

Government aims for 50% forest coverage nationwide

Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the tree-growing ceremonies took place as the monsoon public activities in 29 townships of 13 districts from the dry zone in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who planted a neem sapling at the Leintaw protected public forest in Meiktila District of Mandalay Region.

Speaking at the ceremony in Meiktila District, the Senior General said that as Myanmar is facing the downtrend of forest coverage, accounting for 42.19 per cent, efforts are being made to grow trees to regain 50 per cent forest coverage in the entire nation.

He highlighted that people will enjoy the benefit of growing trees in the coming 7-8 years.

The Senior General noted that thirteen districts of the nation, including the Meiktila region, are located in the dry zone, suffering from the hot season every year. The records showed Bagan, Chauk, Yenangyoung and Minbu as the hottest areas across the world in 2024.

Planting trees does not immediately and drastically reduce temperatures, but the shade provided by trees and bamboo canopies can help lessen the effects of heat to a certain extent.



State Administration Council Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing views the tree-planting activities in the dry zone yesterday.

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

1. The tree-growing ceremony to green the dry zone of the country is the first-ever activity at the national level.

2. As ceremonies to grow trees need to spend time, manpower and financial cost, everyone needs to nurture these saplings planted at the ceremony to successfully thrive.

3. The tree-growing ceremony to green the dry zone of the country is the first-ever activity at the national level.

Currently, he added that the tree-growing ceremony to green the dry zone of the country is the first-ever activity at the national level.

The Senior General underscored that although natural disasters cannot be prevented, efforts of human efforts can mitigate the impacts of these natural disasters. Planting trees does not immediately and drastically reduce temperatures, but the shade provided by trees and bamboo canopies can help lessen the effects of heat to a certain extent. Moreover, the sight of lush greenery offers visual relief and brings a sense of peace and calm to people's hearts and minds.

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2025 monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in Minbu (Sagu)

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Octane 92, 95 prices continue to decline in domestic market

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Sagaing receives 3rd oral diarrhoea vaccine drive

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw vows to protect people from violence and self-serving agendas

- ❖ As long as the interests of a few individuals are prioritized under the guise of state and racial agendas, the lives of local people will continue to suffer.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of our Tatmadaw to ensure the necessary protection to prevent such losses.
- ❖ No society in the world tolerates armed violence, and we must ensure it does not take root in our country.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to confer military gallantry honorary medals on 4 January 2025)

Myanmar, Cambodian Leaders exchange congratulatory messages on 70th Anniversary of diplomatic relations

ON the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Cambodia, which falls on 12 July 2025, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged congratulatory messages with His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On the same occasion, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged a congratulatory message with Mr Prak Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia. — MNA

Myanmar, Lao PDR leaders exchange congratulatory messages on 70th Anniversary of diplomatic relations

ON the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic which falls on 12 July 2025, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged congratulatory messages with Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Mr Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

On the same occasion, Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged a congratulatory message with Mrs Pany Yathotou, Vice-President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

On the same occasion, U Than Swe, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged a congratulatory message with Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. — MNA

Archaeology Dept assesses post-earthquake damage



A location map showing the damage level of monuments in ancient Inwa City, which was hit by the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025.

DAMAGE assessment that will be useful in the post-quake heritage management plans and conservation efforts is being conducted, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museums under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

The GIS team of the department is working on field mapping and damage assessment of heritage structures damaged by the Mandalay earthquake.

The area of operation is divided into nine zones: Sagaing, Mandalay, Amarapura, Inwa,

Pinya, Paleik, Kyaukse, Myin-saing and Makhara. Recently recorded damage lists include 629 ancient heritage buildings in Inwa, 280 in Pinya and 249 in Paleik, and field surveys were conducted for mapping based on post-quake satellite photos and previous inventory ones.

The data collection is carried out by filling in forms such as geospatial information, monument information, recent condition, damage level, priority for conservation, photo record and reference, and sketch and drawing.

The team will continue to build the attribute database in the GIS system and gather information, linking it to a site-specific view of the damage record photos. These activities will greatly benefit heritage management programmes and conservation efforts in the long term. — MT/ZN

Rescue and relief efforts continue for quake victims

RESCUE and relief operations are ongoing in six states and regions of Myanmar that were hardest hit by the powerful earthquake on 28 March. As of yesterday, the disaster has claimed 3,770 lives, left 5,104 injured, and 38 individuals are still reportedly missing.

The Myanmar Fire Brigade is conducting clearance and rehabilitation operations. As of today, rescue teams have

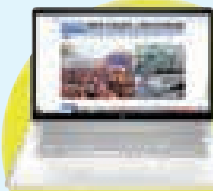
saved 653 people trapped under collapsed buildings and recovered the bodies of 848 deceased.

Humanitarian assistance continues to pour in from both domestic and international donors, including financial aid and relief supplies. Authorities will continue releasing updates on further donations and aid efforts for the affected communities. — MNA/KZL

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



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)

Government aims for 50% forest coverage nationwide

FROM PAGE 1

At the ceremony, the Senior General unveiled that a total of 34,950 tree saplings will be planted in 13 districts of the dry zone. These venues were places of trees in the past, but they could not have deserved success due to a lack of thriving and illegal cutting.

As ceremonies to grow trees need to spend time, manpower and financial cost, everyone needs to nurture these saplings planted at the ceremony to successfully thrive.

In Myanmar, the central tropical regions – such as Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions – are experiencing the most severe impacts of climate change, including drought and extreme temperature increases. These areas receive low rainfall and are among the most affected by heat stress. Therefore, to address climate change and water scarcity through nature-based solutions, it is necessary to take measures such as establishing forest plantations, conserving natural forests, planting windbreaks, practising sustainable and resilient farming methods, and managing water resources systematically.

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



The Senior General waters the neem sapling at yesterday's event.

Council Joint Secretary General Ye Win Oo, SAC member General Nyo Saw, Union ministers, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, departmental officials, town elders, the commander of Central Command,

deputy ministers, teachers, students and people participated in the tree-growing ceremony in Meiktila District.

At the ceremony, a total of 3,200 saplings of six species, including neem, raintree, flame and Indian Mahogany in the

Leintaw protected public forest in Meiktila in 2025.

Also, present at the ceremony were Union Ministers U Min Naung, U Hla Moe, U Khin Maung Yi and Dr Nyunt Pe, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung and officials.

Similar ceremonies were held at Sagaing University of Education in Sagaing of Sagaing Region to grow 750 saplings, at No 2 Basic Education High School in Myinmu Township to grow 600 saplings, Monywa to grow 1,050 saplings, Shwebo University to grow 3,000 saplings, and University of Computer Studies in Yinmabin Township to grow 600 saplings.

In Magway Region, a total of 2,700 saplings were grown on the roadside of Magway-Kanpya Road in Magway District, 4,000 saplings at the special green zone of Yenangyoung Township, 4,000 saplings in Hsinka protected public forest in Chauk Township, 600 saplings at milepost 36/5 on Magway-Kanpya road in Myothit Township, 600 saplings in Taungdwingyi Township, 1,050 saplings in Minbu Township, 300 saplings in Pwintbyu Township, 300 saplings in Ngaphe Township, 300 saplings in Salin Township, 600 saplings in Pakokku Township, 300 saplings in Seikbyu Township, 600 saplings in

Minhla Township, 900 saplings in Aunglan Township, 600 saplings in Sinbaungwe Township and 600 saplings in Kanma Township, respectively.

