

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Trade, Investment Ties Key to Bilateral Friendship, Economic Growth, Says President



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the 2026 Russia-Myanmar Business Forum in Moscow, the Russian Federation, yesterday.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who was in Russia on an official visit, delivered a speech at the 2026 Russia-Myanmar Business Forum held at the G V Plekhanov Russian University of Economics in Moscow yesterday.

In his speech, the

President expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity to speak at the forum, which was organized to deepen economic cooperation between Myanmar and the Russian Federation. He said he believed that the current visit would further strengthen friendship and economic cooperation between the

peoples of Myanmar and Russia and contribute to regional economic development

Regarding the Myanmar-Russia bilateral relationship, he highlighted that diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Russia were established on 18 February 1948, just 45 days after Myanmar regained

independence, and that the two countries would mark the 80th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2028.

Through decades of mutual understanding, trust and friendship, bilateral relations have now developed into a strategic partnership.

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Yangon Grants Heritage Status to 153 Century-Old Buildings

A total of 153 buildings in Yangon Region that are at least 100 years old have been designated as heritage buildings, according to the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture.

A ceremony to install heritage plaques at the U Thant House Museum and Inwa Bank, among the designated buildings, was held at the respective sites on 18 August. Deputy Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Aye Tun and the Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs

attended the ceremony and installed the plaques.

Officials also inspected the restoration of statues of King Anawrahta, King Bayintnaung and King Alaungpaya at the National Museum (Yangon) in Dagon Township yesterday morning.

They also inspected the museum's galleries featuring Myanmar script and manuscripts, the Yadnapon Period, urban culture, royal regalia, natural history, primates and fossils. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister U Aye Tun inspects the restoration efforts at the National Museum (Yangon) in Yangon yesterday.

ME in Riyadh handles consular services for nationals in Türkiye



The Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

THE Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has announced that Myanmar nationals in Türkiye may contact the embassy when they require consular services.

Currently, the Saudi Arabia-based embassy has also jointly taken charge of Bahrain and has now expanded to Türkiye, starting from 15 August, it said. The embassy in Abu Dhabi of the United Arab

Emirates (UAE) will now take charge of Qatar and Oman, which were previously under the management of the embassy in Riyadh.

The Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh said it will complete processing applications for passport extensions, lost or damaged passports, and newborn passports submitted from Qatar and Oman before 15 August 2026. — MT/ZS

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Standpipes deployed to reinforce eroded Ngawun embankment

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6th gem and jewellery training set for Sept

NATIONAL

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday 19 August 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 20 August 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway, Lower Sagaing Regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and Kayah, Chin, northern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Mon State and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayin, (southern and eastern)Shan States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan states. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by 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 moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 August 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

New markets, night bazaars set for 4 Yangon townships

THE Yangon Region Government is preparing to establish new retail markets and organized night bazaars in Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (South) townships to systematically relocate street vendors and reduce unregulated roadside vending.

According to Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman (Mayor) U Myo Myint Aung, the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is working to systematically allocate space for unregulated street vendors in nearby existing mar-



This photo features street vendors.

kets where vacant plots are available, as well as develop new designated markets on available land.

During the 2025–2026 financial year, municipal authorities successfully relocated 1,189 informal street vendors from public roads across various Yangon townships to or-

ganized market spaces. The initiative expanded in the 2026–2027 financial year, with 1,848 informal vendors successfully relocated to designated markets.

“We are looking to expand night bazaars, similar to the organized model operating on 19th

Street in Lanmadaw Township, to other townships, depending on available land,” U Myo Myint Aung said.

Alongside vendor relocation efforts, YCDC is enforcing hygiene and food safety standards at both licensed restaurants and street food stalls through joint inspections and awareness programmes. In collaboration with township Public Health Departments, municipal officials regularly conduct health education sessions and training courses at the street and township levels to ensure compliance with food safety standards. — ASH/TH

Diarrhoea admission rates decline at YGH

THE number of diarrhoea patients admitted to Yangon General Hospital (YGH) has declined, with the hospital currently receiving about 20 new cases a day, according to hospital officials.

Professor Dr Moe Khine, Senior Medical Superintendent and Rector of YGH, said the number of new diarrhoea patients admitted to the hospital has declined significantly compared with previous days.

“Compared to the past three or four days, the number of new diarrhoea patients has dropped significantly. However, since patients are still present, we strongly encourage anyone experiencing diarrhoea symptoms to visit nearby hospitals for prompt treatment,” said the professor.

The hospital also provides social support for patients. Treatment for diarrhoea is provided completely free of charge, and patients are reportedly very satisfied with the services.

“We instruct patients on how to prepare oral rehydration salts, how many bottles to drink, alongside



A few patients receiving treatment for diarrhoea at Yangon General Hospital.

administering intravenous fluids as ordered. Nurses provide health education and instructions to prevent cross-infection between patients, such as washing hands,” said Matron Daw Toe Toe Aung.

Authorities and health workers visited residential apartments, restaurants and market stalls in areas where diarrhoea cases were reported to spray chlorine solutions. They also provided health education and discussed preventive measures to help the public stay safe from illnesses. — MT

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 50

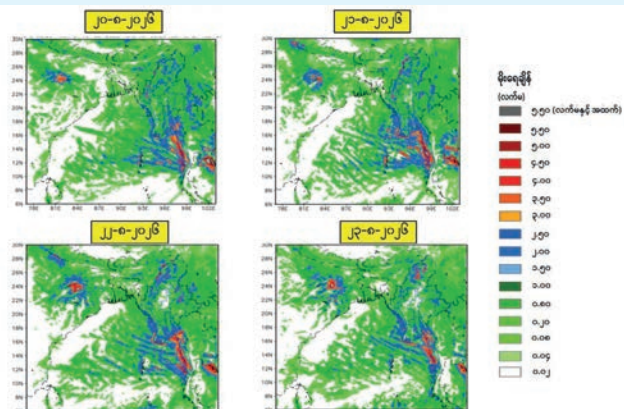
Issued at 8 am MST on 19 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of the Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States from this morning to 23 August 2026.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and the along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



NATIONAL

Honorary Professorship offered to President U Min Aung Hlaing

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing was conferred an Honorary Professorship by G V Plekhanov Russian University of Economics at a ceremony held at the university's graduation hall in Moscow, the Russian Federation, yesterday morning.

The Myanmar high-level delegation led by the President was warmly welcomed by Russian Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education Mr Mogilevsky Konstantin Ilyich, Rector Mr Lobanov Ivan Vasilyevich and university officials. The President subsequently met with the Russian deputy minister and the rector to discuss the university's programmes in economics, science and technology, digital technology and AI, as well as ways to further promote educational cooperation between Myanmar and the university.

At the honorary degree ceremony, the Russian Deputy Minister of Science

and Higher Education said the university's board had unanimously supported conferring the honorary professorship on President U Min Aung Hlaing. He said the move would contribute to strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and Russia, particularly in education and economic affairs. He also highlighted the growing bilateral educational cooperation, including scholarships for Myanmar students and an education cooperation memorandum signed between the two countries last year.

The university rector then formally conferred the Honorary Professorship of the G V Plekhanov Russian University of Economics on President U Min Aung Hlaing.

In his remarks, President U Min Aung Hlaing expressed his gratitude for the honorary title, saying he regarded the honour not only as recognition of himself but also as an honour bestowed on Myanmar



G V Plekhanov Russian University of Economics Rector Mr Lobanov Ivan Vasilyevich confers the Honorary Professorship of the University on President U Min Aung Hlaing in Moscow yesterday.

and its people. He said the award would serve as an impetus for strengthening strategic partnerships between Myanmar and Russia in education, research and long-term development.

The President noted that Plekhanov Russian University of Economics

has a history of 119 years and has educated more than 14,000 students, including international students from 75 countries. He also praised the university's efforts to strengthen international and academic links.

He said Myanmar and Russia established diplo-

matic relations on 18 February 1948, and marked the 75th anniversary in 2023. According to the President, bilateral cooperation has expanded into strategic partnerships covering the economy, energy, space and the peaceful use of nuclear technology, with relations deepening significantly

over the past five years.

Highlighting the importance of education and human-resource development, President U Min Aung Hlaing said Myanmar had sent more than 7,000 scholars to Russia over the past 25 years. He expressed appreciation to Russia for its support and cooperation in developing Myanmar's human resources.

He further said Myanmar seeks to expand educational cooperation with Russia through academic exchanges, joint research and scholarship programmes. He also expressed his appreciation for the honorary professorship and confidence that Plekhanov Russian University of Economics would play an important role in cooperation with Myanmar universities and other development sectors.

