Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.

2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.

3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.

4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

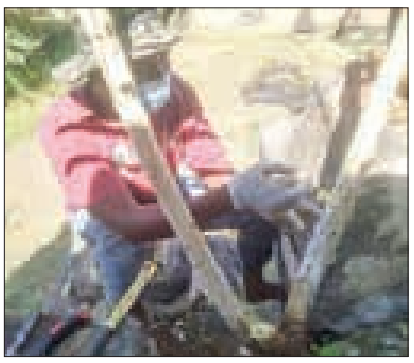
Article

India's Maritime Vision: from SAGAR to Indo-Pacific to MAHASAGAR

By Suchitra Durai
Former Ambassador of India to Thailand

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL PAGE 11



Over 290 weeds cleared from Bagan pagodas in 17 days

BUSINESS PAGE 12

MoALI urges mango growers to apply for land permits by 31 Aug

The Semi-folk Purulia Chhau Dance performance on stage on 13 August in Yangon.

Indian Purulia Chhau troupe hosts workshop in Yangon

The Indian Council of Cultural Relations' Semi-folk Purulia Chhau dance troupe, in collaboration with the National University of Culture and Arts (Yangon), held a workshop on 13 August at the university's Tharaphi Hall in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region.

The event saw Rector Dr Kathy Htwe of the National University of Culture and Arts (Yangon) and Director Ashish Kandhway of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, who both delivered opening remarks.

The programme included a joint performance of the Semi-folk Purulia Chhau Dance, along with a musical performance by Hindu classical singer and musician Ms Subhra Dutta, who sang the "Saraswati Vandana". Two dance performances: "Purulia Chhau Dance" and "Prahlad Dance" were also presented, depicting themes of bravery and divine protection.

After the performances, Indian artistes conducted practical training for attending students. Many participated actively in discussions and practice sessions as part of the workshop.

Attendees included the rector, pro-rectors, professors, heads of departments, lecturers, students, officials from the Embassy of India, and members of the Semi-folk Purulia Chhau dance troupe. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Neighbouring countries with a combined population of nearly four billion is a strong market for Myanmar

- Myanmar is surrounded by neighbouring countries with a combined population of nearly four billion—approximately 50 per cent of the world's population—therefore, there exists a strong and stable market for exporting goods produced by our country.
- It is necessary to make effective use of the resources available in our country and to strive to realize and maximize their original value and significance.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the opening of the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World held on 21 March 2025)

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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed

THE National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of U Kyaw Htway, Rector of the Civil Service Academy (Lower Myanmar) of the Union Civil Service Board, after the one-year probationary period.

Fuel prices drop; Measures taken for steady supply ahead of dry season

DOMESTIC fuel prices have dropped this week by K40 per litre for gasoline and K100-K120 per litre for diesel, making it easier for consumers to purchase without quantity limits, while advance arrangements have been made to ensure a continuous supply ahead of the upcoming dry season, according to a fuel industry source. — MNA/MKKS

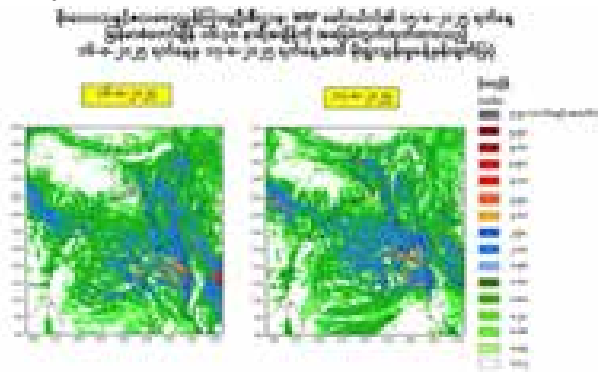
Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 15 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal, due to the clouds moving from the easterly, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan States with isolated heavy falls from this tonight to 17 August 2025. Squalls with rough seas are likely at time in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

Advisory

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



Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 15 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area has crossed to the (South Odisha - North Andhra Pradesh Coasts, India) moved west-northwestwards and reached to Inland over South Odisha and adjoining North Andhra Pradesh Coasts. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Friday 15 August 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 16 August 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Shan States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at time in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine 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 Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and southern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 August 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region and widespread in Yangon Region. — DMH

NATIONAL

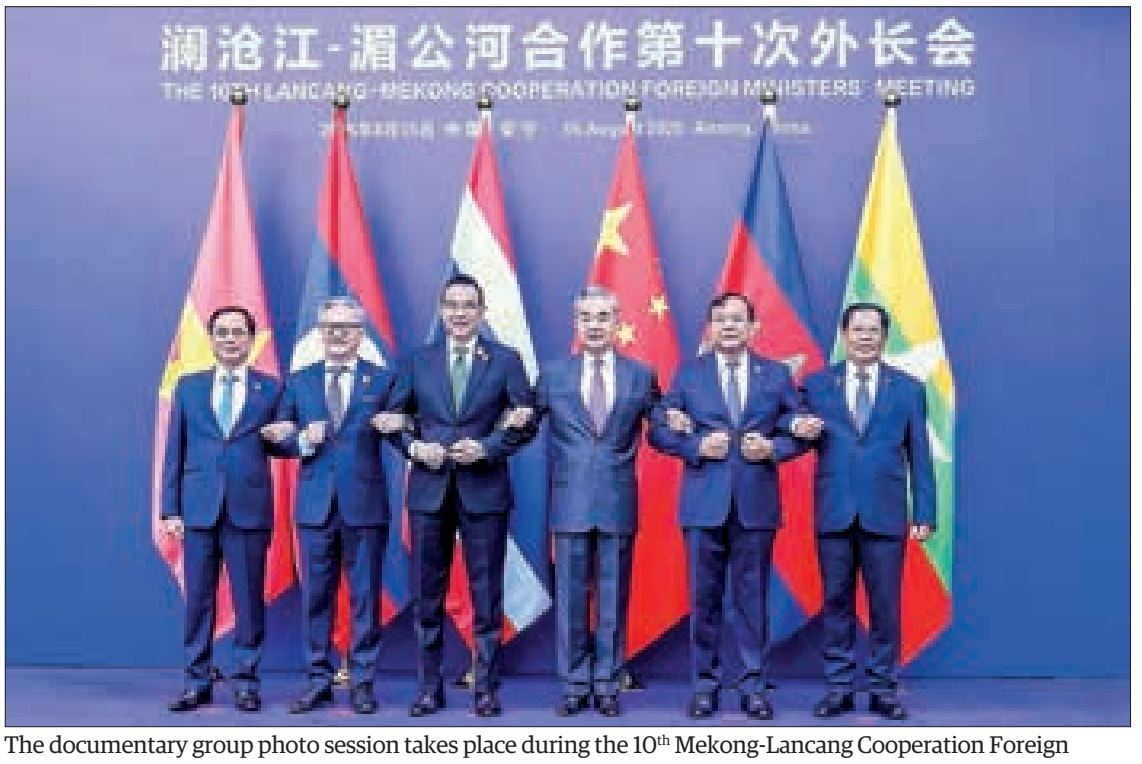
Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

MoFA Union Minister attends 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Anning, Yunnan Province, China

AT the official invitation of Mr Wang Yi, Member of Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Co-Chair of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (MLC), U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which was held on 15 August 2025 in Anning, Yunnan Province, China.



The documentary group photo session takes place during the 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 15 August 2025 in Anning, Yunnan Province, China.

The 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting was co-chaired by Mr Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China and Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and also attended by the Heads of Delegations of the MLC member countries, Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mr Bui Thanh Son, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held under the theme of "Golden Decade: Staying Committed to Building a Better Community through Solidarity". During the meeting, the Ministers cordially discussed and exchanged views on the progress and future direction of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs updated Myanmar's cooperation efforts in the MLC to the Heads of Delegations of MLC member countries. In his discussion, he also suggested enhancing cooperation in the areas of economic development, agriculture, energy security, combatting transnational crimes, water resource cooperation, climate change and disaster management and people-to-people exchanges for the future course of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation.