In Mandalay Region, they planted 1,200 saplings in Kyaukse Township, 600 saplings in Singaing Township, 600 saplings in Myingyan Township, 3,000 saplings in NyaungU Township, 600 saplings in Kyaukpadaung Township, 600 saplings in Thazi Township, 1,200 saplings in Pyawbwe Township and 500 saplings in Yamethin Township, respectively.

At all ceremonies, a total of 34,950 saplings were planted as the monsoon public activities in 29 townships of 13 districts.

After the ceremony, the Senior General proceeded to Meiktila University of Economics, where he heard reports on the collapse of the walls of the university and damage to the main lecture building and the library by the rector.

In his response, the Senior General pledged to allow repairs of the damaged structures caused by the Mandalay earthquake. He urged officials to improve the entrance road to the university with beautification and conduct research work continuously to serve the interests of the region. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

SAC Chairman Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects Tatmadaw Textile Factory and No 3 Cement Plant in Meiktila



State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing pays observation tours inside the Tatmadaw Textile Factory.

Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Meiktila) produces uniforms for members of the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force in addition to school uniforms and other textile products. At a time when the government manages further contributions to the clothing of people and the development of domestic textile production, the factory extended its branch to produce 2/80 yarns in December 2024 so as to produce textiles and yarns to meet the demand of industries to some extent. Currently, the factory is operating production, meeting the set standards.

On arrival at No 3 Cement Plant (1,200-tonne) of Myanmar Economic Corporation, the Senior General heard reports on accomplishment of the guidance of the Senior General on his inspection tour, productivity of domestic cement plants, and production and sales of cement in financial years by Chairman of MEC General Nyo Saw and the plant manager.

The Senior General gave guidance to meet the cement demand of people, sell it at fair prices and manage the operation of plants at full capacity.

The Senior General observed the production process of the cement plant and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA/TTA

Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his entourage, the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region and the commander of Central Command, inspected the enhancement of productivity at Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Meiktila) and No

3 Cement Plant (1,200-tonne) yesterday.

At Tatmadaw Textile Factory (Meiktila), the factory manager reported to the Senior General on implementing the guidance given by the Senior General on his inspection tour to the factory, production capacity of machines, production of yarns and textile products, and agricultural and livestock farming tasks for the

welfare of employees.

In his guidance, the Senior General stressed the need to prioritize quality products rather than quantities. The factory must produce yarns and textiles to meet the demand of domestic micro, small and medium-sized industries to supply the domestic demand. He added that efforts must be made to arrange the welfare of employees.

The Senior General inspected the quality of textiles for uniforms produced by the factory and gave guidance on maintaining the quality of textiles and increasing production depending on the market demand.

The Senior General viewed round production process of yarns at the factory and gave necessary instructions to officials.

MoBA holds second monsoon tree planting event

THE Ministry of Border Affairs organized its second monsoon tree-planting event, aiming to conserve the environment and ecosystem, hand over a green and fine weather, provide shade and be a supportive action for the State economy, yesterday.

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Border Affairs

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae planted ironwood, and Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Phyo Thant, directors-general, and staff planted other types of trees, totalling 280.

The Union minister and party inspected the tree-planting processes and the growing of trees planted previously.

Similar tree planting activities were held at the

universities, colleges, offices and schools under the ministry, and the ministry planted a total of 7,071 trees yesterday, and 8,621 trees at the first event, totalling 15,692 trees. — MNA/KTZH

Union Minister Lt-Gen Yar Pyae plants the ironwood at the MoBA's second monsoon tree-planting event yesterday.



Census update crucial for credible elections

It is necessary to encourage policymakers, planners, and data users to make effective use of the census data for national development and the improvement of the social well-being of the people.



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win looks into the exhibits at yesterday's World Population Day 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Patron of the Census Commission, Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win delivered a speech at the ceremony to mark the World Population Day 2025 at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General said that the United Nations designated 11 July 1987—the year the world population reached five billion – as World Population Day. The day aims to raise awareness about global population issues and their impacts on society, development, and the environment. Member countries have since observed World Population Day annually. In the case of Myanmar, the country has been commemorating this day since 1990, making this year the 36th anniversary of its observance.

According to the 2014 census, the population of Myanmar was over 51.4 million, and it was estimated that by 2024, the population would reach around 56.2 million. However, based on the preliminary figures from the 2024 census, it has been found that the current population is only just over 51.3 million.

Although population growth was ex-

pected based on previous growth rates, data from the 2024 census shows there has been no population increase over the past 10 years. Therefore, it is necessary to closely examine the factors that directly affect population growth, such as birth rates, death rates, and migration rates.

According to the 1983 census in Myanmar, the average number of children born to a woman was 4.7. However, by the 2014 census, this figure had dropped to around 2.3 children, and according to the 2019 interim census, it had further declined to below 2.1 children, the level required to replace both parents. This shows that the country's birth rate has been steadily declining, and it is likely to decrease even further. If the average number of children born to a woman falls below 2, the country's population will gradually and noticeably begin to decline.

In Myanmar, the severe COVID-19 pandemic that occurred around 2020, along with the outbreaks of violence following 2021 and various natural disasters, had significant impacts on birth and death rates. Additionally, employment opportunities declined, and a large number of young people increasingly

migrated abroad.

In developing countries, as the elderly population increases, better job opportunities and growing labour market demands have led to increased labour migration. Therefore, in Myanmar as well, alongside a declining population, it is important to carefully manage migration to prevent the loss of human resources and to ensure that the country's productive capacity remains unaffected.

According to projections by population experts, in the not-too-distant future, the number of elderly people aged 65 and above in developing countries, including Myanmar, will surpass the number of children. At that time, it will be necessary to create opportunities for lifelong learning and retraining, as well as to develop a workforce capable of working across various age groups. Therefore, relevant ministries should begin preparing long-term plans now to create job opportunities in the private sector for older individuals who are still willing and able to work.

To study and analyze the population changes in the country and to obtain demographic and socioeconomic data, the State Administration Council has made necessary arrangements to con-

duct the Population and Housing Census without fail.

The Population and Housing Census was successfully conducted in October 2024. The data collected from the census provides a snapshot of the current situation of national development and will support accurate policy-making, strategic planning, and programme design.

Moreover, this information is essential for resource allocation, budget distribution, and for building necessary infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, healthcare facilities, roads, and bridges. It is also crucial for providing care services for the disabled and elderly, creating employment opportunities, and implementing other vital management activities.

The population data obtained from the 2024 census will also play a key role in ensuring the accuracy of voter lists, which is essential for successfully conducting a free and fair general election and for protecting the rights of all eligible voters.

The data from the 2024 census will be extremely useful for the rescue and recovery efforts in the towns affected by the recent major earthquake in Mandalay.

It is necessary to encourage policymakers, planners, and data users to make effective use of the census data—successfully collected through significant financial and human resources despite many challenges—for national development and the improvement of the social well-being of the people.

Union Minister U Myint Kyaing clarified the motto “From Data to Development: Using Census for Socioeconomic Advancement”. And, an animation clip on the 2025 World Population Day was screened.

The Vice-Senior General viewed the display of booths to mark the 2025 World Population Day and books and publications.

Also, present at the ceremony were SAC members, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers, departmental heads, Ambassadors and diplomats from embassies based in Myanmar, officials from the ceremony organizing central committee and subcommittees, ministries and associations, as well as guests. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

2025 monsoon tree-planting ceremony held in Minbu (Sagu)

THE 2025 monsoon tree-planting ceremony was organized in Lay-pin-Aingma Forest Reserve near Taegon village, Minbu-An road, milepost 11/2 in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Minbu District, Magway Region yesterday.

Managing Director of Myanmar Pearl Enterprise and officials presented the saplings to be planted through the district and township level officials.

