

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

**President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,
His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing To Pay Official Visit to
the Russian Federation**

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay an Official Visit to the Russian Federation in the near future.

During the visit, the President of Myanmar will meet with the President of the Russian Federation, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and other officials from the Russian Government. The President will cordially discuss matters related to the further consolidation of existing friendly relations and strategic cooperation across all areas of mutual interest, including economic, security and social spheres. During the visit, the President will also attend the Myanmar-Russia Business Forum.

The President will be accompanied by Union Ministers and officials during the visit. — MNA

**EU to Provide €10.5M
in Humanitarian Aid
to Myanmar**

THE European Union announced 10.5 million euros in humanitarian assistance for Myanmar to support communities affected by displacement and natural disasters, including recent flash floods.

The funding will provide life-saving support, including emergency healthcare, food assistance, protection services, shelter, water and sanitation supplies. With this latest contribution, total EU humanitarian aid to Myanmar for 2026 now stands at €49.1 million.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has begun responding to flood-affected communities in Ayeyawady Region's Laymyethna Township, distributing 20 metric tonnes of fortified biscuits to support 10,000 flood-stricken people. WFP continues to assess needs and will expand relief operations to the most vulnerable areas in other regions and states. — ASH/KK



EU officials conduct the field visit as part of ongoing humanitarian relief efforts for communities affected by natural disasters.

**Govt Advances Climate Change
Mitigation Measures**



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets a participant at the third tree-growing ceremony in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

A total of 3,000 saplings will be planted at the third tree-planting ceremony as part of efforts to achieve the national target of 50 per cent forest cover.

A total of 21.37 million trees, including State-owned Forest plantations, have been grown across the country during this rainy season, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing.

SEE PAGE 3

Be Proud with "DAGON"

Sales Department- Ph-01 651177, 09 694965080

STARMART Nine Mile Showroom- (9)mile, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph-09 263147385

KHA YAE PIN MART - Mingalardone, Pyay Road, Yangon. Ph- 09 671443555

STARMART MANDALAY Wholesale -Corner of 26th st and 66th st , Mandalay.Ph-09 661702244

STARMART Nay Pyi Taw -Yangon- Mandalay Highway Road, Ywar Gauk Ward, Pynmanar.Ph- 09 685119077

NATIONAL

Shwedagon Pagoda to install 250 more CCTV cameras

A total of 250 additional CCTV cameras will be installed around the Shwedagon Pagoda, bringing the total to 650, to strengthen security and maintain discipline. Plans are also being explored to improve parking facilities for visitors.

The matter was raised by U Nay Lin Tun, Minister of Information, Relief and Religious Affairs of the Yangon Region government, in response to a question from U San Kyaw, a Yangon Region Hluttaw representative from the Hline Township Constituency2, on the second day of the third regular session of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 14 August.

According to vehicle entrance-fee data for Shwedagon Pagoda, approximately 2,800 private vehicles and taxis enter the pagoda on weekdays, while about 7,300 private



This photo captures pilgrims visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda on special occasions.

vehicles and taxis enter on weekends and approximately 8,000 on festival days. The minister explained that 10 parking areas have currently been arranged at the pagoda's four archways, providing space for a total of 523 private vehicles and taxis on a rotating basis. Visitors are charged K300 for private vehicles and K500 for taxis as entry fees.

Due to security and traffic-related concerns,

a decision was made at a disciplinary meeting in November 2021 that taxis would no longer be allowed to enter through the southern archway. Taxis are required to leave immediately after dropping off passengers at the pagoda area, and similar restrictions apply at the other archway. However, Hluttaw Representative U San Kyaw pointed out that taxis are not allowed to park within the pagoda

compound or at the southern archway, resulting in persistent traffic congestion in front of the Jade Pagoda Dhamma Hall. He called for the expansion of parking areas for private vehicles and taxis so that pilgrims can pay homage without difficulty.

Regarding the plan to expand parking areas raised in the question, the Hluttaw Speaker said that every possible effort should be made, in consultation with the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, to ensure that visitors do not face difficulties.

