

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

If a democratic nation is to be built, people must have higher levels of educational attainment in order to put election practices and democratic principles into practical implementation.

Education system must be of assured quality



On behalf of State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Vice-Chairman of the Commission Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents prizes to Maung Min Kyel Sin Thant at the ceremony to award the students who outstandingly passed the 2025 matriculation examination in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, on behalf of State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, urged outstanding students to continue striving to uplift the nation’s image through education. A ceremony to award the students who outstandingly passed the 2025 matriculation examination with flying colours and high scores in relevant combinations, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the Commission Vice-Senior General Soe Win, on behalf of Chairman of the State Security and

Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. Speaking on the occasion, the

Vice-Senior General said that eeducation-al authorities need to assess the current education system in order to establish a quality-assured education system, and

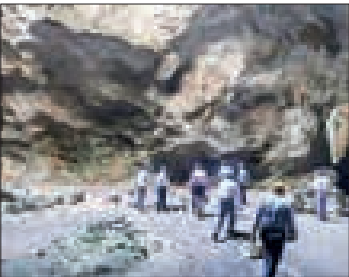
to strive for the emergence of a large number of educated youth who can serve the country.

SEE PAGE 3



NATIONAL PAGE 10

Online applications for JLPT N1, N2, N5 close on 21 Aug



NATIONAL PAGE 11

MoRAC spearheads publication of comprehensive Myanmar history books

Article

Bridging Borders: India-Myanmar Development Partnership Lifts Communities

By Mr Abhay Thakur,

PAGE 8-9

# NATIONAL

## True patriots with heroic spirit can sacrifice life and limb for nation and people

❖ Sacrificing one’s life and limbs for the sake of the country, the people, and the sovereignty of the nation is an act that only those with a truly patriotic and heroic spirit can carry out.

*(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2025)*

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

## ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General meets Myanmar-China Friendship Association

SECRETARY-GENERAL of the ASEAN-China Centre Mr Shi Zhongjun, and his delegation visited the office of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central) to meet with Chairman U Tin Oo and the central executive committee yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation in friendship, education, and social activities. The talks also covered coordina-

tion between China and ASEAN countries, China’s development policies and initiatives in Asia, ongoing practical projects, and collaboration through the Friendship Association on tourism development, agricultural technology exchange, and long-term assistance for regions affected by natural disasters. Both sides exchanged information and explored ways to continue support and cooperation. — MNA/KZL

## Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 24 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, Typhoon “Kajiki” has formed over the South China Sea has move West- Northwestwards and may pass inland areas of Vietnam and Laos, with the remnants of the Tropical storm “Kajiki” may reach to Myanmar and due to the low-pressure area may form over Northwest Bay of Bengal (off Odisha-West Bengal coasts, India) on 26 August 2025, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with isolated heavy falls during 26 August 2025 to 29 August 2025. Squalls with rough seas are likely at time in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

### Advisory

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

## Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 24 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over Northwest Bay of Bengal (off Odisha-West Bengal coasts, India) around 26 August 2025. — DMH

## China launches media exchange programme for 100+ journalists from over 90 countries

THE China International Press Communication Centre in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, launched a media exchange and training programme for foreign journalists on 22 August.

CIPCC was established in 2014 and will offer a four-month press exchange programme twice a year starting in 2024.

“The CIPCC programme will allow participants to study China’s development, learn about the media’s transformation process, and explore aspects of the country’s cultural heritage. Participants will also have the chance to interact with people from all walks of life in and outside Beijing, attend important



Foreign journalists are seen at the media exchange and training programme in Beijing, China.

national events, and undertake short-term media internships with prominent media outlets,” said Mr Yu Lei, Director of CIPCC.

The programme has six communication centres — Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America-Caribbean, Europe-Asia, Arab, and European regions — and more than 100 journalists from over 90 countries are participating.

The programme includes visits to and information gathering in Beijing, prominent cities such as Shanghai and Tianjin, and areas inhabited by ethnic minorities.

They will also have the opportunity to study China’s media

development, culture, lifestyle, and technological applications in agriculture, as well as media and socio-cultural topics at Chinese universities.

In addition, they will have the opportunity to learn from China’s leading media outlets, such as CGTN, Xinhua, and People’s Daily, and to access information on important events during the training, including the Fifth Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory of the Chinese people’s war of resistance against Japanese aggression and the world anti-fascist war, and the China-Arab States Expo. — Khin Yadana/TH

# 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)*

# Education system must be of assured quality

FROM PAGE 1

He urged outstanding students to continue striving to uplift the nation's image through education.

He noted that if a democratic nation is to be built, people must have higher levels of educational attainment in order to put election practices and democratic principles into practical implementation.

Despite difficulties, the Vice-Senior General recounted that the students have showed off their genuine quality and capability, resulting in a matriculation examination pass rate of 48.06 per cent, with as many as 196 students earning distinctions in all subjects.

As in the previous year, he pledged that arrangements are being made to send outstanding students who achieved the highest marks in their subjects on study tours abroad.

He continued that youth, while seeking better methods of advancement in line with the modern age, must also preserve and safeguard Myanmar's traditional culture and customs from fading away.

With the advancement of technology, he underlined that the use of social networks and media has become widespread, but within them, unethical fake news, misinformation, and fabricated reports can infiltrate with misleading thoughts and ideologies. Therefore, young people are urged to live with awareness, mindfulness, and wisdom.

The Vice-Senior General highlighted that if the new democratic nation that the people aspire to is to be realized, elections are of primary importance. Hence, elections will be held starting from 28 December this year, and following the elections, state responsibilities will be transferred to the elected government.

He urged all citizens including parents, youths, and ethnic people to understand the essence of the election and ensure that eligible voters exercise their voting rights without losing them.

He stressed that for the success of the election, which is crucial to building a



Vice-Senior General Soe Win warmly greets the outstanding students who secured the highest marks in the 2025 matriculation exam at the yesterday's ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Salient points in the speech delivered by the Vice-Senior General, on behalf of Commission Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the awarding outstanding students

1. Arrangements are being made to send outstanding students who achieved the highest marks in their subjects on study tours abroad.
2. Students have showed off their genuine quality and capability, resulting in a matriculation examination pass rate of 48.06 per cent, with as many as 196 students earning distinctions in all subjects.
3. Following the elections, state responsibilities will be transferred to the elected government.

democratic nation, destructive acts must be prevented, and all citizens are called upon to participate and cooperate in these activities.

Furthermore, the Vice-Senior General presented honorary prizes to 13 students who secured the highest marks in the entire nation in the science combination.

Commission member, Prime Minister U Nyo Saw gave honorary prizes to 10 more students who obtained the highest marks in the examination throughout the

nation in the arts & science combination.

Commission member, Executive Chief U Aung Lin Dwe and Commission Secretary, Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo handed honorary prizes to 10 student who secured the highest marks in arts combination and 10 more students with distinctions in all subjects respectively.

Commission members, Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and the Central Bank of Myanmar governor presented

honorary prizes to students with distinctions in all subjects.

Today, distinction winners in all subjects were honorably awarded with one-tical gold coins, and 33 students who achieved the highest marks in each subject were presented with one-tical gold coins in recognition of their achievement.

A student on behalf of all outstanding students spoke words of thanks.

Also present at the ceremony were senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and officials.

After the ceremony, the Vice-Senior General and party had documentary photos taken together with 33 outstanding students who secured the highest marks in the matriculation exam in relevant combinations.

