

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

President of Republic of Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing to pay Official Visit to Republic of Belarus

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay an Official Visit to the Republic of Belarus following his Official Visit to the Russian Federation.

During the visit, the President of Myanmar will meet with the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, and the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and other officials from the Belarusian Government. The President will cordially discuss matters relating to the further consolidation of the existing bilateral friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas of common interest, including economic, security and social sectors. During the visit, the President will also attend the Opening Ceremony of the Myanmar Embassy in Minsk and the Myanmar-Belarus Business Forum.

The President will be accompanied by Union Ministers and officials during the visit. — MNA

Russia Applauds Myanmar's Support for Russia-ASEAN Cooperation

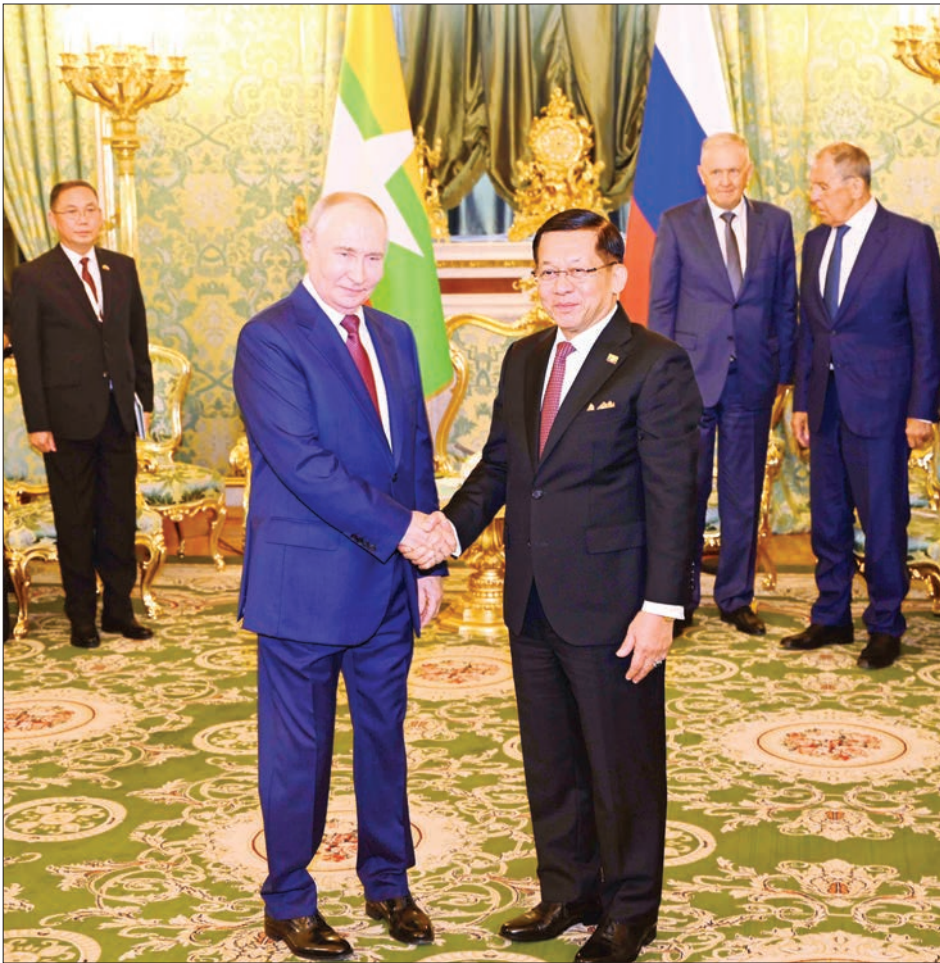
Russia has provided support and assistance to Myanmar for many years across various sectors, including the country's development efforts.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting with President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow at 3 pm local standard time yesterday.

The President of Myanmar was warmly welcomed by the President of the Russian Federation at the Grand Kremlin Palace, where they held a bilateral meeting.

Also present at the meeting were Union ministers and officials who accompanied the President of Myanmar and the Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation. The Russian President was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, an Aide to the President of the Russian Federation, and senior government officials.

At the meeting, the Russian President extended greetings, saying that



Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin and Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing exchange cordial handshakes during their meeting in Moscow on 18 August 2026.

at present, Myanmar is experiencing flooding, and he expressed his sympathy and encouragement to the flood-affected people.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1948 and have continued to develop positively throughout history. Russia is grateful to Myanmar for its support for cooperation between Russia and ASEAN.

SEE PAGE 3

Yangon's 138-year-old blower station designated as heritage site

A 138-year-old blower station operated by the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of the Yangon City Development Committee in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, was officially designated yesterday as an ancient heritage site with the installation of a commemorative bronze plaque.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu delivered an opening address on the occasion of the plaque installation.

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Thayezay-Taungpyone train service resumes

THE Thayezay-Taungpyone train service has commenced operations with a total of eight coaches, comprising six ordinary-class coaches and two brake coaches. The trains will depart daily from Thayezay Station for Taungpyone Station at 7 am and 1:30 pm, while trains from Taungpyone Station to Thayezay Station will depart at 9 am and 4:15 pm.

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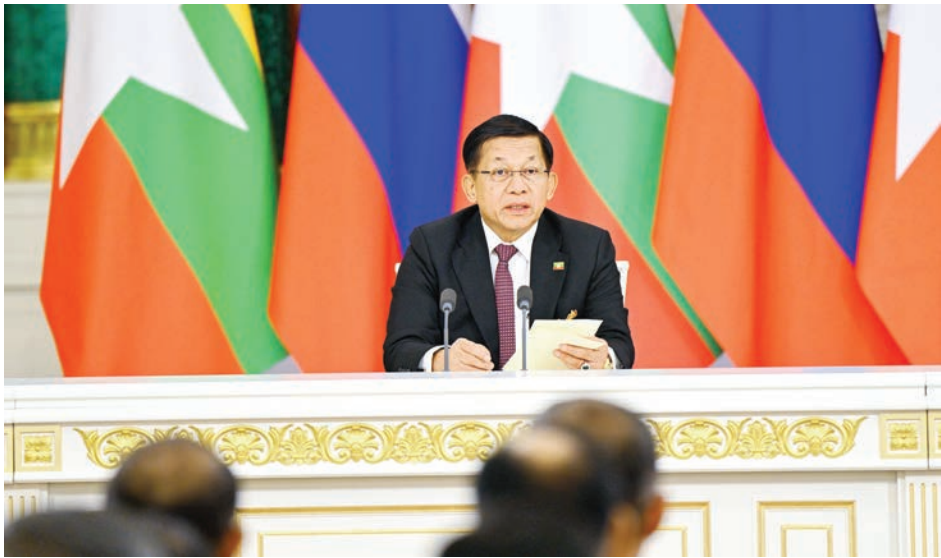
Officials and local communities celebrate the resumption of the Thayezay-Taungpyone railway service.

NATIONAL

Speech Delivered by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Meeting with the Media by the Heads of State of Myanmar and Russia

Speech Delivered by Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Putin at the Meeting with the Media by the Heads of State of Myanmar and Russia

18 August 2026, Moscow



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivers a media briefing in Moscow on 18 August 2026.

Your Excellency President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, members of the two delegations, and all members of the media, Mingalaba!

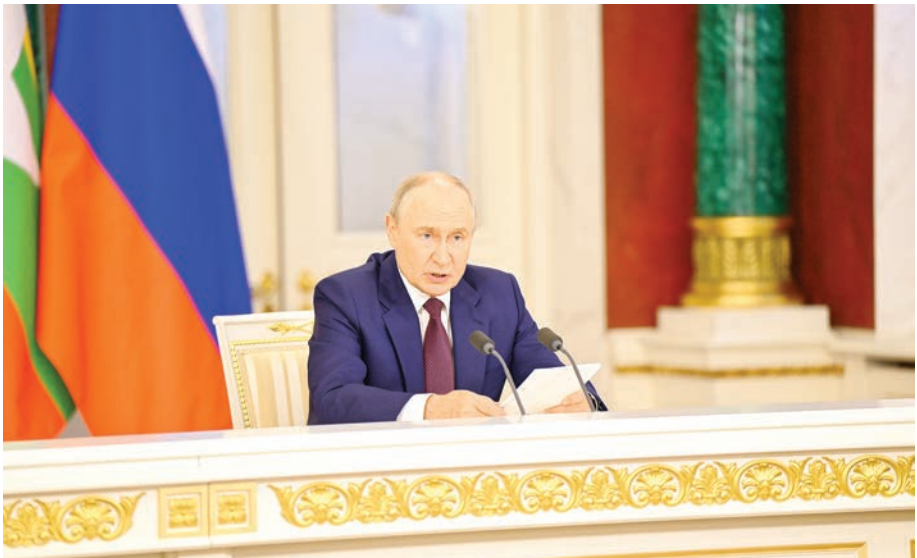
- I am visiting Russia on an official visit at the invitation of President Mr Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation.
- Myanmar and Russia have now marked 78 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Russia was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Myanmar after the country gained independence.
- Myanmar and Russia are close and true friends, and we have maintained sound relations based on mutual understanding and respect.
- In recent years, Myanmar-Russia relations and cooperation have reached their closest and highest level.
- Frequent meetings and discussions between the leaders of the two countries have been key drivers of bilateral relations.
- Today's meeting between President Putin and me has made a significant contribution to maintaining and further advancing the momentum of growing bilateral relations.
- In addition, we reviewed the implementation of matters discussed and agreed upon between the two countries, as well as the progress of cooperation across various sectors. We were also able to discuss and reach agreements on maintaining the progress already achieved and further expanding cooperation.
- We also had extensive discussions on

- prospects for continued cooperation in various fields, including defence, security, agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, education, science and technology, space technology, health and tourism.
- Now that legislative bodies have also been established in Myanmar, we were able to discuss enhancing cooperation not only between the two governments but also between the respective parliaments.
 - As the visa exemption agreement between the two countries came into effect in January this year, we also discussed prospects for further promoting cooperation in the tourism sector and people-to-people exchanges.
 - During this visit, we signed 12 agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs). We are also coordinating efforts to conclude further agreements on bilateral cooperation across various sectors.
 - Myanmar and Russia have consistently supported each other at the regional and international levels. We exchanged views, discussed current global affairs, and agreed to continue close cooperation on the international stage in future.

