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The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Job Creation Seen as Key to Lowering Commodity Prices

Agricultural and livestock breeding must be systematically expanded in line with local needs to safeguard food security.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the meeting with the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and chief ministers of regions and states at the President's Office yesterday.

Local authorities need to address the issue of commodities' high prices that people face, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and chief ministers of regions and states at the President's Office yesterday morning.

The President stated that agricultural and livestock breeding activities should be systematically assessed and expanded based on the needs of each locality to ensure food security in their respective areas.

He said that land allocated for agricultural and livestock breeding activities should be properly utilized, and any misuse or diversion of such land for other purposes should be systematically controlled in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

He stressed that there have been cases of the authority granted for security purposes at the checkpoints being improperly exercised. As a result, the illegal flow of goods has been occurring, with the public consequently bearing the brunt of rising commodity prices. He instructed that these issues be addressed effectively and that violations of the law be dealt with firmly and in accordance with the law.

He noted that the main oilseed crops such as sesame, sunflower, groundnut, soybean and oil palm are successfully cultivated and produced in the country on a commercial scale, greatly contributing to ensuring domestic edible oil sufficiency.

He added that if oil palm could be successfully cultivated and edible oil produced in Taninthayi Region, it would help ensure sufficient supplies of edible oil for Taninthayi Region, Mon State and Kayin State.

He unveiled that a degree college appropriate to the local population would be opened in the PutaO area for the development of border regions and ethnic peoples. It would greatly benefit the region if the college were initially opened with appropriate academic disciplines, including law and economics.

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Mooncakes and Tea Culture Shine at Mid Autumn Festival

THE Mid-Autumn Mooncake Festival and Tea Culture Exhibition, themed "China-Myanmar Tea Friendship; Bright Full Moon Shines Across the Globe," was held yesterday at Hline Mingala Hall in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

"I wish everyone attending today's festival great joy and every success in all your endeavours," said Mr Li Qianguo, Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy.

U Nyunt Win, Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Culture, Hotels, and Tourism, stated: "In Myanmar, seasonal festivals are celebrated throughout the twelve months, blending Myanmar traditional culture with Buddhist culture. These festivals hold profound cultural meaning in Myanmar tradition and serve as regional celebrations that foster friendship between our two countries."



The Mid-Autumn Mooncake Festival and Tea Culture Exhibition in progress.

He added: "The People's Republic of China is also a country with a rich and diverse cultural heritage. China's Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most prominent festivals. Looking forward to future progress in bilateral relations, I wish for enduring China-Myanmar friendship, as well as continuous peace, prosperity, and development for China. "I believe that through such cultural exchanges, people to people ties, mutual understanding, and friendly relations between our two nations will be further strengthened. We will continue our cooperation in the future," he said.

Following the speeches, cultural performances were staged by the Yunnan Cultural Dance Troupe, the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Preservation Organization, and the Yangon Yunnan Social Aid Association. The event also featured traditional tea art demonstrations, Mid Autumn mooncake exhibition booths, painted hand fans, and Chinese calligraphy displays. — TWA/ZN

Gems Emporium Returns to Nay Pyi Taw 8-17 Oct

THE 61st Myanmar Gems Exhibition will be held from 8 to 17 October at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, according to the Central Committee on Myanmar Gems Emporium.

The exhibition will display and sell high quality pearls, gems, and jade lots produced in Myanmar.

Myanmar citizen gem entrepreneurs holding permits under the Myanmar Gemstone Law and licensed citizen gem trading businesses will be permitted to attend and purchase in accordance with the prescribed conditions.

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Traders seen evaluating gemstones at the 60th Gems Emporium.

NATIONAL

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

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





Ayeyawady-Yangtze Culture & Development Fair set for Nov

THE "Ayeyawady-Yangtze Culture and Development Fair 2026", which will provide a platform for Myanmar and Chinese businesses to connect and explore opportunities in culture, trade and investment, will be held at the Mandalay Convention Centre (MCC) in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region, from 1 to 3 November.

The three-day fair aims to promote cultural exchange and economic cooperation between the two countries, while allowing participating businesses to showcase their brands, products and services.

Businesses interested in exhibiting at the fair can contact the event's official Facebook page via Messenger or call 09 788823340 for further information and registration. — TWA/KZL



This image illustrates an advertisement inviting businesses to participate in the "Ayeyawady-Yangtze Culture and Development Fair 2026".

MOB and Matrix College sign MoU

ACCORDING to Myanmar Oriental Bank (MOB), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between MOB and Matrix College was held with the aim of strengthening educational cooperation and supporting the long-term development of Myanmar's education and business sectors.

It aims to provide students and college staff with easier access to financial support and banking services. It also seeks to jointly create educational opportunities, training programmes, and awareness initiatives that will enhance workplace skills and knowledge.

Furthermore, both parties will cooperate to connect students with internship programmes and career opportunities to help them gain practical workplace experience.

The bank released a statement expressing confidence that combining MOB's solid financial services with Matrix College's systematic educational system will significantly contribute to the development of the country's economy and education sector. – MT/ZN



This image shows the MoU signing ceremony between MOB and Matrix College.

Weather

Deep Depression News, No 8, 2026

Issued at 4 pm MST on 23 September 2026

Deep Depression Condition

According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Deep Depression over the Westcentral Bay of Bengal and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal has moved West wards. It is centred at about 530 nautical miles west-southwest of Kyaukpyu (Myanmar), 60 nautical miles east-northeast of Visakhapatnam and 80 nautical miles south of Gopalpur, India.

It does not intend to move towards the Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the Deep Depression is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Deep Depression, centre pressure and wind

The Deep Depression is located at Latitude 18.0 degree North and Longitude 84.3 degree East, centre pressure of Depression is 995 hPa and maximum wind speed near the centre is 35-40 miles per hour at 3:30 pm MST today.

Next 12 hours forecast

It is likely continue to move west-northwestwards and cross the North Andhra Pradesh-South Odisha Coasts between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur close to Kalingapatnam (India) tonight.

General caution

Due to the Deep Depression, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated to scattered in Kachin, Kayah, and Shan States and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and, Rakhine State from today noon to 25 September 2026.

Occassional squalls with rough sea will be experienced in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coast. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Gulf



of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast.

Advisory

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

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NATIONAL

Myanmar moves to establish framework for peaceful nuclear energy development

Myanmar is taking steps to establish a national framework for the systematic implementation of nuclear energy programmes and projects, including planned small modular reactor (SMR)-based electricity generation, while strengthening cooperation with international and regional partners for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, President U Min Aung Hlaing said at the inaugural meeting of the National-Level Nuclear Energy Implementation Steering Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.



President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the meeting of the National-Level Nuclear Energy Implementation Steering Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The inaugural meeting of the National-Level Nuclear Energy Implementation Steering Committee was held at the Presidential Office meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw, with Union ministers, deputy ministers and other committee members attending the meeting.

In his opening remarks, President U Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the committee, said the meeting was convened to establish visions, procedures, necessary directives and guidelines for implementing Myanmar's nuclear energy programmes and projects, as well as to build international and regional partnerships for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He emphasized that the nuclear energy sector concerns national interests and is not the responsibility of a single ministry, but rather a major long-term national-level collaborative project requiring the active involvement of the committee.

The President highlighted that energy security, encompassing energy adequacy, stability and long-term sustainability, has become an essential foundation for the economic and social development of every nation. Reliable long-term energy sources are necessary to support industrial development, the application of modern technologies and socio-economic advancement. Against this backdrop, he said the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and technology should be regarded as an important sector for national development.

The President noted that Myanmar's study and development of nuclear technology is not new. The Union of Burma Applied Research Institute (UBARI) was established in 1954 for scientific and technological research and development, while the Atomic Energy Centre (AEC/UBAEC) was established under it in 1955 with a long-term vision for the peaceful applications of atomic energy.

Myanmar participated in the 1955 International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and became a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) upon its establishment in 1957. From 1956 to 1962, Myanmar also sent scholars for domestic and overseas training and scholarships.

Research was subsequently conducted in agriculture, health and environmental sectors, including agricultural advances such as rice-breeding technology and the development of the " Shwe Wah Tun" rice variety through nuclear applications.

The President said global attention had once again turned to nuclear energy amid growing concerns over energy security, rising electricity demand and carbon emissions, underscoring the need for Myanmar to systematically assess the role of nuclear energy in meeting its long-term energy requirements and for the national energy policy to adopt a diversified energy mix combining renewable energy, natural gas and other energy sources rather than relying on a single resource.

According to the President, nuclear energy can provide stable electricity generation around the clock with low greenhouse gas emissions, while being less dependent on weather conditions and requiring a relatively small land area for power plants. In this regard, plans are underway to generate electricity using SMR-based nuclear technology to help meet Myanmar's electricity needs. The President also highlighted the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in healthcare, agriculture, food safety, industry, research and science.

He stressed that the use of nuclear technology for national interests requires attention not only to technology acquisition but also to safety, security and safeguards – the three principles known as the 3S principles – as well as compliance with international guarantees and regulations.

He emphasized the importance of cooperation with international organizations, particularly the IAEA, to ensure adherence to international standards and best practices through technical cooperation, expert exchanges and human resource development, while noting that Myanmar is implementing nuclear-related activities within the IAEA framework for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

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He underscored that Myanmar is proceeding along the path towards a multiparty democratic system and that there is still much work to be done in the legislative sector. While there are still matters at the Union level that need to be supplemented, amended or newly drafted, regions and states should also consult with their respective regional and state law officers and work to review, amend, redraft and enact laws that are appropriate and in line with current conditions in their respective fields.

Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and chief ministers of regions and states reported on the efforts to reduce commodity prices and local food security, oil crop production to meet the target, development for MSME businesses, preparations to address drinking and agricultural water shortages, and resettlement of the displaced people to their native areas.

