

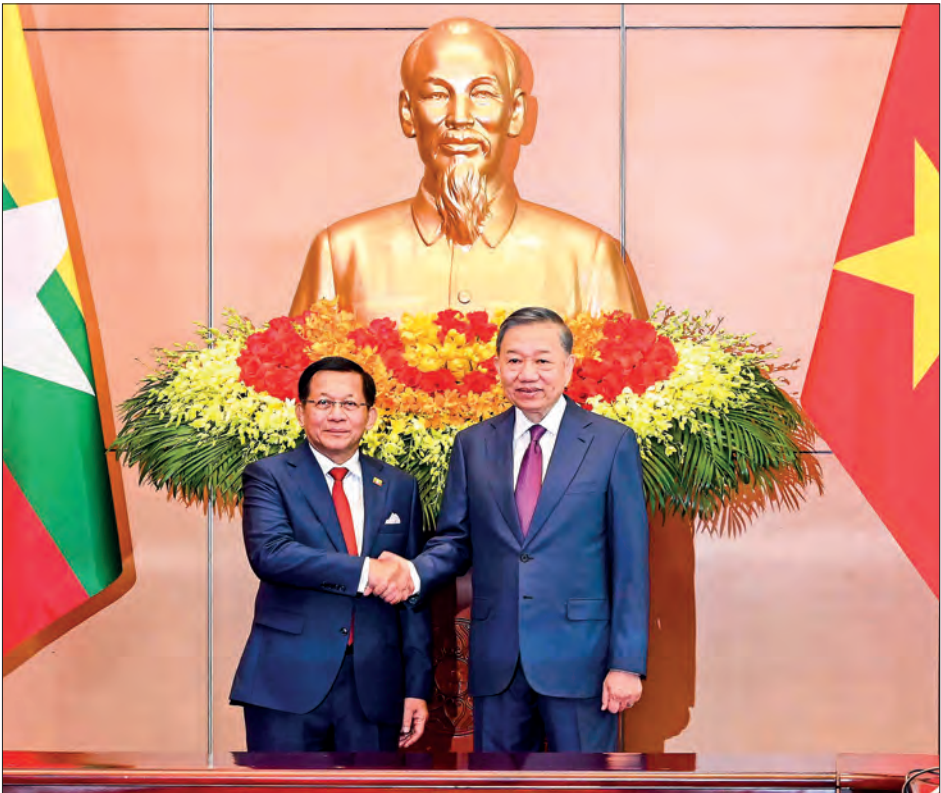
The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**

Myanmar-Viet Nam Friendship and Cooperation to Advance to a New Level

The Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership will continue to advance in a practical way, building on the positive outcomes of recent discussions.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, on their official visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, were welcomed by President of the SRV Mr To Lam and his spouse at the square of the National Assembly Building with the Guard of Honour yesterday morning. Vietnamese President Mr To Lam and his spouse warmly welcomed President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

SEE PAGE 3



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing exchanges greetings with President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr To Lam in Hanoi, Viet Nam, yesterday.

Myanmar, Nicaragua Explore Creative Economy Ties

DISCUSSIONS were held on potential opportunities for cooperation between Myanmar and Nicaragua in the creative economy sector, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The talks took place in the meeting room of the Creative Economy Secretariat during the first week of September between Myanmar Ambassador to Nicaragua U Tun Aung Kyaw and Madame Camila Ortega Murillo, General Coordinator of Nicaragua's National Commission of



Myanmar Ambassador U Tun Aung Kyaw presents gift to officials of the Nicaraguan government.

Creative Economy. During the meeting, the General Coordinator explained the Nicaraguan Government's efforts to promote the creative economy to improve citizens' living standards, as well as the establishment of "Creative Cities".

The Myanmar Ambassador praised Nicaragua's production of regional products and the socio-economic development driven by its creative economy and expressed his intention to explore opportunities for bilateral cooperation in this sector.

The meeting was also attended by Secretariat officials, including Secretary Mr Humberto González Calderón, Co-Secretary Mr Luis Morales Alonso and Assistant Secretary Ms Sonia Porras Green. — ASH/TH



This image showcases Myanmar lacquerware attracting many Chinese and Japanese tourists.

Chinese and Japanese tourists eye Myanmar lacquerware

SEE PAGE 6

Authentic taste of tea, enjoy

SHWE PHE OO

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NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

- (a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people
- (b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation
- (c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts
- (d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 5 September 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea, the East Central and Southeast Bay of Bengal and a few clouds elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 6 September 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions, and Kayah and Chin states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and upper Sagaing regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states, with a likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Mon states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Bago, Magway, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan states. In areas along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur; therefore, it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena in advance.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of an increase in rain in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin and eastern Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 September 2026: One or two instances of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 September 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Vice-President U Nyo Saw arrives back in Yangon

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw, who attended the 11th Eastern Economic Forum in the Russian Federation, left Russia for Yangon by air on the morning of 5 September.

The Vice-President arrived back in Yangon on the same evening.

Upon arrival at Yangon International Airport, Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, the Yangon Command commander, the Yangon mayor, regional ministers, and the relevant officials of the Russian Embassy welcomed him.



Vice-President U Nyo Saw is pictured being welcomed back after attending the 11th Eastern Economic Forum in the Russian Federation.

The delegates led by the Vice-President to Russia included the Union Minister for Electricity and Energy and deputy ministers. — MNA/KTZH

Five-year strategic development plan adopted to elevate Hluttaw sector



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets Hluttaw representatives in Mandalay Region at the Thabin Hall of Mandalay Region Hluttaw yesterday.

THE primary responsibilities of Hluttaws are legislation and representing the people, said Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi at the meeting with Hluttaw representatives in Mandalay Region at the Thabin Hall of Mandalay Region Hluttaw yesterday morning.

Speaking at the meeting, the Speaker outlined that the Hluttaws must cooperate and coordinate with one another to systematically strengthen the legislative pillar and develop the Hluttaw sector.

He revealed that a five-year strategic de-

velopment plan has been formulated and adopted to advance and elevate the Hluttaw sector.

The Speaker underlined that Hluttaw committees must invite experts and practitioners from relevant fields, examine the legal challenges encountered in practical operations, as well as their recommendations in analyzing the laws required for the development of various sectors within their respective regions and states, thereby providing support to further strengthen the Hluttaw.

The Speaker

stressed that Universities and civil society organizations within the respective regions should be invited to arrange study visits to the Hluttaw. Furthermore, to provide real-time updates on Hluttaw activities, they are encouraged to form information teams comprising Hluttaw representatives, establish Hluttaw websites, and launch social media pages so that the public can be kept informed in a timely manner.

The Speaker underscored that to further support efforts to advance and elevate the Hluttaw sector, it is necessary to adopt Hluttaw practices and conduct public awareness initiatives akin to those of international parliaments, such as the Open Parliament, the Mock Parliament, the Public Hearings, and the Online Petition Committees.

The Speaker stated that Myanmar has participated since the inception of the ASEAN Inter-Par-

liamentary Organization (AIPO) and continues to remain a member of the current ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Likewise, we remain a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and efforts are being scaled up to enhance cooperation on the international stage, as well as with both the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw reported on convening the regional Hluttaw and the work process. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also gave instructions to chairpersons and secretaries from relevant Hluttaw committees.

In the afternoon, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker extended greetings to staff of the regional Hluttaw office and presented financial assistance for the offspring of regional Hluttaw staff and food-stuffs to those staff. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Viet Nam discuss cooperation among parliaments

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in Viet Nam at the invitation of President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr To Lam and his spouse, held talks with Chairman of the National Assembly of Viet Nam Mr Tran Thanh Man at the National Assembly Building in Hanoi yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman warmly welcomed President U Min Aung Hlaing and the high-level Myanmar delegation, expressing his delight at Myanmar's successful holding of the multiparty democratic general election and the formation of a new government.

He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts being made under the leadership of President U Min Aung Hlaing to ensure State stability and peace, improve the socioeconomic well-being of the people, achieve positive results across various sectors, including international relations, and promote national development through comprehensive efforts.

He reaffirmed that Viet Nam respects and values Myanmar's sovereignty,



President U Min Aung Hlaing meets Chairman of the National Assembly of Viet Nam Mr Tran Thanh Man at the National Assembly Building in Hanoi yesterday.

territorial integrity and right to make independent decisions. He also said that Myanmar could regard Viet Nam as a reliable and trusted friend.

The Viet Nam-Myanmar comprehensive cooperative partnership would continue to develop, bringing practical benefits to the peoples of both countries and making positive contributions to peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

In response, President U Min Aung Hlaing expressed his great pleasure at meeting Mr Tran Thanh Man, Chairman of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, an important pillar of the country's legislative sys-

tem. He also extended his congratulations on Mr Tran Thanh Man's re-election as Chairman of the National Assembly.

He expressed his sincere appreciation for Viet Nam's dispatch of a delegation to attend the oath-taking ceremony for the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held in April 2026.

He continued that the meeting would provide an opportunity for frank and cordial discussions on ways to further promote friendship, mutual understanding and trust, and cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries. Myanmar and Viet Nam have maintained strong and

extensive cooperation not only between their respective governments, armed forces, political parties and peoples, but also across various sectors.

He noted with appreciation that Viet Nam has established diplomatic relations with all United Nations member states and has comprehensive strategic partnership relations with all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. He also expressed gratitude for Viet Nam's support for Myanmar in the international and ASEAN landscape.

He said that mutual trust between Viet Nam and Myanmar, together with close contacts among sen-

ior officials of the two countries, has contributed to the continued strengthening of relations and cooperation between the two countries and their respective armed forces.

Myanmar regards parliamentary relations with Viet Nam as an important political pillar of bilateral relations. He noted that cooperation between the two political parties and legislative bodies would contribute to further strengthening the existing ties between the two countries, and support for reciprocal visits between the Speakers of the two parliaments.