Your Excellency the President, members of the two delegations, and all members of the media

- Myanmar is a country strategically located from a geopolitical perspective, with access to large markets in neighbouring countries and abundant natural resources.

SEE PAGE 7



President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin delivers a media briefing in Moscow on 18 August 2026.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to meet once again in Russia with my friend, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing. Russia-Myanmar relations are based on longstanding friendship and cordial ties. Cooperation between the two countries is founded on fairness, mutual respect and mutual benefit. During the 1950s and 1960s, Myanmar provided considerable assistance in the social, economic and defence sectors. It is clearly evident that major infrastructure facilities, including hospitals and universities built in Myanmar during the Soviet Union era, continue to benefit the people of Myanmar to this day. Most importantly, I would like to emphasize that Russia-Myanmar relations have continued to develop and grow stronger to this day. There are extensive contacts between the governments of the two countries. The foreign ministries of the two countries are maintaining systematic communication and engagement. Regular meetings and discussions are also being held between the security councils, parliaments and political parties of the two countries. Several projects aimed at promoting the interests of both countries are also being implemented, and we had the opportunity to discuss them today.

We were also able to discuss international affairs today. Many agreements have been signed between the governments and relevant departments of Russia and Myanmar. We will continue to emphasize economic cooperation. The two countries have a reliable and robust payment system based on mutual trust. The energy sector is an important area of

cooperation between the two countries. There are also coal-fired power plants and oil refinery projects in Myanmar.

In addition, we are interested in cooperating in the exploration of natural resources in Myanmar and in oil and natural gas extraction, including offshore operations in Myanmar. There is considerable potential for Russia to export LNG to Myanmar, which could be used domestically as well as exported to other countries. Last year, we signed an agreement on the construction of a nuclear power plant in Myanmar. This project is also a major undertaking for both countries. There is also significant potential for implementing several projects in the industrial and transport sectors. For example, a steel mill and a fertilizer plant are being constructed in Myanmar.

In the southern part of Myanmar, we are also discussing a deep-sea port construction project. We are also discussing cooperation in the high-tech sector. Russian companies have put forward several proposals and plans for cooperation in Myanmar's digital sector, cybersecurity and other high-tech fields.

In the field of space cooperation, the two countries signed an agreement on bilateral cooperation in 2025 and have been carrying out cooperation in these areas. Human resource development is also an important area of cooperation for both countries. Under the visa-free arrangement between the two countries, many scientists, young people and athletes, as well as tourists, are travelling between the two countries.

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NATIONAL

Russia Applauds Myanmar’s Support for Russia-ASEAN ...

FROM PAGE 1

They are actively cooperating on the international stage, and there is also a need to further enhance cooperation in the economic sector. Therefore, it is necessary to implement projects that can be undertaken through bilateral cooperation. Relations between the two countries are also developing in the security sector. During Your Excellency’s current visit to Russia, there are opportunities for discussions and study. He expressed his belief that during this visit, they will be able to hold detailed discussions on various areas of cooperation between the two countries and make progress in these areas.

The President of Myanmar responded that the two countries are actively cooperating across various fields, including international relations. Myanmar has been experiencing floods since last month. He is

deeply grateful for Your Excellency’s expression of sympathy and concern for the people of Myanmar. Myanmar also suffered significant losses in the Mandalay earthquake last year. They have not forgotten, to this day, that Your Excellency’s side sent special teams and rescue teams at that time, and he expressed his gratitude once again. Cooperation between the two countries in various sectors is progressing rapidly, and there are many areas in which they can continue to cooperate in the future. He looks forward to discussing these matters in detail with Your Excellency. Myanmar’s relations with the international community have also changed and further developed, although there are still many areas in which they need to continue their efforts. Russia has provided support and assistance to Myanmar for many years in various sectors, including Myanmar’s

development. He reiterated his gratitude, as much of the progress achieved to date has also benefited from Russia’s strong support and assistance. Given the long-standing historical relations between the two countries, these ties will remain strong in the future. He reaffirmed that Myanmar will always remain a trusted and reliable friend of Russia in South-East Asia. Myanmar is always ready to cooperate.

They also exchanged views on Myanmar’s political progress, and efforts of Myanmar government to restore internal peace, severe action taken by Myanmar in combatting online scams and gambling, enhancement of cooperation with regional countries, cooperation of Myanmar with ASEAN with its best efforts, and friendship and further cooperation in defence, security, agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, education, science and

technology, space technology, health and tourism sectors between the two countries cooperation in energy sector; and participation in establishment of Dawei Deep Sea Port and Special Economic Zone.

The President of Myanmar and the Russian President attended the bilateral meeting between the two countries.

At the meeting, ministers of both countries discussed, the industrial production sector, the energy sector, the trade sector, the economic sector, the implementation of digital monetary system, the education sector, the science and technology sector, the space science and technological cooperation sector, human resource development sector, maritime export trade and transport sector and other sectors. The President of Myanmar and the Russian President gave supplementary discussions.

Subsequently, a cere-

mony was held for the signing and exchange of agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between the governments of the two countries.

The documents signed and exchanged included a statement on ways to respond to and address the adverse impacts of unilateral coercive measures between the two countries; an MoU on cooperation in the electricity and oil and natural gas sectors; an MoU on cooperation in radio-electronic industries and digital technology; a memorandum of cooperation on competition authorities; an MoU on cooperation in the fields of culture and fine arts; an MoU on cooperation in information and communications technology (ICT); and an MoU on cooperation in the fields of satellite navigation systems, human space flight, the satellite-based search and rescue system COSPAS-SARSAT, and the Automatic System for

Warning of Hazardous Situations in Near-Earth Space (ASPOS), an MoU between the Myanmar Space Agency and Plekhanov Russian University of Economics and the MOU between the Myanmar Space Agency and Bauman Moscow State Technical University was also included, bringing the total to 12 MoUs.

The Ambassador of Myanmar to the Russian Federation and the relevant Union ministers signed and exchanged the documents with their respective Russian ministers and officials in the presence of relevant minister and officials of Russia and the President of Myanmar and the President of the Russian Federation.

The President of Myanmar and the Russian President explained the joint statement of the two countries to the media, and the joint statement will be delivered separately. — MNA/TTA

Vice-President Calls for Stronger Anti-Smuggling Drive as National Duty

THE Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee held its Coordination Meeting 1/2026 at the Union Government Office Meeting Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with Committee Chairman and Vice-President U Nyo Saw presiding.

The meeting was attended by the vice-chairmen and members of the committee, chairmen of the special anti-illegal trade task forces from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, regions and states, as well as departmental heads and invited officials.

During the meeting, Vice-President U Nyo Saw discussed seizures of illegal goods made between April and July 2026. He emphasized key priorities, including im-



The first coordination meeting of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee is underway in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 August 2026, addressed by Vice-President U Nyo Saw.

plementing presidential directives, conducting systematic inspections at border checkpoints and taking strict legal action against the transportation of illegal goods. The Chairman instructed authorities to ensure the smooth and secure flow of cargo along key trade

routes and called for the expansion of the electronic container lock (E-Lock) tracking system across all trade corridors. He urged all stakeholders to carry out anti-illegal trade operations as a vital national duty to effectively curb illicit trade.

Afterwards, Com-

mittee Secretary U Win Myint Khine, Deputy Minister for Commerce, presented progress reports on decisions made at previous meetings and outlined future operational plans. Steering Committee Vice-Chairpersons: Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe

and Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw, along with Committee members Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Aung Myo Thant, reported on sector-specific anti-illegal trade operations, achievements and future measures. In addition, chairmen of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, regional and state special task forces reported on the implementation of anti-illegal trade measures on the ground, followed by discussions among the attendees.

The Vice-President reviewed the presentations, gave further instructions and delivered concluding remarks before the meeting was adjourned. — MNA/TH

Coord meeting on installing relief artworks and statues held

A coordination meeting was held to discuss the installation of relief artworks and statues at Nay Pyi Taw Square and the Entertainment Square in front of the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall.