The President later signed the university's guest book, after which the rector presented him with the honorary professorship regalia. — MNA/ST

President U Min Aung Hlaing receives Roscosmos State Corporation General Director



President U Min Aung Hlaing and General Director Mr Dmitry V Bakanov of the Roscosmos State Corporation exchange commemorative gifts.

A delegation led by General Director Mr Dmitry V Bakanov of Roscosmos State Corporation of the Russian Federation paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in Moscow of the Russian Federation to pay an official visit, at the hotel at 12:30 pm local standard time yesterday.

They frankly held discussions on completion of signing the Earth Observation (ERS) satellite imagery capture agreement between the

Russian Space Systems (RSS) company and the Myanmar Space Agency, and the ongoing capturing of data, the direct collaboration between the two space agencies as a major milestone in the multi-sectoral cooperation between Russia and Myanmar significantly contributing to the development of Myanmar's space technology, the successful signing of the "Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes" between the governments of the Republic of the Union

of Myanmar and the Russian Federation, signing the MoU on the practical joint implementation of astronaut selection and training between the Myanmar Space Agency and Roscosmos, the satellite-based search and rescue system (COSPAS-SARSAT), the satellite navigation system measuring station (One Way Station), and the automated warning system for hazardous situations in near-Earth space (ASPOS), matters concerning the selection

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FROM PAGE 1

Therefore, there is considerable potential to further expand mutually beneficial cooperation not only between the two governments but also among the peoples and business communities of the two countries.

He noted that new opportunities are emerging in the global economy amid changes in supply chains, technological advances and regional cooperation. Despite the growing geopolitical and economic challenges facing the world, Myanmar-Russia relations have continued to develop in the international landscape through mutual understanding and trust.

In particular, trade and investment ties, based on the countries' diplomatic relations, are important drivers of bilateral friendship, economic development and prospects.

At present, Myanmar mainly exports mango paste, value-added products and garments to Russia, while importing petroleum products and fertilizers from Russia. Discussions are also underway to increase exports of Myanmar products such as rice, pulses, maize, sesame and fishery products. Myanmar's Pawsan rice is a premium variety with strong market potential.

Russia has already undertaken investment projects worth US\$97.359 million in Myanmar's oil, natural gas and industrial sectors. Looking ahead, there is confidence that Myanmar and Russia can further deepen cooperation in agriculture, energy, infrastructure, industry, science and technology, education and human resource development.

He continued that Myanmar is strategically located at the crossroads of South Asia, South-East Asia and China, making it important both geopoliti-



President U Min Aung Hlaing views exhibits on display at the 2026 Russia-Myanmar Business Forum in Moscow, the Russian Federation, yesterday.

cally and economically. It is an ASEAN member and shares borders with China, Laos, Thailand, India and Bangladesh. The country has a population of more than 51 million, with Nay Pyi Taw as the administrative city and Yangon as the commercial city.

Myanmar has a large working-age population, accounting for 66.9 per cent of the total population. Since 2001, Russia has provided education and training to more than 7,000 Myanmar students in fields such as politics, economics, technology and management.

With a hot and humid monsoon climate, Myanmar has favourable conditions for year-round agriculture and livestock farming. The government is promoting modern agricultural and livestock-based production, MSMEs and other economic sectors. Myanmar also has abundant mineral resources, including copper, gold, silver and coal, providing opportunities for value-added mineral processing as well as coal-based power and fertilizer production.

For the infrastructure sector, the President added that the government is working to attract greater domestic and foreign

investment by creating a clearer, more stable and transparent business environment, streamlining procedures and providing appropriate policy support. It is particularly encouraging quality and responsible investments while emphasizing maintaining a sustainable ecosystem and a balanced economy. The government will provide necessary support to the extent possible and is undertaking economic reforms to improve the country's business and investment environment. For example, tariff rates have been reduced for investments related to electric vehicles (EVs) and associated industries. The country is also accelerating digital transformation to make processes easier and faster and is developing the Myanmar Digital Roadmap 2030.

The President also highlighted the market potential, saying Myanmar has a strong domestic market and access to the major international markets of China, India and ASEAN countries, not only through land routes but also through ports along the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Mottama. Myanmar is also a strategically locat-

ed land transportation hub, or "choke point," facing the Indian Ocean. With India having a population of 1.47 billion, China 1.41 billion and ASEAN member states more than 660 million, Myanmar serves as a bridge between the Southeast Asian and Asian markets. A 4,000-kilometre-radius circle centred on Nay Pyi Taw would encompass an area containing about four billion people, or half of the world's population.

Myanmar is located at the centre of major regional connectivity routes, including the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, the ASEAN Highway Network, the East-West Economic Corridor and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. Given its strategic geographic position, Myanmar is a member of ASEAN, the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation framework and BIMSTEC, and is also a dialogue partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Myanmar's participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), one of the world's largest free trade agreements, also provides opportunities to expand trade links with countries such as China,

Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Myanmar offers a wide range of investment opportunities due to its fertile agricultural land, abundant natural resources, and freshwater and marine resources. Russian investors are encouraged to invest in agriculture, livestock, agricultural machinery, seed technology, research, value-added food and fishery processing, manufacturing, technology-based industries, cold storage and logistics. Energy is another key area for Myanmar-Russia cooperation, with opportunities in oil and gas, petroleum refining, fertilizer production and natural gas exploration. Myanmar has more than 1,000 rivers, including four main rivers such as Ayeyawady, Thanlwin, Chindwin and Sittoung, and streams and significant hydropower potential, estimated at 100 GW, with 40-50 GW considered commercial production.

The country also has strong potential for solar energy with a 51973.8 TWh per year production rate, particularly in the central dry zones such as Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing. Tourism offers further opportunities, with Myanmar's natural beauty, cultural heritage and unique destinations attracting Russian and international visitors and creating potential for investment in tourism-related services.

He continued that the country has many tourist attractions, including the Maravijaya Buddha Image and surrounding stone stupas in Nay Pyi Taw, the renowned Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Kanbawzathadi Palace in Bago, and Mandalay Palace. The country also boasts famous beaches such as Ngapali, Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung, with November to February being the best time to visit

due to the pleasant weather. Ancient cultural sites such as Sri Ksetra, Hanlin, Beikthano, Bagan and Inwa, dating from the 4th to 9th centuries AD, offer rich historical heritage, unique cultural traditions and scenic landscapes, providing attractive opportunities for visitors.

Regarding entry arrangements, the reciprocal visa exemption for diplomatic and special/service passport holders of Myanmar and Russia, allowing stays of up to 90 days, came into effect on 27 January 2026. Ordinary tourists are also eligible for a 30-day visa exemption, except for those entering for employment, study or permanent residence.

He added that the global economy is undergoing rapid digital transformation, and investment in digital technology is an investment in Myanmar's future economic competitiveness. In the ICT sector, Myanmar's first and largest ICT hub, the Yadanapon Cyber City project, has been established near PyinOoLwin in central Myanmar.

PyinOoLwin is well known as a hill resort city with a pleasant climate and beautiful surroundings. It is also located near Mandalay, an important economic centre, and is accessible year-round by road. An international-standard airport capable of handling jet aircraft has also been established, facilitating domestic and international travel.

Yadanapon Cyber City already hosts a major internet and telecommunications hub developed by Yadanapon Teleport. The project covers about 4,047 hectares and includes office facilities for IT startups and software companies, business incubation centres, technology universities and training institutions.

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A High-Tech Zone has also been designated for environmentally friendly technology- and service-based manufacturing. Russian investors interested in digital transformation of government services, communications technology, artificial intelligence (AI), digital payment systems and innovation-driven business development are invited to invest in these sectors. Russian investors can establish not only industrial zones and special economic zones but also integrated agricultural zones and industrial projects in Myanmar.

Myanmar has three special economic zones: Thilawa, Dawei and Kyaukpyu. Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon Region is currently the most successful and, with access to maritime routes, is well suited for export-oriented and manufacturing businesses.

The Dawei Special Economic Zone, which is being jointly implemented by Myanmar and Russia, is expected to become strategically important in the future, and Russian investors are invited to participate in investment opportunities there.

The Dawei Deep Sea

Port and Special Economic Zone Development Project, LNG terminals, oil refineries, power plants and natural-gas-based infrastructure upgrade projects are strategic projects for bilateral cooperation. Myanmar also welcomes responsible investments in the modern exploration and development of its mineral and natural resources, including value-added processing, while emphasizing the development of local workers' skills and environmental protection. Such Myanmar-Russia joint ventures can help develop domestic supply chains and create opportunities to increase exports to regional and international markets.

For facilitation the financial flows, Myanmar's seven state-owned banks and 25 private banks are maintaining connections with international banks and financial institutions for domestic and international financial transactions.

