Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

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Myanmar, Belarus Presidents Deliver Joint Remarks at Media Meeting

Minsk, 21 August 2026

I would like to extend a warm greeting, Mingalaba, to Your Excellency President U Min Aung Hlaing and to all attendees present today. I would like to state that we have successfully conducted our discussions today with President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The main focus of our discussions was on actively collaborating on bilateral cooperation initiatives. Regarding these cooperative efforts, we agreed to pursue active collaboration across multiple sectors, including the economic and agricultural sectors, as well as various other areas.

There are many follow-up tasks to be carried out regarding the matters we discussed today. I would also like to state that Belarus stands ready to implement these undertakings. In this rapidly advancing modern era, Belarus will continue to support cooperative endeavours with Myanmar. Although political ideologies are shifting considerably in the 21st century, our mutual trust and close friendship have enabled us to cooperate across various spheres, both politically and economically.

We have maintained discussions regarding these matters year after year, and mutual visits have also taken place. The most significant outcome of this year's talks is that, in order to elevate our bilateral diplomatic relations, both countries will reciprocally open embassies.

In carrying out our cooperation, we are proceeding based on the 2026-2028 Roadmap. To implement this cooperation, the primary work must be driven through the bilateral joint economic commissions and other joint commissions. I would also like to state that only by actively carrying out these bilateral cooperative efforts will everything proceed smoothly in our future relations.

Under current circumstances, we are already implementing on-the-ground cooperative initiatives in the economic, agricultural, and science and technology sectors. I also firmly believe that in the coming year, we will be able to further enhance and advance all of these aforementioned areas.

SEE PAGE 4

LMC-funded model village initiative completed in Ayeyawady Delta

MODEL Village Initiative in the Ayeyawady Delta Region to reduce village-level poverty, under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund (2024), has been completed, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar announced.

The project was launched in September 2024 and concluded in August 2026. It was implemented in Ohnpinsu Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, and involved the construction of multiple infrastructure facilities and the organization of effective experience-sharing workshops. The project significantly improved living conditions in the village and contributed new momentum to rural development across the region. A completion ceremony was held on 20 August in Ohnpinsu village. Mr Shen Dan, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy; Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development; Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw; and village representatives attended the event.

SEE PAGE 6

Myanmar to Invite Belarusian Observers for Early 2027 By-Elections

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is currently on an official visit to the Republic of Belarus, was welcomed by President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko with the Guard of Honour at the Presidential Palace at 11 am local standard time yesterday, followed by bilateral talks.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko meet at the Presidential Palace in Minsk, Belarus.

The Belarusian President warmly welcomed the President of Myanmar and took the salute of the Guard of Honour. At that time, the military band played the national anthems of both countries.

The two Presidents reciprocally introduced their entourage and took the salute of the Guard of Honour. Afterwards, the two Presidents held a separate meeting.

In his speech, the Belarusian President stated that Belarus is placing special emphasis on implementing cooperation initiatives with Myanmar. In carrying out these operations, greater support will be provided to projects currently being executed on the ground, and discussions from yesterday's meeting will be actively pursued further. Myanmar is vast in territory, populous, and rich in natural resources. With a population of around 55 million, it is roughly five times that of Belarus. Belarus is ready to assist as much as possible with the socioeconomic needs of the people of Myanmar. Over the past two years, Belarusian officials have visited and studied Myanmar, building familiarity. Belarus is therefore capable of providing support for Myanmar's needs, particularly by sharing Belarusian agro-industrial, agricultural, and livestock farming technologies and expertise.

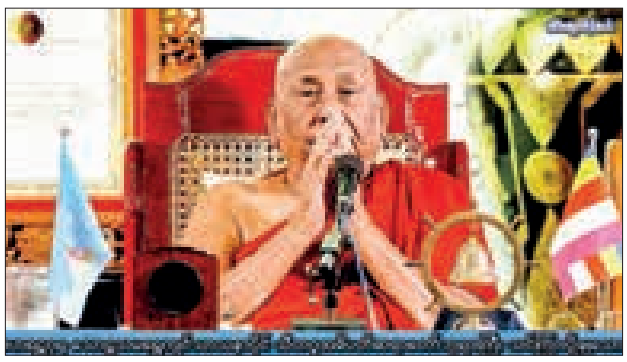
He continued that officials from Belarus stand ready to assist Myanmar and its people with whatever is needed, and the Belarusian people genuinely wish to help Myanmar with all their heart and soul. He acknowledges the President of Myanmar's efforts regarding Myanmar over the past years, particularly the endeavours of the team led by the President of Myanmar to stabilize the country's political situation. Now, the election has been held successfully, and the government elected by the people has assumed state duties. Therefore, as the President of Myanmar works to meet the needs of the people, Belarus stands ready to assist whenever needed. Both sides will without fail continue to implement and carry out the matters discussed during the meetings.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

Dhamma Athan calls for tributes in 90th birthday issue of Sitagu Sayadaw

SUBMISSIONS have been invited for a commemorative issue of Dhamma Athan Magazine (Voice of Dhamma Magazine) to mark the 90th birthday of Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw, Chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academies and the 16th Supreme Patriarch (Sangharaja) of the Shwegyin Nikaya monastic order.



This photo captures 90-year-old Sitagu Sayadaw delivering a Dhamma lecture on 2 August 2026.

Interested contributors are invited to submit rhymed poems, essays (approximately three pages), articles (approximately three to five pages), or short stories (approximately three to seven pages) in digital format. Submissions should cover the Sitagu Sayadaw's domestic and international missionary work, missionary spirit and inspiring legacy, or the codes of practice associated with the title of Maha Saddhammajotika in the Pali Canon.

Manuscripts may be written in Pali, Myanmar (Win Maung font, size 16), or English (Times New Roman font, size 12). Submissions must be sent by 26 October directly to Dr Ashin Kavidhaja at the Registrar Building (email: drkavidhajasitagu@gmail.com; Viber: 09 444043545) or Dr Ashin Sunanda at the Administration Building (email: drthitsitagu@gmail.com; Viber: 09 767633048). — TWA/TH

Weather

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 52

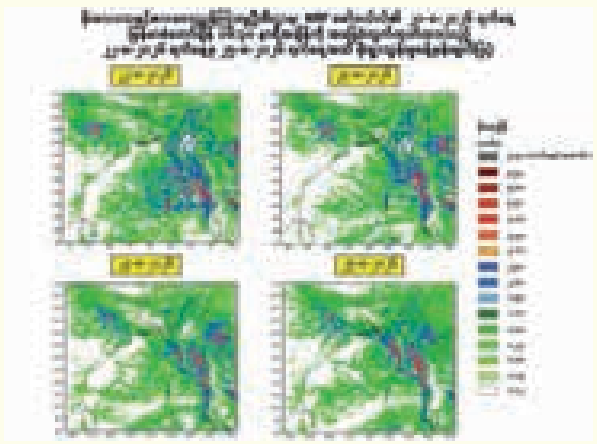
Issued at 8 am MST on 21 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the clouds moving from the easterly and the strong development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine the Shan States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine and Shan States from this morning to 25 August 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at time off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the clouds moving from the easterly and the strong development of the convective clouds such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



Law enforcement measures taken in Insein

THE Myanmar Police Force, in cooperation with relevant departments, is conducting measures to reduce crime and maintain law and order in Yangon Region. Three men who allegedly pickpocketed passengers on a YBS 131 bus in Insein Township were arrested following surveillance and inspection, according to the Yangon Region Police Force.

In the afternoon, a team led by SIP Ye Ko Ko of the Insein District Crime Combatting Unit inspected and searched Sithu Aung, Sai Wunna Aung and Soe Htet Latt after they got off a YBS 131 bus at the Gyogon bus stop.

During the inspection, two mobile phones — a white OPPO and a black Redmi 10A — were found to have been taken from the female passenger's handbag on the bus.

A case has been filed against the three suspects under Section 379 (pickpocketing) of the Penal Code and Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure at Insein Myoma Police Station under Case No 804/2026, and legal action is being taken. — Aung Thu/KZL

Myanmar-China friendship film Dear You screened in Yangon



This image displays the screening event of the Myanmar-China friendship film in Yangon.

A screening of the film 'Dear You', organized by the Cultural Section of the Embassy of China in Myanmar and the China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association (CMECD), was held at Junction City in Yangon on 20 August.

Officials from the Chinese Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM), University of Yangon, Yangon University of Education (YUOE), Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, China Cultural Centre in Yangon (CCCYGN), Myanmar China Cooperation and Communication Association, and diplomats from Australia, Malaysia, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries attended the screening.

The film focuses on the theme of "searching for roots" in South-East Asia, featuring close cooperation with local Chinese clan associations and federations. In Europe and the United States, it also presents Qiaopi records as a shared epistolary heritage of migrants worldwide.

'Dear You' has already been screened in overseas cinema markets including Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia and the Philippines. It is also scheduled to expand into international markets including North America, France, Spain and South Korea.