Then, the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs participated in the "China-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Thailand Discussion", which was held on the sidelines of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting, together with the Foreign Ministers of China, Lao PDR and Thailand.

During the Discussion, the Foreign Ministers cordially exchanged views on closer collaboration for the maintenance of security, the prevalence of peace and stability along the border areas and combatting cross-border illicit trade, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, online scams and transnational crimes.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe updated on recent developments, including the preparations for the upcoming election in Myanmar. The foreign Ministers of China, Lao PDR and Thailand expressed their support for the holding of the election in December 2025 and the political developments in Myanmar.

Mr Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, hosted a welcome dinner on the evening of 14 August 2025 at the Anning Hot Spring Hotel in honour of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and delegations to the 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

The Mekong–Lancang Cooperation (MLC) is the regional cooperation mechanism established in 2016 to further strengthen the socioeconomic development of the region. Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam are the members of the MLC. The MLC Special Fund has provided a total of US$38.6 million for the implementation of 132 projects in Myanmar to date, in support of the Myanmar National Comprehensive Sustainable Development Strategy. — MNA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

MIFER Union Minister receives UN delegation

Dr Wah Wah Maung, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, received a delegation led by Mr Michael John Dunford, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim and WFP Representative and Country Director, Myanmar, yesterday morning at Office 1 of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

They exchanged views on existing cooperation programmes for the socioeconomic development and humanitarian assistance of UN Agencies in Myanmar and discussed how to make more effective aid management, as well as plans for continued cooperation.

The meeting was attended by the directors-general and senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives from the UNRCO office in Myanmar. — MIFER

Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung meets WFP Representative and Country Director, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim Mr Michael John Dunford in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoIP Union Minister meets Myanmar-India Friendship Association Chair

Union Minister U Myint Kyaing receives Myanmar-India Friendship Association Chairman U Win Myint in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Myanmar-India Friendship Association Chairman U Win Myint at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister appreciated the efforts of the association in enhancing the bilateral relations and highlighted the prolonged cooperation between the two countries as good neighbours. He briefed that the Indian government provided the technicians for the e-ID system, and the ministry will provide the needed support to the association regarding the ministry-related work procedures.

The association chairman also briefed on the emergence of the association, the formation and the intention of the meeting.

He presented cash for the quake-affected staff of the ministry to the Union minister and received the certificate of honour in return.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing, the permanent secretary, departmental officials, and representatives of the association. — MNA/KTZH

UEC announces constituencies for 2025 general election

THE Union Election Commission has officially designated constituencies for the 2025 multiparty democracy general election through four notifications dated 15 August 2025. Notification 50/2025 specifies Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies, Notification 51/2025 stipulates Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies, Notification 52/2025 provides State and Region Hluttaw constituencies, and Notification 53/2025 designates State and Region Hluttaw ethnic constituencies.

According to the announcements, the election will be held under a combination of First-Past-The-Post (FPTP), Proportional Representation (PR), and Mixed-Member Proportional (MMP) systems. The Pyithu Hluttaw will have 330 FPTP constituencies. The Amyotha Hluttaw will have 84 FPTP constituencies and 26 PR constituencies, totalling 110. The State and Region Hluttaws will have 322 FPTP and 42 PR constituencies, totalling 364, while ethnic constituencies for State and Region Hluttaws will total 29.

Detailed lists of townships and areas included in each constituency will be published in state-run daily newspapers and made available on the UEC's official website at www.uec.gov.mm. — MNA/KZL

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

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 50/2025

7th Waning of Wagoung 1387 ME
15 August 2025

Announcement of Pyithu Hluttaw Constituencies

THE Union Election Commission, under Section 10 (d) of the Union Election Commission Law and Section 4 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, has announced that all 330 townships across the Union are designated as Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies, as shown in the attached file, to hold the 2025 multiparty democractic general election with the FPTP system in each township.
Those 330 Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies are attached herewith.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Constituencies designated for the 2025 multiparty democratic general election for the Pyithu Hluttaw (the First-Past-the-Post System)

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw representatives to be elected
Kachin State			
1	Chipwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Chipwe Township	1
2	Sawlaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Sawlaw Township	1
3	Tanai Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Tanai Township	1
4	Khaunglanphu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Khaunglanphu Township	1
5	Sumparabum Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Sumparabum Township	1
6	Nagmon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Nagmon Township	1
7	PutaO Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire PutaO Township	1
8	Machanbaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Machanbaw Township	1
9	Bhamo Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Bhamo Township	1
10	Mansi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mansi Township	1
11	Momauk Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Momauk Township	1
12	Shwegu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Shwegu Township	1
13	Phakant Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Phakant Township	1
14	Mogaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mogaung Township	1
15	Mohnyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mohnyin Township	1
16	Myitkyina Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Myitkyina Township	1
17	Waingmaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Waingmaw Township	1
18	Ingyanyan Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Ingyanyan Township	1
Kayah State			
19	Dimawhso Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Dimawhso Township	1
20	Pruhso Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Prusho Township	1
21	Pasawng Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Pasawng Township	1
2	Bawlakhe Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Bawlakhe Township	1
23	Meisei Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Meisei Township	1
24	Shadaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Shadaw Township	1
25	Loikaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Loikaw Township	1
Kayin State			
26	Kawkareik Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kawkareik Township	1
27	Kyain-Seikkyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kyain-Seikkyi Township	1
28	Papun Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Papun Township	1
29	Hpa-an Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hpa-an Township	1
30	Hlaingbwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hlaingbwe Township	1
31	Myawady Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Myawady Township	1
32	Thandaunggyi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Thandaunggyi Township	1

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 51/2025

7th Waning of Wagoung 1387 ME
15 August 2025

Announcement of Amyotha Hluttaw Constituencies

THE Union Election Commission, under Section 10 (d) of the Union Election Commission Law and Section 4 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, has announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw constituencies across all regions and states of the Union that will hold the 2025 multiparty democratic general election through the MMP system are designated as 110 constituencies, including six self-administered division or self-administered zones, 84 constituencies through the FPTP system and 26 constituencies through the PR system.
Those 84 constituencies for the Amyotha Hluttaw through the FPTP system and 26 constituencies for the Amyotha Hluttaw through the PR system are attached herewith.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Constituencies designated for the 2025 multiparty democratic general election for the Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw Representatives to be elected
	Kachin State Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
1	Constituency 1	Entire PutaO, Chipwe and Tanai districts and Waingmaw Township	2
2	Constituency 2	Entire Bhamo and Mohnyin districts and Myitkyina and Ingyanyan townships	4
	Kayah State Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
3	Constituency 1	An entire Kayah State	6
	Kayin State Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
4	Constituency 1	An entire Kayin State	6
	Chin State Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
5	Constituency 1	An entire Chin State	6
	Sagaing Region Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
6	Constituency 1	Entire Khamti, Homalin, Mawlaik, Tamu, Kalay and Yinmabin districts	2
7	Constituency 2	Entire Monywa, Shwebo, YeU, Sagaing, Katha, Kawlin and Kanbalu districts	4
	Taninthayi Region Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
8	Constituency 1	An entire Taninthayi Region	6
	Bago Region Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
9	Constituency 1	Entire Nattalin, Pyay and Thayawady districts	3
10	Constituency 2	Entire Nyaunglebin, Toungoo and Bago districts	3
	Magway Region Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
11	Constituency 1	Entire Gangaw, Pakokku and Minbu districts	3
12	Constituency 2	Entire Chauk, Magway, Thayet and Aunglan districts	3
	Mandalay Region Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
13	Constituency 1	Entire TadaU, PyinOoLwin, Mahaaungmyay, Thabeikkyin, Amarapura and Aungmyaythazan districts	2
14	Constituency 2	Entire Kyaukse, NyaungU, Meiktila and Myingyan districts	2
15	Constituency 3	An entire Yamethin District and an entire Union Territory	2
	Mon State Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
16	Constituency 1	An entire Mon State	6
	Rakhine State Amyotha Hluttaw (the Proportional Representation System)		
17	Constituency 1	Entire Sittway, Maungtaw and MraukU districts	3
18	Constituency 2	Entire Kyaukpyu, Taungup, Thandwe and An districts	3