The Vice-Senior General had an honorary lunch together with outstanding students. After the lunch, the Vice-Senior General cordially greeted outstanding students and their parents. — MNA/TTA

# NATIONAL

## Restoration and preservation planned for Yangon Region High Court, an ancient building

UNION Chief Justice U Tha Htay, along with Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Yangon Mayor U Bo Htay, and Director-General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum Dr Kyaw Oo Lwin, inspected yesterday afternoon the restoration and preservation work planned for the ancient Yangon Region High Court building on Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

At the Yangon Region High Court building, officials explained the building's current condition, the restoration and maintenance plan, and plans for further work. The Chief Justice of the Union and the Union minister stated that, as a cultural heritage building, it must be systematically renovated and maintained to high standards without altering the original structure, while the responsible groups coordinate with the Department of Archaeology and National Museum and conduct



Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay and officials inspect the ancient Yangon Region High Court building on Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

a detailed inspection inside the building.

The Yangon Region High Court Building, a three-story rectangular structure measuring 299.6 feet long and 288 feet

wide, was built between 1905 and 1911 at a cost of 2.45 million rupees and served as the seat of successive courts of the country's highest judicial body until 2011, making it a historic

building of great value.

Established under the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the 2010 Union Judiciary Law, the Yangon Region High Court has

been operating in this building since 2011, carrying out its judicial duties.

The Yangon City Development Committee's Engineering Department (Buildings) designated the building as an ancient monument in 1996, and the Yangon Heritage Trust installed a blue plaque marking it as a Yangon city heritage building on 24 November 2017.

Regarding the building, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, visited it on 4 August 2025 and stated that, as an ancient structure, the Yangon Region High Court building must be preserved without damaging its original form; in accordance with guidelines for maintenance to ensure its long-term strength, it will be renovated and maintained following heritage preservation standards, also enhancing its potential to attract foreign tourists. — MNA/TH

## MoI Union Minister, artistes encourage departmental personnel, residents in Kayah State

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, together with a group of artistes, visited Loikaw, Kayah State, yesterday morning to observe the situation of peace and stability in the region. They warmly greeted departmental staff and local residents, entertaining them with songs.

They were welcomed in Heho by Shan State Chief Minister U Aung Aung. They then continued their journey to Loikaw, Kayah State, where Kayah

State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin, along with departmental officials and residents, extended a warm welcome to them at the city entrance.

The Union Minister and the Kayah State Chief Minister, together with the artistes, also paid homage to the sacred Taungkwe Pagoda in Loikaw. At the District Office of the Information and Public Relations Department in Loikaw, the Union Minister encouraged the staff and provided financial support.

In the evening, artistes including Academy award winners Yan Aung, May Than Nu, Soe Myat Thuzar, as well as Dein Daung, Ohn Thee, Nyein Chan, Yin Latt, Thinzar Myint Mo, Nay Chi Nyein Chan and others, entertained departmental staff and local residents with musical performances.

After the performance, the Union minister and the state chief minister presented honorary cash awards to the artistes. — MNA/KZL



Artistes entertain departmental staff and local residents with musical performances in Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday.

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

NATIONAL

Opening ceremony of 2025 CSR report of Chinese enterprises in Myanmar held

THE opening ceremony of the 2025 Report on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of Chinese Enterprises in Myanmar and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (MOFCOM) Scholarship Award Ceremony was held yesterday evening at the M-Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

First, Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, stated that she was proud of the Chinese Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM) for releasing the 2025 CSR Report of Chinese Businesses.

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung said the report on CSR activities reflects satisfactory China-Myanmar cooperation, provides valuable support for local community needs, and shows that Chinese businesses in Myanmar are making meaningful contributions to the country's development.

Afterwards, CECCM Chairman Mr Liu Ming made a presentation on the report, and U Aye Win, President of the Federation of the Union of Myanmar Chambers of Commerce and Industry, expressed his gratitude to Chinese businesses for their CSR activities benefiting the local people.

Next, the CECCM Chairman handed over documents on Shweminwon New Market Project in Sagaing, contributed by the CECCM, to Sagaing Region Minister for Transport U Khin Maung Aye.

The Union minister then attended the PRC Government Scholarship Award Ceremony, organized by MOFCOM to support the development of Myanmar's human resources.

At the scholarship award ceremony, Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia spoke about the MOFCOM scholarship awards.

The Union minister highlighted the MOFCOM scholarships provided by PRC as a ma-



Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung and Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia press the electric button at the opening ceremony of the 2025 Report on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of Chinese Enterprises in Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

ior contribution to Myanmar's human resource development, expressed pride and joy at awarding admission letters to qualified civil servants, stressed the key role of civil service capacity-building in improving

public services and national development, and encouraged scholarship recipients to apply their knowledge and skills in the workplace as loyal and reliable human resources for the country.

Afterwards, the Union min-

ister, the Chinese Ambassador, and the Economic Attaché from the Chinese Embassy presented university admission letters from China to the officers and employees selected for the scholarship.

— MNA/TH

MoI Union Minister inspects activities of Yenangyaung Industrial Zone

DR Charlie Than, Union Minister for Industry and Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee on the Development of Industries and Industrial Zones, visited the Yenangyaung Industrial Zone in Magway Region on 23 August.

At the Industrial Zone Hall, the Union minister met the chairman and members of the Zone Management Committee, entrepreneurs, the rector and head of the Chemistry Department from Yenangyaung University, the principal of the Government Technical Institute, and relevant departmental officials.

During the meeting, the Union minister highlighted that the development of industrial zones would not only boost national production but also create job opportunities for locals, thereby contributing to the region's socioeconomic growth. He noted that the Industrial Zone Law and its bylaws had already been enacted to ensure systematic development, and that regions and states are required to oversee compliance and classify industrial zones accordingly.

He emphasized that all stakeholders must strictly follow the provisions



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than inspects the production processes at King Golden Dragon Co Ltd, where STAR motorcycles are assembled under the SKD system on 23 August 2025.

of the Industrial Zone Law and bylaws. He pointed out that industries can only operate sustainably if they meet market demand, which requires products to be of high quality, affordable, and properly packaged. He also underlined the importance of continuous research and development to produce competitive goods.

The Union minister urged industries to work in partnership with local universities and colleges. He explained that the Ministry of Industry has been providing various training programmes, including courses in electricity, boiler operation and maintenance, household electrical installation, agricultural engine maintenance, welding, and short-

term technical courses, some of which are conducted on-site. He assured participants that additional courses would be arranged if needed.

Following his remarks, the Zone Management Committee chairman presented updates on ongoing activities and requirements within the zone. The Magway Region economic minister reported on relevant laws for systematic development. Departmental officials provided details on the zone's status, the socioeconomic development research, strengthening linkages between industries and schools, workforce development, resource requirements, raw material supply, technology access, and planned knowledge-sharing sessions, and industrial entrepreneurs explained the challenges in operations. The Union minister coordinated all measures reported.

In the afternoon, the Union minister inspected production processes at the Alpha Vina concrete post factory, the Win Thamaseikta oil mill, and King Golden Dragon Co Ltd, where STAR motorcycles are assembled under the SKD system. — MNA/KZL

# NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Announcement 53/2025

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Wagoung 1387 ME  
15 August 2025

Announcement of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Ethnic Constituencies

THE Union Election Commission, under Section 10 (d) of the Union Election Commission Law and Section 4 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law, has announced that for 2025 multiparty democratic general election, in each Region or State of the Union where a national race is entitled to elect a representative to the Region or State Hluttaw, the entire Region or State concerned will be designated as a single constituency for each national race under the FPTP system.  
Those 29 Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Ethnic Constituencies are attached herewith.