They planted trees together with relevant officials, students and locals. They planted 1,050 saplings, including rosewood, neem, eucalyptus and Indian elm or jungle cork tree at the event.

Magway Region Social Affairs Minister U Myo Myint made a speech.

The Social Affairs Minister, Brig-Gen Zaw Zaw Tun, the — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KTZH



Minbu (Sagu) launches 2025 monsoon reforestation drive.

Ayeyawady fish farmers alerted as Chindwin river water level rises



Flooding submerges Balle Kyun fish farms in 2024. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

THE Chindwin River is expected to see a rise in water levels, particularly in the third week and potentially continuing by the end of July, and the fish farmers in Zalun, Hinthada, Nyaungdon and Pantanaw townships in Ayeyawady Region should be aware of the notice.

Since early this month, rain has been falling in Yangon. In the second week, it continued with heavy and scattered showers in different areas every day. Fish farmers in Yangon are advised to pay attention to unusual water levels. Meanwhile, due to the gradual rise of the Chindwin River water level, fish farmers in the Ayeyawady Region are warned that when the Chindwin River water flows from north to south, full moon or new moon tides, and ongoing rainfall occur together, fish ponds may be flooded.

“Although the water level of the Ayeyawady River does not reach the danger level, the townships along the Chindwin River see the danger level. The water rises in Zalun and Hinthada in the second and third week of July. Those from Nyaungdon and Pantanaw should be aware that by the end of the month, it is during the mid-monsoon season, and the water level of the Chindwin River is increasing. Those from Yangon have to be aware of rainfall and extreme tides,” said U Hla Tun, director of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).

The Ayeyawady Region has the largest number of freshwater fish and shrimp farming ponds. Yangon and Bago Regions also have fish farming. If heavy rainfall happens at the same time as rising water levels in the upper Chindwin and Ayeyawady rivers, fish ponds in the Ayeyawady and Bago Regions are likely to be flooded.

“The Myanmar Fisheries Federation released a notice once this year for the fish ponds that can be flooded. Following our notice, there are no fish ponds that are flooded. But there were some last years. Special awareness should be raised about the ponds in the Ayeyawady and Bago regions. We will release a notice depending on the releases of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH),” said Dr Toe Nandar Tin, senior vice president of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

The water from the upper Chindwin will flow into the Pan Hlaing River in Zalun, Hinthada, and Pantanaw townships. Fish farmers are urged to be aware of potential flooding, and the DMH also releases timely weather forecasts. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Crime News

K1.32 bln worth of heroin seized in Kalay

AUTHORITIES seized drugs worth K1.32 billion in Kalay Township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

According to the investigation, police later arrested Nyein Chan Aung, who had arranged for the drugs to be transported from Mandalay to Kalay, in Pyigyidagun Township.

Police have charged those arrested and are continuing to investigate others suspected of involvement in the case. — MNA/MKKS

Acting on a tip-off, a combined security team searched a 12-wheel vehicle heading to Kalay from Mandalay. The vehicle was driven by Naing Lin Aung (aka) Hmwe Ni and accompanied by Zaw Myo Naing (aka) Thar Nge at around 5 pm on 28 June. The team seized 26.4



Arrestees are seen alongside confiscated drugs and vehicle.

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

CBM sells \$1.5M to edible oil-importing companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.5 million purchased from CMP companies into edible oil-importing companies on 10 July, in addition to an injection of \$621,000 and 600,000 yuan into the financial market.

CBM announced on 8 July that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil importers. CBM also sold \$885,100 that was purchased from the CMP companies to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$1.8 million and 1.3 million yuan on 7 July. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.87 million to edible oil companies and over \$912,150 to commodities-importing companies on the same day.

CBM sold \$1.75 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$481,540 to commodities-importing companies on 4 July, in addition to an injection of \$578,542 and 900,000 yuan into the financial market.

CBM sold \$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.



The general view of the CBM office in Yangon.

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 \$8.4 million, 13.9 million baht and 5.2 million yuan in June 2025, in addition to an injection of \$14.9 million that was purchased from the CMP enterprises into the financial market.

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

Octane 92, 95 prices continue to decline in domestic market



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

OCTANE prices registered another decline to K2,960 per litre of Octane 92 and K3,010 for Octane 95 for the week ending 17 July, while diesel prices remained unchanged at K2,635 for diesel and K3,265 for premium diesel this week ending 10 July.

The figures showed a small decrease in K55-K65 per litre of Octane 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, Stor-

age and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference 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

Monywa Economics University launches master's programmes

MONYWA University of Economics accepts admission to master's courses for the Academic Year 2025-2026, according to the Academic Affairs Department of the University.

Those qualified students can join the Master of Banking and Finance (MBF) and Master of Development Studies (MDevS) in the 2025-2026 academic year.

Those who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited university, who can complete the course curriculum and who have

access to online courses through the Zoom application can apply for them.

For civil servants, they need to provide a recommendation letter from the head of the department concerned. They must not attend any other courses at the state-run universities simultaneously.

The application form can be taken from the Department of Student Affairs of Monywa University of Economics or downloaded starting from 8 July 2025.

They need to send the appli-

cation form and the required documents by 25 July 2025.

The entrance exam will be held on 27 July 2025, and the result and interview date will be declared on 2 August 2025. Those individuals can enquire about details through the contact numbers of MBF at 09 757712395 and 4mbf.mue2025@gmail.com, MDevS at 09 754598281 and devs.mue@gmail.com, and the Student Affairs Department at 09 400413081, 09 259144740, and academica-fairismue@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Sri Lanka EXPO 2026 attracts Myanmar businesses

MYANMAR business entities are invited to participate in the Sri Lanka Expo 2026, which is scheduled to take place at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) from 18 to 21 June 2026, organized by the Export Development Board (EDB) and the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development.

The event is aimed at showcasing Sri Lanka's diverse range of Export Products and services and promoting bilateral trade and foreign investment opportunities.

Those individuals can see pamphlets and expo details on its official website and reach out to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization through 067 408623, and email event.td.myantrade@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Organize public activities to grow trees for greening

IN order to conserve the natural environment, support climate regulation, provide shade and shelter, and contribute to the national economy in various ways, annual monsoon tree-planting ceremonies are being held across the country.

Tree planting may seem like a simple and ordinary activity, but it can bring significant long-term benefits. Planting and conserving trees is extremely important for both the present and future generations of the nation, serving as a vital form of natural investment with far-reaching advantages. In fact, green and lush environments filled with trees help reduce stress and improve the mental well-being of people.

In today’s world, along with the growing population, factors such as deforestation and environmental degradation are posing serious threats to the long-term sustainability of ecosystems.

Tree planting and conservation efforts play a vital role in preserving ecosystems, including the greening of tropical regions. These activities are among the most important driving forces and represent Nature-based Solutions, which rely on natural processes. Therefore, as a national responsibility, everyone needs to take it seriously and actively participate. From tree-planting ceremonies held yearly to greening both rural and urban areas across the country, collective efforts should be made to create a lush, vibrant environment and to contribute to the peace and well-being of the surroundings and the planet.

It has been observed that international organizations, governments, and local communities around the globe are collaborating to implement various strategies for the conservation of natural ecosystems. As part of these efforts, particular emphasis is being placed on the designation and protection of conservation areas such as forest reserves, protected buffer zones, and nature conservation regions. The central regions of Myanmar — Mandalay, Magway, and Sagaing — are crucial for the country’s agricultural sector. These regions are home to millions of local people and possess strong foundations for livelihood development. However, challenges such as drought, hot and arid climates, and limited water availability make it difficult for agriculture and tree cultivation to thrive. In particular, it is well known that in 2024, the regions experienced extreme heat as a result of the El Niño effect caused by climate change.