Regarding security at the pagoda, Minister U Nay Lin Tun said, "We have installed 400 CCTV cameras on the ground. After installing an additional 250 CCTV cameras, a total of 650 CCTV cameras will be in operation to enhance security at Shwedagon Pagoda." — TWA/MKKS

Public Notice

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is taking measures to reduce and eliminate electricity losses, including replacing underperforming meters and the meters that have been in use for more than 20 years. In addition, starting from 15 August 2026, the Ministry has begun accepting direct applications through its website to the head office from members of the public who wish to use electricity but have not yet obtained metres. This initiative aims to enable the public to obtain the required new electricity meters quickly, avoid the involvement of brokers and staff, and save time and expenses.
2. Along with implementing processes to transition to the Smart Meter system, the Ministry is also simultaneously developing a digital system that will enable members of the public using meters, including analogue meters and meters that cannot yet be connected to the Smart Meter System, to read their own metres and pay their electricity bills, while allowing the meters to be monitored and inspected by control centres. The system will be tested and used in the near future.
3. Moreover, the Ministry is continuously taking effective action against staff involved in electricity theft, requiring businesses to pay fines under the Electricity Law, suspending or revoking their permission to use electricity meters for a specified period, and taking action to close their business licences.
4. Therefore, as electricity theft is reduced and eliminated, the country's electricity supply system will develop rapidly, and electricity can be distributed more to the public who have not yet received access to electricity. The public is therefore earnestly requested to use electricity systematically and cooperate more fully with a spirit of consideration for others. If any malpractice is found, the people are also requested to report it accurately by contacting the following Call Centre numbers:
(a) Ministry of Electricity and Energy (Head Office) – 067 3410071
(b) YESC – 1717
(c) MESC – 1616, Hotlines: 02 4039330, 02 4073666, 02 4072618
(d) Other Regions and States – 067 3410407, 09 682232600, 09 665432575

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Weather

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 46

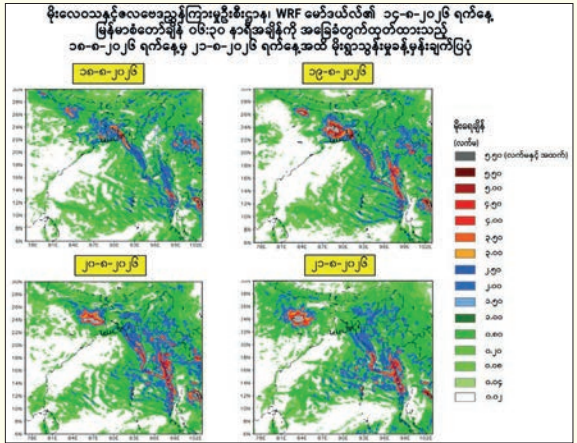
(Issued at 8 am MST on 15 August 2026)

According to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, are likely due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, unstable air conditions over the North Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states from 18 to 21 August 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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



NATIONAL

Govt Advances Climate ...

FROM PAGE 1

The third tree-growing ceremony at the national level in 2026 took place along both sides of Thitkhwa and Kissapanadi roads, north of the diplomatic zone, Dekkhinathiri Township, yesterday.

The President revealed that the ceremony will cover the cultivation of 3,000 saplings, including three species of flowery plants and 10 species of perennial trees as part of efforts to achieve the target of 50 per cent forest cover across the nation.

He noted that everybody knows flooding in some townships of Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Shan State is triggered by heavy rains.

The President stressed the need to implement forest conservation projects, including the Forest Restoration Project, the 13-district arid zone greening project, and the Comprehensive Management Project for Coastal Mangrove Forests in line with their respective objectives to increase forest cover across the country.

The President urged all relevant departments

Salient points from the speech delivered by the President at the tree-growing ceremony

1. Region and State Governments, relevant departments and organizations need to promote the development of Green Cities, Clean Cities, Smart Cities and Green Villages throughout the country.
2. It is necessary to implement the Forest Restoration Project, the 13-district arid zone greening project, and the Comprehensive Management Project for Coastal Mangrove Forests.
3. Perennial industrial crops, such as bamboo and rubber, should be planted in suitable and available areas, not only to contribute to environmental conservation but also to support the national economy.

and the public to work together in systematically implementing climate change mitigation measures across various sectors.

He recounted that tree-planting ceremonies were also held in Minbu and Meiktila towns starting last year. This year, national-level tree-planting ceremonies were held once each in PyinOoLwin on 12 July and Minbu on 13 July. These activities also contribute to efforts to develop Nay Pyi Taw into a clean, orderly and green capital.

The President called for growing perennial industrial crops, such as bamboo and rubber, in suitable and available areas, as these trees not only contribute to greening and environmental conservation but also support the national economy. The President underlined that the Region and State Governments, relevant departments and organizations across the country have to make vigorous efforts, with public participation, as a national duty to promote the development of Green Cities, Clean Cities, Smart Cities and Green Villages throughout the country.

On the occasion, the President planted a Gangaw sapling (*Mesua ferrea*) at the designated location.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Union-level dignitaries. The President viewed around the activities participated in by the attendees in the tree-growing ceremony. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation marks 13th anniversary

DAW KYU KYU HLA, wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation, graced the ceremony to mark the 13th Anniversary of the Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Myanmar National Committee on Women Chair and Union Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin delivered remarks while Chairperson of the federation Dr Nanda Hmun extended greetings.

