

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Security and Peace Commission Chairman, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, addresses the meeting with MSME businesspeople in Magway yesterday.

28 December polls scheduled to safeguard fair voting

Voters are urged to strengthen democracy by casting their ballots for candidates who will genuinely serve both their region and the nation.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that MSME businesses can operate production with the use of agricultural and livestock products. Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, met micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Magway Region at the city hall in Magway yesterday.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with MSME businesspeople

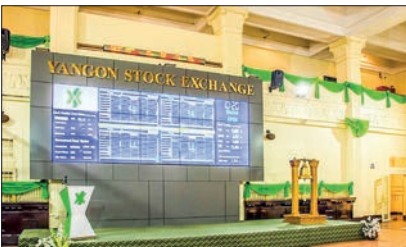
- 1. The upcoming election will use the FPTP system for the Pyithu Hluttaw and the MMP system for the Amyotha Hluttaw and regional/state Hluttaws.
- 2. Domestic agricultural produce is allowed to be exported without harming domestic consumption.
- 3. Improving cotton cultivation and textile production will bring substantial benefits to Magway Region.

Article

A Glimpse of Dr Aung Myint Oo’s four books on the Myanmar language and literature By Myint Zan PAGE 8-9

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YSX to offer Basic Stock Investment Training on 30 Aug

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Students attend schools peacefully in Nawnghkio



# NATIONAL

## Stable, peaceful country attracts foreign investment

- ❖ Only when there is stability and peace will foreign investments begin to flow in.
- ❖ It is necessary to provide guarantees for investment activities.
- ❖ Only then will the country's GDP grow, and the national economy also develop.

(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.

## 1 special criminal appeal case, 4 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 6 special civil appeal cases heard

A special tribunal consisting of U Tha Htay, Union Chief Justice and U Myo Tint, U Kyi Thein, U Thein Ko Ko and Dr Ko Ko Naing, Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union, was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw and passed judgements for one special criminal appeal case: 3/2025 (Mandalay) and four special civil appeal cases: 4/2025 (Yangon), 76/2024 (Mandalay), 14/2025 (Yangon) and 15/2025 (Shan).

In addition, a total of six special civil appeal cases: 13/2025 (Yangon), 17/2025 (Mandalay), 18/2025 (Bago), 19/2025 (Mandalay), 20/2025 (Mon) and 22/2025 (Shan) were heard. — MNA

## Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 18 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the well-marked low-pressure area over the Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal (North Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha) coasts, India, still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and further intensify into a depression during the next 12 hours and cross the South Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh coasts on 19 August 2025. — DMH

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 55/2025

10<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagoung 1387 ME  
18 August 2025

### Scheduled election dates for multiparty democratic general elections for respective Hluttaw

EXERCISING the responsibilities and authorities under Session 399 (a) of the Constitution (2008) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 10 of the Union Election Commission Law, and under Section 34 (c) of the respective Hluttaw Election Laws and Rule 16 (a) of respective Hluttaw Election Rules, the Union Election Commission has announced that the first phase of multiparty democratic general elections for respective Hluttaw will be held on 28 December 2025, Sunday, and the dates for subsequent phases of the elections will be announced later.

Sd/Than Soe  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

## Declaration to Publicize Objections

1. The Pa-O National Development Party, with its head office located at 691, Khemarama Nunnery Street, Ma-yanchaung Ward, Thaton, Mon State, submitted an application on 12 August 2025 for registration as a political party under Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In this application, the party indicated that it intends to use the party name, flag, and emblem as described.
2. Objections to the party's name, flag and emblem may be raised by submitting valid evidence to the Union Election Commission within seven days from the date of this declaration, as stipulated by Rule 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.



Flag



Emblem

Union Election Commission

## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Monday 18 August 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the well marked low pressure area over the Westcentral Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal (North Andhra Pradesh - South Odisha) coasts, India still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and further intensify into a depression during next 12 hours and cross South Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh coasts on 19 August 2025. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and moderate to strong over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF**

**19 AUGUST 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah, Northern Shan States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Magway, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and (southern and eastern) Shan States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIM-**

**BUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Mandalay, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, and Rakhine States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. — 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)*

## 28 December polls scheduled to safeguard ...

### FROM PAGE 1

Magway Region Chief Minister U Tint Lwin reported on agricultural activities in Magway Region, implementation of solar-powered river pumping projects, cultivation of trees to reduce heat in Chauk Township, establishment of libraries at basic education schools, enhancement of health sector, supply of water for consumption and greening movements, development of MSME in the region, efforts to meet the target production and yield of crops, disbursement of loans to develop MSME businesses, holding MSME expos and opening of industrial, agriculture and livestock schools.

Town elders and MSME businesspersons reported to the Senior General on the need to build a freight-handling jetty on the Magway Bank of the Ayeyawady River, improvement for the road leading to Magway, upgrade of textile factories to produce quality yarns, assistance for seeking the market of onion planted in Magway Region and import of quality potato varieties.

In his response, the Senior General called for continuous construction of low-head dams to supply sufficient water to green the environment. He said roads will be upgraded under prescribed rules and regulations. Farmers need to grow long-staple cotton to produce quality yarns. MSME businesses can operate production with the use of agricultural and livestock products. Domestic agricultural produce is allowed to be exported without harming domestic consumption.

Union ministers discussed efforts to import quality potato



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tours in Magway Region.

strains from abroad, cultivation of long staple cotton, supply of water from the river pumping stations to agricultural tasks, expansion of sown acreage for grapes to be exported in the future, environmental conservation, assistance for requirements in cultivation of quality yarns, needs of machinery and cash to produce advanced textiles.

In his address, the Senior General recounted that the Tatmadaw has agreed to move forward along the path of multiparty democracy as desired by the people. Hence, preparations are currently underway to hold a free and fair general election this December.

Upon completion of the election, he said it is intended that representatives of ethnic

groups and all levels of society will participate broadly in the legislature. To achieve this, the upcoming election will use the FPTP (First-Past-The-Post) system for the Pyithu Hluttaw and the MMP (Mixed Member Proportional) system for the Amyotha Hluttaw and regional/state Hluttaws.

He noted that those who wish to advance the democratic system are encouraged to cast their votes in the election, selecting candidates who can truly serve the interests of both their region and the nation.

The Senior General underscored that the multiparty democratic general election will begin on 28 December and will be conducted in stages, with measures in place to prevent any irregularities in voting.

He stressed that since the country's economy is based on agriculture and livestock, agricultural and breeding activities must be developed. In particular, cotton cultivation in Magway Region should be expanded. Improving cotton cultivation and textile production will bring substantial benefits to the region.

The Senior General underlined that, as rice security in Magway Region has improved with the current paddy yield, efforts should continue to further enhance it. If the region meets the state's designated per-acre yield targets, it will greatly support regional economic development.

He gave guidance that constructing low-head dams along the Ayeyawady River can generate hydropower and also

benefit agricultural activities significantly.

He added that Magway Region has sufficient universities and colleges, so efforts should be made to develop the human resources necessary for the region.

He emphasized that life expectancy should also improve, with adequate healthcare and nutrition in Magway Region. The state is committed to supporting the health sector as much as possible to enhance the well-being of the people.

The Senior General visited the agriculture and livestock exhibition staged by the MSME businesspersons and gave necessary guidance to officials.

Also present at the meeting were Commission member, Joint Executive Chief, General Ye Win Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Central Command and officials.

The Senior General, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and the party paid homage to Magway Myathalon Pagoda and offered flowers and water.

The Senior General and his wife donated cash for the overall renovation of the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees, who returned Dhamma gifts.

The Senior General and his wife paid homage to the sacred tooth relic of the Lord Buddha and the replica of the pagoda in Maha Atularanthi prayer hall and inspected the expansion of the platform of the pagoda, and gave guidance to officials.

The Senior General and party visited the Strand Road and Kantha Mingala Lake by car. — MNA/TTA



NATIONAL



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members and families at the Magway Station yesterday.

Political issues must be resolved through political means

Tatmadaw will not engage in political affairs but will only serve its duties in matters of national defence as a national cause.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that all Tatmadaw members must make preparations in advance to ensure that the incoming government can truly and effectively serve the interests of the State.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, met Tatmadaw members and their families at Magway Station's hall under the Central Command yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General noted that problems arising from political differences must be resolved through political means.

He said that the 2024 Population and Housing Census was conducted to ensure accurate voter lists for the upcoming election, and it was announced today

that the election will begin on 28 December.

Regarding constitutional amendments, Tatmadaw has agreed that certain provisions which can be amended should be carried out in pursuit of the established rules and procedures.

He stated that if democratic practices are carried out genuinely and correctly, Tatmadaw will cooperate accordingly, and that Tatmadaw will not engage in political affairs but will only serve its duties in matters of national defence, which is a national cause.

The Senior General underlined that when elections are held and the winning party assumes State responsibilities, Defence Services representatives in the Hluttaw will participate in national causes. Tatmadaw, for its part, will continue to take part in the national political role entrusted by the Constitu-

tion and will work to safeguard the Constitution, he added.

