

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

Second phase of heritage inspections in Mandalay to begin with foreign experts

From 14 to 21 July, they conducted the first-phase inspection of cultural heritage damage in Amarapura, Inwa, and Mandalay, with the second phase set to begin in the third week of August.

WITH the assistance of UNESCO, a team, including foreign experts from the Southeast Asian Minis-

ters of Education Organization and the Regional Department of Archaeology and Fine Arts, will conduct the second phase of field



Photos reveal religious buildings damaged by the Mandalay earthquake, with local and foreign experts inspecting the damage.

inspections on ancient heritage buildings in the Mandalay Region that were damaged by the Mandalay earthquake. They visited Amarapura, Inwa, and Mandalay in the Mandalay Region from 14 to 21 July to conduct a first-phase inspection of the damage to cultural heritage, with the second phase scheduled to begin in the third week of August. Experts conducted field visits to the Shwegugyi Pagoda in Amarapura; the Four-Storeyed Monastery in Inwa; Mae Nu Oak- kyaung; Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Kuthodaw Pagoda, and Mandalay Palace in Mandalay Region to carry out advanced inspections aimed at determining emergency restoration measures as part of a long-term restoration plan. — ASH/TH

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NATIONAL

Further strengthening public-private partnerships to prioritize national and public interests

- ❖ It is urged to further strengthen public-private partnerships beyond the current level, with a focus on prioritizing national and public interests.
- ❖ Only through close and collaborative cooperation between the government and the private sector, with the ability to meet requirements, can production and the flow of goods be improved.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Foodstuff Development Forum (2025) on 19 February 2025)

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

Myanmar Gazette

Duty-Assignment of Permanent Secretary and Director-General

THE National Defence and Security Council has assigned U Nay Lin, Director-General of the Union Government Office, concurrently to the duties of Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same organization.

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE National Defence and Security Council has confirmed the appointment of the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
Dr Myo Min Kyi Win	Director-General National Archives Department Ministry of National Planning
Daw Mya Mya Oo	Director-General Internal Revenue Department Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Defence and Security Council Office Order 23/2025

13th Waxing of Wagaung 1387 ME
6 August 2025

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Deputy Minister

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed and assigned U Kyaw Htin to the duties of Deputy Minister of the Ministry of National Planning under Subsection (b) of Section 427 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

By order,
Aung Lin Dwe
Executive Chief
National Defence and Security Council Office

China-made EVs officially cleared at Yangon Port

WITH the approval of the Steering Committee on National-Level Development for Electric Vehicles and Related Industries, GAC Toyota bZ3X electric vehicles imported by Shwe Thway Co Ltd. and Changan Avatr 12 electric vehicles imported by Tharaphu Soe Myint Co Ltd, both manufactured in China, have arrived at the Port of Yangon. The vehicles were permitted to be released yesterday in conformity with official procedures. — MNA/MKKS



A GAC Toyota bZ3X electric vehicles imported by Shwe Thway Co Ltd seen at a warehouse of Yangon port.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Wednesday 6 August 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 7 AUGUST 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah, Rakhine States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Sagaing Regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay, Sagaing, Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 4-7 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likeli-

hood of increase of rain in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 AUGUST 2025: One or two of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 AUGUST 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7 AUGUST 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

MoE signs production-sharing contracts for oil and gas exploration

THE Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy signed production-sharing contracts with HNA Myanmar Oil & Gas Ltd for onshore block IOR-4 (Pyay) area-1 and IOR-6 (Myanaung) area-3 and with Future Engineering & Gold Mining Co Ltd for IOR-7 (Shwepyitha) area-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin said the energy sector plays a key role in the economic development of the country. Four objectives of the National Defence and Security Council include “to ensure sustainable development of the agriculture sector, which plays a vital role in the national economy, and the continual growth of socioeconomic life of the people will be achieved through the develop-



Officials from Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and Future Engineering & Gold, Mining Co Ltd sign the production-sharing contracts yesterday in the presence of Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin.

culture depends on the exploration of oil and natural gas, and the ministry cooperates with ethnic business people for 10 blocks with production sharing contracts. The block permitted in October 2024 now produces natural gas, which is being used for electricity in that area.

The Pyay oil field, Myanaung oil field and Shwepyitha oil field are located in the Pyay basin, possessing large potential. If the exploration, assessment, and drilling activities can be carried out using modern technologies and advanced machinery, they will be of significant benefit to the nation.

This image shows officials from HNA Myanmar Oil & Gas Ltd and Future Engineering & Gold Mining Co Ltd expressing gratitude. — MNA/KTZH

ment of Agro-based Industries. The Union minister highlighted the efforts of the ministry to ensure access to electricity for promoting fertilizer and industrial sectors, as agri-

Notice: Movie broadcasts via telecom networks

THE Ministry of Information released Order 32/2024 on business permits to broadcast movies via telecommunications networks on 13 March 2024, exercising the authority conferred by the government under Subsection (c) of Section 4 of the Essential Supplies and Services Law, and granted the permits and reviewed the processes of broadcasting.

Those who received the permits to broadcast movies through the telecommunications networks are required to seek approval first from the analysis team regarding their content in line with Order 32/2024.

However, it was found that the AWS+ and cmapp.tv received permits to broadcast movies on their applications without reporting to the analysis team.

Therefore, their permits were revoked permanently, and plans are underway to take action against them as per the existing laws.

Those who received the permits to broadcast movies through telecommunication networks need to submit their content to the analysis team, and those who have not received the permits yet need to apply for them.

Ministry of Information

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

NATIONAL

Chinese Embassy, CFRD donate school supplies to China-Myanmar Friendship Schools

THE Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, in collaboration with the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD), organized a donation ceremony for China-Myanmar Friendship Schools in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 6 August.

The ceremony was held at No 14 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township, attended by Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, officials from the Chinese Embassy and CFRD, district and township education officers, headmasters, teachers, students, and guests.

At the event, Ambassador Ms Ma Jia delivered opening remarks regarding the donation,



Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia presents school supplies for China-Myanmar Friendship Schools to headteacher at No 14 Basic Education High School in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 6 August.

followed by an address of thanks by Deputy Minister U Nay Myo Hlaing.

The programme included musical and dance performances by students, after which the headteacher of the No 7 Basic Education High School expressed words of appreciation. School supplies were then officially handed over to the headmistress of No 14 Basic Education High School by the delegation.

Following the ceremony, the Deputy Minister and the Ambassador visited the China-Myanmar Friendship Sports Grounds located at both No 14 and No 7 Basic Education High Schools, where students were seen actively participating in recreational activities. — MNA/KZL

Students attend school peacefully in Nawnghkio



This photo shows schoolchildren and teachers lining up in unison for a morning assembly in Nawnghkio.

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

A total of 26 basic educa-

tion schools have reopened in the township, and 4,400 students are attending the schools at present.

The Nawnghkio General Hospital was reopened on 2 August to provide healthcare services to locals.

Medical treatment was

provided to 67 outpatients, and 129 patients were vaccinated against measles and the flu yesterday.

Moreover, 27 patients, 16 males and 11 females, are receiving medical treatment, and the medics offer proper healthcare services. — MNA/KTZH



Myanmar reports 4 new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 1,118 samples from 8 pm on 27 July 2025 to 8 pm on 3 August 2025, and four new cases were detected. Therefore, the positivity rate was 0.36 per cent and no new death case was reported.

Currently, there is no need to worry regarding the infection and the deaths of COVID-19, but all need to follow the personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to administer COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health



Write for us

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

Myanmar Embassy in Cairo
urges parents to register
children born abroad

THE Myanmar Embassy in Cairo announced that Myanmar parents will have to do birth registration and a citizenship application for their children born outside the mother country.

The embassy has provided welfare services to Myanmar nationals living in Egypt and other countries to which it is obliged, as well as consular services in line with relevant rules and regulations. It urged Myanmar parents to do birth registration and a citizenship application within a year after the birth.