In delivering a further speech, the President noted that the relevant ministries and the chief ministers of the regions and states should continue to systematically implement, step by step, the policy laid down by the State to successfully promote the education sector.

He stated that in prioritizing poverty reduction through the effective utilization of the country's existing resources, efforts should focus on creating employment opportunities and enabling people to engage in productive work with the creation of a favourable environment for employment and livelihoods and to give due priority to implementing these measures.

Regarding the issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards, the President said that practices such as obtaining citizenship through fraudulent means, impersonating citizens and improperly granting guest citizenship pose risks to national security and national interests. He stressed the need to study the citizenship law, conduct thorough scrutiny, identify such cases and take action against those involved in accordance with the law.

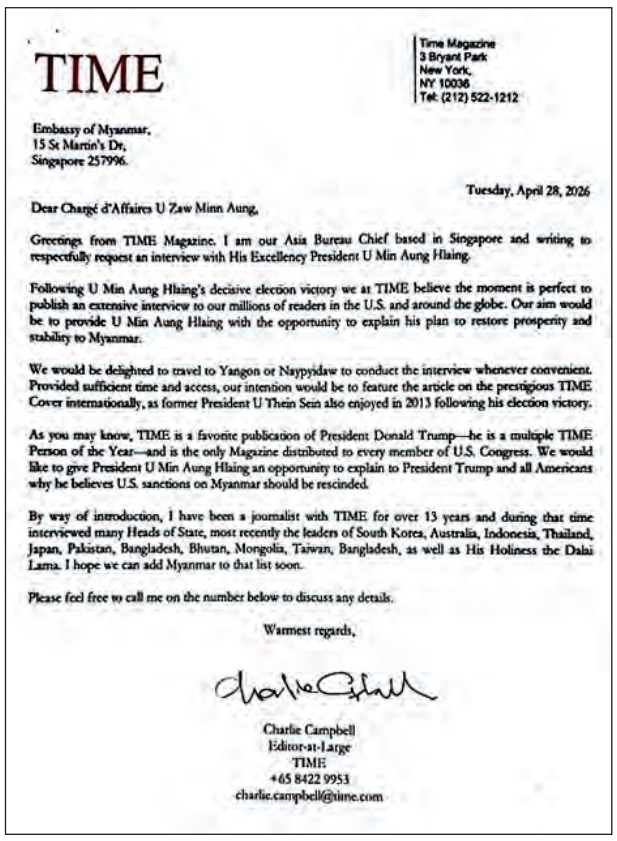
He underlined that the relevant ministries, regions and states should make concerted efforts to ensure the proper collection of taxes and duties due to the State and to prevent tax evasion.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Union ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Press Release

TIME MAGAZINE, through the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore, has proposed to publish an interview entitled "The Future of Myanmar", incorporating the Myanmar Government's efforts "in safeguarding the historic role of the State in non-disintegration of the Union, in achieving national solidarity and peace and stability in the country as well as the success in the Peace Talks".



TIME

Time Magazine
3 Bryant Park
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Embassy of Myanmar,
15 St Martin's Dr,
Singapore 257996.

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Dear Chargé d'Affaires U Zaw Minn Aung,

Greetings from TIME Magazine. I am our Asia Bureau Chief based in Singapore and writing to respectfully request an interview with His Excellency President U Min Aung Hlaing.

Following U Min Aung Hlaing's decisive election victory we at TIME believe the moment is perfect to publish an extensive interview to our millions of readers in the U.S. and around the globe. Our aim would be to provide U Min Aung Hlaing with the opportunity to explain his plan to restore prosperity and stability to Myanmar.

We would be delighted to travel to Yangon or Naypyidaw to conduct the interview whenever convenient. Provided sufficient time and access, our intention would be to feature the article on the prestigious TIME Cover internationally, as former President U Thein Sein also enjoyed in 2013 following his election victory.

As you may know, TIME is a favorite publication of President Donald Trump—he is a multiple TIME Person of the Year—and is the only Magazine distributed to every member of U.S. Congress. We would like to give President U Min Aung Hlaing an opportunity to explain to President Trump and all Americans why he believes U.S. sanctions on Myanmar should be rescinded.

By way of introduction, I have been a journalist with TIME for over 13 years and during that time interviewed many Heads of State, most recently the leaders of South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mongolia, Taiwan, Bangladesh, as well as His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I hope we can add Myanmar to that list soon.

Please feel free to call me on the number below to discuss any details.

Warmest regards,

Charlie Campbell
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As Time Magazine is regarded as a reputable media outlet, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar decided to receive Journalist Charlie Campbell and to have an interview with him, in order to respond constructively to their proposal. However, when it was published on Time Magazine's online media platform, it was written as an article, instead of an interview, and did not reflect the actual Q and A. Moreover, the article, unfortunately, included non-constructive writing, interviews with other individuals and unfounded commentaries.





Time Magazine and the journalist Charlie Campbell have published an article contrary to established media ethics and the initial agreement made between concerned parties. Moreover, the article highlighted the writing, which will have negative impacts on Myanmar and its ruling government by the international community. (The interview between the President of Myanmar and Journalist Charlie Campbell is published on page 5.)

Charlie Campbell
Editor-at-Large, Time Magazine



CHARLIE Campbell joined TIME in 2013 and has since served as a Correspondent and Editor based in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, London, and Singapore. He has covered many of the world's biggest stories, reporting from Wuhan at the outbreak of the pandemic, the refugee exodus from the Ukraine war, the Christchurch Mosque Massacre, and the death of Queen Elizabeth II. A native of London, England, Campbell has written over two dozen TIME Cover stories on topics ranging from Quantum Computing to a profile of the Dalai Lama. He has also interviewed countless heads of state and government – ten during 2024 alone – as well as Asia's most influential business leaders, including Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, Foxconn CEO Terry Gou, and Uniqlo President Tadashi Yanai. Campbell is now TIME's Editor-at-Large based in Singapore.

Therefore, as the writing and publication by journalist Charlie Campbell of Time Magazine are contrary to journalistic ethics, the Information Team of Myanmar has denounced his actions in this regard.

Myanmar Information Team
23 September 2026

Vice-President visits Union National Races Village (Yangon)

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye, accompanied by Union Minister U Than Maung, Yangon Region ministers and officials, inspected the Union National Races Village (Yangon) in Thakayta Township yesterday morning.Upon arrival, the Vice-President enjoyed traditional songs and performances, including the traditional Kayin 'Don' dance, presented by Kayin ethnic people and the Kayin Literature and Culture Association. She then presented flower bouquets and cash prizes to the performers.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye is pictured during her inspection tour yesterday.

At the meeting hall, the Vice-President said that she visited there to observe the preservation and presentation of the traditional cultures of ethnic nationalities and to provide support for their development. She highlighted that bringing together the cultural heritage and traditions of different ethnic groups in one place will help younger generations learn about and preserve their cultural heritage, while also promoting mutual understanding, friendship and the spirit of the Union.

She also emphasized the Union National Races Village's potential to support education and research, promote local products and traditional handicrafts, create employment opportunities, and contribute to tourism and regional economic development. She called for continued upgrading of the site to ensure its long-term sustainability and international standards.

Union Minister U Than Maung briefed the village's objectives, organizational structure, location, infrastructure, annual budget allocations, development plans and upgrading projects.The Vice-President then inspected various sites within the village, including the Viewing Tower, traditional ethnic houses, traditional food stalls and shops, landmark sites, jetty, MV-705 vessel, mangrove garden and Union Hall.

The Union National Races Village (Yangon) was opened on 28 December 2002 to showcase the diverse cultural traditions of Myanmar's ethnic nationalities in one place, strengthening the Union spirit and promoting national unity. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar moves to establish framework for ...

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Myanmar has also signed bilateral agreements with Russia's state-owned corporation Rosatom covering nuclear technology development and has jointly organized annual science festivals with Rosatom, with another festival planned for early December this year.

Following a presentation on implementation progress by Committee Secretary and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and reports by Union ministers heading the respective sub-committees, the President delivered the closing remarks and concluded the meeting. — MNA/TH

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INTERVIEW

President's Exclusive Interview with Time Magazine

PRESIDENT U Min Aung Hlaing responded to questions from Charlie Campbell, journalist for Time Magazine, at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 28 August.

Time Magazine - I'm very grateful for your time today. I think it is a great opportunity to explain Myanmar's current situation and many recent ties with the West, especially the US, regarding your presidency, your leadership and your goals in Myanmar. I'm very grateful for your time, and we would be able to talk candidly about some of the issues recently in the country.

President - I'm also very glad to meet with you. To my knowledge, "Time Magazine" is a very famous and straightforward media. That's why I agree your team today, and this opportunity provides you to explore the current developments of our country. As I learn about Time Magazine, I have a great impression of your media, which is better compared with other Western media. I hope for your kind understanding, as I have a busy schedule, so we can take time to fix the date for this exclusive interview.

Time Magazine - Absolutely, I understand you're very busy. We're grateful for your time today. Thank you.



Time Magazine's Editor-at-Large based in Singapore Charlie Campbell interviews Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing.

Q - Your Excellency, to kick off, following the election, you're now Myanmar's President after serving several decades in the military. How are you adjusting to civilian leadership?

A - For me, it is not hard to adjust to civilian life. I have served in the military for almost five decades, but my parents are civilians.

For your information, all of our family members stay together on the military campus. That is why we are addressed as a family. Even when the military personnel have to serve their obligations, like going to the front combat areas, for example, the families stay behind on the military campus. That means we are already familiar with the civilian side and civilian society. Actually, the military is part of the country. Similarly, family members of the military personnel are part of the people of Myanmar. That is the first point I would like to mention.

Every weekend, the Myanmar military, along with family members, renders public service to support the welfare of civilians, staying very close to civilians. Throughout my military career, I have been very familiar with the civilian side. During my term as Commander in Rakhine and Shan States, I was most responsible for military duties but also for the civilian administration. When the State of emergency was announced in 2021, I served as the Head of Government, and I had to tackle the civilian side. Regarding your question, I do not need to make significant adjustments to be in harmony with civilian life.