Sd/ Than Soe  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

## Ethnic constituencies of the Region or State Hluttaw designated for the 2025 multiparty democratic general election

No	Constituency	List of areas included in the Region or State Hluttaw ethnic constituency
Kachin State Hluttaw		
1	Bama ethnic constituency	An entire Kachin State
2	Shan ethnic constituency	An entire Kachin State
3	Lisu ethnic constituency	An entire Kachin State
4	Rawang ethnic constituency	An entire Kachin State
Kayah State Hluttaw		
1	Bama ethnic constituency	An entire Kayah State
Kayin State Hluttaw		
1	Bama ethnic constituency	An entire Kayin State
2	Mon ethnic constituency	An entire Kayin State
3	Pa-O ethnic constituency	An entire Kayin State
Sagaing Region Hluttaw		
1	Shan ethnic constituency	An entire Sagaing Region
2	Chin ethnic constituency	An entire Sagaing Region
Taninthayi Region Hluttaw		
1	Kayin ethnic constituency	An entire Taninthayi Region
Bago Region Hluttaw		
1	Kayin ethnic constituency	An entire Bago Region
Magway Region Hluttaw		
1	Chin ethnic constituency	An entire Magway Region
Mandalay Region Hluttaw		
1	Shan ethnic constituency	An entire Mandalay Region

No	Constituency	List of areas included in the Region or State Hluttaw ethnic constituency
Mon State Hluttaw		
1	Bama ethnic constituency	An entire Mon State
2	Kayin ethnic constituency	An entire Mon State
3	Pa-O ethnic constituency	An entire Mon State
Rakhine State Hluttaw		
1	Chin ethnic constituency	An entire Rakhine State
Yangon Region Hluttaw		
1	Kayin ethnic constituency	An entire Yangon Region
2	Rakhine ethnic constituency	An entire Yangon Region
Shan State Hluttaw		
1	Bama ethnic constituency	An entire Shan State
2	Kachin ethnic constituency	An entire Shan State
3	Lisu ethnic constituency	An entire Shan State
4	Lahu ethnic constituency	An entire Shan State
5	Inntha ethnic constituency	An entire Shan State
6	Akha ethnic constituency	An entire Shan State
7	Kayan (or) Padaung ethnic constituency	An entire Shan State
Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw		
1	Kayin ethnic constituency	An entire Ayeyawady Region
2	Rakhine ethnic constituency	An entire Ayeyawady Region

## University admission applications open 2 September for 2025 exam passers

SUCCESSFUL candidates of the 2025 matriculation exam can apply for university admission at 24 universities nationwide from 2 to 19 September, where application envelopes will be accepted daily without holidays, according to the Ministry of Education.

Successful candidates of the 2025 matriculation examination must obtain their score list, qualification record of final score level, university admission guidebook, and application form from the relevant examination supervisors, beginning 2 September, in order to apply for university

admission.

Applicants submitting after the deadline must file their applications with the Department of Higher Education (Yangon Branch), located on Thaton Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region. — ASH/TH

This photo features the Department of Higher Education (Yangon Branch), on Thaton Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region.



NATIONAL

CITIC Myanmar, CFRD provide CITIC Star Scholarship, stipends to students of MMU and YUFL separately

CHINA Foundation for Rural Development recently held ceremonies with the contribution of CITIC Myanmar to honour outstanding students with CITIC with CITIC Star Scholarship award and stipends at the Myanmar Maritime University and the Yangon University of Foreign Languages in 2025-2026 academic year.

The ceremonies were graced by Mr Ma Chuanfu, Deputy Managing Director of CITIC Myanmar; Ms Lin Yuan, Director of the Office of Foundation Myanmar; Dr Zaw Moe Aung, the Rector of MMU, and Dr May San Yi, the Rector of YUFL together with representatives of relevant departments and award-winning students.

Mr Ma Chuanfu, the Deputy Managing Director of CITIC Myanmar, spoke on the occasion, saying that it was known that students spend the stipends on purchasing textbooks and paying fees for taking qualification tests, adding that he was pleased for their activities partially contributing to the education promotion movement of students.

In fact, CITIC Star Scholarship Programme is a platform created for students to have improvement together with CITIC



Prize-winning students from YUFL have documentary photos taken with distinguished guests.

Myanmar and the Foundation. It reflected capacity enhancement programmes such as successful holding of the maritime seminars and short video contest portraying Pauk-Phaw friendship with active participation of students. With regard to the future plans, CITIC Myanmar and the Foundation will join hands with two aforesaid universities in staging enthusiastic programmes such as the modelling competition, excursions to ports, and foreign language contests. Such programmes aim to create a platform for exposing

talents and ability of students.

In his speech, Dr Zaw Moe Aung, the Rector of MMU, expressed thanks to CITIC Myanmar for its continuous contributions to the students.

CITIC has presented stipends to 70 male and female students three times and outstanding awards to 140 students twice. Moreover, the short video contest arranged by CITIC Myanmar helps enrich the extra-curricular activities of students while enhancing their teamwork capacity and creative capability. CITIC Myanmar invited two

faculty members from the Myanmar Maritime University to attend the 2025 International Technical Workshop on Port and Waterway Construction for Development Countries in TIWTE held in Tianjin of China so as to improve their professional and academic capacity. In the future, MMU will cooperate with CITIC Myanmar and the Foundation in carrying out other programmes for growth and development of Myanmar youths.

In her turn, Dr May San Yi, the Rector of YUFL, thanked CITIC Myanmar for its schol-

arship contribution to Myanmar students. She expressed her hope for students to value the contributions and well utilize it, urging them to try their best in learning.

At the ceremony, representatives from the award-winning students of the two universities also expressed their heartfelt gratitude to CITIC Myanmar and pledged to emphasize learning so as to serve the society in the future.

Dr Sanda Naing, the Professor of MMU, who attended the 2025 International Technical Workshop on Port and Waterway Construction for Development Countries in TIWTE, Tianjin, thanked CITIC Myanmar for its invitation to the workshop and recounted her experiences. During the trip, two Myanmar professors attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tianjin International Maritime Expo and the Future AI & Greening Ports Development seminar.

During the two ceremonies, CITIC Myanmar representatives briefed the students on functions of Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport Project as well as activities and responsibilities of Chinese companies in Myanmar. The programme was successfully held with well feedbacks of the students. — GNLM

CFRD, CITIC Myanmar distribute food to students in Kyaukpyu

RECENTLY, in collaboration with CITIC Myanmar, China Foundation for Rural Development carried out a food distribution programme, which is part of the Smiling Children Programme, at Aung Mingala, Dhammikayon and Bawdi Theikpan monastic education schools in Kyaukpyu, Myanmar. The programme provided a two-month food supply for each student and benefited a total of 386 students. This programme aims to support schoolchildren grow up healthily and strongly as well as conveyed the loving-kindness of Chinese people.

During interviews with teachers and parents, they explained that, under the current situation in their region,

rice is the most essential daily necessity. The rice available is not sufficient to meet their needs locally. In addition, the income of family cannot catch up the cost of living due to rising commodity prices especially the soaring rice price. Some families with several children are struggling to secure enough food for daily consumption. They added that, in such difficult times, the delivery of food supplies was not only about providing rice, but also bringing warmth and hope to their lives. As such, they expressed their deep gratitude to the monthly donors of CITIC Myanmar and Quanmin Gongyi.