The meeting was held at the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee meeting hall on 17 August 2026. Officials discussed plans to ensure that the artworks and statues, which will serve as national commemorative works, accurately reflect historical facts, highlight the distinctive characteristics of the people they depict, remain durable for the long term, and are constructed to withstand weather conditions and earthquakes. —TWA/KN

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Russia Boost Cooperation in Oil, Gas and Small-Scale Nuclear Energy

Russia reaffirms strong support for Myanmar and its people as Myanmar strengthens international diplomatic relations.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting with Mr Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin, Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation, at the Government House of the Russian Federation at 12:30 pm local standard time yesterday.

The Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation welcomed the President of Myanmar and held the meeting at the Government House.

At the meeting, the Russian Prime Minister expressed his commitment to further enhance the strategic partnership and cooperation between Myanmar and Russia. As Myanmar is an important partner of Russia in Asia, South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, he stated that Russia will further strengthen cooperation between the two countries in multiple sectors.

In response, the President of Myanmar stated that he has visited the Rus-



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin, Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation, in Moscow on 18 August 2026.

sian Federation 14 times, and this time is the first of the State-level official visit to Russia since assuming office. The President expressed his firm belief that the two sides will be able to openly discuss the friendship, mutual understand-

ing and trust between the two countries, as well as cooperation in various sectors through this meeting.

Furthermore, they cordially exchanged views on the improvement of friendly ties and cooperation between the two

countries, in addition to further deepening diplomatic relations to firmly show the traditional friendship and mutual respect and shared values. They also emphasized Russia's strong support for Myanmar and its people in the

international arena, while Myanmar is striving to further strengthen its diplomatic relations with the international community, including regional countries and ASEAN member states.

SEE PAGE 6

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Urges Stronger Parliamentary Engagement and Public Trust in Ayeyawady

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met regional lawmakers and committee leaders at the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Banquet Hall in Patheingyi yesterday afternoon to discuss legislative roles, public engagement, and regional development. During the meeting, the Speaker highlighted the parliament's vital role as a bridge between the public and the government, emphasizing that parliamentary committees serve as essential pillars of effective governance.

To foster public trust, he proposed strategic outreach efforts, including "Open Parliament Days"



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi is pictured during his meeting with Ayeyawady Region's legislators and committee leaders.

and "Join Parliament" programmes that allow students, professionals, and civil society groups to observe legislative proceedings directly. He also

urged representatives to prioritize regional development, rule of law, economic stability, and price control by actively collaborating with relevant

ministries on education, healthcare, and social needs.

Following a briefing on the regional assembly's regular session by Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Speaker U Thein Tun, local lawmakers raised pressing issues such as transport challenges, parliamentary affairs, and ongoing flooding, which the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker coordinated to resolve. The Speaker then reviewed committee operations, provided guidance to committee chairs and secretaries, inspected the assembly hall, and signed the parliament's guestbook. — MNA/ST

Artistic merit, rarity to shape rewards for ancient artefacts

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum, under the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture, plans to revise and increase cash reward rates for individuals who hand over antiquities, incorporating additional valuation cri-

teria for rarity and artistic significance.

The initiative aims to ensure the long-term preservation of Myanmar's cultural heritage, prevent illegal trafficking and curb the illicit export of historical artefacts.

SEE PAGE 10



This photo features an individual who surrendered ancient artefacts receiving a cash reward from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Russia to further cement cooperation and friendly relations between Hluttaws

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, currently in Moscow of the Russian Federation to pay an Official Visit, held a meeting with Mr Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, at the building of the State Duma at 10 am local standard time yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe, Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Dr Thet Khaing Win and U Ko Ko Lwin, who accompanied the President, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Myo Moe Aung and officials. The Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation was accompanied by Vice-Chair of the State Duma Mr Sholban Kara-Ool and officials from the Duma committees.

The President and



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing engages in talks with Mr Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, in Moscow on 18 August 2026.

party were welcomed by the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation at the building of the State Duma.

At the meeting, the President of Myanmar and the Chairman of the

State Duma frankly discussed the plans to further strengthen friendly ties, bilateral trust and cooperation between parliaments which are legislative pillars of both countries, more improvement

of friendship between the two countries and peoples of both countries through the inter-parliamentary cooperation, progress of relations between the two countries based on equality, mutual respects and

non-interference in internal affairs, situations to exchange goodwill visits between the Hluttaws to share experiences, successful holding of a fair and prestigious election in Myanmar, efforts of Hluttaws

participated by people's representatives and the government democratically elected in carrying out national development, peace and stability measures in order to practically implement the people's desires, endeavours of the government to firmly initiate the democratic process, observation of election observation teams from international community including those from Russia at the election held in Myanmar, showing their findings for the free and fair election, the plans to further cement cooperation and friendly relations between Hluttaws from both countries, and continuous enhancement of friendship and cooperation in multiple sectors between the two countries.

After the meeting, the President of Myanmar cordially greeted the Chairman of the State Duma and the party. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar, India sign MoU on development project

MYANMAR and India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on a minor development project backed by India in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The MoU was signed by Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, and U Zaw Lin, Director-General of Progress of Border Areas and National Races

Department.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat and Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur made remarks respectively.

The Indian ambassador and the Director-General signed the MoU and exchanged it. The Union minister and the Indian

ambassador exchanged gifts.

Under the MoU, a project will be implemented with the assistance of the Government of India to construct a two-storey reinforced-concrete (RC) warehouse measuring 130 feet by 30 feet by 24 feet at the Dagon Myothit District Development Supervisory Office in Yangon to store relief supplies. The warehouse will enable the storage of supplies to support border area development activities and emergency supplies required for areas affected by natural disasters, allowing them to be distributed promptly to areas in need. — MNA/KTZH



A signing ceremony for development project is underway yesterday.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Meets Lawng Waw Literature and Traditional Culture Association Delegation



A commemorative group photo session following the meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and the Lawng Waw Literature and Traditional Culture Association.

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe met a delegation led by U Be Htaw Zawng, Patron of the Lawng Waw Literature

and Traditional Culture Association based in Waingmaw Township, at the Amyotha Hluttaw Reception Hall of the Hluttaw Building in

Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the preservation and promotion of Lawng Waw literature and traditional culture, regional development, and ethnic affairs.

Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Union Advisory Council Member Daw Dwe Bu, the chairperson and officials of the Lawng Waw Literature and Traditional Culture Association, and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing lays wreath to pay tribute at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing laid a wreath to pay tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow yesterday morning.

On his arrival at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow, the President of Myanmar and his entourage were welcomed by officials from the government of the Russian Federation and military leaders from Moscow.

Led by two vanguard soldiers, the wreath was carried to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where President U Min Aung Hlaing laid the wreath



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing pays tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow.

and observed a one-minute silence in honour of the fallen heroes. Following the wreath-laying ceremony and tribute,

the Guard of Honour of the Russian Federation played the National Anthem of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The President took the salute of the Guard of Honour and cordially greeted the officials. — MNA/TTA

MPT continues humanitarian assistance for flood-affected people in Ayeyawady

MPT continues to provide humanitarian assistance and communication services for flood victims in Ayeyawady Region.

MPT promptly provided humanitarian assistance and emergency communication service solutions for locals affected by water overflowing along the Ngawun River in Ayeyawady Region, delivering essential supplies directly to displaced families.

On 14 and 15 August, basic food items, clothing, medicines, and other necessary supplies were distributed for over 300 households. MPT employees



MPT providing humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in Ayeyawady.

personally visited the flood relief camp at the monastery and other camps in Laymyethna Township.

MPT installed and op-

erated two B2B Satellite Terminals and one Cell on Wheels (COW) on 5 August for locals. Additionally, free internet data, voice calls,

and SMS services were provided to users in the flood-affected areas from 7 to 13 August.

“As a reliable partner organization, our top priority is to provide essential support supplies and robust communication services to the places that need them most. In line with our motto, ‘MPT – Ever Holding Hands Together’, we are fully determined to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Myanmar under any circumstances,” said U Ye Min Oo, Chief Operating Officer of MPT-KSGM Joint Operations. — MT/ZN

Myanmar, Russia Boost Cooperation ...

FROM PAGE 4

The discussions of both sides underlined that the central governments of the two countries are deepening their good relations while enjoying the fruits of improvement in economic and investment sectors due to strengthening friendly ties with the federal states of the Russian Federation. They also discussed the enhancement of cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, digital technology, industry, education, health, religious and culture sectors, maritime and transport, tourism, sports, agriculture and livestock sectors between the two countries, and cooperation in micro, small and medium enterprises.

Moreover, they highlighted the further education cooperation to produce educated human resources needed for development of the State including sending of scholarship students, cooperation in satellite and space science technologies after signing the “Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes” between Myanmar and Russia, the cooperation with Russia in training Myanmar astronauts for participation in the space mission, efforts of the Myanmar Space Agency in joining hands with international space agencies and organizations including

the United Nations in order to apply the satellite and space technologies in socioeconomic development sectors of Myanmar including agriculture, natural disaster management, and environmental conservation, plans to further promote cooperation in production of oil, natural gas and energy including the generation of small-scale nuclear energy, and strengthening cooperation in multiple sectors between the two countries including maritime transport and increasing the export of aquatic products.