As of 16 August, 'Dear You' had earned more than 104 million yuan from overseas ticket sales, according to reports. — Bala/KZL

Flood Warning

Issued at noon MST on 21 August 2026

ACCORDING to the 11:30 am MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is observed as about four inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next day.

According to the 11:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Bilin River at Bilin is observed as about three feet and two inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 36 hours.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hpa-an Township and Bilin Township, to take precautionary measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

NATIONAL

Myanmar-Belarus State-level bilateral meeting held in Minsk; 9 agreements signed

The state-level bilateral meeting between Myanmar and Belarus was held at 11:50 am local standard time yesterday at the Presidential Palace in Minsk, Belarus. The meeting was attended and co-chaired by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko hold State-level bilateral talks in Minsk, Belarus, on 21 August 2026.

The two leaders held cordial and frank discussions on the ongoing implementation of the Myanmar-Belarus Cooperation Roadmap (2026-2028) and ways to enhance cooperation across multiple sectors, including defence and security, trade and investment, livestock, industry, space technology, education and youth, finance, healthcare, science and technology, and culture and tourism.

Following the high-level bilateral talks, a ceremony was held to sign and exchange nine agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the governments of Myanmar and Belarus, covering mutual legal assistance in civil, commercial and criminal matters; cooperation between the Union Election Commission of Myanmar and the Central Election Commission of Belarus; the development of a small Earth observation remote-sensing satellite for the Myanmar Space Agency; scientific and technological cooperation between the Myanmar Space Agency and Belarusian State University; cooperation between the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR); a framework credit agreement between Myanmar's Ministry of Finance and Revenue and JSC "Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus"; and cooperation between Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and the National State Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Belarus.

The documents were signed and exchanged by Myanmar's Ambassador to the Russian Federation and relevant Union ministers alongside their Belarusian counterparts, in the presence of the President of Myanmar and the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Following their talks, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the President of the Republic of Belarus delivered joint statements to the media, details of which will be reported separately.

Subsequently, the Belarusian President hosted a working lunch in honour of the President and his delegation. During the lunch, a Belarusian orchestra performed musical pieces from both countries.

Following the conclusion of the official ceremonies, the President of the Republic of Belarus accompanied President U Min Aung Hlaing to his vehicle and saw him off. — MNA/TH

President U Min Aung Hlaing Opens Myanmar Embassy in Minsk



President U Min Aung Hlaing receives a commemorative gift on the opening occasion of the Myanmar Embassy in Minsk, Belarus.

AT the invitation of President Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is on an official visit to Minsk, Belarus, attended and opened the Myanmar Embassy in the Republic of Belarus at the Diplomatic Hall in Minsk at 4:45 pm local standard time yesterday.

SEE PAGE 5

Myanmar to Invite Belarusian...

FROM PAGE 1

In response, the President of Myanmar stated that the purpose of this visit is to further accelerate and strengthen cooperation between the two countries across all sectors, including economic and trade affairs. The President of Belarus previously mentioned that Belarus places no restrictions when it comes to cooperation with Myanmar in economic, technological, and other fields. Therefore, he expressed his belief that Myanmar will gain full opportunities for collaboration with Belarus for its development. He is deeply honoured and delighted that the President of Belarus has acknowledged and praised Myanmar's election. Both as an elected government and in his personal capacity, he wishes to affirm that Myanmar will continue working towards progress on the democratic path with stability. He revealed that Myanmar intends to hold by-elections in early 2027. At that time, Myanmar will invite international election observation missions, and Myanmar would likewise be pleased to invite election observation teams from Belarus.

They also exchanged views on the upgrade of Myanmar Consulate-General to the embassy to enhance diplomatic relations between the two countries, promotion of bilateral cooperation, cooperation in defence and security sector and space technology sector, political progress of Myanmar, efforts of the Myanmar government for national development and restoration of internal peace, strengthening cooperation of Myanmar in regional and international landscapes, and further promotion of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Union ministers, the Chief Executive Officer of Myanmar Space Agency, the Taninthayi Region chief minister and officials. The Belarusian President was accompanied by senior officers from the Belarusian government.

The two Presidents held an informal meeting at the Presidential Residence of the Republic of Belarus on the evening of 20 August and emphasized bilateral cooperation between the two countries. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Belarus Presidents Deliver Joint...

FROM PAGE 1

To support human resource development in Myanmar, Belarus will admit Myanmar students to universities in Belarus to study their respective academic disciplines. Furthermore, I would like to state that we will continue to enhance inter-parliamentary relations and ties between the political parties of our two nations.

On 8 July of this year, we implemented a mutual visa exemption agreement. This initiative was undertaken with the aim of advancing not only tourism but also various other sectors between our two countries. By doing so, people-to-people contacts between both sides will increase, and from these expanded interactions, we will be able to build even stronger relations.

At today's press conference, I would also like to express my gratitude to my counterpart, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing. In particular, I wish to thank him for his personal enthusiasm in building relations for the development of our two nations, as well as for his steadfast and unwavering approach towards us to this day.

Your Excellency the President, what I can further assure you at today's press conference is that Belarus will bypass bureaucratic mechanisms to implement as swiftly as possible all the points and agreements discussed between Your Excellency and myself during this visit. Thank you very much. Your Excellency the President, the floor is yours.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko exchange friendly handshakes during a press conference on 21 August 2026.

Warm greetings - Mingalaba - to Your Excellency Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, distinguished delegates from both sides, and all members of the media

This is my fourth official goodwill visit to the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of the Belarusian President.

Although Myanmar and Belarus are geographically far apart, over the nearly three decades of diplomatic relations, we have built a relationship grounded in mutual respect, understanding, and trust.

This positive relationship has gained greater momentum in recent years. There have been reciprocal visits between the leaders of both nations, and we have seen a deepening of close ties and cooperation not only at the leadership level but across various levels and sectors as well.

I would like to state that the past year, 2025, was a truly remarkable and profound year in the history of our bilateral relations.

In March 2025, I paid an official goodwill visit to Belarus, and in November, Your Excellency the President reciprocated with an official goodwill visit to Myanmar.

During these visits, we were able to sign numerous agreements to promote and enhance future cooperation between our two nations.

During this current visit as well, we have successfully signed nine bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding(MOUs).

In today's meeting with the President, we will push forward to continue implementing the agreements signed between our two countries with great momentum.

Furthermore, we were able to warmly and openly exchange views on maintaining the momentum of bilateral relations between Myanmar and Belarus and exploring potential avenues to further expand cooperation across all sectors.

Now that legislative parliaments have also emerged in Myanmar, we discussed promoting cooperation not only between our two governments but also between our respective parliaments.

Similarly, we were able to discuss enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, trade and investment, agriculture, science and technology, health, education, industry, and space technology.

Since the bilateral visa exemption agreement also came into effect in July, we were able to discuss prospects for closer cooperation in tourism and opportunities to enhance people-to-people exchanges between our two countries.

Furthermore, both Presidents discussed and exchanged views on regional and contemporary international affairs, agreeing to continue supporting and standing by each other in the international arena.

A notable highlight of this visit is the official upgrading of the Myanmar Consulate-General to an Embassy, with the opening ceremony taking place today. I would also like to state that we warmly welcome Belarus's upcoming opening of its embassy in Myanmar in the near future.

Myanmar serves as a land bridge connecting East Asia, South Asia, and South-East Asia, and links the Pacific and Indian Oceans, placing it in a strategic hub for maritime transport. It possesses over 33 million acres of cultivable land, an ample labour force, and a favourable climate that enables agriculture and livestock farming throughout all twelve months of the year.

Given these excellent investment opportunities in Myanmar, I reiterated our invitation to Belarusian entrepreneurs across all sectors, particularly in agriculture, livestock breeding, and industry, to come and invest.

Furthermore, among Myanmar's special economic zones, I invited Belarusian investments specifically to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, located in the economic hub of Yangon.

Mr President, distinguished delegates from both sides, and members of the media: In conclusion, I wish to affirm that we will work hand in hand with President Lukashenko, the Belarusian government, and its people to maintain and further advance our friendly ties and growing multisectoral cooperation with our close and trusted friend, Belarus, well into the future.

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

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing holds joint meeting with Speakers of Belarusian Parliament

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, currently on an official visit to Minsk, Belarus, held a joint meeting with Mr Igor Petrovich Sergeyenko, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus (lower house), and Ms Natalya Kochanova, Speaker of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus (upper house), at the National Assembly in Minsk at 2:30 pm local standard time yesterday.

Upon arrival at the National Assembly of Belarus for the meeting, the President was warmly welcomed by the speakers of the lower and upper houses. Following the welcome, the President and the two parliamentary speakers posed for a commemorative photo together.