Direct cooperation between businesses is also underway to facilitate banking and payment systems between Myanmar and Russia. Russia's Mir Card payment system has already been directly connected to Myanmar's Myanmar Payment Union

(MPU) network through a Host-to-Host connection.

Therefore, Russian tourists and businesspeople can use Mir Cards in Myanmar to withdraw cash from banks and ATMs and make convenient payments at stores and hotels. Direct kyat-ruble payment arrangements can also now be used to facilitate bilateral trade and reduce transaction costs for businesses. This system is expected to further strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries.

Efforts are also underway to establish Myanmar-Russia trade offices to further promote bilateral economic cooperation and trade. Myanmar is not only seeking to increase bilateral trade with Russia but is also emphasizing cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Developing new markets for agricultural, fisheries, garment and manufacturing products can create greater opportunities for Myanmar products to enter the Eurasian market.

Moreover, the Myanmar-Russia Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Investments entered into force on 11 April 2026, while a memorandum of understanding on economic and investment cooperation between the

two countries was signed on 4 June 2026. Similarly, Myanmar is also protecting domestic products and investments in accordance with four intellectual property laws.

He added that Myanmar underscores the importance of technology transfer, creating quality employment opportunities and developing domestic industries when inviting foreign investment. At the same time, investors' interests will be protected in accordance with relevant policies.

Myanmar has a large workforce and more than 33 million acres of agricultural land, along with fertile soil and a favourable climate, making it well suited for agriculture and livestock farming. Its long coastline also provides strong potential for freshwater and marine aquaculture, with opportunities to export products to regional and neighbouring markets.

The country is also rich in oil, natural gas and mineral resources, while Russia has advanced agricultural technologies and expertise in mining, renewable energy and other technology sectors. Therefore, combining Myanmar's abundant resources and strategic location with Russia's technology and

experience offers strong potential for long-term, sustainable and mutually beneficial economic development between the two countries.

In conclusion, he stated Myanmar would continue to cooperate with Russia as a reliable strategic economic partner on the path towards long-term development. He expressed his desire for the two countries to jointly build "a partnership based on trust, development driven by technology, and a mutually beneficial future". Myanmar invites Russian businesspeople, investors and technology companies to invest in Myanmar and work together as long-term development partners. He continued that as bilateral relations continue deepening, the two countries will be able to jointly achieve sustainable, strong and mutually beneficial economic development.

After the session of delivering a speech, Rector Mr Lobanov Ivan Vasilyevich presented President U Min Aung Hlaing with the G V Plekhanov Russian University of Economics Medal of Merit.

The President and attendees then posed for a documentary group photograph.

At the university's Situation Centre, the officials gave presentations to the President and delegation on economic development and changes in Russia, including population and GDP data, foreign investment, financial information and foreign exchange rates, as well as market trends.

They also explained the university's information analysis and research activities, including estimates of Myanmar's population, geographic conditions and regional income and expenditure based on data from Myanmar, direct regional monitoring of maritime activities and components of the university's low-orbit satellites, research on science and technology development and education, and assessments of developments in IT technology across universities.

The President asked questions and held discussions on matters of interest following the presentations. He then presented commemorative gifts to the Rector.

The President departed from G V Plekhanov Russian University of Economics and was warmly seen off by the rector and faculty members. — MNA/KTZH

President U Min Aung Hlaing receives Roscosmos State Corporation General ...

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and training of astronauts from Myanmar; the implementation of the international satellite-based protection/rescue system (COSPAS-SARSAT), the satellite navigation system measuring station (One Way Station), the automated warning system for hazardous situa-

tions in near-Earth space (ASPOS), and the Rassvet low-orbit communication satellite system in Myanmar; the construction and launch of nano-satellites, and plans to continue enhancing space sector cooperation between the two countries, not only for the development of Myanmar's space technology

and human resources but also for its overall multi-sectoral development.

After the meeting, the President and the General Director of the Roscosmos State Corporation exchanged commemorative gifts.

Also present at the meeting were Union ministers who accompanied

the President, the Chief Executive Officer of the Myanmar Space Agency, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation and officials. The Russian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials accompanied the General Director of the Roscosmos State Corporation. — MNA/TTA

Damaged govt buildings in Chin State under repair

GOVERNMENT office buildings partially damaged by armed violence in Chin State are being repaired with funds from the National Disaster Management Fund under the supervision of the Chin State Recovery and Reconstruction Committee.

Deputy Minister

for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo inspected repair works at Basic Education Primary School No 2, the Falam District Development Supervision Office, staff housing and electricity facilities in Falam yesterday.

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NATIONAL

President Meets Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office Families in Moscow

PRESIDENT U Min Aung Hlaing, who is on an official visit to Moscow, met with families of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office in the Russian Federation at the Myanmar Embassy in Moscow at 5 pm local time yesterday.

The President was warmly welcomed by embassy and military attaché office personnel and their families upon arrival. During the meeting, he spoke about Myanmar-Russia relations, national development, education and human-resource development, and the responsibilities of Myanmar representatives and trainees serving abroad.

He said Myanmar and Russia had maintained continuous relations since establishing diplomatic ties after Myanmar gained independence, noting that Russia had provided assistance to Myanmar over



President U Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the meeting with family members of the embassy and military attaché office at the Myanmar Embassy in Moscow yesterday.

successive periods.

The President said political instability over successive periods had been a weakness for Myanmar and that the country should learn lessons from years of limited development. He said he had sought to contribute to the country's development throughout his

military career and was continuing to work toward national development as President.

He also said efforts were being made to provide ethnic communities with democratic and federal rights while promoting domestic stability and peace. He emphasized the importance of developing

educated human resources, improving citizens' educational standards, sending scholars abroad, and strengthening international and workplace relations.

Addressing diplomats and military trainees in Russia, he urged them to study diligently, perform their duties with a

commitment to national development, and contribute to the success of their respective organizations. He also encouraged trainees to learn about Myanmar's history and current affairs and share accurate knowledge about the country with international students.

He stressed the importance of maintaining national identity while abroad, including respect for the national flag and anthem. He also urged Myanmar nationals serving and studying in Russia to learn foreign languages, literature and modern computer technologies, as well as to read and apply knowledge gained from books.

The President said Myanmar-Russia cooperation had been expanding across various sectors, including trade, culture and education, and that the two countries would

continue to strengthen cooperation in additional areas. He encouraged Myanmar scholars studying in Russia to make effective use of the knowledge and skills they acquired for the benefit of the country.

He called on all embassy and military attaché families to live and work together in unity and harmony.

Following the meeting, the President presented food items and honorariums to the embassy and military attaché office families, which were received by Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Myo Moe Aung and the Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Moe Kyaw.

He then signed the guest book at the Myanmar Embassy in Russia and cordially greeted members of the embassy and military attaché office families before his departure. — MNA/ST

Defence Services C-in-C departs for 9th Thailand-Myanmar High-Level Committee Meeting

A Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo departed Nay Pyi Taw for Thailand yesterday to attend the 9th Thailand-Myanmar High-Level Committee Meeting.

The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Win, senior Tatmadaw officers, the Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials from the Thai Military Attaché's Office in Myanmar. The delegation also included General Ye Win Oo's wife, Daw Nilar, and senior military officers



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is seen off by General Kyaw Swa Lin at Nay Pyi Taw Airport on 19 August.

from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Upon arriving by special military aircraft at Wing 6 of the Royal Thai Air Force Base in Bangkok, the delegation was received by Deputy Chief of Defence Forces of the

Royal Thai Armed Forces Air Chief Marshal Seksun Chaiyamart and his wife, along with senior officers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces. Also present at the airport reception were Lt-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik, members of the Secretariat of the 9th Thailand-Myanmar

High-Level Committee Meeting, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Zaw Zaw Soe, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Win Thu Lin and other officials.

During the visit, General Ye Win Oo will attend the high-level meeting and hold bilateral talks with senior Thai military leaders on matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation.

In preparation for the high-level meeting, a secretariat delegation led by Lt-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) arrived in Thailand on 16 August to conduct preliminary coordination meetings. — MNA/TH

Damaged govt buildings in Chin State under repair



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo inspects repair works in Chin State yesterday.

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Officials also inspected repairs to staff housing and public buildings in Tiddim, including the Border Areas and National Races Youth Development Training School and a monastic education school. In Tonzang, officials inspected repairs to the Township Rural Development Office, a

cyclone shelter and the hospital.

Residents have been returning to Falam and surrounding villages since 6 May 2026, following the Tatmadaw's full control of the town. Education, healthcare and socioeconomic activities have resumed as reconstruction and rehabilitation continue. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing visits Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics in Moscow

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his delegation, currently on an official visit to the Russian Federation, visited the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics in Moscow at 4 pm local time yesterday.