These rice sacks started their journey from Yangon,



Foodstuff being distributed to a student at the distribution centre-1 in Kyaukpyu.

crossing rivers and braving strong winds before finally ar-

riving in Kyaukpyu. The foundation hopes that the students in

Kyaukpyu can learn peacefully without worry. — GNLM

## Share experiences and knowledge at medical conferences

MYANMAR hosts international-level medical conferences annually, with relevant medical societies taking the lead. These conferences aim to enhance the capacity of medical professionals and provide opportunities for them to share experiences and research findings on a broader scale.

Thanks to medical conferences, specialists and physicians from various countries serving in specific arenas have opportunities to meet and expand their professional networks. Importantly, they can openly share the latest findings from their practices and research with one another. As a result, they can apply new knowledge and experiences more effectively in providing medical treatment to the public.

As the State works to improve the nation's health sector, medical professionals in relevant communities need to follow government leadership to advance their fields. In line with the third objective of the National Defence and Security Council - "To emphasize enhancing the national education and health sectors for the sustainable development of the State" - all medical professionals must work toward improving the health sector to build a safe and healthy society.

State and the people, they must not lose sight of their ambitions or discriminate against patients. Only by providing treatment without discrimination will they gain richer experiences, overcome major challenges in their profession, and discover better therapies.

Improving medical knowledge through the sharing of experiences at conferences benefits both healthcare professionals and the public. Medical professionals with high competence can provide effective treatment, helping to save the lives and limbs of patients. Today, not only robots but also advanced technologies and machinery are increasingly used in medical treatment. Therefore, medical personnel must possess sufficient knowledge and skills to effectively and comprehensively utilize these technologies and equipment in their workplaces.

As the State works to improve the nation's health sector, medical professionals in relevant communities need to follow government leadership to advance their fields. In line with the third objective of the National Defence and Security Council - "To emphasize enhancing the national education and health sectors for the sustainable development of the State" - all medical professionals must work toward improving the health sector to build a safe and healthy society.

# Bridging Borders: India-Myanmar Development Partnership Lifts Communities

by Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The world is one family  
India's Multi-sectoral developmental cooperation across Myanmar  
Puts People First*

INDIA'S developmental partnership with Myanmar is diverse, multi-sectoral and aimed towards the local benefit of diverse communities across the different states and regions of Myanmar. The underlying philosophy of the Indian approach towards international developmental assistance is rooted in the ancient Sanskrit phrase from the Maha Upnishad - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or the world is one family.

Firstly, at the heart of India's developmental cooperation with the Global South, including Myanmar, lies a people-centric approach and a deep commitment to human resources development. Secondly, Myanmar lies at the confluence of India's three key foreign policy priorities - Neighbourhood First, Act East and the Indo-Pacific. Thirdly, our ties with Myanmar are age-old and multi-faceted, based on fraternal bonds at the people-to-people level and institutional, cultural and spiritual linkages. Underpinned by these considerations, India's developmental partnership with Myanmar is based on true friendship and driven by the needs and priorities of Myanmar, and no other motive. In this spirit, a diverse range of developmental initiatives and programmes have been undertaken by India across Myanmar.

### Skills and Education for a Digital Tomorrow

India has helped establish four Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) in Pakokku, Myingyan, Thaton, and Monywa - training local youth in welding, electrical work, and electronics. These programs, developed in partnership with HMT (International) Limited, a leading Government of India enterprise, are tightly aligned with industry needs in Myanmar. One young trainee in Myingyan noted, "Before this centre opened, we had no way to learn these skills. Now I can work as a technician and help support my family."

Higher education has also benefitted students across Myanmar. In Mandalay, the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT), developed with Indian assistance and modelled after IIIT-Bengaluru, is fast becoming a hub for digital excellence. Since 2018, MIIT has produced software engineers and data specialists working in tech startups across Myanmar: "Our students solve real-world problems in their final year projects. Some are now team leads in major tech firms", said an MIIT faculty member, while Theingi Shwe Sin, BE (CSE) student from the batch of 2015, commented that "Equal rights and opportunities for all students as well as the transparent system indicate the institute's preference to students' rights and education". The institute was formally handed over to the Myanmar Government in March 2022, marking a significant milestone in academic cooper-

ation. Similar stories of success have been recreated through the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills (IMCEITS), Yangon. An internship candidate from the Artificial Intelligence (AI) course stated that "The most valuable aspect of my training at IMCEITS was the hands-on practical sessions, which gave me real-world experience and helped me understand how to apply the concepts I learned in class". Similarly, India has also set up a Rice Bio-Park and Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) in Nay Pyi Taw that aims to demonstrate the full potential of the paddy/rice value chain. The association of Indian experts with these projects has also enabled them to contribute to upgrading the post-graduate syllabus at the Yezin Agricultural University in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Infrastructure that Connects and Transforms

Much of India's support has focused on local infrastructure such as the roads, bridges, water systems, and community halls that enable daily life to function more efficiently. U Tint Ko, village-tract leader of Thaphan Chaung Village in Yenanchaung Township of Magway Region, while referring to the QIP initiative of solar-powered water supply system in his village, stated, "We can now use water free of charge and abundantly. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support by the Government of India".

Along the quiet stretches of the India-Myanmar frontier, a powerful story is unfolding, one of roads, resilience, and renewed hope. Over the past decade, India's grant-based development cooperation has touched hundreds of communities across Myanmar, offering tangible support through over 300 projects in sectors ranging from rural infrastructure, healthcare and heritage to disaster relief and education. The guiding philosophy: PLACE PEOPLE FIRST.

Through flagship bilateral schemes like the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Rakhine State Development Programme (RSDP), Small Development Projects (SDP) and Quick Impact Projects (QIP), India has invested more than US\$36 million

through bilateral mechanisms in Myanmar's frontier regions. This is over and above a multi-million-dollar community initiative funded and executed directly through New Delhi. From mountain villages to coastal settlements, the impact is visible and deeply felt.

BADP initiatives in Chin State and Sagaing Region have funded over 179 minor infrastructure projects across these regions.

In Rakhine, where remote villages often face infrastructural deficits, RSDP interventions have included 250 prefabricated homes and solar electrification. These are not just utility upgrades - they are enablers of dignity and opportunity.

### Boosting Livelihoods Through Healthcare and Agriculture

In 2019, a 200-bedded Women & Children Hospital in Monywa was equipped with critical medical equipment, provided as Indian grant assistance. This not only elevated the standard of care but also made healthcare more accessible for families previously dependent on distant urban hospitals. Locals report shorter waiting times, better maternal care, and faster emergency responses. In the health-care field, India has also undertaken projects to upgrade facilities in the Yangon Children's Hospital and the Sittwe General Hospital. Most recently, a state-of-the-art cancer treatment device, the Bhabatron-II and Imagin Simulator, was set up at Yangon General Hospital.

India's support extends well beyond basic infrastructure. Under the Small Development Projects (SDP) initiative, rural livelihoods have received significant boosts. In Rakhine State, farmers received tractors and harvesters, which revolutionized local agriculture. "The machines helped us harvest faster and cover more land," said a farmer.

### Preserving Heritage with Care and Craftsmanship

In the wake of the 2016 earthquake, India's Archaeological Survey of India took on the painstaking restoration of earthquake-damaged monuments in Bagan, after a spectacular completion of the work on the iconic Ananda Pagoda, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The handing

over of restored 11 monuments under the first phase, carried out using local stonemasons, carpenters and traditional artisans, was celebrated in December 2024.