He said that as Myanmar now has a new government elected by the people

and its legislative bodies have resumed operations, Myanmar looks forward to learning from Viet Nam's experience in legislation and parliamentary oversight. He also called for closer cooperation between the two parliaments, including mutual support at regional and international parliamentary forums and greater cooperation among ASEAN parliaments. He said the new Myanmar Government would implement practical reforms to strengthen the multiparty democratic system and promote national development, while further strengthening friendly relations with neighbouring and partner countries and pursuing regional interests in a balanced manner.

The two leaders then cordially exchanged views on matters concerning the promotion of bilateral cooperation and ways to further enhance cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

They then posed for a commemorative photo and cordially greeted those in attendance. President U Min Aung Hlaing observed the parliament building, departed from the parliament compound, and Mr Tran Thanh Man warmly accompanied him and saw him off. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar-Viet Nam Friendship and Cooperation to ...

FROM PAGE 1

The two Presidents took the salute of the Guard of Honour while the national anthems of both countries were played and inspected the Guard of Honour.

The two Presidents and their spouses introduced their respective entourages to each other and then proceeded to the National Assembly Hall.

At the meeting, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam stated that he is proud and delighted that Myanmar has successfully held a

general election and formed a new elected government. They are also proud of the significant outcomes achieved by the Government and people of Myanmar under the leadership of Your Excellency the President in promoting stability and peace, improving socioeconomic conditions, strengthening the administrative mechanism, and enhancing and consolidating relations with the international community and the region. Myanmar and Viet Nam

share close friendship and good historical relations that have been nurtured by the leaders and peoples of the two countries over successive generations. Furthermore, the two countries established a Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership in 2017. As neighbouring countries in mainland South-East Asia and members of ASEAN, Myanmar and Viet Nam share many similarities. They are also closely connected by similarities in their traditional cultures, customs and histories, particularly

their shared experiences in the struggle for independence, making the two countries very close and familiar with each other.

He also said that Myanmar Prime Minister U Nu visited Viet Nam in 1954, while President Ho Chi Minh of Viet Nam visited Myanmar in February 1958, laying the foundations for friendship between the two countries. Your Excellency the President's current visit is one that will further strengthen the friendship, comprehensive cooperation

and partnership between the two countries and will help produce many practical outcomes for further deepening, consolidating and effectively advancing Viet Nam-Myanmar relations in the years ahead.

In response, the President of Myanmar expressed his delight at Your Excellency's assumption of the positions of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and President of the State.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing honoured at state dinner in Hanoi, Viet Nam

PRESIDENT of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr To Lam and his spouse hosted President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla at a state dinner at the Presidential Office's Tonkin Palace in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

The dinner was attended by members of the Myanmar high-level delegation, the

Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar, the Myanmar Military Attaché and officials, senior Vietnamese government officials and other dignitaries. The two Presidents and their spouses exchanged warm greetings and posed for photographs before the dinner. The Presidents then delivered welcoming remarks and joined the guests for the state dinner. — MNA/KZL



President U Min Aung Hlaing, President Mr To Lam and their spouses attend a state dinner hosted by President Mr To Lam at the Presidential Office's Tonkin Palace in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Myanmar-Viet Nam Friendship and Cooperation to ...

FROM PAGE 3

The President expressed his profound respect for the efforts of the Vietnamese people in their struggle for independence and national reunification, as well as their continuous endeavours to build and develop the country.

He continued that the diplomatic relations between the two countries have reached their 50th anniversary, marking the golden jubilee, and it is gratifying to note that the two countries have been able to cooperate amicably across a wide range of fields and sectors throughout this long period of diplomatic relations. Since the time of national leaders such as President Ho Chi Minh of Viet Nam, former Myanmar Prime Minister U Nu and former President U Ne Win, the two countries have been good friends with close and cordial ties akin to those between brothers. President Ho Chi Minh's visit was an important milestone in the history of relations between the two countries. During that visit, Yangon University conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on President Ho Chi Minh.

The President said that the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership between the two countries, established in 2017, will mark its 10th anniversary in 2027. They would work together to commemorate this milestone, further elevate and strengthen bilateral relations to a higher level, and formulate a practical cooperation plan for the next decade.

He said that he fully understood that the two countries shared similar histories of struggles for independence and had faced and overcome many diffi-

culties. He expressed his respect and pride for the successive leaders of Viet Nam for their achievement in building a comprehensively developed country despite having endured the devastation of war as well as sanctions and restrictions for decades. He also noted that cooperation between the two armed forces was playing an important role in further strengthening the good relations between the two countries, together with the existing bonds of friendship and cordiality.

He stated that they wished to further promote relations among the governments, parliaments, political parties and peoples of the two countries. He noted that a Myanmar-Viet Nam Parliamentary Friendship Association had recently been formed in the National Assembly with 10 members, and expressed his belief that enhancing contacts and reciprocal study visits between such friendship associations would help the two countries gain a better understanding of the aspirations, needs and development of their respective peoples. He also expressed his desire to encourage greater exchanges and interactions not only among parliamentarians but also among young and women parliamentarians.

The President of Myanmar highlighted that **at present, the Hluttaw and government that emerged from a free and fair general election are in charge in Myanmar, and the government has set and is implementing two priority objectives: achieving stability and peace in the country and promoting national development.**

He underscored that, as Viet

Nam was one of the leading countries in terms of economic development among ASEAN member states, they wished to further enhance multifaceted cooperation with Viet Nam, including trade in goods and investment. He noted that **Myanmar was strategically located as an important geographic bridge linking South Asia, South-East Asia and East Asia.** He said that Viet Nam, Laos and Myanmar could cooperate in effectively utilizing the Asian Highway Network and the East-West Economic Corridor to further strengthen stable and secure connectivity. In particular, he expressed his desire to **enhance practical cooperation among the three countries in the transport, cross-border trade and logistics sectors in order to further strengthen the Myanmar-Thailand-Laos-Viet Nam East-West Economic Corridor. He said that upgrading transport routes such as the Myanmar-Laos-Viet Nam and Myanmar-Thailand-Laos-Viet Nam corridors and connecting them with Myanmar could bring significant benefits to regional trade and socioeconomic development.** He also said that the Myanmar-India-Thailand Trilateral Highway project was being implemented. By connecting Viet Nam to this highway through Laos and Myanmar, Viet Nam could gain easier access to South Asian and western markets, including India, while Myanmar could likewise gain easier access to East Asian markets through Laos and Viet Nam.

The President stated that, in the field of international relations, Myanmar would pursue balanced and harmonious relations in ac-

cordance with its independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy. He stated that Myanmar would continue to participate fully and on an equal basis in regional organizations such as BIMSTEC, GMS, CLMV and ACMECS. He also expressed his belief that the traditional bonds of friendship and the multifaceted and multisectoral cooperation between Myanmar and Viet Nam would advance to a new level.

The Vietnamese President said that **he had recognized the great vision of Your Excellency the President, who had broadly discussed the prospects for further promoting the existing bonds of friendship and relations between the two countries, as well as enhancing cooperation for the mutual interests of the two countries and the region.** He stated that Viet Nam would conduct studies and analyzes and undertake cooperation concerning the strengthening of the Myanmar-Thailand-Laos-Viet Nam East-West Economic Corridor and the India-Myanmar-Laos-Viet Nam route. He also said that Viet Nam had been able to achieve and enjoy the successes it had attained over the past 40 years because it had continuously implemented reforms and changes.

The Vietnamese President revealed that **Viet Nam was ready to advance to a new stage of comprehensive, robust and practical cooperation with Myanmar. He stated that Viet Nam wished to enhance cooperation across a wide range of areas, including promoting political trust and mutual understanding between the two countries; defence and security; the econ-**

omy, trade and investment; connectivity; information and technology cooperation; social affairs, culture, education and tourism; and mutual support and cooperation on regional and international issues. He expressed his pride and delight at the visit of the high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to Viet Nam. He also expressed his profound belief that, based on the positive outcomes of the discussions, the Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership would continue to develop practically. He also extended his best wishes for Myanmar and its people to achieve development, prosperity and well-being as soon as possible under the leadership of Your Excellency.

Furthermore, the two President cordially exchanged views on Myanmar's political developments; economic, trade and investment matters; agriculture and livestock breeding; the industrial sector; the renewable energy sector; education, health and human resources development; communication, digital technology and innovation; social and women's affairs; culture and people-to-people exchanges; tourism and aviation connectivity; efforts to combat online scams and illegal gambling; cooperation in regional and international issues; and ways to further promote the existing bonds of friendship, relations and cooperation between the two countries.