He noted that all Tatmadaw members originate from among the people, and Tatmadaw is an integral part of the State. Therefore, it is necessary for them to carry out defence operations to ensure the safety and security of the lives and property of the people.

In carrying out their duties, he guided Tatmadaw members to act with mutual respect at all levels among them to become good soldiers of Tatmadaw. During the elections to be held in December, Tatmadaw members must elect Hluttaw representatives who possess the ability to act with dedication in the best interests of the State.

The Senior General highlighted that Tatmadaw members are encouraged to ensure that votes are cast without spoilage so that citizens can become responsible and good nationals.

members' families but also to enhance the educational development of Tatmadaw members themselves. Efforts should be made to ensure that their children grow into thoughtful and educated young people.

Also present at the meeting were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of Central Command and his wife, Tatmadaw members and their families.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families through the station commander, while the wife of the Senior General gave a cash award for the Station Maternal and Child Welfare Association through the wife of the station commander.

The Senior General com-

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families of Magway Station

- 1. Tatmadaw members are encouraged to ensure that votes are cast without spoilage so that citizens can become responsible and good nationals.
- 2. Tatmadaw, for its part, will continue to take part in the national political role entrusted by the Constitution and will work to safeguard the Constitution.
- 3. Tatmadaw has agreed that certain provisions which can be amended should be carried out in accordance with the established rules and procedures.

International observers will also come to monitor and study the election process in the country.

He emphasized that it is necessary for all Tatmadaw members to make preparations in advance to ensure that the incoming government is able to truly and effectively serve the interests of the State.

He spotted that only when the country is enriched with educated citizens can development efforts be carried out more effectively than at present, and if there are more young people with high-level thinking and vision, it will also contribute to the nation's stability and peace.

He gave guidance that Tatmadaw has also worked not only for the children of Tatmadaw

forced Tatmadaw members, people's military servants and members of the Myanmar Police Force who are receiving medical treatment for their injuries sustained in serving defence and security duties of the State and asked about the conditions of their injuries and recovery. He fulfilled the needs of Tatmadaw member patients.

Moreover, the Senior General asked officials of the hospital about requirements and attended to the needs.

Meanwhile, the wife of the Senior General comforted Tatmadaw members' families receiving medical treatment and asked after their health conditions and presented foodstuffs. — MNA/TTA

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



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

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw Representatives to be elected
210	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Dagon Myo-thit (Seikkan) Township	1
211	Dagon Myothit (South) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Dagon Myo-thit (South) Township	1
212	Dagon Myothit (North) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Dagon Myo-thit (North) Township	1
213	Dagon Myothit (East) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Dagon Myo-thit (East) Township	1
214	Dawbon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Dawbon Township	1
215	Pazundaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Pazundaung Township	1
216	Botahtaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Botahtaung Township	1
217	Mingala Taungnyunt Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mingala Yaungnyunt Township	1
218	Thakayta Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Thakayta Township	1
219	Mayangon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mayangon Township	1
220	North Okkalapa Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire North Okkalapa Township	1
221	Hline Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hline Township	1
222	Mingaladon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mingaladon Township	1
223	Shwepyitha Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Shwepyitha Township	1
224	Htantabin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Htantabin Township	1
225	Hmawby Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hmawby Township	1
226	Hlegu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hlegu Township	1
227	Tamway Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Tamway Township	1
228	South Okkalapa Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire South Okkalapa Township	1
229	Yankin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Yankin Township	1
230	Thingangyun Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Thingangyun Township	1
231	Cocogyun Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Cocogyun Township	1
232	Kyauktan Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kyauktan Township	1
233	Kayan Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kayan Township	1
234	Thanlyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Thanlyin Township	1
235	Thongwa Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Thongwa Township	1
236	Kyimyindine Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kyimyindine Township	1
237	Sangyoung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Sangyoung Township	1

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw Representatives to be elected
238	Ahlon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Ahlon Township	1
239	Hlinethaya (West) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hlinethaya (West) Township	1
240	Hlinethaya (East) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hlinethaya (East) Township	1
241	Insein Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Insein Township	1
Shan State			
242	Metmung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Metmung Township	1
243	Panghsan (Pankham) Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Panghsan (Pankham) Township	1
244	Narphant Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Narphant Township	1
245	Hopang Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hopang Township	1
246	Mongmao Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mongmao Township	1
247	Pangwine Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Pangwine Township	1
248	Ywangan Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Ywangan Township	1
249	Pindaya Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Pindaya Township	1
250	Hopong Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hopong Township	1
251	Hsihseng Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hsihseng Township	1
252	Pinlaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Pinlaung Township	1
253	Namsang Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Namsang Township	1
254	Mantung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mantung Township	1
255	Kongyan Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kongyan Township	1
256	Laukkai Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Laukkai Township	1
257	Kalaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kalaw Township	1
258	Nyaungshwe Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Nyaungshwe Township	1
259	Pekhon Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Pekhon Township	1
260	Kyaukme Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kyaukme Township	1
261	Hsipaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Hsipaw Township	1
262	Nawngkhio Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Nawngkhio Township	1
263	Namtu Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Namtu Township	1
264	Kengtung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Kengtung Township	1
265	Mongkhat Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency	An entire Mongkhat Township	1

TO BE CONTINUED



# NATIONAL

## Kayin thread-tying ceremony held in Dawei

UNION Minister for Border Affairs and for Ethnic Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, accompanied by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Deputy Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, and relevant officials, attended the traditional Kayin white thread-tying ceremony at Shwe-wei Thiri futsal court in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, yesterday.

The event began with Kayin's national song, and the Union minister and party played the traditional frog drum and buffalo horns. The Kayin literature and culture subcommittee of Dawei University performed traditional dance.

In his remark, the Union minister highlighted the intention and significance of the thread-tying ceremony, the importance of preserving the tradition, and extended wishes to



Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, the Taninthayi Region chief minister and officials join the traditional Kayin white thread-tying ceremony in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region, yesterday.

the Kayin people and all ethnic people.

The regional chief minister

also remarked, and the Ramma-zu don dance troupe performed the traditional dance.

The elderly and young Kayin people offered their blessings to the attendees and tied the white-

thread. They were also served with traditional Kayin food and dance at the event.

At noon, the Union minister and party met officials of the Taninthayi Region Development Supervisory Office, and instructed the need to place special focus on construction processes as the region receives heavy rainfalls, to meet the standards in work processes, ensure the welfare of staff and recruitment.

After remarking, the Union minister presented cash prizes to the staff of the Taninthayi Region Development Supervisory Office, and to the region head office and Technical School for Nationalities Youth from Border Areas (Dawei).

The Union minister and party observed the teaching aids displayed at the hall. — IPRD/KTZH

## MoI Dy Minister inspects IPRD offices, schools in Magway Region

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Ye Tint visited the Information and Public Relations Department offices in Singaing Township, Kyaukse District, Kyaukpadaung Township and Chauk Township on 17 August. He inspected the offices and libraries, met with staff, and gave necessary instructions.

Yesterday morning, he arrived at Basic Education High School No (2) in Chauk and observed the teaching and learning of students. He met with teachers and students in the school hall and gave instructions on educational development and youth affairs.

The meeting was attended by the District Education Officer and Township Education Officers, the principal of Government Technical Institute (Chauk), headmasters and headmistresses of basic schools in Chauk, teachers, outstanding students, parents, and students.

In his address, the Deputy Minister stressed that education is vital not only for individuals but also for society and national development. A nation with a large number of uneducated or poorly educated people would lag and be unable to compete internationally. Only with a knowledgeable and skilled population



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint meets employees from the Information and Public Relations Department in Magway Region yesterday.

can stability, peace, and progress be achieved.

Based on population census data, although few people have never attended school in Myanmar, about 50 per cent of the population have completed only kindergarten and primary levels. Furthermore, due to various reasons, some students drop out during middle and high school, resulting in a low number of degree holders.

As this is a matter of long-term national concern, the Head of State has guided that only when there is an educated population can the future of the nation be secured. Therefore, it

is necessary to nurture human resources through education, reopen schools closed due to unrest and various difficulties, ensure that all school-aged children can attend school, reduce dropout rates, improve transition rates, and make KG+9 compulsory for all. Students should not be content merely with literacy or passing classes but should strive for critical thinking, broad knowledge, the ability to distinguish right from wrong, and innovation.

He further urged that students should cultivate good morals and discipline from a young age, live healthily and strongly,

and enrich their lives physically and mentally. Following the saying in Myanmar literature, they should read widely to become virtuous and able to contribute to their communities, regions, the nation and its people. Quoting the Head of State, he reminded that "an illiterate person is like one who sits still, while a literate person who does not read is like one who stands still. Only those who both read and learn continually are truly moving forward in life." He encouraged constant reading and lifelong learning to improve life.

He urged students to respect the guidance of parents

and teachers, and by fulfilling their duties as sons and daughters and as pupils, to grow into healthy, successful individuals and become valuable citizens of the nation.