Parents will need to be Citizenship Scrutiny Card holders. If parents are National Registration Card holders, they will need to update their registration by law to proceed with birth registration for their child.

Only after birth registration is granted by the Department of Immigration and Population through the embassy so that the passport application be eligible.

Application can be sent to the Myanmar Embassy via email me.cairo@gmail.com or +20 (2) 27362644,27363123, or can visit the embassy website www.mecairo.org. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar Embassy in Cairo.



Social security payments for a Myanmar worker who died in a crane collapse made to the family by the authorities.

Myanmar worker killed in
Thailand crane collapse receives
752,590 baht in benefits

SOCIAL security of THB752,590 for a Myanmar worker who died from injuries when a crane collapsed at a construction site on Rama II highway in Thailand has been given, the Labour Attaché Office of Myanmar (Bangkok) announced. Naing Lin Aung, holder of passport MF992899, arrived via MoU from Trade Wind Co Ltd and was working at the site of Italian Thai Development Co Ltd, died on 15 March from a crane

accident.

On 5 August, the Myanmar Embassy received THB752,590 for Social Security Insurance (SSI) for the victim under the Thai Social Welfare Law. Similarly, for U Aung Naing Soe, holder of MF631265, who was electrocuted at Metal Roof Construction Co Ltd in Chachoengsao municipality, arrangements have been made to receive social security insurance

from the employer and the company, the office said on 4 August.

The employer handed over THB300,000 in condolences to the families of the deceased on 4 August, in the presence of the Labour Attaché at the office, which declared that it would follow up with further information on the matters related to social benefits according to the law. — MT/ZN

Public tip-offs help seize K2.59B in illegal goods nationwide in July

UNDER the supervision of the Steering Committee for the Prevention of Illegal Trade, special task forces have been formed to combat illegal trade in Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory, as well as in regions and states across the country. Additionally, One Stop Service teams led by the Customs Department have been established to enhance enforcement.

Operations are being effectively carried out at border entry and exit points, border trade offices and camps, permanent checkpoints, along trade routes, at warehouses, international ports and airports, and river ports. Reliable and timely in-



Confiscated illegal tyres and yarn across regions and states in July.



formation is considered vital in these efforts.

Thanks to tip-offs from responsible members of the public, a total of 46 reports were received

in July 2025, of which four were false, two were delayed, and 40 were confirmed and resulted in seizures. These led to the opening of 85 cases involving a wide

variety of items such as different types of timber, industrial goods, consumer products, and food-stuffs. The estimated value of the seized goods was K2,594.018 mil-

lion, which also included vehicles used to transport illegal goods, both unregistered vehicles and motorcycles.

Those responsible citizens who provided accurate information in July will be awarded a total of K518.804 million, which represents 20 per cent of the estimated value of the seized items. The concerned departments are actively working to ensure that the rewards are granted promptly.

Therefore, responsible members of the public are encouraged to report information related to illegal trade via 09 404339969 and 067 409883, or email antiillegaltradeinfo@gmail.com. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Actress’s family donates K500,000 to film association’s academic awards ceremony



This photo showcases the family of actress Hnine Shin Myint Mo presenting K500,000 donations to the MMPO chairman and vice-chairman.

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) has received a donation of K500,000 from the family of actress Hnine Shin Myint Mo to support the Academic Excellence Awards

Ceremony for the 2024-2025 academic year, according to MMPO Vice-Chair U Aye Kyu Lay. The donation was made on 5 August at the organization’s headquarters.

“This programme is part of a long-standing tradition,” said U Aye Kyu Lay. “As in previous years, this year we will also honour the children of those in the film industry who have successfully passed the university entrance examinations. For this ceremony, the family of actress Hnine Shin Myint Mo donated K500,000 in support.”

The upcoming ceremony, now in its 20th edition, will present awards to the children of MMPO members who passed the 2024–2025 matriculation exams. During the event, certificates of recognition and monetary prizes will also be awarded.

In addition, on 17 July, the MMPO provided educational stipends, school uniforms, and stationery to 218 children of its members who are currently studying during the 2025–2026 academic year. — ASH/KZL

Filming begins in Yangon for new Myanmar drama ‘Yinchinhtat Leikpya’

FILMING for the Myanmar television drama series titled ‘Yinchinhtat Leikpya’ began on 4 August in Yangon, according to lead actor Min Taw Win, who is playing a central role in the series.

The story was written by actor Min Taw Win himself, while the screenplay was developed by Paing Gyi. The series is being directed by Wint Ohnma Kyaw for Ella Film Production.

“I’m really grateful to Ella

Production for making this story happen; it’s one I’ve always wanted to bring to life,” said actor Min Taw Win. “It’s especially meaningful to me because this was the first storyline I ever imagined. We’re all working hard together to make it the best it can be”.

The cast includes Min Taw Win, Htoochoa, Yoon Yoon, Hla Nu Htun, Elbert Paing, Wai Yan Min Htet, Ei Ngone Phu, Thamudaya, Zoe Gyin, and many others. — ASH/MKKS



This photo displays cast members at the opening of ‘Yinchinhtat Leikpya’ held on 31 July.

Endorsement of Revised Myanmar Standards Version Adoption

CONTINUED FROM 30 JULY

No	Myanmar Standards
140.	MMS ISO 2004:2024 Natural rubber latex concentrate — Centrifuged or creamed, ammonia-preserved types — Specifications
141.	MMS ISO 2007:2018 Rubber, Unvulcanized — Determination of Plasticity-Rapid - plastimeter method
142.	MMS ISO 2398:2024 Rubber hoses, textile-reinforced, for compressed air — Specification
143.	MMS ISO 2930:2024 Raw, natural rubber — Determination of the plasticity retention index (PRI)
144.	MMS ISO 4079:2020 Rubber hoses and hose assemblies — Textile-reinforced hydraulic types for oil-based or water-based fluids — Specification
145.	MMS ISO 4641:2024 Rubber hoses and hose assemblies for water suction and discharge — Specification
146.	MMS-ISO 4660:2020 Rubber, raw natural — Colour index test
147.	MMS ISO 5775-1:2023 Bicycle tyres and rims — Part 1: Tyre designations and dimensions
148.	MMS ISO 6101-3:2022 Rubber—Determination of metal content by atomic absorption spectrometry — Part 3: Determination of copper content
149.	MMS ISO 6101-4:2022 Rubber — Determination of metal content by atomic absorption spectrometry — Part 4: Determination of manganese content

No	Myanmar Standards
150.	MMS ISO 6134:2024 Rubber hoses and hose assemblies for saturated steam — Specification
151.	MMS ISO 6804:2023 Rubber and plastics inlet hoses and hose assemblies for washing-machines and dishwashers — Specification
152.	MMS ISO 8789:2020 Rubber hoses and hose assemblies for liquefied petroleum gas in motor vehicles — Specification
153.	MMS ISO 11424:2023 Rubber hoses and tubing for air and vacuum systems for internal-combustion engines — Specification
154.	MMSISO/IEC27001:2022+AMD1:2024Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Information security management systems — Requirements – Amendment 1: Climate action changes
155.	MMS ISO 7-1:1994+COR1:2007 Pipe threads where pressure-tight joints are made on the threads — Part 1: Dimensions, tolerances and designation- Technical Corrigendum 1
156.	MMS ISO 68 - 1: 2023 ISO general purpose screw threads — Basic and design profiles - Part 1: Metric screw threads
157.	MMS ISO 68 - 2:2023 ISO general purpose screw threads — Basic and design profiles Part 2: Inch screw threads
158.	MMS ISO 262: 2023 ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Selected sizes for bolts, screws, studs and nuts
159.	MMS ISO 724: 2023 ISO general purpose metric screw threads — Basic dimensions

CONTINUED

MFVP forms Myanmar Durian Growers and Exporters Group in Ayeyawady Region

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) set up the Myanmar Durian Growers and Exporters Group (Ayeyawady Region) at the Agriculture Department in Patheingyi on 2 August.

