

Over 30% of land now designated as forest and conservation areas

The government plans to establish forest reserves and protected public forests for 30 per cent of the country and natural conservation areas for 10 per cent.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing underscored that the government is expediting its efforts in growing trees along both sides of roads and the establishment of a two-acre firewood plantation per village, in addition to greening 13 districts in order to increase forest coverage areas and prevent loss of water and fertile soil.

Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, planted a neem sapling at the second monsoon tree-growing ceremony for 2025 held in Yanaungmyin forest reserve in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Senior General unveiled that the government plans to establish forest reserves and protected public forests for 30 per cent of the country in order to increase the forest coverage area of the nation and protect wildlife and significant geophysical areas, while arranging to set up natural conservation areas for 10 per cent.

During its tenure, he recounted that the government has formed more than 660,000 acres of 61 forest reserves and protected public forests and more than 610,000 acres of 16 natural conservation areas. As the Senior General stressed that the government has established 1,324 forest reserves and protected public forests on 25.94 per cent of land areas



State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing water a neem sapling after planting it at the second monsoon tree-planting event for 2025 yesterday.

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the second tree-growing ceremony

1. The government has established 1,324 forest reserves and protected public forests on 25.94 per cent of land areas and 62 natural conservation areas on 6.43 per cent of the land.
2. As forests play a crucial role in ensuring the development of the country, food security, health, and happiness and prevention of some natural disasters, it is necessary to shape green cities, clean cities, smart cities and green villages.
3. The government is expediting its efforts to grow trees along both sides of roads and the establishment of a two-acre firewood plantation per village.

and 62 natural conservation areas on 6.43 per cent of the land areas, it is necessary to strive to meet the target areas of the forest coverage, he added.

The Senior General urged relevant ministries, relevant departments, gov-

ernments of Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states, together with residents, to cooperate in raising the forest coverage of the nation to 50 per cent of the total land area as a good legacy for further generations.

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MPC holds graduation ceremony for News Media Training Course 3/2025

BUSINESS **PAGE 11**



CBM sells over US\$678K, CNY1.24M, THB2.94M on 3 July

NATIONAL **PAGE 12**



No major storms expected in northern bay until monsoon's end

NATIONAL

Spirit of union remains vital for safeguarding democracy and national unity

THE Myanmar people achieved independence through the spirit of the Union — a spirit of unity and kinship that transcended state and regional boundaries. In critical times, they stood together as one, bonded by shared struggles and sacrifices. This spirit of Union was the cornerstone of the past independence struggle and remains the foundation for preserving the democratic state in the future.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 77th Anniversary of Independence Day on 4 January 2025)

Invitation Aimed at Serving the Union

1. Due to their terrorist acts, the group has been declared a terrorist group under the Counter-Terrorism Law. According to recent information emerging on social media, even their leaders have not formally recognized them, and the unlawfully formed CRPH and NUG, established for their interests, attempted to conceal their electoral misconduct and efforts to unlawfully seize State power, intending to continue to grasp the authority of the State illegitimately. As such, they shaped themselves as the elected government. CRPH and NUG have propagated the narrative that Tatmadaw, which assumed responsibility for all functions of the State under the Constitution to hold a free and fair election, was dragging democracy backwards. Whether due to believing in the propaganda that was spread or based on the assumption that their own beliefs and convictions were correct, the armed groups, including PDFs, chose the path of armed struggle.
2. The shared aspiration of the government, people, Tatmadaw, ethnic armed organizations, and officially established political parties is to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system. Likewise, the stated goal of the armed groups, including those operating under the name of PDF, who have chosen the path of armed struggle based on their beliefs and convictions, is also to establish a Union founded on democracy and a federal system.
3. The State Administration Council has adopted the Five-Point Roadmap and has been making considerable progress in striving to hold a multiparty democratic general election. The government, the Tatmadaw, and political parties that share the same aspirations and intend to participate in the election pathway now number 54 parties. The gateway to advancing

... if the path of armed struggle continues, it will not benefit the State but will instead cause democracy to regress.

ing toward a Union based on democracy and a federal system is through a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. In such circumstances, if the path of armed struggle continues, it will not benefit the State but will instead cause democracy to regress. The goal of establishing a Union based on democracy and a federal system does not need to be lost or derailed due to the interference and disruption caused by the CRPH and NUG's propaganda. Instead, they must continue to advance along the path aligned with their beliefs and aspirations. Once the election is held and Hluttaws and governments are formed, CRPH and NUG's actions, which are fearful of losing their standing as an elected government, contradict their aspirations. Therefore, they must change course and move forward on the correct path. Because of the armed struggle, many young people have lost their lives, causing a loss of human resources crucial for building the envisioned Union.

4. Although efforts to resolve issues through armed struggle have lasted for over 70 years, they have yielded no results and have delayed the country's development. Learning from this lesson, armed groups, including those operating under the name PDF, have to recognize that because their regions lack stability and peace and because their participation in armed struggle has caused harm and suffering to the socioeconomic life of their family members and communities. They have to fully cooperate and par-

ticipate in the election process, in doing so – along with reconsidering their approach of harming loss to the socioeconomic life and supporting comprehensive development in areas such as education and healthcare under peaceful and stable conditions — will enable them

... if the armed groups, including those operating under the name PDF, aspire to see the emergence of a Union based on democracy and a federal system, and if they choose to legally establish themselves within the framework of the law and cooperate hand in hand with the government and Tatmadaw to serve the interests of the State and the regions, the government and Tatmadaw will welcome and accept this. Those who have such intentions are invited to contact and coordinate with the nearest military camps and regional authorities.

5. They have to negotiate with the Hluttaw and the government that will emerge from the upcoming multiparty democratic general election to build a Union based on democracy and a fed-

eral system, as well as to amend the Constitution to align with a democratic and federal Union.

6. Therefore, if the armed groups, including those operating under the name PDF, aspire to see the emergence of a Union based on democracy and a federal system, and if they choose to legally establish themselves within the framework of the law and cooperate hand in hand with the government and Tatmadaw to serve the interests of the State and the regions, the government and Tatmadaw will welcome and accept this. Those who have such

intentions are invited to contact and coordinate with the nearest military camps and regional authorities.

Information Team
State Administration Council

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.

(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)

Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, yesterday morning inspected the upgrading of Yazahtani Road in Nay Pyi Taw with the use of the regulating course mix design.

Accompanied by SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council Secretary General Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, the Union Minister for Construction and officials, the Senior General heard reports on placing of asphalt concrete along the damaged road section from Pankhin traffic light to Kumudra lotus flower roundabout on Yazahtani Road with the use of machinery by Director of Military Engineers under the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Maj-Gen Zaw Naing Oo.

In his guidance, the Senior General said that when using new technology on Regulating Course Mix Design in renovating the road section, it is necessary to emphasize the long-term existence of the road systematically, meeting the criteria of ingredients.

He gave guidance that efforts must be made to swiftly complete repaving of the road with evenness and proper compaction.

The Senior General continued that it is important for no water accumulation on the road surface and that proper drainage is in place, works must be carried out systematically as per the designated standards and procedures.

He stressed that at curved sections of the median strip, road evenness must also be ensured, and road paving works must be carried out promptly and efficiently to ensure their



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection of the repair and upgrading of roads in Nay Pyi Taw.

SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects road repair in Nay Pyi Taw

Using new technology on Regulating Course Mix Design can save 18.44 tonnes (368 bags) of cement and 6.15 tonnes (33 barrels) of asphalt per mile.

swift completion.

The Senior General inspected the progress of repaving works and gave necessary guidance.

The road section from Pankhin traffic light to Kumudra lotus flower roundabout on Yazahtani Road was severely damaged by the Mandalay

earthquake. So, the Senior General inspected the loss and damage to the road section soon after the earthquake. After coordinating with engineers, the Senior General gave guidance to repair the road section with the Regulating Course Mix Design.

Hence, to carry out road repair works using the Regu-

lating Course Mix Design, the original asphalt concrete mix design was modified by reducing the proportions of asphalt and cement. Based on this revised design, two sample moulds were prepared at the asphalt concrete laboratory of the Ministry of Construction, and tests for Stability and Flow were con-

ducted using a Marshall Testing Machine. The results met the required standards, confirming the success of the test.