Also present at the meeting were the entourage of the President: U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe, Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Ko Ko Lwin and Dr Charlie Than, Chief Executive Officer Dr Soe Myint Maung of the Myanmar Space Agency, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Zaw Naing Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation and officials. The Russian Prime Minister was accompanied by ministers of the Russian Cabinet, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

After the meeting, the Russian Prime Minister warmly saw off the President of Myanmar. — MNA/TTA



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NATIONAL

Speech Delivered by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Meeting with the Media by the Heads of State of Myanmar and Russia

FROM PAGE 2

- It has more than 33 million acres of arable land, a strong labour force, and a favourable and moderate climate. In addition, Myanmar has a coastline stretching more than 1,300 miles.
- Given the excellent investment opportunities available in Myanmar, I would once again like to invite, through Your Excellency the President, Russian businesspeople from various sectors to invest in Myanmar. A Myanmar-Russia Economic

Cooperation Forum will also be held tomorrow. **Your Excellency the President, members of the two delegations, and all members of the media**

- In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm my desire to work alongside President Putin, the Government and people of Russia to further advance relations between our two countries through enhanced cooperation between Myanmar and Russia, which share longstanding bonds of friendship.
- Thank you.

Speech Delivered by Russian Federation President Mr Vladimir Putin at the Meeting with the Media by the Heads of State of Myanmar and Russia

FROM PAGE 2

A Myanmar Consulate in Vladivostok is also expected to open soon. In addition, Myanmar cultural and religious centres have been established in Altai, Kaluga and Moscow regions.

Approval has been granted for the construction of a Russian Orthodox Church in Yangon, one of Myanmar's major cities. I am very pleased to see growing interest in the Russian language in Myanmar. Russian is being taught at universities in Yangon and Mandalay, as well as at the Defence Services Academy.

Myanmar plans to participate in a programme offered by Russia. At present,

there are a total of 400 Myanmar students studying at Russian universities. As many as 17,000 Myanmar students have graduated from Russian universities. Russia and Myanmar hold very similar views on international issues. Russia and Myanmar have consistently opposed interference by international organizations in defence-related matters and internal affairs. Russia-Myanmar military technological cooperation is developing well. Joint military exercises are frequently conducted in Myanmar's waters, and Russian naval vessels have frequently visited Myanmar. I would like to express my gratitude to the delegation led by President U

Min Aung Hlaing for visiting Russia today. President U Min Aung Hlaing has an extensive programme during his visit to Russia. In addition to meetings with the Russian Prime Minister and the Chairman of the State Duma, he has many other meetings with various departments and organizations.

Furthermore, President U Min Aung Hlaing is scheduled to visit the Republic of Buryatia, which is one of Russia's Buddhist regions. I am confident that this visit will be successful. I hope that the signing ceremony held today will make a significant contribution to Russia-Myanmar cooperation and partnership. Thank you, distinguished guests.

VDP projects completed in 3 Hopong villages

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to assess the completion of local development works implemented under the 2026-2027 financial year Village Development Project (VDP) in Htamsan, Loilem and Loitawng villages.

Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lwin Lwin Oo, Hopong Township Head U Soe Lwin Myint and



Officials oversee the completed road construction project in Hopong Township.

project staff inspected the completed facilities, which include a 40-foot-long, 30-foot-wide and 12-foot-high community hall in Htamsan Village,

a 400-foot-long, 12-foot-wide and six-inch-thick concrete road in Loilem Village, and a 1,000-foot-long, 12-foot-wide and three-inch-thick farm-to-

market road in Loitawng Village. Officials then met residents and urged them to form village-level management committees to maintain the completed infrastructure for long-term sustainability.

The infrastructure projects were executed by local residents using K15 million in VDP support funds for each village alongside community contributions, with technical supervision provided by the department's engineering staff. — Thaw Zin Htoo(Rural)

Chauk's MSY Village Project activities inspected

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection of the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project activities in Kyaung-yadaw Village, Chauk Township, Magway Region, stated the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Daw May Thet Naing, Chauk District Head of the Department of Rural Development, and officials inspected the successful implementation and progress of agricultural and livestock breeding businesses currently underway, funded by the MSY Village Project in Kyaung-yadaw Village. They also checked

whether the monthly records and registers required to be completed were properly maintained. The district head gave necessary instructions.

The MSY Village Project was initiated in Kyaung-yadaw Village in the 2015-2016 financial year. Loans amounting to K61.9 million were provided to 142 agricultural workers, K800,000 to three livestock breeders, and K1.1 million to four people engaged in production businesses. A total of 149 members have been provided with a total of K63.8 million as a revolving fund under the MSY Village Project, and the businesses are currently operating. — Naw Lu (Rural)

NyaungU wraps up organic fertilizer production course

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in cooperation with the Township Department of Agriculture, held a closing ceremony for a vocational training course on organic fertilizer production at Minnanthu Model Village in NyaungU Town-

ship yesterday.

NyaungU Township Department of Rural Development Head U Nyi Nyi Oo delivered closing remarks, urging trainees to apply the acquired knowledge and skills practically in their workplaces to enhance agricultural techniques. Officials subsequent-

ly presented awards to outstanding trainees, and Township Head U Nyi Nyi Oo handed over completion certificates to the participants, after which a trainee representative expressed words of thanks.

A total of 20 trainees from Minnanthu Model Village attended the

three-day free course. Instructors provided theoretical and practical lessons on organic fertilizer production, preparation and application of pesticides, modern farming techniques, scientific cultivation methods and yield-increasing measures. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Cultivating capable agricultural and livestock scholars

The government has established the Yezin Agricultural University and the University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) over the years. The University of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding (Maubin) was also established in recent years, in addition to upgrading institutes of agriculture to the college level. Such efforts aim to produce agricultural and livestock breeding scholars across the nation.

Of them, the University of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding (Maubin) was established with the aim of producing agricultural and livestock scholars for Lower Myanmar. In particular, it is necessary to produce agricultural specialists with expertise in the crops predominantly cultivated and grown in Lower Myanmar.

If circumstances permit, an Agriculture and Livestock Breeding University will be established in Shwebo. As Myanmar emphasizes agriculture and livestock farming, there are plans to upgrade agricultural and livestock institutes to college level and provide higher-level education and training to produce skilled agricultural workers and specialists. This will enable young people to acquire knowledge and skills in modern agricultural and livestock farming methods and contribute to the development of their respective regions and the country.

During their university education, students should be provided with a strong foundation. Teachers should guide and educate students to become outstanding, competent young people. If universities provide quality education and training, students can develop into talented and capable young people. Regardless of the subject they study, efforts should be made to help them become proficient and outstanding in their respective fields.

If circumstances permit, an Agriculture and Livestock Breeding University will be established in Shwebo. As Myanmar emphasizes agriculture and livestock farming, there are plans to upgrade agricultural and livestock institutes to college level and provide higher-level education and training to produce skilled agricultural workers and specialists. This will enable young people to acquire knowledge and skills in modern agricultural and livestock farming methods and contribute to the development of their respective regions and the country.

The university needs to provide education in practical fields that are genuinely required for agricultural and livestock production. Only by producing specialists who can make effective use of the region's favourable natural resources and successfully develop agriculture and livestock farming will a new generation of professionals emerge who can contribute to the interests and development of the region and the country.

As Myanmar is a country that gives priority to agriculture and livestock farming, it is necessary to systematically educate and train students to produce agricultural and livestock scholars who can contribute to the development of the country. Agricultural and livestock universities should place greater emphasis on producing well-qualified graduates rather than focusing on the number of students they train.

Students must be systematically educated and trained to develop proficiency in agricultural and livestock farming methods. They should also be systematically taught water supply and irrigation systems to ensure the efficient use of water resources, as well as practical agricultural knowledge and skills that are genuinely needed for agricultural production.

AS Myanmar prepares to open the Central-level School Health Week on 10 August 2026, it is timely to reflect on the remarkable journey of the country's school health programme – a century-old endeavour that has evolved from a modest medical inspection service into a comprehensive, multi-sectoral platform for nurturing the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the nation's students. School health is not merely a health-sector concern; it is a shared national investment that determines the strength of Myanmar's human capital for generations to come.

A Century of School Health in Myanmar

Myanmar's school health services trace their origin to 1920, when the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, first assigned medical officers and dental surgeons to school children under British administration. Following independence, the Maternal, Child and School Health Department was established in 1953, embedding school health within the country's basic health infrastructure. School health programmes were formally included in the first People's Health Plan of 1977-78 as a core community health project.

A defining turning point came in 1996, when Myanmar adopted the concept of health promotion in schools in line with WHO's Global School Health Initiative, launched the previous year: The Health Promoting School (HPS) approach

— built on healthy school policy, physical and social environment, health education and services, and community engagement — was introduced into existing school health services, formally recognising that the “health for all” and “education for all” goals are mutually reinforcing.

In 2006, this evolved into the Nine-Domain Health Promoting School programme, covering health education, environmental sanitation, disease control, nutrition promotion, medical examination, community outreach, counselling, training and research, and physical activity. By 2017, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education jointly issued the National Comprehensive School Health Strategic Plan (2017-2022), consolidating decades of fragmented activity into four coordinated strategic pillars, with technical support from the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office.

Today, the School Health Division under the Department of Public Health continues to lead national coordination, working through a five-tier structure of

school health committees – from the central level down to individual schools – in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, WHO, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and other stakeholders.