After the meeting, the two Heads of State cordially greeted officials from both countries. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

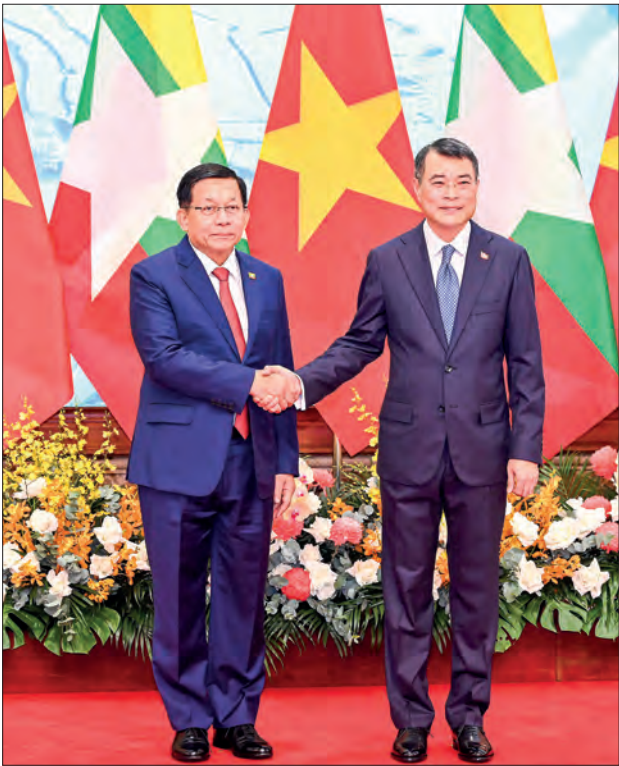
Myanmar, Viet Nam to Deepen Multi-Sector Ties

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, held a meeting with Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr Le Minh Hung at the Grand Hall of the Government Office in Hanoi yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Le Minh Hung said that the President's current visit would further deepen political trust and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries and would help elevate bilateral relations and common interests to a new level in the future. He expressed Viet Nam's sympathy and understanding regarding the difficulties

currently faced by Myanmar and said that Viet Nam supports the Myanmar Government's efforts to restore internal stability and peace, promote national economic development, improve the living standards of the people, and strengthen relations with regional and international countries.

He added that Viet Nam attaches great importance to the long-term development of its comprehensive cooperation partnership with Myanmar. He also expressed appreciation for the mutual assistance provided by the two countries during difficult periods, including the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, as well as Myanmar's support and assistance in enabling Vietnamese businesses to



President U Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr Le Minh Hung at the Grand Hall of the Government Office in Hanoi yesterday.

continue investing and operating in Myanmar despite challenges.

In response, President U Min Aung Hlaing extended his sincere congratulations to Mr Le Minh Hung on his election and appointment as Prime Minister at the 16th National Assembly of Viet Nam held in April. He said that Myanmar and Viet Nam are historically friendly countries and that successive leaders of both countries have paid reciprocal visits, maintaining friendly, cordial and trusted relations over the years.

Under the current government, bilateral relations have been gaining momentum through the enhancement of diplomatic relations, reciprocal high-level visits and the resumption

of bilateral mechanisms that had been suspended, including the Joint Committee (JC) on bilateral cooperation.

He said that the current visit represents an opportunity to open a new chapter in Myanmar-Viet Nam relations. He also expressed his pleasure at meeting the Vietnamese Prime Minister and having frank and cordial discussions on ways to further promote bilateral relations and cooperation. Both the countries are currently implementing important political and economic development policies, making this an opportune time to open a new chapter in bilateral relations by identifying mutually beneficial opportunities for cooperation.

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Myanmar delegation led by President U Min Aung Hlaing pays tribute at National Monument, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi



President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay tribute at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi yesterday.

AT the invitation of President Mr To Lam of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and his spouse, a high-level delegation from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, led by President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, visited Viet Nam and laid wreaths to pay tribute at the National Monument to Heroes and Martyrs and the Ho Chi

Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi yesterday morning.

The high-level delegation, led by the President and his spouse, arrived at the National Monument to Heroes and Martyrs, where they were warmly welcomed by the Director of the Monument Management Board and senior Vietnamese officials. The President, his spouse and delegation members then

took their positions at the wreath-laying site.

Subsequently, two members of the Viet Nam People's Army carried and placed the wreath. As the military band played a tribute to the martyrs, the President and delegation members paid their respects.

Afterwards, the President and his spouse warmly greeted the Di-

rector of the Monument Management Board and senior Vietnamese officials before proceeding to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Upon their arrival, the head of the mausoleum management board and senior Vietnamese officials welcomed the delegation led by the President and his spouse and accompanied them to the mausoleum.

Following this, two members of the Viet Nam People's Army carried and placed a wreath. As the military band played a tribute to the late President Ho Chi Minh, the President and members of the delegation paid their respects.

The President and his spouse toured the interior of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum before departing. The head of the mausoleum management board and senior Vietnamese officials warmly bade them farewell. — MNA/TH

Myanmar President's spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visits Van Phuc Silk Village



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Spouse of President U Min Aung Hlaing, visits Van Phuc Silk Village yesterday.

DAW KYU KYU HLA, Spouse of President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on her official visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, visited Van Phuc Silk Village yesterday morning.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the spouse of the President of Myanmar, was warmly welcomed by Madame Ngô Phng Ly, the spouse of the Vietnamese President, and officials from Van Phuc Silk Village.

Madame Ngô Phng Ly and officials toured Daw Kyu Kyu Hla around the working process of weaving traditional Vietnamese silk wares.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and Madame Ngô Phng Ly observed silk wares displayed in Van Phuc Silk Village.

Van Phuc Silk Village is one of Viet Nam's most renowned traditional silk-weaving villages. The village has a history of more than 1,000 years of traditional silk weaving and is recognized as an important cultural heritage of Viet Nam's traditional weaving industry. Visitors can observe the various stages of silk production, from

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NATIONAL

Myanmar, Viet Nam to Deepen ...

FROM PAGE 5

The President continued that since assuming duties, the government has been pursuing two priority objectives – ensuring state stability and peace and promoting national development. The government is emphasizing sectors including infrastructure development, agriculture and livestock breeding, transport, upgrading roads and bridges, communications, education, healthcare and rural development. The procedures would be reviewed and streamlined to facilitate faster and more efficient business operations under simplified

rules and regulations, to encourage both domestic and foreign investment.

Expressing his appreciation for Viet Nam's rapid economic development following nearly 40 years of implementing the Doi Moi economic reform policy, he said he would welcome the sharing of Viet Nam's experiences in economic reform and development.

He also expressed his pleasure at having the opportunity to exchange views and hold frank discussions on matters of mutual benefit. He said that the outcomes of the meeting could be practically implemented and that

the existing momentum of cooperation and friendship between the two countries could be further strengthened in the future.

Moreover, the two leaders exchanged views on developments in Myanmar, ways to further promote bilateral relations, and opportunities to enhance cooperation between the two governments, parliaments and peoples, ways to promote cooperation in the defence and security, economic, trade and investment, agriculture and livestock, education and healthcare, social affairs and women's affairs, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchange,

and communications technology sectors. They also exchanged views on Myanmar's efforts to maintain balanced and harmonious relations in its international relations and to continue cooperation with regional partner countries, including Viet Nam, across various political, economic and social sectors.

After the meeting, they cordially greeted those in attendance.

President U Min Aung Hlaing departed from the Government Office in Hanoi, Prime Minister Mr Le Minh Hung warmly accompanied him and saw him off. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar President's spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visits Van Phuc Silk ...

FROM PAGE 5

Viet Nam's silk industry and the preservation of traditional craftsmanship. Madame Ngô Phng Ly hosted a traditional Vietnamese tea for Daw Kyu Kyu Hla. Afterwards, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials of the village exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for documentary photos. Madame Ngô Phng Ly and officials from the village saw off Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and delegation members who departed from the silk village. — can explore the history of

traditional craftsmanship.

Madame Ngô Phng Ly hosted a traditional Vietnamese tea for Daw Kyu Kyu Hla. Afterwards, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and officials of the village exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for documentary photos.

Madame Ngô Phng Ly and officials from the village saw off Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and delegation members who departed from the silk village. — MNA/TTA

Deputy Information Minister attends Asia-Pacific Media Forum

THE Asia-Pacific Media Forum took place at the Qianhai International Convention Centre in China yesterday morning.

The forum was attended by representatives of media organizations from China and Asia-Pacific countries, officials from international organizations, and journalists.

During the opening ceremony, United Nations Under-Secretary-General Melissa Fleming, Editor-in-Chief of Xinhua News Agency Mr Lyu Yansong, and representatives from Pakistan, Russia, the IMF, CNN, Peru and China Power Grid Co Ltd delivered remarks. This was followed by the exchange of memorandums of understanding on media cooperation.

Deputy Minister for In-



The Asia-Pacific Media Forum in progress at the Qianhai International Convention Centre in China yesterday.

formation U Ye Tint also delivered remarks.

He stated, "In the digital world, alongside the rapid flow of information and advancements, there are also many challenges that need to be addressed and tackled. In this era, all are facing the spread

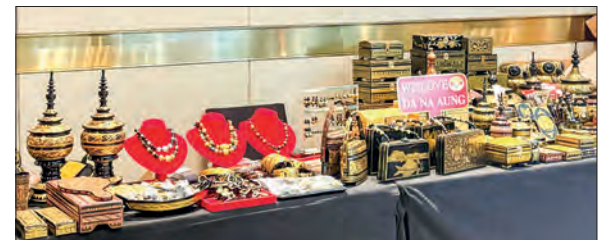
of fake and false news, the technological divide, and many global challenges. Meanwhile, the role of the media has become even more crucial in building peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, and in constructing a stable, peaceful, and har-

monious society."

The deputy minister also pointed out, "First, we must place truth, accuracy, and accountability above speed. Second, we must respect different histories, cultures, and development paths, while avoiding stereotypes and one-sided narratives. Third, we should not only report problems; we should also share successful cooperation, innovative solutions, and development experiences that make a real difference in people's lives."

During the forum, the deputy minister replied to the questions raised by journalist Feng Shuoren of Xinhua News Agency regarding Asia-Pacific communication and the China International Import Expo (CIIE). — MNA/KTZH

Chinese and Japanese tourists eye Myanmar lacquerware



This image showcases Myanmar lacquerware attracting many Chinese and Japanese tourists.

FROM PAGE 1

MYANMAR lacquerware produced in Bagan has caught the attention of Chinese and Japanese tourists in particular, among foreigners visiting Myanmar, said Dana Aung Myanmar handicrafts shop's founder Ko Maung Maung Aye. The handicrafts shop opened in 2022 at the Secretariat in Botahtaung Township. It mainly trades in Bagan lacquerware and sells sculptures.