People joined hands with departmental personnel, Tatmadaw members and relevant organizations to plant trees in 29 townships from 13 districts located in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions identified as dry zones of the country. At the significant activities, they cultivated 34,950 saplings in order to green the relevant communities and environment.

Tree planting and conservation efforts play a vital role in preserving ecosystems, including the greening of tropical regions. These activities are among the most important driving forces and represent Nature-based Solutions, which rely on natural processes. Therefore, as a national responsibility, everyone needs to take it seriously and actively participate. From tree-planting ceremonies held yearly to greening both rural and urban areas across the country, collective efforts should be made to create a lush, vibrant environment and to contribute to the peace and well-being of the surroundings and the planet.

PROFESSOR Dr (Daw) Myint Myint Khin (15 December 1923-19 June 2014) was a Professor of Medicine and one-time World Health Organization consultant. Since about 1990, she has published books in both Myanmar and English. This book under review is posthumously published. Dr Myint Myint Khin also established the Support Group for Elderly Doctors (SGED), which now has offices in the cities and towns of Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine. All medical doctors over the age of 70 can become members of the SGED. The SGED looks after the health and social needs of elderly doctors.

The first impression when I received the book was “Oh, what a big book, thick volume” of nearly 600 pages. That shows the extent of the endeavour and efforts the author, Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin, had put into writing this book. We, members of the Support Group for Elderly Doctors SGED, have known our Mummy Gyi (Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin) for quite a long time. But we were not fully aware of her excellent command of the English language.

Before Dr Myint Myint Khin obtained her Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from the Faculty of Medicine at University of Rangoon (as it was then formally called) in 1950, she got her Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree, with distinction in English literature in 1946 from the same University.

Subsequently, she also obtained postgraduate qualifica-

tions: Member of the Royal College of Physicians, MRCP, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, FRCP (Edinburgh) from the United Kingdom. From 1954 to 1955, she did her medical residency at the Graduate School of Medicine and the University Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania in the United States. From 1965 till her retirement in 1984, she was Professor of Medicine at the Institute of Medicine in Mandalay. She was a visiting Professor of Medicine at the National University of Malaysia in 1985. From 1986 to 1991, she was a consultant with the World Health Organization Southeast Asian Regional Office (WHO) (SEARO) in New Delhi, India.

I emphasize that Burmese Women through the Ages; The Heritage is a product of meticulous research and labour of love of the late Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin.

She started preparing for the book in the year 2006 when she was 83 years old. It took Dr Myint Myint Khin about eight years to finish a rough draft of her book. In draft form, it was completed in April 2014. That was just two months before she passed away on 19 June 2014 at the age of 90.

Her junior colleague, the late Dr Aung Than Batu, former Director-General of the Medical Research, in his obituary tribute of Dr Myint Myint Khin in the June 2014 edition of SGED Newsletter stated that ‘she was an outstanding Burmese lady in many respects and a towering and dynamic personality in our medical field’.

Apparently, for a few dec-

Burmese Women through the Ages—The Heritage

by Myint Myint Khin

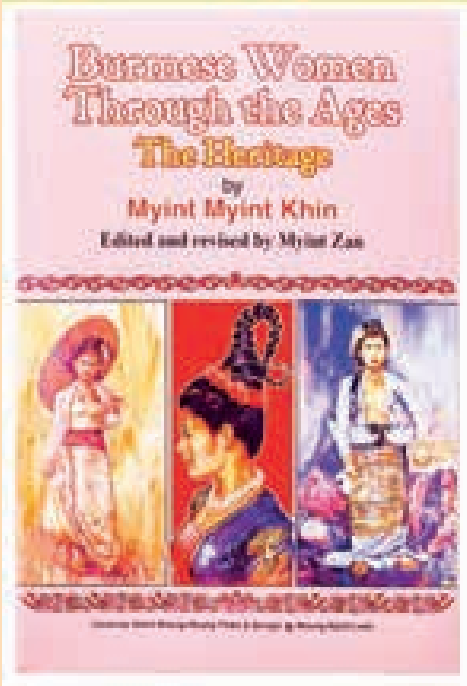
Edited and revised by Myint Zan

589 pages

Publisher: Myanmar Heritage Publications

Reviewed By Dr Daw Hla Kyin,

Medical Superintendent (Retired),
New Yangon General Hospital,
former executive committee
member, Support Group for Elderly
Doctors



ades, she had taken many notes regarding Burmese women, and she came to realize that those important notes should be transformed into a monograph on Burmese women.

After eight years of continuous efforts, she finished the draft just 2 months before she passed away. Aspects of this book are based upon her findings and experiences, which she mentioned in several parts of the book. She referred to a lot of references, which include:

- Twenty-two books in the Myanmar language
- one Statute
- One case law
- Eight newspapers and

magazines

- Forty-six books in English
- Three academic journal articles

The book deals not only with Burmese women through the ages, but also with aspects of the history of Burma.

Part I of the book is titled ‘The Forgotten Land’, It includes comments about Buddhism, especially,

- Buddhism, the Pali canon
- The spread of Buddhism to Burma during King Anawrahta’s reign (1044-77, Common Era, CE)
- The Four Noble Truths and the Five Precepts
- The Buddha’s tooth relics

- Meditation,
- Astrology
- 37 nats (terrestrial spirits)
- Status of monks and nuns
- Folk songs and poems

The preliminary chapters also touch on the national characteristics of the Burmese, such as

- Chewing of Kunthee (beetle leaves with condiments), smoking cheroots
- Food like Ngapi (dried fish paste) & Mohinga (vermicelli soup with condiments)
- Traditional Thingyan festival (water throwing festival in mid-April of each year)
- Thanakha (yellowish white

cosmetic paste made from ground bark, which mainly young girls and women used to ‘decorate’ their faces)

- Htoe kwin (Tattoos)
- Luppets (‘Clowns’ on stage or in street theatre)
- Males’ supposed moral superiority over women (Phoun)
- Not mixing women’s Htamein (lower garments) with men’s clothes in washing

There is also a sub-Chapter ‘As Others See Us’ where a few of the observations made by foreigners on Burmese customs and Burmese women (mainly in the pre-colonial period) are reproduced and commented on.

The rebellions against British colonial rule by such freedom fighters as Bo Myat Tun, Bo Yar Nyunt, and Saya San are stated. The formation of the Doh Bamar Asiayone (‘We Burmans Association’), the impact of World War II on Burma and resistance against the Japanese are narrated, partly focusing on their impact on Burmese women.

Among others, Part III covers the status of women in pre-colonial, colonial and post-independent eras and also writes about women’s entrepreneur associations, women’s education and gender rights under Burmese customary law, including past and current practices.

The author notes that after the 2010 election, the Hluttaw (Legislature) has various committees. She stated that out of 145 members of various committees, only four per cent were women members.

Part IV of the book specifical-

ly discusses monastic education, Burmese women literati in the pre-colonial period and colonial period. The literati discussed include, but are not limited to

- Thilashin (Nun) Mai Kin (Upper Burma pre-colonial period)
- Daw Mya Shwe (the 1st woman to attend the prestigious missionary school, St Mary’s Diocesan and the first woman Inspector of schools (colonial period)
- Daw San — one of the early women newspaper publishers (colonial period)

What can (in retrospect) be considered the golden era of post-graduate education under U Nu’s Premiership (pre-1962) is mentioned. The role and functions of Parahita (provision of free education) schools and Baka Kyaung (monastic schools) are also stated.