Q - Are you taking a more military approach to leadership in civilian life, or has your leadership approach as a civilian leader changed?

A - It is quite different. Military leadership is quite simple, and it depends on giving orders. But for civilians, we have to use a persuasive and stimulating approach.

I also want to add that the commander spirit is applied during military operations in combat areas. The commander should be strict because everything depends on his orders. Transitioning from military command to civilian leadership is a profound shift, so the commander has to keep in mind the parental spirit for the administrative arrangement. When I shift to the civilian side, I have to remove all the commander leadership and keep in mind the parental spirit when I am working on the civilian side.

Q - I understand. Myanmar remains kept fighting conflicts. What is your plan for bringing the nation to lasting peace? Do you feel that the recent allegations of excess force use by Myanmar military might hamper the process?

A - Peace is extremely important for our country. There have been armed conflicts in our country that we have faced since we regained independence. This is the colonial legacy, the consequences of colonization. During the colonial period, the divide-and-rule policy was practised. Consequently, misunderstandings occurred among national races as well as different political ideologies, which should be solved peacefully in national races of civilian affairs and political affairs. After regaining national independence, we firstly practiced the parliamentary system. After that, we practised a centralized government system for many years. Because of the centralized government system, dissatisfaction in terms of politics emerged amongst the people of Myanmar. After that, we practised a multiparty democratic system in 2011. After the 1988 uprising, we have undergone political transformation since 1988. Gradually, we transformed our political system.

The ethnic groups claim autonomy in terms of politics, and they claim democracy. These two aspects are already included in the 2008 State Constitution. We have been implementing to fulfil these two themes – autonomy and democracy since we transformed into a civilian government in 2011. We make all out efforts to peace talks and the peace process. Eventually, we signed a peace accord, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), in 2015. It was signed by some ethnic armed organizations and non-state actors. According to the NCA, we have to make some amendments in the Constitution. So, the Government already submitted the amendment to the Parliament. The Parliament discussed it, and accordingly they will amend the Constitution at a certain time. According to the developments that took place in 2021, Myanmar experienced violent attacks. The Myanmar people want democracy; that's why we successfully held the elections. Within the first 100 days, the new Government invited all the armed groups for peace talks. As of now, more than 4,000 young people have returned to the legal fold and returned to the embrace of their parents. They have already returned to their homes. Mostly are from ethnic armed groups. Most of them are male, and they have poor education. Taking this opportunity, some politicians incited them to become members of their armed groups. It is really heartbreaking to see them fighting in the jungle with arms. Actually, they should be in the classrooms. That is why we consider their future, and we extend an invitation for peace talks with us. So, I am committed during my term of five-year as the President. My focus is mainly on the peace process, and I truly believe this will achieve success.

Q - Your Excellency, international sanctions have frozen hundreds of millions of dollars from Myanmar, targeting you and your family. How does the economic isolation hurt the people of Myanmar, and what concessions have you prepared to seize unlisted?

A - Due to the sanctions, it hurts the banking system, so also foreign currency accounts are restricted for transactions.

Due to the targeted sanctions and restrictions, the first thing is that we have less foreign direct investment in Myanmar. Consequently, we have very few job opportunities. Due to the transaction barrier, it is very difficult to import goods from other countries to fulfil the requirements domestically. It is quite correct that the sanctions have impact to economic sector of the country to a certain extent. For food security, we have food project activities, not too much serious for that but for the productivity status, we find many difficulties due to the sanctions.

Q - Thank you, Mr President. What is your plan as you have developed Myanmar's economy for the benefit of Myanmar people?

A - As I've already mentioned in my previous answer, we are well enough to cover food security. Myanmar intends to become a resilient agro-based country where 70 per cent of the population resides in rural areas. Among them, 50 per cent work in the agriculture and livestock sectors. Therefore, we have

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INTERVIEW

President's Exclusive Interview with Time Magazine

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the potential to go forward to become an agro-based industry, such as cotton and rubber production industries. Instead of exporting raw materials, we are moving forward to produce more value-added products. As we can produce more, we can improve the socio-economic life of the rural people. The next point is the promotion of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which occupy 90 per cent of the economic sector. During my term, I will encourage MSMEs while accelerating the production of value-added products in Myanmar.

Q - Obviously, the US Government has been quite critical of your government so far. How would you like the Trump Administration to help the people of Myanmar?

A - The United States and Myanmar established diplomatic relations in September 1947, so our diplomatic relationship is approaching 80 years. Historically, our two countries have maintained friendly relations. Although we are geographically about 13,000 kilometres apart, we have had many periods of positive and constructive bilateral relations. However, as Myanmar has gone through different political transitions, our bilateral relations with the United States have also experienced ups and downs. I recall that during the Korean War and the Vietnam War, Myanmar maintained a policy of non-alignment and neutrality. We did not become involved in those conflicts. Myanmar is currently practising a multiparty democratic system, while the United States has a long-established democratic system. Given our shared commitment to democratic principles, we hope that the United States can provide constructive assistance to Myanmar during this period of political transition. In response to your question, we would welcome kind assistance from the United States in promoting stability and peace in Myanmar, as well as support for our country's development and democratic practices. We believe that constructive engagement and cooperation can contribute to a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous Myanmar.

We would like to urge the United States to prevent any potential financial or other forms of support that could contribute to violence in Myanmar. We also hope that the United States will not provide support to individuals or groups that encourage or facilitate violent attacks inside Myanmar. Second, regarding economic sanctions, we request that the United States review the current situation in Myanmar and take into consideration the country's recent developments and circumstances. The United States has many decades of experience with democratic governance, while Myanmar's experience with democracy is relatively recent. Given the United States' extensive experience in assessing the political and social circumstances of different countries, we hope that it will carefully consider Myanmar's particular situation. After reviewing the situation and taking these circumstances into account, we would welcome consideration of easing or reducing the economic sanctions currently imposed on Myanmar.

Q - Just to clarify, many of the sanctions were imposed over alleged human rights abuses, including allegations of genocide in Rakhine State. Have there been any recent developments regarding the return of displaced people who fled to Bangladesh? This is one of the concerns raised by the United States.

A - Regarding individual sanctions, I would say that the individuals concerned believe they are acting in the best interests of the country and its people. Of course, people outside the country may have different perspectives or interpretations of their actions. However, from our perspective, they are carrying out their responsibilities in what they believe is the best interest of Myanmar. Second, regarding the situation in Rakhine State, our position is that we did not intentionally do anything wrong toward the Bengali population. We have always maintained that our actions were aimed at protecting the sovereignty and security of our country and the safety of our people. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite to visit Myanmar and see the situation on the ground for themselves. It is important to understand the realities directly rather than relying solely on information or accounts provided by opposition groups. We believe that a firsthand assessment of the situation would provide a more complete understanding of the circumstances in Rakhine State and help ensure that any decisions regarding sanctions are based on the realities on the ground. We are addressing the issue of displaced Bengali people in accordance with our existing laws and the bilateral agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh. We recognize the presence of these people and are committed to addressing the issue properly. At present, there are a number of practical challenges and constraints. Nevertheless, we remain committed to resolving the issue through the existing bilateral agreement.

Q - Myanmar and Russia signed a military cooperation agreement. How would you describe the relations with Moscow?

A - We established diplomatic relations with the United States in September 1947, and with Russia on 16 February 1948, shortly afterwards, although our two countries are geographically about 6,000 kilometres apart. Historically, Russia played an important role in the fight against Nazi, while Myanmar also fought against fascism for the country's independence. Both countries have experienced significant political changes throughout their respective histories. Despite these changes, our relations with Russia have remained firm and consistent.

The military cooperation agreement is not a particularly significant matter in itself. It is mainly focused on training and capacity-building. Myanmar and Russia have maintained very good relations for many years. Whenever Myanmar has faced difficult circumstances, Russia has been ready to assist in various forms, including scholarships for Myanmar students and technical assistance on a non-commercial basis.

At present, Myanmar and Russia have bilateral cooperation in several areas, including education, healthcare, nuclear energy, and space technology. As I mentioned, these are areas where it has been difficult for us to develop cooperation with some other countries, while Russia has been willing to explore and expand bilateral cooperation with Myanmar. This is why we maintain good relations with Russia. I have also visited Russia several times to seek and strengthen their support and assistance in these areas.

Q - Just to clarify, you seek civilian nuclear power. Is there any potential for developing nuclear deterrence in Myanmar with the assistance of Russia?

A - We intend to use nuclear technology solely for peaceful civilian purposes. Our current plan is focused on a 210-megawatt small modular reactor for civilian nuclear power generation. We have no intention of using nuclear technology for military purposes. We will fully respect and comply with relevant international rules and regulations.

Q - During the state visit to Beijing, you signed 18 MOUs with the Chinese Government. How importance is these Chinese investments for Myanmar, and obviously there have been recent problems at the borders with guns and narcotics. Are you confident that those issues are solved?

A - As neighbouring countries, Myanmar and China maintain good relations. China is also one of the largest foreign investors in Myanmar. At the same time, there are challenges related to peace and stability in border areas. We address these issues through dialogue and negotiation via diplomatic channels. There have been some positive developments, while other matters are still under discussion and ongoing. As neighbouring countries, Myanmar and China cannot stand separately from one another. Therefore, we seek constructive cooperation with China. Chinese investment in Myanmar ranks among the highest of all foreign investments in the country. We believe that these investments can contribute significantly to Myanmar's economic development.

We have also introduced a direct payment mechanism using yuan and kyat. As I mentioned earlier, due to economic and financial sanctions imposed by the United States and other Western countries, we face certain challenges. In response to these challenges, Myanmar and China have agreed to facilitate bilateral trade through direct yuan–kyat payments.