A group of durian growers from Thaboung, Patheingyi, Nyaungdon, Maubin, Laputta, Pantanaw and Myaungmya townships in Ayeyawady Region attended the event. Myanmar Durian Growers and Exporters Group (Ayeyawady Region) comprises 21 central executives and working executives.

It is the fifth group of Myanmar Durian Growers and Exporters organized so far. The respective groups have been formed in Yangon and Bagan and Mon, and Kayah states. — NN/KK



A vendor shows an opened durian at a durian shop.

CBM to inject US\$30M to fuel oil sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 5 August that it would pump US\$30 million into the fuel oil sector.

CBM sold over \$1.86 million, which were purchased from CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies, in addition to an injection of 1.38 million yuan into the market on the same day.

CBM announced on 4 August that it would sell 10 million yuan and 50 million baht to importers.

CBM also sold over \$1.08 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$620,200 to fuel oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM also pumped over \$1.04 million into edible oil-importing companies and over \$434,400 to fuel oil-importing companies on 1 August.

CBM sold \$36.5 million purchased from companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis, in addition to an injection of \$8.8 million, 13.3 million baht,

10.5 million yuan and 500,000 rupees in July. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$2.3 million to other companies as per its initial announcement of selling \$10 million.

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

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



The office building of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Yangon.

Myanmar's areca nut exports to India soar in FY2024-25

MYANMAR'S areca nut export to India showed a substantial increase in the 2024-2025 financial year (April-March), according to the Economic Attaché in Kolkata, citing a report by The Hindu Business Line.

According to the statistics provided by the lower House of India's Parliament, the value of areca nut exports to India by Myanmar and Bangladesh surged last FY. Jitin Prasada, Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, submitted a letter describing the areca nut import between 2021-2022 FY and 2024-2025 FY to the parliament.

India's areca nut imports from Myanmar hit US\$15.6 million in FY 2023-2024, and the import value edged up to \$33.2 million in FY 2024-2025.

Similarly, the value of areca nut imports from Bangladesh also went up to \$53.06 million in FY 2024-2025 from \$13.29 million in FY 2023-2024.

India's areca nut import amounted to \$143.45 million in FY 2024-2025, \$147.99 million in FY 2023-2024 FY and \$90.18 million in FY 2021-2022.



This photo shows a worker peeling betel nut.

Chinese demand for Myanmar's soft, fresh and moist areca nuts is on an upward trajectory. Myanmar's areca nut market has become widespread. There is competitive pricing in the market. The conical-shaped nuts, rather than round ones, are mostly traded. After baking the soft areca nuts with heat, they are exported to China. Areca nut is one of the core components in betel chewing practice locally, along with other ingredients like betel leaves, slaked lime and tobacco. — NN/KK

'Tourism and Sustainable Transformation' photo contest set to launch

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will hold a "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation" photo contest to mark World Tourism Day on 27 September 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ministry will hold an award ceremony for the photo contest and showcase winning photos at the event.

The objectives behind this photo contest under the theme of Tourism and Sustainable Transformation are to implement sustainable and systematic tourism development, foster tourism practices to adapt to changing tourism

patterns, maintain cultural preservation, embrace cultural diversity and unity through tourism sector, and promote Myanmar's tradition and customs, traditional clothing, religious beliefs and festivals of the ethnic people and cultural values.

During the award ceremony, K900,000 for first prize, K700,000 for second prize, K500,000 for third prize, K300,000 for fourth prize, K200,000 for fifth prize and K100,000 each for 20 consolation prizes will be awarded.

Individuals can send win-

ning photos to the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism located in Botahtaung Township on 5 September 2025 (4 pm) starting from 6 August 2025. They can enquire about details and rules of the photo contest through the contact numbers of the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism at 09 455319000 and 09 5054654. They can also read and download the rules by scanning the QR code through <https://mmqrcodegenrator.com/MWlBkpleAbjBqoaZ> and the website www.tourism.gov.mm. — NN/KK

Join efforts in initiating the development of resilient and progressive communities

THE State has established the Committee for the Development of Resilient and Progressive Communities and is actively implementing regional-level discussions on building resilient communities, regional development projects, and socio-economic improvement programs. These efforts are being visibly carried out, and it is believed that continuous collaboration between the government, the people, and local communities will lead to greater strength, resilience, and progress.

In Myanmar, throughout successive eras, there has generally been a disconnect between governing bodies and the communities they govern, with each side operating within its own sphere. As a result, in some cases, there has been a noticeable distance and lack of connection between the authorities and the people. While the State has indeed been working for the benefit of the people, certain actions have not aligned with the realities of daily life, leading to unmet needs and dissatisfaction. However, with the current implementation of programs aimed at developing resilient and progressive communities, it is hoped that the lives of the people and the social system will become more closely integrated.

The development of resilient and progressive communities also serves as a foundation for the flourishing of a genuine democratic system. To achieve this, the entire public must possess awareness, understand and abide by rules and discipline, show compassion, and be capable of cooperation. By actively participating in local affairs and regional development, the socioeconomic lives of the people will also improve.

For the development of resilient and progressive communities, it is essential to maintain the foundation of territorial security and peace without disruption. Just as the State Government and responsible authorities are jointly implementing this goal, the people – being a nation with strong moral and spiritual values – must also contribute through compassion, cooperation, and mutual support, particularly by helping the vulnerable. For the future peace, stability, and development of Myanmar, everyone must actively participate in their respective roles within the ongoing national initiatives being implemented.

The development of resilient and progressive communities also serves as a foundation for the flourishing of a genuine democratic system. To achieve this, the entire public must possess awareness, understand and abide by rules and discipline, show compassion, and be capable of cooperation. By actively participating in local affairs and regional development, the socioeconomic lives of the people will also improve.

To ensure a stable and prosperous social life, broad and systematic efforts must be carried out including rehabilitation, creating employment opportunities, providing recognized identification documents to the public, promoting knowledge and vocational skills development, ensuring proper access to assistance and support from relevant authorities, encouraging participation in elections, fostering development in towns and villages, maintaining peace and stability, and promoting a pleasant and harmonious environment. As such, the government, relevant organizations, and local communities work together in a collaborative manner to successfully and continuously implement all the programmes for building a stable and developed society.

A retrospect and commentary on modes and formats of Matriculation exams since 1964

By Dr Myint Zan

THE results of Grade XII (Matriculation) 2025 exams have now been issued. This article is about the Matriculation exams format and modes of exam since 1964. It is mainly past-oriented. The focus of this article is on the method of entry to Universities and Colleges for those who passed the Matriculation examination and how the marks/grades and other methods were used in the past six decades. It is partly descriptive but is interspersed with commentaries.

The ILA System (Intelligence Level Aggregate) used for entrance to Universities for Matriculants from 1964 to 1968

The then-revolutionary government introduced and implemented the new education system starting in the year 1964. The ‘inaugural ILA system’ is also implemented for matriculants who matriculated that year.

In 1964, both in the arts and science combination, the students had to study five subjects for the Matric exams. In the science combination, the compulsory subjects were Burmese, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics. In the arts combination or arts/science mixed combination, they were Burmese, English, Geography, History, Mathematics or maybe if not mathematics, then such subjects as matriculation level statistics or economics or Pali language.

Burmese, English and Mathematics were compulsory for students in the science combination. Perhaps at least some of the students in the arts combination took Mathematics as a subject.