Following the initial welcome, the leaders held a meeting in the conference hall and cordially discussed several key aspects of bilateral relations, including Myanmar's role as a trusted friend of Belarus in South-East Asia, supported by close personal friendship, mutual trust and strong cooperation between the leaders of the two nations; the ongoing implementation of the Myanmar-Belarus Cooperation Roadmap (2026-2028) and the successful signing of key bilateral treaties and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) during the official visit; the expansion of cooperation between the two countries and their respective parliaments for the benefit of their citizens, including the formation of parliamentary friendship groups, mutual study visits and collaboration on legislative matters; mutual support at international forums and the history of election observation teams being dispatched between the two countries, with the Belarusian Parliament congratulating Myanmar on the successful holding of its elections; and further cooperation between organizations, youth groups and women's affairs entities to promote friendship and multifaceted ties between the two countries.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing holds a joint meeting with Mr Igor Petrovich Sergeyenko, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Ms Natalya Kochanova, Speaker of the Council of the Republic, the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, in Minsk, Belarus, on 21 August 2026.

Following the meeting, the Speakers of the Belarusian Parliament warmly saw off the President. — MNA/TH

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye inspects National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay)

VICE-PRESIDENT Nan Ni Ni Aye, accompanied by Union Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Maung Myint, regional ministers and officials, inspected the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday afternoon.

Upon arrival, the Vice-President and her entourage attended a briefing at the university's meeting hall, where Rector U Aung San Oo explained the university's brief history, policies, objectives, goals, responsibilities, academic programmes and duration of study.

Following the briefing, the Vice-President asked questions and discussed matters of interest, coordinating with relevant officials to address requirements. She stressed the importance of improving teaching methods in line with contemporary developments and enhancing students' creativity, noting the university's significant role in preserving and promoting Myanmar's traditional cultural and artistic heritage and nurturing new generations of artists.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye views around the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay).

She also instructed teachers to systematically preserve, study and teach traditional Myanmar arts so they can be passed down from generation to generation; prioritize quality arts education to produce internationally recognized artists; and systematically use and maintain teaching and learning materials.

The Vice-President then observed students rehearsing a drama and editing a film for their graduation performance at the Department of Film and Drama. She also viewed paintings being created by students for the graduation exhibition at the Department of Painting, where students explained the titles and themes of their works.

She subsequently inspected the reference reading room and e-library at the university library and watched students rehearsing a graduation tribute song to be performed at the graduation exhibition at the Department of Music, before warmly greeting the students.

At the Department of Dramatic Arts, she observed teachers and students rehearsing a traditional dance. She also inspected the Department of Sculpture, where students were working on wood and clay sculptures, as well as

SEE PAGE 6

President U Min Aung Hlaing Opens Myanmar...

FROM PAGE 3

The ceremony was attended by Union ministers and members of the Myanmar delegation accompanying the President, Belarusian Foreign Minister Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov and other government ministers, Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus U Maung Maung Soe and embassy staff, as well as guests.

The national anthems of Myanmar and Belarus were played at the start of the ceremony. President U Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe and Belarusian Foreign Minister Mr Maxim Ryzhenkov then cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the Myanmar Embassy and posed for a commemorative photograph.

The foreign ministers of the two countries subsequently delivered congratulatory remarks. Myanmar Ambassador U Maung Maung Soe then presented a commemorative gift marking the opening of the embassy to President U Min Aung Hlaing, and another commemorative gift was presented to the Belarusian Foreign Minister.

President U Min Aung Hlaing later signed the guest book at the Diplomatic Hall in Minsk. A Belarusian government minister also presented the President with a portrait painting as a gift.

Following the ceremony, President U Min Aung Hlaing and members of the delegation visited the site in Minsk's diplomatic zone where the Myanmar Embassy is being constructed. The President inspected the progress of construction and gave necessary guidance based on reports from officials. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

Land Law Overhaul to Fix Management Gaps



Vice-President U Nyo Saw presides over the first meeting of the National Land Utilization Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE land resources must be conducted fairly with effective management for the development of the nation, said Vice-President U Nyo Saw, who chairs the National Land Utilization Council, at the first meeting of the council held at the Forest Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the Vice-President emphasized the drafting and approving a national land law which can adjust the provisions of the existing law, effective implementation of the national land utilization policy approved on 28 January 2016, implementation of the National Land Law as an umbrella law to control the differences of the relevant land management laws, reconstitution of the Nay Pyi Taw, region and state land utilization committees, collection of land utilization data, maps and records, formation of the working committees, working groups to assist in drafting the national land utilization plan and land utilization zones, and efforts to create links among the agricultural development, boosting production and markets.

He also urged all to contribute recommendations and engage in discussions in the interest of the State and the people, to effectively carry out operational duties, establish short- and long-term strategies, tactics, and action plans, draft and enact the National Land Law, and develop a sound land resource governance and management system.

Council Secretary Union Minister U Hsan Oo reported on duties and functions of the council and land utilization efforts.

Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, deputy ministers and chief ministers of regions and states who are council members participated in discussions on land utilization measures in regions and states. — MNA/TTA

Defence Services C-in-C visits Temple of Emerald Buddha, National Aviation Museum, Royal Thai Armed Forces Development HQ



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is pictured during his tour at the National Aviation Museum of the Royal Thai Air Force.

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, who attended the 9th Thailand-Myanmar High-Level Committee Meeting, visited the Temple of Emerald Buddha in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday morning.

The General offered flowers and paid homage to the Buddha Image in the Temple of Emerald Buddha and made donations.

The General and party also visited the National Aviation Museum of the Royal Thai Air Force in Don Mueang Province in the afternoon. They observed aircraft, fighters, helicopters and special aircraft for Royal Thai families, air force communication equipment, and the evolution of weaponry and uniforms at the museum.

The National Aviation Museum of the Royal Thai Air Force is located at the Don Mueang Royal Thai Air Force Base in Don Mueang Province, Bangkok, Thailand. It was established in 1952 with the aim of collecting, preserving, and restoring various aircraft and other aviation equipment used by the Royal Thai Air Force. It is known to exhibit Thailand's first locally designed and manufactured bomber, the Baribatra Bomber; rare World War II-era military aircraft such as the world's last remaining Curtiss Hawk III and Tachikawa Ki-36; fighter aircraft including the F-5A, F-16A, and Gripen; military helicopters; and transport aircraft. The museum also displays airbase equipment, pilots' uniforms across various eras, military communication devices, and features an aviation library.

On the afternoon of 20 August, the General and party visited the Royal Thai Armed Forces Development Headquarters in Bangkok. The director-general of the headquarters extended greetings, and a documentary video clip on the headquarters' history was screened. The General and party viewed the booths at the headquarters.

Daw Nilar, the wife of the General, also visited the Veterans General Hospital in Bangkok on 19 August. Officials presented the history of the hospital, medical treatment and work procedures through a video clip. She also observed wooden sculptures and Thai traditional Oshie artworks.

Operating under the War Veterans Organization of Thailand (WVO), the hospital was established in 1970 to systematically provide medical treatment and rehabilitation support to war veterans injured in conflicts and in the line of duty, disabled comrades, and their family members. — MNA/TTA

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye inspects National ...

FROM PAGE 5

the sculpture exhibition. At the art gallery, she viewed photographs taken by students from the Applied Digital Arts Diploma course and paintings created by students. She asked questions about the activities and coordinated with officials regarding requirements.

The National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) was established with the objectives of identifying, preserving, developing and promoting Myanmar's cultural heritage; conducting research and training to nurture morally upright and outstanding new generations of artists; identifying, promoting and teaching the cultures and traditions of Myanmar's national races; contributing through the arts to strengthening Union spirit and patriotism; and cooperating with arts universities abroad to promote and develop Myanmar's traditional arts in line with contemporary developments.

The university currently has a total of 165 students studying in their respective genres during the current academic year. — MNA/ST

LMC-funded model village initiative completed ...

FROM PAGE 1

Mr Shen Dan remarked that in recent years, the Lancang-Mekong Special Fund has supported many small but smart rural poverty reduction projects in Myanmar, yielding positive results. China will continue to deepen practical cooperation with Myanmar under the Lancang-Mekong framework and work towards more outcomes in building a China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

Myanmar officials also expressed deep gratitude to China for supporting the model village project, which benefited 180 households involving 726 people and provided useful models for rural development in other parts of the country. Myanmar also hoped for continued and deepened cooperation with China in agricultural development and rural poverty reduction. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Bago trains locals to turn banana fibre into value-added products

A basic training course on producing value-added products from banana fibre, organized by the Bago Region Small Scale Industries Department under the guidance of the Bago Region chief minister, was held yesterday morning at Tagun Village in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District. The training has created new employment opportunities for local people in the area.



Trainees are seen diligently practising the process of turning banana fibre into value-added products.

As banana cultivation is widespread in Toungoo District, green economic opportunities have been developed to produce value-added products from discarded banana plants. During the training, Green Banana Myanmar provided practical instruction on extracting banana thread and fibre from banana plants, as well as making hats, bags, mats, paper and footwear, and producing food products from banana stems.

"Locals in the area are particularly interested in producing banana thread and making footwear from banana plants. Previously, they did not know that banana plants could be used to produce value-added products. Now they have learned about these opportunities, and there are also some entrepreneurs already operating in the area. Through the Green Banana Bago group, we plan to create employment opportunities for local people and produce value-added products. We would like to thank the Bago Region Small Scale Industries Department, the Chairman of the Toungoo District Management and Administration Committee and all responsible officials for organizing the training and creating employment opportunities for local people. We are delighted to see new employment opportunities emerging for local communities," said U Myint Thein of Green Banana Myanmar.