What the Data Tell Us

The School-based Adolescent Health Survey (SAHS) 2025, conducted by the Ministry of Health from October to December 2025 among 1,155 adolescents aged 13-17 nationwide, offers the most current picture of student health. Key findings include a continuing double burden of malnutrition (23.0 per cent underweight, 6.8 per cent overweight, 4.5 per cent obese); poor dietary habits, with only 13.2 per cent eating fruit twice or more daily against 49.4 per cent eating junk food twice or more weekly; low physical activity (34.8 per cent active at least 60 minutes daily); high tobacco exposure (31.0 per cent currently smoke, 81.3 per cent exposed to second-hand smoke); and early signs of psychosocial strain (10.4 per cent felt lonely most of the

By Dr Aung Tun, Dr Sumon Myat (School Health)

time). On the positive side, hygiene practices remain strong (90.9 per cent brush their teeth daily) and preventive coverage is notable (99.0 per cent received deworming, 48.4 per cent received the HPV vaccine). Together, these findings point to diet, physical activity, tobacco exposure and mental wellbeing as the priority areas for school-based intervention.

Youth at the Centre of the Government's 100-Day Agenda

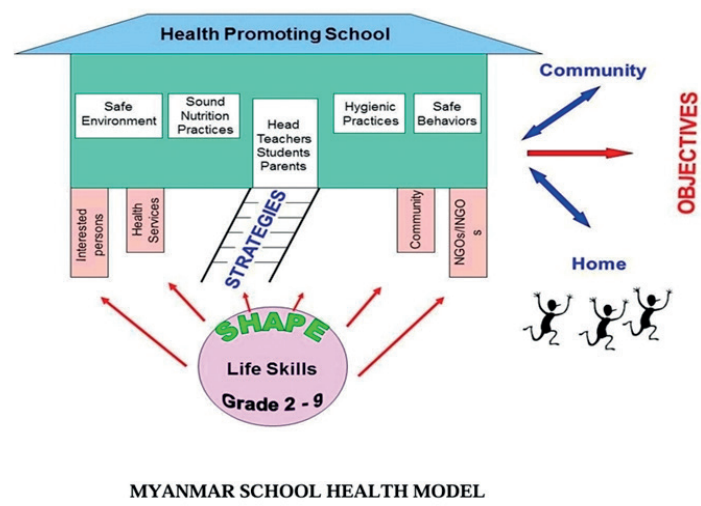
The Government's report on its first 100 days, delivered by President U Min Aung Hlaing to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 31 July 2026, placed the nation's youth squarely within its development priorities. According to the 2024 Population and Housing Census, Myanmar's youth population stands at approximately 17 million, accounting for 32.69 per cent of the total population — a demographic dividend the President described as a golden opportunity for the country, tempered by concern over rising dropout rates and gaps in higher education, vocational training and

digital skills.

The Government has committed to formulating a National Youth Development Policy Framework under the theme “Empowered Youth, Strong Nation, Shared Future,” alongside short- and long-term plans for youth development. Within basic education, more than 7.5 million students are now enrolled, supported by over 315,000 teachers, alongside the Smart School programme and the Football for Schools programme launched jointly with the Ministry of Sports. Education spending is set to rise from 6.92 per cent of the state budget in the 2026-2027 financial year to 15 per cent by 2028-2029 — a clear signal of the priority now attached to the sector that underpins school health delivery. These commitments provide an important policy window for reinforcing school health as an integral part of national youth investment, rather than a stand-alone health-sector programme.

Momentum from the July 2026 Joint Ministerial Meeting

This policy commitment has



already begun translating into concrete decisions. On 27 July 2026, the School Health Central Committee held its first coordination meeting at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw, bringing together senior officials from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The meeting resolved to extend school health services beyond government basic education schools to cover private schools, monastic schools, and industrial, agricultural and livestock breeding high schools

nationwide – closing a long-standing coverage gap identified in earlier strategic reviews of the programme.

The committee also endorsed the introduction of a Student Health Record Card for students from Grade 6 to Grade 12, intended to provide a continuous, individual health record that follows each student through secondary education. Such a record card, if consistently implemented and linked to the Health Management Information System, would sub-

Let Us Encourage Our Youth to Reduce Excessive Pursuit of Pleasure

By Soe Khant Lin

The motto “Discipline begins at school” highlights the important role of educational institutions in developing disciplined young people. In the present era, private schools have emerged alongside government schools, and private educational institutions also have a responsibility to guide students toward becoming disciplined and responsible indi-

viduals. Schools should not only provide academic knowledge but also create an environment that encourages students to develop a genuine interest in learning rather than becoming overly absorbed in entertainment and leisure.

Only through such efforts can the younger generation be equipped with the knowledge,

skills, values, and discipline necessary to contribute to the sustainable and long-term development of the nation.

In this regard, President U Min Aung Hlaing has emphasized, out of concern for the younger generation, the importance of working hard in education, striving to become well-educated and knowledgeable individuals, developing an understanding of discipline, making greater efforts, and reducing excessive indulgence in

entertainment and leisure.

Myanmar's young people, too, have an important responsibility to take an active interest in education, continuously improve themselves, and contribute to national development in whatever capacity they can. Some young people may hold the view that national development is solely the responsibility of the government and that it has little to do with them personally. Such an attitude should be replaced with

an understanding that the development and future of the country are closely connected with their own efforts and responsibilities.

When young people develop this sense of ownership and responsibility toward their nation, they are more likely to shift their attention away from excessive entertainment and toward meaningful goals. They will become more willing to work hard, improve themselves, acquire knowledge and skills, and contribute to

the development of their country.

To nurture such a generation, support from the State is essential. At the same time, parents and teachers also have a vital role to play in encouraging and guiding young people. Through the combined efforts of the State, families, educational institutions, teachers, and young people themselves, a capable and talented younger generation can emerge.

Such young people will become valuable human resources and, in the years ahead, a generation upon whom the nation can confidently rely. Their knowledge, skills, attitude, discipline, determination, and commitment will serve as important foundations for building a stronger, more prosperous, and sustainably developing Myanmar.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

Yangon’s 138-year-old blower station ...



Deputy Minister U Aye Tun sprinkles water over the bronze plaque during the ceremonial designation.

FROM PAGE 1 The Chief Minister and Deputy Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Aye Tun then unveiled the plaque and inaugurated the site by sprinkling it with scented water. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/MKKS

Thayezay-Taungpyone train ...

FROM PAGE 1 The fare has been set at K1,000 per passenger. The opening ceremony for the Thayezay-Taungpyone train service took place at the platform of Thayezay railway station yesterday. Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Moe, region chief minister U Myo Aung and relevant officials attended the event and cut the ribbon to inaugurate the train service. They also took the RBE train to Taungpyone station and inspected the needs. They paid homage to Taungpyone Pagoda constructed by King Anawrahta, and observed the Taungpyone festival goers and stalls. Necessary repair and maintenance works have been carried out to resume train services on the Mandalay-Madaya railway section. During the period when trains cannot operate on the Mandalay-Madaya section, the Thayezay-Taungpyone service is being operated throughout the 10-day festival period to facilitate convenient travel for the public at an affordable fare and enable them to travel comfortably and safely. Moreover, the Myohaung-Madaya railway route is also being repaired to resume train services on the Mandalay-Madaya railway. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Artistic merit, rarity to shape rewards for ancient artefacts

FROM PAGE 4 Under current regulations, the department evaluates submitted antiquities based on their intrinsic value, historical period and craftsmanship. However, authorities noted that existing reward rates no longer reflect current economic conditions, necessitat-

ing a comprehensive revision. Under the revised framework, antiquities dating from the Stone Age to the Colonial Era will be categorized according to material type and historical period. In addition to their base market value, supplementary criteria, includ-

ing artistic merit and rarity, will be taken into account when determining the final monetary rewards. To support the initiative, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum is conducting public-awareness campaigns across regions and states. Citizens who discover artefacts on their farmland or in their local surroundings, as well as those who possess private collections, are encouraged to report and hand over such items to the relevant administrative authorities or departmental offices promptly. — ASH/TH

Floodway Closure Works Continue Along Low Ngawun Embankment



This image shows ongoing floodway closure works in Laymyethna Township.

MEASURES are underway to block water channels caused by the lowering of the Ngawun embankment, using steel sheet piles, geotextile bags (geobags) and sandbags to strengthen vulnerable areas. The work is being carried out jointly by relevant departments,

experts, Tatmadaw members, firefighters and local communities under the supervision of deputy ministers from the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Construction. Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw inspected the work yesterday afternoon. The chief minister also met flood evacuees in Thayetkan and Nyaungbinwae villages in Laymyethna Township and assured them that the regional government would continue to provide necessary assistance. Meanwhile, Wilmar Myanmar Limited and National Infrastructure Holding Co Ltd donated relief items and K50 million in cash, worth more than K163.7 million in total, to flood victims in Ayeyawady Region. The donations included blankets, chickpeas, seasoning powder and cooked fish paste. Cartons of purified drinking water were also donated to flood victims in Laymyethna Township by a Pyithu Hluttaw representative and Galaxy Red Star Co Ltd. — Region IPRD/MKKS

3 pickpockets arrested in Hlinethaya

THE Myanmar Police Force, in cooperation with relevant departments, is taking measures to reduce crime and maintain law and order in Yangon Region. On 17 August, police arrested three men suspected of pickpocketing passengers on YBS buses in Hlinethaya Township, according to the Yangon Region Police Force. Police said two suspects, Chin Thu (aka) Ko Moe and Myo Zaw Htet (aka) Kular, were arrested after getting off YBS 53 buses at bus stops in Hlinethaya (East) Township. They allegedly stole two iPhones from the bags of two female passengers. In a separate case, police arrested Thet Htwe after he allegedly stole a white Tecno Spark mobile phone from the sling bag of a female passenger on a commuter bus in Hline-



Images reveal the three detained pickpockets. thaya (West) Township. Cases have been opened against all three suspects under Section 379 of the Penal Code and Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. — Aung Thu/KZL

ARTICLE/SCI/ENVIRON
WORLD

Researchers in Australia develop new tool to assess Great Barrier Reef health

RESEARCHERS in Australia have used more than 30 years of data to develop a new framework to more accurately measure the impact of climate change-induced events on the Great Barrier Reef.