Following these step-by-step tests, the current section of the road is now being repaired using the Regulating Course Mix Design. If road paving works are undertaken using this method, for every one-mile section with two inches in thickness, 12 feet in width, and 5,280 feet in length, it would save approximately 18.44 tonnes (368 bags) of cement and 6.15 tonnes (33 barrels) of asphalt. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Over 30% of land now designated as forest...

FROM PAGE 1

He noted that Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions, designated as dry zones of Myanmar, are difficult to operate agriculture and livestock farms and grow trees due to shortages of water and dryness.

Hence, the Senior General underscored that the government is expediting its efforts in growing trees along both sides of roads and the establishment of a two-acre firewood plantation per village in addition to greening 13 districts in order to increase forest coverage areas and prevent loss of water and fertile soil.

He revealed that the second monsoon tree-growing ceremony for 2025 will grow 3,000 saplings of 18 flowery plant species in Yanaungmyin forest reserve, similar to growing 3,000 saplings of 16 species in the first growing ceremony held on 15 June.

The Senior General emphasized that as trees and forests play a crucial role in ensuring the development of the country, food security, health and happiness and prevention of some natural disasters, it is necessary to shape green cities, clean cities, smart cities and green villages.

The Senior General urged all to grow shade trees, windbreaks and seasonally

flowery plants in residences of people, along roads and public areas as part of efforts to conserve existing forests.

At the ceremony, the Senior General planted a neem sapling at the designated place.

SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win, the Council Secretary, the Council Joint Secretary, SAC members, Union-level dignitaries, Union ministers, students, service personnel and officials participated in the tree-growing activities.

The Senior General viewed attendees' participation in growing trees.

Also, present at the ceremony were the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, faculty members of Naypyitaw State Academy, Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University, Government Technical Institute (Nay Pyi Taw), and the University of Forestry and Environmental Conservation.

A total of 3,000 saplings of 18 species were planted as a public movement at the second monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2025. — MNA/TTA

Building Renovation
Committee Chair inspects
demolition of red-level
buildings in Nay Pyi Taw

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, in his capacity as Chairman of the Building Renovation and Reuse and Construction Committee, inspected the demolition of quake-hit government office buildings and staff housing in Nay Pyi Taw.

The General, accompanied by Union ministers U Aung Kyaw Hoe, and U Myo Thant and Nay

Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Than Tun Oo, oversaw the extension of a four-storey building at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the communication building of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

They proceeded to Bala Theikdhi and Nyana Theikdhi wards to inspect the staff housing, reuse of excavated materials and waste disposal systematically.

The level 1 task force ex-



SAC Member Deputy PM MoD Union Minister General Maung Maung Aye reviews the dismantling of quake-hit buildings in Nay Pyi Taw.

amined the quake-affected government office buildings, staff housing and dormitories systematically, and the blue-coloured buildings were prioritized for repair. The orange-coloured buildings were examined by the Level 2 task force and repaired per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Similarly, the buildings with huge damage in structure are being demolished, and plans are underway to draft designs, which can withstand earthquakes up to magnitude 8 on the Richter scale, soil test and layout plan. — MNA/KTZH



Quake-impacted staff receives electronic kitchen utensils and devices.

Electronic kitchen utensils provided to quake-hit staff

THE handover ceremony of six types of kitchen utensils and electronic devices for 499 rooms of collapsed ground floors of staff housing from 25 ministries and organizations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, National Disaster Management Committee First Vice-Chair Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung said the search and rescue

operations were conducted effectively after the earthquake, and the staff who were living in the collapsed ground floors of the staff housings were provided following the guidance of the Head of the State. The exact inventory was sought from the ministries and organizations to provide, and the basic needs for daily use for 499 ground floors were provided using the National Disaster Management Fund.

Second Vice-Chair Union Minister Dr Soe Win briefed the formation

of the tender committee and quake responses under the management of the National Disaster Management Committee.

At the event, the staff from 499 ground floors of 124 buildings of 25 ministries and organizations were provided with six types of kitchen utensils and electronic devices such as refrigerators, TV, cooker, kettle, cooking pot and iron worth over K1,078 million of the National Disaster Management Fund. — MNA/KTZH



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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

Music concert
for centenary
celebration of
Mandalay University

THE music concert marking the 100th anniversary of Mandalay University took place at the MRTV Auditorium in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Union Ministers U Maung Maung Ohn, U Min Naung, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, and Dr Soe Win, and Union Civil Service Board Chairman U Aung Thaw, Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing, departmental officials, town elders, alumni of Mandalay University and invitees. Mandalay Region Chief Minister (Retd) U Maung Ko donated K20

million for quake-affected MRTV staff to the Director-General. During the concert, Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn handed over K5 million cash award provided by SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and K3 million by the Ministry of Information for Mandalay Myoma Band and artistes to Patrons of Myoma Band U Khin Maung Than, U Myat Soe Swe and U Khin Maung Swe.

The famous vocalists and students of Metta Private High School from Kyauk-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn presents cash awards at the centenary celebration of Mandalay University.

se performed, accompanied by Mandalay Myoma Band. After the concert, the Union ministers presented flower baskets and gifts to the members of the Mandalay Myoma band and artistes individually.

Mandalay University was

established as Mandalay Intermediate College on 4 July 1925, and as Mandalay Arts and Science College in 1948 and Mandalay University in 1958. Therefore, it marks the 100th anniversary on 4 July 2025. The establishment of Mandalay Myoma Band, the

heart of Mandalay, also reaches its 100th anniversary. Therefore, Mandalay Myoma Band proudly played for “Mandalay University Centenary Music Concert”, and the event was broadcast live on Friday Night Live Show of MRTV. — MNA/KTZH

MoC Union Minister highlights
Myanmar’s role at IP Conference 2025



Union Minister U Tun Ohn speaks at the second day of the 2025 International Intellectual Property Conference yesterday.

THE second day of the 2025 International Intellectual Property Conference continued yesterday at the Dokhtawadi, Kissapanadi and Ayeyawady Halls of Jasmine Naypyitaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn and Deputy Minister U Min Min attended the event and presented honorary awards. Directors-General, officials from relevant ministries, intellectual property experts from local and international institutions, rectors, professors, postgrad-

uate students, legal practitioners, entrepreneurs and paper presenters also attended the sessions.

At Dokhtawadi Hall, discussions included trademark rights, geographical indications and registration procedures for IP representatives. Sessions at Kissapanadi Hall focused on IP development across sectors, patent-related issues, and challenges related to artificial intelligence technologies. Meanwhile, at Ayeyawady Hall, topics covered include industrial design

rights, the role of small and medium enterprises in IP, ownership and transfer of IP rights and protection of new plant varieties.

Each paper was presented by the respective experts, followed by interactive questions and answers and discussions with attendees.

The conference aims to promote innovation, contribute to economic development and raise awareness about the vital role of intellectual property in preserving Myanmar’s cultural heritage. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar delegation joins 53rd
SEAMEO Council Conference
in Brunei

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint attended the Plenary Session of the 53rd Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference, held on 2 July in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.



Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint attends the 53rd SEAMEO Council Conference in Brunei.

The conference commenced with an opening address by the current SEAMEO Council President, the Minister of Education of the Republic of the Philippines, followed by the presentation of the SEAMEO Council’s official report. The Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat then presided over the election of the new SEAMEO Council President and Chair of the 53rd Council Conference. The Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam was unanimously elected to the role.

Subsequently, ministers and delegates from SEAMEO member countries delivered their country statements. Speaking on behalf of Myanmar, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Myint emphasized the ongoing implementation and aspirations of the SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021–2030, highlighting efforts to bring the Plan’s

objectives into universities and schools, ultimately aiming to uplift the lives of millions of students through inclusive and quality education.

The conference continued with discussions on 39 working papers submitted by SEAMEO committees and institutions. It was also decided that the 54th SEAMEO Council Conference will be hosted by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 2027.