As Mohinga is widely consumed throughout Myanmar, the training also covered the production of ready-to-eat dried banana stems, which are used in Mohinga broth. The dried banana stems can be supplied to areas where banana plants are scarce and exported abroad. Participants were also taught how to produce natural fertilizers from waste materials generated during the production of value-added banana products.

More than 900 acres of banana plants are cultivated in Yedashe Township, Bago Region. Banana growers, who previously made their livelihoods mainly through conventional banana production, welcomed the emergence of new employment and business opportunities after learning production skills for value-added products from banana plants.

The basic training course on producing value-added products from banana fibre was conducted for 20 trainees from 14 to 20 August, with practical instruction provided throughout the one-week course. An advanced training course, including weaving and mat-making techniques, is also planned to be opened in the future. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price decreases

THE wholesale reference price of palm oil for the Yangon market has slightly decreased to K7,179 per viss for the week ending 27 August, down from K7,202 per viss during the week ending 20 August, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee, under the Ministry of Commerce, closely monitors Free on Board (FOB) prices in Malaysia and Indonesia. They factor in transport costs, tariffs, and banking services to determine the weekly wholesale market reference price for edible oil.

Despite this reference price, market prices remain high. To address price gouging, the Consumer Affairs Department, also under the Ministry of Commerce, is encouraging consumers to report overcharging through a dedicated call centre hotline. They urge consumers not to purchase palm oil at inflated prices. The committee has warned that anyone involved in price gouging or hoarding palm oil in an attempt to manipulate the market will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

Additionally, the department is collaborating with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and importing companies to provide affordable rates for imported palm oil to consumers. Complaints regarding overcharging can be reported by dialling the Consumer Affairs Department hotline at 1535 or by messaging their Facebook page, as well as the relevant regional and state departments.

Domestic palm oil consumption in Myanmar is estimated at one million tonnes per year, while local production is only about 400,000 tonnes. Approximately 700,000 tonnes are imported annually from Malaysia and Indonesia to meet the demand. — NN/KK

Open tenders invited for procurement of operational supplies

THE Yangon City Development Committee has invited open tenders for the procurement of various operational supplies for the 2026-2027 financial year, including delivery to the designated areas.

The items to be purchased are 470,000 gallons of diesel, 60,000 gallons of Premium diesel, 20,000 gallons of Octane 92, 13 UPS units, five laptops, tires (37 types): 480 sets/pieces, 51 chairs with armrests, 40 chairs without armrests, 50 steel chairs, 10 Swivel chairs, 10 wardrobes (wood/steel), 62 file shelves, 60 computer desks, 26 chairs, office tables (executive: 39 / clerical: 54, steel), 6.6 kV (50 units), one 710 kV induction motor, one set of laboratory fume hood and 200 tonnes of steel bars (various sizes, HRB-400).

Tender forms are available from the Procurement Division of the Finance and Accounts Department starting on 20 August, and the submission deadline is noon on 1 September. Individuals can enquire about details through the Procurement Tender Committee at 01 388732. — NN/KK

Four-Lane Rail Flyover Planned Near Insein's Danyingon Market



This image shows officials inspecting the site where the four-lane railway flyover will be constructed in Insein Township.

THE Ministry of Construction will build a four-lane railway flyover using PC girder and steel box girder technology at the intersection of the Yangon-Pyay railway and Khayaybin Road, near the Danyingon wholesale market in Insein Township, to ease traffic congestion.

More than 3,000 vehicles, including express buses, freight trucks, and six-wheelers, pass through the intersection daily. Moreover, 23 Up and Down trains, including circular trains, cross the railway line each day, causing frequent gridlock during train crossings.

Upon completion, the flyover will eliminate delays at the level crossings and significantly improve traffic flow along the Khayaybin Road. Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, accompanied by the Bridge Department's director-general and officials, visited the site on 20 August to inspect soil testing and construction plans. During the site inspection, he instructed relevant departments to coordinate on relocating utility poles and communication towers, as well as building a temporary access road to the Danyingon market. He also stressed the need for effective road detour planning.

The deputy minister and his team proceeded to inspect repair and maintenance works on the Hinthada-Duya-Dauntgyi-Zalun Road, the Kyainpinse-Sakkaw-Danubyu-Zalun Road and the Yangon-Pathein Road, which are currently being repaired under a BOT arrangement by Oriental Highway Company. — TWA/KK

OPINION

Myanmar, Russia launch comprehensive talks for mutual benefit

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, currently on an official goodwill visit to Russia, met President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow to discuss multifaceted cooperation, including the development of Myanmar.

Friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries continue to improve, marked by longstanding, sound diplomatic ties that firmly reflect traditional friendship and mutual respect and appreciation. On the international stage, Russia stands firmly in support of the interests of Myanmar and its people, while Myanmar is actively working to enhance its diplomatic relations internationally, including with regional countries and ASEAN.

At the Russian Government House meeting hall, discussions were held between the President of Myanmar and the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation on advancing bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including trade, investment, agriculture, digital technology, industry, education, health, religious and cultural affairs, maritime and transport, tourism, sports, and agriculture and livestock, as well as potential opportunities for collaboration in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Following that, a total of 12 memoranda of understanding and agreements were signed between the two countries, including: a joint declaration on ways to counter and address the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for the electric power, oil, and natural gas sectors, an MoU on cooperation in the fields of radio-electronics and digital technology, a cooperation agreement between competition authorities, an MoU on cultural and artistic cooperation, an MoU on cooperation in information and communication technology (ICT), an MoU on cooperation in satellite navigation systems, manned spaceflights, the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite-aided search and rescue system, and the Automated Warning System for Hazardous Situations in Near-Earth Outer Space (ASPOS OKP), and MoUs between the Myanmar Space Agency and both the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics and the Bauman Moscow State Technical University.

At the Russian Government House meeting hall, discussions were held between the President of Myanmar and the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation on advancing bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including trade, investment, agriculture, digital technology, industry, education, health, religious and cultural affairs, maritime and transport, tourism, sports, and agriculture and livestock, as well as potential opportunities for collaboration in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

In addition, the President of Myanmar and the Chairman of the State Duma met in the State Duma building's conference hall to discuss matters regarding the continued enhancement of bilateral friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

Myanmar and Russia established diplomatic relations in 1948, and throughout history, bilateral ties have developed favourably alongside cooperation in political, economic, educational, and other sectors. Therefore, the historically longstanding relationship between Myanmar and Russia will remain firm in the future as well.

ARTICLE

The Significance of Public Health in a National Development Perspective

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

Public health is a fundamental pillar of national development because it directly influences the health, productivity, and well-being of a country's population. It includes a wide range of activities, including disease surveillance, vaccination programmes, sanitation, health education, nutrition, environmental protection, maternal and child health services, and emergency preparedness. A nation's economic strength, social stability, and sustainable development depend significantly on the effectiveness of its public health system. Therefore, investing in public health should be regarded not merely as a social responsibility but also as a strategic investment in a country's future.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Public Health as "the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society".

One of the most significant contributions of public health to national development is the improvement of human capital. Human capital refers to the knowledge, skills, and health that enable individuals to contribute productively to society. Healthy citizens are more capable of pursuing education, maintaining employment, and participating actively in economic and social activities. As a result, countries with strong public health systems often enjoy greater economic growth because their workforce is healthier, more efficient, and better equipped to meet the demands of a competitive global economy.

Public health also plays a critical role in reducing the economic burden of disease. Communicable diseases, chronic illnesses, and preventable health conditions impose enormous costs on governments, businesses, and households. Medical treatment, hospitalization, and long-term care require substantial financial resources, while illness often reduces productivity and household income. Preventive public health measures, such as vaccination, health education, regular screenings, and disease surveillance, are generally far more cost-effective than treating advanced illnesses.



For example, immunization programs have successfully reduced the prevalence of diseases such as measles, polio, and hepatitis in many countries, saving millions of lives while significantly lowering healthcare expenditures.

The field of public health is constantly evolving in response to the needs of communities and populations around the world. The underlying mission of public health is to improve the conditions and behaviours that affect health so that all people can attain it. That mission includes not only the practice of public health policy, but the research of public health issues and the education of future leaders who eventually will translate that research into practices and policies to improve the health of people regionally, nationally, and globally.

Another significant contribution of public health is the prevention and control of infectious diseases. Throughout history, outbreaks of diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis, influenza, Ebola, and COVID-19 have demonstrated the devastating impact that epidemics can have on societies and economies. Effective public health systems monitor disease patterns, identify emerging health threats, and implement rapid responses to contain outbreaks before they spread widely. Disease surveillance, laboratory testing, contact tracing, quarantine measures, and vaccination campaigns are all essential components of public health preparedness. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly illustrated that countries with stronger public health infrastructure were generally better equipped to protect their populations, maintain essential services, and recover more quickly from the crisis. Consequently, strengthening public health systems is essential not only for protecting lives but also for safeguarding national security and economic stability.