The framework quantifies reef degradation over time and provides other researchers a “health check” tool to assess reef health. It can be used to measure the impact of severe disturbances, including coral bleaching, cyclones and floods, on reefs, according to a statement released



An aerial photo taken on 2 June 2021 shows the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia. PHOTO: XINHUA

Tuesday by Australia’s University of Sydney (USYD). Researchers analyzed data dating back to 1995, focusing on coral cover and

algal buildup. High coral cover indicates a reef able to sustain healthy marine life populations, and high levels of algae point to poor

reef health.

Rather than relying on absolute coral cover, which varies widely among reef systems, the research team compared each reef against its own historical data collected since the late 1980s.

“A reef with 30 per cent coral cover might be considered healthy in one location but indicate substantial decline in another,” said USYD PhD candidate Kate Whitton, lead author of the study published in Marine Environmental Research. — Xinhua

Low Danube water levels test Central, Eastern Europe’s energy system

ALONG the western shores of the Black Sea, vast stockpiles of coal and other commodities are piled up at the Port of Constanta, Romania.

However, persistent low water levels on the Danube are severely restricting upstream transport. Constrained by shallow stretches and reduced draft limits, barges are being forced to carry substantially smaller loads, leaving cargo stranded at the port.

Constanta is a ma-

major gateway between the Black Sea and Europe’s inland waterway network and an important transit point for coal shipments bound for Serbia.

Roughly 900 kilometres upstream, Serbia’s Nikola Tesla Thermal Power Plant (TENT) in Obrenovac, central Serbia, depends in part on coal transported along the Danube from Constanta. But receding water levels are making the supply route increasingly difficult to navigate. — Xinhua



People take a stroll on the bank of the Danube River in Belgrade, Serbia, on 16 August 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Indonesia welcomes birth of critically endangered Sumatran elephant calf

A critically endangered Sumatran elephant calf has been born at an elephant conservation center in Indonesia’s South Sumatra province, a local conservation official said Tuesday.

Daniwari Widiyanto, head of the South Suma-

tra Natural Resources Conservation Agency, said the male calf was born on Monday to its mother, Lestari, and father, Gapula.

Under the care of veterinarians and a mahout, the calf was able to stand and nurse normally shortly

after birth, Daniwari said.

Amid hot weather during the dry season, staff have provided shelter, drinking water and bathing facilities to help the mother and calf regulate their body temperatures. Additional fruit has also been pro-

vided to support Lestari’s recovery.

Authorities are closely monitoring the health, development and behaviour of the calf and its mother in accordance with animal care procedures at the conservation centre. — Xinhua

Strengthening School Health in Myanmar: Building a Healthier...

FROM PAGE 9

A key operational feature of this year’s programme is the formation of School Health Teams in both urban and rural schools, bringing together preventive and curative health staff under one coordinated team rather than the fragmented arrangements of the past. These teams are being reinforced by volunteers from the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA), alongside general practitioners from the Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) at the township level. This model is designed to ex-

tend the reach of school health services into townships and villages where dedicated health staff remain scarce, converting national policy commitments into services actually delivered at the school gate.

The Way Forward

Looking beyond School Health Week 2026, implementation should continue to be guided by the National Comprehensive School Health Strategic Plan’s four pillars – strengthening the HPS structure and committees, improving health literacy and services, harmonising health and education, and deepening commu-

nity partnership – while consolidating the National School Health Policy, Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework first commissioned in 2019 and aligning it with the emerging National Youth Development Policy Framework. Priorities going forward include synchronising the Health Management Information System with the Education Management Information System for real-time monitoring; scaling up mental health and psychosocial support services, particularly in conflict-affected and earthquake-affected townships; closing the persistent urban-rural and regional gaps in wa-

ter, sanitation and basic health service coverage; and mobilising sustained financing, including through partnership with WHO, UNICEF and other development partners, as domestic budget allocations to education expand over the coming years.

Conclusion

From the first medical officers assigned to schools in 1920 to today’s Health Promoting School framework, Myanmar’s century-long commitment to school health reflects an enduring recognition that healthy students make a healthy, productive nation. As School Health Week 2026 opens under

a government that has placed youth development at the centre of its agenda, the task ahead is to turn policy commitments into consistent, well-resourced practice in every classroom – from Yangon to the most remote monastic school.

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ECONOMY

WORLD

Japan regional train line becomes reservation-only tourist train service

A central Japan local commuter train line is thought to have become the country's first to be converted into a reservation-only tourist train along its entire route.

Despite backlash from the local community after prices were hiked significantly from a distance-based fare to a flat rate of 3,500 yen (\$22), Oigawa Railway Co managed to change its Ikawa Line in Shizuoka Prefecture to a reservation-only system in July.

The 25.5-kilometre line, also known as the Minami-Alps Abt Line,



This photo taken on 8 June 2026 shows an Oigawa Railway Co Ikawa Line train in Kawanehoncho, Shizuoka Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO

runs through a mountainous area known for its scenery and uses Japan's only Abt rack-and-pinion locomotives

designed to handle steep gradients.

With declining ridership in many areas struggling with depopulation,

the initiative is drawing attention from railway companies nationwide.

Speaking at a press conference on 2 June, Oigawa Railway CEO Akira Torizuka said, "We want to move forward together with the local community."

The town of Kawanehoncho, which lies along the train line, was only informed of the changes in April, leading to push-back from municipal council members and others who called the announcement "insufficiently explained and insincere." — Kyodo

China's forex market sustains stable run, trend in line with expectations

CHINA'S foreign exchange market sustained a stable run in July, with the overall trend in line with market expectations, experts said on Tuesday when commenting on July forex data.

According to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), banks' forex settlement reached US\$266.3 billion, while sales stood at \$248 billion in July, yielding a surplus of \$18.3 billion. In the first seven months of 2026, cumulative settlement totalled \$1,831.6 billion against sales of \$1,542.2 billion, posting a surplus

of \$289.4 billion.

The balanced supply-demand picture was underpinned by steady expansion in cross-border transactions. Cross-border receipts and payments by non-bank institutions, including enterprises and individuals, totalled \$1.7 trillion in July, surging 20 per cent year on year, with a net capital inflow of \$59.8 billion.

The country's forex market trading volume also climbed eight per cent from a year earlier to \$4.3 trillion, remaining at a high level. — Xinhua

New Zealand launches US\$880,000 poultry biosecurity grant

THE New Zealand government has launched a 1.5-million-NZ-dollar (about US\$880,000) grant to help poultry operators prepare for the possible arrival of H5 high pathogenicity avian influenza,

a senior official said on Tuesday.

The government is supporting small- and medium-sized poultry producers to strengthen their preparedness for H5 bird flu, "helping pro-

tect jobs, livelihoods and New Zealand's domestic food supply," Biosecurity Minister Andrew Hoggard said in a statement.

The poultry biosecurity grant will reimburse producers for up to 50 per

cent of costs, to a maximum of 25,000 NZ dollars, to support measures including infrastructure, access controls, bird-proofing and cleaning and disinfection facilities, the statement said. — Xinhua



A staff member helps a tourist with foreign currency exchange at the exit hall of Heihe Port in Heihe, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 30 January 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

World's largest green methanol bunkering operation completed in Shanghai

CHINA'S Shanghai Electric Group successfully bunkered 8,000 tonnes of green methanol into a container ship at Yangshan port in Shanghai on Monday, setting a global record for the largest single green methanol bunkering operation. The container ship was owned by CMA CGM Group, a French giant in global shipping and logistics.

Zhu Zhaokai, president of Shanghai Electric Group, said the success-



A drone photo shows green methanol refuelling for the ship CM HONG KONG at Tianjin Port in Tianjin, north China, 22 September 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

ful bunkering operation marked the establishment in China of an integrated industrial chain covering

large-scale green methanol production, onshore and offshore storage and transport, port bunkering

and end-use on vessels.

This industry model offers a replicable and scalable Chinese solution for the green, low-carbon transformation of international shipping, he added.

According to statistics from Shanghai Customs, since completing China's first green methanol bunkering operation in April 2024, the port of Shanghai has cumulatively bunkered 36,000 tonnes of green methanol for vessels as of now. — Xinhua

Thailand to open auto gates to 31 more nationalities at Bangkok airport

THAILAND is set to extend automated passport gates to travellers with 31 more nationalities at Suvarnabhumi Airport by the end of August as part of measures to ease congestion at the country's main international gateway, a government spokesperson said on Monday.