There are also Chapters on Politics and Burmese women, women in the Burmese Army, Myanmar women and the Women’s Liberation movement, CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) and Burmese women.

She also gave brief profiles of many well-known women who participated in Myanmar Politics (Deedok Daw Hla May, Daw Thein Tin, Daw Hnin Mya, Daw Kya Zan, etc). Additionally, aspects of the life stories of Burmese women who took to the jungles, most of the time together with their husbands, to fight for their political beliefs are also stated.

Dr Myint Myint Khin states about health issues and women’s health, women and art, women and paintings and Myanmar tra-

ditional weaving cheik longyi, female garment and music. A-nyaint (Street theatre) is also discussed. A few of the famous Anyeint Minthamee (street theatre dancers) were Liberty Ma Mya Yin, Ma Htwe Lay and more recently Amar Sein and Nwe Nwe San.

In the literary field, profiles are provided of Ludu Daw Amar, Daw Khin Myo Chit, Moe Moe (Inya), Ma Thida (Sangyoung) and Juu (Dr Tin Tin Win).

Part V is about ‘Globalization, Current issues and Burmese Women’s Future’. Some of the topics in this part deal with:

- Installation of an acceptable Federal system
- Raising the national educational standard and planning for human resources
- Reforming the judicial system
- Urbanization, unemployment
- Corruption, smuggling and illegal trade
- The review of the era of President U Thein Sein

Part VI is on ‘Women as pawns’.

A few of the lives of Miphaya (Queens) during the periods of various Burmese Kings are depicted to illustrate that even in the upper ruling class, some Burmese women during the feudal era became ‘pawns’.

The putative sold to sexual slavery in the 1950s of up to about a hundred female students after they were kidnapped when their train returning to their home towns was attacked by rebels is only one blot in the modern post-independent era, where women became ‘pawns’.

SEE PAGE 10

ပညာလိုသော်

ပညာကိုလိုသော် ပညာရှိကိုယှဉ်
မေးခဉ်နေ့ညမပြတ်။

အဖတ်အခံ အကြံအရေး
ရှေးရှေးထုံးကိုဆောင်။

ရှူးကျွန်မူ၍ ကပ်
သွပ်ကျွန်မူ၍ ချောင်း။

ခင်ပွန်းကောင်းကိုလိုသော်
သူ့စီးပွားကိုရှာ။

ချစ်သသူကို ဥစ္စာမငှားရ။

ကန်တော်မင်းကျောင်းဆရာတော်



If Wisdom is Needed

If wisdom is needed, in close contact with a savant,
Ask him morning, noon and night on end.

Reading, reciting, thinking and writing
Follow traditional norms of practising.

Like a fool, with a sage, keep in;
Like a madman, snoop on him.

If a real friend is needed,
Bring his own benefit.

Do not lend anything to the beloved.

Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)

Pillars of Strength

She rises with grace in morning light,
Her heart a flame, her hands so bright.
She builds the home with silent might,
And guards her kin through day and night.

Through ancient times, her voice was strong,
In history’s path, she marched along.
With wisdom deep, she knew no wrong,
A guiding star, both wise and strong.

Today she stands in every field,
With mind and courage as her shield.
For peace and growth, she will not yield
Her strength, our future yet revealed.

Min Zan

(In honour and respect of Myanmar Women’s Day...)



NATIONAL/BOOKRACK

YGEA detects illegal HK gold imports

ILLICIT imports of 24-carat gold and gold with the lowest purity from Hong Kong SAR are identified in the domestic market, said U Myo Myint, chair of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA).

Moreover, online gold sales without opening physical shops are also inspected, causing loss to the consumers.

“Illicit trade of 24-carat gold and gold with the least purity was found in the market. Scammers engaged in online gold transactions are also detected. Those unscrupulous are engaging



Displayed ornaments gold and jewellery shop in Yangon.

in market manipulation to cause price fluctuation,” he elaborated.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation stated that gold shop owners will face legal actions under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law if they fail to obtain a licence and execute gold transactions as per the rules and regulations.

A total of 1,500 gold shop owners in Yangon Region have applied for a gem trading licence, and there will be many more yet to come, YGEA stated. — ASH/KK

3 Yangon arts students selected for FLY 2025 film leaders programme

THREE students from the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon, will participate in the Film Leaders Incubator FLY 2025 programme, which will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, this September, according to Dr Kay Thi Htwe, Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon.

The FLY Project 2025 will take place in Busan from 4 to 19 September and will include short film and documentary filmmaking courses and workshops.

The FLY Project 2025 is organized by the Busan Film Commission and the Asian Film Commissions Network (AFCNet) for young filmmakers from

ASEAN countries and AFCNet member countries.

“Ma Aye Chan Paing and Maung Kaung Myat Htet, who graduated with a specialization in Film and Theatre in the 2023–2024 academic year from the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), have been selected to attend, along with Maung Paing Thet Aung, a fourth-year Film and Theatre student. Maung Nyan Phyo Aung, a third-year Film and Theatre student, was selected to attend the Film Leaders Incubator FLY 2023 in Vietnam,” said Dr Kay Thi Htwe.

Additionally, the Department of In-



Film Leaders Incubator FLY 2025 to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea Advertisement.

formation and Public Relations invited applications for the FLY Project 2025, and a selection committee composed of film experts and professionals chose the qualified candidates. — ASH/MKKS

Sagaing receives 3rd oral diarrhoea vaccine drive

TO prevent and control severe diarrhoea, the Public Health Department gave oral vaccines against the disease to 5,275 civilians in Sagaing Region on 10 July.

In addition to it, emergency response teams provided healthcare for 449 people, carried out disinfection for 14 reservoirs, distributed 130 water purification tablets and shared health knowledge.

On the same day, in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw, emergency response teams also provided healthcare for 59 people who had taken refuge at earthquake relief camps and distributed 119 water purification tablets, provided health education for 190 people, carried out disinfection for 121 reservoirs and carried out preventive measures against dengue fever. — Htun Htun/ZS



Public health staff provide healthcare and health education for people, including giving vaccines against severe diarrhoea in Sagaing Region.

Burmese Women through the Ages—The Heritage

FROM PAGE 9

Part VII ‘Vignettes’ contains snippets of profiles of famous Burmese women as Mai Yun San (one of the independent-minded queens of the founder of the Kongbaung Dynasty King Alaung Phaya), (Daw Oo Zun (founder of the homes for the aged throughout the country starting from the colonial period), female writers Ludu Daw Amar, Independent Daw San are profiled. Not restricting the vignettes to famous Burmese women personages, Dr Myint Myint Khin also provided vignettes of about six women (including the then 13-year-old girl) whom she interviewed and whose

life stories she provided under assumed names.

While editing and revising the book, the Editor Dr Myint Zan, the only son of Dr Myint Myint Khin and a retired Professor of Law, added brief vignettes of five other Burmese women in the contemporary period. The eldest among them would be the late Dr Daw Yin May, who was a great lady medical doctor. The reviewer would add the information that Dr Daw Yin May was the only Burmese to obtain fellowships from top three Royal Colleges in Great Britain namely: Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS), Fellow of the Royal Col-

lege of Physicians (FRCP) and Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG).

Dr Myint Zan also added brief vignettes of the late Dr Daw Thin Kyi, a Professor of Geography and the first Burmese female nonmedical doctor to obtain a doctorate from a Western University, as well as the late historian Daw Kyan, who passed away at the age of 100 in 2019.