"Among lacquerware, coffee mugs, ballpoint pens, lighters, hair accessories and key chain holders are being sold the most. And tea leaf salad trays, food-offering bowls and tea sets are being sold. Among foreign tourists, those from Korea, China, Japan and Russia, are more interested in our products," said Ko Maung Maung Aye. At present, Myanmar's lacquerware industry relies largely on the domestic market, with most purchases made as gifts, and tea leaf trays, food offering bowls, and tea sets ranking among the best selling items, he said. — MT/ZS

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Weekly Roundup

30 August Prevention of bank erosion inspected

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspected the efforts for prevention of bank erosion at the Nyaungdonkyun embankment along the Yangon-Maubin route embankment.

President inspects livestock breeding activities in Twantay

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing observed the ongoing livestock breeding activities in Twantay Township, Yangon Region.

1 September President and spouse to make Official Visit to Viet Nam

At the invitation of the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, His Excellency Mr To Lam, and spouse, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing and spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla will pay an Official Visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the near future.

Outstanding students in matric exam honoured

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing honoured the students who passed the matriculation and industrial, agricultural, and livestock examinations for 2026 with outstanding results at the ceremony took place at the convocation hall of Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw.

Hluttaws to convene third regular sessions

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw issued announcements to convene their third regular sessions. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be convened on 29 September, the Pyithu Hluttaw on 21 September and the Amyotha Hluttaw on 22 September.

VP U Nyo Saw leaves for Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok

Vice-President U Nyo Saw left Yangon by air to attend the 11th Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, the Russian Federation.

2 September VP holds meeting with Russian Dy PM

Vice-President U Nyo Saw met Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mr Yury Petrovich Trutnev in Vladivostok and received Mr Anton Kobayakov, Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation and Executive Secretary of the Forum Organizing Committee, and Mr Alexander Stuglev, Director of the Roscongress Foundation, in Vladivostok, separately.

4 September VP U Nyo Saw delivers speech at 11th EEF

Vice-President U Nyo Saw delivered an address at the plenary session of the 11th Eastern Economic Forum at the building on the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok.

5 September President-led Myanmar delegation arrived in Hanoi

The special aircraft carrying a high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla arrived at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. The President and party were warmly welcomed by senior officials led by Mr Lê Khánh Hải, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and Minister at the Office of the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and officials, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Wai Lin and his wife, and Myanmar Military Attachés (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Zaw Min.

President U Min Aung Hlaing Visits VinFast and Viettel in Viet Nam

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing visited Vietnamese automobile manufacturer VinFast and telecommunications group Viettel in Hanoi, Viet Nam. — GNLM/TTA

MSWRR Dy Minister inspects cleaning and beautification work in Falam

SINCE the Tatmadaw regained full control of Falam Township, residents and departmental staff have been returning to the township since 6 May. Local departments and security forces have also been jointly carrying out cleaning and beautification activities in the township every week.

Yesterday morning, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, accompanied by Chin State Minister for Natural Resources U Win Zaw Oo, members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee and members of the Falam Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the cleaning activities and systematic dispos-



Local departmental employees and security forces carry out cleaning and beautification activities in Falam Township yesterday.

al of garbage. The deputy minister instructed departmental staff and members of the public to cooperate in cleaning and beautifying Falam Township and its surrounding areas. He also provided snacks to police officers and departmental staff who were jointly carrying out the cleaning activities. Similarly, yesterday morning, U Zaw Naing

Oo, Chairman of the Tiddim Township Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Working Committee, and members encouraged the cleaning and beautification activities being carried out by a total of 200 departmental staff, residents and ward development committee members along the main road in Sakaw Street Ward and on Kamhao Street under

the BEHS No 1 campus.

Likewise, Secretary U Thein Aung and members of the Tonzang Township Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee inspected the cleaning activities carried out by 251 departmental staff and Tatmadaw personnel at the Youth Training School and the Hilly Region Missionary Central Monastery in Khawung/Laysan Ward yesterday morning.

In Chin State, cleaning activities in Tiddim, Tonzang and Falam townships are carried out every Saturday under the supervision of the respective Township Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committees to maintain cleanliness and beautify the townships. — MNA/MKKS

CB successfully sunk to block Ngawun waterway

THE main operation to block the Ngawun waterway, carried out by sinking a cargo barge (CB), has now been completed.

To effectively block the 70-foot-long and 40-foot-deep channel, where the current was very strong and water continued to flow in, a large cargo barge (CB) donated by Ayeya Shwe Wah Company was transported from Mawlamyinegyun Township to the work-site. The barge measures 80 feet long, 18 feet wide

and nine feet high.

On 3 September, the barge was filled with sand and stones and systematically sunk behind the sheet piles installed in advance to control the flow of water.

This additional reinforcement behind the sheet piles has strengthened the measures to prevent erosion and further water ingress. The remaining work to block the waterway will also be completed in full shortly. — TWA/KNN



Workers systematically sinking the large cargo barge (CB) behind the sheet piles installed to control the water flow.

Protect minors against cyberbullying and online risks

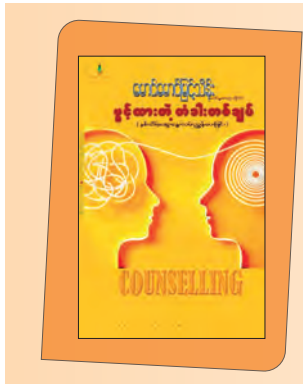
MANY countries around the world have begun introducing measures to regulate social media use among minors. Such regulations have been introduced in the international community amid growing concerns that excessive use of social media could adversely affect the health and well-being of minors.

The main online risks faced by minors include cyberbullying, such as being insulted, threatened or harassed by others on social media and online gaming platforms. They may also be deceived by fabricated fake news, defrauded or solicited for money by people who establish fake friendships, or have their personal information leaked or be exploited as a result of sharing information such as home addresses, phone numbers or photos without adequate security. Furthermore, minors may be exposed to inappropriate content, including age-inappropriate violence, sexually explicit images and videos, or hate speech, and may be subjected to inappropriate sexual communications, including requests for photos or videos, as well as online sexual exploitation and abuse.

To protect minors from the dangers of misleading and harmful online literature and content, they should be trained to distinguish between wholesome and harmful reading materials, encouraged to critically assess what they read rather than believe everything they encounter, and protected through technological measures such as parental controls on the phones and computers they use. Minors should also be guided towards good literature to broaden their knowledge and understanding, while parents and minors should discuss and exchange views on the content, they encounter online in an open manner so as to prevent online risks.

a danger to them. Social media platforms contain content that encourages violations of the law and acts of violence, literature that indirectly promotes sexual misconduct or immoral behaviour contrary to the norms and traditions of society, and misleading lifestyles portrayed as ways to gain fame and popularity within a short period. Therefore, everyone must work together to protect minors from being exposed to such dangers.

To protect minors from the dangers of misleading and harmful online literature and content, they should be trained to distinguish between wholesome and harmful reading materials, encouraged to critically assess what they read rather than believe everything they encounter, and protected through technological measures such as parental controls on the phones and computers they use. Minors should also be guided towards good literature to broaden their knowledge and understanding, while parents and minors should discuss and exchange views on the content, they encounter online in an open manner so as to prevent online risks.

	Book Title	-	An Open Door
	Author	-	Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)
	Publishing House	-	The Leaf House
	Publication Date	-	August 2026 (1 st Edition)
	Price	-	K13,500

An Open Door

THIS book is a new release by the prolific and popular author Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT). Titled An Open Door; it is published by The Leaf House, a press with a steady stream of publications. An Open Door is a book on counselling. When faced with stress, dissatisfaction, or a need to confide, people often turn to others for help and consultation. This process is counselling. During difficult and struggling times, counselling is indispensable. One can therefore conclude that author Maung Maung Myint Thein has written and published this book at just the right moment.

The foreword to this book is penned by Dr U Thauang Kyi, a professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Yangon. He writes:

“Saya Maung Maung Myint

Thein (RIT) has taught numerous external training courses (such as GMAT, IELTS, and TOEFL) over many years, while also penning over 130 complete books as a distinguished author. When Saya asked me to write this foreword, I was immensely pleased and honoured. I am genuinely delighted that Saya has translated the knowledge he acquired into a book for the public benefit.

This book, An Open Door (Counselling), represents an applied branch of psychology and serves as a discipline critically needed in today’s era. It effectively corrects widespread misconceptions, such as the belief that reading a little makes someone a counsellor; or that merely listening equates to counselling. The discipline of counselling is as much an art as it is a science,

demanding rigorous scientific grounding. It provides a means to soothe the fragile emotional wounds, restore mental well-being, and help individuals lead fulfilling lives. My deepest thanks go to Saya Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT) for his dedication to writing this work. It is an invaluable book that elevates the field of psychology. Because he has presented a scientific and artistic discipline in an accessible manner, this book belongs in everyone’s hands.”

Similarly, the author notes in his preface:

“When people experience stress, discontent, and things they need to confide, they seek out others for help and guidance. When facing stress in life and work, viable solutions exist—much like opening up about one’s pain.

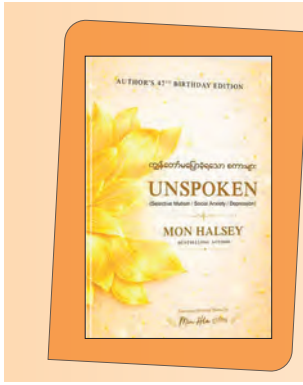
I regard counselling as a practical, applied psychological discipline for easing worries and anxieties. Encouraged by

my classmates and friends, and driven by a genuine desire to share what I learned, I adapted the book Basic Personal Counselling. With deep respect, I offer this acknowledgement and gratitude to Professor Dr Nilar Kyu and the faculty members of the Yangon Department of Psychology, as well as to Sayagyi U Ohn Hlaing, who taught during the course.”