Q - Do you worry that this could make Myanmar more dependent on China, to the point that China will be the only big nation that you can able to trade with?

A - We are not relying solely on China. Myanmar maintains diplomatic relations and engages in trade and economic activities with the international community. However, as China is our neighbouring country, we naturally place considerable importance on our relationship with China. The same applies to India. Myanmar is situated between two major neighbouring countries, China and India. China has provided significant assistance to Myanmar's development. Under the Belt and Road Initiative, we are cooperating on the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, which can contribute to Myanmar's economic development. At the same time, we welcome investment

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INTERVIEW/NATIONAL

President's Exclusive Interview with Time Magazine

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and cooperation from all countries. If other countries are interested in investing in Myanmar, we welcome them. I have also visited countries including India, Thailand, Vietnam, Russia, and Belarus to explore opportunities for economic cooperation and development. So, we are not dependent solely on China. We seek to work with all countries in the interest of Myanmar's development. However, because China is our neighbour, cooperation is relatively convenient. That is why we have greater cooperation with China.

Q - Mr President, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is currently under arrest, and her sentence has been reduced from 33 years to 18 years under your leadership. And 13 years left to serve. Is there a possibility of future amnesty?

A - We tried our best to avoid reaching this situation, but we could not avoid it. Regardless of her age, we had to take action in accordance with the law. The first and most serious issue was electoral fraud. In a democratic system, a free and credible general election is fundamental. Following the events of 2021, when I assumed responsibility for the state, an investigation was conducted, and its findings were made public on the website. According to those findings, there were significant irregularities in the electoral process, which contributed to the political instability and turmoil that followed. We also identified cases involving bribery and other offences. There were a number of cases, but some were not pursued, taking various circumstances into consideration. Considering her age, I exercised my authority to reduce her sentence. However, it is difficult to predict what may happen in the future. Any further consideration of an amnesty or other relief will depend on the circumstances at that time, including her actions and conduct.

We have also made arrangements to provide her with comfortable accommodation. We have also allowed her to meet with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and photographs of those meetings have been released publicly. She is being accommodated in a house rather than in a prison facility. We have taken considerable care in making arrangements for her.

Q - Just to clarify, if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were released, will she be allowed to some political role?

A - It will depend entirely on her actions and circumstances at the time. We cannot make any predictions. If the conditions are appropriate for consideration, she may have an opportunity for further relief. Ultimately, it will depend on her conduct and the circumstances.

Q - You grew up in Mandalay, I believe. And your father was an artist. What kind of interest as a young man?

A - My father was an artist, and my parents placed a strong emphasis on education. They made sure that I attended school. From an early age, I also entered the Buddhist novicehood, so I grew up under the guidance and teachings of Buddhism. According to Buddhist teachings, we are taught to respect our elders and show kindness and compassion toward younger people. These were values that my parents instilled in me from childhood. I was also fortunate to receive great care and guidance from my elders. That was the foundation of my childhood and the environment I grew up.

I have always been fond of reading, and my parents encouraged me to develop that habit from a young age. I read all kinds of literature, including newspapers, journals, magazines, and novels. My parents also encouraged me to visit the library, and I often spent my free time there reading. I also enjoyed reading together with my friends. I was rarely alone; I grew up surrounded by friends, and we would discuss things together and help one another solve problems. These habits have helped me greatly in carrying out my responsibilities and duties throughout my life. The guidance and advice I received from my elders have also been a great source of support. That is about my family life.

Q - Because you like being around other people, did you decide to join the military to be part of a large community?

A - It has been my interest.

Q - I see you are very busy now running the country. But in your spare time, do you have any passion for movies, or playing golf or something?

A - Yes, I enjoy playing golf and going for walks in my free time.

Q - Just one last question: what will be like your legacy be in the history of Myanmar?

A - My goal is to see my country become peaceful, stable, and prosperous. Another objective is to pave the way for the emergence of a strong democratic system. I also want to see our people become better educated. Democracy should be appropriate to Myanmar's culture and circumstances, while respecting the rights of ethnic communities and supporting a federal system. My political goal is to build a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Myanmar with a democratic system that is suited to the country's circumstances and supported by an educated population. I will do my utmost to work toward these goals during my term.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets East Yangon University delegation

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi received teachers and students from East Yangon University, led by Professor Dr Daw Khin Cho Cho Oo of the Department of Botany, who visited on the third day of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session. The meeting was held at the meeting hall on the second floor of Hluttaw Building C yesterday afternoon after the Pyithu Hluttaw session.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker first warmly welcomed the teachers and students and said that their visit would give them a better understanding of the Hluttaw by allowing them to observe the questions and answers during the session.

He explained that, after elections held in accordance with the democratic system, the three branches of government – the legislative, executive and judicial branches – were established. Parliaments represent the legislative branch and are institutions in which elected representatives serve the interests of the State and its citizens.

He said that Myanmar has a bicameral parliamentary system comprising the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, as well as state and regional Hluttaws. The main responsibilities of parliaments are to elect State leaders; study, review, amend, supplement and repeal existing laws; enact new laws as necessary; coordinate with the executive and judicial branches; make recommendations; and represent the people by raising questions and submitting motions in parliament.



The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives teachers and students from East Yangon University.

He added that parliament serves as a bridge between the people and the government and that inter-parliamentary friendship groups have been formed to promote cooperation with ASEAN and other international parliaments. Myanmar is also a member of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), through which it seeks to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy.

The Speaker said efforts were being made to build a parliament that enjoys the people's trust and expressed his appreciation for the visitors' interest in the Hluttaw. He added that members of the public could raise matters requiring parliamentary attention through their representatives from the relevant constituencies.

The teachers and students then asked questions about parliamentary procedures, which the Speaker answered.

After the meeting, the Speaker personally greeted the teachers and students.

Also present were Dr Nandar Hla Myint, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Digital and Science and Technology Committee; U Thet Naing Oo, Secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee; Dr Shwe Pyi Soe, a committee member; and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA/MKKS

OPINION

Honouring maritime sector participants

Myanmar seafarers work shoulder to shoulder with international crew members, carrying out maritime transport operations across the world's oceans. While on duty, they confront and overcome numerous challenges, including harsh weather conditions, regional hardships, and austere living environments, all while generating foreign exchange revenue for the motherland.

Furthermore, competing alongside international crews, Myanmar seafarers strive to showcase their capabilities and expertise. They work tirelessly to earn a solid reputation in the maritime transport sector and uphold the prestige of Myanmar seafarers. Therefore, the dedicated efforts of Myanmar's maritime leaders, seafarers, and industry entrepreneurs elevate the prestige of both the nation and themselves, making them truly worthy of honour. At present, Myanmar is a signatory to conventions issued by the IMO; accordingly, both coastal and ocean-going vessels comply with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, and the Anti-Fouling Systems (AFS) Convention.

Currently, the maritime transport sector develops in various countries despite some armed conflicts in some parts of the world, with creation of employment opportunities for young people striving to improve their livelihoods. In fact, the maritime transport operations help boost tourism and various industries, including the fisheries sector, generating income for the countries involved. That is why the profession of maritime transport has had a remarkable impact on the global community.

As technology continues to advance, opening green shipping technology courses and implementing high-tech education programmes are essential to securing greater job opportunities for Myanmar seafarers. Moreover, leaders, experts, and all stakeholders in the maritime sector must work together in close collaboration to maintain ocean safety and drive forward safety, sustainability, and innovation across the industry.

Currently, the maritime transport sector develops in various countries despite some armed conflicts in some parts of the world, with creation of employment opportunities for young people striving to improve their livelihoods. In fact, the maritime transport operations help boost tourism and various industries, including the fisheries sector, generating income for the countries involved. That is why the profession of maritime transport has had a remarkable impact on the global community.

Spearheaded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), World Maritime Day is commemorated annually across its member states to draw global attention towards promoting maritime navigation, ship safety, security, marine pollution prevention, and environmental conservation, as well as to recognize the vital contributions of seafarers and maritime professionals to global trade.

Bridging the gap between global regulatory intent and real-world results sits at the core of the 2026-2027 World Maritime Day theme, "From Policy to Practice: Powering Maritime Excellence". While the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has spent nearly eight decades shaping comprehensive frameworks, conventions, and standards for safe, sustainable, and secure shipping, policy alone is not enough. The genuine measure of these international mandates lies in practical execution – how effectively they are enforced and integrated into day-to-day operations at sea and ashore.

ARTICLE

Shwedagon Pagoda: The Golden Heart and Soul of Myanmar

By Moon Cherry K

More than a golden landmark rising above Yangon, Shwedagon Pagoda is a living symbol of Myanmar's faith, history, culture and spiritual identity. At sunrise, its golden surface catches the first light of day, transforming the sacred hilltop into a magnificent sight. For a first-time visitor, Shwedagon may appear to be an extraordinary monument. For generations of Myanmar people, however, it is something much deeper: a place of worship, memory, tradition and peace.

A Sacred Landmark

Shwedagon Pagoda stands on Singuttara Hill in Yangon and rises approximately 326 feet (99.36 metres) above its platform. Its present height was established during the reign of King Hsinbyushin in 1774. The official Shwedagon Pagoda website records that the site has been maintained and developed by successive rulers and devotees for centuries. Yet its importance cannot be measured by its height, gold or jewels alone. Its greatest significance lies in the sacred traditions and stories preserved around it.

According to Buddhist tradition, Shwedagon enshrines relics associated with the four Buddhas of the present age: eight strands of hair of Gautama Buddha, the staff of Kakusandha Buddha, the water filter of Konagamana Buddha and a piece of the robe of Kassapa Buddha. Because of these four sacred relics, the pagoda is traditionally revered as the Shwedagon Pagoda of the Four Sacred Relics.