The editor, Dr Myint Zan, also added brief vignettes of those persons who are alive as of June 2025. They are Dr Daw Kyu Kyu Swe, Dr Daw Khin Kyi, both of whom are obstetricians

and gynaecologists and Dr Daw Thein Thein Myint, a paediatrician who is also the current Chair of the Support Group for Elderly Doctors (SGED). ‘Mummy Gyi’ Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin was the Chair of SGED, which she founded around 2009 with the help and assistance of a few other elderly and not-so-elderly doctors. Till her demise in June 2014, she was the chair of the SGED.

It needs to be mentioned that had not Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin had such a talented, capable and dutiful son, Dr Myint Zan, who had made great efforts to publish the work of his late

mother we would not have had the chance to read such a detailed background history of Burma and about Burmese women during Burmese Kings era, the British colonial administration, World War II period, post independent era, and in the turmoils of contemporary Myanmar history.

It is regrettable that in 1987, Burma was designated as the Least Developed Country (LDC), notwithstanding the fact that our country is rich in minerals, oil, forests, and other resources. Mummy Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin’s life, achievements and this sterling book which she had produced are a testament to the resilience and creativity of Burmese women, which provides hope for the future.

Final 3 Mt Fuji trails open, 4,000 yen fee charged for all climbers



Hikers climb Mt Fuji from the Fujinomiya trail in Shizuoka Prefecture on 10 July 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

THE climbing season on Mount Fuji began in full on Thursday as all three trails on the Shizuoka Prefecture side were opened, with all local authorities charging an entrance fee of 4,000 yen (\$27).

The climbing season on Mount Fuji officially began on Thursday.

The most commonly used trail, in neighbouring Yamanashi Prefecture, opened on 1 July. Both prefectures have introduced measures to discourage overnight "bullet climbing", or trying to reach the summit of the 3,776-metre mountain, Japan's highest, in the dark without sleeping in a trailside hut.

The Yoshida trail on the Yamanashi side of the mountain, as well as the Fujinomiya, Gotemba and Subashiri trails on the Shizuoka side are expected to remain open through 10 September.

"I couldn't climb last year because of a typhoon, but I want to see the sunrise on the mountain and then return home," said 45-year-old Yuji Asato from Yokohama.

From this climbing season, Shizuoka Prefecture started collecting the entrance fee and restricting access to its three trails from 2 pm to 3 am, while Yamanashi Prefecture has doubled the payment from 2,000 yen charged the previous year to ease overcrowding and reduce the environmental impact.

Unlike the Yoshida trail, which limits climbers to 4,000 per day, the trails on the Shizuoka side do not cap numbers. — Kyodo

Rebooted and 'vulnerable': Superman is back on screens

A rebooted Superman is flying into cinemas around the world this week, with critics mostly positive about the latest version of the caped hero who has been updated for the modern world.

Director and screenwriter James Gunn said he set out to make the benevolent world-saver "a little less powerful" in what is a tenth silver-screen version of the original 1930s DC Comics character.

The 1978 classic starring Christopher Reeve remains the reference point, but other outings include the little-loved 2013 "Man of Steel" by Zack Snyder, 2016's "Batman versus Superman: Dawn of Justice" and 2017's "Justice League".

Gunn's Superman, played by square-jawed David Corenswet in his biggest role to date, appears at times naive and awkward, and has to contend with criticism on social media and angry talk shows.

"I wanted Superman to be vulnerable," Gunn told Rolling



Nicholas Hoult, Rachel Brosnahan and David Corenswet attending Monday's Los Angeles premiere of "Superman". PHOTO: AFP

Stone magazine last month.

"A lot of people are like, 'I like Batman better (than Superman) because he can actually be beat, and I get that,'" he explained. "So we have a Superman that can be beat."

Critical reaction to the Warner Bros Discovery production has so far been broadly positive, even though Hollywood studios are facing rising criticism over their reliance on reheated classics and comic book characters. — AFP

NEWS In BRIEF

Sakamoto Days" returns with more action

ANIME fans are in for a treat as one of the popular anime 'Sakamoto Days' is returning with its second part, which will feature more battles, action and a quest to stop a dangerous serial killer 'Slur'.

Sakamoto Days Season 1 Part two will premiere on Netflix on 14 July, with new episodes weekly on this OTT platform.

The makers have also released the trailer for the series. In the two-minute and twenty-two-second trailer, Sakamoto's team, which includes Clairvoyant Shin, mafia boss daughter Lu Xiatong, and sniper expert Heisuke Mashimo, fights against world-class assassins to protect Sakamoto.

At the same time, they follow a mission to stop a serial killer named Slur, who was also shown in Season One of Sakamoto Days.

While sharing the trailer, Netflix wrote, "Prepare yourself for more battles, more danger and more pork buns when the hit anime, Sakamoto Days returns". — ANI

Dozens of sites vie for UNESCO world heritage list spot

THIS week, UNESCO will announce new sites for its world heritage list, featuring prehistoric caves, former centres of repression, forests, and marine ecosystems.

Inclusion on this prestigious list often leads to increased tourism and funding for site preservation, which is crucial as many face threats from pollution, war, and negligence. Climate change poses a significant risk, with nearly 75 per cent of world heritage sites experiencing serious water-related issues, according to UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay.

Governments that fail to protect these sites risk having them added to the endangered list, which currently includes over 50 sites, many affected by armed conflict, particularly in the Middle East. — AFP

India’s consumption demand improves in Q1FY26, hints a softer monetary policy ahead: Bank of Baroda

The report highlights high frequency indicators that suggest a pickup in economic activity across various sectors compared to the previous quarter.

THE Indian economy is showing signs of improving consumption demand in the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26 (Q1FY26), according to a recent report by Bank of Baroda.

The report highlighted the high frequency indicators that point towards a pickup in economic activity across various sectors compared to the previous quarter.

It stated, “High frequency data available for Q1FY26 so far shows that consumption demand appears to be improving compared with last quarter.... domestic inflation remains in

favour which hints at softer monetary policy”.

The report expects this trend to continue, with investors remaining hopeful about the successful completion of the India-US trade deal before the 1 August deadline, which could further support the INR.

Domestic inflation remains favourable, which according to the report, hints at the possibility of a softer monetary policy going ahead.

The report also highlighted that steel consumption growth has picked up pace, indicating increased infrastructure and construction activity. — ANI



The report anticipates that the trend of improving consumption demand and economic activity will continue in the coming months. **PHOTO: ANI**

Cambodia's intl trade reaches US\$30.57 bln, up 17% in H1

CAMBODIA'S foreign trade volume hit US\$30.57 billion in the first half of 2025, up 17 per cent over the same period last year, an official report said on Thursday.

The kingdom's total exports amounted to \$14.29 billion during the cited period, a year-on-year increase of 16 per cent, and total imports reached \$16.28 billion, up 18 per cent, according to the General Department of Customs and Excise's report.

The Southeast Asian country's top five trading partners were China, the United States, Vietnam, Thailand, and Japan, the report said.

Cambodia exported mainly garment, footwear and travel goods products, bicycles, dry rubber, milled rice, bananas, cashew nuts, mangoes, and longans, as it imported raw materials for garment, footwear and travel goods, petroleum, construction materials, automobiles



Workers check the quality of dried mango slices at a mango processing factory in Phnom Sruoch district in Kampong Speu province, Cambodia, 18 March 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

and motorcycles, electronic products, consuming goods, pharmaceutical products and cosmetics, among others.

Ministry of Commerce's Secretary of State and spokesperson Penn Sovicheat said the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and the Cambodia-China Free

Trade Agreement (CCFTA) had boosted trade growth.

"These free trade agreements are catalysts for our long-term sustainable export growth," he told Xinhua. "With preferential tariffs provided by RCEP and CCFTA, our exports will continue to rise throughout this year and beyond." — Xinhua

Volkswagen halts electric minivan exports to United States

GERMAN auto giant Volkswagen said Thursday it had suspended deliveries of its electric minivan ID. Buzz due to a technical issue amid reports the decision was influenced by costly US tariffs on cars.