The book opens with the section “What is Counselling?”:

“Counselling is a way of helping people. Specifically, it is a specialized approach involving the use of verbal and non-verbal relational skills to enable the person seeking help to feel better and discover new ways of thinking and behaving.

There are many ways to help in human society. Practical assistance is a familiar sight. In our communities, many naturally help others in this manner. Furthermore, numerous individuals work through organizations to assist specific groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and those dealing with physical or mental health challenges. Even more critically, there are established professions such as nursing, occupational therapy, and social work. These practitioners are trained professionals dedicated to offering structured, practical support to others...”

	Book Title	-	Unspoken
	(Selective Mutism	-	Social Anxiety - Depression)
	Author	-	Mon Halsey
	Publishing House	-	Zwe Thiha
	Publication Date	-	July 2026 (1 st Edition)
	Price	-	K25,000

Unspoken

(Selective Mutism - Social Anxiety - Depression)

THIS new book is the 9th novel by bestselling author Mon Halsey. It also serves as a milestone to commemorate the author’s 47th birthday, having taken a full year to bring this work to publication.

Readers will experience a beautifully crafted piece of Biographical Fiction in which a story is based on real-life events of a person who was subjected to various speculations and judgments by those around them, who treated them as if they were mute due to Selective Mutism. This led to Social Anxiety and eventually spiralled into Depression.

The author shares that “the title is quite simple. But the reading experience is truly extraordinary. I encountered a form of love I had never known, expressed in its highest and most beautiful

form. ‘Selective Mutism’ is a psychological term I’ve only just learned. I think it could be described as a specific social setting where the person is emotionally overwhelmed.

In that state, all the judgments and assumptions made him to struggle through life. This is the story of a young person who lacked the capabilities to build a healthy relationship even when there was someone who deeply loved and understood him, resulting from social anxiety and depression.

It’s also a biographical fiction that portrays his struggle to survive in a world caught between Selective Mutism and Depression. Most of us tend to prioritize our own feelings and minds while going through difficult

times. I’m not saying there aren’t people who live by reading others’ minds like shadows. But a person’s mind is both deeply strange and immensely powerful. It’s magical, fascinating, lovable, yet frightening at the same time. It’s so delicate, yet simultaneously so harsh. It can be as still as a calm pond, and just as easily rage like the sea. Sometimes it burns and boils; other times it feels cold and numb. We often think we fully understand our own minds, and yet sometimes we have no idea what’s going on inside us.

To help with these complex psychological aspects, Saya Min Hla from Suicide Prevention Myanmar (SPM) has contributed valuable insights, so readers will also gain knowledge about psychology.

This book was created with the author’s whole heart, encompassing themes of love, longing, heartbreak, letting go, survival, and hope. It is sure to delight the author’s fans who have been waiting for a compelling novel. Additionally, the book adds beautifully crafted English poems and essays by Saya Min Hla (SPM), making it a remarkable collaborative creation that readers will truly appreciate.

The protagonist, Min Chan Mon, reveals that most people have a period when they start talking. He himself doesn’t even know when he chose silence. From the very first day of school at age five, he was quiet. No matter what he was asked, he remained silent, which made other children stare at him oddly and made him a topic of discussion among teachers. He could understand everything others said, but words never came out of him. No matter how hard he tried, the words would reach his throat and simply vanish into thin air.

Readers will eagerly follow his journey, daring to escape the prison of silence and to discover what a character named ‘Moe’ who enters his life will bring to him.

Emily Dickinson Poem 345

Translated by Myint Zan

Funny to be a Century
And see the People going by
I should die of the Oddity
But then I'm not so staid as He



He keeps His Secrets safely very
Were He to tell -extremely sorry
This Bashful Globe of Ours
would be
So dainty of Publicity

Composed by Emily Dickinson around 1862.

အင်မလီ ဒစ်ကင်ဆင် ကဗျာ အမှတ် ၃၄၅

နှစ်တစ်ရာ ဆိုတာ အဆန်းသား လူတွေ ရောက်လာလိုက် ထွက်သွားလိုက် ငါသာ ဆိုရင် ဒီလို ပုံမှန် မဟုတ် တာကြောင့် သေသွားနိုင်တယ် သို့သော် ငါဟာ ကမ္ဘာကြီးလို တည်ငြိမ်စွာ နဲ့ ငြီးငွေ့နိုင်သူ မဟုတ်

ကမ္ဘာကြီး ဟာ သူ လျှို့ဝှက်ချက်တွေ ကို လုံခြုံစွာ အသေအချာ သိမ်းဆည်းပေးတယ် သူ့သာ ထုတ်ပြောခဲ့ရင် ဝမ်းနည်းစရာ၊ လူသိထင်ရှားဖြစ်မှုကို တွန့်တတ် နှိတ်တတ်တဲ့ ကမ္ဘာကြီးကိုး

၁၈၆၂ ခုနှစ်ခန့် က အင်မလီဒစ်ကင်ဆင် ရေးဖွဲ့သည်။ မြင့်စံ ဘာသာပြန်သည်။

The Elegance of the Myanmar Silk Longyi

By Min Min Zan



In Myanmar's golden land, the silk Longyi flows with grace,
Upon a Myanmar maiden, it adds charm to every face.

She wears it with such pride, a treasure from the past,
A timeless thread of culture, whose beauty seems to last.

With patterns bright and graceful, it dances as she goes,
Like gentle waves of beauty, where every soft fold flows.

She walks with quiet confidence, so lovely and so fair,
The elegance of Myanmar seems to follow everywhere.

Her silk Longyi shines with charm beneath the morning light,
And everyone who sees her feels that she looks so bright.

Oh, Myanmar silk Longyi, our heritage so true,
On every graceful maiden, you bloom in every hue.

ချစ်မှန်မြင်သည်

ချစ်မှန်မြင်သည်
ယဉ်ပျော်ကောင်း၊ မှန်ပုံတို့
အာရုံမှန်ထဲ မြင်လာစွ၏။

ချစ်မှန်မြင်သည်
ဝန်းကျင်တစ်ဝိုက် စိတ်ပျော်ပိုက်လျက်
စိမ်းလျက်နီလျက်၊ မှန်လျက်လင်းလျက်
ကျေလျက်မြှောင်လျက်၊ သူ့အလိုက်ပင်
မြင်ထိုက်စရာ၊ မြင်၍လာ၏။

ငါ့အမြင်ကြောင့်
ငါ့ကြင်သည့်နယ်၊ မြင်စေဖွယ်ဟု
သွယ်ကာကူးကာ၊ တေးကဗျာကို
ငါ့မှာဖွဲ့၏။ သီဆို၏။

အချစ်လည်းမှန်၊ အမြင်သန့်လိမ့်
အချစ်အခါ စိတ်ကူးဉာဏ်ကြောင့်
မြင်ပြန်ကျယ်ဝန်း၊ ကျယ်ဝန်းမြင်ရ
တစ်လောကတည်း။

အချစ်သာလျှင်၊ ငါ့အမြင်တည်း။
တစ်ဦး

In the Eye of the Lover Only

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

In the eye of the lover only,
A gentle, elegant and supple body
Gets mirrored in intent sensibility.

In the eye of the lover only,
In the surrounding neighbourhood
happily
Dim and bright and green and red
Curved and straight all by itself;
This sight becomes seeing worth.

With my visual perception,

As I love to find it worthy of attention,
A poem, specifically and intricately,
Is composed to be sung by me.

That'll be true love as well as acumen
Thanks to love-based imagination,
The open ground must be seen just wide
In the whole world.

Nothing but love is my sight.

NATIONAL

Entertainment



Concert honours Alinka Kyawswa Saung U Ba Than at 120

A commemorative concert marking the 120th birthday of renowned harpist Alinka Kyawswa Saung U Ba Than will be held, according to his son, Kyi Thar (Pwe Kyite Khin).

Kyi Thar said he had been planning the event for about 10 years and finally decided to stage it with the support of veteran artistes Tin Tin Mya, Htar Htar, Tin Tin Hla and Cho Pyone. The programme will feature a wide range of artistes from the film, theatre and music industries and will include many of U Ba Than's famous songs. Among the highlights will be Ma Ma Aye's popular song 'Phet Kwet Sar', as well as 'Shwe Pyi Zon', featuring a recording of Ma Ma Aye singing with U Ba Than's harp accompaniment, which will be presented with LED visuals and a live performance.

The date, time and ticketing details have not yet been officially announced. – Htun Htun/KTZH

Maung Sein Win (Padeegon) holds signing event for newly released book

A book-signing event was held on 30 August at The Lantern House to mark the fifth edition of veteran writer Maung Sein Win (Padeegon)'s novel 'Arindama Thipathi' and the release of another book by Kawi Htun Publishing House.

At the event, Sayagyi Maung Sein Win (Padeegon) shared the background behind the writing of his novel and expressed his thanks. Writers Saya Myint Maung Kyaw, Saya Thanlyin Maung Maung Oo, Saya Maung Thway Thit, Saya Aung Zin Min, veteran writer San San Nwet (Thayawady) and veteran writer Than Myint Aung also delivered congratulatory remarks.

The event was jointly organized by KBK Publishing House and Kawi Htun Publishing House, with writer Han Thu Thaw (Kau- ng Su Thar Sar Pay) leading the event. Many writers, literary figures and book lovers attended. – TWA/ KTZH



Academy superstar donates at four locations



Academy Soe Myat Thuzar marked her 55th birthday on 31 August by making charitable donations at religious sites in Mandalay, Insein, Taikkyi and Bagan.