A Legend of Two Brothers

One of the best-known traditions tells of two merchant brothers, Tapussa and Bhallika. After encountering the Buddha soon after his Enlightenment, the brothers offered him food. According to the Shwedagon tradition, the Buddha gave them eight strands of his hair. They carried the sacred relics back to their homeland, where King Okkalapa and the people of Ukkalāpa received and venerated them. The relics were eventually enshrined on Singuttara Hill together with relics associated with the three previous Buddhas.

Whether approached through faith, history or legend, this story helps explain why Shwedagon is more than an architectural masterpiece. It is a place where generations have connected the past with the present.

Walking the Sacred Platform

For Buddhist devotees, a visit to Shwedagon is not simply sightseeing; it is an act of devotion. Visitors traditionally walk clockwise around the pagoda, pausing at shrines, Buddha images and planetary posts to pray and make offerings. The four main directional shrines are associated with Kakusandha, Konagamana, Kassapa and Gautama Buddha.



Flowers, candles, incense and oil lamps are common offerings. Families may come together, elderly people may sit peacefully in prayer, and young visitors may learn traditions from their parents and grandparents. In the early morning or at sunset, when the light softens and the heat begins to fade, the atmosphere can feel especially peaceful. The gentle sound of bells, footsteps and quiet prayers creates a unique sense of living spirituality.

Wonders Beyond the Main Stupa

The great golden stupa naturally draws the eye, but the Shwedagon complex contains many other places of religious and cultural interest. The official Shwedagon website identifies a group known as the "Nine Wonders", including the Ruby-Eyed Buddha, the Vijja-Zawgyi Stupa, the Queen Shin Sawbu Buddha Image, the Hair Relic Well Pavilion, Bo Bo Aung's shrine, the Shin Mahti Buddha Image, the Kakusandha Buddha Image and other revered sites.

These places add another dimension to a visit. They remind us that Shwedagon is not a single monument but a vast sacred landscape filled with images, pavilions, shrines, inscriptions and stories. Among its historical treasures are the Dhammaceti Stone Inscriptions, erected in 1485 in Mon, Myanmar, and Pali. They provide valuable evidence about the history and preservation of Shwedagon and its sacred traditions.

A Night of Light and Devotion

Shwedagon becomes particularly vibrant during Myanmar's traditional religious festivals. Tazaungmone, in particular, is associated with robe-offering traditions and the famous Golden Lotus Robe Weaving Contest. According to the pagoda's official records, the heritage contest began in 1941. Weaving groups gather in a traditional ceremony, and the completed robes are offered to Buddha images before dawn on the Full Moon Day.

During festival occasions, the pagoda platform can glow with candlelight and oil lamps as devotees gather to pray, make offerings and share merit. The scene combines religious devotion with community participation, allowing visitors to experience a living tradition rather than simply observe an ancient monument.

Where the Heart Finds Peace

Perhaps the greatest attraction of Shwedagon cannot be captured by a camera. It is the sense of peace that many people experience there. Amid the movement of a busy city, the pagoda provides a place to pause, pray and reflect. Devotees come to offer flowers and lamps, meditate, make donations and express gratitude. For many Buddhists, these acts are connected with generosity, mindfulness and the cultivation of a calm mind.

The meaning of Shwedagon also extends beyond religion. Its history reflects the work of kings, queens, monks, craftsmen, donors and ordinary people who have helped preserve it across generations. Its presence in Yangon connects the modern city with Myanmar's cultural memory.

A Golden Symbol of Home

As evening falls, the golden stupa glows against the changing sky, and the city gradually comes alive with lights. At that moment, Shwedagon seems to bring together the many layers of Myanmar: faith and history, legend and living tradition, devotion and community.

For travellers, Shwedagon Pagoda may become one of the most memorable sights of a journey through Myanmar. For those who hold it sacred, it represents something more enduring – a connection to faith, family, heritage and home. Its true beauty is not simply the gold that shines in the sunlight, but the generations of people who have prayed, offered, remembered and found peace beneath its golden glow. Shwedagon is therefore more than a landmark. It is a living heritage site and a spiritual symbol of Myanmar – a golden heart that continues to shine at the centre of Yangon.

Myanmar Holds Relative Tariff Advantage in US Garment Market as Vietnamese Factories Explore Production Diversification

By Justin Jeon (MyanTrade)

According to country-specific additional Section 301 tariff data released by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on 24 July 2026, Myanmar was not included among the countries subject to the newly announced additional tariffs applied to Viet Nam and several other garment-producing countries.

The development has created a potential relative tariff advantage for garment enterprises in Myanmar, particularly as factories in Viet Nam with a high proportion of US orders consider transferring part of their production to Myanmar.

The tariff difference does not mean that garments produced in Myanmar are exempt from US import duties.

Garments from Myanmar remain subject to the applicable Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariff and other US customs requirements.

However, as additional country-specific tariffs have been imposed on Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia, Myanmar may have a comparatively lower effective tariff structure for certain garment products.

Based on the 2026 comparison data for men's cotton shirts, the basic MFN tariff rates for Myanmar, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia were estimated at approximately 16.5 to 19.7 per cent.

Viet Nam was subject to an additional tariff of 12.5 per cent, resulting in an estimated effective tariff range of approximately 29.0 to 32.2 per cent.

Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia were subject to additional tariffs of 10 per cent, resulting in estimated effective tariff ranges of approximately 26.5 to 29.7 per cent.

Myanmar was not subject to the newly introduced country-specific additional tariff in the data provided, leaving the estimated tariff structure at approximately 16.5 to 19.7 per cent, based mainly on the basic MFN tariff.

On the same customs-value basis, the estimated difference between garments produced in Viet Nam and Myanmar could therefore reach up to 12.5 percentage points.

The difference between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Indonesia and Cambodia could be approximately 10 percentage points.

The actual tariff rate may vary depending on the applicable HS Code, material composition, knitted or woven fabric classification, gender classification, origin determination and other measures in force at the time of customs clearance in the United States.

Companies are therefore required to confirm the final tariff treatment for each product with US importers and customs advisers based on the correct HS Code.

Potential for production diversification

The development could be significant for Vietnamese garment factories whose production is heavily dependent on the US market.

An additional tariff of 12.5 per cent may place direct pressure on the price competitiveness of garments manufactured in Viet Nam.

For basic garments produced in large volumes, where sewing costs account for a significant portion of the product price, the tariff difference could influence purchasing prices and the allocation of orders.

Instead of transferring their entire production base, Vietnamese enterprises may consider allocating part of their US-bound orders to separate production lines or partner factories in Myanmar.

Such a dual-production strategy could allow enterprises to maintain their existing production capacity and supply networks in Viet Nam while diversifying production for the US market.

For Myanmar, the development could create an opportunity to attract overseas garment companies and strengthen cooperation with foreign-owned factories.

However, enterprises are expected to begin with limited product lines and trial orders before expanding their production volumes.

They need to assess customs clearance, delivery schedules, quality, logistics costs, power supply, labour availability and financial arrangements before making a decision on larger-scale production transfer.

Substantial production required for origin claims

Enterprises seeking to benefit from the relative tariff difference must carry out sufficient production processes in Myanmar for the goods to qualify as Myanmar-origin products.

The simple transhipment of finished garments from Viet Nam or China through Myanmar, or the changing of labels without substantial production, could be regarded as an attempt to circumvent origin requirements.

Companies should maintain systematic records covering the purchase of raw materials, receipt of fabric, cutting, sewing, processing, packaging and shipment.

Factory production capacity, work orders, fabric-inventory records, wage-payment records, shipping documents and transaction records should also be retained as evidence of actual production in Myanmar.

Myanmar's exclusion from the additional country-specific Section 301 tariff does not represent a free-trade agreement or a special tariff concession.

Myanmar-origin garments remain subject to the basic MFN tariff and product-specific US customs regulations.

In addition, companies involved in Myanmar-related trade need to examine potential restrictions imposed by the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, including the status of counterparties, banks and enterprises linked to sanctioned entities.

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw tackles MSME growth, minimum wage, infrastructure

THE third-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session was held at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and parliamentary representatives. During the meeting, members raised and answered 13 questions on MSME support, the minimum wage, employment generation, rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs), vocational education, and regional transport infrastructure.



The third-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's third regular session is underway, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi.

On promoting and linking rural micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Taninthayi Region, Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than said the ministry is actively supporting marine products, agro-based industries, food processing, handicrafts, and tourism. Through the 29-member regional MSME Agency and One-Stop Service centres launched in mid-2026, the ministry works directly with relevant bodies to address entrepreneurs' needs locally. He emphasized the necessity of transitioning from exporting raw materials to producing high-value, branded products using modern technology.

Responding to queries on the minimum wage and living costs, Deputy Minister for Labour U Maung Maung Than noted that the standard minimum wage of K4,800 set in 2018 has been reinforced by three consecutive K1,000 daily cost-of-living allowances granted in October 2023, August 2024, and October 2025. This brings total daily earnings to K7,800 for an eight-hour working day on active duty and statutory leave. He stated that the National Committee on Minimum Wage continues tri-party deliberations between the government, employers, and employees. He also highlighted state financing mechanisms, noting that 19 private banks and the Myanma Economic Bank disbursed K8,974.22 billion in MSME loans by the end of the 2025-2026 financial year, while ministerial funds provided K9,955 million to 253 entrepreneurs.

Addressing employment generation and human resource development, the deputy minister affirmed that the tripartite body is striving to attract fresh investments and sustain manufacturing operations in industrial zones. The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration prioritizes high-tech and responsible investment projects to create regional jobs.

In response to a query regarding district-level rehabilitation centres for people with disabilities in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe stated there are currently no plans for separate centres, though specialist physical therapy remains accessible at Yangon's public and rehabilitation hospitals. He added that the public health department provides free essential anti-seizure medicines across more than 100 townships.