Upon arrival, the President and his delegation were welcomed by museum officials. During the tour, museum officials guided the delegation through various exhibits, including full-scale replicas of the first Soviet satellite, Yuri Gagarin's spacecraft, and his biographical gallery, as well as spacesuits, historical space cameras, lunar



President U Min Aung Hlaing views around the Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics in Moscow yesterday.

landers, meteorites and miniature models of satellite launch stations. President U Min Aung Hlaing inquired about matters of interest, signed the guest book and exchanged commemorative gifts with the

museum director. Opened on 10 April 1981 to commemorate achievements in human space exploration, the museum is situated at the base of the 107-metre-tall "Monument to the Conquerors of Space" near VDNKh Metro Station. It houses more than 85,000 artefacts documenting the history of Soviet and Russian space exploration. In the evening, the President and his delegation took a river cruise along the Moscow River to observe Moscow's urban planning, riverbank conservation, and green-zone management. — MNA/TH

Myanmar and Russia discuss exploring business opportunities

THE Myanmar-Russia Business Forum 2026 convened yesterday at the GV Plekhanov Russian University of Economics in Moscow. Speaking at the forum, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Zaw Naing Oo emphasized that the Dawei Deep Sea Port project, being developed in cooperation with Russia, offers a strategic alternative for global maritime commerce. Highlighting its geographical advantages, he noted that direct access to the Andaman Sea allows cargo vessels to bypass the Strait of Malacca, reducing transit

times by four to six days. The chief minister added that the port is directly connected to Thailand and Vietnam via the Southern Economic Corridor, enabling 24-hour transit between the Indian and Pacific oceans. He also highlighted the port's proximity to Myanmar's major offshore natural gas fields, located about 45 kilometres away. He assured investors that investments are protected under the country's investment laws and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) frameworks. Deputy Minister for National Planning, In-

vestment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thant Sin Lwin presented investment opportunities in Myanmar, while Director of the Roscongress Investment Fund Mr Shatirov Sergey Vladimirovich discussed matters of investment. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Min Min outlined Myanmar's trade opportunities, focusing on priority initiatives within SEZs. Following the presentations, attendees engaged in an interactive question-and-answer session and raised questions on topics of interest. — MNA/TH

RCRA, CVT sign MoU

TO implement bilateral cooperation for producing skilled workers, the Rotary Club of River Ayeyawady (RCRA) and the Centre for Vocational Training (CVT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 15 August at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon. The MoU was signed by U Han Lin Aung, President of RCRA, and Daw Khin Myat Sanda, Chief Executive Officer of CVT. It was countersigned by witnesses U Min Min Htun, President-Elect of RCRA, and Daw Thway Thway Maung, Director of CVT. According to the MoU, both organizations will implement cooperative initiatives aligned



A group photo session following the signing of the MoU between RCRA and CVT. with their respective focus areas. These efforts will include jointly executing mutual projects; sharing resources, expertise, and information; enhancing vocational education and job-ready skills; creating employment opportunities for youth; promoting basic education and life skills; undertaking public awareness; advancing environmental conservation and sustainable development; and fundraising and building partnerships for scholarships, apprenticeships, and community service projects. The CVT stated that this MoU has established a strong foundation for bilateral cooperation to train and produce skilled workers matching industry requirements. — MT/ZN

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title. 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.

Morality: essential for everyone in society

Morality means exercising restraint and discipline in one’s actions and speech. Everything one does talks and thinks should be honest and upright. One should refrain from actions, words and thoughts that may cause harm or disadvantage to others. Only then can one become a person of good moral character. As the wise men of old said, “The wealthy have material possessions as their capital, while the poor have good character as their capital.”

Just as the present is the foundation for the future, young people are the fundamental force for the well-being and progress of the next generation. Young students must grow into mature, responsible individuals with good moral character. To gain the right knowledge and understanding, they should read good and worthwhile books and follow the guidance and teachings of their parents and teachers. As the saying goes, “Knowledge is a treasure that cannot be stolen”; therefore, in this ever-changing and advancing age of knowledge, young people must constantly strive to acquire knowledge.

The benefits of being courteous and well-mannered are immense. When people treat one another with courtesy and good manners, they earn the respect and goodwill of others, and their communication and cooperation are more likely to succeed. Indeed, good moral character is a fundamental value in everyone’s life. Therefore, young people should cultivate good moral character and discipline themselves from their school years onward, making a conscious effort to develop and improve themselves.

From an early age, parents should teach children, whose hearts are still tender and impressionable, through stories and tales that promote courtesy and gentleness, helping them develop refined and compassionate hearts through appreciation of literature and storytelling. As children grow and begin their formal education after learning from their parents at home, teachers should continue to guide and educate them.

The benefits of being courteous and well-mannered are immense. When people treat one another with courtesy and good manners, they earn the respect and goodwill of others, and their communication and cooperation are more likely to succeed. Indeed, good moral character is a fundamental value in everyone’s life. Therefore, young people should cultivate good moral character and discipline themselves from their school years onward, making a conscious effort to develop and improve themselves.

The third kind here is not referring to Steven Spielberg’s human encounters with extraterrestrial life, but our own encounters with those who live below the decency of a second-class human being. We are here talking about smugglers and mules who fill up all the aircraft and the airport lounges. These mules are carrying huge quantities of hard-to-import consumer goods on every single flight, day or night, mainly from Bangkok (BKK), Singapore (SIN) and Kuala Lumpur (KUL) destinations.

Where it all begins...

As the government further tightens up on import controls, products with inelastic demand such as alcohol, cosmetics, mobile phones, etc., continue to have a steady flow of buyers willing to pay above the market prices within Myanmar. Since the end of 2024, operations had begun.

Things took a turn for the worse as the government continued its crackdown on them and border checkpoints remained closed. Those smuggling through the land routes also ended up paying tolls a hundred meters or so to anyone waving anything similar to a weapon while wearing something that resembles military dress. It no longer made economic sense.

Here comes the plane route; first, they bought the air cargo and imported millions worth of restricted goods via carriers without paying any kind of import taxes or duties. When the government and customs stepped in, these air cargo operations halted. But who can beat the ingenuity of a smuggler!

For a couple of hundred dollars, you can buy a return plane ticket to either BKK or SIN, carry 30 kilogrammes of goods in checked-in, plus roughly ten as hand carry. Once you ‘hook up’ with the airport customs, you can absolutely carry 40 kilogrammes of whatever stuff you fancy. It simply makes more economic sense. We have not even considered the free flights, mileage accumulation and having the perks as the most valuable customers of an airline. What can go wrong!

What can go wrong!

Passengers have eyes...

Travellers first began to notice the late arrivals of their bags. The first on the carousel are extra-large boxes. For a small airport like RGN, it took uncharacteristically long to get

your luggage. The second thing you noticed was certain passengers being out of profiles of typical travellers; dressed shabbily in household attire, a man and woman travelling together but not as friends or couples, showing off behaviours that turned off fellow bona fide travellers. The latter refer to such abhorrent actions as scratching every part of your body and smelling them, putting up smelly legs on the seats, carrying hand-carry bags so large that they can even put themselves in and finally, racing to be number one at the boarding gate so that they will have empty luggage compartments all to themselves first. That is what being an experienced traveller is all about!

Finally, when we see them mingling with the airport police and customs officials upon arrival at RGN, we know something fishy is going on. Sometimes they even got picked up at the aero bridge exit. What a VIP treatment for these smugglers! Some observant foreigners even saw them giving money to officials (with photos to prove). And it ain’t stopping any time soon.

Their checked-in baggage disappeared into thin air, i.e., handled and collected even before landing onto the conveyor belts, causing the business class passengers to wait longer than usual as the smugglers’ bags have to be separated from the same lot. An excellent return for paying a lot more to fly business!

Sometimes, the luggage of legitimate travellers is left behind at the departing airports due to excess weight of the plane. When they collect the item three days later at the airport, half of the foodstuffs inside have already gone rotten. Who is responsible? Airlines are not accepting any responsibility. Neither are the smugglers!

Smugglers about to get into PPS Solitaire

With the same people flying day in day out, especially in business class, a heck load of smugglers is becoming PPS (Priority Passenger Service) members of Singapore Airlines (SQ), or Diamond members of MAI. In no time, they will get into PPS Sol-



itaire Club, the highest possible status, often referred to as the “black card” of Singapore Airlines.