Afterwards, he handed over books donated by the Ministry of Information for the school library and sports equipment provided by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. These were accepted by the school headmistress and the District Education Officer, while the Township Education Officer expressed words of thanks. The deputy minister then cordially greeted teachers, parents, students and outstanding youths.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister met with staff of the Information and Public Relations Department in Yenangyoung Township, Magway District, Minbu District, and Myothit Township. He urged them to uphold civil service ethics and discipline, work diligently, continue youth knowledge-sharing activities with momentum, and actively participate in the successful holding of the upcoming multi-party democratic general elections. He also addressed staff welfare issues and coordinated matters raised by employees. — MNA/MKKS



# YSX to offer Basic Stock Investment Training on 30 Aug

YANGON Stock Exchange will conduct the Online Basic Stock Investment Training Course 002/2025 on 30 August with the use of the Microsoft Teams Application.

This course is to share know-how of the stock market, which plays a vital role in the development of developing countries through online platforms, listed companies on the exchange, the roles of security companies and investment knowledge before buying stocks of listed companies.

This course is tailored to those studying economics and finance, interested in stock investment, working for public companies, aiming to work for banking and financial companies and willing to make long-term investments.

Trainers serving the exchange and experts with profound experience in the finance and investment industry are director Daw Kyi Kyi Khin Swe of the Myanmar Security Exchange

Commission, deputy director U Saw Mya Aye of the Myanmar Security Exchange Commission, YSX Chief Operation Officer U Min Thu of Myanmar Security Exchange Commission, Daw Ei Thinzar Thet, Senior Manager, Daw Phyu Pyar Lin, Deputy Senior Manager, Deputy Managing Director U Thet Tun Oo of the CB Securities Limited, Daw Hnin Ei Phyu, Assistant Manager of Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co Ltd, U Aung Thein Tun, Chartered MCSI, Managing Director of School of Business & Investment Management SBIM, co-founder and academic director U Min Han Tun (CFA) of the Matrix College of (MIP)/ CFA Steering Committee and Dr Sithu Phyo (MBBS, MBA, CFA) CEO, Trust Venture Partners.

The modules are Legal Structure of Securities Market and Overview of Capital Markets on 30 August, Listing on YSX: Criteria and Listing Process and Basic Principles of Stock Trad-



File photo shows the panel board showcasing share indexes at the Yangon Stock Exchange.

ing on 6 September; and Role of Securities Companies and Pre IPO and IPO Process on 13 September; Understanding AML/CFT in Securities Market on 20 September; and Trading Stocks Technically on 20 September; and Introduction to Corporate Finance and Introduction to Fundamental Analysis/ International Stock Market on 27 September.

A virtual link will be sent to the trainees' email. Presentation PPT, lecturer videos, and analysis questions will be uploaded on the YSX Online Basic Stock Invest-

ment Training Course 002/2025 Telegram Channel. Trainees can visit and study at any time and save the videos.

The trainees must submit answers to analysis questions every week. They can receive a completion certificate with an over 80 per cent grade.

Those enthusiastic can register through the YSX Online Booking system <https://ysx-mm.com/events/002-2025-online-class/> before 4 pm on 29 August. The course fee is K35,000, which can be transferred to the

i-banking account of KBZ Bank (Strand Branch) with the Account Name: Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited. YSX JV Co Ltd and Account No: 21910321900111301, Wave Pay Account (Name: Daw Ei Thinzar Thet, Phone No: 09 692862428) and KBZ Pay Account (Name: Daw Myint Kay Khine, Phone No: 09 254326388).

Individuals can enquire about the details of the course through 01 371274 during office hours and through the Facebook messenger of the YSX. — NN/KK

## Yangon's palm oil reference price remained unchanged

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market remained constant at K6,285 per viss for a week ending 24 August, just like that of last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

## CAD announces reasonable market prices of rice varieties for Aug

THE Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable market prices of rice for August 2025.

The Ministry of Commerce issued reasonable prices for all rice varieties; K59,000-K71,000 per 108-pound bag of non-premium rice varieties (Aemahta, Ngasein, Sinthukha, Ngasein Yakyaw, Kayinma, Yadanatoe, Tunpu, GW-11, 747, Theepu, Shweman, and Nankauk, among others), K68,000-K78,000 per bag of rice varieties (Zeeya, Ngwetoe, Minaya, Hnankauk, Shweman) that are consumed locally and exported, K75,000 to K99,000 to Shwethwe, Anyatha, Pakan, Hmawby-2,3, 90-day short matured rice, Manaw Thukha, Sinthuka, Byawtun, Ayeyapadetha, Ayeyamin produced from Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago regions, K90,000-K155,000 to moderate quality rice including Magyantaw, Ayeyamin and Ayeyapadetha produced from Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and upper Myanmar regions, and premium Pawsan rice (Ayeyawady Pawsan, Shwebo Pawsan). The retailers

are not entitled to make a profit of more than eight per cent of the set reasonable market prices, the ministry announced.

The ministry determined reasonable market prices by considering the following factors: fair profit for the farmers, millers and distributors, reasonable prices for consumers, last year's market price, global market prices and other commodities prices. There are separate prices for modern trade with consumer packaging at mini marts and supermarkets.

If individuals have difficulty buying rice, they are urged to contact the Myanmar Rice Federation. The buyers can complain about overpricing to the Consumer Affairs Department and MRF.

MRF warned that overpricing, sales with inaccurate measurement and quality and non-compliance with directives are subject to fines and taxation and prosecution under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law. Thus, rice millers, rice shops, traders and merchants are encouraged to follow the rules. — NN/KK



# Humanitarian: The noble acts for society

WORLD Humanitarian Day is observed annually on 19 August to honour humanitarian workers for their sacrifice of life and limbs while carrying out their vital work, as well as to recognize all aid and health workers who continue to provide life-saving support to those most in need. This day serves as a tribute to their courage, dedication, and tireless service in some of the world’s most challenging environments.

Humanitarian workers play an essential role in saving lives, protecting human dignity, and alleviating suffering. They deliver food, water, shelter, medical care, and psychosocial support to millions of vulnerable people who often have nowhere else to turn. Their work takes them into dangerous and difficult places, exposing them to risks such as violence, disease, and harsh living conditions.

Each year on World Humanitarian Day, communities, governments, and organizations unite to raise awareness, promote solidarity, and encourage greater support for humanitarian causes. Events around the world include memorials for fallen aid workers, awareness campaigns, and fundraising activities to support ongoing relief efforts.

In Myanmar, the challenges faced by humanitarian workers have been especially severe. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with natural disasters such as Cyclone Mocha, Typhoon Yagi, and the devastating Mandalay earthquake, has created deadly conditions for many people. Humanitarian workers and local volunteers involved in relief efforts have confronted extraordinary difficulties, including poverty, limited job opportunities, and the impacts of ongoing armed conflicts. As Myanmar society admires those who sacrifice life and limbs for the sake of people and the nation, humanitarian workers can be dubbed as noble persons in society.

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Despite these challenges, many frontline aid workers continue to operate under intense pressure and with fewer resources than usual. Social care and emergency response teams remain committed to providing help without hesitation, striving relentlessly to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable populations. World Humanitarian Day reminds all of the critical importance of supporting humanitarian workers and reinforcing global solidarity to ensure that those affected by crises receive the care and protection they deserve.

# A Glimpse of Dr Aung Myint Oo’s four books on the Myanmar language and literature

By Myint Zan

**FIRST person to obtain a PhD in Myanmar from the University of Yangon**  
Dr Aung Myint Oo (born 25 May 1960) is a retired Professor of Myanmar. He was the first person to get a doctoral degree in Myanmar (language and linguistics) from the University of Yangon in 2001.

Before AMO’s doctorate, there were at least three other Burmese who obtained their doctoral degrees from Universities in Great Britain, writing their theses which can be considered to be in the genre of Burmese literature. Former University of Rangoon (as it was formally called) Vice-Chancellor Dr Htin Aung (18 May 1909-10 May 1978) obtained his PhD from the University of Dublin around the year 1935. The title of Sayagyi Dr Htin Aung’s doctoral thesis was ‘A Comparative Study of Burmese with English and European Drama’. Later, shorn of the comparisons with European and English Drama, Dr Htin Aung’s work Burmese Drama was first published by Oxford University Press in 1937.

Another PhD thesis concerning Burmese literature was submitted to the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London in or around 1944. The thesis was about the dramatic works of drama-writer U Pote Ni’s Kumara Pyazat and it was written by Sayagyi Dr Hla Pe (1913-2007). In an obituary of Dr Hla Pe in SOAS Bulletin of Burma Research (Volume 5, 200&) written by the late Saya John Okell (1934-3 August 2020), he stated that parts of Dr Hla Pe’s thesis were published as Kumarat Pyazat. (Volume 1, Introduction and Translations, London, 1952)

In the year 1955 a Dr Shwe Baw submitted his thesis ‘The Origin and Development of Burmese Legal Literature’ at the University of London. As the title indicates, it deals with legal literature. Dr Htin Aung, Dr Hla Pe and Dr Shwe Baw’s doctoral theses (written in English) were on the genre of literature. Dr Aung Myint Oo’s doctoral thesis title in translation is ‘The

Burmese language in the Pagan/ Bagan period (around 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century Common Era). It was in the general topic of language or linguistics. AMO told me that he had not published his thesis yet.