Though very rare, it is not that difficult to obtain 100 per cent marks, especially in the Mathematics paper. For the papers in Chemistry and Physics subjects, it is not that uncommon for candidates to obtain over 90 per cent marks in their exams. It would be well-nigh impossible to obtain 100 per cent in the Burmese and English papers. Indeed, one can say with confidence that in the past 60 years, i.e., those who matriculated from the years 1964 to 2025, there may not be a single candidate who obtained 100 per cent, nay even 95 per cent marks in both Burmese and English papers. In the past 60 years, there could, at the very least, be several hundred matriculants who obtained 100 per cent in mathematics and well over 90 per

cent in the chemistry and physics matriculation papers. For the arts combinations, those who obtained say 90 per cent or above in the subjects of geography and history would be very rare; much rarer in any case than those who obtained 90 per cent or above in the subjects of chemistry and physics in the science combination.

The ILA system allocated a maximum of 20 marks to each of the five subjects. For the Mathematics papers, since 100 per cent is not that rare, it can be roughly estimated that only if a matriculant obtains 90 per cent or above, that student would get an ILA of 20 (maximum) points. It is unrealistic, not to say unfair, for a matriculant to obtain 90 per cent or more in the compulsory Burmese and English papers to get the full 20 points. A 1966 matriculant, now a medical doctor, told me that he obtained 66 marks in the matriculation Burmese paper, and he obtained 18 ILA points for the Burmese paper. For those who got 66 marks in the science subjects of chemistry, mathematics and physics, they certainly would not get 18 points but perhaps only 14 to 16 points. The same medical doctor also told me that he obtained 45 per cent in the English paper and obtained 12 ILA points.

Moreover, I know of one person who passed the Matric exam in 1964 from the Arts combination (perhaps he took Mathematics as a subject) and got admitted to the then Institute of Medicine, Mandalay. He stated that he was not taught basic science subjects like chemistry, physics in high school. He was formally taught those science subjects only when he was in the first year of the Medical course.

Post-1968 matriculates have to take six subjects. If the ILA system were to be continued to be implemented, the ILA points that could be allocated to each subject if it were to be implemented (it was not) would be around 16.16 maximum points for each subject. The number would be an awkward way to calculate ILA points. Moreover, with each passing year, the number of matriculation students increased. In addition to the anomaly for assigning ILA points to six subjects, the complexities and the sheer number of

so to speak, of marks in different matric subjects. As stated above, the maximum scores for arts (Burmese, English, Geography, History) were and are significantly less than those of the science subjects (Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and later Biology). But the ILA system, after being implemented for five years, came to an end starting with the year 1969.

There may be a few reasons for this change. One is that in the science combinations, there was an additional subject that the matriculation candidates had to take. Most science students took the subject of Biology; fewer students took the subject of Geology. So, all students have to take six compulsory subjects (as contrasted to five in pre-1969 years).

Perhaps in the Arts combination, the students have to take Burmese, English (as in the science combination students). Mathematics may not be compulsory. But they too have to take six subjects. In addition to Mathematics, other subjects would include History, Geography, Economics or Pali language post-1969.

The ILA system was practised for five years when there were only five compulsory subjects for matriculants to take. So, the allocation of up to 20 maximum points for each subject nicely averaged out and ‘round up’ to 100 per cent.

Post-1968 matriculates have to take six subjects. If the ILA system were to be continued to be implemented, the ILA points that could be allocated to each subject if it were to be implemented (it was not) would be around 16.16 maximum points for each subject. The number would be an awkward way to calculate ILA points. Moreover, with each passing year, the number of matriculation students increased. In addition to the anomaly for assigning ILA points to six subjects, the complexities and the sheer number of

an increase in student numbers who matriculated would be the intricacies or constraints that could prevent from continuation of the practice of the ILA system post-1968.

The sole criterion for entrance into one’s choice of Universities and Colleges during those years from 1969 to 1976 was the total marks one obtained in the Matric exam. Notably, science combination matriculates can apply for Arts subjects like law, economics, psychology, philosophy and Burmese majors, etc. On the other hand, those who graduated from the Arts ‘stream’ in those years cannot take University courses in science subjects like medicine, engineering, chemistry major, botany major zoology major even if their marks should they be science students would make them eligible to take these subjects. This is in contrast to the ILA system, where a candidate who scores good marks in the Matric exam, mainly with Arts subjects, can take the course in medicine and also other science subjects.

I will briefly state about two matriculants whom I know of to illustrate or exemplify the anomalies of the ‘average marks’ system. In the year 1970, a few of my classmates and I in the 10th standard at the No 6 State High School, Mandalay, matriculated. In that year, the minimum marks needed to get into any of the three Institutes of Medicine were 416 marks out of 600. Ko Ba Shwin, a classmate, obtained 414 marks in the Matric exam. He obtained perhaps two distinctions in the science subjects. He was two marks short of getting into the medical course. His parents were not well-to-do, so they could not send him to Rangoon to take the engineering course at the Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) (as it was then called), which he was well-qualified to take if he were to apply. So, apparently, he put his

second choice as a Mathematics major in his University application. When I met him in August 1970, his University admission results had just come out. He told me bemoaningly that he made a mistake in his Mathematics matriculation paper regarding ‘cosine’ (in perhaps the trigonometry or geometry section). He said ‘... if only I did the cosine correctly ...’ (he would have been admitted to the medical course). I might add that he could have become a medical doctor too. Ko Ba Shwin graduated with a Maths major from the Mandalay Arts and Science University (MASU). The last time I heard about him was from a common classmate. He told me that Ko Ba Shwin was working in a Bank in Mandalay. He must have retired by now.

Over ten years later, in the 1980s, a person that I know passed the Matriculation exam with a few distinctions. The person applied for the medical course. The marks that the person obtained were such that they just made it to the medical course. Just as Ko Ba Shwin about ten years earlier missed getting into the medical course by two marks, they just managed to get into the medical course by meeting the minimum marks. ‘They’ have become a prosperous medical doctor. So, it is sheer luck or chance (or in the case of Ko Ba Shwin, the mistakes in the ‘cosine’ calculations) that determines one’s professional career path.

These are only two examples that I know of, which indicates the anomaly of the ‘average mark’ system determining one’s professional career. If Ko Ba Shwin’s (or maybe several hundred, even a few thousand others like him) application for University admissions were to be decided by the defunct (since 1969) ILA system, he might get admitted to the medical course. But that was and is ‘iffy history’. What is not iffy history, and arguably what is

fairer in determining admission to Universities and Colleges, was the ‘Regional College’ system.

Regional College system (1976/77 to 1980-81)

The Burma Socialist Programme Party government faced quite a few student-led demonstrations from 1974 to 1976. Partly due to this, the University students would ‘spread out’ and the then government implemented the Regional College system. Students after matriculation had to study for two years at Regional Colleges in their region. For example, in the Rangoon division (as it then was called), there were two Regional Colleges. The admission to Universities and Colleges during their Regional College years was determined not by the marks obtained in the Matric exam alone. It was determined by the average cumulative marks obtained (1) in the Matric exam, (2) first year marks at Regional Colleges (3) second year marks at Regional Colleges are combined. The cumulative marks in each course obtained are divided by three. Say, the Matriculation marks are 420 marks out of 600. Since there are six subjects in the Matric exam, the average marks obtained for the Matric would be 70 marks. Likewise, the marks obtained in first- and second-year regional colleges are added to the score, and average marks are calculated. A person who matriculated in 1980 told me that he obtained a cumulative average of 64 marks for this trifecta (so to speak) assessment. He applied for Civil Engineering at the Rangoon Institute of Technology but missed it by (0.4) marks (less than half a mark). He got his second-choice geology major at Rangoon Arts and Science University and graduated from it.

I understand that the Chief Editor of *The Global New Light of Myanmar* had gone through this trifecta assessment and made his

first choice as an English major at Rangoon Arts and Science University. Perhaps @editor might wish to write about his Regional College experiences in his usual Wednesday columns.

In the not-so-humble opinion of yours truly, the ILA system and the Regional College system practised in the days of yore are fairer, less anomalous and, shall we say – at times less arbitrary – than the system of what courses a matriculate can take is based solely on marks obtained or failed to obtain in the candidate’s matriculation exams.