A local craftsman who worked on the project shared proudly, "We used bricks, wood and lime mortar from our villages. It was not just a job - it was a way to honour our ancestors." These restored monuments now welcome pilgrims and tourists once again, standing as testaments to shared heritage and regional solidarity.

### Swift and Compassionate Disaster Response

India's cooperation is perhaps most keenly felt during a crisis. Since Cyclone Nargis in 2008, India has launched 13 major humanitarian operations in Myanmar. The most recent effort, Operation Brahma, was initiated in the aftermath of the devastating March 2025 earthquake. Within 48 hours, Indian teams arrived with tents, food, medical kits, and rescue personnel.

In Rakhine, a community leader recalled the arrival of aid: "When Cyclone Mocha struck, Indian rescue teams were here the next day with tents and medicines. We felt their support immediately; it meant everything to us."

India also provided critical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic through Vaccine Maitri, including oxygen plants, PPE kits, and 20 million doses of COVID vaccine, reinforcing Myanmar's health infrastructure during a time of global crisis.

### A Model of Community-Led Development

What makes our development partnership with Myanmar stand out is its community-first model, infrastructure built by local labour, restoration led by artisans, implementation managed by village committees and, wherever possible, materials are sourced from nearby markets, quarries, and workshops. This approach creates not just assets, but local ownership, income, and pride.

"This is more than just aid - it's empowerment," noted a project coordinator in Sagaing, "Each initiative is shaped by local needs and built by local hands."

As Myanmar marches forward and continues navigating its development path, India's engagement offers a roadmap rooted in mutual respect, sustainability, and shared responsibility. Each road laid, each clinic equipped, each monument restored is more than a project - it's a bridge between nations, with communities driven by their own aspirations.

(Views expressed in the article belong solely to the author.)



Our words and actions shape reality, and cultivating truthfulness is essential for fostering genuine connections and reducing suffering.

ILLUSTRATION: WIKIHOW

## Threads of Truth: The Fragile Ethics of Speech and Silence in Buddhist Practice

By Khin Maung Myint

IN Buddhist ethics, the Five Precepts serve as foundational guidelines for moral conduct, intended not as commandments but as voluntary commitments to cultivate virtue and reduce suffering. Among them, the first precept—often translated as “abstain from killing”—appears deceptively simple yet harbours profound ambiguity. Unlike the other precepts, which clearly delineate behavioural boundaries (abstaining from stealing, sexual misconduct, false speech, and intoxicants), the injunction against killing invites complex interpretation. What constitutes killing? Is it limited to human life, or does it extend to animals, insects, or even the destruction of ecosystems? Does intention matter more than outcome? These questions reveal that the first precept is not merely a prohibition but a call to examine the nature of harm, agency, and compassion.

The moral terrain surrounding killing is further complicated by

cultural, historical, and situational contexts. A soldier in war; a farmer protecting crops, a doctor making end-of-life decisions—all navigate ethical grey zones where the boundaries of this precept blur. Buddhist traditions themselves diverge in interpretation: Theravada monastics may avoid even the accidental death of insects, while Mahayana practitioners might prioritize compassionate intention over literal adherence. This ambiguity is not a flaw but a feature; it invites practitioners into a deeper inquiry about the consequences of their actions and the cultivation of empathy.

In contrast, the precept against false speech lying offers a more direct moral pathway, yet its implications are no less profound. Lies are not merely distortions of fact; they are fractures in the social fabric.

When truth is compromised, trust erodes, and with it the possibility of genuine connection. Lies often serve as the gateway to greater harm, enabling theft, betrayal, violence, and systemic injustice. In this sense, dishonesty is not just a moral lapse but a structural vulnerability - a common pathway leading to tragedy.

The fallacy of lying lies in its perceived utility. People lie to protect themselves, to gain an advantage, to avoid discomfort. Yet each lie carries a hidden cost: the corrosion of integrity. Integrity is not a static trait but a dynamic alignment between one's values, actions, and speech. It is the internal coherence that allows individuals to act with clarity and purpose. Honesty, then, is not merely the absence of lies but the active presence of truthfulness — a commitment to transparency, accountability, and moral courage.

SEE PAGE 11

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar receives War Room donated by Thailand

THE Thai government handed over the Surveillance War Room to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 August to monitor wildfires, smog and fine particulate matter (PM2.5), the Royal Thai Embassy to Myanmar said.

The donated quarantine room is the third of its kind in the country, after the ones in Kengtung and Tachilek.

“The operations room under the Thai-Myanmar Border Smog Management Project Phase 2 is responsible for monitoring the air pollution, especially forecasting cross-border air pollution. It will have an important role in monitoring and reporting,” Thai Ambassador Mongkol Visittump said.

It is expected to prevent the socioeconomic and health hazards caused by forest fires,



This photo showcases the Thai government official handing over the air pollution observatory Surveillance War Room to the Myanmar official.

smog and PM2.5, and to upgrade capacity building.

“It is also a partnership between the two countries on environmental and public health issues in line with the Joint Plan of Action-CLEAR Sky Strategy 2024-2030,” he continued.

The observatory is designed to facilitate collaborative monitoring and information exchange between Thai and Myanmar government departments, enabling the real-time tracking of satellite heat points, wildfires, air particles, and weather information.

It will facilitate the timely implementation of relevant prevention and control measures and serve as a platform for sharing experiences in addressing air pollution issues between the two countries, the Thai Embassy said in a statement. — Htun Htun/ZN

## MCEF holds Aug meeting



This image displays the monthly meeting for August of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Federation (MCEF).

THE central executive and the committee members of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Federation (MCEF) held their meeting for the month of August on 21 August in the MCEF hall.

At the ceremony, the President of the MCEF U Shein Win delivered an opening speech, and the general manager read

out the resolutions of the July meeting, which was followed by a monthly briefing and forward plans by general secretary U Ko Ko Lay, discussions by participants and an approval process.

The MCEF also held discussions on technical cooperation in the projects with the Myanmar International

Consulting Engineers Group (MICEG) and the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) at the MCEF office on 20 August.

At the meeting, they discussed the possibility of technical collaboration and mutual responsibility in the projects being undertaken by the MCEF. — Htun Htun/ZN

## Online applications for JLPT N1, N2, N5 close on 21 Aug

THE extension of online application for JLPT N1, N2 and N5 levels has stopped, the JLPT organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) said.

No seat is left to sell for N1, N2 and N5 for both Yangon and Mandalay exam stations on

21 August, and the extension of online application for these levels has stopped, said MAJA.

However, applications for N3 and N4 for both Yangon and Mandalay will continue to be accepted and will be closed when seats run out, it said. — MT/ZS



This image shows the JLPT exam being held in the previous year.

### Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Filming begins for Myanmar TV series ‘Must Scare’ in Yangon

THE Myanmar television series ‘Must Scare’ began filming in Yangon on 22 August, according to Academy Aye Chan Maung, who plays the lead role.

The story and screenplay were developed by Shwe Yi Shoon Lei. Directed by Aung Chan Lu, it is produced by Yangon Picture and No Rules Productions for the Mahar Application.

“Ko Aung Chan Lu’s films are always unique and innovative. This series will be both frightening and entertaining, and I believe it will be the most distinctive among the many ghost stories that have been screened,” said Academy Aye Chan Maung.

The cast includes Academy Aye Chan Maung, Wai Phyo, Nay Thit Aye Aung, Ye Htut Min Khaung, Hein Thant Zay, and Lwin Min Thant, and among others. — ASH/MKKS



The launch of filming the drama ‘Must Scare’.