AMO passed the Matriculation exam in 1977 with a distinction in Biology. He informed me that he specialized in Biology in his first year at Regional College and shifted to Mass Communications in the second year. After reaching Rangoon Arts and Science University (RASU), he specialised in Burmese at the Department of Burmese (as it was then called; now Department of Myanmar). He later became Head of the Department and served in that position from 2006 to 2020. Dr Aung Myint Oo currently teaches the Myanmar language at a University in Chiang Mai.

AMO has published in the Myanmar language a lot of books. Maybe a dozen or more. Here I will write only brief notes and comments on four of his books dealing with the Myanmar language and literature. All of the books are written in Burmese.

## Bar that Za Gar Thu Ta General knowledge on linguistics

Sometime around 2013, AMO presented to me the book he authored with the title above. I cannot retrieve the book currently.

In a slim volume, AMO deals with comparative linguistics, not necessarily restricted to Myanmar linguistics. AMO wrote that ‘primer’ in colloquial Burmese (A Pyaw Sagapayay), not in the formal style (A Yay Sagapayay). From my recall, AMO stated that the national language of Brazil or the language most Brazilians speak, is Spanish. It is not. Brazil was not a former colony of Spain. It was a former colony of Portugal. Hence, the national language of Brazil is Portuguese.

## Sarpay pinle htei ga hlaing galay (‘The little wave in the sea of Burmese literature’)

The above book is a collection of 28 delightful essays mainly on Myanmar poetry, dealing with an-

cient, medieval, modern and contemporary poems. It deservedly won the national literary prize in the category of General Knowledge (Arts) in the year 2020. Most of the essays were first posted on social media (Facebook) during the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed, the final essay (essay No 28) is entitled ‘After Covid, Let’s go to Tahiti’. This is a reference to a poem composed by Dagon Taya (10 May 1919-19 August 2019), ‘Let’s go to Tahiti’. It was published in 1949. (After the title was the sub-heading: ‘The poet’s escapism’). In 2004 and 2005, I had the chance to meet Saya Dagon Taya in Yangon. At that time, I was teaching in the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu. I taught at the School of Law at the University of the South Pacific in Port Vila, Vanuatu, for nearly three years. I also taught in Fiji for about ten months. I asked Saya Dagon Taya whether he had visited Tahiti. He said, ‘Of course not.’ I too had never visited Tahiti, though I had lived and worked in the nearby island nations (the distance between the South Pacific islands is not that near) of Fiji and Vanuatu for nearly four years. AMO cleverly used the isolation he and his wife faced during the COVID-19 crisis with the ‘escapism’ of visiting Tahiti.

As stated, the last essay in the book is on contemporary or modern poetry written in 1949. The very first essay in the collection is about an ancient short poem written by an unknown author in the 11<sup>th</sup> century Common Era (CE). It is about a lake (perhaps an artificial lake) by the name of Mya Kan (Emerald Lake), which existed during the Bagan era. Now, the lake has gone dry. AMO reproduced the English translations of both ancient or early Burmese poems written roughly eight hundred years apart: the ‘Emerald Lake’ poem by an unknown composer in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and the ‘Let’s go to Tahiti’ poem composed by Dagon Taya in 1949. Both translations were done by the Burmese scholar and translator Win Pe (pseudonym Mya Zin) (15 June 1927-9 November 2021).

In essay 19, two short poems of two poets who flourished over 100 years apart are discussed. Both poems used the metaphor of flowers to depict romantic love themes. The poets were U Ponnya (1812-1867) and Minthuwan (10 February 1909-15 August 2004).

A few essays can be described as ‘literary detective work’ by AMO. Essay 2 is an analysis of at what age the medieval Burmese Buddhist monk poet Shin Mahrat-ta Sara (1468-1529/1530) started to compose poems.

Two other essays (essays 7 &8) delve into who would be the first lover of poet-king Natshin-naung (January 1579-1613).

Five essays (essays 5, 9, 10, 14, and 15) are discussions of five Burmese poets from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Essay 18 discusses two favourite poems of AMO from his high school days.

Two essays discussed the literary contributions of an elderly Myanmar scholar and another elderly Myanmar poet, who, as of 2 August 2025, are still alive. Essay 25 discusses the Myanmar Sar literary contributions of scholar and teacher Goanhtoo U Thein Naing (born 27 March 1936), who, sadly, as I write (2 August 2025), health-wise is in a ‘fragile’ situation.

AMO discusses his meeting in 2019 with the New York-based poet Maung Swan Yi (born 17 February 1937) in Yangon and commented on four of his poems in essay 25.

Yours truly has learned new information about Myanmar poets and poetry from almost every essay in this superb collection. The essays were written in the colloquial style rather than the formal style. Writing in the colloquial style does not detract from the academic nature of the discussions and makes the subject matter easily discernible for the general reader.

## A Study of the Mon inscription at Kyaiktalan Pagoda

This small booklet of 108

pages is not on the Myanmar language or literature. It is on the Mon language. The Mons are one of the indigenous peoples of Myanmar. Till about the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Mons had a separate kingdom in what can now be called lower Myanmar. The Burmans (Bamars) owed at least some of their culture to the highly cultured Mons. The historian Dr Than Tun stated in his book *History of Buddhism in Burma AD 1000 to 1300* (republishation Seikku Cho Cho press, 2020) stated that in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Court, or shall we say regal language in Pagan, was Mon. Only in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century was Burmese used in the palace, Dr Than Tun wrote.

This Mon inscription on a stone slab was constructed around 1098 Current Era. It was written in Mon, which probably indicates that Myanmar Sar was not as established at that time and what Dr Than Tun wrote that the ‘regal’ language at that time was Mon could be true. AMO reproduced photos of the stone inscription and retyped the Mon inscription into Burmese and explained the context of the inscription. I could barely read the Mon inscription far let alone understand it. In pages 69 to 92, AMO reproduced, in columns, the words and phrases in early Mon language, medieval Mon language, and contemporary Mon usage with translations into modern Myanmar Sar. He also stated from which foreign language source the Mon words are derived. Two main sources in the ancient period for the Mon language were the Pali and Sanskrit languages. According to the table provided by AMO, certain Mon words have linguistic and philological roots in both Pali and Sanskrit.

The explanations and elaborations of this Mon inscription, which goes back more than 900 years to the late 11<sup>th</sup> century by AMO, were written in formal Bur-

mese as befitting an academic exploration. This is the most difficult of AMO’s books among those which I have read. The difficulty was largely linguistic since around a third of the book are reproduced in the Mon language. Without the Burmese translations many readers who, like myself, are not familiar at all with the Mon language will also be at a loss. It is a credit to AMO that he took some time to research into Mon language and its roots and translated with commentary on the Mon inscription in this small booklet. The booklet contains valuable and substantial information, especially for those interested in linguistics and cultural research.

## Myanmarsar Yae Yar a-phyaphya (‘Concerning various matters on the Myanmar Language’) (Volume I)

This book consists of 15 essays. It deals mainly with the Myanmar language. The use of similar words and in the context in which they can be used and which should not be used in the Myanmar language is the topic of the first three essays. Most of the essays are written in the direct colloquial style. But Essay 8 is written in the formal style. It deals with the teaching of the new curriculum for Myanmar Sar for high school students starting from the 2020-21 academic year; where the students can now matriculate only after completing Grade XII (12th standard). Up till the 2019-2020 academic year students matriculate after they passed Grade X (tenth standard). Hence, the compulsory Myanmar Sar curriculum for Grade XI (11<sup>th</sup> standard) and Grade XII (12<sup>th</sup> standard) had to be revised or perhaps ‘devised’. AMO explained in detail how the new curricula for Grade XI and Grade XII Myanmar Sar texts had to be made. In a place or two, AMO stated that at least some of the students (perhaps most of the students regurgitate the contents of the text or ‘learned by heart’). The curriculum was drafted to obviate or lessen such by heart learning, he wrote. My



The National Literary Award in the genre of General Knowledge (Arts) in 2020.

query here is: has this somewhat lofty aim been achieved or not? For about twenty years in Matric exams, Myanmar Sar papers in essay questions have prompts or a gist of what candidates are expected to write. If they do not adhere to the prompts, they will not get good marks for the essay question. In the 1970s (definitely) and the 1980s may be up to the 1990s, there were no ‘prompts’ for students to write in the compulsory essay question of the compulsory Myanmar Sar paper. Maybe there are limits on how many paragraphs candidates should write, but no prompts during those days. This writer has heard that the provision of prompts was started may be twenty or so years ago, for the Myanmar Sar papers. Ostensibly, the reason for doing so is to avoid students from cramming essay topics in advance and regurgitating them in writing their essay. This cramming and regurgitation can and perhaps does occur when almost identical or similar topics come up in the essay segment in the exam. But is the provision of prompts in essay questions an effective way to avoid ‘cramming’? Moreover, I understand that in the Myanmar Sar papers, 15 marks may be up to

20 marks (out of 100) are allotted to true/false questions, multiple choice questions, and objective type questions. This was not the case in the good old days of the 1970s and 1980s, where there were no ‘objective’ ‘true or false’ questions in the Matric Myanmar Sar papers. Hence, for the ‘cramming’ candidates and indeed ‘non-cramming’ candidates as well at least 20 marks are almost ‘guaranteed’. My view is that the inclusion of objective type questions at least indirectly not only does not obviate the ‘cramming’ and ‘regurgitating’ issue but may have the effect of encouraging it.