Her birthday donations included offering robes, meals, oil lamps and drinking water at Maha Myat Muni Pagoda in Mandalay, early alms to 670 monks at Insein Ywama Monastery, donating funds to repair damaged monastic buildings at Apho Kyaung in Taikkyi, and offering meals to monks at Alodawpyae Pagoda in Bagan.

A birthday celebration was also held for her in Yangon on 31 August, attended by her colleagues. – TWA/KTZH

Myanmar POP Music Show ready in Nov

The Myanmar POP Music Show, featuring a line-up of popular veteran and emerging Myanmar artistes, will be held on 14 November.

The show will offer pop music fans new songs, exciting dance performances and a variety of entertaining programmes.

Veteran idol artistes who have been popular with audiences since their youth, as well as many fan-favourite artistes, will take part.

The organizers also revealed that a surprise special guest artiste will perform at the event. – TWA/KTZH



Royal Ballet Academy holds auditions for The Nutcracker opera

Royal Ballet Academy is holding auditions for performers for The Nutcracker, a world-famous ballet to be staged in Myanmar for the first time to mark the academy's third anniversary.

The academy is seeking five boys aged 6 to 12 and 10 males and females aged 16 and above. Applicants should have skills or talent in at least one area related to the production, such as dancing, acting or singing.

Interested applicants can contact Royal Ballet Academy via Messenger, email at royalballetacademy6@gmail.com, or by dialling 09 650772258 or 09 257813176.

The Nutcracker was composed by renowned Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and is one of the world's most popular classical ballets.

Theatrical star to celebrate birthday



A major theatre performance titled 'Mway Nae Mingala Hnapar', celebrating the birthday of traditional male dancer Tin Maung San Min Win, will be held at the National Theatre of Yangon in Dagon Township on 12 September.

The show will feature performances by Tin Maung San Min Win, along with numerous artistes from the theatre, film and music industries.

Tin Maung San Min Win said the event would feature grand performances and a variety of exciting programmes throughout the evening, and invited Thabin lovers to attend and enjoy the show. – ASH/KTZH



Ticket sales available for theatrical rising star

Tickets are now on sale for the 'Aung Zabu Zet Thabin' performance, organized and presented by Media N Event Production, at Wazira Theatre on Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon.

The show will be held on 13 September from 4 pm to 9 pm at Wazira Theatre.

Traditional male dancer Aung Zabu is the first artiste to collaborate with Media N Event Production and will present a special and innovative programme at the theatre. – TWA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Ayeyawady’s 6 townships see relief and flood prevention efforts

ON the night of 30 July, heavy rain and river erosion caused water to overflow from the Ngawun River embankment, flooding wards and villages in Ayeyawady Region. As a result, flooding affected five wards and several villages in Laymyethna Township, as well as 14 wards and some villages across Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships.

Despite the flooding, the Ngawun River in Kyonpyaw Township reached a maximum level of eight feet one inch on 30 August and is currently at seven feet one inch, a decrease of about one foot. In Kyaunggon Township, the river reached a maximum level of seven feet one inch on 30 August and is currently at six feet four inches, a decrease of about nine inches. In Ngathainggyoung Township, the Ngawun River reached a maximum level of 10 feet nine inches on 23 August and is current-

ly at nine feet one inch, a decrease of about two feet eight inches.

Tatmadaw personnel from the South-West Command, together with police personnel, firefighters, social welfare groups, charitable organizations and residents, conducted cleaning activities at monasteries, schools, hospitals and clinics in townships, villages and wards where the water level had receded.

Food packages and other necessities continue to be provided to flood victims in relief camps, along with timely emergency healthcare services and comprehensive assistance with rehabilitation activities. In addition, efforts are continuing to reinforce low-lying areas vulnerable to flooding and prevent the inflow of floodwaters by using methods such as placing large geotextile bags, filling sandbags, and driving steel sheet piles using machinery and manpower. — MNA/ MKKS



Collective relief efforts ongoing in Ayeyawady Region.

Myanmar Space Agency appoints officers transferred from MoD

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Gazette published on 28 August, a total of 19 officers from the Ministry of Defence, comprising six lieutenant-colonels, nine majors, and four captains, have been transferred to the Myanmar Space Agency (MSA).

This appointment was approved by the Union Government Meeting 3/2026 held on 26 May. Out of the six lieutenant-colonels, three were appointed as deputy directors-general, while the remaining three were appointed as directors. Furthermore, out of the nine majors, eight were



President U Min Aung Hlaing delivering a speech at the MSA in Yangon on 27 July 2026.

appointed as deputy directors, and the remaining one major and four captains were appointed as assistant directors, respectively.

The MSA, led by Chief Executive Officer

Dr Soe Myint Maung, was established on 1 June 2025, during the tenure of the State Administration Council Government. The agency aims to support areas such as peaceful space exploration, in-

ternational cooperation, national security, environmental and natural resource conservation, and disaster management, as well as to cultivate young professionals.

Additionally, the MSA independently manages its mandates and responsibilities, such as representing Myanmar in international forums including the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), drafting and submitting national space policies and legal procedures, and supervising the launch and control of satellites. — TWA/ZN

Embankment erosion control works continue in Nyaungdon



Collaborative efforts are underway to control embankment erosion in Nyaungdon Township.

EMERGENCY protection works are continuing at the Nyaungdonk-

yun embankment near Ganchaung Village in Nyaungdon Township,

Ayeyawady Region, after severe riverbank erosion damaged the embankment.

The erosion occurred on the morning of 25 August between embankment mileposts 11/6 and 11/7 along the Toe River, affecting a section about 300 feet long and 45 feet wide.

To prevent further damage, a temporary diversion embankment is being built between mileposts 11/5 and 11/6, while porcupines are

being installed for riverbank protection and other measures are being taken to prevent further erosion and collapse.

Tatmadaw personnel, Myanmar Police Force members, social organisations and residents are working together with heavy machinery to accelerate the emergency works. Officials from Yangon Command and relevant authorities also inspected the site and coordinated the necessary measures. — MNA/KZL

Nearly 500 residents evacuated as Bago River floods low-lying wards

HEAVY rainfall and rising water levels in the Bago River have caused flooding in low-lying wards, forcing about 500 residents to move to temporary relief camps in safer areas.

According to measurements by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology and Hydrology, the Bago River’s danger level is 880 centimetres. By the afternoon of 3 September, the water level had risen to 924 centimetres, 44 centimetres above the danger level.

Flooding in Kyun-

thaya, Kalyani, South Zai-ganai and Mazin wards forced 494 people from 126 households to move to nearby monasteries.

The relevant administrative bodies, social welfare organizations and officials are providing the

flood victims at the temporary camps with necessary supplies and close care. — TWA/MKKS

Flooding on the Bago-Yangon Highway on 4 September.



ECONOMY
WORLD

“Ready to supply as much oil as India needs”: Russian envoy

India defended national interests despite regulatory scrutiny and sanctions risks.

IN a strong reaffirmation of bilateral energy ties, Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov stated that Moscow remains committed to fulfilling New Delhi’s energy demands.

Speaking to ANI, he criticised Western secondary sanctions and tariffs targeting Russian oil trade, asserting that such measures represent punitive “pressure tactics” rather than constructive global engagement.

Responding to ques-



The image shows an oil tanker docked at Kozmino Port in the Russian Far East. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

tions regarding Moscow’s confidence in the India-Russia energy alliance amid heightened

Western regulatory scrutiny and secondary sanctions risks, Ambassador Alipov turned the

spotlight onto New Delhi’s independent foreign policy.

“The question is — how confident is India? India has shown that it’s able to stand its ground and defend its national interests. And when we speak about the sanctions pertaining to oil trade, the tariffs are also related to the cooperation between Russia and India in oil supplies. These interests are paramount for India,” Alipov emphasised. — ANI

Thailand moves to tighten data centre rules

THAILAND said Friday it would introduce clearer rules on AI data centres to regulate the fast-growing sector, and urged almost 50 sites currently under construction to hold the projects until then.

As demand for artificial intelligence heats up, tech giants are racing to invest billions of dollars in South-East Asia, attracted by a growing plugged-in user base. But the rapid expansion has outpaced



Thailand moved to regulate expanding artificial intelligence server infrastructure projects. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ LIGHTSABER COLLECTION ON UNSPLASH**

regulation and concerns are growing across the world about the centres’ impact on the environment, including their use of electricity and water, and local communities.

“Thailand is attracting interest from both local and foreign investors... We need to ensure alignment with laws, standards and the national interest,” said Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul.

Regulations would be revised to make them “airtight” and prioritise public safety, he said at the first meeting of a new government committee on data centres. — AFP

European Union faces climate targets

THE fight against global warming is expected to feature prominently in a key policy speech by EU chief Ursula von der Leyen this month, after two years critics say were

marked by major environmental rollbacks.

With Europe barely emerging from a sweltering summer, climate would have been hard to ignore in the normally

sprawling “State of the European Union” address — a yearly speech setting out political priorities for the next 12 months.

After years as a lead-

ing EU cause, climate concerns have taken the backseat to defence and industry goals over the past couple of years — to the frustration of environmentalists. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqis queue for fuel as regional war disrupts imports

DRIVERS formed long lines outside fuel stations in Baghdad on Saturday as gasoline supplies dropped in oil-rich Iraq due to import disruptions caused by the Middle East war. Despite being OPEC’s second largest oil producer, Iraq imports oil derivatives because its refineries do not produce enough gasoline to meet domestic demand.

In recent weeks, as regional hostilities drag on, long queues have been reappearing every few days, mostly outside government-run fuel stations in Baghdad and other provinces. Baghdad resident Ibrahim Hashem waited for two hours outside a fuel station on Friday without any luck, only to return early the next day hoping to fill his car.