Environmental health represents another essential dimension of public health that contributes significantly to national development. Clean water, safe food, proper sanitation, effective waste management, and pollution control are fundamental requirements for maintaining healthy communities. Poor environmental conditions increase the risk of infectious diseases, respiratory illnesses, and other health problems that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Furthermore, environmental sustainability and public health are closely interconnected. Climate change, deforestation, and environmental degradation create new public health challenges by increasing the frequency of natural disasters, spreading vector-borne diseases, and threatening food and water security. Therefore, integrating environmental protection into public health policy supports sustainable national development.

Health education and health promotion are equally important components of public health. Educating people about nutrition, physical activity, mental health, hygiene, tobacco control, alcohol consumption, and disease prevention empowers individuals to make informed decisions regarding their health.

SEE PAGE 12

Building Investor Confidence in Myanmar: Legal and Institutional Reforms for Sustainable Economic Growth

By Dr Kyaw Linn Htun – Public Administration

Foreign direct investment (FDI) can play an important role in Myanmar's economic recovery. It can bring capital, technology, jobs, management skills and access to international markets. But attracting investment is not only about offering incentives. Investors also need clear laws, predictable policies, efficient government services and confidence that their investments will be protected.

This is especially important under Myanmar's current economic conditions. According to the World Bank's June 2026 Myanmar Economic Monitor, economic activity remains under pressure. Real GDP is expected to grow by only about two per cent in fiscal year 2026/27, while businesses continue to face high costs, power shortages, foreign-exchange constraints, trade disruptions and administrative difficulties. These conditions make policy certainty more important for investors. (World Bank, 2026).

Myanmar already has a basic legal framework for investment. The Myanmar Investment Law provides protections and incentives for investors, while the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) are responsible for important investment-related functions. The main challenge is therefore not simply creating new laws. It is making existing laws and institutions work more effectively and consistently. (DICA, 2026).

The priority should be greater legal and policy certainty. Investors need to know which sectors are open to foreign investment, what approvals are required and how long the process will take. Investment rules should be clear, publicly available and applied consistently. Similar projects should receive similar treatment. When procedures are unclear, or decisions are unpredictable, investors face higher risks and may choose other markets.

Investment approval should also become faster and more coordinated. Myanmar has already developed digital services such as the MyCO company-registration system. The next step should be stronger coordination among investment, taxation, customs, land, environmental and other government agencies. A more effective one-stop system would reduce unnecessary procedures and lower the cost of doing business.

Investor confidence also depends on what happens after an investment enters the country. Existing investors need support when they face problems involving electricity, foreign exchange, customs, land or licensing. Effective investor aftercare can encourage companies to expand and reinvest. It is often more efficient to retain an existing investor than to attract a completely new one.

Legal protection and dispute resolution are equally important. Investors need confidence that contracts and property rights will be respected and that commercial disputes can be resolved fairly and efficiently. The Myanmar Investment Law provides important protections, but the effectiveness of these protections depends on implementation and access to reliable dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Foreign-exchange policy is another major concern. Investors need predictable arrangements for importing machinery and raw materials, receiving export earnings and transferring legitimate investment returns. Myanmar faces genuine foreign-exchange pressures, but clear rules and better communication can reduce uncertainty. Investors can manage known restrictions more easily than unpredictable changes.

Tax incentives should also be used carefully. Incentives can attract investment when they are linked to clear development objectives such as job creation, exports, technology transfer or investment in less-developed regions. However, Myanmar should not compete with other countries only through tax benefits. Reliable electricity, transport, skilled workers, digital connectivity and efficient public services are often more important for long-term investment decisions.

Myanmar should also focus on the quality of FDI. Investment should not be measured only by the amount of capital approved. Policymakers should also consider employment, exports, technology transfer, skills development and links with local businesses. Foreign investors can make a stronger contribution to the economy when they purchase goods and services from Myanmar companies and help local firms enter regional supply chains.

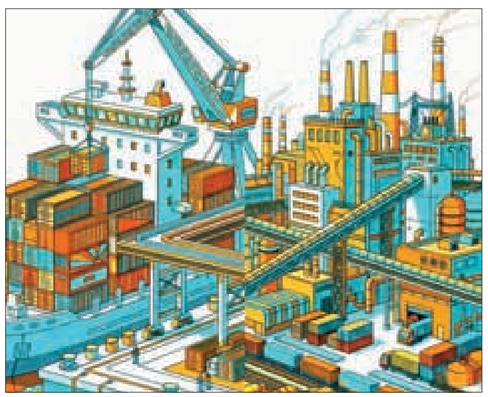
Better communication between government and the private sector is also necessary. Regular consultation with investors and domestic businesses can help identify practical problems in the investment environment. At the same time, better investment data can help policymakers understand actual capital inflows, employment, exports and reinvestment. Evidence-based policy is essential for improving the investment framework.

Myanmar is competing with other ASEAN economies for international capital. ASEAN attracted about US$226 billion in FDI in 2024, showing that the region remains an important destination for global investors. Myanmar has important advantages, including its strategic location between China and India, natural resources, agricultural potential and access to regional markets. But these advantages will have limited value without a predictable and efficient investment environment. (ASEAN Secretariat, 2025).

Building investor confidence will not happen through one new law or one investment promotion campaign. It requires continuous improvement in how government institutions work. Clear rules, faster procedures, stronger legal protection, effective dispute resolution, better investor aftercare and reliable public services can gradually reduce investment risks.

Myanmar should therefore treat investment reform as part of its wider economic development strategy. The objective should not simply be to attract more foreign capital. It should be to attract responsible and productive investment that creates jobs, develops skills, transfers technology, strengthens local businesses and supports sustainable economic growth.

Ultimately, investor confidence is built through experience. Investors judge a country not only by what its laws say, but also by what happens when they apply for approval, operate a business, transfer funds, resolve a dispute or expand their investment. If Myanmar can make these processes more predictable, transparent and professional, it can strengthen investor confidence and improve its position in the regional investment market.



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NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C meets families of Military Attaché Office, scholarship trainees

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo met staff and families of the Myanmar Military Attaché Office in Thailand and scholarship trainees at the hotel reception hall in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo meets staff and family members of the Myanmar Military Attachè Office, and scholarship trainees in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21 August 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said that trainees must study diligently to the point of being able to effectively apply their knowledge for the benefit of the country and the Tatmadaw. They must also pursue their studies to acquire higher knowledge and technical expertise through their respective disciplines.

He pointed out that service personnel performing their duties must serve as exemplary personnel in safeguarding and promoting the nation's political, economic, and national interests according to their respective assigned sectors.

The General presented foodstuffs and gifts for families of the Military Attaché Office and trainees through officials. The meeting was also attended by Daw Nilar, the wife of the General, the Military Attaché and officials.

The General and party left Wing 6 of the Royal Thai Air Force in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday afternoon, and were seen off at the airport by Chief of the Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Ukris Boontanondha and his wife, senior officers, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Zaw Zaw Soe, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Win Thu Lin and officials.

On arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport, the General and party were welcomed back by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Win, senior Tatmadaw officers and officials from the Thai Military Attaché Office in Myanmar.

The General and party attended the Thailand-Myanmar High-Level Officers' Meeting, met with top officials from the Royal Thai Armed Forces to discuss the relations and cooperation between the two armed forces, and visited landmark sites across Thailand. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar, Belarus to deepen cooperation in education sector

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, who accompanied President U Min Aung Hlaing on his official visit to Belarus, met Belarusian Minister of Education Mr Ivanets Andrey Ivanovich in Minsk yesterday.



Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein meets Belarusian Minister of Education Mr Ivanets Andrey Ivanovich in Minsk, Belarus, on 21 August 2026.

The two sides discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation in education and signing memorandums of understanding between the respective education ministries and between the University of Yangon and Belarusian State University.

Myanmar officials also discussed expanding cooperation with Belarus in science and technology, including space technology, unmanned aerial vehicles, small satellites and satellite applications in agriculture, transport and communications. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Myanmar joins 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and related meetings

THE 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and related meetings were held virtually from 19-21 August under the chairmanship of the Philippines.



Union Minister Dr Maung Thin participates in the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth and related meetings online.

On 21 August, Union Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Maung Thin discussed youth development initiatives being implemented in Myanmar in line with the ASEAN Youth Work Programme 2026-2030, regional youth programmes and the priorities under the Philippines' ASEAN Chairmanship.

The 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth was held on the morning of 21 August, where participants reviewed reports of the 14th and 15th ASEAN Senior Officials Meetings on Youth and adopted the ASEAN Youth Work Programme 2026-2030, the ASEAN Declaration on "Walking Together Towards an Inclusive, Innovative and Resilient ASEAN Future for Youth Development", the Youth Statement on Enhancing Digital Resilience among Youth, and the Joint Statement of the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth.

At noon, the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth was held with the participation of youth ministers from ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three countries-China, Japan and Korea. The meeting adopted its Joint Statement.

At the 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth, the Philippines handed over the chairmanship to Singapore, which will assume the rotating ASEAN Chairmanship for 2027-2028. At the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meeting on Youth, the Philippines and Japan handed over the co-chairmanship to Singapore and Korea.