Dr Aung Myint Oo posts almost daily on social media about many issues concerning Myanmar Sar. I raise these points regarding the Matric Myanmar Sar paper, which Dr Aung Myint Oo and other interested persons can address or comment on.

The four books by AOM, which I have discussed above, are very informative and educational. AOM continues to write on matters Myanmar Sar. Dr Aung Myint Oo has made notable contributions to the enhancement of Myanmar Sar.





# NATIONAL

## Bagan preps for higher tourist influx ahead of Tawthalin full moon

BAGAN ancient cultural zone will host travellers before the full moon day of Tawthalin, according to the locals.

Starting from the early this month, the travellers started visiting Bagan, and the arrivals are usually high on public holidays, bringing job opportunities to the locals. After the end of the Mandalay Taungpyone festival, the Bagan area hosted travellers in the monsoon period, and the travellers from the Boedaw festival of Mount Popa visited the Shin Accagona Pagoda in Bagan on the full moon day of Tawthalin.

“After the Taungpyone festival, the travellers pay a visit to Bagan more and more. Although the number of traveller decline in the monsoon, the Bagan area will be crowded with visitors for the donation events, pagoda

festival and alms food donation ceremonies on the full moon day of Tawthalin. Moreover, the place is lively to be packed with travellers,” said U Tin Hla Oo, secretary of the Htilominlo temple board of trustees.

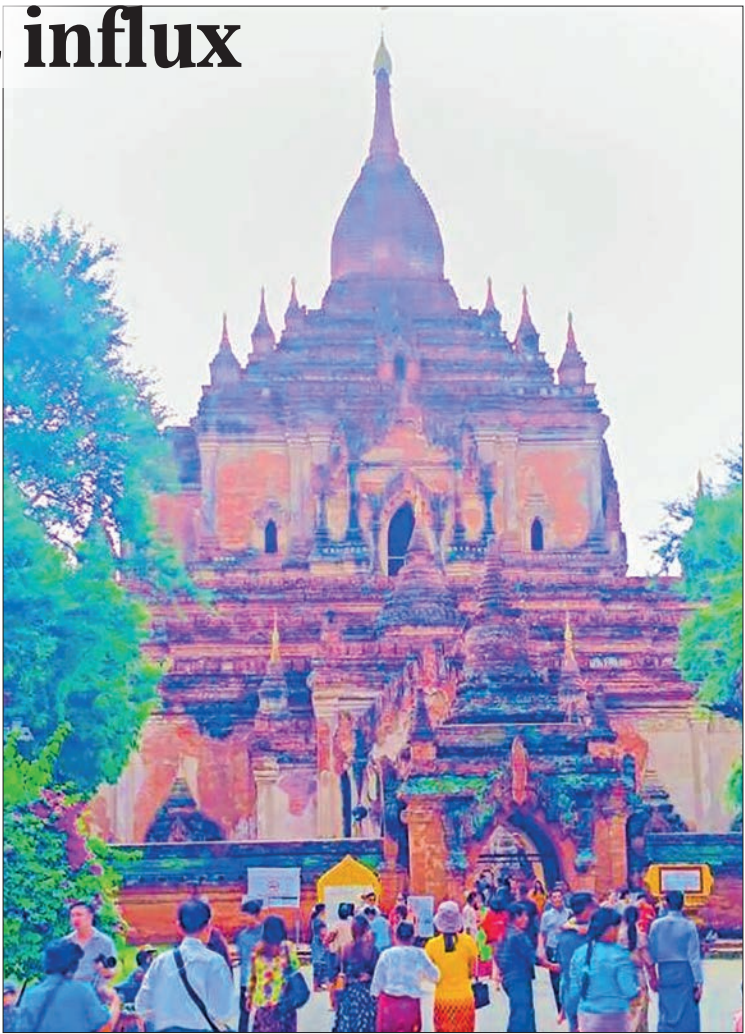
In the past, Bagan hosted travellers before the period of the Taungpyone festival, and also before and after the Boedaw festival of Mount Popa. Currently, the site is crowded with visitors again over the monsoon period.

“During the rainy season, there were fewer visitors. Starting from the beginning of this month, visitors began to arrive again, especially domestic travellers. Activities that symbolize Bagan, such as hand painting, buying puppet souvenirs, riding horse carts, taking photos, and enjoying the sunset, are the favourite experiences for both lo-

cal and international travellers. The businesses are resuming, and things are becoming more convenient for locals. As Bagan is the cultural heart of Myanmar, all travellers are warmly welcomed,” said U Zeyar Than, sand painter of Myinkaba village.

The travellers from Mount Popa visit Shin Accagona pagoda in Bagan on the full moon day of Tawthalin and do good deeds by making a cash donation. The Manuha Pagoda festival is held between the 14<sup>th</sup> Waxing and the 1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Tawthalin. This year, the pagoda festival will include the Casting Lots Festival and the Alms Bowl Festival.

Bagan hosts travellers starting from early August, and it is expected to lure more travellers on the full moon day of Tawthalin in September. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH



Visitors are seen at the Bagan ancient cultural zone. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

## People’s Military Service Training 16 begins across various commands

THE opening ceremonies for the People’s Military Service Training 16 were held at various military commands yesterday. Eligible citizens attended the military training in their respective regions. The commandants of the training depots gave opening speeches.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair, chief ministers of regions and states, commanders, and relevant officials attended the ceremonies, met the trainees of the People’s Military Service Training 16, and presented them with cash awards, food items, and essential supplies. They also greeted and encouraged the trainees.

The People’s Military Service Law was enacted as



Officials greet new trainees from Training 16 yesterday.

every citizen is under a duty to safeguard our Three Main National Causes: Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty. The People’s Military Service Law came into effect on 10 February 2024, aiming to conduct military training courses.

Individuals who have completed the People’s Military Training are currently serving in various military units, fulfilling their responsibilities for national defence and security. — MNA/MKKS

## Students attend schools peacefully in Nawngkhio

BASIC education schools in Nawngkhio were closed for nearly a year due to terrorist attacks. The schools were reopened on 25 July, and students can learn peacefully, with the school enrolment process being provided.

A total of 68 basic education schools have reopened in the township, while seven schools reopened yesterday, totalling 75 schools, and 8,973 students are currently attending the schools.

The Nawngkhio Township Hospital was reopened on 2 August to provide healthcare services to locals.

Medical treatment was provided to 62 outpatients, and nine patients were vaccinated against measles and the flu yesterday. Moreover, 56 locals were tested for blood type, and 30 patients received medical treatment. — MNA/KTZH



Nawngkhio residents receiving treatments at the People’s Hospital in Nawngkhio.

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NATIONAL

Yangon hotels draw K17.5B in current FY

THE Yangon Region Tourism Committee endorsed businesses to invest K17.5 billion in the hotel sector in the current financial year 2025-2026, according to the committee’s meeting 2/2025, creating job opportunities for 58 locals.

The committee granted three hotel licences and two hotel construction permits, one motel licence, one guesthouse licence, 56 renewal services, 177 inbound tour licences, 71 outbound tour licences, and another 36 inbound tour licences and 34 outbound tour licences under approval of the

regional government.

Furthermore, launching a tourism promotion website for Yangon Region, tourism development matters, visitor arrival frequency, hotel demand, revenues, conducting four types of training for hotel hospitality and customer service training sessions under the regional government’s fund to enhance hotels and tourism service, plans to offer natural environmental awareness programmes and disaster response training courses were also discussed. — ASH/KK



One of the 5-star hotels that are located in Yangon.

Air-conditioned DEMU trains launched on Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route, serving 300+ passengers daily

AIR-CONDITIONED DEMU trains are now being operated on the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon long-distance route, with more than 300 passengers travelling daily, according to Myanma Railways.

On the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route, train No 7-Up and No 8-Down services are being run with DEMU coaches, while on the Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw route, train No 28-Down and No 27-Up services are being operated with air-suspension coaches.