This photo captures a fieldwork at Pyadalin Caves in Shan State, aiming to complete the Stone Age history of Myanmar.

MoRAC spearheads publication of comprehensive Myanmar history books

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is reportedly working to publish books on a unified chronology of Myanmar’s history.

In this regard, the following draft history books have been edited and prepared with the recommendations and guidance of leading historians: “The Formation of Myanmar’s Soil and the Discovery of Myanmar’s Primitive Fossils”, “The Myanmar Stone Age”, “The Myanmar Bronze and Iron Ages”, and “The Early Urban Culture of the Pyu Period”.

The ministry is working to collect, compile, and prepare necessary information, documentary photographs, and maps for printing, to ensure that the draft history books are free from errors and misconceptions.

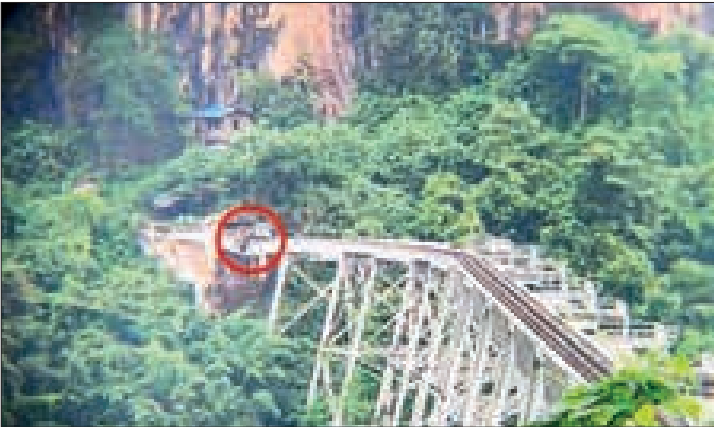
In addition, discussions are underway regarding the publication of the books, including approval of book sizes and cover designs, as well as the preparation and submission of the necessary procedures and requirements by the end of August. — ASH/TH

TNLA armed terrorists blow up 125-year-old Gokteik Viaduct

THE Gokteik Viaduct lies on Mandalay-Lashio road linking Nawngkhio Township and Kyaukme in Shan State (North).

At present, TNLA armed terrorists are committing terror acts based in Kyaukme and surrounding areas in northern Shan State. Yesterday morning, they brutally exploded the Gokteik Viaduct — one of Myanmar’s significant landmarks and a world wonder — by planting mines. As a result, the viaduct’s approach structure (AB 2) on the Kyaukme side, pier No P 16, and a 60-foot section of steel deck between approach structure (AB 2) and the pier were damaged.

It is reported that the act



The photo depicts the Gokteik Viaduct exploded by TNLA armed terrorists on 24 August 2025.

of TNLA armed terrorists, who maliciously and senselessly planted mines and destroyed a prominent and historic landmarks of the country unrelated to military affairs, has been completely rejected and strongly condemned by the entire public. Security forces will continue to carry out necessary and decisive operations to eradicate the terrorists and to ensure local peace, stability, and security. — GNLM

Threads of Truth: The Fragile Ethics ...

**FROM PAGE 9**

In Buddhist thought, speech is considered a powerful karmic force. Words shape reality, influence minds, and ripple through communities. To speak truthfully is to participate in the creation of a just and compassionate world. This is why the precept against false speech is not limited to avoiding lies but extends to refraining from gossip, slander, and harsh speech. It is a call to use language as a tool for healing rather than harm.

The tapestry of lies, honesty, and integrity is woven through every aspect of human interaction. Each thread represents a choice: to deceive or to reveal, to manipulate or to respect, to obscure or to illuminate. In this weaving, the strength of the fabric depends on the consistency of its pattern. A single lie may seem inconsequential, but like a loose thread, it can unravel the whole. Conversely, a life committed to truth builds resilience not only in the individual but in the collective.

Thus, while the first precept challenges us to grapple with the complexities of harm and compassion, the precept against false speech offers a clear and urgent imperative: to safeguard truth as the foundation of ethical life. Together, they remind us that morality is not a set of rigid rules but a living practice — one that demands reflection, intention, and the courage to align our words and actions with the deeper truths we seek to embody.

# India’s outbound investments surge 67% in FY25



The EY report highlights sectoral impacts across IT, energy, pharma, automotive, and hospitality. **PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

INDIA’S outbound investments has jumped by 67.74 per cent to US\$41.6 billion in FY2024-25 from US\$24.8 billion in FY2023-24, as per a new EY report.

The number of transactions also rose by 15 per cent, signalling a sharp uptick in global confidence, states the report titled

“India abroad: Navigating the global landscape for overseas investment – 2025”.

It highlights that Indian companies are focusing on diversification, prioritising environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects, and leveraging technology-led growth

*Sectoral impacts are noted across IT, energy, pharma, automotive, and hospitality.*

to drive their global expansion strategies. The EY report highlights sectoral impacts across IT, energy, pharma, automotive, and hospitality.

While intermediary jurisdictions like Singapore, the Netherlands, and Mauritius have long dominated outbound investment structuring, Indian companies are now broadening their horizons.

The report noted that the shift is being driven by changing global tax rules, tighter regulatory oversight, and evolving strategic priorities. Countries like the UAE, Luxembourg, and Switzerland are gaining ground, offering a mix of favorable tax regimes, progressive regulatory frameworks, and alignment with India’s interests in sustainability, digital innovation, and trade expansion. — ANI

## Afghan central bank reports 21% surge in local currency value

AFGHANISTAN’S central bank Da Afghanistan Bank announced a 21 per cent rise in the value of the afghani against foreign currencies, notably the US dollar, over the past four years, crediting strategic monetary policies and expanded global banking ties, local media outlet TOLONews reported Sunday.

“Our effort is to maintain the Afghani’s stability in a better way and not allow severe fluctuations to occur in this regard,” the media quoted Hasibullah Noori, the bank’s spokesman, as saying.

According to the official, the achievement is attributed to effective monetary policies aimed at stabilizing the nation’s economy, strengthening the banking sector, and enhancing financial support systems.

These efforts are part of a broader strategy to rebuild Afghanistan’s economy. — Xinhua

## Mexican president blames US migration policies for drop in July remittances

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum on Friday said US migration policies were responsible for a decrease in July remittances sent home by Mexicans living in the United States.

Sheinbaum said remittances dropped 16 per cent from June to July and are down by about 5 per cent so far in 2025, back to 2022 levels.

“Remittances increased substantially in 2023 and even more in 2024. Now we are at levels similar to 2022,” she told a daily news conference in Mexico City.

“What explains this? Above all, the policies the United States has imposed on our migrant brothers and sisters,” she said.

Sheinbaum said her government, along with Mexico’s central bank, is assessing the impact of the decline in remittances and considering measures to protect Mexican families reliant on the funds.

Sheinbaum stressed that the situation does not pose a risk to Mexico’s overall economy. — Xinhua

# Amid tourism surge, 92 Japan municipalities mull accommodation tax: poll

NINETY-TWO municipal governments across Japan have considered introducing lodging taxes at hotels and traditional Japanese ryokan inns, results from a recent Kyodo News survey showed.

A total of 42 municipalities have either already introduced or plan to introduce lodging taxes, with the figure likely to rise as many aim to utilize the levies to develop tourism infrastructure amid surging inbound arrivals.

The survey conducted between June and July garnered responses from a total of 1,723 local governments, or 96 per cent.

To introduce a lodging tax, local governments must enact an ordinance and gain the approval of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications.