On 3 July, the Myanmar delegation visited the University of Brunei Darussalam to explore opportunities for academic and research collaboration. They also visited Masna Secondary School to observe the learning processes and classroom practices, particularly focusing on the activities of female students. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

People's Military Service Training 12 concludes

THE graduation parades for the People's Military Service Training 12 took place yesterday morning at various training depots across the country, organized by relevant military commands. The ceremonies followed the training graduation schedule, with the graduates taking an oath while holding the national flag.

Officials awarded top-performing trainees with distinctions in categories such as Best Trainee, Best Training, Code of Conduct, Best Marksmanship, Best Mine Handling, and so on.



This photo captures the graduation parade of the People's Military Service Training 12 yesterday.

The chief ministers from regions and states, commanders, and officials, attended the events and delivered congratulatory speeches to graduates. They also cordially greeted the graduates.

Graduates are familiar with teamwork and will serve the duties with nationalism, patriotism, team spirit and esprit de corps at different commands and units.

In the evening, dinners were hosted at each training depot in honour of the graduates of the People's Military Service Training 12. — MNA/KTZH

37th Thailand-Myanmar Border Meeting held in Chiang Mai



This photo shows the documentary group photo of the 37th Thailand-Myanmar Regional Border Committee held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

THE 37th Thailand-Myanmar Regional Border Committee Meeting, hosted by Thailand, was held on the morning of 3 July at Green Lake Resort in Chiang Mai.

Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) led the Myanmar delegation, which included senior Tatmadaw officers and officials from relevant departments. The Thai delegation was headed by Lt-Gen Kittipong Jamsuwan and accompanying members.

The meeting commenced with opening remarks by the heads of both delegations, followed by mutual introductions among participants. Delegates then posed for a group photograph and exchanged cordial greetings.

The meeting focused on sector-specific discussions concerning

trust-building, border cooperation, drug prevention, demarcation issues and other related matters.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation attended a dinner reception hosted by the Thai delegation head, Lt-Gen Kittipong. During the event, traditional Thai music and dance performances were presented, and both sides exchanged commemorative gifts.

The second day of the meeting resumed on 4 July at the same venue. The two heads of delegation officially signed the agreements of the 37th meeting and delivered closing remarks. This was followed by the mutual exchange of symbolic mementoes and farewells between delegations, concluding the meeting successfully.

Later that afternoon, Lt-Gen Nyunt Win Swe and the Myanmar

delegation departed from Chiang Mai to Bangkok aboard a Tatmadaw aircraft. In Bangkok, they held separate meetings with General Thongchai Rodyoi, Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Army, and Gen Pongtep Gaewchaiyo, Commandant of the National Defence College of Thailand. Discussions included Thailand's swift humanitarian assistance following the 28 March Mandalay earthquake, bilateral military cooperation and outcomes of the 37th Regional Border Committee Meeting. The sides also exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for a group photo.

During their stay in Thailand, the Myanmar delegation also visited Wat Pa Dara Phirom Phra Aram Laung, Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden and Central Festival Chiang Mai Shopping Mall. — MNA/KZL

2nd China-Myanmar-Thailand Ministerial Meeting held on transnational crime



The 2nd China-Myanmar-Thailand Ministerial Meeting on Combatting Transnational Crime in progress yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE second China-Myanmar-Thailand Ministerial Meeting on Combatting Transnational Crime was held at the Jasmine Nayspyitaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 am to 11:30 am on 4 July.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from relevant ministries, led by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Kyaw. Also in attendance were senior officials from the Ministry of Public Security of the Peo-

ple's Republic of China, led by Assistant Minister Mr Liu Zhong Yi, and senior officials from Thailand, led by Mr Dusit Manapan, Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The participants held friendly discussions on security and law enforcement cooperation among China, Myanmar, and Thailand. They also discussed joint efforts to combat online scams and online gambling under relevant laws. — MNA/MKKS

Relief and recovery efforts continue in quake-hit areas

COORDINATED rehabilitation efforts involving various organizations and local communities continue at full strength across the affected regions, following the powerful Mandalay earthquake that caused widespread destruction.

Yesterday, Lt-Gen Thet Pon from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), along with responsible officials, visited several religious buildings in Sagaing that had sustained damage. The team inspected damage to residential buildings, monasteries, and pagodas, and coordinated with relevant authorities to help maintain a clean and orderly urban environment. They also provided refreshments to workers and discussed necessary support with responsible personnel.



Lt-Gen Thet Pon inspects the reconstruction efforts in religious sites in Sagaing.

Later, Lt-Gen Thet Pon and his team inspected the comprehensive reconstruction efforts at Rajamani Cula Kaunghmu-daw Pagoda, Metta Lake, and SunU Ponnyashin Pagoda, all

of which were destroyed by the earthquake. They coordinated with local officials regarding the necessary support.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thet Pon and his delegation visited Basic Education Middle School (Branch) Zaya in Sagaing Township to inspect the completed construction of modular housing for education staff, and coordinated with officials regarding further needs.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and his team visited Chanmyathazi and Mandalay Hill in Mandalay, where damaged structures remain. They observed the use of heavy machinery for debris clearance and inspected ongoing reconstruction efforts. — MNA/MKKS

China donates Wushu sports equipment to Myanmar



Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung accepts the donated Wushu sports equipment from Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia.

A handover ceremony for Wushu sports equipment donated by the People's Republic of China to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs was held at 10 am on 4 July at the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon) located at Kyaikkasan Sports Grounds, Tamway Township, Yangon Region.

Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and Chairperson of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia and officials from the Chinese Embassy, regional ministers, senior officials from the Department

of Sports and Physical Education and the Myanmar Wushu Federation, along with guests attended the ceremony.

At the event, Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia delivered a speech highlighting the purpose and significance of the donation. Union Minister U Jeng Phang Naw Taung followed by express-

ing appreciation for China's continued support in the sports sector. He noted that Myanmar's achievements in Wushu, such as consistent medal wins at the Asian Games, Southeast Asian Games, and other international competitions, had been made possible through joint training programmes, deployment of international coaches, and material support from China.

Following the speeches, Ambassador Ms Ma Jia formally handed over the donated Wushu equipment to the Union minister, who, in return, presented a certificate of appreciation.

After the handover, the Union minister held bilateral discussions with Ambassador Ma Jia on strengthening cooperation in sports development, including the utilization of financial budgets in 2026-2027 for advancing Myanmar's athletic performance, particularly in regional events such as the Southeast Asian Games and Asian Games.

Later, the Union minister visited the Teqball Training Hall

within the Kyaikkasan sports complex to inspect training activities. Teqball athletes currently preparing for the XXXIII Southeast Asian Games showcased their training, and he provided guidance on performance improvement and coaching strategies.

In the afternoon, the Union minister attended the opening ceremony of the 2025 Inter-State/Region U18 Track and Field Championships at the Padetha Stadium in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon. He delivered opening remarks encouraging young athletes and underscored the importance of sports discipline.

Athletes then recited the four-point oath of sportsmanship. Subsequently, the Yangon Region chief minister awarded incentive cash prizes to the combined teams of Basic Education High School 1 Latha and music troops.

The opening ceremony concluded with enthusiastic support for the boys' and girls' 4 by 100 metres relay events. — MNA/KZL

Foster a cooperative spirit to serve the interests of people

AN organization guided by the collective will of like-minded individuals – people who, despite their differences, share a common goal to contribute to the greater good – remains strong and relevant today. One such enduring institution, which has thrived for nearly two centuries by fairly distributing the benefits of cooperation among its members, is the commonwealth.

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) defines cooperatives as organizations rooted in self-reliance, personal responsibility, democratic governance, equality, equity, solidarity, and moral values like honesty, openness, social responsibility, and caring for others. These core principles inspire meaningful action. By uniting co-operators worldwide to promote their community-based economic model, the cooperative movement actively contributes to building a better future.

Cooperative societies operate across diverse economic sectors globally and have shown remarkable resilience during crises. They support economic activity, protect the environment, help mitigate

climate change, create decent jobs, enhance food security, provide financial services within local communities, and promote ethical value systems. Additionally, cooperatives address public safety and welfare, playing a vital role in sustaining genuine peace.