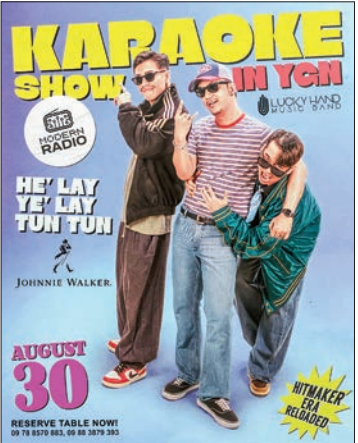


Air-conditioned DEMU express train coaches on the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route.

At present, the total travel route is only 11 hours. The Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon DEMU train

can carry up to 312 passengers. Ticket fares for the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw DEMU service are set at K19,000 for first class and K28,000 for upper class. For the Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay air-suspension service, fares are K7,000 for ordinary class and K11,000 for upper class.

The new DEMU train service on the Yangon-Bago route was launched on 2 October 2024, while DEMU trains also began operating on the Yangon Circular Railway in November last year. — ASH/KNK



A billboard for the music concert of singers Ye Lay, He Lay and Tun Tun.

Popular artistes to perform at Modern Radio Bar on 30 Aug

SINGERS Ye Lay, He Lay, and Tun Tun will host a music concert at the Modern Radio Bar in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region, according to singer He Lay.

The three vocalists will perform at the Modern Radio Bar at 7 pm on 30 August, accompanied by the Lucky Hand Band, which will provide full support.

“A memorable night with Ye Lay and Tun Tun is planned at Modern Radio. The in-house vocalists of Modern Radio will also take part, and DJs will be performing as well, so we warmly invite everyone to join,” said singer He Lay.

The Modern Radio Bar is also organizing a solo concert by renowned rock singer Lay Phyu on 23 August at the Strand Hotel in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/MKKS



Four lead actors of the TV drama series ‘Ko Luu Soe Lay, My Love’.

New Myanmar romantic TV series to premiere on 30 Aug

THE Myanmar television drama series titled ‘Ko Lu Soe Lay, My Love’ will be broadcast from 30 August onwards, according to Nora Ko, the director of the series.

The series will be aired at 9 pm every Saturday and Sunday starting from 30 August, on both the M Entertainment TV Channel and the M Entertainment YouTube Channel.

The script and storyline

of the drama were written by Shwe Yi Shoon Lei, while the series was directed by Nora Ko for Bonanza Film Production.

“This series is a youthful romantic drama. Among three wealthy, handsome, and somewhat rebellious brothers, who will become ‘Ko Luu Soe Lay, My Love’ for May Toe Khine? How will May Toe Khine manage her fate between these

three charming men? You will soon find out on M Channel,” said director Nora Ko.

The cast includes Sithu Ye Htut, Sitt Min Htet, Hein Thitsa, May Toe Khine, Min Thu, Academy Award winners Zaw Oo, Khin Zarchi Kyaw, Myat Kaythi Aung, and Soe Moe Kyi, along with Nway Nway Chit Phwe, Daung Wai, Ma Ma Zin, and many more performers. — ASH/MKKS

Daily newspapers available online

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

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# NATIONAL

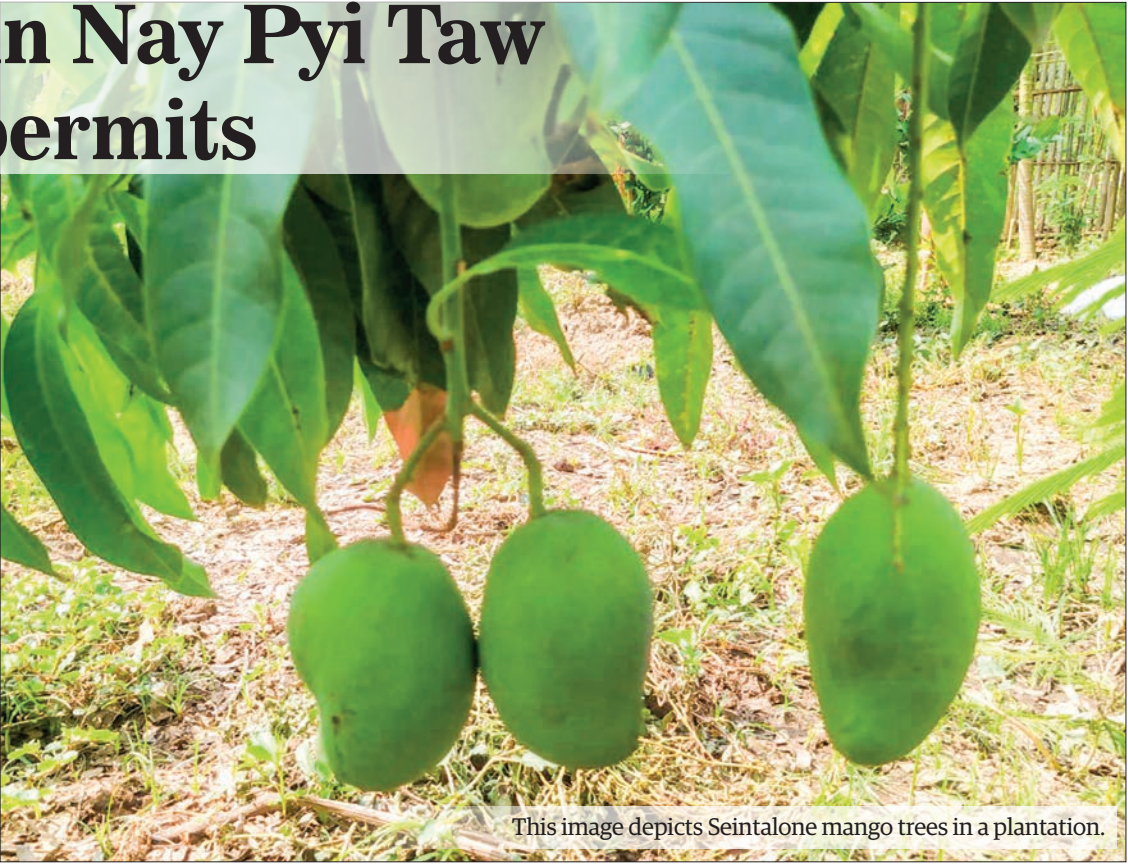
## Seintalone farmers in Nay Pyi Taw to receive land use permits

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) has issued a notice to all growers in the Seintalone mango zones in the four townships of Nay Pyi Taw to apply for land use permits by the end of this month.

The Seintalone plantation zone has been implemented in Dekkhinathiri, Ottarathiri, Lewe and Tatkon townships of Nay Pyi Taw since 2010, and some farmers who have been working on prior approvals will need to apply for other use of their land under the Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Land Management Law and its rules to continue farming, it said.

For those who have acquired permits from Nay Pyi Taw land management committees, with some of their land plots not permitted yet, their right of use may be revoked under Section 22 (A) (3) of the law. The deadline for their land use application is 31 August 2025.

Section 16 (c) of the law prohibits the mortgage, lease, sale, transfer, or division of permitted land plots without the Union Government's approval. Anyone who violates the law will be punished with two years' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding K1 million or both, according to Section 29 (A) (a). — Htet Oo Maung/ZN



This image depicts Seintalone mango trees in a plantation.

## Labour Attaché Office negotiates over Myanmar worker's death at steel plant

FOR two Myanmar workers, one was dead and one was injured in the accident at a steel plant, the Myanmar Labour Attaché Office is negotiating to ensure compensation as soon as possible under the law.

In the accident from the eruption of a machine at TSB Steel plant in Parchin Buri province, Thailand, on 12 August, a Myanmar worker died, and another one was injured. Concerning the death of the worker, the delegation led by the labour attaché met Thai employment department officials and the steel manufacturing plant officials on 14 August and negotiated for claiming the benefit as soon as possible



Officials comfort the Myanmar worker injured in the accident.

under the Thai SSB law. The negotiation also covered the injured worker to have the right to medical services under the law, and the delegation met the injured worker and encouraged him. — MT/ZS

## JLPT Dec 2025 application extended with more seats available

FOR the Japanese Language Proficiency Test scheduled in December 2025, exam stations have expanded the seating arrangement, so the application period has also been extended, said the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

Online applications from training schools were already accepted starting from 5 August until 14 August. However, the acceptance period will be extended to 3 pm on 19 and 20 August, as the seating of the exam stations has been planned

to increase. If there are further candidates, training schools can submit the list of applications they wish to buy through Viber 09 767557354 by 4 pm on 19 August.

For individual candidates, it will be extended to 3 pm on 21 and 22 August and can be submitted to <https://jlpt-maja-org-mm>, though the application period already ended on 14 August. The application will be closed when the seating is full according to levels, said MAJA. — MT/ZS



The West Yangon University, where the JLPT was held formerly.

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# Japan key stock indexes end at fresh record highs for 2<sup>nd</sup> straight day

JAPAN'S key stock indexes closed at fresh all-time highs for a second straight trading day on Monday amid lingering optimism about the domestic economy and hopes for an interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 336.00 points, or 0.77 per cent, from Friday at 43,714.31. The broader Topix index finished 13.28 points, or 0.43 per cent, higher at 3,120.96.