Out of the 35 governments that have already obtained approval, 12 had already implemented lodging taxes as of the end of July. The remaining 23 plan to do so by 2026.

According to the survey, at least seven local governments have already enacted ordinances and plan to obtain approval.

Though they are yet to seriously consider it, 728 municipalities said they are “interested” in introducing lodging taxes, while 506 said that they are not interested in doing so. — Kyodo

To introduce a lodging tax, local governments must enact an ordinance and gain the approval of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications.  
**PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

# China issues interim rules on rare earth management

CHINESE authorities have unveiled a set of interim rules to strengthen the control and management of rare earth mining, smelting and separation.

The interim rules, made public on Friday, were jointly issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Taking into account factors including national economic development goals, the country's rare earth reserves and their types, industry development, ecological protection, and market demand, authorities will set annual quota targets for rare earth mining, smelting and

separation, and further allocate these quotas to related firms, according to the rules.

These firms should conduct mining, smelting and separation activities within the approved quota limits, while strictly complying with laws and administrative regulations.

The rules also specify that rare earth producers should keep accurate records of product flows and upload the data to a traceability information system for rare earth products.

Local authorities have been urged to step up supervision and inspection of quota implementation and address violations in accordance with the law. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 10 May 2024 shows a piece of rare earth ore at a rare earth museum in Baotou, North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



An Adani Port. **PHOTO: APSEZ)/ANI**

## Adani Ports kicks off logistics park in Kalamassery under 'Invest in Kerala' Initiative

ADANI Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has commenced construction of the Adani Logistics Park in Kalamassery, Kochi, with a groundbreaking ceremony inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The project is being developed as part of the state's 'Invest in Kerala' initiative to boost infrastructure and economic growth.

This landmark project marks a pivotal step in trans-

forming Kerala into a logistics and industrial powerhouse.

Strategically located in Kochi - a city rapidly emerging as a hub for industrial and logistics development, the park spans over 70 acres and is designed to reduce transportation costs, enable just-in-time operations, and enhance export capabilities across key sectors including e-commerce, FMCG/FMCD, pharmaceuticals, automotive, and retail.

The facility will feature EV charging stations, smart logistics solutions, and digital integration, emphasising sustainability and innovation.

The investment towards this will be over Rs 600 crore and is expected to generate over 1,500 jobs, fostering local employment, skill development, and economic growth, while creating opportunities for SMEs to thrive within the supply chain ecosystem. — ANI

## Nepal sees growth in remittances, forex reserves in past FY

NEPAL recorded a growth in both foreign exchange reserves and remittances in the 2024-25 fiscal year, which ended in mid-July, the central bank said on Sunday.

The forex reserves increased by 27.7 per cent to US\$19.5 billion, up from \$15.26 billion in 2023-24, the Nepal Rastra Bank said in a report.

Remittance inflows grew by 16.3 per cent year-on-year to \$12.64 billion in 2024-25.

"Based on the 2024-25 fiscal year imports, the foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise imports for 18.2 months and merchandise and services imports for 15.4 months," noted the report. — Xinhua

## France's regulator says unable to block dead streamer's channel

THE head of France's broadcast and online regulator said on Sunday it did not have the authority to block an online channel used by a streamer who died while live-casting.

Because the channel was hosted on an Australian platform, Kick, which has no representation in France, "it does not come under the direct authority of ARCOM", the agency chief, Martin Ajdari, said in an op-ed published by Le Monde.

Kick has come under intensified scrutiny in France after a 46-year-old Frenchman died August 18 during a 12-day marathon live streaming episode

on his channel, which specialised in him enduring abuse or humiliation dished out by other participants.

A post-mortem found that the man — real name Raphael Graven, but known online as "Jean Pormanove" or "JP" — was not killed by trauma or by someone else. The cause of death was likely a medical issue, possibly in conjunction with substances, a public prosecutor, Damien Martinelli, said on Thursday. He added that Graven may have suffered from heart problems and was undergoing medical treatment for his thyroid gland. — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

Japan, S Korea leaders pledge “future-oriented” ties based on history

President Lee chose Japan for his first overseas trip, highlighting the significance of the Japan-South Korea relationship despite historical tensions.

JAPAN and South Korea agreed Saturday to develop bilateral relations steadily and in a “future-oriented” manner based on the “foundation” laid since their ties were normalized six decades ago, as they face common security and economic challenges.



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (far R) and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung (2<sup>nd</sup> from L) hold talks in Tokyo on 23 August 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

Jae Myung agreed that the two nations, as “partners,” should step up cooperation and “strategic dialogue” over security. Lee’s choice of Japan over the United States for his first overseas trip for bilateral talks signaled the importance he places on the relationship despite strains over wartime history and territory. Once known for his firm stance, as president, he has taken a more pragmatic approach toward Japan, with which South Korea shares the United States as a common ally. During the nearly two-hour summit, Ishiba said he stands by the views on history expressed by his predecessors, a symbolic move underscoring the weight history still carries for both countries 80 years after the end of World War II. — Kyodo

Death toll from Gaza famine rises to 281

THE total number of deaths from malnutrition in the Gaza Strip caused by Israel’s blockade of aid access has risen to 281 people, including 114 children, the Gaza health ministry said on Saturday. “Over the past 24 hours, the Gaza health ministry has registered eight deaths from hunger and malnutrition, including two children. This brings the total death toll from starvation to 281 with 114 children,” the statement read. On Friday, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) confirmed catastrophic levels of famine in the Gaza Strip for the first time since the conflict began in 2023. According to the UN Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), there are five phases of malnutrition, with phases from three to five marking severe food deprivation. — SPUTNIK

Europe halts US-bound parcels over tax rule shake-up

MULTIPLE postal operators across Europe are suspending most package shipments to the United States, citing uncertainty, confusion and rising costs linked to forthcoming US customs regulations on low-value imports. DHL Group, Germany’s largest postal and logistics company, announced Friday it will temporarily stop accepting commercial goods and certain private parcels to the United States through postal channels. The decision follows an executive order signed by US President Donald Trump last month, which sets to abolish the longstanding “de minimis” rule that allowed duty-free imports of low-value goods worth up to \$800. Under the new framework, effective 29 August all imported items will be subject to customs clearance and tariffs. DHL noted, however, that the measure will not affect gifts under 100 dollars exchanged between in-



DHL’s suspension of US shipments is due to unclear customs procedures, leading to concerns about reliable processing and smooth clearance. PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK individuals, if clearly marked as such, nor the mailing of letters and documents, though these may face stricter controls. Shipments sent via DHL Express will remain available but must undergo standard tariff-based clearance. DHL also said the suspension was unavoidable, as key details of the new customs procedures remain unclear. Without guarantees of smooth clearance, the company cannot process shipments reliably. — Xinhua

WWII film “Dongji Rescue” debuts in North America

THE World War II (WWII) film “Dongji Rescue” was officially released in a number of major cities across North America on Friday. The highly-anticipated film is based on a true story that took place in October 1942, when the Lisbon Maru, a cargo ship requisitioned by the Japanese army to transport more than 1,800 British prisoners of war (POWs) from Hong Kong to Japan, was torpedoed by a US submarine off the Zhoushan Islands in China’s Zhejiang Province. Local fishermen from Dongji Island risked their lives to rescue more than 300 of the POWs. Released by Well Go USA Entertainment in Mandarin with English subtitles, the film is being shown in about 70 theatres across dozens of North American cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Chicago, New York, Boston, Toronto and Vancouver. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Team Myanmar honoured for 2<sup>nd</sup> place at ASEAN Women’s Championship

A ceremony was held yesterday at No-votel Yangon Max Hotel to honour the Myanmar women’s national football team, who finished second at the 2025 ASEAN Women’s Championship. The team received a total of US\$80,000 and K523 million in prize money.