In Myanmar, the Central Cooperative Society joined the ICA in 1993. Since July 1995, the Myanmar cooperative community has annually organized ceremonies to mark International Co-operative Day. The theme for the 2025 International Day of Cooperatives – “Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World” — highlights the movement’s commitment to a fairer, greener future and its capacity to tackle pressing global challenges. Indeed, cooperatives’ open membership model affords access to wealth creation and poverty elimination.

Cooperative operations are especially suitable for Myanmar, where rural populations make up the majority. Recognizing this, the government adopted

three economic objectives including to invigorate Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) for elevating the export sector; leveraging the momentum for sustained economic growth; and to spur the cultivation of oil crops to meet targeted production levels, thereby achieving domestic self-sufficiency in edible oil while striving towards the export of surplus oil. Cooperative societies play a crucial role in meeting these objectives.

Modern cooperative societies are collaborative enterprises aimed at improving members’ social and economic well-being. They prioritize people-centred values, human dignity, and ethical principles. According to updated laws, cooperative societies are established by individuals united in purpose, with democratically elected executive committees. Their economic activities, including production, trade, and services, reflect members’ wishes. By fostering and advancing these activities, cooperative societies contribute significantly to the country’s socioeconomic development.

Thoughts on Reading Maung Swan Yi’s Poem on Test Tube Baby

By Myint Zan

BRIEF bio-data of poet Maung Swan Yi

The poet Maung Swan Yi (real name U Win Pe) was born on 17 February 1937 near a village in the town of Myingyan in what was then upper (British or colonial) Burma. He attended the University of Mandalay in the late 1950s and 1960s. Since his early University days, he had published his poems in various magazines and newspapers. He had also worked in various departments in Burma/ Myanmar as editor, writer and one of the drafters of the curriculum, mainly for Burmese language texts for high school students.

In a collection of most of his poems, which he had published from the late 1950s to about 2010, Maung Swan Yi modestly or unassumingly wrote that he had not been ‘that much of a prolific poet’. That was written in his Foreword to his collection of poems published in August 2017. His foreword was dated 29 June 2017. The 2017 collection contains 342 poems. Yours truly has translated perhaps about 16 of his poems into English.

The poet Maung Swan Yi is of leftist persuasion politically. One can say that he was at least in the 1960s and early 1970s a ‘militant leftist’. In the mid to late 1960s Vietnam War was raging. Maung Swan Yi took a very anti-imperialist and (in the context of that particular period) anti-American political stance. On 22 December 1966, he wrote a poem titled ‘Want to commit murder’. It was an anti-Vietnam War poem. A few phrases in the poem read in my translation, ‘I want to have a million hands where I hold a million guns ... a million guns yeah, therefore a million bullets’. I refrain or forbear from translating the full poem. The poem is reproduced on page 206 of the 2017 collection of poems.

The anti-imperialist and erstwhile anti-American Maung Swan Yi ‘migrated’ to the United States in 2002. For about 23 years, he has been living in an apartment in New York City. This is the brief biodata of the now 88-year-old poet. I recently spoke on the phone with him. He is now very hard of hearing. A visitor to his apartment had to ‘translate’ my conversations to him. But from what the visitor and others based in New York told me, he is quite prolific and resilient. I was told that he tried to write in long-hand poems or essays almost every day in his apartment in New York.

One of the poems that Maung Swan Yi composed on 8 November 1969 reads in my translation:

New Year Wish for the Scientific Age

By Maung Swan Yi
Translated by Myint Zan

with advances in biology and biochemistry using scientific methods ‘artificial’ life is created from inside the test tube: a human has ‘descended’ viola!

may the human born out of a test tube have compassion and metta (Pali- loving kindness) for the human worldlings born out of the of the breast of the creator; dispenser of loving-kindness

Poem composed on 8 November 1969
Translated on 19 June 2025

Maung Swan Yi composed this poem in November 1969. Eight years and eight months after Maung Swan Yi composed the poem, the world’s first test tube baby, Louis Joy Brown, was born on 25 July 1978 through what is called in vitro fertilization in the United Kingdom. A quick web search indicates that there are currently about eight million humans who were born as ‘test tube babies’.

Maung Swan Yi used the phrase Phaya Thakin in his poem, which can be translated as ‘Creator or Deity’. The translator will express his view that, in context, the phrase indicates the ‘creator’ God of the Abrahamic religions. The poet Maung Swan Yi is a Buddhist. One ventures to suggest that the poet was taking poetic license when he used the above phrase, for the Buddhist doctrine is that humans, indeed all sentient beings, are not the ‘creation’ of the Deity as such. But it is fine for Maung Swan Yi to use his poetic imagination to compose this insightful poem. Did the poet envisage or ‘foresee’ the future of not only in vitro fertilisation, which took place eight-and-a-half years after he composed the poem?

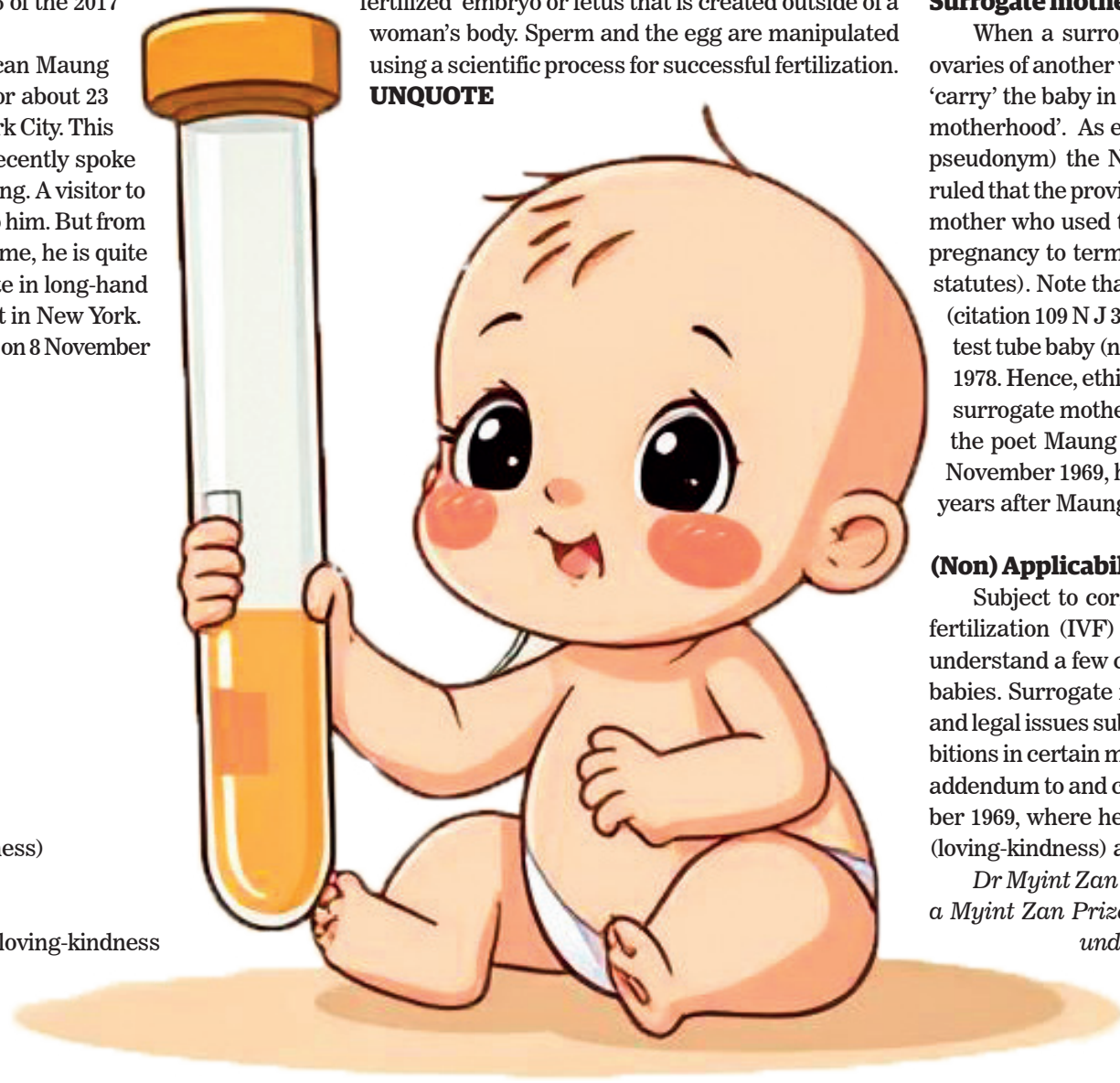
From test tube babies to designer babies and a few ethical and legal issues

Both Maung Swan Yi’s poem and my translation do not define (in layperson’s terms) what a test tube baby is. One website defines

QUOTE

A test-tube baby is a term used to describe a ‘test tube fertilized’ embryo or fetus that is created outside of a woman’s body. Sperm and the egg are manipulated using a scientific process for successful fertilization.