On the top-tier Prime Market, gainers were led by service, transportation equipment and information and communication issues.

The US dollar climbed to around the mid-147 yen level in Tokyo as Treasury yields rose,



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the Nikkei stock index closing at a record high of 43,714.31 on 18 August 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

with speculation mounting that President Donald Trump's tariff policy may accelerate inflation in the world's biggest economy, dealers said.

At 5 pm, the dollar fetched 147.45-47 yen

compared with 147.14-24 yen in New York and 147.00-02 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm Friday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.1680-1682 and 172.23-27 yen against \$1.1699-1709 and 172.19-29 yen in New York and \$1.1682-1683 and 171.73-77 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond ended at 1.570 per cent, up 0.010 percentage point from Friday's close, as the debt, seen as a safe-haven asset, was sold in tandem with the rise in Tokyo stock market.

On the share market, stocks were sought as sentiment was lifted after the Dow Jones index hit a record high on an intraday basis for the first time since last December.

The yen's depreciation also helped boost export-linked auto issues,

as a weaker yen increases overseas profits of exporters when repatriated.

Japan's key stock indexes have been renewing record closing highs with several positive trading factors prevailing on the market.

"We have a clearer overview of the Japan-US trade deal, and the Japanese gross domestic product data released last week was solid. Expectations for a Fed rate cut are also supporting the market," said Masahiro Ichikawa, chief market strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui DS Asset Management Co.

"The benchmark Nikkei index is likely to keep challenging all-time highs with the 44,000 level in sight," Ichikawa added.

— Kyodo

## Jordan to expand low-cost Europe flights from late Aug to promote tourism

JORDAN will resume and expand low-cost air links with Europe from late August in a push to revive a tourism industry hit by regional tensions, officials said on Sunday.

Hungary's Wizz Air will restart its Budapest-Amman route on 26 August with twice-weekly, year-round services, mark-

ing the gradual return of budget carriers to the kingdom.

Tourism and Antiquities Minister Makram Al-Qaisi said on Sunday that the 2025/26 winter season will feature the largest network of low-cost flights to date, connecting Jordan with 18 European destinations via carriers

including Ryanair, Wizz Air, and Eurowings.

According to the minister, four new routes to the Red Sea port of Aqaba, namely from Katowice and Warsaw in Poland, Bucharest in Romania, and Sofia in Bulgaria, are expected to reinforce the city's role as a hub for beach and winter tourism. — Xinhua

## Japan to support creation of 30,000 AI experts in Africa in 3 years

JAPAN plans to help cultivate 30,000 experts in the area of artificial intelligence in Africa over the next three years to promote industrial digitalization and job creation, a government source said Monday.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba is expected to announce

the initiative at the three-day Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD, starting Wednesday in Yokohama near Tokyo, the source said.

By nurturing AI talent in Africa, the government also aims to create an environment that makes it easier for Japanese firms

to enter the high-potential market, the source said.

With its population expected to grow to about 2.5 billion by 2050 from 1.5 billion now, Africa has drawn global attention as a business destination while struggling to develop industries and create jobs vital for social stability. — Kyodo

Invitation for Bids

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Department of Disaster Management

The Department of Disaster Management (DDM), under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to construct four prefabricated schools in Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region. The procurement will be conducted in Myanmar Kyats (MMK) under the following terms and conditions:

No	Name of Work	Quantity	Lot No
1	Day Win Pre-primary School (60'x30') (including electrical system)	1 building	Lot-1
2	Mandalay School for the Deaf (60'x30') (including electrical system)	1 building	Lot-2
3	Mandalay Youth Training School (90'x30') (including electrical system)	1 building	Lot-3
4	School for the Blind, Sagaing (90'x30') (including electrical system)	1 building	Lot-4

Bidding Process

1. **Bidding Procedure:** The bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedures.

2. **Bidding Documents:** A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased from the Department of Disaster Management, Building No. 23, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, between **21<sup>st</sup> August 2025** and **3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025** during office hours.

3. **Bid Submission Deadline:** All bids must be submitted to the above address no later than **14:00 hours** on **5<sup>th</sup> September 2025**. Late submissions will not be considered.

4. **Bid Opening:** Submitted bids will be publicly opened in the presence of bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at **10:00 am** on **9<sup>th</sup> September 2025** at the Department of Disaster Management, Building No. 23, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. (Note: If there are any changes to the tender opening date, prior notification will be given)

5. **Bid Security Deposit:** The bidder must obtain and submit a **Payment Order Cheque** for the bid security deposit issued by a bank recognised by the Central Bank of Myanmar. The cheque must be submitted within the period from **21<sup>st</sup> August 2025** to **5<sup>th</sup> September 2025** during office hours. If a bidder submits proposals for more than one work, a separate bid security deposit must be provided for each lot.

Contact Information

For further details and inquiries, interested bidders may contact:

**Department of Disaster Management**  
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement  
Building No. 23, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Phone: 067-3404395, 067-3404074



ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

Fresh Pakistan monsoon rains kill 20, halt rescue efforts

FRESH torrential rains in northern Pakistan killed at least 20 people on Monday, local officials said, as the region is ravaged by an unusually intense monsoon season that has left more than 300 people dead in recent days.

Torrential rains across the country's north have caused flooding and landslides that have swept away entire villages, leaving many residents trapped in the rubble and around 200 still missing.

"A cloudburst in Swabi completely destroyed several houses, killing more than 20 people," an official in the district, located in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, told AFP on Monday.

Several villages were wiped out by the huge amount of rain falling in a short period of time, a second local official said, confirming the death toll.

Since the first heavy rains on Thursday most of the deaths — more than 340 — were reported in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to the provincial disaster agency, which warned of new flash floods over the next few days.

The latest heavy rains halted the ongoing search efforts for the missing, with volunteers and rescue workers racing to find possible survivors and retrieve bodies.

"This morning fresh rains forced a halt to relief operations," said Nisar Ahmad, 31, a volunteer in worst-hit Buner district, adding that 12 villages had been destroyed and 219 bodies recovered.

"Dozens of bodies are still buried under the mud and rocks, which can only be recovered with

heavy machinery. However the makeshift tracks built to access the area have once again been destroyed by the new rains."

'We feel scared'

Many people fled to seek shelter under damaged infrastructure and in the mountains in Buner, an area with difficult

terrain.

"Even if it rains a little now, we feel scared because there was light rain that day. And then the unsuspecting people were swept away by the storm," said Buner resident Ghulam Hussain, 35.

"Children and women are running and screaming up the mountains to escape," Hazrat Ullah, 18, told AFP.

Volunteer Ahmad said there were also fears for the future due to a lack of food supplies and clean water.

"Many livestock have also perished in the cloudburst, and their decomposing bodies are spreading a foul odour in several places. Right now, our most urgent need is clean drinking water; and I appeal to the government to provide it," he said.

The monsoon season brings about three-quarters of South Asia's annual rainfall, which is vital for agriculture and food security but also causes widespread destruction. — AFP



Villagers look on as floodwater levels rise in the Buner district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on 18 August 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Spain and Portugal battle wildfires as death toll mounts



Forest firefighters fight a wildfire in Castrillo de Cabrera, northwestern Spain, on 16 August 2025. PHOTO: AFP

THOUSANDS of firefighters backed by the military and water-bombing aircraft on Monday battled dozens of wildfires across Spain and Portugal, as the death toll increased to six since the outbreaks began.

The Iberian peninsula has been particularly affected by forest fires fuelled by heatwaves and drought blamed on climate change that have hit southern Europe.

More than 343,000 hectares (848,000 acres) of land

— the equivalent of nearly half a million football pitches — have been destroyed this year in Spain, setting a new national record, according to the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS).

The previous record of 306,000 hectares was set in the same period three years ago.

Two firefighters were killed on Sunday — one in each country, both in road accidents — taking the death toll to two in Portugal and four

in Spain.

The head of Spain's Civil Protection and Emergencies, Virginia Barcones, told broadcaster TVE there were currently 23 "active fires" that pose a serious and direct threat to the population.

The fires, now in their second week, were concentrated in the northwest regions of Galicia, Castile and Leon, and Extremadura.

In Ourense province of Galicia, signs of the fires were everywhere, from ashen forests and blackened soil to destroyed homes, with thick smoke forcing people to wear facemasks.

Firefighters battled to put out fires, as locals in just shorts and T-shirts used water from hoses and buckets to try to stop the spread.

One resident in O Barco de Valdeorras, dousing his home with water from a hose-pipe, described the wildfire that ripped through his area as "like a bomb". — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Several schools in India's capital receive bomb threats

SEVERAL schools in the Indian capital territory of Delhi received bomb threats on Monday, prompting authorities to rush police teams, fire services personnel and bomb disposal squads to these educational institutions, officials said.