Back to average marks again 1982 to 1986, Matriculation exams

The ILA system lasted from 1964 to 1968, about five years. The Regional College system lasted from 1976 to 1981, also about five years. From 1982 to 1986, the system reverted to ‘average marks as sole determinant’ to decide what courses students can take. But before that, to use metaphorically and somewhat mockingly, even – dare I say it – contemptuously, the ‘marriage’ and ‘divorce’ of arts and sciences subjects in the Matriculation or pre-Matriculation years have taken place five times between 1968 and the year 2000. From 1970 to 1978, there was a division of arts and science subjects in the Matriculation exams.

In May 1974, an article appeared in *The Working People’s Daily* predecessor of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. It said, in effect, that the arts and science division in high schools ‘should go’. That was the last sentence of the article. I have forgotten the name of the writer. So, the ‘divorce’ of arts and science subjects in the Matriculation exams stopped, starting in the year 1979. From 1979 to 1986, all matriculate students had to take the following arts/science combined subjects. (1) Burmese (2) English (3) Mathematics (4) Physics-Chemistry (5)

Geography-Economics (6) History (The first five subjects are a three-hour exam, and History is a two-hour exam). Hence, the person whom I have mentioned above as ‘just’ reaching the medical course occurred in those years when arts and science were combined, but there were no more students studying at Regional Colleges.

This average marks system, when arts-science subjects were combined, lasted like the ILA system about five years

The ‘divorce’ of arts and science subjects in the pre-matriculation and matriculation years took place again starting from the 1986-87 academic year.

Arts and Science Division again: 1987 to 1991 Matric exams

Starting from the year 1987, lasting to 1991 (or) 1992 there is again a division of arts and science subjects in the Matriculation exams. The division began in the eighth standard. The government-sponsored exams took place. Based on the marks the eighth standard students obtained, they are either assigned to take the science combination or the arts combination in their 9th and 10th standards.

In the science stream (so to speak), the subjects are the compulsory subjects of Burmese, English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

There were two ‘sub-streams’ in the Arts combination, so to speak. Those who were allotted to the Arts stream starting from the 9th standard had a choice to choose apart from the compulsory Burmese and English papers either the Economics and Maths combination or the Optional Burmese (OB) and Additional English (AE) combinations. Here, I would state that those who are in the arts ‘sub-stream’ of economics and maths have to take both subjects. A student who passed the Matriculation exam in 1988 told me that as far as the Maths paper during those years was concerned, the science combination and arts combination students had to answer the same paper. However, for those who took the OB and AE combination, their ‘encounter’ with maths ended when they passed the eighth standard.

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ARTICLE/ ENVIRON: WORLD

A retrospect and commentary on modes and formats ...

FROM PAGE 9

And whereas those Arts combination of maths-economics can apply to the then Institute of Economics, the OB and AE students could not since both maths and basic economics are necessary for University economics students.

The peculiarity of the system practised during the time of this 'divorce' of Arts/Science dichotomy is that once a student has matriculated from the Science stream, he or she could not take Arts subjects at all in University courses. Say a student from the science stream obtained a distinction in English language (75 per cent in the Matric exam), 'they' could not take an English major since they matriculated from the science stream. But a student who matriculated from the Arts stream, even if she or he obtained, say, 60 per cent in English or even 55 per cent, can enrol in an English major! Likewise, those who passed from the Science stream, even if their marks qualified them to major in law they could not take the subject. But those who matriculated from the Arts stream, whether their sub-speciality was Economics and Maths or Optional Burmese (OB) and Additional English (AE), could take a law major. Indeed, a matriculant who passed from the Arts stream with OB and AE specialization told me that among the roughly 300 students in the first-year law

course that he attended, about 150 were from the maths-economics sub-speciality and 150 were from the OB-AE sub-speciality.

In 1991 or 1992, this division or divorce of Arts/Science subjects came to an end (again).

Incidentally, since 1991, there have been no offerings of the Additional English subject in the Matric exam. Concomitantly, very few students took the Optional Burmese course in recent years. I read in the newspapers that only a single student took the 2024 Grade XII exam with the Optional Burmese subject. I do not know whether or not Optional Burmese was offered as a subject in the 2025 Grade XII exams.

Recombination of Arts subjects and science subjects from the 1991 or 1992 Matric exams to the year 2000

For the fourth time since the year 1970, the division and combination of arts and science subjects took place again, starting from the year 1991 or 1992 and lasting until the year 2000. Since 1969, matriculants have had to take six subjects. Starting from 1991 or 1992, they had to take only five subjects, which were again a combination of arts and science subjects. They were (1) Burmese, (2) English, (3) Mathematics, (4) Biology-Chemistry-Physics (in one three-hour paper!) and (5) Economics-Geography-History

in one three-hour paper! Hence, both science and arts subjects were offered in the Matric, unlike those matriculates in the 1987 to 1991/92 period.

From 2001 to current the three main choices of (full) Science/Science/Arts combined and Full Arts

In 2001, a new system came into force for matriculates.

Stream A: full science combination: (1) Myanmar Sar, (2) English, (3) Mathematics, (4) Physics, (5) Chemistry, (6) Biology

Stream B: Science/Arts Combination (1) Myanmar Sar, (2) English, (3) Mathematics, (4) Physics, (5) Chemistry, (6) Economics (Economics is considered an Arts subject) (Those who passed from this combination cannot apply for the medical courses since Biology is not in the curriculum. Contrast this with the 1964 to 1968 situation, where even those from the Arts combination, if their ILA points are high enough, can apply for the medical course.) It was only in 1969 that Biology became a compulsory or optional subject for those matriculation candidates in the science stream. I wrote 'compulsory-optional' since, although most students took biology as a sixth science subject, there was at least one alternative subject, Geology, which relatively few students took. I suppose that those who passed from the science com-

bination who took Geology as a 'compulsory-optional' so long as they met the minimum marks required could take the medicine course. Not any more post-2001. Of course, both stream A and stream B can apply for the engineering course, but those from stream B cannot apply for the medical course.

Stream C: Full Arts combination (do not know whether this stream is available starting from 2025) Myanmar Sar, Seik Kyike Myanmar Sar (Optional Burmese), English, Geography, History, Economics.

Only a single candidate sat for the Optional Burmese paper in the March 2024 Grade XII exams.)

I would note that starting from 2024, students matriculate not at the tenth standard (now Grade X) but after Grade XII. Since only after students pass the Grade XII exams can they join Universities and Colleges, I wrote that Grade XII as 'matriculation' (since 2024).

Although there have been a few changes in the course curriculum of all subjects, both Arts and Sciences, the format ('thank God') or thank the concerned educational authorities, there have been no radical changes or reversals in relation to the science/arts division/combination since 2001.

As far as the writer can discern, no person has written either in the Myanmar or English language the gist of and com-

mentary on the changes since 1964 regarding modes of joining Universities and Colleges. Some of the statements here regarding the changes, reversals, are from my memory, and there could be a few inaccuracies, but I trust they have not been substantially or substantively wrong.

I also interviewed or spoke with two persons who passed the Matric when the ILA system was in force (1964 to 1968), three persons when the Regional College system was in force (1976 to 1981), one person when the Arts/Science combination (without the Regional College system) was in force 1982 to 1986, two persons when the Arts/Science division was made (1987 to either 1990 or 1991), one person who passed in the when there was only five subjects in the Matric exam (1991 or 1992 to 2000) I thank the above persons for answering my phone queries.

As stated, this article is mainly past-oriented vis-à-vis Matric exams. I do not want to be 'pompous' by quoting philosopher George Santayana (16 December 1863-26 September 1952) and say 'those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it'. As stated, after about 35 years of chopping and changing, especially as regards Arts/Science combination and division, stability has been achieved since 2001. That is indeed a positive thing, which almost a generation of matriculates were and are privileged (so to speak) to enjoy.