And these achievements come with rewards. PPS members are entitled to 100 per cent extra luggage allowance. Now you can imagine how 50-60 kg of normal business class luggage allowance suddenly balloons into 100-plus kilogrammes. And all the smugglers either use that or, if not eligible yet, buy that. Plus, with every customer being allowed to purchase up to 100kg of excess baggage, each smuggler is now carrying up to 200kg of goods that are going to be imported into the country illegally.

To add salt to the wound for business flyers and other priority customers, when the airline calls up PPS members to board together with them, 50 of them lined up with them, carrying full-sized hand-carry suitcases, getting ready to ‘chop up’ whatever overhead cabin space is available.

Modus Operandi

Initially, the smuggling focus only on the inbound flights. Now outbound flights are also fully loaded, carrying foodstuffs and accessories for the Myanmar diaspora working overseas. E.g., for most of the local produce such as Laphet, go to shops at Peninsula Plaza in Singapore. Obviously, having outbound cargo contributes more dollars to an already

Close Encounters with a Third Kind

By U AC

the SIN-YGN-SIN route. MAI is also riding this cash cow. YGN-BKK-YGN flights totalled close to eight per day, even flying at hours unheard of in the history of the airline.

Consequences

These smugglers are not only earning money illegally for themselves, but also benefiting at the expense of other travellers. Fares went up. Bona fide travellers got displaced. Inbound tourism to Myanmar would eventually suffer as visitors cannot book flights or tickets get very expensive comparatively. They inconvenienced all other passengers by having the plane with their smuggled goods, up to the brim, leaving no room for others. For those real travellers lucky enough to be able to push their hand carries into overhead compartments of the plane, the suffering did not end there. You would end up waiting longer at the YGN for your checked-in luggage to come out, while corrupt officials give priority to the smugglers.

Business class travellers even got the raw end of the deal. There is no delicate way to say this, but you ended up sitting next to people who you do not really want to sit with. Sharing your aisle, toilet or even the air that you breathe, while knowing that they are in to smuggle, must be quite an unpleasant experience, to say the least. Business flyers pay extra for everything. This includes paying for the benefit of being in the same section with people of the same stature and flocking together with birds of the same feather. No one would be yearning for this type of premium experience of smugglers and their mules.

Furthermore, the smugglers there are using passenger flights for commercial business imports, which should seriously be subjected to tax and other restrictions. The government loses millions in revenue, and people who fly with them suffer. The smugglers simply do not care.

Plane safety issue

Smugglers are endangering

the safety of the aeroplanes too. The planes fly on the assumption that not everyone is going to be carrying the full 20 or 40 kilogrammes (economy/business) of their checked-in baggage or 7/14 kilogrammes of their hand carries. Some may carry close to their entitlements, and some carry far less. If everyone is carrying up to their maximum, how could the plan accommodate such weight?

Government losing out millions

The whole affair is giving Myanmar a very bad reputation. The operations have gone wider now, with flights to China, especially Guangzhou, being subjected to the same unethical ploys. MAI flights to KUL are also fully booked by smugglers now, pushing the ticket prices to the stratosphere. People may mistakenly attribute the price increases to war against Iran or MAI showing off its monopoly status, yet the blame belongs squarely to the smuggling gang.

The international community

would doubt if Nay Pyi Taw is in full control. Not being in control of borders is one thing, but this is the major international entry point that we are talking about here. All may be good and well in the capital, but this smuggling has become a joke among foreigners. Furthermore, these smugglers are not only bringing in the goods. They are bringing in foreign currencies from other countries without border controls.

Myanmar government is tightening up imports on legitimate goods and much-needed raw materials for our factories, but these smugglers are making a mockery of the government, its intentions and systems in place. They circumvent all rules and enforcement actions through bribery of lowly-paid officials at the airport and taking advantage of the airlines, fellow passengers and priority travellers. This is entrepreneurship at its worst. Just solely for their own benefits without a care for anyone or anybody in this world. Playing fair does not apply to these smugglers. There is only one solution to get rid of this problem: catch them quickly and sentence them to a serious jail term with hard labour. The runt of society deserves nothing less.

Russia to train Myanmar’s first cosmonaut: Roscosmos

RUSSIAN specialists will select and train Myanmar’s first national cosmonaut, Russian state space corporation Roscosmos said on Wednesday.

“Roscosmos will conduct the initial selection and training of Myanmar cosmonauts according to Russian standards,” the statement read.

On Tuesday, a ceremony to exchange documents took place following talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing.

Roscosmos head Dmitry Bakanov and Myanmar Space Agency head Soe Myint Maung signed a memorandum formalizing cooperation in satellite navigation, manned

spaceflight, the Cospas-Sarsat search and rescue system, as well as work on a warning system for dangerous situations in near-Earth outer space.

“Representatives of the Myanmar side and representatives of Roscosmos enterprises later signed contracts to implement the terms of the memorandum at the National Space Centre named after Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space,” the statement read. The signed contracts provide for training and medical examinations for Myanmar cosmonauts, as well as the establishment of a national Cospas-Sarsat search and rescue system on Myanmar’s territory. — SPUTNIK

NATIONAL

Standpipes deployed to reinforce eroded Ngawun embankment



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint inspects the deployment of standpipes to prevent erosion along the Ngawun embankment.

RIVERBANK erosion along the Ngawun River in Laymyethna Township caused a breach beneath the Ngawun embankment, resulting in its subsidence and river water overflowing into the area. To reinforce the damaged section, 10 steel standpipes were transported from Yangon by tugboat and barge, and they arrived at the jetty in Laymyethna yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint inspected the standpipes and the ongoing

reinforcement works. A 12-metre-long standpipe was being driven into the ground with a vibro-hammer to reinforce existing steel sheet piles against the river current, while sandbags were being placed inside the standpipe.

The deputy minister instructed officials to prioritize workplace safety, keep the necessary equipment ready, continue driving standpipes in line with the river current, and complete the works as quickly as possible. — MNA/MKKS

Singaing’s production road construction inspected

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kyaukse District, Singaing Township Rural Development Department, Mandalay Region, conducted a field inspection yesterday to inspect the construction of the production road in Ywathit Village with the regional funds allocated in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tun Naing, District Head Daw Yi Yi Oo from the Kyaukse District Rural Development Department, Township Head of the Singaing Township Rural Development Department Daw Hnin Ei Phy, and



Officials oversee the construction of the production road in Singaing Township.

officials from the District/Township Engineers Company inspected the construction of the Ywathit Village Production Road, which is one mile and one-tenth of a mile long, 12 feet wide, two feet deep, and

and guidelines.

The construction of the production road began in the third week of June by the successful tender company with a regional grant of K108.673 million in the 2026-2027 financial year. Currently, 40 per cent of the work has been completed. When the production road is 100 per cent completed, farmers from Ywa Thit Village will be able to transport their agricultural products to the market at a low cost, said Daw Hnin Ei Phy, Township Director of the Singaing Township Rural Development Department. — Aung Ye Kyaw (DRD)

Loilem’s MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Loilem Township, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Nawngline Village, Loilem Township Shan State (South) yesterday.

Loilem Township Department of Rural Development Staff Officer Daw May Poe Oo first explained the project objectives, its aim to increase family incomes, enabling residents to expand small-scale agricultural, livestock breeding and livelihood businesses, and carrying out village development activities using increased revolving funds. Project officials and staff then detailed interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to

be followed, and transferred K38 million in revolving funds to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Working Committee of Nawngline Village.

Nawngline Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K38 million from the MSY Village Project. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the village project working committee disbursed revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 54 project members from the village, including one person engaged in agriculture receiving K500,000, 35 in livestock breeding receiving K23 million, five in production businesses receiving K3.3 million, and 13 in trading businesses receiving K11.2 million. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



A village representative receives the MSY village project loan in Loilem Township.

Nawngkhio opens vocational carpentry course

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Nawngkhio Township, Kyaukse District, Shan State (North), held the opening ceremony of a free vocational carpentry training course for the 2026-2027 financial year at the

township department office yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Myint Naing delivered opening remarks. Kyaukse District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nan Phyu Phyu Aung then emphasized the importance of selecting vocational skills



The opening ceremony for the vocational carpentry training course is underway in Nawngkhio Township.

suitable for local conditions and applying the acquired knowledge to create employment opportunities. Course instructors detailed the carpentry skills and techniques to be taught before officials distributed necessary training materials to the participants.

The opening ceremony was attended by Hluttaw representatives, district

and township departmental officials, village-tract administrators and 20 trainees from Nawngaw Village. During the 15-day free course, skilled instructors will provide theoretical and practical training in carpentry techniques to help create employment opportunities for rural residents. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

NATIONAL

24M+ meth tablets worth K36B seized in multi-region bust

MYANMAR security forces have dismantled a major cross-regional narcotics trafficking network, confiscating 24.15 million methamphetamine tablets with an estimated street value exceeding K36.225 billion. The coordinated operation spanned multiple townships across Magway Regions, Mandalay Region, and Yangon, resulting in numerous arrests and the impoundment of several transport vehicles.