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Myanmar to host Future Front: Youth Strategy Forum 2025

Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn delivers a speech at the coordination meeting of the Organizing Committee on Future Front Myanmar: Youth Strategy Forum 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn presided over a coordination meeting of Organizing Committee for Future Front Myanmar: Youth Strategy Forum 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister, who is also chairman of the committee, said the forum will feature the contents related to education for the youth and the election. Moreover, it includes a discussion of youths in addition to the dialogue of respective experts. He added that young people from various regions and states will participate in the forum, and sharing of the experiences and objectives of the discussions will help establish a youth network.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, vice-chair of the committee, deputy ministers, director-general of IPRD, and attendees reported on the success of the forum, objectives and outcomes of the forum, participants, and subjects to be discussed.

The Future Front Myanmar: Youth Strategy Forum 2025 will take place from 30 August to 1 September in Yangon. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister U Chit Swe and Egyptian Ambassador Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim discuss economic and trade cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoC Union Minister meets delegation led by Egyptian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Commerce U Chit Swe met a delegation led by Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim at the meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties, expand market access for Myanmar's key exports, including agricultural products, and organize trade fairs between the two countries, inviting businesspeople to promote the export of Egyptian pharmaceutical and hospital equipment, petroleum products, electricity distribution and installation equipment, and chemicals, as well as the import of construction materials. They also discussed enhancing cooperation in the economic and trade sectors between the private sectors of both countries.

The meeting was attended by the permanent secretary and other officials from the Ministry of Commerce. — MNA/MKKS

Thai Ambassador donates computers in Nay Pyi Taw for fire and haze monitoring

WITH the support of Part II of the Thailand-Myanmar Transboundary Haze Pollution Management Project, a handover ceremony of computers and equipment for Fire Hotspot and haze monitoring, along with the opening of a technology management training course, was held yesterday morning at the Environmental Conservation Department, Office 58 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event saw Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Min Thu, the Permanent Secretary and officials concerned, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mongkol Visitstump, First Secretary Mr Wuthikiat Chaicharna, Director-General Dr Sakda Tridech from Thailand's Pollution Control Department and delegation members, as well as invitees.

The ceremony aimed to enhance Myanmar's capacity in computer technology management for Fire Hotspot and haze monitoring, and to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand in preventing and controlling forest fires and haze occurrence.

The Thai ambassador first gave remarks regarding the ceremony and future cooperation between the two countries under the support of the Transboundary Haze Pollution Management Project (Part II). The Deputy Minister then delivered a welcome address.

Afterwards, the Thai ambassador handed over the computers and equipment to the deputy minister, who in turn presented commemorative gifts to the Thai delegation leaders.

The deputy minister and his team then inspected the trainees receiving practical training in computer technology management for Fire Hotspot and haze monitoring. — MNA/KZL

The ceremony for handover of the Control Room for Forecasting, Monitoring and Reporting Fire Hotspot and Transboundary Haze in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

OPINION

ARTICLE

Initiate health promotion at basic education schools

BY IMPLEMENTING school health improvement programs nationwide, and in line with the 2025–2026 academic year School Health Week slogan, "Let's Promote School Health for the All-Round Development of Youth," the country aims to ensure that school-aged youth — an important human resource of the nation — are well-rounded and fully developed.

Starting from the 2025-2026 academic year, all basic education schools are to be designated as health-promoting schools through the coordinated efforts of education and health officials, parents, and teachers, based on the capacity of each region and school. To improve nutrition for students, the school nutrition programmes were implemented starting from the 2024–2025 academic year and will continue in the 2025–2026 academic year. Successful implementation will require the cooperation and support of relevant departments and local authorities.

> The health of school-aged youth, who are a key human resource for national development, must be continuously promoted through the coordinated efforts of relevant organizations and associated agencies. Only then can healthy lifestyle practices be instilled and firmly established in children and students from a young age.

Accordingly, in carrying out school health activities for the current academic year, priority programs include school-based dengue fever prevention and control measures such as spraying insecticide and fumigation before schools open, applying larvicide every six weeks, and conducting the "cover, empty, turn over, check" campaign. Other measures include health awareness talks on dengue fever, implementing school nutrition programmes, and ensuring that school snack stalls comply with health standards. These activities are to be jointly coordinated by the responsible education and health authorities.

Therefore, to increase public knowledge and awareness of nutrition development, and to encourage greater interest and participation in nutrition promotion in Myanmar, the World Breastfeeding Week is observed in the first week of August, the Nutrition Development Week in the second week, and then, the School Health Week activities. To build a strong and healthy society, it is essential for everyone to take part in basic healthcare activities that nurture and raise the next generation — the foundation of the nation's future.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, the Ministry of Health conducted school health-related training courses, providing medicines and medical supplies, offering technical support, and producing and supplying health education materials to carry out school-based health awareness activities. It was able to provide general healthcare services to over 90 per cent of primary school students and school-based primary eye care services to over 85 per cent of them.

The health of school-aged youth, who are a key human resource for national development, must be continuously promoted through the coordinated efforts of relevant organizations and associated agencies. Only then can healthy lifestyle practices be instilled and firmly established in children and students from a young age.

India's Maritime Vision: from SAGAR to Indo-Pacific to MAHASAGAR

By Suchitra Durai
Former Ambassador of India to Thailand

A DECADE ago, on 12 March 2015, while commissioning in Mauritius the gleaming Offshore Patrol Vessel Barracuda, built in Garden Reach, Kolkata, to Mauritian specifications, Prime Minister Modi outlined India's policy towards the Indian Ocean Region (IOR): SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region. The Indian Ocean, he pointed out, was critical to the future of the world, bearing two-thirds of the world's oil shipments, one-third of its bulk cargo and half of its container traffic. The forty states that are on its littoral host nearly 40 per cent of the world's population.

SAGAR policy emphasized five aspects: safety and security of the Indian mainland and island territories and ensuring a safe, secure and stable IOR; deepen economic and security cooperation with friends in the IOR particularly maritime neighbours and island states through capacity building; collective action and cooperation; seek a more integrated and cooperative future towards sustainable development for all; and increased maritime engagement in the IOR as the primary responsibility for the stability and prosperity of IOR lay with those living in the region. If SAGAR was the external outreach of India, in the national context, it was complemented by the Sagarmala port-led development initiative.

For long, India has been criticized for its continental bias, that it was focused on its northern and north-west frontiers to the neglect of its vast maritime interests. However, this has been changing. Since the launch of its Look East policy in 1992, which evolved into the proactive Act East policy in 2015, India has reclaimed its maritime legacy. PM Modi recently released a special coin commemorating 1000 years of Emperor Rajendra Chola's naval achievements.

The Indian Navy has been in the forefront of maritime diplomacy through capacity-building initiatives, joint exercises, plurilateral conferences, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) activities. The 2004 Tsunami established India's credentials in disaster relief operations. India came to be recognized as the first responder and net security provider in the IOR, particularly to states in its neighbourhood. India's prompt assistance to Myanmar in the aftermath of the devastating Cyclone Nargis in 2008 and being the first country to deliver drinking water to the Maldives after a freshwater crisis in that country in end 2014 consolidated that image. In March 2025, India mounted a huge relief and rescue Operation Brahma to an earthquake that hit Myanmar.