Regarding IDP assistance, Deputy Minister Dr Than Soe reported that K144.358 billion from the National Disaster Management Fund was distributed to displaced persons across regions and states in 2025 at K20,000 per person monthly. Extensive supplies, building stipends, and over 308,000 sacks of rice were also disbursed across multiple regions, alongside dedicated reconstruction funding for affected towns in Chin and Shan states and Sagaing Region.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo detailed technical training schemes, explaining that 47 domestic science training schools for women and border youth institutes provide vocational skills to help out-of-school youths secure employment, alongside cross-ministerial curriculum collaborations.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo and Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint subsequently responded to local road and bridge construction proposals raised by MPs representing Tamu, Ye, Chaung-U, Zigon, Mawlamyinegyun, Mawlaik, and Okpho townships, detailing ongoing feasibility studies and multi-year budget plans.

The third regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw will proceed to its fourth day on 24 September. — MNA/ST

Myanmar joins XXIII China-ASEAN Expo tourism exhibition

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Phyo Zaw Soe participated in the tourism exhibition area of the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo, held in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, from 19 to 21 September.

The exhibition featured country pavilions from 11 ASEAN member states and eight other countries, with 1,350 companies and 1,720 booths showcasing tourism businesses, technology companies and local enterprises from mainland China and its regions.

On 19 September, the Myanmar delegation met officials from the Guangxi provincial government to discuss strengthening tourism cooperation between Myanmar and China, facilitating border tourism, expanding direct air services, developing human resources in the tourism sector and promoting sustainable tourism destinations.

The delegation also attended the opening of the China-ASEAN Tourism Exhibition Area, where Myanmar showcased its historic cultural heritage sites, nature-based destinations, tourism experiences and tourism products. Myanmar tourism companies held business discussions with tourism agencies from China and other participating countries.

On 20 September, the delegation visited major tourist attractions in Guilin, including Elephant Trunk Hill Park and the Guilin Stone Inscriptions Museum, and took a cruise along the Li River between Guilin and Yangshuo.

Through its participation, Myanmar promoted its tourism destinations and gained practical experience from other participating countries in destination management, tourism services and international tourism promotion strategies. — MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe speaks at the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo Tourism Exhibition Area, Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China.

MALI Union Minister receives Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received a delegation led by Mr Novan Ivanhoe Saleh, Chargé d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy, yesterday.

They cordially discussed investment and technical cooperation in the palm oil sector, the development of agricultural awareness programmes and farmer training schools, the dissemination of agricultural information through digital and television-based platforms, and the sharing of technical expertise and modern agricultural technologies to enhance farmers' knowledge and capabilities. — MNA/KTZH



Union Minister U Min Naung meets Mr Novan Ivanhoe Saleh, Chargé d'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

NATIONAL

President's Office UM attends reception for Saudi Arabia's 96th National Day

PRESIDENT'S Office Union Minister U Tin Aung San attended a reception to mark Saudi Arabia's 96th National Day at the Crystal Ballroom of Lotte Hotel Yangon yesterday.

Mr Maziad Mohammed Maziad Al Howishan, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Myanmar, and officials warmly welcomed Union Minister U Tin Aung San and other guests.



Union Minister U Tin Aung San being welcomed at the reception to mark Saudi Arabia's 96th National Day in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony opened with the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Saudi Arabia, followed by speeches by the Ambassador and Union Minister U Tin Aung San.

The Union minister and the ambassador then cut a ceremonial cake to commemorate Saudi Arabia's 96th National Day and posed for a group photo with the attendees, after which the ambassador hosted a dinner for the guests.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs U Bo Htay, Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister and Yangon Mayor U Myo Myint Aung, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, military attachés, UN resident coordinators and invitees. — MNA/MKKS

32 PDFs rejoin society with 6 family members, arms

THE government is extending an invitation to those involved in various armed groups, including the PDF, to return to the legal fold. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

On 22 September, 23 men from the Local PDF operating terrorist attacks in the Sartaung area of Sagaing, along with their three female family members, and six males and three females from the Sar Taung Moe Kyo group with their three female family members, totalling 29-male and three female PDF members, including their six female family members, rejoined the legal fold with their 13 various arms and ammunition at their nearest bases.



The reception ceremony for 32 PDF members returning to the legal fold is in progress on 22 September in the Sartaung area of Sagaing Region.

The relevant officials of the military bases of Sagaing warmly welcomed them and provided them with healthcare services.

There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Students Barred from Bringing Phones to Class

THE Ministry of Education has strictly prohibited students from bringing mobile phones to basic education schools and is taking disciplinary action against those who violate the rule.

"For the first offence, the phone is confiscated by the school principal or class teacher. For the second offence, it is kept by the school and the student's parent or guardian is required to come to the school and sign an undertaking. For a final offence, the student may be temporarily suspended from school following consultation with the Parents and Teachers Association and a decision by the school disciplinary committee. The phone is also kept for one year," said Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing.

Although Myanmar's existing laws do not specifically prohibit or restrict students and children from using mobile phones, they provide for protection against threats, harm and exploitation through online platforms, with action being taken under relevant laws. — ASH/KNN

World Maritime Day commemorated at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel



Professor Dr Swe Swe Zin from the Department of Shipping Management, Myanmar Maritime University, discussed "Myanmar's Innovative Coastal Shipping Experiences".

CITIC Myanmar Company, China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) and the China Foundation for Rural Development (CFRD) jointly organised a World Maritime Day commemorative event under the theme "From Policy to Practice, Powering Maritime Excellence" at the Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel yesterday morning.

First, Director U Hla Myo Kyaw of the Myanmar Maritime Administration Department, General Manager Mr Zhang Yue of the PR & CSR Department of CITIC Myanmar, and Executive General Manager Mr Cao Dianwei of China Harbour Myanmar Company delivered speeches.

This was followed by discussions on maritime excellence under the theme "From Policy to Practice, Powering Maritime Excellence". Professor Dr Swe Swe Zin of the Shipping Management Department of Myanmar Maritime University, Engineering Manager Mr Zheng Fuze of China Harbour Myanmar Company, Director Mr Guo Xun of the Engineering Management Department of CITIC Myanmar, and Associate Professor Dr Mu Mu Han of the Department of Port Management at Myanmar Maritime University discussed various topics related to advancing maritime excellence. — Bala/MKKS

Gems Emporium Returns to Nay Pyi Taw 8-17 Oct

FROM PAGE 1

Interested business entities can contact the Central Committee for the Myanmar Gems Emporium, the Myanma Gems Enterprise head office, or the Myanma Pearl Enterprise head office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Next, 443 of 489 pearl lots, 67 of 160 gem lots, 2,110 of 2,900 jade lots (Group A and B) and 2,073 of 2,185 jade lots (Group C) were sold at the 60th exhibition in 2025. All lots were sold to domestic and foreign gem traders through an open tender system on a daily basis. — TWA/KK

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ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Power supply restored in Kyaukme, Hsipaw after repairs



This image shows the transformer at the Kyaukme (Panpaung) Substation in Kyaukme.

POWER infrastructure in Kyaukme and Hsipaw, Shan State (North), which was damaged by the destruction caused by terrorist insurgents, has been repaired, and electricity supply has been restored in certain areas.

The 66-kV Mansan-Hsipaw power line, 33-kV Hsipaw-Kyaukme power line, three 66-kV and 33-kV substations, distribution lines and transformers were damaged, resulting in power outages from the national grid in Kyaukme on 25 June 2024 and Hsipaw on 26 June 2024.

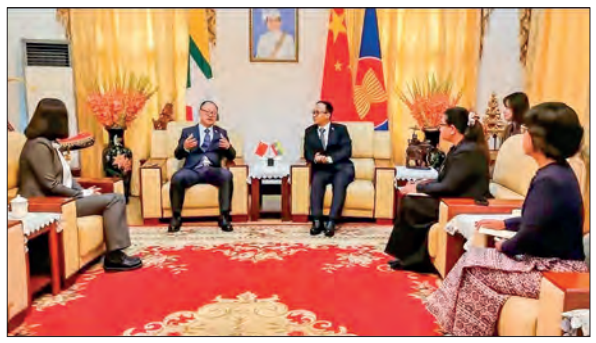
After the two towns were recaptured by Tatmadaw, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy began repairing and reconstructing the damaged 66-kV Hsipaw Substation, 33-kV Kyaukme (Panpaung) Substation, the66-kV Mansan-Hsipaw and 33-kV Hsipaw-Kyaukme power lines, 11-kV and 400-volt distribution lines, and 11/0.4-kV transformers. The work began on 15 November 2025, using Union and Shan State government budgets.

While the repair works were underway, two diesel generators with capacities of 665 kW and 200 kW provided temporary electricity to essential facilities in Hsipaw. In Kyaukme, the 2-MW Nam Saung Ngaung small hydropower plant provided temporary electricity to schools, hospitals, police stations, government offices and religious buildings.

Following the repair efforts, electricity from the national grid was restored at 11 am on 22 September 2026. The Kyaukme Substation now supplies seven urban wards, Kyaukme General Hospital, 29 government offices and six schools, while the Hsipaw Substation supplies 10 urban wards, Hsipaw People's Hospital, 21 government offices and seven schools.

The ministry continues its efforts to repair and reconstruct power plants, substations and transmission and distribution lines damaged by the incidents, with priority given to restoring electricity to the remaining areas as soon as possible. — MNA/KTZH

Kunming discussions focus on promoting Chinese investment in Myanmar



This photo features a discussion between the Consul-General of the Consulate-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kunming and the Vice-Chairman of the China (Kunming)-ASEAN International Trade and Investment Promotion Association.