The Thai Immigration Bureau has approved the expansion in principle, with nationalities selected on the basis of entry-refusal statistics, the Henley Passport Index, and legal and security considerations, said deputy government spokesperson Lalida Periswiwatana. In a statement, Lalida said the change would make roughly 6.5 million additional travellers eligible for the automated lanes annually, alongside about 900,000 holders of certain long-term visas. At full capacity, an estimated 53 per cent of arriving passengers would clear immigration through auto gates, with the remaining processed by officers. — Xinhua

Deal reached to expand bluefin tuna fishing quotas as sought by Japan



This file photo taken on 20 May 2026 shows bluefin tuna landed at Sakaiminato Port in Tottori Prefecture, western Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

AN international conference on sustainable management of Pacific bluefin tuna reached an agreement Tuesday to expand catch quotas for larger fish as sought by Japan, Japanese government sources said. The online talks, held behind closed doors, were an unusual resumption of the previous meeting in

July that ended without an agreement due to Mexico’s opposition. Pacific bluefin tuna is popular for use in high-end sushi and other dishes. Their population plunged due to overfishing, but it has recovered in recent years under strict international rules. The new agreement could partially increase catch quotas from 2027, potentially making the fish more accessible to consumers. Japan negotiated to raise the quota for larger fish by about 25 per cent from current levels while cutting the quota for smaller fish — seen as important for securing future resources — by about six per cent. At the previous weeklong meeting held through 14 July in Nagasaki, southwestern Japan, discussions progressed on shifting to a new management system under which quotas would be set automatically in line with stock levels, similar to Japan’s proposal. — Kyodo

Chinese, Egyptian companies sign trade deals worth nearly US\$170 mln

CHINESE and Egyptian companies signed a number of trade deals worth nearly US\$170 million on Monday during the “Export to China” trade matchmaking event in Cairo. Egypt hopes to build on the event to foster longer-term cooperation with China, strengthen economic and trade exchanges and further advance bilateral trade relations, said Sayed Fouad, commercial minister plenipotentiary and director of the Asia Department at the Egyptian Commercial Service, affiliated with Egypt’s Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade. “At a time when protectionist measures are



Workers operate at a production line of the plant of Chinese automotive manufacturer Geely Auto Group in the 6th of October City, Giza Province, Egypt, on 15 January 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

increasing worldwide, China has chosen, in a bold step, to continue opening its markets to Africa,” said Mohamed Kassem, chairman of the Egyptian Exporters Association, adding that the move creates a real opportunity for Egyptian exporters to strengthen their competitiveness in the vast Chinese market. — Xinhua

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The pesticide manufactured by **Shenzheng Noposion Agrochemicals Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Agro Golden Rose Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

No	Previous Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No
1	Tar Mi Nay Tar	Rose Ceta	Acetamiprid 200 g/l SL	F2020-2734
2	Ban Do	Rose Ema	Emamectin Benzoate 3.4% WG	F2020-2727

TENDER INVITATION

- China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Myanmar Limited) is inviting tenders for a subcontract of Sand Extraction Works for ASK Development Project.
- Work Description – Sand extraction works for backfill materials (CBR >4% and CBR >25%) for APF, AMS01, and ABV01, sourced from underground below a vacant plot of about 170,000 m² located southwest of APF within the project plant area. The required compacted volume is approximately 432,606 m³, and the extracted sand shall be conveyed within a 1-km range.
- Work Scope – For the sand extraction works, except for the sand extraction site/land and diesel fuel, which shall be provided by the contractor, all other materials, labour, and equipment shall be arranged and supplied by the sand extraction subcontractor at its own cost and responsibility.
- Bid Submission Deadline: September 05, 2026
- Tender Submission Address: BP-2, Building, Shwe Zabu River View Condo, Kyee Myindaing Kanner Road, Alone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
- Contact information for more details:
 - Email: yuhuiguan53@gmail.com
 - Phone: +95(9)696810283

TENDER INVITATION

- China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Myanmar Limited) is inviting tenders for a subcontract of Site Backfilling Works for ASK Development Project.
- Work Description –
 - Clearing and grubbing of topsoil and weeds to a depth of 200–300 mm over an approximate area of 207,923 m²;
 - Backfilling and compaction using common fill material (CBR > 4%) to 95 % of the Standard Proctor density (ASTM D698), with an estimated volume of 391,202 m³;
 - Backfilling and compaction using selected material (CBR > 25%) to 95 % of the Standard Proctor density (ASTM D698), with an estimated volume of 41,404 m³.
- Work Scope – For the site backfilling works, except for the backfill material and diesel, which shall be supplied by the contractor, all other materials, labour, and equipment shall be procured, provided, and arranged by the Subcontractor at its own cost.
- Bid Submission Deadline: August 27, 2026
- Tender Submission Address: BP-2, Building, Shwe Zabu River View Condo, Kyee Myindaing Kanner Road, Alone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
- Contact information for more details:
 - Email: yuhuiguan53@gmail.com
 - Phone: +95(9)696810283

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

German farmers warn of drought toll on grain harvest

GERMANY’S grain harvest is expected to fall by seven per cent this year after months of severe drought and heatwaves, the German Farmers’ Association (DBV) said Tuesday.

“An overly dry spring and a heatwave in the second half of June were defining factors” leading to what the group described as a “below-average grain harvest” forecast at 41.9 million tonnes. That is also 1.5 per cent lower than the average grain harvest of 42.5 million tonnes over the past five years, according to Joachim Rukwied, the DBV president.

Germany, along with



Journalists take photos and videos as a farmer operates a combine harvester during a press event of the German Farmers’ Association (Deutscher Bauernverband) marking the official start of the 2026 grain harvest in Gross Machnow, eastern Germany, on 2 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

much of Europe, has seen record-breaking temperatures this summer along with limited rainfall, sending river levels down and

withering swathes of countryside.

Rukwied described “enormous regional differences” in the harvest,

with farmers in southern and western Germany in particular suffering from a lack of rain amid the heat and reporting “low yields, or even total crop failure in some cases”.

He said it was now too late in the growing season in areas “where drought damage is severe” to expect any help from a change in the weather.

Compounding problems for German farmers, according to the DBV, are notably higher input costs due to the global shortages of oil and other raw materials from the closure of the Strait of Hormuz during the Middle East war. — AFP

Laos urges public to stay alert over heavy rainfall

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Environment issued a heavy rainfall warning, forecasting thunderstorms and very heavy rainfall across eight provinces nationwide from 18

to 21 August. The warning notice issued on Monday said a low-pressure trough moving across northern and central Laos, combined with the southwest monsoon and strong winds in some areas, is expected to bring light to moderate

thunderstorms across the country. Particularly heavy rainfall is forecast in Huaphan, Luang Namtha, Bokeo, Luang Prabang, Xayaboury, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, and Savannakhet provinces. Authorities have urged

local communities, organizations, and residents to remain vigilant and prepare for several consecutive days of moderate to heavy rainfall, which could lead to flash floods, landslides, and urban flooding. — Xinhua

Vital relief reaches trapped families in West Bank village of Qusra: UN

THE three families trapped by Israeli forces and settlers in Qusra village in the northern West Bank have received critical supplies but remain isolated, UN humanitarian aid workers said Monday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that a team of the UN Children’s Fund on Sunday delivered water, food, medicines and hygiene items,



This photo taken on 9 August 2026 shows an Israeli settlement under construction in the West Bank, near Jerusalem. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

as well as recreational kits for children, to the Palestinian families in Qusra.

OCHA said that as of Monday, the families were still surrounded by a heavy presence of Israeli forces and settlers.

The families were trapped following the establishment of a settlement outpost next to their homes that led to tighter access restrictions in the area. — Xinhua

ISS to host first spacewalk by Frenchwoman

SOPHIE Adenot is set to become the first French female astronaut to venture outside the International Space Station for a spacewalk on Tuesday, accompanied by American astronaut Anil Menon.

The spacewalk is scheduled to start at 1235 GMT and last six and a half hours, with the goal of replacing a space-to-ground antenna on the orbital complex, according to NASA.

Adenot, 44, will be the second European woman

to conduct a spacewalk, after Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti’s mission in 2022.

The French astronaut has been preparing for the operation for several days aboard the ISS, 400 kilometres (250 miles) above the Earth.

“A successful (spacewalk) starts long before the hatch opens, and that’s where my focus has been these past few days: rehearsing, preparing and focusing,” Adenot said on X on Sunday. — AFP



ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Sophie Adenot points to the French flag on her shoulder as she prepares to travel to the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the company’s Dragon spacecraft at Space Launch Complex 40 for the Crew-12 mission at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, on 13 February 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

India inks US\$203-mln lease deal for remotely piloted aircraft systems

INDIA said on Monday that it signed a contract worth US\$203 million with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems to lease two MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for the Indian Navy for 30 months.

The two MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones, equipped with advanced systems, state-of-the-art sensors and sophisticated payloads, will significantly

enhance the Indian Navy’s Maritime Domain Awareness capabilities, a defence ministry statement said.

According to the ministry, the systems will provide persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance coverage over vast areas of the maritime domain, strengthening India’s ability to monitor and respond to developments across the Indian Ocean region. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Kane confirms Bayern extension talks set to start

BAYERN Munich striker Harry Kane has said he is set to start negotiations to extend his contract with the Bundesliga champions beyond 2027.

Speaking at a media day in Munich on Monday, the 33-year-old England captain told reporters the discussions had been delayed until after he returned from a post-World Cup holiday, but would begin soon.