According to officials, four schools in Dwarka received threat emails from unknown senders and alerted the police.

Immediately, bomb detection and disposal squads, dog squads, police and fire services personnel were rushed to these schools.

"However, nothing suspicious was found. The threats proved to be hoax calls," a police official said.

According to a local newspaper The Indian Express, 20 schools in Delhi received bomb threat emails on Monday morning, prompting authorities to conduct searches on their premises.

Last month, many schools in the national capital also received similar bomb threat emails, which were later turned out to be a hoax.

Last year, hoax threats triggered chaos in the airlines, schools, hospitals and hotels across the country. — Xinhua

Singapore cracks down on vaping in public transport

SINGAPORE is intensifying enforcement against vaping within its public transport network, with station staff conducting active patrols, the Land Transport Authority said on Monday.

Anyone caught vaping will be removed from the premises and reported to the authorities. For individuals found intoxicated, the police may also be called, the agency said in a Facebook post.

In a separate Monday post, transport operator SMRT urged the public to report vaping offences to the authorities.

Vaping is illegal in Singapore, and offenders face fines of up to 2,000 Singapore dollars (approximately US\$1,559). — Xinhua



# Myanmar faces Australia in AFF MSIG Serenity Cup 2025 final today

MYANMAR will take on Australia at the final match of the AFF MSIG Serenity Cup 2025 today in Vietnam. At 4:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 19 August (today), as the third-placed match, the host Vietnam team will compete against the Thai team. At 7:30 pm MST, the Myanmar team will face the Australia team in the final match. In the main match, the Myanmar team will be meeting their former group-stage opponent, Australia, again. Although Myanmar previously won with a score of 2-1, the Australian team has since improved their performance in subsequent matches.

In this year's tournament, the Myanmar team has made its sixth appearance, while the Australian team is making its fourth. Throughout the tournament, Myanmar has won the championship twice, and Australia has won it once. This will be the first time the two teams face each other at the final stage. Both teams were in the same group, where Myanmar previously defeated Australia 2-1. The



The Myanmar women's national football squad. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar Women's National Team won the championship in 2004 and 2007 and is now in a strong position to reclaim the title 18 years later.

The press conference before the final match took place at the Pullman Hotel in Hai Phong of Vietnam, on 18 August.

Myanmar team head coach, Uki Tetsuro, stated: "Australia is a strong team, and they have been improving with each match, so tomorrow's final-stage game will be a great and exciting match. Moreover, Australia performed very well against host Vietnam in the semi-finals and

won, so we need to pay close attention to all their players. Currently, my team is working to restore the players' strength and get them fully prepared for the final match. Win Theingi Tun is a very important player for our team. He has scored seven goals in the tournament, mak-

ing him the top scorer, and I am especially pleased with his performance. I also acknowledge and praise the efforts and hard work of the other players on the team. I believe that all the players will give their best in the final match."

Australian team head coach Joe Palatsides said, "When we faced Myanmar in the group-stage match, my team was not at its best. After that match, we made adjustments, learned from it, and now we are performing well. This tournament requires playing five matches within 14 days, which is very challenging for the players and makes it hard to maintain full strength. Therefore, I made many player rotations in every match and also changed our playing style in various ways. However, the players now understand the style I want. In the final match, there will not be many changes. Myanmar's striker, Win Theingi Tun, is an outstanding player. Myanmar also has many good players, so we must prepare carefully and play strategically." — Shine Htet Zaw/TTA

## Shan Utd placed in Group B of ASEAN Club Championship

THE 2025-2026 ASEAN Club Championship's group stage matches will kick off on 20-21 August and run through to February 2026. Myanmar's Shan United Football Club is competing in Group B.

For this tournament, the qualifiers for the ASEAN Club Championship were held in the second and third weeks of August, when Shan United advanced to the final group stage matches with an aggregate score of 3-1 after defeating Lao's EZRA in both legs.

Based on the draw results, Group A includes Buriram United (Thailand), BG Pathum United (Thailand), Selangor (Malaysia), Công An Hà Nội (Vietnam), Tampines Rovers (Singapore) and Dynamic Herb Cebu (the Philippines). Group B consists of Bangkok United (Thailand), Johor Darul Ta'zim (Malaysia), Nam Định (Vietnam), Lion City Sailors (Singapore), Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng (Cambodia) and Shan United (Myanmar).

Shan United will play two home matches and three away matches in the group stage.



The Shan United football club. PHOTO: SUFC

According to the fixture list, Shan United will face Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng of Cambodia on 21 August at home, and Vietnam's Nam Định on 4 December at home. Shan United will play Lion City Sailors (Singapore) on 17 December, Johor Darul Ta'zim (Malaysia) on 29 January and Bangkok United (Thailand) on 5 February in the away leg each.

This will be Shan United's second consecutive appearance, and they will also play AFC Challenge League this season. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

## Teqball tournament held to qualify for 33<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Games

THE Myanmar Teqball Federation (MTF) hosted the MTF President's Cup Teqball Open Championship 2025 to qualify for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Games yesterday morning at the Futsal Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon.

First, Myanmar Teqball Federation (MTF) President Dr Htet Khaing Win delivered a speech and opened the tournament. Then, the Director-General of the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the President, along with officials from the Teqball Federation, greeted the competing players and watched the first day's competitions.

The tournament will feature Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Mixed Dou-

bles categories, and 10 teams and 29 players will compete until 22 August.

The winning athletes will be awarded with meritorious prizes, and outstanding athletes will be selected to be sent to the SEA Games. — Arkar Lin/MKKS



Men's individual competition.





# WORLD

## Chinese, UN officials urge better vocational education to speed up Africa's industrialization

CHINESE and United Nations officials have called for advancing vocational education and talent development programmes in Africa to speed up industrialization and continental transformation.

They made the call Sunday at the opening of a seminar on vocational education management and capacity-building for the Luban Workshop in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

Jiang Feng, head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union (AU), said China is committed to building a vocational education development community in Africa through various skill development training programmes.

"The training seminar initiated today is a practical measure to implement the commitments within the framework of the China-Africa-UN Tripartite Cooperation Demonstration Centre," he said. "It focuses on the demand for skilled talents in the industrialization process of Africa, and deeply connects with the AU Agenda 2063."

Highlighting that China has im-

plemented thousands of training programmes, including overseas ones for fellow African people, Jiang said that China-Africa cooperation, especially in the areas of industrialization, agricultural modernization, and talent cultivation, is gaining momentum.

He recalled that China has launched 17 cooperation programmes in Africa related to governance, industrial promotion, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, green development, capacity-building, health, cultural exchanges, and peace and security.

Asegid Adane Mebratu, national programme officer at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Ethiopia, emphasized the need to promote vocational education in Africa to sustainably meet the evolving needs of industries and communities in the continent.

"The Luban Workshop represents a practical effort to enhance technical skills development and promote technology exchange in support of industrial upgrading and talent cultivation in Africa," Mebratu



Yonas Akele (L) and Jiang Jiang, head of the Luban Workshop in Addis Ababa, work together in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Technical and Vocational Training Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 15 February 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA

said, noting that the seminar is part of the broader commitment to strengthening the

China-Africa-UNIDO Centre of Excellence. — Xinhua

## Nine countries airdrop 180 food packages over Gaza: Israel



Staff members load humanitarian aid for Gaza into an aircraft at a military base in Zaraq, Jordan, on 17 August 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

THE Israeli military said on Monday that nine countries airdropped 180 food packages over Gaza, part of a daily effort to deliver relief to the besieged enclave.

Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Singapore, and Indonesia took part in the operation, the army said in a statement. The military added that the airdrops were carried out "in

accordance with directives from the political echelon".

Israel's nearly 22-month offensive and blockade of Gaza have devastated the territory, leaving much of it in ruins and creating famine conditions. Nearly 62,000 people have been killed since the war began in October 2023, according to Gaza's health authorities.

Aid agencies and experts say the airdrops are insufficient, unsafe, and

ineffective in halting hunger. They have urged Israel to allow in more truck convoys and to enable the rebuilding of Gaza's health system, which has been largely destroyed by airstrikes.

Starvation deaths are rising daily, health officials say. As of Monday, at least 263 people — including 112 children — have died of hunger in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. — Xinhua

## S Korean president orders phased implementation of existing inter-Korean agreements

SOUTH Korean President Lee Jae-myung on Monday ordered the phased implementation of existing inter-Korean agreements, according to the presidential office.

During a cabinet meeting, Lee ordered relevant ministries to prepare for the step-by-step implementation of existing agreements with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) starting with those that are possible to do.

Lee said South Korea will steadily take steps to reduce tensions on the basis of maintaining an ironclad preparedness, stressing that small practices, built up like pebbles, will restore mutual trust, widen the path of peace and eventually lay foundation for the two Koreas to grow together.

His remarks came after Lee vowed during his Liberation Day speech last week to take consistent measures to reduce tensions and restore trust with the DPRK. — Xinhua