India has now graduated to becoming a preferred security partner in the Indo-Pacific region, forming defence partnerships that not only include joint exercises and capacity building but also exports of defence equipment either as a grant or under a defence Line of Credit at the request of the partner state.

Trilateral maritime security cooperation with Sri Lanka and the Maldives, which began in 2011, has extended to other Indian Ocean states, including Mauritius and Bangladesh, with Seychelles as observer under the Colombo Security Conclave that now has a charter and a secretariat in Colombo. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which began as an initiative of the Indian Navy in 2008, is an inclusive platform to discuss maritime issues and to work out effective response mechanisms. IONS has 25 participating countries from South Asia, West Asia, Africa, Southeast Asia and European countries with Indian Ocean territories, as well as nine observers and a rotating chair (India will take over as chair at the end of 2025). MILAN is a biennial multinational exercise hosted by the Indian Navy in harmony with India's vision of SAGAR and Act East policy.

A crucial facet of maritime security is enhanced maritime domain awareness. Towards this, India has also been pursuing white shipping agreements with several countries (22 have been concluded till now) and established a state-of-the-art Information Fusion Centre (IFC – IOR) in Gurugram that facilitates the sharing of maritime information among member states.

India has a long history of development partnership going back to the period prior to its Independence. Its approach to development partnership has been shaped by its independence struggle, solidarity with other colonized and developing countries and the inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, who declared that "my patriotism includes the good of mankind in general". It is thus that India has been sharing its developmental experiences and technical expertise in a spirit of Vasudhaivakutumbakam (the ancient belief that the World is One Family). As PM Modi stated in his address to the Ugandan Parliament in 2018, "Our developmental partnership will be guided by your priorities, it will be on terms that will be comfortable for you, that will liberate your potential and not constrain your future…" The Indian model of developmental cooperation is comprehensive and involves multiple instruments including grant-in-aid, concessional lines of credit, capacity building and technical assistance. Above all, it is unconditional, transparent, sustainable and financially viable.

In June 2018 at the Shangri-La conference, PM Modi outlined India's Indo-Pacific vision. For India, the Indo-Pacific stands for a free, open, inclusive region that "embraces us all in a common pursuit of progress and prosperity". He emphasized ASEAN centrality, a rules-based order, freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law. There is great synergy between the Indian approach and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. In November 2019, at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, India launched the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), a coherent initiative comprising seven pillars of practical cooperation built on the SAGAR vision. India's active participation in the QUAD (Australia, India, Japan and the US) is part of our Indo-Pacific vision. Earlier, in 2014, India established FIPIC (Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation), a strategic initiative for strengthening diplomatic and economic engagement with islands in the Pacific Ocean.

It was in 2023, during India's presidency of G-20, whose leitmotif was inclusivity, that the African Union was invited to join the grouping. India's presidency, inter alia, revived multilateralism, amplified the voice of the global south and championed development. India has hosted three editions of the Voice of the Global South summit since then.

Ten years after SAGAR, during an official visit to Mauritius in 2025, PM Modi announced MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), an updated doctrine. If SAGAR is the sea, then MAHASAGAR denotes 'ocean' in Hindi and several other Indian languages. MAHASAGAR marks a strategic evolution from a regional focus on the Indian Ocean to a global maritime vision, with particular emphasis on the global south. PM Modi's recent engagements with Mauritius, the Maldives, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana, and now the Philippines are aligned with the MAHASAGAR vision.

Incompetents

By Kyaw Myint Htoon (Paris)

DEAR People of Myanmar,

Recently, a certain so-called "Independent Mechanism" released a report making some baseless accusations. Their august organization is facing severe budget cuts. There is a need to desperately seek funding for their continued travels and fine dining. Might they, once in a while, scarify for the sake of humanity by flying economy??? Not in their DNA!!! They have never faced such deep budget cuts from their BIG, BIG Uncle! Decades of unconscious wasteful spending are finally being halted. Fine wine and cheese in the Swiss Alps may have ended. No more walking down Rue du Rhone! In releasing the report, their targeted audience wishes to hear, they hope some other minions in the Western hemisphere might step up and fill the gap.

There is nothing "independent" about their reporting process, and above all, there is no "mechanism" with these self-righteous people who sit behind the desk in the ivory towers in Geneva and New York. There is no independent verification of their "cooked-up" reports. They verify their reports. It is akin to the judge and the accused being the same person. Nothing they do is transparent! It has been the practice that when reports are released by these incompetents, people automatically accept them as factual and truthful, just because "the Blue" is supposed to hold moral high ground. It is the perception that is far from reality.

Since Myanmar has announced elections for later in the year, these people can't help themselves. Their motive is always about politics. To prolong their mandates. The longer the conflicts go on, the longer their employment! AN about their self-interest. Never for Myanmar and never for the people in disadvantaged countries. They will release more fabricated "reports", "findings", and so on. They will become more and more brazen in interference, and maybe even outright try to disrupt the elections. If Myanmar's problems are solved, that's the end of their mandate.

In desperation, they will become louder. But, each time they hit, hit them back harder. Hit them back louder. Continue to point out their decades-long misgivings, their scandals, the unspeakable pain they have inflicted on innocent, hopeless, hapless people they were mandated to protect. Haiti, Congo, Iraq. Financial scandals. Pedophilia. Prostitution. The list goes on and on! Among them, there are some of the lowest scums on earth. Not one of them has paid the price.

They are being forced to cut posts. Therefore, the incompetents from the "Mechanism" are desperate to hang on to their position. Without senselessly hounding a country like Myanmar, they have no jobs. When beggars become desperate, they'll rob.

Some places in the world are being turned into hell on earth. These incompetent minor leaguers from Geneva and New York cannot do a thing. No one listens to them. In these instances, they shout from afar once in a while, just to justify their fast-fading relevance. When it comes to their Big Uncles, they can't do a single thing. But let's just beat up on smaller countries to justify their existence. These self-obsessed "holier than thou" people should be investigated. Everyone has skeletons in their closet!

Let us remember one of their colleagues, a certain Judge, who is on paid leave for sexual misconduct. He denied. Of course! What is to be expected? Where there is smoke, there is fire! The Supremo in New York has been silent about the case. Has the so-called "women's" office offered support to the aggrieved? How about their so-called "oversight office"?

Geopolitical dynamics have changed. Myanmar is far from isolation. Myanmar has friends. Stand firm. Count on your friends and plough full speed ahead with the best path forward for Myanmar, as determined by the domestic realities.

On the way, bon voyage to the Great Envoy, who will be making a happy trip to New York for a useless talkfest in a few weeks. Have fun with the so-called "civil society" groups. After all, these groups will decide the fate of the world!!! Right? Let's continue to give speeches to empty halls!!!

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author.)

NATIONAL

Egyptian Ambassador calls on MoH Union Minister

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim at the Ministry yesterday morning.

They discussed signing an MoU on cooperation in the health sector between the two countries, providing scholarships for the development of health human resources, exchanging experiences and training medical professionals, collaborating in medical fields such as liver and heart surgery and transplantation, importing and selling vaccines, medications, and medical equipment manufactured in Egypt, investing in Myanmar, and cooperating in the treatment of hepatitis B. — MNA/MKKS

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win and Egyptian Ambassador Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim discuss health sector cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MSWRR Deputy Minister receives WFP Myanmar Representative

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe received Mr Michael Dunford, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Representative in Myanmar, at the ministry's meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

Both sides exchanged open and cordial views on coordination between the Government of Myanmar and United Nations agencies in carrying out earthquake response operations in Mandalay, post-earthquake recovery work, and humanitarian assistance. Discussions also covered collaboration with relevant regional and state governments, as well as concerned departments, in implementing these activities under the ministry's coordination. — MNA/KZL

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe meets Mr Michael Dunford, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Representative in Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

Yangon University honours Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr Daw Po

A ceremony to honour Dr Daw Po (Professor/Head of Myanmar Department (Retired) (excellent award in arts/ excellent social performance medal-first class), who received the Wunna Kyaw Htin Title on Myanmar Women's Day, took place at Toungoo Hall, Myanmar Department, Yangon University, yesterday.