The related meetings, such as the 15th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Youth and the 14th ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Youth, were held on 19 and 20 August with the participation of the director-general of the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

State, Hluttaw, people to strive for nation's development

AS the Hluttaw is a bridge connecting the government and the people, the State, the Hluttaw and the people must strive for the development of the nation, said Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn at the meeting with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Mon State Hluttaw, and lawmakers from Pyithu, Amyotha and State Hluttaws.



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn meets the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and lawmakers from the Mon State Hluttaw.

At the meeting held at the Mon State Hluttaw office yesterday morning, the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker underlined that Hluttaw representatives have to fulfil the needs of the people from relevant constituencies by raising questions and submitting proposals, urging them to participate in the enactment, amendment, supplementation, and drafting anew of laws that are in line with the current situation.

He recounted that lawmakers raised 286 asterisk questions and 599 non-asterisk questions as well as submit three motions during the first and second regular sessions of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw. A total of 22 committees, including four standing committees of the Pyithu Hluttaw, contact relevant ministries to serve the interests of the people.

The Deputy Speaker stressed that just as it is necessary to work effectively for the benefit of the region through inter-parliamentary cooperation, it is also essential to coordinate efforts towards the capacity building of both Hluttaw representatives and Hluttaw office staff.

The Mon State Hluttaw Speaker and lawmakers reported on the parliamentary affairs. The Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker viewed the Hluttaw assembly hall and cordially greeted the lawmakers and staff. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Dy Minister receives UNRC/HC ai

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Ms Gwyn Lewis, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim (UNRC/HC ai), on 21 August 2026 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters related to the existing and further cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations agencies.

Also present at the meeting were senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim calls on Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw.

Myanmar, Belarus health ministers discuss cooperation

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, who accompanied President U Min Aung Hlaing on his official visit to Belarus, met Belarusian Minister of Health Mr Aliaksandr Khajayeu at Belarusian State Medical University at 4:30 pm local standard time yesterday.

During the meeting, the two health ministers held extensive discussions on potential cooperation in the health sector between the two countries. They also observed academic programmes for students at Belarusian State Medical University and visited its hospitals.

Located in Minsk, Belarusian State Medical University is one of the country's oldest and major medical universities. It is listed with the World Health Organization (WHO) and recognized by international medical councils. The university also provides direct instruction in medicine and dentistry in English for international students. — MNA/KZL



A group commemorative photo session during the meeting between Health Ministers of Belarus and Myanmar in Minsk, Belarus.

Rescue and relief efforts press on in inundated areas



This picture features ongoing rescue and relief efforts in Ayeyawady Region.

FLOOD relief and rescue efforts are continuing in Laymyethna, Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships and surrounding villages in Ayeyawady Region.

On the night of 30 July 2026, heavy rainfall and riverbank erosion caused a breach in the Ngawun River embankment, resulting in flooding. As of today, floodwaters have affected 19 urban wards and surrounding villages across the affected townships.

To assist flood victims, temporary relief camps have been opened. Tatmadaw members of the South-West Command, members of the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department, social rescue organizations, volunteer groups and residents are working together to conduct search and rescue operations, help evacuate people and belongings to safer locations, distribute food and essential supplies, and provide necessary healthcare services to affected communities.

At the same time, efforts are underway to prevent further riverbank erosion and embankment damage by placing sandbags along vulnerable sections, constructing water-retarding structures, and reinforcing the embankment with additional earth.

Officials from the South-West Command visited the affected areas to inspect the ongoing rescue and rehabilitation operations, encourage personnel on the ground, and coordinate additional assistance as required. — MNA/KTZH

Laihka inspects rural farm road construction

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of a rural farm road construction in Hona Village, Laihka Township.

Laihka Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Naing Win and engineering staff inspected the construction progress on the one-mile farm road, which features a 12-foot width with a two-foot earth shoulder on either side and a nine-inch thick gravel layer. He met with representatives of the tender-winning company and members of the village farm road construction committee, urging them to focus on completing the work on schedule within the stipulated period, while providing necessary coordination for matters raised by local residents.

The farm road project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with K119.196 million in Union budget funds. Tender-winning companies commenced implementation in the third week of July under the technical assistance and close supervision of department staff. Upon completion, the road will benefit more than 750 acres of farmland cultivated by local residents in Hona Village. — Karan (Rural)

SCI/TECH/ARTICLE
WORLD

Moscow bets big on protein therapies to tackle severe diseases

Specialized protein therapies target specific receptors to eliminate diseases effectively today.

THE biotech process development centre at Sputnik Technopolis, operated by R-Pharm Group - a resident of the Technopolis Moscow special economic zone - is working on 11 original molecules to develop new therapies for cancer and autoimmune diseases, announced Deputy Mayor Maxim Liksutov.

The innovative drugs use monoclonal antibodies, multispecific antibodies, and antibody-drug conjugates—specialized proteins that recognize specific antigens or cellular receptors to precisely target the root cause of disease.

In its drug development efforts, the company is zeroing in on the most promising scientific frontiers. A major focus is multispecific antibodies — molecules that can home in on multiple targets simultaneously, attack disease through different pathways, and help patients who have developed resistance to existing treatments. — SPUNIK



Modern biotech laboratory focuses on developing advanced targeted protein drug therapies. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/MOS.RU**

Tropical warming temporarily slows Antarctic melting

A temporary reversal in Antarctic ice-sheet mass loss from July 2021 to April 2023 has been traced to multiyear warming in the tropical warm pool spanning the western Pacific and eastern Indian oceans, according to a study by researchers from China, the United States, Japan, Belgium and Hungary. Data from satellites that track changes in Earth's gravity showed that the Antarctic Ice Sheet gained about 695 billion tonnes of mass during the period. It was the largest mass-gain event since the satellite record began in 2003. – Xinhua

The Significance of Public Health in a National Development Perspective

FROM PAGE 9

Public awareness campaigns encourage healthier lifestyles and reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and certain cancers. These chronic diseases account for a substantial proportion of global mortality and healthcare spending. Through health promotion initiatives, governments can encourage early detection, healthy behaviours, and regular medical check-ups, thereby reducing both individual suffering and national healthcare costs. In addition, health literacy enables citizens to respond more effectively during public health emergencies by following evidence-based recommendations and avoiding misinformation.

Public health also promotes social equity and inclusive development. Mental health has become an increasingly important area within public health and national development. Mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and stress-related conditions affect millions of people worldwide and have significant economic and social consequences. Poor mental health reduces workplace productivity, increases healthcare costs, and negatively affects family relationships and community well-being. Public health strategies that integrate mental health services into primary healthcare, promote early intervention, reduce stigma, and expand access to counselling and psychological support improve both individual well-being and national productivity. As societies become more urbanized and technologically advanced, addressing mental health challenges has become an essential component of comprehensive public health policy.

The unified list of essential public health functions includes the following functions:

- Public health surveillance and monitoring: Monitoring and surveillance of population health status, risk, protective and promotive factors, threats to health, and health system performance and service utilization
- Public health emergency management: Managing public health emergencies for international and national health security
- Public health stewardship: Establishing effective public health institutional structures, leadership, coordination, accountability, regulations and laws
- Multisectoral planning, financing and management for public health: Supporting effective and efficient health systems and multisectoral planning, financing and management for public health
- Health protection: Protecting populations against health threats, for example environmental and occupational hazards and communicable and noncommunicable diseases, including mental health conditions, food insecurity, and chemical and radiation hazards
- Disease prevention and early detection: Prevention and early detection of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, including mental health conditions and injuries
- Health promotion: Promoting health and well-being as well as actions to address the wider determinants of health and inequity
- Community engagement and social participation: Strengthening community engagement, participation and social mobilization for health and well-being
- Public health workforce development: Developing and maintaining an adequate and competent public health workforce
- Health service quality and equity: Improving appropriateness, quality and equity in provision of and access to health services
- Public health research, evaluation and knowledge: Advancing public health research and knowledge development
- Access to and utilization of health products, supplies, equipment and technologies: Promoting equitable access to and rational use of safe, effective and quality-assured health products, supplies, equipment and technologies

Furthermore, investment in public health strengthens international cooperation and enhances a nation's global reputation. Infectious diseases do not respect national borders, making international collaboration essential for disease surveillance, research, vaccine development, and information sharing. Organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) facilitate cooperation among countries to address global health challenges. Nations that actively invest in public health infrastructure, scientific research, and international partnerships are better positioned to respond to global health threats while contributing to worldwide efforts to improve health outcomes. Strong public health systems also attract foreign investment, tourism, and skilled professionals because they create safer and healthier living environments.

Briefly, public health is essential to national development because it improves population health, strengthens human capital, promotes economic growth, reduces healthcare costs, protects communities from disease, advances social equity, and enhances national resilience. A healthy population is the foundation upon which educational achievement, economic productivity and sustainable development are built. As global health challenges continue to evolve, sustained investment in public health will remain one of the most effective strategies for achieving long-term national development and improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

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Sydney Airport probes fourth monthly incident

AUSTRALIAN authorities said on Friday that they are investigating a taxiing conflict involving two Qantas flights in the fourth safety incident at Sydney Airport within a month.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said that two domestic Qantas flights with passengers on board were given clearance to take routes that could have caused a collision at Sydney Airport on Tuesday.