UNQUOTE



That process albeit not that prevalent world-wide is no longer a rare phenomenon since that July day in 1978 when the pioneering medical doctors and scientists Patrick Steptoe (9 June 1913-21 March 1988) and Robert Edwards (27 September 1925-10 April 2013) enabled the birth, so to speak, the world’s first test tube baby Louis Joy Brown.

The term ‘designer babies’ has quite a different connotation from that of test tube babies. Another website defines designer babies also as

QUOTE

gene editing, which allows scientists to remove, add, or change genes to prevent or treat certain diseases. If successful, this could prevent the transmission of genetic diseases to future generations. In the future, parents may also be able to choose the genetic traits of their unborn baby.

UNQUOTE

The web article excerpted above was dated 7 February 2025 and was written by Rosalie Rung. She continues that though this method is to ‘stop the transmission of heritable diseases. experts don’t consider it safe or effective for widespread use’. Hence, it may not necessarily be a ‘giant leap’ from ‘test tube babies to designer babies’, but it is neither a ‘small step’. Perhaps it may be stated that there are arguably more ethical, indeed legal issues to confront vis-à-vis designer babies than as regards ‘test tube babies’.

Surrogate motherhood?

When a surrogate mother uses either her own ovaries or the ovaries of another woman mixed with the intended father’s sperm to ‘carry’ the baby in her womb can generally be defined as ‘surrogate motherhood’. As early as 3 February 1988 in the case of ‘Baby M’ (a pseudonym) the New Jersey Supreme Court in the United States ruled that the provision of monies (10,000 US dollars) to the surrogate mother who used the sperm of the intended father and carried her pregnancy to term is illegal (under relevant United States law and statutes). Note that the decision by the New Jersey Supreme Court (citation 109 N J 398 1988) was made less than 10 years after the first test tube baby (not designer baby, not surrogate pregnancy) in July 1978. Hence, ethical and legal issues regarding designer babies and surrogate motherhood (as an offshoot of test tube babies?), which the poet Maung Swan Yi wrote about more than 55 years ago in November 1969, have come to the fore. And it took less than twenty years after Maung Swan Yi’s imaginatively wrote his poem.

(Non) Applicability in Myanmar?

Subject to correction with evidence, the procedure for in vitro fertilization (IVF) test tube babies is not available in Myanmar. I understand a few couples have visited Thailand to ‘obtain’ ‘test tube babies. Surrogate motherhood and designer babies do raise ethical and legal issues subject to restrictions, limitations and perhaps prohibitions in certain medically advanced countries. This article is a brief addendum to and commentary on Maung Swan Yi’s poem of November 1969, where he whimsically wrote about compassion and Metta (loving-kindness) among ordinary worldlings and test tube babies.

Dr Myint Zan is a retired Professor of Law. He has established a Myint Zan Prize in the Philosophy of Science in perpetuity for undergraduate philosophy students at one of his alma maters, The Australian National University. From 2018 to 2024, six undergraduate students have been awarded the Myint Zan prize in the Philosophy of Science.



သင်သေသွားသော်

ဪ...လူပြည်လောက၊ လူ့ဘဝကား
အိုရနာရ၊ သေရဦးမည်
မှန်ပေသည့်တည်း။

သို့တပြီးကာ၊ သင်သေသွားသော်
သင်ဖွားသောမြေ၊ သင်တို့မြေသည်
အခြေတိုးမြှင့်၊ ကျန်ကောင်းသင့်၏။

သင်၏မျိုးသား၊ စာစကားလည်း
ကြီးပွားတက်မြင့်၊ ကျန်ကောင်းသင့်၏။

သင်ဦးချ၍၊ အမျှစေရာ
စေတီသာနှင့်၊ သစ္စာအရောင်
ဉာဏ်တန်ဆောင်လည်း
ပြောင်လျက်ဝင်းလျက် ကျန်စေသတည်း။

ဇော်ဂျီ

After You Are Dead

Aww! In the human world, human life
Must get old, sick and not alive;
This is always right.

However, after your death,
Your native land of birth
Should be left with good progress.

Your national language and literature
Should be left much greater.

A place of your worship and mer-
it-sharing,
A venerable pagoda; truth lighting,
And also wisdom enlightening:
May they be left still glittering.

Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)
28 June 2025

Land of the Rising Hopes



In days when chains of silence reigned,
And freedom’s light was dimly gained,
Brave hearts arose through storm and flame,
To guard their soil, their flag, their name.
Through tear-stained nights and battles loud,
They stood for peace, unbowed and proud.

From student voice to soldier’s call,
They dared to rise, they dared not fall.
With ink and blood, the truths were penned,
For justice’s march would never end.
One’s dream and countless more,
Still echoes on from shore to shore.

Now let us rise with hearts ablaze,
To guard our land through all our days.
No tyrant’s grip, no foreign chain,
Shall steal our hope or cause us pain.
Oh, Myanmar, with love so deep,
Your past we guard, your soul we keep.

Min Zan

(Aiming to take responsibility for the sovereignty and security of the nation)

NATIONAL

Myanmar to debut electronic voting machines in upcoming general elections

THE Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) will be used for the first time in Myanmar during this year’s general election, according to a press conference held on 4 July and jointly organized by the Union Election Commission and the Myanmar Press Council.

More than 50,000 MEVMs will be produced and distributed for use.

“The MEVM makes voting easy and simple. It does not require internet or electricity, and it is lightweight and portable, allowing it to be used anywhere. The machine uses a UPS battery, commonly used in computers, which can be easily purchased on the market. Provisions have also been made to accommodate voters with disabilities. The machine has been tested hundreds of thousands of times for flaws, and none have been found so far,” U Nyi Nyi Lwin,

Deputy Director-General of the Union Election Commission, told GNL.M.

In addition, he explained, “At the voting booth, the voter must select their preferred option when the green light above the voting machine button turns on, and then press the button to cast their vote. The voter can also review the ballot paper on the monitor to confirm whether it reflects their choice. The MEVM will generate the voter list shortly after the polling stations close, eliminating the need to wait for hours. This MEVM can be easily used not only in the general election, but also in referendums and other elections for Union-level organizations.”

By using the MEVM, issues such as rejected votes and problems associated with paper ballots, like wax markings or the insertion of duplicate ballots, will reportedly be eliminated.



This photo captures officials explaining the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine to journalists.

The press conference was held on the morning of 4 July at the ShweUDAung Hall, News and Periodicals Enterprise of- fice, in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/TH

MPC holds graduation ceremony for News Media Training Course 3/2025

THE Myanmar Press Council’s News Media Development Committee organized the graduation ceremony of the News Media Training Course 3/2025 at the Council’s office in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Dr Tin Tun Oo, Chair of the Myanmar Press Council and U Khin Maung Kyaw Din, Second Vice-Chair and Head of the News Media Development Committee, remarked at the ceremony.

Council executives, trainers and instructors presented course completion certificates to the trainees. According to sources, the training covered subjects such as International Relations by U Khin Maung Zaw, Broadcasting Media by U



This photo shows the graduation ceremony of News Media Training Course 3/2025 in progress yesterday.

Thike Htun, App Monetization by U Min Myat Soe Moe, and Media Counter by Dr Tin Aung – all taught free of charge.