Full-time Myanmar Language Commission members Sayagyi U Aung Thaung and Dr Tun Tint, and Chairman of Alumni Association Saya U Myo Thant made congratulatory speeches.

Dr Khin Swe Myint, Professor/Head of Myanmar Department (Retired) read out the biography of Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr Daw Po, and presented cash, and Saya U Myo Thant, Dr Htay Lwin and U Kyaw Win also presented cash.

Dr Lwin Mar Oo, Professor/Head of the Myanmar Department, remarked, and the pupils of Myanmar Department paid respect to Wunna Kyaw Htin, Dr Daw Po.

It was attended by Myanmar Language Commission members Dr Tun Tint, U Aung Thaung, Dr Khin Swe Myint, Dr Khin Than Oo (Ma Moe Myay), Saya U Myo Thant, professors and faculty members of the Myanmar Department, members of the alumni association and invitees.

Saya U Myo Thant, Dr Htay Lwin and U Kyaw Win present honorarium cash to Dr Daw Po (Professor/Head of Myanmar Department (Retired). **PHOTO: KANU**

Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr Daw Po was born on 2 January 1939, in Mingin, Mawlaik District, Sagaing Region. In 1955, she passed the matriculation examination and studied at Yangon University's Htidan College, where she completed the Inter Part (A), Inter Part (B), Honours, and Master's courses. In 1968, she earned her Master's degree in Literature with the thesis Ledi Pandita's Biography and literary works. In 2014, she received an honorary doctorate from the National University of Culture and Arts (Yangon).

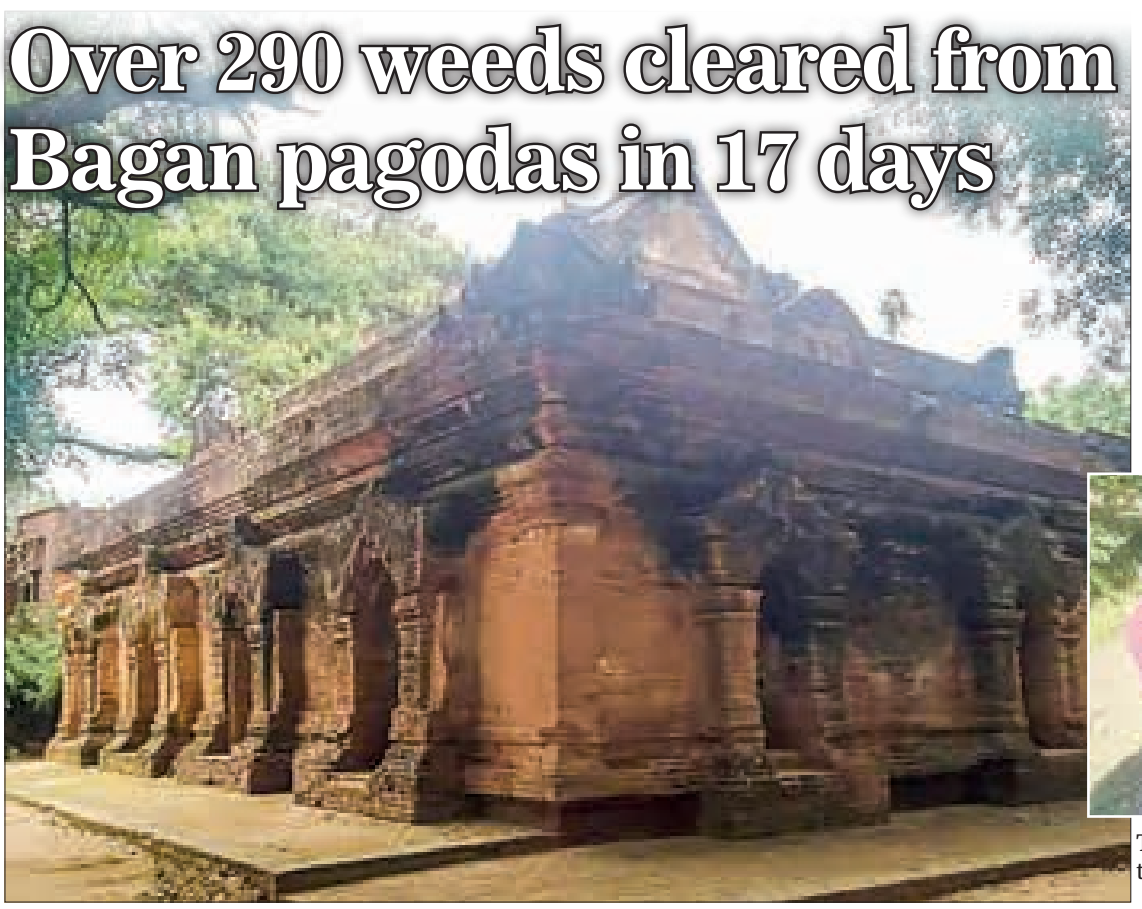
She served as a tutor at the Myanmar Department of Mawlamyine College in 1960, as an assistant lecturer at Pathein College in 1961-63, at Yangon University in 1963-73, at Mawlamyine College in 1973-73 and at Yangon University in 1974-80. She served as a lecturer at Magway Degree College in 1980, an Associate Professor in 1985-88, Professor and Department Head in 1988, and a Professor and Department Head in 1991-1995 at Yangon University.

She edited the Anthology of Myanmar Literature volume (5, 6, 7), and reformed the Correspondence Course into the University of Distance Education, and compiled the proverbs of ethnic people, Yatu, Dhamma That and Alinka writing styles and so on.

In 1991, she joined the study tour to China, was assigned duty by the government to serve as a guest professor at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies from 1995-1997, and served as Professor/Head of Department at Yangon University from 1997-99. She retired in 1999. She was conferred the Wunna Kyaw Htin Title by the government on 2025 Myanmar Women's Day. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

Over 290 weeds cleared from Bagan pagodas in 17 days



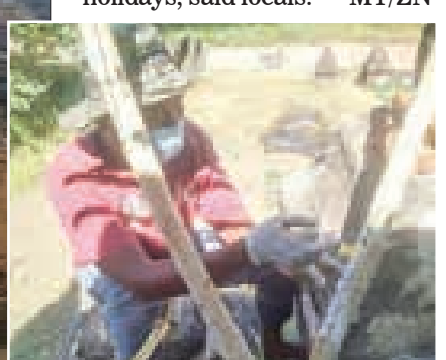
MORE than 290 various plants growing on the pagodas in Bagan have been cleared with chemicals within 17 days.

In collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan) and the Bagan Heritage Trust, the work of removing the weeds from the pagodas is being carried out with the help of responsible officials, supervisors and members.

From 26 July to 11 August, more than 290 various plants on the pagodas, including Taung Bi Pidakat chamber (1969), Culamani walls (North), Pagoda No 1152, Tabetkya, Lawka Oatshaung, Temple No 1468 and 1469, were removed by using chemicals.

The Bagan Cultural Heritage Area is a unique location in the world, covering an area of 25 square kilometres and containing a collection of ancient buildings. The Heritage Trust was formed to protect and preserve it. In addition to management by the relevant government departments, individuals and organizations need to preserve cultural heritage, it said.