It said that a Boeing 737 that had arrived at Sydney from the Gold Coast was traveling west on taxiway L.

At the same time, an Airbus A321 preparing to depart for Melbourne was granted clearance to turn right onto the same taxiway. — Xinhua



Aviation safety authorities probe consecutive runway near-collision incidents at Sydney Airport. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia's Rosatom holding talks with another 15 countries on construction of nuclear plants

RUSSIAN state nuclear corporation Rosatom is holding talks with another 15 countries on the construction of nuclear power plants, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev said on Thursday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin convened a meeting to discuss the development of nuclear energy. On Thursday, the Russian nuclear industry is marking the 81st anniversary of its establishment.



Rosatom booth at the Eurasian Economic Forum in Sirius Park. (often appearing in Latin script as Rosatom.) **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

"We are working on further expanding our foreign presence... The latest example is the signing of the relevant intergovernmental agreement with Vietnam. In addition, we are in negotiations with another 15 countries," Likhachev said at the meeting.

Rosatom is completely independent of imports in the production of equipment for nuclear power plant reactors, the CEO added. — SPUTNIK

Bitcoin jumps as stocks bounce

BITCOIN bounced and global stocks clawed back some of their recent losses on Friday as investors assessed the US Treasury's efforts to push down long-term borrowing costs.

Oil prices held on to the week's gains as the United States and Iran remained deadlocked over a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Bitcoin climbed almost six per cent to over $77,000 and is up more than 20 per cent this week — to its highest levels since May — as the US Treasury's surprise move to buy back more of its own bonds increased liquidity and added to investor's risk appetite. Gold also rose. — AFP

Iraq PM seeks oil production rise to 10M barrels per day

IRAQ'S prime minister said Friday that he wants to increase the country's oil production to as much as 10 million barrels a day within six years.

Crude oil sales account for nearly 90 per cent of Iraq's revenue but its exports have been hurt by the outbreak of the Middle East war between Iran and the United States, which choked off the Strait of Hormuz.

Iraq, an OPEC founding member, was forced to halt production in most of its oil fields during the war as reservoirs filled up.

"We are working to increase Iraq's share within the OPEC+framework, and we aim to reach a production of 9 to 10 million barrels per day in six years," Ali al-Zaidi told a panel in Baghdad.



Iraq aims to expand oil production capacity despite regional export route disruptions. **PHOTO: XINHUA / FILE**

Baghdad recently asked OPEC to increase its production quota because of the war's impact.

Before the conflict began, Iraq produced around four million barrels per day, and exported an average of 105 million barrels per month, mostly from its Basra oil terminal via Hormuz. — AFP

Tobacco sales continue to fall in New Zealand

THE volume of tobacco sold in New Zealand fell by more than 20 per cent year-on-year in 2025 and has more than halved over the past decade, a senior health official said Friday.

Annual tobacco returns showed the volume of tobacco sold had fallen by two-thirds since 2010, and the number of cigarettes sold per capita was down nearly 80 per cent, consistent with the long-term fall in smoking rates, Associate Health Minister Casey Costello said in a statement. However, the accelerated decline in legal tobacco sales in recent years was concerning, as it could partly reflect the growing availability of black-market cigarettes rather than a corresponding fall in smoking rates, Costello said. — Xinhua

MYANMA Port Authority
"NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.11 feet to 20.86 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 28th to September 2nd, 2026 . Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V JT GLORY VOY.NO. (494E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JT GLORY VOY.NO. (494E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2026** 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 LINES

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Can Pakistan turn coastline to goldmine

Pakistan expands maritime economy targeting ten billion dollars in seafood exports.



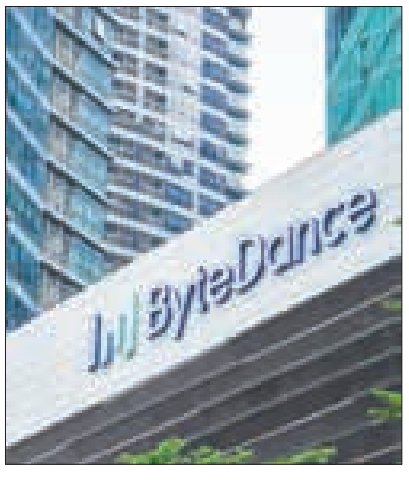
Photo taken on 13 November 2016 shows the COSCO Wellington cargo vessel with containers moored at Gwadar port, Pakistan. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

PAKISTAN is making a major bet on its "blue economy" — transforming ocean resources into a unified engine combining ports, shipbuilding, processing, and logistics, while protecting the marine environment. At the heart of this push is fisheries, with a target of $10 billion in revenue.

Today, Pakistan's seafood exports stand at just $568 million — compared to $7.2 billion for Vietnam and $6.1 billion for India. The new National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2025-2035 aims to close this gap by shifting from raw exports to deep processing.

However, experts urge a realistic assessment. "There's a lot of potential for seafood in Pakistan, but at the same time the market is very much saturated as well," notes Syed Ali Ehsan, chief development officer at the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy. This means achieving the targets will require a radical upgrade in standards and technologies.

Efforts are underway. These reforms are part of the broader "Maritime @100" programme, with a $100 billion budget until 2047. Key steps include: a 100-acre off-port terminal in Gwadar, a $60-80 million processing zone in Korangi, the first "green" shipyard in Port Qasim, and the $43 million modernization of the Gadani shipbreaking yard. — SPUTNIK



Australia passes legislation taxing global technology giants to support domestic media. **PHOTO: BYTEDANCE**

Australia passes law to tax tech giants who fail to pay for news

AUSTRALIA passed legislation Thursday aimed at encouraging tech giants to strike commercial deals with local news outlets, by imposing millions of dollars in levies on those who fail to do so.

The News Bargaining Incentive will require tech companies to pay levies equivalent to 2.75 per cent of their domestic digital advertising revenue if they choose not to enter commercial deals with local news companies for the use of their content, with funds raised to be distributed to the news media sector.

The levies are payable by tech companies with annual digital advertising revenue in Australia exceeding A$250 million ($178 million), with Meta Platforms Inc, Google LLC, ByteDance Ltd and LinkedIn Corp expected to fall under this definition. — Kyodo

Portugal designates green priority areas

PORTUGAL'S government on Thursday approved a sectoral programme designating more than 800 areas across approximately 170 municipalities on the Portuguese mainland as priority zones for the accelerated licensing and development of solar and wind energy projects.

Minister of Cabinet Affairs Antonio Leitao Amaro said the designated areas, which cover around one per cent of mainland Portugal's total surface, will benefit from shorter licensing deadlines and exemptions from certain environmental impact assessments, allowing investment in renewable energy to proceed more quickly. — Xinhua

Egyptian expat remittances hit record

REMITTANCES from Egyptians working abroad rose to a record US$47.3 billion in the 2025-2026 financial year, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) said Thursday.

The figure marked a 29.6 per cent increase from $36.5 billion in the previous financial year, the CBE said in a statement.

In June 2026 alone, remittances rose 15.6 per cent year on year to about $4.2 billion, up from around $3.6 billion in June 2025, according to the statement.

Remittances, one of Egypt's key sources of foreign currency, have followed an upward trend since March 2024, following the CBE's decision to allow the exchange rate to be determined by market forces. The measure helped eliminate the parallel foreign exchange market in Egypt, after remittances had declined significantly due to the black market. — Xinhua

Estonia marks 35th anniversary of restoration of independence

EVENTS were held across Estonia on Thursday to mark the 35th anniversary of the restoration of the country's independence.

The main commemorative events took place in the capital with a flag-raising ceremony and the laying of flowers at the 20 August Memorial Stone.

The Estonian parliament and the 20 August Club, which brought together surviving members of the Supreme Council who voted for the restoration of independence in 1991, held a joint formal sitting. Estonian President Alar Karis and parliamentary leaders attended the event.

In addition, public celebrations were held at the Tallinn TV Tower and the Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom, with family activities, exhibitions and programmes recalling the events that led to the restoration of independence.

Similar events were also held in cities including Tartu, the second-largest city in Eatonia. — Xinhua



People attend a Singing Picnic marking the 35th anniversary of the restoration of Estonia's independence in Narva, Estonia, 20 August 2026.

SPORTS

Argentina's Paredes suspended for 10 games for world cup fight



Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes (centre, wearing number 5 jersey) was one of the players involved in a shoving match after his team lost the 2026 World Cup football tournament to Spain. **PHOTO: AFP**

MIDFIELDER Leandro Paredes and several Argentina players have received bans and fines for their part in clashes with Spain players at the World Cup final, FIFA said on Friday.

Argentina have also been ordered to play their next two home matches behind closed doors, though one match of that sanction is suspended. Boca Juniors player Paredes will be banned for 10 international games and was fined $90,000.