The course began on 13 June and was conducted weekly on Fridays as part of the “Fri-

day Class” programme. The Myanmar Press Council will continue offering such training, with both internal members and external experts serving as instructors in future sessions. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar film ‘Reflection’ to premiere in cinemas on 11 June

THE Myanmar film titled Reflection will be released in major cinemas nationwide on 11 July, according to director Wan Dwin.

The story and screenplay are written and directed by Min Ko Soe (Nat Than Kwin), and Wan Dwin directed the film for Golden Heart Film Production.

“This film combines a love story and a thriller. Khin Hlaing plays the role of Kyar Lay, who loves his younger sister very much and protects her from a ghostly life while also causing problems for those around her. Yaung Ni, a charity worker

from a humanitarian organization played by Academy Nay Win, faces troubles created from the afterlife while doing charity work. To find out what happens when Yaung Ni meets Nant Tha Phyu (played by Academy Chuu Lay), who is trying to free her brother from a ghostly life, please watch the film upon its release,” said director Wan Dwin.

The film’s cast includes Academy Nay Win, Academy Chuu Lay, Than Tha Nyi, Khin Hlaing, Nay San, Min Thu, and many others. — ASH/MKKS



This photo features the poster for the film Reflection.

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NATIONAL

CBM sells over US\$678K, CNY1.24M, THB2.94M on 3 July

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$678,000, 1.24 million yuan and 2.94 million baht on 3 July. CBM sold \$3.346 million to edible oil-importing companies, over \$578,400 to commodities-importing countries on that day.

CBM announced on 2 July that it would sell 10 million yuan to importers. CBM sold over \$1.593 million to edible oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM announced on 1 July that it would pump \$33 million into the fuel oil sector. CBM sold over \$1.15 million that purchased from CMP companies to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold 643,634.29 to commodities-importing companies and \$377,362.5 to edible oil companies on 30 June after injecting 500,000 baht into the market.

CBM \$500,000 to commodities-importing companies on 27 June, in addition to a 400,000-yuan injection into the market and \$845,000 purchased from CMP companies into the edible oil industry.

CBM sold \$1 million to commodities-importing companies



An aerial drone view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) office in Yangon.

after the injection of 160,000 yuan into the market on 26 June. Furthermore, CBM sold \$400,000 to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM made \$1.479 million injection from foreign currencies purchased from the CMP businesses into the edible oil-importing sector on 25 June

CBM sold over 700,000

yuan on 24 June. Furthermore, CBM sold \$870,000, which was purchased from the CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM announced on 23 June to pump \$30 million into the fuel oil sector. CBM sold \$464,500 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$496,000 to commodities-importing companies on

that day after the injection of over 16,540 yuan into the market.

CBM sold over \$600,000 and 387,000 yuan on 20 June. Furthermore, it sold \$800,000 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$503,000 from its designated injection to commodities-importing companies.

CBM pumped over \$577,000 out of its designated \$10 million

injection to commodities-importing companies on 19 June.

Moreover, CBM sold \$1.524 million from the companies working on a Cut-Make and Pack basis to edible oil-importing companies on the same day.

CBM sold over \$1 million out of the designated \$10 million injection to commodities-importing companies on 18 June 2025. Furthermore, CBM also sold \$1.68 million from CMP companies to edible oil-importing companies on that day.

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

CRGI seeks tender to procure rice husk briquettes

GRAND Royal Group International Co Ltd invited interested suppliers and companies to submit a tender for the procurement of rice husk briquettes.

CRGI called for SME companies, rice millers, rice husk briquettes owners, and those interested in supplying rice husk briquettes to purchase them.

The tender form is available at 33, 6½ miles, Pyay Road, Yangon. Interested individuals need to submit by 15 July 2025, with Tender No GRG/ OP/003-24-25, along with business profile, production capacity, business experience, company registration copy, company update extract, municipal licence and two-kilogramme briquettes as a sample.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through the tendering committee at 09 5078091 and 01 654938. — NN/KK

Fuel prices shrink in domestic market

FUEL oil prices dwindled to K3,015 per litre of Octane 92, K3,075 for Octane 95, K2,635 for diesel and K3,265 for premium diesel this week ending 10 July.

The set fuel prices were K3,140 per litre of Octane 92, K3,210 for Octane 95, K2,730 for diesel and K3,385 for premium diesel during the week ending 3 July.

Figures showed a small decrease of K95-K135 per litre compared to those of the previous week.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil. Under the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily ref-



The set fuel prices were K3,140 per litre of Octane 92, K3,210 for Octane 95, K2,730 for diesel and K3,385 for premium diesel during the week ending 3 July.

erence wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather

than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to that of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

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, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Over 1,200 vacancies for new doctors, dentists to open in July 2025

THE Ministry of Health will appoint more than 1200 fresher doctors and dentists in July 2025, said the Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win in a meeting with Myanmar Medical Council, Myanmar Dental Council and Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council held in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 July.

He said that the issuance of a practising licence will need to ensure a systematic procedure for either new practitioners, those seeking extension, or those re-permitted after being frozen for fresher practitioners. He added that respective institutions will need to ensure thorough verification to assess their qualifications.

Practitioners provide

healthcare for the public, so they will need to work as per their ethics and treat their patients politely, he said.

He also urged the respective medical institutions to carefully pay attention to the assurance of practising licences under MOH's policies and directives, to be systematic and not to make it delay.

— Htun Htun/ZS



This photo showcases the ceremony for civil servants for fresher doctors in July 2024.

EPS warns brokers can't tamper with its system

THE Employment Permit System (EPS) Centre in Myanmar has issued a special warning not to be deceived, as its system cannot be accessed by brokers.

As incidents of cheating by agents, problems among EPS applicants and complaints on POEA were found in an online group, it issued the alert on 3 July to all EPS applicants who are waiting for a call to enter the Korean labour market.

In the group of EPS applicants and POEA Issues, one person asked if they could pay for calls, some brokers replied that it was possible, but they need to pay a lot.

Amidst such cheating, candidates should be careful not to be deceived by agents, and the EPS system is not accessible to the brokers, while it cannot be facilitated by money, the centre warned, in the best interests of anyone not to suffer losses.

The EPS application process for recruitment and permit issuance, which is done by the computer system, includes recruitment requests by Korean employers, introducing three random candidates who meet requirements to employees by the EPS system, and selecting one candidate by the employee. After the selection, it is followed by various steps such as signing an employment contract with employees, visa application and leaving for Korea, it said. — MT/ZN



Screenshots of chat brokers made in the EPS applicants' group.

No major storms expected in northern bay until monsoon's end



This graph shows whirlwinds in the northern and southern hemispheres.

IN the north-eastern part of the Bay of Bengal, whirlwinds and low-pressure zones are possible, but no major storms are likely to develop until the end of the monsoon, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

Clockwise whirlwinds in the southern hemisphere near the equator and counter-clockwise whirlwinds in eastern Philippines, northern Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are increasing the strength of the southwest monsoon current.

Started in the early monsoon of 2025, the situation may continue until the end of August. In the northern Bay of

Bengal, whirlwinds are likely, but no major storms are expected.

With heavy rain in upper Myanmar, such as Kachin and Sagaing, while low rainfall in the central dry region, it may reduce the risk of flooding in the Ayeyawady River.

"The rise of river water will happen in the middle monsoon as usual. With no rain in the central part and regular rain in Yangon and Ayeyawady, there are no extreme El Niño and La Niña, and it can be just a year of normal weather," he added on his social media page.

If rain continues and no storm remnants are entering from the South China Sea, it can be concluded as a year of normal weather, he said. — MT/ZN

Steady oil tanker arrivals ensure no shortage, drive prices down

IN recent weeks, the prices of fuel and palm oil have increased due to the increase in local prices, which has led to an increase in prices at the Yangon port.

Currently, fuel price has fallen from about K100 to K125 per litre and palm oil to about K125 per viss, and the price of soybean oil has also declined.

Ships carrying both fuel oil and palm oil are constantly entering the ports, so they can be purchased at lower prices without any shortage. — MNA/MKKS



Vehicles are seen refuelling at the petrol station in downtown Yangon.