During the ceremony, highlights of the team’s performance throughout the tournament were screened. Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism Jeng Phang Naw Taung delivered a congratulatory speech, followed by the presentation of US\$80,000 by the Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Extra prizes were awarded by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw, and other donors. The total prize money of US\$80,000 and K523 million was formally handed over to the team members, coaching staff, and officials. Top scorer Win Theingi Tun expressed her gratitude on video, while team captain Khin Marlar Tun also thanked the organizers.



Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Chief Minister U Soe Thein, and MFF President U Zaw Zaw presenting cash awards to the Myanmar women’s national team. **PHOTO: THAW GYI**

From 6 to 19 August, the Myanmar women’s team competed in Vietnam at the ASEAN Women’s Championship, showcasing strong performances to secure the second place. The team defeated Australia 2-1 and Timor-Leste 3-0 in the group stage, drew 1-1 with the Philippines, and finished top of their group with seven points. In the semifinals, they beat Thailand 2-1 but were narrowly defeated by Australia

in the final, earning the runner-up position. Along with the second-place award, Win Theingi Tun received the top scorer title with seven goals, while Myo Mya Mya Nyein was named the best goalkeeper. This marked the team’s return to the final after ten years, adding to their record of two championships, four runner-up finishes, and three third-place finishes. — Thaw Lay/KZL

Chinese veteran Xiaohai defends Street Fighter 6 crown at Esports World Cup

CHINESE fighting game veteran Zeng Zhuojun, also known as Xiaohai, successfully defended his title at the 2025 Esports World Cup (EWC) in Riyadh on Sunday, edging Chilean teenager Derek Blaz 5-4 in the Street Fighter 6 final.

The 33-year-old, representing KuaiShou Gaming, pocketed US\$250,000 with the victory, becoming only the third player in EWC history to claim back-to-back championships.

The grand final showcased a clash

of generations. Zeng relied on his experience and adaptability to withstand the fearless challenge of 15-year-old Blaz, who had advanced to the title match after eliminating several world-class opponents. — Xinhua

Arteta backs Eze to create 'magic moments' at Arsenal

NEW recruit Eberechi Eze will create "magic moments" and take Arsenal to a different level, according to Gunners manager Mikel Arteta.

Eze was presented to the Emirates crowd shortly before Arsenal's 5-0 thrashing of Leeds that took the north London club to the top of the Premier League table early in the season.

The England international has signed a four-year contract in a deal that could be worth up to £68 million (\$92 million) after Arsenal scuppered his proposed move to their arch north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur.

The 27-year-old did not arrive in time to face Leeds, but with both Bukayo Saka and Martin Odegaard sustaining injuries in Arsenal’s second win in as many matches, Eze could be handed his Gunners debut against reigning champions Liverpool at Anfield next Sunday. — AFP



Eberechi Eze waves to the crowd as he is unveiled as a new Arsenal signing ahead of the Gunners' Premier League football match against Leeds at the Emirates Stadium. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar sweep medals at Asian Bodybuilding Championship



Officials and winners pose for documentary group photo during 57<sup>th</sup> Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Bangkok, Thailand.

ATHLETES of the Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation competed in the LVII Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship,

which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 25 August 2025.

The Myanmar team was led by Federation President and Nay Pyi Taw Vice Mayor U Nyi Nyi,

accompanied by one team manager, three coaches, two judges, and 20 athletes, making up a total of 26 members.

At the championship, Myanmar athletes achieved significant success. On 22 August, Maung Maung Myint won the silver medal in the Men’s Bodybuilding 40-49 kilogramme category and added a bronze medal in the 70 kilogramme category.

On 23 August, Chan Myae Htun secured the gold medal in the 75 kilogramme category, while Sai Thet Naung Oo earned a bronze medal in the Men’s Physique 175 centimetre category.

Also, Myo Thura Kyaw claimed a bronze medal in the Men’s Physique above 180 centimetre category.

On 24 August, Zu Zu Thant won the gold medal in the Women’s Model Physique up to 170 centimetre event, and Moe Thet Khine claimed the silver medal in the Women’s Wellness Physique category. Chan Myae Htun also received the Best Poser Award.

With these results, the Myanmar team secured a total of seven medals — two gold, two silver, and three bronze medals — together with one special award of body posture at the LVII

Asian Championship.

At the XIX Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship, where 167 athletes from 28 countries competed, the Myanmar team earned three gold, two silver, and three bronze medals. The men’s team placed third in the overall country standings, and the women’s team also secured third place. Furthermore, at the LVII Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship, the Myanmar team added two gold, two silver, and three bronze medals to their tally. — MNA/KZL



# China holds third rehearsal for event marking 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory over Japanese aggression, fascism

*Held in Tian'anmen Square, the rehearsal tested coordination among all processes and segments, ensuring smooth operations for the event.*

THE third comprehensive rehearsal for the upcoming grand gathering to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War concluded in Beijing early Sunday, according to the event's media center.

The rehearsal was held from 5 pm Saturday to 5 am Sunday in Tian'anmen Square.

Organizers said it was a full-process, full-element rehearsal and also the final comprehensive one for the commemoration. It focused on testing the coordination between all processes and segments, laying a solid foundation for the success of the event.

All processes were organized in an orderly manner; with tight transitions and smooth operation, achieving the intended objectives, they added.

The grand gathering, which will include a military parade, is scheduled for 3 September in Tian'anmen Square. — Xinhua

People visit an exhibition themed “For National Liberation and World Peace” at the Museum of the War of Chinese People's Resistance Against Japanese Aggression in Beijing, capital of China, 8 July 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



## North Korea test fires modified advanced surface-to-air missiles



North Korea's Missile Administration conducts a test launch of new air defence missile on 23 August 2025. **PHOTO: KCNA/KYODO**

A test of modified advanced surface-to-air missiles to assess their combat capabilities has been conducted in North Korea, with the country's leader Kim Jong-un observing the event, according to the news agency KCNA.

“The General Directorate of

Missile Development of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea carried out a test firing of modified advanced surface-to-air missiles of two types at various targets to check their combat characteristics.

The General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, Chairman

of State Affairs Kim Jong-un, observed the firing,” the news agency report stated.

According to KCNA, the technical specifications of the missiles were recognized as effective for destroying various aerial targets. — SPUTNIK

### INNOVATIVE STRATEGY

#### Laos expands eco-friendly mosquito method to combat dengue

IN the fight against dengue, Laos is expanding the release of Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes, a safe and effective method that turns mosquitoes into tiny warriors against the virus.

In early August, Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes were released across seven districts of the capital Vientiane. The move builds on the success of a pilot project in 2022, which saw the deployment of Wolbachia mosquitoes in several areas of the city, protecting 32 villages and nearly 86,000 people.

Wolbachia is a natural and safe bacterium that reduces the ability of dengue-carrying Aedes aegypti mosquitoes to transmit viruses between people. The bacteria-carrying mosquitoes breed with the wild Aedes aegypti mosquitoes in the area, passing Wolbachia to their offspring.

Many citizens have expressed strong support for the ongoing efforts, particularly among those who value environmental protection.

Khonesavanh, a resident of Laos, praised the government's eco-friendly approach to combating dengue fever, emphasizing its dual benefit of protecting public health and the environment. — Xinhua