"No electric ID. Buzz models made in Hanover are currently being delivered to North America due to a technical recall mandated by US authorities," Tobias Riepe, a spokesman for Volkswagen's commercial vehicles division, told AFP.

The van's rear seats are "deemed too wide for the vehi-

cle", Riepe said.

Citing company insiders, however, German business daily Handelsblatt reported the main reason was high tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

Manufactured in Hanover, the ID. Buzz has since April been subject to a new US tariff of 25-per cent on imported cars that are not largely made within North America.

That has made exporting the ID. Buzz into the United States untenable, according to Handelsblatt. — AFP



While subject to a recall in the United States, the German-made ID. Buzz is also subject to a new 25 per cent tariff. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sri Lankan stocks surpass 18,500 mark for first time

SRI Lanka's benchmark All Share Price Index (ASPI) of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) surpassed the 18,500 mark for the first time on Friday. The ASPI increased by 379.77 points to 18,541.26 points at the close of trading, surpassing the 18,000 mark for the first time on 30 June. Meanwhile, the S&PSL20 increased 127.86 to close at 5,486.50 points. Friday's turnover was



Sri Lanka's benchmark All Share Price Index (ASPI) of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) surpassed the 18,500 mark for the first time on Friday. **PHOTO: YOUTUBE**

over 10.22 billion rupees (About US\$33.4 million). The ASPI measures the movements of the overall market, while the S&P

Semicon India 2025 to feature global pavilions, country roundtables, and record participation

THE fourth edition of 'Semicon India 2025' will feature first-ever global pavilions, country roundtables, skilling initiatives, and a design startup pavilion, with more than 300 companies from 18 different countries participating in the event, the Ministry of Electronics and IT said on Friday.

The fourth edition of the 'Semicon India 2025: Building the Next Semiconductor Powerhouse' Conference and Exhibition is scheduled to be jointly organized by ISM and SEMI from 2nd to 4th September 2025 at Yas-

hobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre - IICC), New Delhi.

The event will showcase India's growing capabilities and ambitions in the microelectronics and semiconductor value chain. Organized under the aegis of the India Semiconductor Mission, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), SEMICON India 2025 will serve as a high-impact platform to unite the global and domestic stakeholders across the policy, industry, academia, and investment communities. — ANI

Nissan in talks to supply US-made pickups to Honda amid sales slump

EMBATTLED Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co is in talks to supply its US-made pickup trucks to rival Honda Motor Co in a bid to improve its factory utilization dented by slumping sales, sources close to the matter said Friday.

The talks come as Honda is seeking to boost its vehicle lineup in the US market and as automakers aim to boost production in the United States to cushion the impact of increased tariffs on autos shipped to the country.



Embattled Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co is in talks to supply its US-made pickup trucks to rival Honda Motor Co in a bid to improve its factory utilization dented by slumping sales. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ KYODO**

The negotiations also follow the collapse of their merger talks in February, after Honda's proposal to make Nissan its subsidiary angered the Yokohama-based automaker's board. — Kyodo

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Tonghua Pesticide Chemical Industry Stock Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Friends' Helper Co.,Ltd**", to new distributor name "**Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd**". If any object 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. **Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd.** Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	TH- Shine 80 WG	Pymetrozine 50% + Thiamethoxam 30% WG	P2023-5005

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

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Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	TH- Yan Kinn 37.5 SC	Thiodicarb 37.5% SC	P2020-5020

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2511S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2511S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2025** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (2516S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (2516S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2025** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V WESTERN MAPLE VOY.NO. (105808)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V WESTERN MAPLE VOY.NO. (105808)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **13-7-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUNG AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

FEATURED REPORTS FOR THIS WEEK

India, ASEAN adopt new plan of action for next five years during Foreign Ministers' Meet

Discussions included enhancing people-to-people relations in light of the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism celebrations.

MINISTER of State for External Affairs, MoS Pabitra Margherita, co-chaired the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Malaysia on Thursday. The Meeting saw the adoption of a new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for the next five years.

In a post on X, he described the meeting as productive, which he had co-chaired with Theresa P Lazaro of the Philippines.

MoS Margherita noted that the meeting resulted in the adoption of a new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2026-2030, which aims to expand cooperation further and give impetus to the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and ASEAN.

Highlighting that as celebrations of the ASEAN-India Year



The ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) in Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur, announced the adoption of the new 2026-2030 ASEAN-India Plan of Action (POA). **PHOTO: ANI**

of Tourism are on, MoS Margherita said that discussions also took place on enhancing people-to-people relations.

Other areas which featured in discussions included proposals for cooperation in the digital field,

disaster management, defence, economy, maritime and health.

MoS Margherita held a meeting with the Secretary General of ASEAN, Kao Kim Hourn, on the margins of the Foreign Ministers' Meet.

In a post on X, he said, "Had a very cordial meeting with Secretary General of ASEAN, Dr Kao Kim Hourn, today on the margin of the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Appreciated

his personal commitment as the head of the ASEAN Secretariat in facilitating implementation of decisions of leaders towards strengthening our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership." — ANI

Russia to consider UK-France nuclear deal in military strategy

RUSSIA will take onto account in its military planning the UK-France nuclear cooperation agreement, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Thursday.

On Wednesday the UK government said that France and the UK would sign a declaration stating that the two countries' nuclear deterrents could be "coordinated" while remaining independent.

"All this fits into the general anti-Russian outline of NATO policy, so now, when this kind of interaction is being formalized and put on a stable solid basis, we will take this matter into account not only politically, but also in our military planning,"



ANIA Yars autonomous launcher at the military parade to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War on Red Square in Moscow. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Ryabkov told reporters.

In recent years, Russia has noted unprecedented

NATO activity on its western borders, the official said. — SPUTNIK

IAEA highly commends China's nuclear, radiation safety regulation

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) highly commended China's nuclear and radiation safety regulation following an assessment conducted at China's invitation, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment on Friday.

The IAEA's Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission, which took place from 29 June to 11 July, recognized China's regulatory effectiveness and identified several good practices that could be promoted internationally.

At a joint press conference held Friday, Li Zhiguo, deputy director of the National Nuclear Safety Administration, said that China's operational nuclear facilities has maintained excellent

safety records. The construction quality of nuclear facilities under development is well-controlled, and the safety of radioactive sources and radiation devices in use nationwide is effectively managed. The overall radiation environment quality across the country is good, with public health and environmental safety being fully protected, Li added.

The assessment team comprised 20 senior regulatory representatives from 17 countries, four IAEA experts, and one observer. They conducted a thorough, in-depth, and objective evaluation of China's nuclear and radiation safety regulatory work. IRRS is one of the IAEA's most influential international peer review mechanisms. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Futsal Champion Cup 2025 group matches kick off

THE group stage of the Futsal Champion Cup 2025 began on 10 July at the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal Stadium in Thuwunna, Yangon. On the opening day, current champions MIU, along with JZ Yangon and 7 Brother teams, secured victories.

JZ Yangon defeated 7 Dragon with a score of 3-2, while MIU thrashed ULAD 4-0. The 7 Brothers team won against Pacific Sun Far 5-2. Meanwhile, VUC and Pyae Gyi teams played to a 4-4 draw.

The group stage will continue until 17 July, with a total of 28 teams competing. These teams are divided into seven groups. Group A consists of VUC, JZ Yangon, 7 Dragon, and Pyae Gyi. Group B includes MIU, Pacific Sun Far, 7 Brothers and ULAD.