China’s structural tax, fee reductions benefit high-tech, advanced manufacturing firms

CHINA’S structural tax and fee reduction policies have injected fresh momentum into the high-quality development of firms engaged in technological innovation and advanced manufacturing, latest data has shown.

In the first five months of 2025, the total value of tax and fee reductions and tax refunds, which were geared toward supporting technological innovation and the development of advanced manufacturing, reached 636.1 billion yuan (about US\$88.9 bil-



lion), data from the State Taxation Administration revealed on Friday.

Of these, corporate income tax reductions for high-tech firms and emerging industries accounted for 140.7 billion yuan, while VAT deductions and tax refunds for advanced manufacturing enterprises amounted to 415.8 billion yuan, accord-

ing to this data.

High-tech firms and those engaged in advanced manufacturing have benefited from such supportive policies — demonstrating robust growth. Notably, in the first five months of this year, sales revenue of high-tech industries increased by 14.2 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

This photo taken on 27 June 2022 shows a vehicle being assembled at a smart factory of Chinese vehicle manufacturer Seres Group in Liangjiang New Area, southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality.
PHOTO: WANG QUANCHAO/XINHUA/FILE

Singapore’s retail sales rise 1.4% in May

SINGAPORE’S retail sales rose by 1.4 per cent year-on-year in May, building on the 0.2 per cent growth recorded in April, according to data released Friday by the Singapore Department of Statistics.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, retail sales also increased by 1.0 per cent compared to the previous month.

Total retail sales for May were estimated at 4.2 billion Singapore dollars (approximately US\$3.32

billion), with online transactions accounting for 12.3 per cent of overall sales, slightly lower than the 12.7 per cent recorded in April. Meanwhile, sales in the food and beverage services sector rose by 1.4 per cent year-on-year in May, extending the 1.3 per cent growth seen in April. The sector’s total sales value was estimated at 1.0 billion Singapore dollars. (1 Singapore dollar equals 0.79 US dollars). — Xinhua

US-brand car sales lag in Japan, highlighting lack of demand

JUST 7.8 per cent of imported cars sold in Japan from January to June were from US-branded automakers, industry data showed Friday, demonstrating the weak domestic demand for American-designed vehicles.

Only 9,517 US-branded vehicles were sold in Japan in the period, undercutting US President Donald Trump’s claim that more Japanese should be buying American imports to address his nation’s trade deficit.

Of the 121,243 units



Photo taken in Tokyo on 20 June 2025, shows Volkswagen’s electric minivan, ID. Buzz. **PHOTO: KYODO**

sold in the six-month period, Jeep — owned by Netherlands-based multinational Stellantis NV — was the best-selling US-brand at 4,333 units, followed by General Motors Co.’s Chevrolet and Cadillac at 283 and 185, respectively, the Japan Automobile Importers Association said.

In contrast, German brand Mercedes-Benz alone sold 25,015 vehicles in the period, with 90.4 per cent of the cars imported to Japan coming from European manufacturers.

Tesla Inc of the United States does not disclose sales by country, but takes up almost all of the “others” category at 4,589 units, an association official said. The EV maker’s imports were included in the US figure. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (154W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (154W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **5-7-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Agro Icon Crop Science Co., Ltd. (Myanmar)**, would like to change distributor of the following products, registered by **Agro Icon Cropscience Pte., Ltd. (Singapore)** to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from former distributor **Marga Min Co., Ltd.** If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Agro Icon Crop Science Co., Ltd. (Myanmar)**, 09-5029796

Sr. No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Type of Pesticide	Registration No.
1.	Myae Poe Shin	Fosthiazate 10% G	Provisional	P2024-5446
2.	Daung Min Thar	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 7.5% EC	Provisional	P2022-5537
3.	Aba Shal	Abamectin 5% EW	Provisional	P2023-6030
4.	MGM Cyperphos	Cypermethrin 4% + Profenofos 40% EC	Provisional	P2023-6204
5.	M-15	Emamectin Benzoate 2% + Thiamethoxam 13% WDG	Provisional	P2022-4428

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK

Russia to continue assisting Afghanistan in strengthening regional security



The cooperation is intended to foster friendship between the Russian and Afghan peoples.

RUSSIA will continue providing assistance to Afghanistan in strengthening regional security and combatting terrorism and drug trafficking threats, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

“We will continue to provide assistance to Kabul in strengthening regional security and combatting terrorist and drug crime threats. Deepening ties in education, sports, culture, and the humanitarian sector is

valuable for fostering the friendship between our peoples,” the statement read.

In addition to that, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko has accepted copies of the protocol from the newly appointed Afghan Ambassador to Russia Gul Hassan.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that the formal recognition of the Afghan authorities would give an impetus to the productive cooperation between the two states in various fields.

“We can see significant prospects for trade and economic cooperation, particularly in energy, transportation, agriculture, and infrastructure,” the ministry said. — SPUTNIK

Kabul, the capital and largest city of Afghanistan, is located in the eastern part of the country and also serves as a municipality within Kabul Province. PHOTO: PEXELS

Sales of cooling goods picking up in Japan amid sweltering heat

INTENSE summer heat in Japan is driving increased sales of heat prevention items, including parasols and cooling workwear. Ogawa Co, a Nagoya-based umbrella manufacturer, reported a 1.7-fold increase in sales of children’s all-weather umbrellas in the first half of the year, reflecting parents’ growing concerns about sun exposure.

Workman Co has seen significant success with a battery-powered cooling vest, selling over 50,000 units since

its March release, particularly among construction companies following new heatstroke prevention mandates.

Additionally, The Loft Co. reported a 60 per cent rise in water bottle sales in June, attributed to rising bottled drink prices.

Tiger Corp, an insulated bottle maker, noted that more consumers are opting for reusable bottles to save money, highlighting a shift in purchasing behaviour amid the ongoing heatwave. — Kyodo



This photo shows a section dedicated to water bottles at a variety store in Tokyo on 2 July 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

South American bloc looks to Asia, Europe in face of Trump trade war

SOUTH America’s Mercosur bloc sought Thursday to expand its markets in the face of US President Donald Trump’s global trade war, with Brazil calling for closer ties with dynamic Asian economies.

“It’s time for Mercosur to look towards Asia,” President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said, extolling the potential benefits of deeper relations with Japan, China, South Korea, India, Vietnam and Indonesia.

In a reflection of regional tensions, however, Argentina’s President Javier Milei threatened to go it alone if necessary to secure a free trade deal with the United States.

Lula, on his first trip to Argentina since Milei took office in December 2023, had no bilateral talks with the self-declared “anarcho-capitalist”.

The veteran Brazilian leftist, who took over Mercosur’s rotating presidency from his Argentine counterpart, has accused Milei of talking “non-sense”.

Lula said that under his leadership, Mercosur would aim to “strengthen inter-bloc trade with external partners” and to



Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Argentina’s President Javier Milei pose for a photo at a Mercosur summit in Buenos Aires. PHOTO: AFP

implement a landmark trade agreement with the European Union. Brussels in December struck a deal with Mercosur’s founding members — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — to create a free trade zone of around 700 million consumers.

The agreement has been 25 years in the making, but still needs to be ratified by EU member states. It has faced stiff opposition from France, where farmers worry about being undercut by less-regulated Latin American peers.

Climate change on agenda

Uruguayan President Yamandu Orsi said that it was now “time to resume negotiations with key partners such as South Korea and Canada.” Uruguay has for decades sought a relaxation of the bloc’s rules, which prevent agreements with other countries without the consent of all partners. Climate change, the energy transition, combatting organized crime and promoting technological development would be Mercosur’s main objectives during the next six months, Lula said. — AFP

SPORTS



Salah ‘frightened’ to return to Liverpool after Jota death

MOHAMED Salah said the death of Liverpool teammate Diogo Jota in a car crash had left him “frightened” to return to the club as the Premier League champions postponed the return of some players for pre-season training.

The Portugal forward and his younger brother Andre Silva, died in the early hours of Thursday after their car veered off a motorway in Spain and burst into flames.

Mourners gathered at a wake in Portugal on Friday ahead of the brothers’ funeral on Saturday.

Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah (left) is mourning the death of teammate Diogo Jota. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Jota’s Liverpool teammates have spoken of their struggle to comprehend his death, with captain Virgil van Dijk writing on Instagram that he was “absolutely devastated and in total disbelief”.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot said everyone associated with the club owed it to Jota to “stand together and be there for one another”.

Egypt international Salah paid tribute to Jota on Friday.

“I am truly lost for words,” last season’s Premier League top-scorer posted on Instagram. “Until yesterday, I never thought there would be something that would frighten me of going back to Liverpool after the break. — AFP

Wimbledon defends prize pot as players push for bigger share of profits

WIMBLEDON tournament director Jamie Baker has defended the tournament’s prize money pot, pointing to inflation-busting increases as players demand a bigger slice of Grand Slam profits.

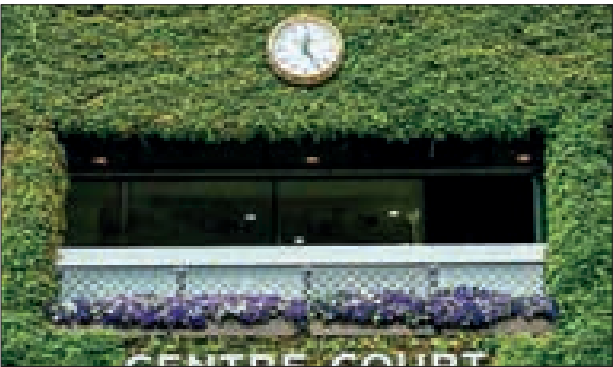
The winners of the men’s and women’s singles titles at the All England Club will each receive £3 million (\$4 million), an increase of more than 11 per cent on 2024, while a main draw spot is worth a minimum of £66,000, up 10 per cent.

There have been growing calls from players for a bigger share of revenue from the four majors — the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.

In April, leading players from the men’s and women’s tours reportedly sent a letter to the heads of the Grand Slams asking for a greater share of revenues.

A meeting was held on the issue during the French Open. Baker, a former professional player, said Friday that decisions on prize money over the past 20 years showed that Wimbledon has the players’ best interests at heart.

“It’s meant that over a long period of time, players are earning more, this organisation is doing better, demand to come and experience Wimbledon here in person or watch it around the world has grown as a result of this partnership,” he said. — AFP



The winners of the men’s and women’s singles titles at the All England Club will each receive £3 million. **PHOTO: AFP**

Riquelme leaves Atletico Madrid for Real Betis

ATLETICO Madrid’s Spanish winger Rodrigo Riquelme has signed a contract with Real Betis until 2030, the two clubs confirmed on Friday.

“Atletico Madrid and Real Betis have reached an agreement for the transfer of Rodrigo Riquelme,” Atletico wrote in a statement, without specifying the transfer fee for the 25-year-old Spanish international, who came through the club’s youth system.

The two teams finalized the deal last week for a reported eight million euros (\$9.4 million) for half the Spanish player’s rights, with Atletico retaining the other half.

Riquelme will replace 19-year-old Jesus Rodriguez, who joined Italian club Como this week for a reported 25 million euros (\$29.4 million).

Riquelme came through the youth ranks at Atletico and played



Riquelme will replace 19-year-old Jesus Rodriguez, who joined Italian club Como this week for a reported 25 million euros (\$29.4 million). **PHOTO: AFP**

for Bournemouth and Mirandes before exploding into prominence at Girona in the 2022-23 season.

He earned two caps for Spain after making his debut in November 2023.

In total, he made 85 appearances in La Liga, 13 in the Champions League, and 14 in the Copa del Rey. — AFP

Nico Williams pens new Athletic deal in transfer twist

ATHLETIC Bilbao announced on Friday that coveted Spain forward Nico Williams had extended his contract to 2035 with an increased release clause, warding off reported interest from La Liga champions Barcelona.

The deal, which extends the contract by eight years and swells the release clause by 50 per cent, is

“a resounding success” faced with “dizzying offers” for the 22-year-old, the club said in a statement.

“When you have to make decisions, for me what matters most is the heart. I am where I want to be, with my people, this is my home,” Williams was quoted as saying in the statement.

Playing alongside his old-

er brother Inaki Williams, Nico emerged through the Basque side’s youth ranks to become a star performer, netting 31 goals over his five seasons with the first team.

His dynamic wing play helped the club win the 2024 Copa del Rey — ending a 40-year drought in the competition — and qualify for the 2025/26 Champions League. — AFP



Indian Army charts ambitious roadmap for modernization, seeks industry partnership for next-gen warfare

The conference was titled “New Age Military Technologies Industry Capabilities & Way Forward,” organized by FICCI.

THE Indian Army is embarking on a comprehensive modernization drive to transform its capabilities across multiple domains, from hypersonic weapons to soldier systems, as it prepares for future warfare challenges, a senior military official announced at a defence industry conference.

Lt-Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla, Master General Sustenance of the Indian Army, outlined the service’s ambitious vision during the New Age Military Technologies Industry Capabilities & Way Forward event, organized by FICCI, calling for unprecedented collaboration between the military, industry, and policymakers.

The Army’s first priority involves de-

veloping “ultra-fast and highly manoeuvrable weapon systems”, including hypersonic glide vehicles, hypersonic air-breathing engines (HEBs), and advanced fourth, fifth, and sixth-generation missiles to alter the deterrence equation.

“We want to change the deterrence equation by ultra-fast and highly manoeuvrable weapon systems,” Lt-Gen Aujla stated, emphasising the need to transition from conventional “dump category” ammunition to smart, precision-guided munitions. According to Aujla, the modernization plan focuses on loitering ammunition and precision-guided munitions that will reduce collateral damage while enhancing the Army’s surgical strike capabilities.



The announcement was made by Lt-Gen Amardeep Singh Aujla at a defence industry conference. **PHOTO: ANI**

The service is also investing heavily in directed energy weapons, including high-energy lasers and microwave sys-

tems for drone defence, anti-missile systems, and anti-satellite capabilities, he added. — ANI

OPEC to hold landmark energy seminar on 9-10 July



The UAE Climate Tech forum in Abu Dhabi, held in 2023, highlighted advancements in carbon capture technology, emphasizing innovation and collaboration to combat climate change. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/AFP/FILE**

THE Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is set to hold its 9th OPEC International Seminar from 9 to 10 July, bringing global energy leaders to Vienna to discuss key industry issues and build up cooperation.

Under the theme “Charting Pathways Together: The Future of Global Energy”, the two-day event will feature exhibitions, ministerial sessions, and high-level roundtables, with a wide range of industry leaders expected to

participate.

According to the seminar’s official website, confirmed speakers include Mohsen Paknejad, president of the OPEC Conference for 2025; Hayan Abdulghani Abdulzahra Alsawad, Iraqi deputy prime minister for energy affairs and minister of oil; and Khalifa Rajab Abdulsadek, Libyan minister of oil and gas.

Topics on the agenda include market stability, energy security, investment, technology and innovation,

climate change, energy transitions and energy poverty, according to an OPEC bulletin.

“The OPEC International Seminar has gained global recognition due to its outstanding record for the caliber of speakers and participants and the quality of discussions that address the most pressing issues related to the energy industry,” OPEC Secretary-General Haitham Al Ghais said ahead of the landmark event. — Xinhua

CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Laos moves to boost pharmaceutical industry

THE Pharmaceutical and Medical Products Business Association was officially launched to strengthen the industry and support joint efforts that drive business growth and contribute to Laos’ socioeconomic development.

The launching ceremony, held on Thursday, highlighted the association’s roles, rights, and responsibilities, and served as a platform to discuss its strategic action plan, which aims to strengthen the sector and enhance its contribution to national development, Lao Economic Daily reported on Friday.

Speaking at the event, President of the association Valy Vetsaphong said the launch aims to promote collaboration on plans to support businesses, factories, and entrepreneurs in the sector, with the goal of maximizing industry benefits and contributing to Laos’ socioeconomic development.

With over 40 member companies, the association is supported by strong cooperation from the public and private sectors and close collaboration among industry stakeholders. It is expected to play a key role in driving growth, innovation, and quality standards in Laos’ pharmaceutical and medical products sector. — Xinhua