Severe monsoon damage in Himachal Pradesh: 194 dead

THE monsoon season has taken a heavy toll on Himachal Pradesh, resulting in the deaths of 194 people and causing extensive damage across the state, according to a cumulative loss report issued by the Department of Revenue-DM Cell, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Covering the period from 20 June to 5 August 2025, the report highlights significant loss of life, widespread destruction

of property, and severe impact on public infrastructure. Out of the 194 reported fatalities, 108 deaths occurred due to rain-related incidents, including landslides, flash floods, and drowning. The remaining 86 deaths were attributed to road accidents during this period.

Kangra district recorded the highest number of rain-related casualties at 25, followed by Mandi with 23 deaths, and Kullu with 10.

In addition to the livestock toll, the disaster has led to the death of 28,438 animals, including 22,827 cattle and poultry birds in July and 4,396 in August.

Property damage across the state is extensive. As per official data, 579 houses have been destroyed while 1,741 houses suffered partial damage. Commercial losses include damage to 345 shops and 2,012 cowsheds. — ANI



Property damage across the state is extensive. **PHOTO: ANI**



A man walks past the boarded up entrance to the closed-down PRYZM club in Kingston, west London.
PHOTO: AFP

Gen Z shift, high costs force UK nightclubs to reinvent

Approximately 400 clubs have closed since 2020, with many struggling to adapt to changing consumer behaviours, especially among younger generations who drink less and prefer special events.

THE UK nightclub scene, once vibrant and globally renowned, faces significant challenges due to the impacts of Covid-19 and rising inflation. Iconic venues like Pryzm Kingston, which has hosted major artists, are undergoing transformations to attract a new generation of partygoers. The club is set to become a smaller venue and dance bar, reflecting current trends and preferences. Since 2020, approximately 400 clubs have closed, with many struggling to adapt to changing consumer behaviors, particularly among younger generations who are drinking less and prioritizing special events over regular nights out.

The nightlife sector, which contributes £153 billion annually to the UK economy, is under pressure, prompting initiatives like the “Nightlife Taskforce” led by London Mayor Sadiq Khan. This group aims to enhance the city’s nightlife appeal, drawing inspiration from cities like Paris and Berlin. Despite the challenges, there remains optimism, as London continues to be seen as an exciting destination for nightlife. — AFP

‘Spider Punk’ spin-off to Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse’ in works

‘SPIDER Punk’, a spinoff of the superhit animated hit ‘Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse’, is in early development at Sony Pictures Animation, reported Variety. According to Variety, Daniel Kaluuya, who voiced the character in the comic book sequel, and Ajon Singh are developing and co-writing the feature. Plot details of the spin-off have not been revealed yet, but the film will centre on the punk-rock version of Spider-Man — aka Hobie Brown — whose main weapon is his guitar. Kaluuya’s character was introduced — along with many other iterations of the beloved web-slinger — in the multi-versal adventure ‘Across the Spider-Verse’. He is expected to return in ‘Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse’. Meanwhile, ‘Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse,’ the third entry in the web-slinging trilogy, will be hitting the theatres on June 25, 2027. According to Variety, Sony’s ‘Spider-Verse’ films have been critical and commercial winners, with the original 2018 ‘Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse’ grossing US\$384 million globally, in addition to winning the Oscar for best animated feature. — ANI



The Frederic Chopin monument in Duszynki Zdroj, where the composer’s legacy is visible everywhere. PHOTO: AFP

‘Musical cocoon’: Polish mountain town hosts Chopin fest

THE 80th edition of the International Chopin Piano Festival is underway in Duszynki Zdroj, a picturesque spa town on the Polish-Czech border, attracting around 2,000 attendees over its nine-day run. The festival, which celebrates the legacy of composer Frederic Chopin, features performances by renowned artists, including 23-year-old pianist Julia Lozowska and 29-year-old prodigy Aristo Sham, who is launching his world tour at the event.

Festival-goers, such as Erin Gao from China and Mike Righton from Texas, express their deep appreciation for Chopin’s music and the festival’s enchanting atmosphere. The town, rich in Chopin’s history, showcases his influence with posters, statues, and souvenirs. It was here in 1826 that a young Chopin gave his first concert abroad, inspiring the festival’s creation in 1946.

Artistic director Piotr Paleczny emphasizes the festival’s role in uniting true enthusiasts of Chopin’s work. The event not only honors the composer but also fosters a vibrant community of classical music lovers, creating a unique experience in a setting that feels like a “musical cocoon”. The festival continues to draw significant talent and audiences, celebrating Chopin’s enduring legacy. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

Swiss president rushes to US to avert steep tariffs



Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter will seek to make a 'more attractive offer' to US officials in Washington. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The goal of their visit was to present a more attractive offer to the US to lower reciprocal tariffs on Swiss exports while addressing US concerns.

SWITZERLAND'S president was in Washington on Tuesday in a last-minute push to stop steep new tariffs, but with no appointment to plead her case to US President Donald Trump.

Switzerland faces a 39-per-cent duty, one of the highest among the dozens of economies that will be hit by new tariffs expected to come into force from Thursday.

President Karin Keller-Sutter and Economy Minister Guy

Parmelin were visiting Washington "to facilitate meetings with the US authorities at short notice and hold talks with a view to improving the tariff situation for Switzerland," the government said in a statement.

"The aim is to present a more attractive offer to the United States in a bid to lower the level of reciprocal tariffs for Swiss exports, taking US concerns into account."

But a White House official

told AFP there was "no meeting with the President scheduled at this time".

Trump had originally threatened in April to slap a 31-per-cent tariff on Switzerland.

But he surprised the export-driven country last week when he decided to hike the rate to 39 per cent despite numerous discussions between Swiss and US officials aimed at reaching a deal. — AFP

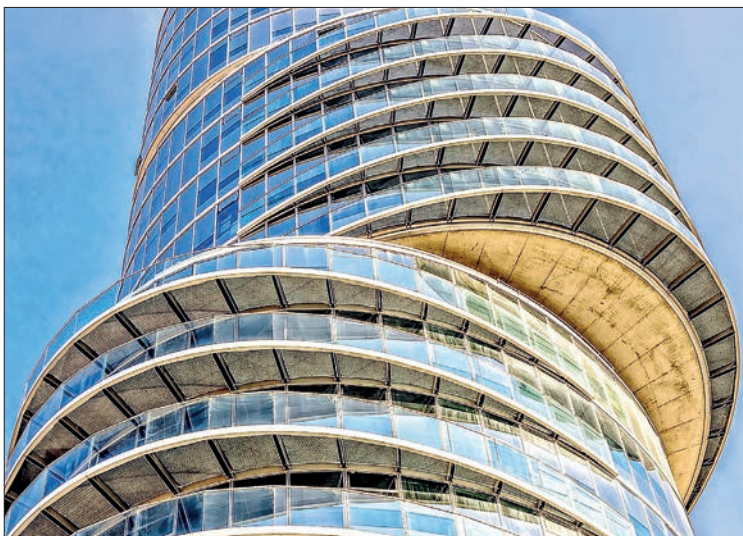
RBIs status quo on rate and low inflation will boost housing demand in festive season

THE Reserve Bank of India's decision to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.5 per cent will keep interest rates stable and sustain the momentum in the housing market, which will gain further as the festival season approaches noted experts.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO, India, Southeast Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE noted, "For the real estate sector specifically, this signals stability and offers long-term predictability to developers and homebuyers. The upcoming festive season and range-bound inflation are expected to boost the market momen-

tum further." However, Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research and REIS, India at JLL, said the decision is a classic "wait-and-watch" move. "This move sends a message of stability and confidence in the economy's current trajectory, suggesting that it's resilient enough to handle external pressures without immediate intervention," he said.