7 Brothers are competing against Pacific Sun Far during the group stage matches. **PHOTO: MFF**

Group C features YRG, United City, Pyae Sone, and Hanthawady. Group D is made up of YCDC MH Dream Team, SGF, KKY and Water King with Group E including Winner Generations, and three teams.

Group F consists of G-UPT, TG United, Shwepyitha United and Taw Win Nan. Meanwhile, Group G has M2K, Futsal Lovers, Maryar Noka, and Mali Kyel Sin competing. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Liverpool to honour Diogo Jota in return to action at Preston



Liverpool will pay tribute to Diogo Jota on Sunday on their return to action at Preston. **PHOTO: AFP**

LIVERPOOL have announced a series of tributes to Diogo Jota and his brother Andre Silva when the Reds return to action on Sunday at Preston for the first time since the Portuguese international's death.

Jota and Silva were killed in a car crash in northern Spain on 3 July.

Liverpool's return to pre-season training was delayed until Tuesday as a result.

However, the match at English

Championship side Preston will go ahead as scheduled in the first of Liverpool's pre-season friendlies.

A rendition of Liverpool's anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" will be played prior to the 1400GMT kick-off and Preston will lay a wreath in front of the away supporters.

A minute's silence will then be observed, digital tributes displayed on the stadium big screen and on pitchside advertising boards and players from both teams will wear black armbands.

Father of three Jota, who married his long-term partner Rute Cardoso 11 days before the accident, died alongside his brother after a Lamborghini they were travelling came off the road and burst into flames.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot and a number of first-team players, led by captain Virgil van Dijk, attended Jota's funeral last Saturday. — AFP

Swiatek and Anisimova battle to be new queen of Wimbledon

IGA Swiatek and Amanda Anisimova clash in the Wimbledon final on Saturday with only one thing certain — there will be an eighth consecutive first-time winner of the women's tournament.

Swiatek and Anisimova will both be making their first appearance in the Wimbledon final after unexpected runs to the showpiece occasion.

No player has retained the crown since the now-retired Serena Williams won her seventh and final title at the All England Club in 2016.

Aryna Sabalenka started as the hot favourite after reaching the past three Grand Slam finals but faltered in a gripping semi-final against American 13th seed Anisimova.

Poland's Swiatek is seeded eighth at Wimbledon following a disappointing first half of the season, though she is back up to fourth in the rankings after reaching the final of the grass-court Bad Homburg tournament.

That run, together with her surge through the draw at All England Club, suggests the 24-year-old is cured of her grass-court allergy.

Initially she went under the radar at Wimbledon, with the focus on Sabalenka and French Open champion Coco Gauff, but she kept winning while the top seeds tumbled, dropping just one set on route to the final. — AFP



Iga Swiatek has a perfect record of five wins in her five Grand Slam finals. **PHOTO: AFP**

China suffers opening loss in women's water polo at 2025 World Aquatics Championships

CHINA lost 15-7 to the United States in their first women's water polo Group B match on the opening day of the 2025 World Aquatics Championships here on Friday.

Facing the US, which finished fourth at the 2024 Paris Olympics, China came out strong in the opening quarter. After conceding the first goal, Zhang Qishuo

equalized, and China managed to keep the score close for much of the first half.

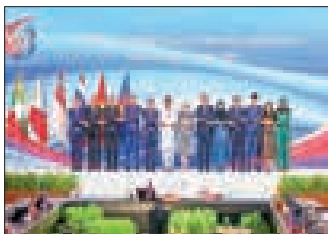
China goalkeeper Du Xinyue managed to save one as the United States earned three penalty shots in the first period. In the second quarter, Wang Huan scored twice and Wang Xuan found the net to level the score at 4-4. However, the United States responded with three

unanswered goals to take a 7-4 lead into halftime.

Both teams played with pace and intensity in the first half, but the United States gradually took control after the break. With strong shooting accuracy, greater possession and tighter defense, they steadily widened the gap on the scoreboard.

"We could do two periods close to them, but at the end we couldn't follow them," said China's newly-appointed head coach Miguel Oca.

Oca, a gold medalist with Spain's men's team at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, coached Spain's women to victory at the Paris 2024, before taking over as the China coach earlier last month. — Xinhua



China's high-speed rail tech boon for world, picturing new vision for connectivity



This photo shows the CR450AF bullet train in Beijing, capital of China, 29 December 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

CHINA'S fast-evolving high-speed rail technology is not only reshaping domestic mobility, but also playing an increasingly significant role in enhancing global connectivity and driving infrastructure development, ex-

perts said at the 12th World Congress on High-Speed Rail.

The event, held from Tuesday to Friday in Beijing and co-hosted by China State Railway Group and the International Union of Railways (UIC), drew

more than 2,000 participants from over 60 countries, regions and international organizations.

"In less than two decades, China has created the largest and most advanced high-speed rail system in the world, re-

The 12th World Congress on High-Speed Rail in Beijing attracted over 2,000 participants globally.

shaping mobility, the economy and regional development", said Alan Beroud, chairman of the UIC, during his keynote speech at the opening ceremony.

China's achievement is more remarkable given that at the beginning of this century, the country had no high-speed railways. Back then, passengers relied on slow and often overcrowded trains, making cross-country journeys time-consuming and exhausting.

Today, the country operates about 48,000 kilometres of high-speed rail, more than twice the length of all other countries' networks combined. The system links 97 per cent of cities with populations of 500,000 or more.

For many countries, especially those still developing their infrastructure, China's story is more than a feat of modernization — it serves as a practical pathway to achieving broader development. — Xinhua

INNOVATION-LED COLLABORATION

UAE deepens innovation ties with India through high-impact MoU at Mumbai start-up event

THE UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC), in collaboration with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in India, hosted an exclusive Start-up Sundowner at the St Regis Mumbai, an official statement said.

The event spotlighted the opportunities for Indian founders and start-ups to participate in the newly launched UAE-India CEPA Start-up Series, a high-impact platform designed to fast-track cross-border growth, collaboration, and market access, the statement said.

In his opening remarks, Abdunnasser Alshaali, the UAE Ambassador to India, reaffirmed the UAE's vision for fostering dynamic, innovation-led collaboration between the two nations. He emphasized that India's entrepreneurial energy as a vital force in the bilateral partnership. — ANI

Moscow's bold gamble on private space investment: Fantasy or the final frontier?

DURING the "Innoprom" International Industrial Exhibition, the Moscow government's booth hosted a session entitled "Private Space Industry: Myth or Reality?" discussing the private sector's potential of transforming the space industry, according to the Moscow Department of Investment and Industrial Policy.

Mayrbek Mazhiyev, Deputy Head of the Industrial Policy Department, announced that Moscow, in collaboration with Roscosmos, is establishing the National Space Centre (NSC) at the Khrunichev Plant site.

"The NSC will unify key enterprises and organizations within the rocket and space industry. Its goal is to establish a major scientific and technological cluster that will significantly boost space development, including the production of low-orbit satellites. Getting private space companies involved will



GK LAUNCH SERVICES is an operator of commercial launches. The company was established by the decision of State Space Corporation "Roscosmos" to conclude and implement commercial contracts for the launch of spacecraft using Soyuz-2 family launch vehicles from Russian spaceports. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ GK LAUNCH SERVICES

further enhance the cluster's efficiency and bring benefits to all participants," Mazhiyev stated.

Pavel Cherenkov, CEO of Terra Tech (a subsidiary of Roscosmos),

highlighted that this federal space initiative has ushered in a groundbreaking mechanism for collaboration between government and industry. — SPUTNIK