The crackdown began on 12 August along the Thayet-Minhla roadway in Magway Region, where law enforcement officers intercepted two commercial trucks carrying an initial batch of 9.75 million pills. Follow-up investigations immediately led anti-drug units to Mandalay on 13 August, where key coordinators were apprehended in Mahaangmye, Pyigyidagun, and Chanmyathazi townships, alongside an additional arrest at the Bantbway toll gate in

Nawngkhio. A search of two residential compounds in Pyigyidagun Township uncovered another 14.4 million pills concealed across four vehicles. Subsequent operations on 14 and 15 August secured the arrests of regional distributors along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

According to police findings, the syndicate sourced the narcotics from Wanhai in southern Shan State, intending to move the shipments through Mandalay and Mindon before delivering them to recipients in Rakhine State. In addition to prosecuting the detained suspects and tracking down remaining accomplices under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, authorities confirmed that Anti-Money Laundering legislation will be applied to trace financial flows and confiscate all associated assets and proceeds as state property. — MNA/ST



Images and insets reveal arrestees and seized drugs.

MNHRC inspects Mawlamyine Jail, Youth Training Centre, Thaton Jail, Police Lock-ups, and Court Lock-ups

AN inspection team led by Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), U Than Win, U Ohn Khine, Dr Swe Swe Aung conducted an inspection visit to the Mawlamyine Jail, Mawlamyine Youth Training Centre, Police Lock-ups and Court Lock-ups in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State, on 17 August 2026 and visit to Thaton Prison and Thaton Myoma Police Lock-ups on 18 August 2026 under Section 43 and 44 of the Commission's Law.

During the inspection of Mawlamyine Jail and Thaton prison, the team met prisoners in the dormitories and enquired about the fundamental rights entitled to prisoners are enjoyable or not, including the matters relating to an adequate food supply, access to health-care services, the availability of sufficient purified drinking water and water for domestic use, the situation of allowing family visits, the receipt of items issued by the prison and those sent by family members, the provisions of physical exercise and sport activities, which include formal education and basic literacy education covering for



The MNHRC team is pictured during its inspection tour in Mon State.

read and write, vocational training. In addition, the team enquired whether there were instances of human rights violations or torture by prison officials and fellow inmates, and the right to practice religion in accordance with their faith. Moreover, the team conducted private and confidential interviews with prisoners who requested to meet separately, and recorded their statements. The Commission donated knowledgeable books for prisoners to read and study through prison authorities.

Following the interviews, the inspection team conducted a physical tour to inspect various facilities, including the dormitories, the medical clinic, the library, the kitchen, the food ware-

house, water purifiers, utility reservoirs, and the sanitation of both internal and external sewage systems.

During the inspection visits to the Mawlamyine Youth Training Centre, the MNHRC inspection team examined the institutional measures implemented to provide psychosocial rehabilitation and vocational training for children and young persons under care, aiming to alleviate psychological trauma, social stigma, and loss of self-confidence, the access to health-care services, provision of food, access to clean drinking water, dormitory arrangements, and the accessibility of National Scrutiny Cards, mental. Furthermore, the team observed rehabilitation

efforts aimed at fostering the youths' mental and physical development through behavioural reformation to ensure their successful reintegration into society, as well as access to education and vocational training, the right to contact and reintegration with their family members, and the right to freedom of religion.

During the inspection of the Police Lock-ups and Court Lock-ups, the inspection team interviewed detainees and examined facility conditions. The team inspected the status of detainees during the remand period, whether any torture or ill-treatment occurred while in custody or during investigation, opportunities to meet with family members, arrangements for food and accommodations, the disposal of sewage and overall cleanliness of the facilities, the ventilation system, as well as access to meet with family members and defence lawyers during the court appearances.

The inspection team will send its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission's law. — MNHRC

Thayet's MSY village project activities inspected

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday of the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project activities in Laytaingsin Village, Htonetaung Village-Tract, Thayet Township, Thayet District, Magway Region, under the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development. The pro-

ject aims to enable rural people to engage in small-scale businesses and gain access to financial capital at low interest rates.

During the field inspection, Daw Ngu Wah Htwe, Acting Head of the Department of Rural Development of Thayet District; U Yu Naing Lin, Head of the Department of Rural Development of

Thayet Township; and project responsible staff inspected the implementation status of the MSY Village Project activities in Laytaingsin Village, as well as whether the monthly financial records and forms required to be completed were properly maintained. The acting district head then met members of the village project working commit-

tee and discussed and gave necessary instructions.

In Laytaingsin Village, under the MSY Village Project, loans from the revolving fund have been provided to a total of 162 members, including K3.1 million to 10 people engaged in livestock breeding, K28.3 million to 101 people engaged in trading businesses, K4



Officials oversee the Emerald Green village project activities in Thayet Township.

million to 14 people engaged in livelihood businesses, and K10.8 million

to 37 people engaged in fisheries, totalling K46.2 million. — Set Lu

NATIONAL

6th gem and jewellery training set for Sept

THE Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association will offer gem and jewellery training (Batch 6) free of charge in September at the Gem and Jewellery Training School in Nay Pyi Taw.

Citizens aged 18 to 30 who have completed at least middle school, are in good health and of good moral character, and can attend the full training period are eligible to participate in the training.

Applicants must fill out the school's CV form and submit it in person, by post, or via email to gemtrainingskp3@gmail.com or Viber at 09 764433418 by 30 August. The course runs for five months, followed by two months of on-the-job training



Gem traders review the gem stones auctioned at the previous expo.

(OJT), with participants choosing one of four specializations: jade (jadeite), gemstones, stone carving and Jewellery making.

Out-of-town trainees will be provided with accommodation. As the number of train-

ees is limited, selection will be based on application order and an interview.

Individuals can enquire for further details through the school's Facebook page or by dialling 09 764433418. — NN/KK

Rubber growers urged to pay land rent by 30 Sept



Rubber products from Myanmar.

THE Thaton Township Forest Department notified private rubber growers operating inside forest reserve areas in Thaton and Paung townships to pay outstanding land rental fees for the 2026-2027 financial year by the end of September.

The notice applies to authorized private growers in the Hpapein, Danu,

and Kalamataung reserve areas in Thaton Township and the Kalamataung and Mottama reserve areas in Paung Township.

Late payments beyond the financial year will incur penalties. Growers are urged to settle their dues promptly at the Thaton Township Forest Department, the department warned. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 19 August 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,660.00~3668.00	557.00~557.70	125.30~125.50	43.60
Trading amount in the market	6,872, 812.45	3,440,334.51	29,203,678.38	-

THE foreign currency volume traded in the market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, car/motorcycle spare parts, construction materials, fertilizers, and electronic equipment. The revenue from the CMP sector was sold to the edible oil sector and the CMP sector. — MNA

Tenders called for construction materials in 3 Shan townships

THE Ministry of Construction's Building Department invited open tenders for the supply of various construction materials and equipment for projects in Taunggyi, Kalaw, and Lashio Townships, according to the department's Special Team 11.

The procurement will be funded under the Union Capital Fund of the 2026-2027 Financial Year. This is the third round of tendering, with bids to be submitted in Kyat.

Tender forms are available at the office of the Assistant Director (Civil), Special Building Team 11 in Taunggyi, southern Shan State. The submission deadline is 31 August, and bids will be opened on 2 September at the Director (Civil) Office, Road Department, Taunggyi.

Individuals can enquire about details via 09 420161547, 09 781846264, or 09 256488499. — NN/KK

Open tenders invited for sale of 200 tonnes of seized antimony ore

THE Kayah State government has invited open tenders for the sale of approximately 200 tonnes of low-grade antimony ore (average Sb content: 10.89 per cent) that was seized as public property, according to the Tender Committee in Loikaw State.

The ore was confiscated by a joint inspection team from a residential compound in Kone Thar Village, Loikaw Township. The court case has been concluded; the seized items will be removed through a competitive

bidding process.

Tender forms have been available at the Kayah State Mines Department. Bids must be submitted by 4 pm on 25 August.

Bid opening will take place at 10 am on 28 August at the Kayah State Minister's Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Individuals can enquire about details through the Mines Department at 09 250966732 or 09 699908372. — NN/KK

MMPO invites tenders for contractors for bridge, office building at Thanlyin Film Village

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) has invited construction contractors to bid for the construction of a small bridge and an office building at the Thanlyin Film Village, according to the Tender Evaluation Committee.