Stable rates, he added, would support organic growth without over-reliance on monetary easing. However, Anuj Puri, Chairman of ANAROCK Group, raised concerns about the sector's recent performance. — ANI



The festive season and range-bound inflation are expected to further boost market momentum. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ PIXABAY**

Major Japanese firms' monthly wage hike tops 5% for 2nd straight year

THE average monthly wage increase among major companies in Japan has exceeded five per cent for the second consecutive year, the country's largest business lobby said Wednesday.

The rate, including base pay and regular salary increases, averaged 5.39 per cent, the survey by the Japan Business Federation showed, as firms move to increase salaries amid labor shortages and inflation.

The average increase reported to the organization, known as Keidanren, was 19,195 yen (\$130), the second highest since the current method of data collection was introduced in 1976.

The wage growth rate was



The survey covered 247 large companies with 500 or more employees across 23 industries. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

5.42 per cent in the manufacturing sector, an increase of 19,063 yen, while the nonmanufacturing industry saw a 5.34 per cent gain, or 19,487 yen.

The survey covered 247

large companies with 500 or more employees across 23 industries. The results are based on figures from 139 firms in 19 sectors from which data were available. — Kyodo

EU halts 93-bln-euro tariffs on US goods despite members' dissent

THE European Commission on Tuesday formally suspended planned retaliatory tariffs on US imports worth 93 billion euros (about US\$108 billion), just days before they were due to take effect.

The Commission's trade spokesperson, Olof Gill, said the decision was adopted under an emergency procedure and will require formal approval

by a simple majority of member states within two weeks. The tariffs were scheduled to take effect on 7 August. "The Commission has today adopted necessary legal procedures to suspend the implementation of our European Union (EU) countermeasures," Gill told a press briefing in Brussels, adding that the regulation would be published in the EU's official

journal later the same day. Ahead of this announcement, there has been mounting criticism from key member states, including France and Germany. German Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil has expressed frustration at what he described as a "weak" negotiating stance by the EU during the trade talks with the United States. — Xinhua

Czech driverless train hits open track

A rail line in northern Czech Republic is testing Europe’s first driverless train, named Edita, in an open environment. Developed by the Prague-based AZD company, the train has been operational since April on a 24-kilometre track that was previously abandoned in 2010.

AZD has invested 320 million Czech koruna (approximately \$15 million) in the project, with EU funding covering about one-third of the costs. Edita operates autonomously, utilizing advanced systems for traction, braking, speed control, and obstacle detection.

Although it currently



No driver is needed – except by legislation to supervise its operation, at least for now. PHOTO: AFP

requires a driver for supervision due to existing legislation, the train has successfully navigated various obstacles, including animals on the track. So far, it has travelled around 1,700 kilometres (1,060 miles) with

passengers. AZD’s Michal Novak noted that while autonomous vehicles exist, they typically operate on closed tracks, making Edita’s open environment operation unique in Europe. — AFP

Ozempic maker Novo Nordisk posts strong results but competition weighs

DANISH pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk posted a sharp rise in second-quarter net profit Wednesday, but rising competition is weighing on sales of its diabetes and obesity treatments Ozempic and Wegovy in the United States.

The group reported

a net profit of 26.5 billion kroner (\$4.1 billion), a 32 percent increase from the same period last year, while sales increased by 18 percent to 76 billion kroner. The drug maker lowered its annual earnings outlook last week, causing its share price to continue its nearly year-long slide.

The company had already cut its forecast in May and announced the departure of its chief executive Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen. “In May we mostly thought the bottom was reached,” Mikael Bak, director of the Danish shareholders’ association, told AFP. — AFP

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by **Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd** is changing from **Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd** to **TITAN AGRO SCIENCE COMPANY LIMITED**. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1	Sable 69 EW	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 6.9 EW	F2020-2506

Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co.,Ltd
09 456 060 160, 09 441 170 170

Honda FY 2025 net profit outlook raised, but weighed by US tariffs

HONDA Motor Co said Wednesday it expects its net profit for the year ending March to fall 49.8 percent from the previous year to 420 billion yen (\$2.8 billion) due mainly to the adverse effects of the auto tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

But the forecast was revised upward from 250 billion yen as the automaker reassessed the impact of the tariffs from the previously forecast 650 billion yen to 450 billion yen, while the depreciation of the yen also supported the revision.

“The (tariff) reduction is obviously a positive development for us, as the unclear was made clear,” Chief Financial Officer Eiji Fujimura said during an online press conference.

“That being said, many uncertainties remain, including from when it will be imposed to whether there will be a retroactive period, and we have expressed our hope to the Japanese government that it will come to a conclusion with the US government,” he added. — Kyodo



Chief Financial Officer Eiji Fujimura stated that the reduction in tariffs is a positive development for the company, clarifying previously uncertain conditions. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 4 VOY.NO. (20N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 4 VOY. NO. (20N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS COMPANY LIMITED

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (373N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BANDA VOY.NO. (373N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (089W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (089W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2513S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2513S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **7-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Philippine president orders suspension of rice importation

The directive aims to protect Filipino farmers during the current harvest season.



Farmers harvest rice at a rice field in Bulacan Province, the Philippines, 3 March 2016.
PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos on Wednesday ordered the suspension of rice importation for 60 days beginning 1 September to protect Filipino farmers during this current

harvest season.

Marcos issued the directive after consulting with cabinet members and upon the recommendation of Philippine Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel.

The country’s Department of Agriculture earlier recommended to Marcos the temporary suspension of rice importation and an increase in tariffs on imported rice to protect local farmers. — Xinhua

Thailand-Cambodia border clashes: Latest developments

- ❖ Malaysia is prepared to send a monitoring team along the Thailand-Cambodia border if both countries request it, Malaysia’s Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Tuesday.
- ❖ Thai and Cambodian officials discussed the ceasefire agreement and terms of reference (TOR) during talks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ The situation along the border remains under control, although it is still tense and sensitive, he told the parliament.
- ❖ The discussions aimed to finalize the ceasefire agreement and TOR to ensure both parties understand and adhere to them.
- ❖ Monitoring of the implementation will be conducted by the ASEAN Defence Attaché Monitoring Team (AMT).
- ❖ General Mohd Nizam Jaffar, Chief of Defence Forces, emphasized the AMT’s role in ensuring compliance with the ceasefire agreement established on 28 July.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Brunei Vision 2035 supported by regional stability

REGIONAL and international peace and stability assist Brunei in realizing Brunei Vision 2035 aspirations, a senior official said on Tuesday.

Brunei gains benefits and expertise in various areas such as security, economy, education and culture through bilateral relations with other countries and participation in regional and international organizations such as ASEAN, the

Commonwealth, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations, Haji Erywan Mohd Yusof, second minister of Foreign Affairs said at the legislative council.

This is in line with Brunei Vision 2035 to produce a highly educated and skillful workforce, he said, adding that Brunei will continue to strengthen foreign relations and enhance its role regionally and internationally. — Xinhua

Putin and US envoy Witkoff wrap up Kremlin meeting

THE meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump’s special envoy Steven Witkoff at the Kremlin has ended, the presidential press service reported.

The talks lasted about three hours. The US Presidential envoy arrived in Moscow early on Wednesday morning. It is his fifth visit to Russia in 2025. — SPUTNIK

Netanyahu says Israel must complete defeat of Hamas to free hostages

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that Israel must “complete” the defeat of Hamas in Gaza to secure the release of the remaining hostages, days ahead of a cabinet meeting to discuss an updated war plan.

Recent footage of weak and emaciated captives has sparked outrage in Israel, while UN experts also warn of an unfolding famine for Palestinians in Gaza.

Israeli media have said the premier is considering ordering the total occupation of Gaza, even as international

pressure mounts for him to end the war, with a senior UN official warning Tuesday that expanding the fighting risked “catastrophic consequences”.

“It is necessary to complete the defeat of the enemy in Gaza, to free all our hostages and to ensure that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel,” Netanyahu said during a visit to an army training facility.