Furthermore, the tourist season in Bagan was very busy last year, and during this rainy season, there are moderate visitors on weekends and public holidays, said locals. — MT/ZN



This image shows chemical spraying to remove weeds on Bagan pagodas.

14th Sitagu free eye donation registration opens on 1 Sept

The Sitagu Cakkhu Dana Hospital (Yangon)

THE 14th edition of the free eye donation of the Sitagu Cakkhu Dana Hospital (Yangon) will begin on 17 September, and the hospital has announced that the eye patients should register on 1 September.

This year's donation will cover both new and old persons with visual impairment, and will accept 1,000 patients for registration, which will begin at 7 am on that day, according to the doctors.

"The 14th edition of the free eyesight donation of the Sitagu Cakkhu Dana Hospital (Yangon) will begin on 17 September. Let us remind you again. Registration will start on 1 September. Those who want to contribute donations, and old and new eye patients, are requested to register on 1 September," the hospital said in a statement.

Tokens will be given this time as some unregistered people missed the opportunity during the prevision donation. As of the 13th round of eye-site donation, there were 16,147 patients in the clinical trial, 4,949 under surgeries, and 314 treated with laser shots, and a total of 5,263 people have been treated. — MT/ZN

MNA launches major promotion on international flights for 77th Anniversary

MYANMAR National Airlines offers a 15 per cent discount on all international flight tickets as it marks its 77th anniversary, which falls in September.

The sales period is from 15 to 31 August, and the travel period is from August to November 2025, said MNA.

Entering promo code UB77INTL, customers can buy 15 per cent reduced air tickets at the MNA website www.flymna.com as well as MNA ticket counters, airport counters and MNA call centre +951 378603/04/ 06/07/08 and +951 377840/41/42 and nearby travel agents. — MT/ZS

This image depicts an advertisement by Myanmar National Airlines, promoting 15 per cent sales on all international flight tickets.

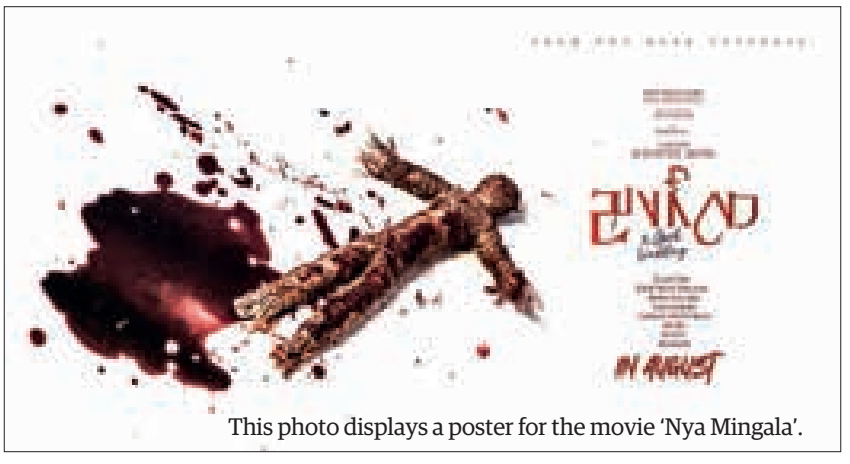
Myanmar film 'Nya Mingala' to screen in late Aug

THE Myanmar film 'Nya Mingala' is set to hit cinemas nationwide in the third week of August, according to Academy Award-winning actor Nay Toe, who plays the lead role.

Written and directed by Didi Htet Aung, Nya Mingalar is a romantic comedy with an emotional edge.

"In this film, I portray Lwan Wai, a man torn between memories and guilt after choosing a happy marriage over the love and attachment he once shared with an old flame," Nay Toe said. "The story unfolds over a single night filled with both love and hate – a night of screams, moans, eerie shadows, and haunting sounds that cut straight to the heart".

The cast also includes Academy Soe Myat Thuzar, Shwe Thame, Yadana Bo, Yamon Myint Myat, Mo Kham, Wai Lu, Sin Ma, and many others. — ASH/MKKS



This photo displays a poster for the movie 'Nya Mingala'.

NATIONAL
BUSINESS

MoALI urges mango growers to apply for land permits by 31 Aug

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation notified growers in mango farming zones in Nay Pyi Taw to seek permits to utilize land under the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law by 31 August.

Seintalone mango farming zone was implemented in Dekkhinathiri, Ottarathiri, Lewe and Tatkon townships in Nay Pyi Taw in 2010. Before the season, mango growers need to seek permits to legitimately utilize land where they are currently farming in line with the existing law and bylaw. Only when they obtain land permits can they legally run the farming operations.

This photo shows a flourishing mango plantation in Myanmar.

A vendor shows mangoes for sale.

Moreover, those who have sought permits from the Central Committee on Management of Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands and Union Territory Management Committee may result in revocation under Section 22 (A) (3) of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law if there are undeveloped land areas as per the existing law and bylaw.

Under, Sub-Section 16(C) of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law, those who are granted to utilize the vacant, fallow and virgin lands are not allowed to mortgage, lease, sell, transfer by other means or divide the permitted vacant, fallow and virgin lands without the permission of the Union Government. According to, Sub-Section (A) of Section 29(A), individuals who broke the rules stipulated by, Sub-Section (C) of Section 16 are subject to a sentence of less than two years and/or a fine of less than one million kyat. Therefore, those who have obtained permits to use land need to strictly adhere to the rules.

Individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers at 067 3408749 for the Department of Settlement and Land Records (head office) and at 067 4550180 for the Nay Pyi Taw Land Records Department during office hours. — NN/KK

CBM injects US$1M, CNY1.2M into financial market on 14 Aug

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped US$1 million and over 1.27 million yuan into the financial market on 14 August.

Furthermore, CBM sold over $1.88 million to edible oil-importing companies and over $220,900 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments on the same day.

CBM announced on 13 August that it would sell $32 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector after sales of 300,000 yuan. CBM sold over $1.55 million to edible oil-importing companies and over $128,200 to CMP companies and individuals who made non-trade payments on that day.

CBM injected $1.3 million into edible oil-importing companies and over $467,000 into CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments after sales of over 1.97 million yuan on 12 August. Importers of refined sugar, plastic, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, electrical devices, industrial raw materials, construction materials, auto parts, telecommunication devices, trailers, feedstuffs, paint, tar and food commodities also purchased foreign currencies through the foreign exchange market online trading platform. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold $1.18 million to edible oil-importing companies and over $415,900 to fuel oil-importing companies on 11 August after purchasing the foreign currencies from companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis. Furthermore, CBM injected over 65,000 yuan into the market on that day. CBM also sold over $348,000 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payment transactions.

Additionally, importers of refined sugar, pharmaceuticals, pharma raw materials, electrical devices, industrial raw materials, construction materials, auto parts, motorcycle parts, telecommunication equipment, pesticides, tar and food commodities bought foreign currencies via online trading platforms.

CBM injected over 1.46 million yuan and over 930,300 baht on 8 August.

Additionally, CBM sold $701,120 to edible oil-importing companies and $361,921 to fuel oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM sold $36.5 million purchased from companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis, in addition to the injection of $8.8 million, 13.3 million baht, 10.5 million yuan and 500,000 rupees in July. Furthermore, CBM sold over $2.3 million to other commodities-importing companies as per its initial announcement of selling $10 million. CBM sold $8.4 million, 13.9 million baht and 5.2 million yuan in June 2025, in addition to the injection of $14.9 million that was purchased from the CMP enterprises into the financial market.