U Zeya Myo Myint, Consul-General of the Consulate-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kunming, and Mr De Long Yong, Vice-Chairman of the China (Kunming)-ASEAN International Trade and Investment Promotion Association, met at the Myanmar Consulate-General in Kunming on 21 September 2026 to discuss facilitating Chinese businesspeople wishing to invest in Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the discussions, the Myanmar Consul-General and Mr De Long Yong exchanged views on several matters, including Chinese businesspeople wishing to invest in Myanmar, cooperation with Myanmar businesses and enterprises, infrastructure development projects in Myanmar, the export of agricultural products from Myanmar to Yunnan Province, and the promotion and development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Additionally, in an address at the opening ceremony of the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo and the 23rd China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, held in Nanning, China, on 17 September, Vice-President U Nyo Saw noted that, in terms of trade and investment, new sectors covered by ACFTA 3.0 (ASEAN-China Free Trade Area), such as the digital economy, green economy, supply chains, competition and consumer protection, would not only create greater opportunities for investment and trade but also foster free, fair, rules-based and mutually beneficial trade. — ASH/TH

Myanmar Holds Relative Tariff Advantage ...

FROM PAGE 9

Relevant regulations of the US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security, as well as transaction restrictions applied independently by banks and logistics companies, should also be reviewed.

Forced-labour compliance remains a key issue

Another important factor in the export of garments to the US is supply-chain scrutiny related to forced labour, including requirements under the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act.

The US Customs and Border Protection may review not only the factory producing the finished garment but also the origin of cotton, yarn, fabric, dyeing processes and accessories.

When Chinese fabric or yarn is used, companies may still need to provide documents demonstrating that the relevant raw materials are not connected with high-risk areas associated with forced labour.

Insufficient documentation could result in customs clearance delays or the detention of shipments, even where Myanmar provides a relative tariff advantage.

Accordingly, companies considering production in Myanmar need to assess traceability of raw materials, labour-management systems and compliance with international labour standards, in addition to calculating tariff costs.

Other conditions requiring assessment include sewing costs, productivity, quality-control capacity, availability of skilled workers, electricity supply, self-generation costs, import lead times for materials, port congestion, inland transport, payment arrangements, foreign-exchange access and the repatriation of export proceeds.

A phased approach based on trial production and cooperation with qualified local factories could reduce risks compared with an immediate, full-scale relocation.

Myanmar-Korea textile and garment mission planned

To help companies assess the feasibility of production transfer and cooperation in Myanmar, KOGAM, the Korean garment manufacturers' association in Myanmar, is scheduled to organize a Myanmar-Korea Textile and Garment Mission from 11 to 14 November 2026.

The programme will be held in Yangon and major industrial zones and special economic zones.

It will include seminars on Myanmar's economy and garment industry, briefings on company establishment, accounting and taxation, logistics, customs and financial conditions, as well as visits to industrial zones, garment factories and economic organizations.

The planned programme includes visits to Zayet Kwin Industrial Zone, Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Shinhan Bank.

Participants will also be able to visit Korean- and Chinese-owned garment factories to review production lines, equipment, quality-control systems, labour management, power arrangements and possible cooperation opportunities.

The mission is intended for textile and garment enterprises, buyers and related companies from the Republic of Korea, China, Viet Nam and other ASEAN countries that are considering production transfer, cooperation manufacturing, sourcing or diversification of their existing production bases.

The programme is expected to provide participating companies with an opportunity to assess Myanmar's actual operating environment before making decisions on production relocation or cooperation.

The changing US tariff structure may create a potential opportunity for Vietnamese factories with substantial US orders to diversify part of their production into Myanmar.

However, the opportunity will depend not only on the tariff difference but also on origin requirements, supply-chain traceability, labour compliance, logistics, electricity, finance and the ability of factories to meet delivery and quality standards.

Gas processing facility put into operation in Iraq



Iraqi Oil Minister Basim Mohammed Khudhair (3rd R, front) turns a valve during the launching ceremony of the gas processing facility at the EBS oilfield in Baghdad Province, Iraq, 22 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

A gas processing facility built and invested in by Chinese company Zhen-Hua Oil was officially put into operation at the EBS oilfield in central Iraq on Tuesday.

Iraqi Oil Minister Basim Mohammed Khudhair, along with other high-ranking Iraqi officials, attended the launching ceremony.

In an interview with Xinhua, Khudhair praised the Chinese company's professionalism and efficient execution, noting that Chinese enterprises are vital to the development of Iraq's oil and gas sector. — Xinhua

Travellers crowd stations as Japan's 5-day Silver Week holiday ends

TRAIN stations across Japan were crowded Wednesday as people returned from trips and hometown visits as the five-day Silver Week autumn holiday, the first such stretch in 11 years, came to an end.

Tokyo Station was packed with travelers, with Kokoha Mieda, a nine-year-old fourth grader from Kobe in Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, saying she took her first trip with her 54-year-old grandmother without her parents. — Kyodo



This photo shows a crowded Tokyo Station on the last day of the Silver Week holidays on 23 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (BY8070S89)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (BY8070S89)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0104N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0104N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, Shandong Zouping Nongyao Co.,Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd to Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd . If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Paung San Thit 50 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 10% + Bispyribac-sodium 40% WP	Provisional	P2026-7091

Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-250406611

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, Jinan Tianbang Chemical Co.,Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd to Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd . If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	MC-Benta	Bentazone 400g/L + MCPA 60g/L SL	Provisional	P2026-7078

Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd
Tel: 09-250406611

Advertise with us/ Hotline: 09 2555 97511 09 4542 37515

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, EastChem Co.,Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Lionchem(Myanmar) Pte.,Ltd to Oakthar Phone Hlyan Co.,Ltd . If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Bicoaloo 700WG	Nitenpyram 20% + Pymetrozine 50% WG	Full	F2025-5160

OakThar Phone Hlyan Co.,Ltd Tel: 09-965104416

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, EastChem Co.,Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Lionchem(Myanmar) Pte.,Ltd to Agro Shiny Power Co.,Ltd . If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Top Care 40 SC	Tricyclazole 400g/l SC	Full	F2025-5053

Agro Shiny Power Co.,Ltd Tel: 09-686288545

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, EastChem Co.,Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Lionchem(Myanmar) Pte.,Ltd to Royal Agro Myanmar Co.,Ltd . If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Bemstar 750 DF	Tricyclazole 750g/kg DF	Full	F2022-3490

Royal Agro Myanmar Co.,Ltd Tel: 09-686288545

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

France gears up for first official pope visit in 18 years

Leo will address a wide range of thorny issues during his trip.

A giant white canopy has appeared in central Paris with just days to go before Pope Leo XIV arrives for the first state visit to France by a pontiff since 2008.

The makeshift altar will host the head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics as he holds a giant open-air mass on the Place de la Concorde and adjoining Champs-Elysees this weekend.

The event is just one on a busy agenda for the first US pontiff, whose paternal grandmother was born in France, as he makes a four-day visit from Friday to the historically Catholic but increasingly non-religious nation.

Leo will address a wide range of thorny issues during his trip, ranging from clerical sexual abuse and the dangers of artificial intelligence to the migration crisis and peace in Europe.



Pope Leo's trip is the first papal state visit to France since Benedict XVI's in 2008. **PHOTO: AFP**

Only around five percent of France's 69 million residents go to Catholic church regularly, a survey last year found, in a deeply secular country that has enshrined the right to abortion in the constitution and approved assisted dying for some patients.

But while infant christenings have dwindled in recent years, adult baptisms are on the rise, with thousands choosing to embrace the faith. — AFP

EU Commission proposes unlocking 4.2 bln euros in frozen funds for Hungary

THE European Commission on Wednesday proposed unlocking 4.2 billion euros (about US$4.8 billion) in cohesion funding for Hungary, which has been suspended over rule-of-law concerns under the country's previous government.

The Commission said it had proposed that the Council of the European Union (EU) should lift protective measures imposed on Hungary in 2022 under the bloc's Conditionality Regulation, concluding that the country had addressed the rule-of-law breaches.



Ursula von der Leyen with Hungary's Prime Minister Peter Magyar before a meeting at the European Union headquarters in Brussels on 29 May. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

If approved by the Council, the decision would not only reinstate the suspended cohesion policy commitments, but also restore full access to the Erasmus+ student exchange programme and the Horizon Europe research programme for students and researchers at universities maintained by Hungarian Public Interest Trusts. — Xinhua

Xi leaves for state visit to US

CHINESE President Xi Jinping left Beijing on Wednesday for a state visit to the United States at the invitation of US President Donald Trump.

Xi's entourage includes his wife Peng Liyuan, Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, and Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and foreign minister. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran has technological infrastructure to make missiles

IRAN'S Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Tuesday that the country possesses the technological infrastructure to make missiles with significantly longer ranges.

IRGC spokesman Hossein Mohebbi made the announcement in an interview with the official news agency IRNA, stressing that a political decision needs to be made within the country regarding the production of such missiles. Mohebbi noted that in any confrontation, Iran will unveil new weapons with new ranges, precision and destructive power, emphasizing that battlefield is the best place to test new weapons.

He said Iran recently tested a new missile on an aircraft carrier and a warship both belonging to the United States, adding the missile hit the aircraft carrier, which was within a range of 500 km. – Xinhua

Trump met with Venezuela's interim leader

US President Donald Trump and Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodriguez met in person for the first time on Tuesday and discussed topics like energy and security, she said.

Rodriguez, who is set to address the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday, is the first Venezuelan head of state to visit since deposed president Nicolas Maduro was captured in a US military raid in January.

Rodriguez described the meeting on the sidelines of the assembly in the US as "historic" in a message on X, posted alongside a photo of the two leaders smiling.

She said they discussed "strengthening the bilateral relationship between our countries and moving forward with a cooperation agenda in strategic areas such as energy, mining, and security." – AFP

Outgoing UN chief makes climate push

FRESH from accusing fossil fuel interests of treating the atmosphere like an "open sewer", outgoing UN chief Antonio Guterres is set to host his final climate summit Wednesday at the world organization's New York headquarters.

The stakes are clearer than ever, as the impacts of climate change surge around the world -- from heat waves and wildfires in Europe to catastrophic flooding in Nepal and Tibet triggered by a glacier collapse.