The project site is located in Sitpinkwin village-tract, along the Thanlyin-Khayan road in Thanlyin Township. The work includes one 32 by 25 feet RCC bridge with a 30-tonne load capacity, including an approach road, a 25 by 100 feet

concrete access road from the main road to the compound gate, a one-storey building 20 by 50feet with fully fitted rooms, plumbing, electrical, and painting works and one artesian well.

Tender forms will be available at 10 am on 19 August at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, located at 16, Wingaba Street, Bahan Township, Yangon. The submission deadline is 4 pm on 4 September. Bids will be opened at 1 pm on 7 September at the same office. — NN/KK

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.

S Korea’s SK hynix unveils record \$28.9B share buyback

SOUTH Korean chip giant SK hynix said Wednesday it would buy back a record \$28.9 billion of its own shares as it looks to reassure investors as it is battered by growing worries about the AI investment boom.

The company, a key producer of advanced high-bandwidth memory (HBM) chips used to run artificial intelligence tools, has seen its shares soar this year as demand for the semiconductors surged.

But after hitting a peak in June it fell around 50 per cent through July

amid a flight from the sector fuelled by concerns that the vast sums pumped into it will not see returns as early as hoped, if at all.

While it has enjoyed a bounce this month, it fell 9.8 per cent on Wednesday as tech jitters returned and traders fretted over elevated inflation, surging government bond yields and rising oil prices.

After Wednesday’s close, the company said its board had approved the plan to buy 40 trillion won worth of shares to boost shareholder returns. — AFP

Trump pauses duties on Canada

US President Donald Trump paused the planned rollout of punishing new tariffs on Canadian goods late Tuesday, as both sides indicated they were close to a broader trade agreement after weeks of talks.

Trump announced the three-day reprieve from 50-per-cent duties on select goods just hours before a midnight deadline. The delay was “based on the fact that Canada and the USA, subject to the finalization of documents, have a DEAL!” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney was less definitive, saying “substantial progress has been made” towards a comprehensive trade deal, but “there is important work still to be done.” Ottawa and Washington have held intense negotiations on revising their existing deal, the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA), which Trump signed and praised during his first term but now says needs to change. — AFP

9 killed in Kolkata hotel fire incident

At least nine people were killed and several others injured after a fire broke out at a hotel on Mirza Ghalib Street in central Kolkata in the early hours of Wednesday, an official said.

According to fire department sources, the blaze broke out around 2 am.

As per sources, the deceased were Bangladeshi citizens who had arrived in Kolkata for medical treatment.

The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

The incident comes just two days after another hotel fire in West Bengal. On Monday, eight people died and several others were injured, allegedly due to a short circuit, at a hotel in Tarapith in Birbhum district, officials said. — ANI

China-Laos Railway cargo transport exceeds 90M tonnes

CHINA-LAOS Railway has handled over 90 million tonnes of cargo since the railway began operation, with cross-border cargo surpassing 21 million tonnes, said China Railway Kunming Group Co, Ltd on Tuesday.

As of Tuesday morning, the railway had operated more than 80,000 freight trains, including over 23,000 cross-border freight trains, the operator said.

An official with the Kunming Logistics Centre of China Railway Kunming Group said that the number of cross-border freight trains operated



A freight train is to enter the China-Laos Railway’s Friendship Tunnel connecting Mohan in southwest China’s Yunnan Province and Boten in northern Laos, 24 November 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

daily has risen to a peak of 23, while the maximum hauling capacity per train has increased from 2,000 tonnes to 2,800 tonnes. — Xinhua

Copper powers profit rise at BHP mining giant

AUSTRALIAN mining titan BHP reported Tuesday a solid rise in annual profit boosted by surging prices for copper -- a key metal for the global energy transition and AI data centres.

Net profit climbed 9 percent from a year earlier to US\$9.8 billion in the financial year to 30 June,

said the resources group, the world’s biggest miner by market value.

Revenue rose 14.6 per cent to US\$58.8 billion. BHP is the world biggest copper producer and plans to expand output of the red metal by about 40 per cent by 2035, the group said in a statement. — AFP



File photo shows machines at a mining site. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MOON LIHGT VOY.NO. (ML040)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIHGT VOY.NO. (ML040)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SITC ZHI VOY.NO. (2616S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHI VOY.NO. (2616S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **20-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

China launches Zhuque-3,
achieving its first rocket
recovery on land

The rocket touched down smoothly at the designated landing position onshore.

CHINA launched the reusable rocket Zhuque-3 on Wednesday morning, achieving its first recovery of a rocket's first stage on land.

The Zhuque-3 Y2 rocket blasted off at 7:35 am (Beijing Time) from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in northwest China.

The land-based recovery was completed as planned, with the rocket's first stage touching down smoothly at the designated position in the recovery site. The second stage sent the onboard Honghu-03 satellite into preset orbit. The flight mission was a complete success.

This mission followed the successful sea-based net recovery of the Long March-10B's first stage on July 10.



China successfully launches reusable rocket achieving land-based first stage recovery. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

It marked China's first successful land-based controlled recovery of a rocket's first stage using deployable landing legs, highlighting a major breakthrough in the

country's reusable rocket technology.

Zhuque-3, developed by Chinese commercial aerospace company LandSpace, is approved by the China National

Space Administration as a new-generation liquid oxygen-methane-powered rocket for low-cost, high-capacity and high-frequency launches. — Xinhua

Three EU nations see gas reserves
hit rock bottom

NATURAL gas reserves in underground storage facilities in Germany, the Netherlands, and Croatia



European underground gas storage facilities reach critical historic low capacity levels. **PHOTO: DANIEL TURBASA VIA SHUTTERSTOCK**

have tumbled to all-time seasonal nadirs, while four other European nations are reporting their lowest storage levels since the 2017-2018 winter, according to Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE) data reviewed by Sputnik on Wednesday.

As of the end of the August 16 gas day (which concluded on the morning of 17 August), Germany's storage facilities stood at 49.91 per cent capacity, while the Netherlands registered 41.81 per cent — the lowest levels since records began in 2011. Croatia's reserves, at

64.28 per cent, also hit a record low for the country since it joined the EU in July 2013.

France's gas reserves plummeted to 63.67 per cent, a rock-bottom figure not seen since 2017, while Belgium, Latvia, and Slovakia have all injected under 50 per cent — a record low for each since 2018.

In eight other EU countries — Spain, Sweden, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania, Austria and Italy — storage levels have bottomed out to levels unseen since 2021-2022.— SPUTNIK

Israelis fear election
sparked violence

WARNINGS are multiplying that violence could break out between rival political camps ahead of Israel's 27 October election, with powerful figures including top government ministers accused of incitement against opponents.

Israel was rocked in 2023 by mass protests against a judicial overhaul widely seen as an attempt to curb the courts' powers. Protests flared again after Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack, this time against

the government's conduct of the war in Gaza and the stalemate in hostage negotiations.

The fighting in Gaza has decreased in intensity and the hostages have returned home, but political tensions inside Israel have not subsided.

The offices of the government-critical Haaretz newspaper and Channel 12 News were vandalized in July, with the culprit leaving a note threatening next to aim a brick at journalists' heads. — AFP

India, Japan
expand clean ties

PUBLIC- and private-sector delegates from India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh and Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture met in the Indian capital on Wednesday to discuss ways to expand cooperation in clean energy, manufacturing and human resources development.

"What Yamanashi can offer is not equipment, but experience in producing hydrogen from renewable energy, storing it and using it at industrial sites," Yamanashi Gov. Kotaro Nagasaki told a Japan-India business forum in New Delhi. He led

a delegation of more than 200 businesspeople and officials from the central Japan prefecture.

Later this week, Yamanashi is due to sign cooperation documents covering green hydrogen, tourism and human resources development with the Uttar Pradesh government and a university in the state, Nagasaki said.

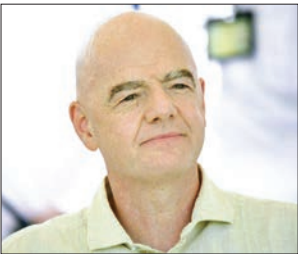
Uttar Pradesh, home to more than 240 million people, is a large market with expanding industries and an established hydrogen policy, Nagasaki said. — Kyodo



The facility showcased advanced clean technology, tied to bilateral agreements regarding green hydrogen and sustainable energy solutions for Uttar Pradesh. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/X**

SPORTS

Senior FIFA official
withdraws support from
embattled Infantino



'Football is joy,' embattled FIFA president Gianni Infantino told children in Cali, Colombia. PHOTO: AFP

ONE of FIFA's vice-presidents has withdrawn his support from the world football body's embattled president Gianni Infantino, saying the "unexpected dismissal" of critic Kevin Lamour was the "final straw".