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

MoC, IFBIC discuss collaboration on value-added avocado, cotton supply

DIRECTORS of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Economic Counsellors in Kolkata and New Delhi, representatives of Myanmar Cotton and Cotton Products Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association, and International Federation of Business Intellectuals and Changemakers (IFBIC) on behalf of OOO Farms in India held a virtual meeting on 14 August 2025 regarding high-grade cotton varieties supply and collaboration in value-added production of avocado.

They discussed matters to report the quality of avocado produced by Myanmar and avocado output to India, and Public-Private Partnership investments in avocado value-added production in Myanmar.

Additionally, the meeting highlighted the importation of climate and pest resilient cotton varieties, getting access to technical assistance from India for cotton cultivation, research activities and on-ground survey of IFBIC experts to provide technical assistance, imports of cotton varieties at a fair price for growers, and providing necessary assistance if IFBIC conducts on-farm testing of cotton varieties. — 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.

Air Canada cancels flights over strike threat

AIR Canada began cancelling flights on Thursday after receiving a strike notice from the flight attendants' union, warning all operations could be shut down by Saturday.

The airline that transports about 130,000 passengers daily announced this week that negotiations on a new collective agreement with its 10,000 flight attendants had reached an "impasse". Chief operating officer Mark Nasr told reporters Thursday that the airline had begun "a gradual suspension of Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge operations".

Without a deal, "all flights will be paused by Saturday early morning," he said.

In addition to demanding a wage increase, the union has argued flight attendants are not compensated for work on the ground, including during the boarding process.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has dismissed Air Canada's latest offer as "below inflation (and) below market value".

CUPE issued a 72-hour strike notice at 12:01 am (0401 GMT) Wednesday, meaning the labour action could begin one minute past midnight on Saturday. — AFP

A strike notice from Air Canada flight attendants has prompted flight cancelations. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Intl hospital opened in Afghanistan's Herat province

AFGHAN authorities have inaugurated an international hospital in western Afghanistan's Herat province to deliver advanced healthcare services, the official Bakhtar News Agency reported on Friday.

"The operations of this hospital will enhance healthcare services, generate employment opportunities, and significantly reduce the need for patients to seek treatment abroad," said Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Afghan interim government, during the inauguration ceremony.

Dr Farid Ahmad Eijaz, general director of the hospital, said that the hospital, equipped with the most advanced medical technology, aims to provide high-quality services and treat hundreds of patients daily, according to the report. — Xinhua

Volkswagen, XPeng expand software cooperation in China

VOLKSWAGEN Group China and Chinese new energy vehicle (NEV) maker XPeng announced Friday that they have signed an agreement to expand the application scope of the China Electronic Architecture (CEA) co-developed by the two sides.

Starting in 2027, the Volkswagen brand will further introduce the CEA, already applied in its pure-electric vehicles, to all combustion engines and plug-in hybrid models produced in China.

Equipped with central computing units, the CEA enables advanced driving assistance systems for enhanced safety, a smart cockpit with an AI-powered in-car driver assistant, and seamless over-the-air updates. The architecture lowers costs by reducing the number of electronic control units and streamlining overall system complexity. "By extending the China Electronic Architecture to our robust combustion engine fleet, we are strengthening our technological leadership in the conventional powertrain sector," said Ralf Brandstaetter, chairman and CEO of Volkswagen Group China. — Xinhua

People visit the Xpeng booth during the 20th Shanghai International Automobile Industry Exhibition on 19 April 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Apple rejects Musk claim of App Store bias

APPLE on Thursday rejected Elon Musk's claim that its digital App Store favours OpenAI's ChatGPT over his company's Grok and other rival AI assistants.

Musk has accused Apple of giving unfair preference to ChatGPT on its App Store and threatened legal action, triggering a fiery exchange with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman this week.

"The App Store is designed to be fair and free of bias," Apple said in reply to an AFP inquiry.

"We feature thousands of apps through charts, algorithmic recommendations, and curated lists selected by experts using objective criteria."

Apple added that its goal at the App Store is to offer "safe discovery" for users and opportunities for developers to get their creations noticed. But earlier this week, Musk said Apple was "behaving in a manner that makes it impossible for any AI company besides OpenAI to reach #1 in the App Store, which is an unequivocal antitrust violation," without providing evidence to back his claim. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM5YS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM5YS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (156W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (156W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

7th Kyrgyz-Russian Economic Forum focuses on digital sovereignty

The forum's theme is "Digital Sovereignty as a Driver of Economic Growth", focusing on issues such as digital sovereignty and technological cooperation.

THE 7th Kyrgyz-Russian Economic Forum being held in Kyrgyzstan's eastern resort town Cholpon-Ata on Thursday has gathered over 1,000 people, including government officials and business leaders, who are expected to discuss a range of issues such as digital sovereignty and technological cooperation.

The event, themed "Digital Sovereignty as a Driver of Economic Growth," runs on 13-15 August at the lakeside town in Kyrgyzstan's Issyk-Kul region. The economic forum is intended to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between governments and businesses of Kyrgyzstan, Russia and the other Eurasian Economic Union members of Armenia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The opening of the forum on Wednesday was greeted by messages from Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Japarov stressed in his message that rapid digital development must address the challenges of technological independence, digital data protection and development of national IT infrastructure.

At the top of the forum's agenda is a plenary session on digital sovereignty and technological cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union's framework. Discussions at the forum cover a wide range of issues, including e-commerce, modernization of logistics and infrastructure, digital tourism, and challenges from AI replacement of skilled labour and professionals. — Xinhua

People attend the opening of the 7th Kyrgyz-Russian Economic Forum in the eastern resort town of Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, on 14 August 2025. **PHOTO: LI RENZI/XINHUA**

Heat, drought, negligence: drivers of Europe's 2025 wildfire crisis

This photo taken on 8 August 2025 shows a view of the Digley Reservoir at a very low water level in Yorkshire, Britain. **PHOTO: JON SUPER/XINHUA**

A prolonged summer of extreme heat and drought has pushed vast parts of Europe into a severe wildfire crisis, triggering mass evacuations, claiming lives and inflicting heavy damage on forests, farmland and infrastructure.

European Commission monitoring data show the scale of the emergency: about 439,568 hectares have burned so far this year, more than double the 19-year average for this point in the season.

Wildfires are wreaking havoc across the Mediterranean and parts of Central and Eastern Europe, resulting in significant human and environmental tolls. In Spain, multiple regions, including Galicia and Castilla y León, have reported fatalities and the evacuation of approximately 9,000 residents as flames threaten municipalities. Tragically, volunteer firefighters have also lost their lives while battling the blazes.

Greece is grappling with numerous simultaneous outbreaks, particularly in western Achaia, prompting evacuation orders near Patras. Strong winds and extreme heat have exacerbated the situation, damaging hospitals, homes, and businesses.

Romania has been severely affected, with over 120,000 hectares burned, particularly in sensitive areas like the Danube Delta, where rekindled embers complicate containment efforts.

Portugal has recorded around 74,931 hectares consumed by wildfires this year, with authorities deploying tens of thousands of personnel to combat the flames.

In Italy, nearly 57,000 hectares of forest and farmland have burned, with fires threatening unique resources around Vesuvius National Park.

Experts attribute the surge in wildfires to climate change and human factors, urging stronger prevention measures and public awareness to mitigate future risks. — Xinhua

UK admits serious nuclear Incident at Clyde Base, but keeps the details secret

THE UK Defence Ministry has admitted that a serious nuclear incident occurred earlier this year at the Clyde naval base in Scotland, where the Trident nuclear deterrent force is based, a UK newspaper reported.

The incident was assigned "category A", which means that there was a "high potential for radioactive release to the environment," the report said on Thursday.

Information about the incident was disclosed after a request from a Scottish member of parliament, the report read. However, the ministry did not disclose details of the incident or specify whether there was actually a leak of radioactive substances.