He grabbed Eric Garcia by the throat and wrestled Spain's Gavi to the ground while holding his substitute's bib, which led to an escalation in the incidents after the final that Spain won 1-0 at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on 19 July.

Paredes' Argentina teammate Nahuel Molina received a seven-match ban and must also pay a fine of $90,000, while Thiago Almada was suspended for one match and fined $30,000.

Gavi was handed a similar penalty for his part in the fracas.

The Argentinian Football Association (AFA) has been fined $321,000 for breaches of FIFA's disciplinary code relating to using a sports event for making demonstrations of a non-sporting nature, team misconduct, and discriminatory chants and gestures by its supporters. — AFP

Mourinho returns to Real Madrid

THE second Jose Mourinho era at Real Madrid officially begins Saturday night when the Portuguese takes his side to face Espanyol at the RCDE Stadium in Barcelona.

Mourinho returns to a club that has undergone a significant rebuild over the summer, with Bernardo Silva, Ibrahima Konate, Denzel Dumfries, Carlos Espi, Marc Cucurella and Yan Diomande all joining the club. The club broke its transfer record to sign 19-year-old Cote d'Ivoire international Diomande.

However, not all of the new arrivals are expected to start immediately. Some only recently joined their teammates following the World Cup, while Jude Bellingham and Aurelien Tchouameni are also likely to be eased into action after lengthy campaigns this summer. – Xinhua

2 Myanmar fighters suffer defeats at ONE 167



This photo capture the Thai winner celebrating victory. **PHOTO: ONEFC**

THE ONE Friday Fights 167 and The Inner Circle 27 event was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on the evening of 21 August, with both Myanmar fighters Kyaw Swa Win and Saw Min Min suffering defeats.

Kyaw Swa Win faced Thai fighter Komawut and lost by decision. It was his fourth bout under ONE and his second defeat.

Saw Min Min fought Thai fighter Yodphupa and also lost by decision after the bout went the full three rounds. He has now lost all three of his bouts this year. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Duplantis song named Ultimate Anthem

POLE vault world record holder and two-time Olympic champion Mondo Duplantis' song "Gold" was named the Ultimate Anthem of the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship by World Athletics on Friday.

The original song was written and performed by the Swedish pole vaulter, and the accompanying music video was launched globally.

"I wrote the song around representing something that's a lot bigger than yourself. I think that's what we all do when we're on the track. We represent our family, our team, our coaches, and I love that concept. Music and sports are the two things that bring people together in the best way, and Gold is an expression of that," Duplantis was quoted as saying in a World Athletics press release.

Duplantis will perform the song in Budapest, Hungary, on 13 September, when the Ultimate Championship concludes.

The Ultimate Championship is a new year-ending event designed to bring together world champions, Olympic champions, Wanda Diamond League winners and the year's best-performing athletes to compete for the ultimate title and prize. — Xinhua

Spurs spending spree vital to raise standards: De Zerbi

ROBERTO De Zerbi has claimed Tottenham's frenzied spending was essential as they aim to avoid a repeat of last season's relegation battle.

De Zerbi saved Tottenham from the humiliation of crashing into the Championship for the first time since the 1970s.

The Italian arrived late in the season and dragged Tottenham to safety on the final day.

Since securing their top-flight status, Tottenham have splashed out over £200 million ($272 million) on new signings, with more expensive recruits on their way to north London.

Tottenham reached an agreement with Manchester City on Friday for Brazil winger Savinho, who will join for an initial £75 million.

That will take Tottenham's beyond the £300 million mark in the close-season, with £100 million paid for Sandro Tonali, while Mateus Fernandes cost £85 million. – AFP

Fury doubts Joshua heavyweight bout



Tyson Fury casts serious doubt over highly anticipated Anthony Joshua heavyweight clash. **PHOTO: AFP**

TYSON Fury says his long-awaited heavyweight fight with Anthony Joshua "doesn't look like it's going to happen" in a rant at his British rival and promoter Eddie Hearn on Friday.

Joshua and Fury are expected to meet in the 'Battle of Britain' on 20 November with Madison Square Garden in New York emerging as a likely location.

But Fury accused Hearn of 'wanting more money' from Saudi boxing supremo Turki Alalshikh and funding other ventures off the back of the prospective Fury-Joshua fight.

In a post on Instagram, Fury, 38, said: "Doesn't look like they're going to sign the fight, doesn't look like it's going to happen. All because Eddie Hearn and that want more money.

"They have already had that much money off Turki (Alalshikh) over the last few years Eddie and AJ They have had boxing deals, they have had darts deals, they have had snooker deals, they have had everything.

"And yet, they have got the audacity and cheek of flea-bitten rats to ask for more money from old Turki that you have had combined over the last couple of years." — AFP

Can Pakistan turn coastline to goldmine

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WORLD

Türkiye to build open air museum

TURKISH Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy said that approximately 70 structures have been uncovered across an area of about 2,700 square metres at Sayburc, an archaeological site dating to the mid-9th millennium BC.

The minister added that the site is planned to be developed as an open-air museum, while traditional village structures in the area are expected to be preserved as part of a pioneering village museum, Milliyet reported.

The discoveries at Sayburc are considered important for understanding Neolithic art and architecture. Excavated structures show a transition from circular to rectangular architectural plans and provide evidence relevant to the emergence of houses and households, said the report. — Xinhua



This image shows an 11,000-year-old Neolithic stone relief from Sayburç. **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

Japan budget requests hit record high

JAPAN'S budget requests from ministries and agencies for fiscal 2027 starting April are set to top 130 trillion yen ($819 billion), significantly higher than last year's record of 122 trillion yen due to the government's promotion of growth investment, sources close to the matter said Friday.

In a major budget drafting reform, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government has not set caps on ministries' requests for growth strategy spending. It will also secure funds for policies needing multiyear implementation, rather than drawing up the initial budget on the assumption that a supplementary budget will be crafted for additional spending. — Kyodo

Russia builds satellite to test eco-friendly rocket fuel in orbit

Small satellites require propulsion systems to maintain orbits and avoid re-entry.

ReshUCube-4, a nanosatellite under development at Reshetnev Siberian State University of Science and Technology together with the Keldysh Research Centre, will put advanced green propellant technology through its paces in space.

Launch is planned for late 2027, project leader Dmitry Zuev tells Sputnik.

Small satellites need propulsion to stay in their assigned orbits, avoid premature re-entry and maneuver between orbits.

Zuev notes that:

- A mass-dimensional model is ready for docking tests with the Keldysh team
- The propulsion unit has already been installed in the satellite body for initial checks
- The system will undergo vibration and vacuum tests to verify it can operate under space-like conditions
- The satellite will then be assembled, the engine installed and the spacecraft prepared for launch

"Once in orbit the teams will jointly run the propulsion experiments," he says.

The project also puts students and young scientists directly into the development process, with mission data feeding into future space-technology training. — SPUTNIK



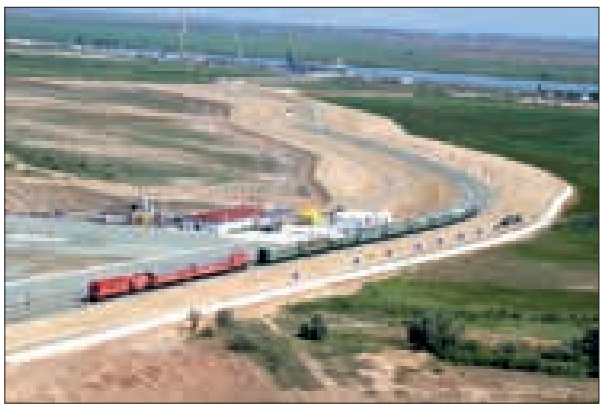
A Soyuz-2.1b rocket with a Fregat upper stage carrying the Meteor-M hydrometeorological satellite, 17 Russian and one Iranian small satellites, blasts off from the launchpad at the Vostochny cosmodrome in Amur Region, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

Trans-Afghan transport corridor could avert logistical crisis like the Strait of Hormuz: says Expert

AN upcoming network of railways and highways stretching from Russia to the Indian Ocean coast will become a mega project comparable to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Andrey Grozin of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Oriental Studies explains to Sputnik.

The recent transport crises at major logistical bottlenecks such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Suez Canal, highlight the need for additional transport arteries to diversify cargo flow routes.

The volume of cargo traffic through this upcoming logistical artery will be comparable to that of the Suez Canal, which is about 100 million tonnes annually, according to Russia's Ministry of Transport's conservative estimates.



Train operation starting on the Yandyki-Olya railroad stretch, crossing the Astrakhan Region. It is part of the North-South transnational transport corridor, which will link Russia with Iran, India and South-East Asia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

The new trade route would allow a vast assortment of goods from Russia – including hydrocarbons, foodstuffs and machinery – to reach some two billion consumers in South Asia.

All of the countries involved in the project – Russia, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – are well aware of its importance, and the US-Israeli attack on Iran and the subsequent Strait of Hormuz crisis further strengthened their resolve. — SPUTNIK