again after a 2-0 defeat away to Slovakia on 5 September in a 2026 World Cup qualifier — the first time Germany has ever lost to Slovakia, which was ranked outside the global top 50 at the time.

The result leaves Germa-

ny with just three points from its opening two qualifiers in Group E. Slovakia, which also defeated Luxembourg, tops the section with six points. Northern Ireland is level with Germany on three points, while Luxembourg sits bottom. Only the group winner will qualify

directly for the 2026 World Cup, with the runner-up facing the playoffs.

Reigning European champion Spain climbed into first place in the FIFA rankings for the first time in 11 years, overtaking France. 2022 World Cup winner Argentina sits third.

The current top 10 are Spain, France, Argentina, England, Portugal, Brazil, the

Netherlands, Belgium, Croatia and Italy.

Slovakia was the biggest mover, rising 10 places to No 42, while Zimbabwe had the biggest fall, dropping nine spots to 125th.

Germany next hosts Luxembourg on 10 October in what could be a pivotal qualifier for under-fire coach Julian Nagelsmann. — Xinhua

3,000 tonnes of Rajasthani
marble to shape Jain
temples in Australia

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WORLD



A microbiologist working on the reconstructed virus of the 1918 Spanish Flu, using a fume hood for biocontainment. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

ASEAN moves to strengthen regional biosafety, biosecurity

*Participants defined priorities, roles,
and partners to coordinate regional
efforts against biological threats,
according to Lao officials.*

OFFICIALS from member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and partner countries have convened in Vientiane to discuss and develop the plan of action for the ASEAN leaders' declaration on strengthening regional biosafety and biosecurity.

They gathered for the second meeting on the establishment of the ASEAN Network on Biosafety and Biosecurity, held from Tuesday to Thursday, as part of a region-wide effort to strengthen preparedness and response to future biological threats.

During the meeting, the participants outlined regional priorities, defined roles and responsibilities, and designated lead implementers and partners to drive coordinated efforts in preventing, detecting, and responding to biological threats, according to the Lao Ministry of Health on Wednesday. — Xinhua

Chinese scientists develop first hydride ion prototype battery

A team of Chinese scientists has developed the first hydride ion prototype battery, laying a solid foundation for China's green energy development. The team's findings were published on Wednesday in the journal Nature.

Considered an important part of the future clean energy system, hydrogen typically participates in reactions in the form of protons, hydride ions and hydrogen atoms. Among these, hydride ions have the highest electron density, while they are easily polarized and highly reactive – making them a promising energy carrier. The hydride ion battery is an important research direction in the field of clean energy.

The research team led by Chen Ping, Cao Hujun and Zhang Weijin, all from the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, located in northeast China's Liaoning Province and affiliated to the Chinese Academy of Sciences, has invented a new core-shell structured composite hydride which serves as the electrolyte material. — Xinhua

WMO report warns of increasingly erratic water cycle

THE global water cycle is becoming increasingly erratic and extreme, swinging between deluge and drought, according to a new report released Thursday by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The State of Global Water Resources 2024 report highlights the cascading impacts of too much or too little water on economies, ecosystems, and societies. It finds that only about one-third of the world's river basins experienced "normal" conditions in 2024, while the rest were either above or below normal, a clear imbalance that has persisted for the sixth consecutive year.

WMO notes that 2024 marked the third straight year of widespread glacier loss across all regions. Many small-glacier areas have already reached, or are close to reaching, "peak water" – the point at which glacier meltwater runoff reaches its maximum annual flow before declining as glaciers shrink. — AFP



Boats stranded in the mud of the parched Lago Aleixo amid a drought in the Amazonas state of Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**