In response to the request, the ministry also stated that between 1 January and 22 April, in addition to one category "A" incident, two category "B" incidents, seven category "C" incidents and four category "D" incidents occurred at the Clyde base, the report noted. — SPUTNIK

Information about the incident was disclosed after a request from a Scottish member of parliament. **PHOTO: CC BY-SA 2.0 / DEFENCE IMAGES / HMS AMBUSH/SPUTNIK**

SPORTS

PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar to clash with Thailand in semifinals

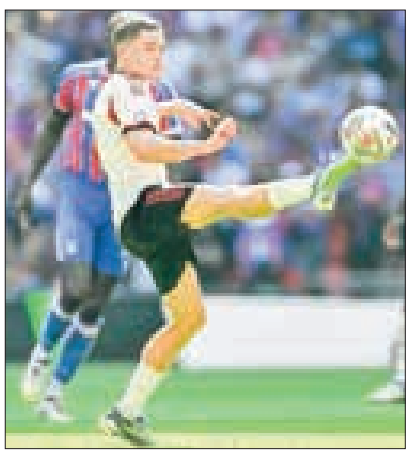
The 2025 ASEAN Women's Champions Eight Tournament semifinal matches continue today, with the Myanmar team set to face Thailand at 4:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time. Later at 7:30 pm MST, the host Vietnam team will take on Australia.

Today's semifinal marks the fifth meeting between Myanmar and Thailand at this stage of the tournament. Myanmar's only semifinal victory over Thailand came in 2012, while Thailand won the last three encounters in 2018, 2019, and 2022. Over these four semifinal meetings, Thailand has emerged victorious three times, and Myanmar once.

At the pre-match press briefing on 15 August, Myanmar head coach Yuki Tetsuro and team captain Khin Marlar Htun attended and spoke about the team's preparation. Coach Yuki said, "Although we faced strong opponents in the group stage, the combined efforts of the players, coaching staff, and management have produced good results. I am very satisfied with the players' dedication and fighting spirit. With only two days of rest before the semifinal, we will focus on restoring full strength and preparing for each match with complete concentration. We are committed to giving our best in every game." — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

New-look Liverpool kick off Premier League season after spending spree

REIGNING champions Liverpool kick off the Premier League season on Friday with Europe's richest league strengthened by a remarkable £2 billion ($2.7 billion) spending splurge. Liverpool will include £100 million midfield signing Florian Wirtz and new forward Hugo Ekitike in their squad to face Bournemouth at Anfield, among a handful of new recruits. They are favourites to retain their crown but the unknown factor is the potential effect of the tragic death of Portuguese forward Diogo Jota in a car crash in Spain in July. Arsenal, one club hoping to topple Liverpool, face an immediate test of their title credentials against a revamped Manchester United on Sunday. — AFP


Florian Wirtz is the most expensive transfer so far of a Premier League off-season that has seen clubs spend around £2 billion on new players. **PHOTO: AFP**

Liverpool target Isak controls his Newcastle future: Howe

EDDIE Howe admits Newcastle striker Alexander Isak has control of his future with the club as Liverpool remain interested in signing the Sweden forward.

Isak will not be involved in Newcastle's Premier League opener at Aston Villa on Saturday after reportedly telling the club he wants to leave St James' Park.

The 25-year-old was the subject of a rejected £110 million ($149 million) bid from Premier League champions Liverpool earlier in August.

Newcastle boss Howe is desperate to keep Isak, who helped the Magpies end their 56-year trophy drought by winning the League Cup final against Liverpool last season, while also firing them to Champions League qualification.

Asked if he envisioned Isak playing for the Newcastle before the end of the summer transfer window, Howe told reporters on Friday: "As I sit here now, I don't know that. Alex will control that."Isak is reportedly refusing to train or play in an effort to force his way out of the club he joined from Real Sociedad in 2022. — AFP

Shan United progress in ASEAN Club Championship qualifiers

IN the second leg of the 2025-2026 ASEAN Club Championship qualifiers, Myanmar's Shan United beat Lao club EZRA 1-0 on 15 August at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon, securing their place in the next stage.

Shan United had already won the first leg 2-1 away, claiming victory in both legs to progress. This marks the second consecutive time the team will compete in the tournament's final stage.

The squad made some changes to the starting lineup, fielding three foreign players alongside domestic players. Although Shan United pressed from the start, they struggled to convert chances, while EZRA also counterattacked in search of a goal. Near the end of the first half, Shan United scored the winning goal through a penalty taken by Ye Yint Aung.

In the second half, Shan United pushed for another goal but could not add to the score, ending the match with the first-half result.

In another qualifier, the Philippines' Cebu defeated Brunei's Kasuka 3-0 at home, overturning a 2-1 loss in the away leg to win 4-2 on aggregate. Shan United will advance to Group B in the final stage, while Cebu will join Group A. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Khun Kyaw Zin Hein of Shan United attempts an attack as an EZRA defender blocks. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

7th Kyrgyz-Russian Economic Forum focuses on digital sovereignty

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PM Modi's Independence Day address "reflected the resolve and spirit of India," says EAM Jaishankar

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's address on India's 79th Independence Day highlighted the nation's determination, progress, and vision for the future, reflecting the spirit and resolve of India.

In a post on X, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar wrote, "Prime Minister @narendramodi's address on India's 79th Independence Day reflected the resolve and spirit of India."

In his independence day address the Prime Minister also emphasized India's commitment to self-reliance and policy reforms, with Jaishankar noting, "It emphasized our commitment to Atmanirbharta and reforms in governance and policy to usher in a new era of growth, progress and prosperity."

The speech was also an appeal to various sections of society, urging participation in nation-building.

Delivered from the ramparts of the Red Fort, this marked PM Modi's 12th consecutive Independence Day speech, surpassing former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's record of 11 consecutive addresses.

Narendra Modi first addressed the nation in 2014 and has done so annually since, joining Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as one of India's leaders with multiple successive Independence Day speeches.

Wearing a saffron turban, PM Modi reflected on India's progress, outlined the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat,' and emphasized self-reliance under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, urging youth, scientists, and government departments to focus on developing indigenous technologies. — ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered his address on India's 79th Independence Day, emphasizing the nation's determination, progress, and future vision, reflecting India's spirit and resolve.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets the members of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) after addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort during the celebrations to mark the country's Independence Day in New Delhi on 15 August 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

Putin-Trump Meeting: Political Goodwill for Peace

The summit will begin at 7 pm GMT on 15 August at Alaska's Elmendorf-Richardson military base. How will it go?

Presidential Talks

Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump will start with a one-on-one meeting with interpreters, followed by inter-delegation talks.

Both will make brief opening remarks.

After the discussions, Putin and Trump may hold a joint press conference.

Key Focus

The resolution of the Ukrainian crisis.

Other topics such as bilateral economic cooperation and global security will also be addressed.

"No documents are planned to be signed following the summit," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Elmendorf-Richardson military base, officially known as Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), is located in Anchorage, Alaska, United States. Anchorage is the most populous city in Alaska with about 290,000 residents. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ GETTY**

Russo-American Effort

The meeting will go ahead thanks to Putin and Trump's goodwill, said Peskov.

"Such mutual political will is in short supply these days," he said. "It seems unlikely, for example, that we will receive an adequate response from the Europeans."

Trump's Vision

Trump said he was unsure whether a ceasefire deal in the Ukraine conflict could be reached after his meeting with Putin.

He added that Russia and Ukraine should discuss any possible peace deal between themselves.

Preparations

US envoy Steve Witkoff's visit to Russia was productive, and his signals paved the way for the Russo-US leaders' meeting, Peskov said.

The preparations were made in a very short timeframe, but all necessary conditions were met.

SPUTNIK