“It is unreasonable that we produce so many barrels of oil a day, yet still do not have enough gasoline to meet our daily needs,” Hashem told AFP outside a fuel station in central Baghdad. “We already suffer from traffic congestion because of the roads and lack of services. Now, it has become worse due to the gasoline shortage,” he added.

Iraq’s average daily consumption of gasoline is 33 million litres, but demand rises to 38 million when people panic over shortages, according to authorities. — AFP

El Nino disrupts global Panama Canal

THE Panama Canal will restrict the number of vessels transiting the crucial waterway from Friday for the second time ever due to drought caused by the El Nino climate phenomenon.

Five per cent of global trade passes through the canal that connects the Pacific Ocean with the Atlantic.

The waterway is set to reduce daily traffic from 36 to 32 ships a day in an effort to conserve water amid a

severe drought likely to last until mid-2027.

Canal authorities are also reducing the permitted draft of vessels — how deep they sit in the water — from 15.24 to 14.63 metres. Panama has declared an emergency over El Nino, which raises surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean and causes global changes in winds and rainfall as well as erratic weather conditions. — AFP



Panama Canal limited commercial maritime traffic due to severe climate conditions. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Britain's retail footfall falls in Aug despite modest improvement

BRITAIN'S retail footfall went down 1.7 per cent year on year in August, according to data jointly released on Friday by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and retail analytics company Sensormatic Solutions.

The figure registered a slower fall compared with the 2.1-per cent decline in July.

Specifically, high street footfall dropped by 3.1 per cent year on year in August, shopping centre footfall decreased by 0.5 per cent, while that for retail park rose by one per cent, the data showed.

The cooler temperatures brought shoppers back after a scorching July to stock up on essentials and back-to-school items, BRC Chief Executive Helen Dickinson said, noting that retail parks were the standout performers.

August delivered a modest improvement for UK retail footfall, but "it is worth remembering that this remains negative growth against last year's already modest performance, underlining the continued pressure facing retailers," said Andy Sumpter, head of consulting and analytics for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at Sensormatic Solutions. With retailers facing cost pressures and households watching every penny, government support on business rates and energy costs could help keep prices down, support investment and sustain jobs and communities across the country, Dickinson said. — Xinhua



Shoppers browse through outdoor retail park stores in cooler London weather. PHOTO: XINHUA

China-Russia energy cooperation contributes to global market stability

AMID the changing international landscape and frequent geopolitical conflicts, China and Russia have played an important role in promoting the stability of the global energy market by continuously expanding oil and gas cooperation, Chinese Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang said on Friday.

Ding made the remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of the 8th China-Russia Energy Business Forum in Vladivostok, Russia.

Ding, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, lauded the high-level development of bilateral energy cooperation.

He said guidance by the heads of state is the greatest advantage in the



Photo taken on 19 November 2019 shows the China-Russia east-route natural gas pipeline in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

development of the China-Russia comprehensive energy partnership. He called on the two sides to continue following the guidance, deepen political mutual trust, strengthen strategic communication and steadily expand practical cooperation.

Noting that mutual benefit and win-win results serve as the fundamental impetus for energy cooperation between the two countries, he said both sides have developed a cooperation pattern that accommodates their respective interests, and cooperation in energy resources and technological innovation has effectively boosted economic development and improved people's lives in both countries. — Xinhua

Japan eyes tougher big banks monitoring

JAPAN'S financial watchdog plans to step up monitoring of overseas operations at major financial institutions, according to a draft of its annual financial administration policy obtained Saturday.

The move by the Financial Services Agency reflects difficulties in grasping the overall operations of large financial groups as they expand internationally, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The agency is expected to analyze how such banks' overseas operations could affect their management in unforeseen circumstances, including global market turmoil like the 2008 financial crisis and a rapid economic downturn. — Kyodo

Interest rates on short-term deposits fall sharply in India

INTEREST rates on three-month certificates of deposit (CDs) have fallen by more than 100 basis points from their peak this year as a surge in FCNR (B) inflows has pushed liquidity higher in the banking system, according to ICICI Bank Research.

The report said the impact of the foreign currency inflows is being felt more strongly in short-term money market rates, which have moved well below the policy repo rate. Rates on six-month and one-year CDs have also declined by around 100 basis points and 90 basis points, respectively, from their peaks earlier this year.

The sharp decline in short-term borrowing costs comes after gross FCNR (B) inflows reached around US\$127

billion, significantly changing the liquidity outlook for the rest of the financial year, ICICI Bank said. Before the FCNR (B) scheme, average system liquidity stood at around INR 1.6 lakh crore, or 0.6 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL), in May 2026.

This rose to INR 3.7 lakh crore, or 1.3 per cent of NDTL, in August, while current liquidity has reached around INR 10.5 lakh crore, or 3.9 per cent of NDTL.

The bank expects liquidity to remain elevated in the coming months, with the banking system surplus likely to be around 2.5 per cent of NDTL by March, even after accounting for seasonal demand for currency and reserve balances. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (367W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY.NO. (367W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-9-2026 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 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

SEPTEMBER 5

Japan prime minister Sanae Takaichi rejects criticism over revised law

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi rejected criticism Saturday that the revised Imperial House Law blocks female succession, stating the update is designed solely to maintain adequate imperial household members.

Writing on X ahead of Prince Hisahito's 20th birthday, Takaichi explained that debates over female accession were deliberately separate from the current reforms. Enacted in July, the revisions allow male adoptions from former royal branches and permit women to retain royal status after marrying commoners, while keeping the male-only line intact.

Facing backlash over limited parliamentary debate, Takaichi defended the measure as an urgent step to stabilize royal duties. She noted that additional discussions will follow under a review clause after implementation on 24 October. — Kyodo

SEPTEMBER 3

Syria destroys Assad chemical weapon stockpiles

SYRIA has begun destroying chemical weapon materials identified by international inspectors, its United Nations envoy Ibrahim Olabi announced Thursday before the UN Security Council. The ongoing operation marks the first on-site chemical munitions destruction inside Syrian territory in over a decade, signalling significant progress following the ouster of Bashar al-Assad. UN disarmament chief Izumi Nakamitsu confirmed that inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons recently verified the irreversible destruction of 42 aerial bombs.

Damascus authorities emphasized their commitment to eliminating legacy arsenals to protect the Syrian population and maintain regional security. Representatives from the United States, China, and Russia commended the disarmament efforts, urging sustained cooperation to ensure all stockpiles are fully dismantled. — AFP

SEPTEMBER 1

China taxes foreign investors on dividends

CHINA has begun imposing a 20 per cent individual income tax on dividends and bonuses that foreign individuals receive from foreign-invested enterprises, effective 1 September. The major policy shift was confirmed in a joint announcement issued Tuesday by the Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration.

The decision officially revokes a long-standing exemption implemented back in 1994, which originally sought to attract foreign investment and assist the nation's opening-up drive. Officials explained that ending the preferential treatment aligns with broader efforts to streamline special tax provisions, eliminate existing loopholes, and establish a standardized, unified national market across the country.

Market analysts noted that withdrawing the preferential policy helps maintain tax fairness and consistency between domestic and foreign stakeholders. They added that the adjustment strengthens the overall regulatory capacity of the national tax framework while fostering equal market competition. — Xinhua

AUGUST 30

Japan seeks record high defence budget

JAPAN'S defence ministry has requested a record 8.9 trillion yen (\$55.6 billion) budget to upgrade its military capabilities and accelerate strategic decision-making through artificial intelligence. The proposal emphasizes modern warfare technologies, prioritizing low-cost drones, standoff missiles, underwater-launched hypersonic weapons, and defensive units against cognitive warfare. Rising security concerns regarding China, North Korea, and Russia continue to drive Tokyo's strategic shift away from strict pacifist constraints towards enhanced deterrence. Lawmakers project the ultimate allocation could surpass 10 trillion yen once core national security documents are revised later this year. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi maintains defence expansion as a key priority to secure regional readiness. — AFP



File photo taken on 17 April 2026 shows Crown Prince Fumihito, Crown Princess Kiko and other members of the imperial family, as well as Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (2nd from L), at the spring garden party in Tokyo.
PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

SEPTEMBER 4

Illegal mining ravages S Africa's economic hub

RAMPANT illegal mining across Johannesburg, South Africa's economic hub, is undermining vital infrastructure and fuelling violent crime. Thousands of informal miners, known locally as zama zamas, descend into abandoned shafts or excavate new tunnels beneath the city in search of gold. Their round-the-clock blasting and tunnelling trigger tremours, collapse roads, damage electrical cables, and create hazardous sinkholes beneath homes and factories. Competition between heavily armed rival syndicates has also sparked terrifying shootouts in residential neighbourhoods.

Power authorities warn that ground instability threatens substations and transmission towers, with infrastructure already sinking in multiple areas. Despite President Cyril Ramaphosa deploying troops across Gauteng province to support police crackdowns, experts estimate over 34,000 irregular miners operate nationwide. — AFP

SEPTEMBER 2

India raises record diaspora forex deposits

INDIA attracted an unprecedented US\$127.23 billion in Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR-B) deposits through the Reserve Bank of India's special forex swap facility by 31 August. The central bank advanced the closure date by one month following an exceptionally strong response from the global Indian diaspora.