Extreme weather impacts are set to worsen with an El Nino weather pattern that has tied for the most intense ever.

And the world is set to shoot past -- at least temporarily -- 1.5C of warming, beyond which scientists say it will see worse catastrophes from climate change.

The "High-level Event on Climate Action and the Just Transition" will have opening remarks by Guterres followed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The two countries are co-hosting COP31 climate talks in Antalya in November in an unusual arrangement, with Australia running the talks but Turkey hosting the event and rallying support for voluntary pledges. – AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar bodybuilding team leaves for Asian Championships



The Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports team is pictured before leaving for Bangkok, Thailand.

A 12-member Myanmar team led by Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation President U Cho Htun Aung left Yangon International Airport yesterday morning to compete in the 58th Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2026, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 22 to 28 September.

The team comprises officials, coaches, judges and six athletes: Aung Htut (60 kilogrammes), Hein Zaw Lin (65 kilogrammes), Wai Lin Kyaw (Men's Athletic), Nay Htut (Men's Sport Physique), Me Me Kyaw Naing (Women's Model Physique and Swimsuit) and Moe Thet Khaing (Women's Athletic Physique and Wellness).

U Kyo Htun Aung, who is also Secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee, heads the team, while Federation Vice-President U Kyaw Than serves as team manager. — Bala/KZL

Man Utd losses jump despite record revenues



Manchester United are sixth in the Premier League table. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MANCHESTER United's annual net loss increased by almost one third to £43 million ($57 million) despite record-breaking revenues announced on Wednesday.

The Red Devils reported £677.6 million in revenue in the year to 30 June — up 1.7 per cent.

However, the club announced a seventh straight annual loss after tax as co-owner Jim Ratcliffe's cuts to operating costs offset contractual payments to sacked manager Ruben Amorim and a big increase in loan repayments.

The latest earnings relate to a turbulent 2025/26 season, which saw former United player Michael Carrick replace Amorim and secure qualification for the Champions League.

The increase in revenue was driven by an uptick in broadcasting income, boosted by a third-place finish in the Premier League — up from 15th the previous season.

But commercial and matchday income each fell close to five per cent during a season in which there were no European fixtures. Broadcasting income jumped almost 20 per cent.

United's accounts showed that they paid £8.2 million in exceptional items, mostly related to the departure of Amorim, who left in January after 14 months in charge. — AFP

Man City hold Bayern to start Women's Champions League, Arsenal win late



Bayern Munich and Manchester City shared the spoils in their Women's Champions League league phase opener. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER City fought from two goals down to grab a 2-2 draw at Bayern Munich on Tuesday to start their Women's Champions League season, while Mariona Caldentey was the hero as Arsenal left it late in their opener.

Bayern raced into a 2-0 lead thanks to Giulia Gwinn's early strike and a Kerstin Casparij own goal inside the first 30 minutes.

Beth Mead halved the deficit for the Women's Super League champions on the stroke of half-time.

City looked set to begin the league phase with a loss, as Khadija Shaw was denied from the spot by Bayern goalkeeper Ena Mahmutovic in the second period. But German forward Carlotta Wamser popped up with four minutes remaining to ensure the spoils were shared in Bavaria.

"It was a game of two halves, I think. (The first half) was probably not good enough for our standards," Mead told UEFA.

"But again we showed what the team is about, showed our character."

Arsenal, the 2025 Champions League winners, made a faltering start to their bid to recover the continent's premier club title. Renee Slegers's side needed an injury-time penalty from Spain international Caldentey to nab a 1-0 win at home to Danes HB Koge. — AFP

Myanmar Teqball medallists receive cash awards



Officials present awards to Myanmar Teqball medallists.

MYANMAR'S national Teqball athletes who won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the XX Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan, have received cash awards in recognition of their achievements.

The Teqball events were held from 17 to 20 September. Khin Hnin Wai won gold in the women's singles after defeating an Indonesian opponent in straight games in the final. Su Mon Aung and Phyu Phyu Than won silver in the women's doubles, while Saw Friday took bronze in the men's singles.

Myanmar Olympic Committee, Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and Myanmar Teqball Federation President Dr Htet Khine Win each presented K60 million to the medal-winning athletes.

Federation Vice-President U Chit Ko Ko and General Secretary U Phyo Zaw Zaw also presented an additional K30 million each. A separate ceremony to honour the athletes will be held soon. — Bala/KZL

DPR Korea's weightlifer breakes world records of women's 49kg category

DPR Korea's Ri Song Gum broke the world record to win her country's first gold medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. She set three world records in the women's 49kg category.

Ri lifted 94 kilogrammes in the snatch, 121 kilogrammes in clean and jerk, and totaled 215 kilogrammes - all three marks broke the world record under the new competition cycle. The gold medal in the women's 49 kilogrammes category was DPR Korea's first gold of the Asian Games."I'm really, really happy. I don't even know how to put it into words," Ri said.



Ri Song Gum of North Korea wins gold in the 49-kilogram category in women's weightlifting at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Nagoya on 23 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

It was Ri's third consecutive Asian Games gold medal as she also won titles at Jakarta in 2018 and Hangzhou in 2023. — Xinhua



France gears up for first official pope visit in 18 years
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WORLD

Trump rejects calls for intl regulation on AI

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that the United States will only encourage artificial intelligence (AI) and maintain its leadership in a safe and responsible manner, rejecting international efforts to regulate AI.

During his UN General Assembly address, Trump dismissed globalist control schemes and proposed referring to AI as "super intelligence" moving forward.

The United States totally rejects any attempt to "construct a globalist scheme" to control the artificial intelligence being spoken of so much now, said Trump in delivering his speech in general debate of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



US President Donald Trump speaks at the General Debate of the 81st session of UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York on 22 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

"I'm not going to stifle growth of something that will be bigger than the industrial revolution," said Trump.

He added the United States would watch AI closely through the Department of Justice and continue to lead the world in this regard safely and responsibly.

Trump also pushed to replace the name of artificial intelligence with "super intelligence".

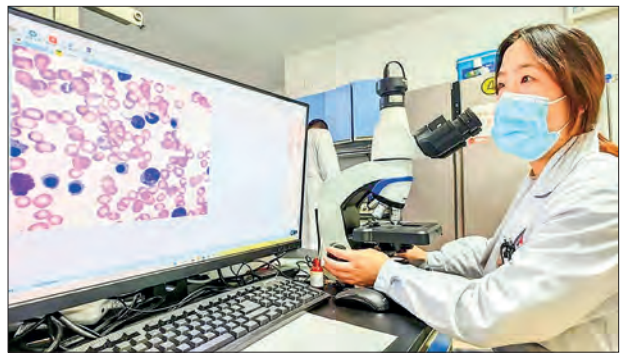
Several AI industry leaders from the United States recently called for a coordinated slowdown of the development of AI technology, flagging the prospect of self-improvement and the possibility of losing control of the technology. — Xinhua

China science forum's 1st overseas event in Bangkok focuses on AI, life sciences

THE 2026 Tengchong Scientists Forum (TSF) Bangkok Conference was held in Thailand's capital from Sunday to Tuesday under the theme "Connecting the World Through Intelligence, AI Transforming the Future of Life Sciences".

More than 300 scientists, government and business leaders, university representatives, industry experts and representatives of international organizations from over 10 countries and regions engaged in in-depth discussions on topics such as the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and life sciences, and regional collaborative innovation in science and technology.

Xu Zhihong, co-chair of the Tengchong Scientists Forum and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said the forum has always made collaboration its defining feature, citing close sci-tech ties between China and Thailand and between China and ASEAN. — Xinhua



An examiner checks the results made by an artificial intelligence model for blood cell testing in a laboratory at Xinqiao Hospital under the Army Medical University in southwest China's Chongqing, 14 February 2023. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/XINHUA/FILE**

Iran holds Qatar-mediated talks with US on UNGA sidelines

IRAN held indirect talks with the United States through Qatar on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said.

Iranian state broadcaster IRIB reported that Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi outlined Iran's conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz during a meeting with US special envoy Steve Witkoff on Tuesday.

"The interaction that took place was through Qatari mediation," Baqaei told IRNA news agency.

The purpose of the contacts was to convey Iran's conditions to the United States. He confirmed that the conditions outlined by Iran included an end to the war on all fronts, a cessation of aggressive US actions, the naval blockade and economic warfare, as well as the release of blocked Iranian assets.

Baghaei noted that these conditions were not new and pertained to the Strait of Hormuz.

On 28 February, the United States and Israel began striking targets in Iran, prompting retaliatory attacks. In mid-June, Iran and the US signed a memorandum of understanding to cease hostilities, though they soon resumed. The conflict remains unresolved.

The escalation has brought shipping through the Strait of Hormuz to a near standstill, impacting the supply of oil, petroleum products and liquefied natural gas and driving up fuel prices globally. — SPUTNIK

UK to launch new military space squadron

BRITAIN announced Wednesday that it will launch a new military space squadron charged with defending the country's satellites, in the latest move as various countries rush for military space capabilities.

The new Royal Air Force (RAF) squadron will protect critical satellites used in communications and to warn of incoming missile attacks, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said.

It described the unit -- to be known as No III Space Effects Squadron -- as the country's first dedicated to "disrupting, degrading, and denying enemy activity targeting British interests in space". — AFP

Argentina hails milestone bill for Malvinas sovereignty

THE Argentine government on Tuesday hailed a proposed bill concerning the disputed Malvinas Islands as a "milestone" in the process of recovering the archipelago and an "unprecedented" step forward on the legal front.

Presidential spokesperson Adrian Ravier made the remarks at a press conference at Casa Rosada, the presidential palace in Buenos Aires, urging lawmakers to consider the bill as soon as possible.

The bill submitted to Congress repeals Law 26.659 and replaces it with a framework that increases criminal penalties for companies or individuals involved in unauthorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation on the Argentine continental shelf. — Xinhua