His office later said he had held a three-hour “security discussion” with army chief Eyal Zamir, but did not disclose any new war plans. — AFP



Israeli army soldiers perform maintenance tasks near the border with the Gaza Strip. PHOTO: AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar to face Australia in Group B opener of ASEAN Women’s Championship

THE opening matches of Group B in the 2025 ASEAN Women’s Championship will be held today, with Myanmar set to take on Australia in their first group stage match.

Hosted by Vietnam, the tournament officially began on 6 August with Group A fixtures, while Group B matches are scheduled to commence on 7 August. According to the schedule, Myanmar will face Australia at 4 pm Myanmar Standard Time, followed by a match between the Philippines and Timor-Leste at 7 pm MST.

The tournament features two groups. Group A includes hosts Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Cambodia, while Group B consists of defending champions the Philippines, Myanmar, Australia, and Timor-Leste. Australia has entered the competition with their U23 women’s squad rather than the senior national team.

The Group B pre-match press conference was held on 6 August, attended by head coach-

es and team captains. Speaking at the event, Myanmar women’s national team head coach Yuki Tetsuro of Japan stated, “We are expecting to face strong opponents, so our approach will be to focus on each match individually. We had a solid training camp in China ahead of the tournament, and I believe our form is in good condition. While Australia and the Philippines are tough teams, we are determined to achieve good results. Our team will go into every match with a competitive and fighting spirit”.

Australia’s head coach, Mr Paul Asiedu, said, “We have many young players in the squad, so we need to be well-prepared for the opponents in the group. Both Myanmar and the Philippines have strong sides, and we expect challenges. Every match is important if we aim to reach the semifinals. As someone who has also served as assistant coach for the senior women’s team, I understand how to guide and manage these players”. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL



Coaches and players from Myanmar and Australia attend the Group B pre-match press conference ahead of their opening match.
PHOTO: MFF

Man Utd, Newcastle make bids for Leipzig striker Sesko: reports

PREMIER League sides Manchester United and Newcastle have both placed competing bids for in-demand RB Leipzig striker Benjamin Sesko, German tabloid Bild reported Tuesday.

The German tabloid said the Red Devils made an initial bid of 85 million euros (£73.9 million) on Tuesday for the 22-year-old centre forward. Newcastle had offered a reported 80 million euros for the striker on Saturday, upping that to 85 million with bonuses on Monday. — AFP

Myanmar thrash Turkmenistan 6-1 in AFC U20 women’s opener



Myanmar and Turkmenistan players in action during the Group D opening match.
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

HOST Myanmar secured a convincing 6-1 victory over Turkmenistan in the opening match of Group D in the AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup Qualifiers, held on 6 August at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar faced Turkmenistan in their first group match and, despite conceding an early goal, the home side mounted an impressive comeback, netting six goals in response to claim a six-goal win. Although Myanmar began the campaign strongly with a full three points, the team must continue to perform well in the remaining two matches to advance further in

the qualifiers.

Acknowledging the importance of every match in the qualification process, head coach Daw Thet Thet Win fielded a strong lineup of experienced players. Turkmenistan opened the scoring just six minutes into the game from a corner kick, with Babayeva heading in the first goal. However, the momentum soon shifted as Myanmar launched a counterattack.

Playing in heavy rain, Turkmenistan struggled to maintain their rhythm, providing Myanmar with more space and opportunities. Ei Thet

Phyo equalized for Myanmar in 14 minutes. From then on, Myanmar took control of the match. Daisy Aung added goals in 25 and 42 minutes, and Ei Thet Phyo netted another in 28 minutes, allowing Myanmar to lead 4-1 by halftime.

In the second half, Myanmar maintained dominance. Ei Thet Phyo completed her hat-trick in 54 minutes, and Yin Loon Eain sealed the match with a sixth goal in 66 minutes, securing a comfortable win.

Myanmar will face Indonesia in their second group match on 8 August. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Kaung Htike Zaw leads after Day 3 of Burmese Golf Amateur Open



Kaung Htike Zaw leads the tournament after shooting seven under par at the end of Day 3.
PHOTO: MGF

THE third day of the Burmese Golf Amateur Open Championship, organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation with main sponsorship from Burmese Golf (BG), continued on 6 August at the Yangon Golf Club (YCDC), Danyingon.

After three rounds of competition, Kaung Htike Zaw topped the leaderboard with a total of 209 strokes — seven under par — leading the men’s amateur division. Kyaw Ko Ko Chit followed in second place with 221 strokes, while Chit Yin Htoo stood in third with a total of 223 shots.

The tournament aims to enhance the competitive skills of local golfers and prepare them to meet international standards. The final round of the championship will continue today to decide the overall winners. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



WORLD

'POLAND FIRST' SLOGAN

Nawrocki: nationalist historian becomes Poland's president

Nationalist historian Karol Nawrocki, who was sworn in as Poland's new president on Wednesday, is a former amateur boxer with a particular interest in the criminal underworld.

The 42-year-old Nawrocki won a 1 June election with the support of the populist right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party, which governed Poland from 2015 to 2023.

Nawrocki campaigned under the slogan "Poland first, Poles first".

Nawrocki is an admirer of Donald Trump and has said Poland should focus on shaping and leading Europe's relations with the US president.

He met Trump at the White House in May and claimed Trump had told him: "You will win".

Nawrocki has called for controls on the border with Germany to keep out migrants, and would like Berlin to pay wartime reparations to Poland.

While wooing voters during the campaign, Nawrocki signed an eight-point pledge prepared by far-right leader Slawomir Mentzen. — AFP



People take part in a ceremony marking the start of the upcoming Russian-Chinese joint naval drills in Vladivostok, Russia, on 31 July 2025. PHOTO: RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/RUSSIA'S PACIFIC FLEET

Russian, Chinese navy conduct joint artillery drills: Pacific Fleet

The final stage of the exercise involved searching for and destroying an "enemy" submarine, which was successfully detected and destroyed using anti-submarine warfare systems.

SHIPS of the Russian navy together with ships of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) navy conducted artillery firing exercises during the final phase of the Russian-Chinese Maritime Interaction — 2025 drills, the Russian Pacific Fleet has said.

"During the final part of the Russian-Chinese Maritime Interaction — 2025

drills, the Russian navy, represented by the large anti-submarine warfare ship Admiral Tributs and the corvette Gromkiy, together with the PLA Navy, represented by the Shaoxing and Urumqi ships, practised conducting artillery combat against simulated enemy ships and searching for an 'enemy' submarine in the Sea of Japan waters," the Russian navy said.

The Russian Pacific Fleet added that naval personnel from both countries also practised organizing joint defence against attacks by unmanned boats and drones.

The navy said that during the final stage of the exercise, the Russian navy and the PLA navy carried out measures to search for and destroy an "enemy" submarine. — SPUTNIK



Hiroshima is marking 80 years since the world's first atomic bomb attack. PHOTO: AFP

Japan PM vows to uphold non-nuclear principles on 80th A-bomb anniv.

PRIME Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Wednesday renewed his pledge to uphold Japan's three principles of not possessing, producing or permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons, as the country marked the 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Speaking at a press conference after attending a memorial ceremony earlier in the day in Hiroshima, western Japan, Ishiba dismissed the idea of Japan entering a NATO-like nuclear-sharing arrangement with the United States, which became Tokyo's closest ally in the postwar era.

"The government firmly maintains the

three non-nuclear principles, and we have no plans to review them," Ishiba said. He also emphasized the need to consider ways to make the extended deterrence provided by the United States more effective, which includes its nuclear capabilities. "This does not contradict our stance to ultimately realize a world free of nuclear weapons," said Ishiba, who formerly served as defence minister. A uranium bomb was dropped by the US bomber Enola Gay and detonated over the city of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945, in the final stages of World War II, killing an estimated 140,000 people by the end of the year. — Kyodo