Frenchman Lamour's position as chief operating officer had become untenable after he broke ranks with senior FIFA directors last month and issued a scathing statement criticising Infantino over his now-scrapped plan to allow private investment in World Cups.

In a letter seen by AFP on Wednesday, FIFA vice-president and council member Sandor Csanyi of Hungary said Infantino has "lost the confidence I previously placed in you".

"My conviction that you are capable of continuing to lead FIFA successfully and effectively in accordance with the shared values that previously formed the basis of our cooperation has been undermined," Csanyi, a billionaire businessman and banker and head of the Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ), said in the letter sent to Infantino on Tuesday.

The letter cited "a number of controversial decisions" around this year's World Cup, including information that Infantino had been working "on plans to outsource FIFA competitions and place them in the hands of external parties". — AFP

Artistes join Flood
Relief Fundraising
Football Match



A poster for the Flood Relief Fundraising Football Match.

ARTISTES from the film, theatre and music industries will take part in a charity football match to raise funds for flood victims.

The Flood Relief Fundraising Football Match will be held free of charge at

Thuwunna Stadium in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, at 3 pm on 24 August. Fans of film, theatre and music, as well as sports enthusiasts, can make donations to support flood victims while attending the match.

Theatrical performer Phoe Chit, who will take part in the match, said that artistes from the film, theatre and music industries would participate in this event.

He added that admission would be free and spectators could make donations for flood relief at the stadium. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV-4 and Pyone Play. — ASH/MKKS

Myanmar wins 3 golds at SEA
Regional Badminton Championships

MYANMAR youth national badminton team has won three team-event gold medals at the Badminton Asia South-East Asia Regional Championships 2026, which are being held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 18 to 21 August.

The Myanmar youth team secured gold medals in the U16, U19 and U23 team events. The U16 gold medal was won by Min Myat Moe, Kaung Myat Chan Tha, Thoon Nadi Phyo and Nang Sam



The Myanmar youth national badminton team celebrate following a three-gold-medal win.

Chan Thaw. Lin Htet and Nang Seng Hlaing Main, also claimed gold, while Phyo Thura Nadi Phyo and Nang Sam Hein Thiha Aung, Lin Kyaw, Lal Zuidika, Eaint

Chit Phoo and Su Latt secured gold in the U23 team event.

Officials and coaches from the Myanmar Badminton Federation, including Chairman U Aung Paing and the Secretary-General, are also attending the tournament alongside the athletes.

The Myanmar youth athletes will continue competing from 19 to 21 August in an effort to secure the overall championship trophies. — Bala/KZL

Myanmar FIFAE team eyes World Cup
berth at Asian Championship



This image displays a promotional poster for the FIFAE Continental Championship 2026.

THE Myanmar FIFAE Mobile team has qualified for the FIFAE Continental Championship Asia 2026 after finishing sixth in the consistency rankings at the FIFAE Nations League 2026.

The FIFAE Continental Championship Asia 2026 will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19 to 22 August. The tournament serves as an important Asian qualifier for the FIFAE World Cup 2026, which will be held in Saudi Arabia.

In the first stage, eight Asian teams will compete in a round-robin format. The teams finishing in the top six will advance to the

knockout stage. The top two teams will progress directly to the semi-finals, while those finishing third to sixth will begin in the quarterfinals.

Under the qualification slots allocated to Asia, the top three teams will qualify directly for the FIFAE World Cup 2026. The team finishing fourth will face New Zealand in a play-off for another World Cup place.

The Myanmar FIFAE Mobile team will therefore aim to achieve strong results in the round-robin stage and compete for a place at the FIFAE World Cup 2026. — TWA/KZL

Tijjani Reijnders joins Al Qadsiah in Saudi

DUTCH midfielder Tijjani Reijnders has arrived in Saudi Arabia after completing a move from Manchester City to Al Qadsiah on a contract running until 2031, a club official told AFP on Wednesday.

An AFP correspondent saw the Netherlands international enter the club's headquarters in the eastern city of Al Khobar on Tuesday.

Reports said Al Qadsiah paid around 61 mil-

lion euros (\$71 million) for the 28-year-old, who represented the Netherlands at the 2026 World Cup in North America.

Reijnders had been under contract with City until June 2030 after joining the Premier League club from AC Milan last year. He trained separately from the first-team squad last week before missing City's 3-0 defeat by Arsenal in the FA Community Shield.

— AFP



Tijjani Reijnders made 50 appearances for Manchester City under Pep Guardiola. PHOTO: AFP

China launches Zhuque-3,
achieving its first rocket
recovery on land
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WORLD

Ecuadoran diplomat enters race for UN chief

ECUADOR'S Ivonne A-Baki, a diplomat who represented Quito in the United States, has entered the race to lead the UN, the head of the General Assembly said in a letter Tuesday.

Nominated by Tonga, the former foreign trade minister joins a growing field of candidates for secretary-general of the international organization, which has been buffeted by global divisions and budget issues.

A-Baki, born to Lebanese parents, was instrumental in brokering dialogue between Ecuador and Peru following their brief 1995 border war.

Five women and three men are so far in the running to succeed Antonio Guterres of Portugal, who will complete his second five-year term on 31 December 2026. Nominations are still open, raising the prospect of further late entrants.

In its nomination, Tonga highlighted A-Baki's roles as a cabinet minister, the first woman ambassador from Ecuador to Washington and ambassador to Qatar. — AFP

Vietnam mandates roadside EV charging systems

THE Department for Roads of Vietnam under the Ministry of Construction has asked investors and operators of roadside rest areas to install and put into operation electric vehicle (EV) charging systems before 1 January 2027, local media VnEconomy reported Wednesday.

Local authorities and businesses were also asked to review implementation progress and submit reports by 25 August 2026.

Under the national technical regulation on roadside rest areas, at least 10 per cent of parking spaces at rest areas must be available for EV charging.

Given the growing adoption of EVs, the department encouraged investors and operators to assess actual demand and consider providing more charging spaces than the regulatory minimum, the report said. — Xinhua



Vietnam mandates installation of roadside electric vehicle charging systems nationwide soon. **PHOTO: ADB**

China leverages green power to fuel computing boom

Renewable green energy now accounts for most data centre power consumption.

AS the sun beats down on the edge of the Tengger Desert on a summer day, rows of photovoltaic panels stretch across the dunes, turning intense desert light into electricity.

Nearby, the steady hum of servers fills a data center run by telecom giant China Mobile in the city of Zhongwei, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. In May, one of the center's data facilities began receiving electricity directly from the solar power station, powering computing capacity for AI model training, inference and other applications.



This photo taken on April 10, 2026 shows a newly built data center in Zhongwei, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Green power now accounts for over 80 percent of the electricity consumed by the facility, according to Zhang Xu, a computing operation and maintenance engineer at China Mobile's Ningxia branch. The solar farm in renewable-energy-rich Ningxia is one of China's earliest projects to supply green power directly to data centers. The move comes as China seeks to bring its growing computing capacity closer to the renewable energy resources needed to power it. The 500-megawatt solar farm is only part of the equation.

About 40 kilometres south, a 1.5-gigawatt wind farm is under construction and is scheduled to be connected to the grid in September. The wind power will complement solar generation at night, helping supply data centers with green power around the clock. — Xinhua

British strikes on Russia mean war participation

RUSSIA has the right to view the UK's declared direct participation of its missile forces in strikes against Russia as direct participation in a war, with all the ensuing consequences, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated.

"The President warned of our right to act in any part of the world's oceans if anyone encroaches on our interests, on our property. We have the same right to view the proudly declared direct participation of British missile forces in strikes against the Russia as participation in a war, with all the ensuing consequences," Lavrov said.

Lavrov added that he "feels sorry for Britain if it stays with Ukraine to the very end."

Last Sunday, media reported that Ukraine had begun using British-made drones to launch strikes deep into Russian territory. — SPUTNIK

Seized UAE tanker heads to Iranian port

AN oil tanker belonging to the United Arab Emirates that had been seized by Iran a few days ago in the Strait of Hormuz is moving toward the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas, the semi-official Fars news agency reported on Wednesday.

The report said the tanker, which was seized in the northern corridor of the Strait of Hormuz, was initially supposed to sail towards the UAE's port city of Jebel Ali.

Iranian media reported Monday that the country had stopped an oil tanker belonging to a UAE firm in the waterway's northern route near Iran's southern Qeshm Island.

Under the arrangements Iran has established to manage traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, safe passage through the waterway requires using the route designated by Iran, paying service fees, and obtaining the country's permission. — Xinhua