Launched on 8 June, the special USD-INR swap programme was designed to reinforce India's external sector resilience and enhance overall foreign exchange liquidity amid volatile international markets. Commercial banks offered attractive interest rates to mobilize foreign-currency-denominated deposits, which are fully repayable in the original foreign currency. Combined with Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings of US\$5.26 billion and External Commercial Borrowings totalling US\$3.89 billion, aggregate inflows reached US\$136.38 billion. The overwhelming capital influx enabled the Reserve Bank to accomplish its liquidity targets well ahead of schedule, closing the deposit window early on 31 August. — ANI

AUGUST 31

India, Uzbekistan Target Five Billion Trade

INDIA and Uzbekistan have set an ambitious roadmap to expand bilateral trade to US\$5 billion by 2030, driven by enhanced market access, improved connectivity, and modern banking channels. Delivering a joint press statement alongside Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent, Prime Minister Narendra Modi placed commercial expansion at the centre of their bilateral agenda, noting that two-way trade has already surpassed US\$1 billion. To mark 15 years of strategic relations, the two leaders announced the elevation of diplomatic ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.' Alongside economic cooperation, both nations reaffirmed a strong commitment to regional security, defence collaboration, and countering terrorism, extremism, and separatism in Central Asia. — ANI

SPORTS

Myanmar to host international football matches

THE Myanmar Football Federation will host a series of international football competitions from September to November, including youth qualifying matches and international club fixtures.

Myanmar is currently hosting the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers, with the final Group K matches scheduled for 6 September. Yangon United will face Laos' Ezra FC in the AFC Challenge League qualifier on 8



Myanmar U20 have won both of their opening two matches in the AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW.**

September, while Shan United will host Ezra FC in both legs of the ASEAN Club Championship

qualifier on 11 and 14 September at Thuwunna Stadium.

Myanmar will also host the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup qualifiers from 5 to 11 October, the AFC Challenge League Group E matches from 18 to 24 October, the AFC Women's Champions' League Group A matches from 1 to 7 November, and the AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifiers from 8 to 20 November in Yangon.

— Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

Thai futsal club Black Pearl United arrive in Yangon

THAI futsal club Black Pearl United arrived in Yangon on 4 September to compete in the Fire Dragon International Futsal Cup 2026.

The club's academy team, rather than its senior squad, will compete in

Group B alongside Myanmar clubs MIU, YRG and M2K.

The tournament will be held from 6 to 12 September at the MFF Futsal Indoor Stadium in Yangon. — TWA/KZL



Thailand's Black Pearl United academy team arrives at Yangon International Airport.



Luis Enrique waves to cheering supporters during announcement at Parc des Princes. **PHOTO: AFP**

HEAD coach Luis Enrique has agreed a three-year contract extension with two-time defending European champions Paris

Saint-Germain, the Ligue 1 giants announced Friday.

The Spaniard's previous deal had been due to expire at the end of this

Luis Enrique extends contract as PSG coach until 2030

season, but he has signed a new contract lasting until 2030. The news was announced ahead of PSG's Ligue 1 match against Monaco at the Parc des Princes, with players Joao Neves, Fabian Ruiz, Willian Pacho, Lucas Beraldo and Senny Mayulu all also penning contract extensions.

"They represent the

present and the future of our club's project," PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi said in a statement.

"Together, we're aiming to build for the long term, to remain true to our values, and to continue writing a story that our supporters can be proud of." — AFP

Mbappe penalty miss lifts Betis past Madrid

KYLIAN Mbappe missed a late penalty as Troy Parrott scored his first goal for Real Betis in a 1-0 win over Real Madrid on Friday, ending Jose Mourinho's side's perfect start to the La Liga season. Madrid had won each of their first three matches under Mourinho in his second

spell in charge, but Betis goalkeeper Alvaro Valles denied Mbappe from the spot deep into stoppage time to seal a memorable victory at La Cartuja.

Vinicius Junior hit the post in the first half from Arda Guler's pass across the face of goal, with Mbappe

foiled twice by heroic blocks from Natan and Marc Bartra after a rapid Madrid counter-attack.

As Madrid pushed in search of the breakthrough, Betis took a surprise lead nine minutes from time when Parrott fired home the rebound after Thibaut Courtois had produced a fine save to keep out Nelson Deossa's header. — AFP

Myanmar athletes step up training for XXXIV SEA Games



Union Minister U Ye Myint Tun views a snooker training session.

MYANMAR sports teams are undergoing intensive training camps ahead of the XXXIV South-East Asian Games, with athletes from various disciplines preparing at venues inside Kyaukkasan Sports Ground in Tamway Township, Yangon.

Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun, also President of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, visited the weightlifting, karate and Teqball training camps yesterday morning to observe the athletes' preparations and encourage them. He also inspected three months' worth of nutritional supplements donated by U Sai Myo Win, patron of the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation, and his wife.

The Union minister provided financial support to the karate team and met preliminary national karate and Teqball athletes, coaches and officials. He encouraged the teams and

discussed their requests for further support.

He also attended the closing ceremony of Wushu Taolu and Sanda Referees' Training Course 1/2026, jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Wushu Federation. Certificates were presented to the participants.

The Myanmar-China Friendship Association also donated nutritional supplements worth K21 million for Myanmar national team officials, coaches and athletes.

Later, the Union minister inspected the billiards and snooker team's training camp at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, as well as the accommodation and dining facilities for Myanmar national athletes at Kyaukkasan Sports Ground.

— MNA/KZL

Japan defender Kumagai joins West Ham United

JAPAN defender Saki Kumagai has joined West Ham United from fellow English Women's Super League club London City Lionesses on a one-year contract, her new club said Friday.

Kumagai "brings a wealth of experience and success to the Hammers, having lifted a plethora of trophies during her illustrious career to date", West Ham said in a statement, using the club's nickname.

The 35-year-old has played for other European powerhouses, including France's Lyon, Germany's Bayern Munich and Italy's AS Roma.

The Hokkaido native has made four consecutive World Cup appearances since 2011, when Nadeshiko Japan won the title. — Kyodo

Boat builders keep Pakistan's fishing heritage afloat

Artisans preserve traditional wooden shipbuilding along Pakistan's historic coastline.

IN the historic maritime town of Ibrahim Hyderi on the outskirts of Karachi, artisanal shipwrights continue to handcraft massive wooden fishing vessels timber by timber. Despite the widespread expansion of industrial shipbuilding, this ancestral community relies on multi-generational expertise to build resilient boats designed specifically for local waters. Young craftsmen, having learned the specialized trade from their fathers, work through scorching summers and monsoon downpours across six-day workweeks. Constructing a single vessel begins with a master builder drafting templates based on a fisherman's preferred design. Carpenters select specialized lumber, including local eucalyptus and durable African teak, meticulously cutting heavy blocks before assembling the hull nail by nail atop rickety ladders. — AFP



A fisherman sits on his boat anchored at the Ibrahim Hyderi jetty on 15 June 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Famed singer returns to Iran after decades of exile

PROMINENT Iranian musician Mohsen Namjoo has returned to Iran after nearly two decades in exile, as authorities encourage expatriate artistes to come home amid heightened military conflict with the United States. The 50-year-old artiste, known for blending traditional Persian music with modern styles while residing in the United States, arrived in Tehran late last week. Official state media welcomed his return, with the IRNA news agency praising his vocal opposition to US and Israeli military strikes against Iranian infrastructure and civilian centres. — AFP

Friend-for-hire services gain popularity across Thailand



Thanaporn Charoenchuea takes photos of her client in Bangkok on 7 July 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

“Friend-for-hire” services have started taking off in Thailand as the country's social landscape changes with an ageing population and a steady increase in unmarried individuals living on their own. The practice represents a novel branch of gig work where individuals receive payment to act as temporary companions, whether accompanying clients on outings, taking customized vacation photographs, or joining them for sports activities like indoor rock climbing. Industry insiders note that demand has grown

Paid companionship services expand rapidly across Thailand's changing society.

sharply due to changing lifestyles, the dominance of social media, and a surge in solo living. In 2025, single-person households made up nearly 30 per cent of all Thai households, exceeding global averages. While some clients seek connection, many use the service primarily for personal convenience. Content creators and solo travellers appreciate being able to direct photo angles freely without burdening personal acquaintances, while also enjoying safe, shared company in unfamiliar settings. This emerging economy offers flexible earnings for enterprising companions. Thanaporn Charoenchuea, a university student running a photography-focused service called “Snap Like a Bestie”, served dozens of clients within two months, focusing on easing social anxiety before photo sessions. Another provider, Penkawin Wangniwetkul, accompanies clients on shopping excursions, runs, workouts, and clinic visits, charging hourly rates for curated companionship. — Kyodo

Icelandic enthusiasts seek DNA test on revered poet's tomb

IN a grassy field at Thingvellir National Park, a modest lava-stone grave bears the name of Jonas Hallgrímsson, Iceland's revered nineteenth-century poet and linguistic pioneer. Yet an enduring historical puzzle persists over whether the entombed remains actually belong to the literary icon or a Danish grocer buried nearby in Copenhagen. Hallgrímsson died in 1845 following a fall down a staircase in Denmark, nearly a century prior to Icelandic independence. His body was interred in a crowded communal cemetery alongside several other individuals. In 1946, amid heightened patriotic sentiment following the proclamation of the Icelandic republic, authorities repatriated

Scholars demand genetic testing to identify Iceland's buried poet.

what were believed to be his remains. However, biographers note that after a century underground, the bones were severely degraded, fragmented, and thoroughly commingled with those of a Danish shopkeeper, his wife, and their child. Crucially, the recovered skeleton lacked both a skull and legs.

Prominent cultural enthusiasts, including well-known geneticist Kari Stefánsson, have submitted formal applications requesting that authorities exhume the site for comprehensive DNA analysis. Stefánsson argues that establishing scientific certainty honours Hallgrímsson's profound influence on the national soul and romantic literary tradition. Nevertheless, officials maintain that exhuming the grave cannot proceed without an explicit judicial



Neurologist Kari Stefánsson walks towards the grave of poet Jonas Hallgrímsson in Thingvellir, on 28 August 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

ruling, leaving the request stalled in legal committees and bureaucratic review. Scholars remain divided on the necessity of resolving the ambiguity. While some historians dismiss the mix-up as an unfounded rumour, others argue that lingering uncertainty enriches the national mythology surrounding the beloved author. — AFP