"I'm not sure exactly when, but they'll start this week or next week," Kane said of the extension talks.

"We're calm, they're calm with the situation. Obviously now's the time to start talking, because with only a year left it's important.

"But both sides are relaxed and I'm pretty sure there'll be talks this week or next week."

Kane arrived at Bayern on a four-year deal in 2023 and has won two Bundesliga titles and a German Cup, while making the Champions League semi-finals in two out of three seasons. He has scored a remarkable 146 goals in 147 games in all competitions for Bayern.

Bayern have repeatedly said they want to extend Kane's deal at the club, having called the former Spurs striker their "best transfer ever" at the end of last season.

German media reported Kane's new deal would run until at least 2029.

On Tuesday, German World Cup winner Lothar Matthaeus said Kane should be the favourite for the Ballon d'Or, which will be awarded in October. — AFP



Harry Kane of Bayern Munich reacts during the German first division Bundesliga football match between Bayern Munich and FC Augsburg in Munich, Germany, 27 August 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA

5 teams advance to Inter-Region and State Lethwei finals

THE 2026 Inter-Region and State Traditional Lethwei Championship is being held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon, aiming to develop traditional Lethwei and nurture a new generation of athletes. The championship is jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports, the Yangon Region government and the Myanmar Lethwei Federation.



The semifinal bouts have been completed in the men's 51-kilogramme, 54-kilogramme, 57-kilogramme and 60-kilogramme novice classes, the men's 57-kilogramme and 60-kilogramme Class C events, and the women's 54-kilogramme class. In the men's 51-kilogramme novice class, Myint Myat Maung of Bago and Pho Thae of Kayin advanced to the final, while Saw Chit Lay of Mon and Tam Har

Shein of Kayin qualified in the 54-kilometre class. Wai Yan Min Thu of Bago and Aung Htet Ko of Kayin reached the final in the 57-kilometre novice class, while Lwin San Htoo of Mon and Than Lin Aung of Bago qualified in the 60-kilogramme novice class.

In the men's 57-kilogramme Class C event, Kyaw Soe Than of Bago and Hagay Hong of Chin advanced to the final, while

Hlaing Phyto of Yangon and Saw Thant Zin Oo of Kayin qualified in the 60-kilogramme Class C event. In the women's 54-kilogramme class, Khatta Pan of Mon and Nan Nwet Nwet Hnaung of Kayin secured places in the final.

The finals will be held at noon on 20 August at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Admission is free for spectators and sports enthusiasts. — Bala/KZL

Dortmund signs Greece international Konstantelias

BORUSSIA Dortmund has completed the signing of Greece international Giannis Konstantelias from PAOK Thessaloniki, the Bundesliga club announced on Monday.

The 23-year-old attacking midfielder arrived in Dortmund on Sunday before undergoing a medical and signing a five-year contract the following day.

Konstantelias joins

after Dortmund turned to alternative targets following unsuccessful negotiations over Cologne winger Said El Mala. The Greece international is expected to strengthen the club's attacking options after Karim Adeyemi's departure to Barcelona. "We are delighted that Giannis has chosen to join us. He is a talented attacking player whose development we

have followed for a long time," sporting managing director Lars Ricken said.

"At 23 he is still a relatively young player, but he already has considerable experience. We would also like to thank the people at PAOK Thessaloniki for the respectful and constructive discussions throughout the transfer process," he added.

Sporting director Ole

Book also welcomed the arrival of the midfielder. "With Giannis we are signing a player whose qualities will strengthen our squad. We see a great deal of potential in him and are convinced he fits our team very well," Book said. "I would also like to thank our colleagues at PAOK for the professional and appreciative cooperation in completing the transfer." — Xinhua

Asian Games: Flame-lighting ceremony held in Tokyo ahead of torch relay

A flame-lighting ceremony for the upcoming Asian Games torch relay was held in Tokyo on Tuesday, around a month before the opening of the continental multi-sport event.

Sprinter Yoshihide Kiryu used the flame in the cauldron to light the torch at the capital's National Stadium, also known as MUFG Stadium.

"I will carry the flame entrusted to us and run in

a way that can empower the next generation," said Kiryu, a silver medallist in the men's 4x100-metre relay at the 2016 Rio Olympics and a member of Japan's Asian Games team.

The historic cauldron was previously featured at the 1958 Asian Games and the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Hideaki Omura, governor of Aichi Prefecture, where many of the events will be held, and Seiko



Sprinter Yoshihide Kiryu (top) lights a torch from the cauldron for the Asian Games relay in Tokyo on 18 August. PHOTO: KYODO

Hashimoto, president of the Japanese Olympic Committee and a seven-time Olympian, were among those attending the ceremony.

"We hope to reaffirm Asian unity and peace through sports," said Omura,

ra, chief of the Asian Games organizing committee.

A similar ceremony is scheduled for Thursday at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, which is commemorating the 1945 US atomic bombing of the western Japan city. Hiroshima hosted the Asian Games in 1994.

The flames are set to be combined in Nagoya, Aichi's capital, on Saturday before the torch relay starts, with three-time

Olympic women's wrestling gold medalist Saori Yoshida serving as the first runner.

The relay is scheduled to be carried across Aichi until the 19 September opening of the games.

The Asian Games, running through 4 October, will be held mainly in Nagoya and other cities in Aichi Prefecture. Tokyo, Gifu, Shizuoka and Osaka prefectures will also host some competitions. — Kyodo



WORLD

AI proliferation threatens S Korean youth jobs, central bank report warns

THE rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) poses risks to South Korean youth jobs, according to a central bank report on Tuesday.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) report said that youth employment continued to decline in industries with high AI exposure, citing the National Pension Service (NPS) subscriber records and the economically active population survey.

Youth jobs reduced by 285,000 over the past four years. Of the total, 94 per cent, or 268,000 lost jobs,

were clustered in high AI-exposure sectors.

Youth employment tumbled 31.4 per cent in the information service for the past four years, while those in publishing, computer programming and professional services dropped 27.4 per cent, 16.6 per cent and 11.6 per cent each.

In contrast to the shrinking job opportunities for the youth, employment for workers in their 50s continued to grow in the same industries, indicating a widening generational gap. — Xinhua

6.1-magnitude earthquake strikes off Indonesia's North Sumatra

A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off Nias Island in Indonesia's North Sumatra province on Tuesday, according to the country's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency.

No casualties or property damage have been reported so far. The

earthquake occurred at 1:02 pm local time (0602 GMT), with its epicentre located about 147 kilometres southeast of South Nias regency at a depth of 29 kilometres, the agency said. The earthquake did not have the potential to trigger a tsunami, it added. — Xinhua

UN chief calls for resumption of Iran-US talks

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls on Iran and the United States to resume negotiations towards a durable settlement to the conflict, his spokesman said Monday.

Asked at a briefing about the UN chief's message as the 60-day deadline for a negotiated final deal under the 17 June Iran-US memorandum of understanding (MoU) expires on Monday, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman, said that Guterres wants

negotiations to resume.

"His message is the same, which he's been delivering since the start, which is there is no military solution to this conflict," said Dujarric. "He urges the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States to resume negotiations towards a peaceful and durable settlement as soon as possible, to avoid military action and as well to lower the rhetoric that we've been hearing in recent days." — Xinhua

S Korea says potential DPRK-US talks to boost peace on Korean Peninsula

SOUTH Korea's unification ministry said Tuesday that if the talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States resumes, it is expected to contribute to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and to a shift towards inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation.

Following US President Donald Trump's recent dialogue overtures, an unnamed official from the unification ministry told domestic reporters that Seoul had stated multiple times that it would fully serve as a pacemaker to facilitate the resumption of the DPRK-US dialogue,



US President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un hold a meeting during the second US-North Korea summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 28 February 2019.
PHOTO: SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

including by dispatching a special peace envoy, according to Yonhap news agency.

The South Korean response came after Trump told reporters

at the White House on Monday that top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un had responded to his request for dialogue, characterizing the current stage of communication as very

positive.

Trump has said on Sunday that he had instructed the Pentagon to significantly scale back joint South Korea-US military exercises. — Xinhua

Iran negotiator Ghalibaf says Hormuz will not open until US meets demands

IRAN'S top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Tuesday that the strategic Strait of Hormuz will not be opened until the United States meets Tehran's demands, including lifting a naval blockade.

"I want to state clearly that the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened until the American commitments stipulated in the memorandum of understanding... are implemented," Ghalibaf said in a speech broadcast on state television.

He listed the removal of the blockade, the lifting of oil sanctions and

unfreezing of Iran's assets abroad among the demands, which were included in an Iran-US truce in June that later

collapsed.

War between Iran and the United States broke out on 28 February after US-Israeli attacks on

the Islamic republic, triggering a conflict across the region.

Diplomatic efforts have since 8 April put an end to intense bombardments, but sporadic clashes have persisted, especially in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has kept control of the strait, a vital global energy conduit, since the war broke out, requiring vessels to seek permission and pay transit service fees — a move opposed by Washington and several regional countries.

Iran and Oman, both coastal states on Hormuz, have for weeks been discussing the future of navigation through the strait, with Tehran saying the geographical coordinates of the route envisaged by both countries "have been agreed upon". — AFP



This photo taken with a mobile phone shows merchant vessels stranded in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz, near Khasab, a small town in northern Oman, 29 May 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**