Artistes presented dances and songs, and a video clip on the activities of the federation during 13 years was screened.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Honorary Patron of the federation, presented honorary awards to the winners in the nation-



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the President of Myanmar and Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation presents awards to chair of Shan State (South) of MWCF in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

al-level competitions.

Daw San San Aye, the wife of the First Vice-President and Honorary Patron of the federation; Second Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, and Daw Nilar, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, gave awards to chairs of regions and states.

They visited the booths depicting documentary photos on movements of

the federation displayed by regions and states.

The chairperson and vice-chairpersons led the annual meeting of the federation, focusing on the expenditures of the federation, the organizational set-up of the federation, rules, the brief work procedures and financial statement. Financial assistance, notebooks of the federation and pamphlets were distributed

to region and state associations.

The ceremony was also attended by wives of the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker and the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker; the wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Union ministers and their wives, State dignitaries and chairs and vice-chairs of partner organizations. — MNA/TTA

People's Military Service Training 4/2024 grads honoured

THE ceremonies to present certificates of completion of People's Military Service Training 4/2024 and to award the People's Military Service Badge were held at various regional military commands on 12 August, and they were allowed to return to their families and native towns.

Family members and local communities warmly welcomed the returning servicemen with flower garlands, auspicious branches, cash awards and traditional drum performances. Scenes of the welcoming ceremonies were also shared on social media.

During their service, the trainees carried out defence, security, and disaster relief and rescue duties alongside regular service-



Photos show graduates from the People's Military Service Training 4 are seen being warmly welcomed back.

men, while receiving their entitled salaries, rations, benefits and other forms of support.

Those who wish to continue serving voluntarily in the military may do so after completing their

prescribed service period. Company employees may also be reappointed to their previous or equivalent positions and receive relevant benefits provided by the State.

In addition, the Employment Management Committee on Military Veterans is coordinating with relevant ministries, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), and overseas employment agencies to help discharged servicemen access vocational training, employment in government or domestic and overseas companies, and opportunities to establish their own businesses in their communities. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

AML/CFT/CPF Training opens for legal professionals

A two-day training course on Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Countering Proliferation Financing (CPF) for legal professionals opened at Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday under the supervision of the Supreme Court of the Union.

Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay said Myanmar is implementing AML/CFT/CPF measures in line with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations to safeguard public security and support economic development. He noted that the first National AML/CFT Strat-



An opening event of Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Countering Proliferation Financing (CPF) for legal professionals is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

egy (2019-2023) had been completed and the second strategy (2024-2028) is being implemented.

He added that the 2026 Anti-Money Laundering Law had been enacted to combat mon-

ey laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The training aims to strengthen legal professionals' knowledge and capacity in AML/CFT

matters and promote compliance with relevant laws and supervisory guidance.

The training is being held from 15 to 16 August under the National Strategy on Combatting Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (2024-2028) and the Supreme Court's 2026 AML/CFT National Strategy Action Plan. Judges, senior officials, representatives of relevant AML/CFT bodies, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Department of Special Investigation and legal professionals from various regions and states attended the opening ceremony. — MNA/KZL

Healthy Lifestyles Essential from Childhood to Adulthood

CHIN State Chief Minister Dr Vung Suan Thang has urged people to adopt healthy lifestyles from school age through adulthood, stressing that good health is essential for both education and work.

He made the remarks at a ceremony to mark the 2026-2027 Academic Year State-level School Health Week, held at the Chin State Government Office in Haka yesterday afternoon.

He said the Ministries of Education and Health are jointly implementing school programmes to promote healthy eating

and lifestyles. These include teaching life skills and personal hygiene, providing deworming medicine and iron tablets twice a week, conducting school nutrition programmes, and providing eye and dental health services twice a year.

At the ceremony, awards were presented to outstanding schools for their school health activities. Attendees also watched student performances, a demonstration of personal hygiene practices and an exhibition of school health activities. — District IPRD/KZL



Schoolchildren take part in the 2026-2027 Academic Year State-level School Health Week in Haka yesterday.

11 foreign nationals transferred over telecom fraud links

A total of 11 foreign nationals linked to online gambling, telecommunications fraud and other criminal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area have been handed over to their respective countries.

The 11 nationals – four Pakistanis, three Indians, two Filipinos, one Cameroonian and one Kenyan – were transferred in accordance with legal procedures and on humanitarian and friendly-cooperation grounds.

Authorities stated that a total of 14,760 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myawady Township between 30 January 2025 and 15 August 2026 had been detained and processed. Of these, 13,820 had been repatri-

ated to their respective countries via Thailand.

Another 216 foreign nationals are awaiting transfer, while 724 remain subject to legal action for violations of Myanmar's immigration and drug-related laws. — MNA/MKKS

Clearup, recovery efforts underway in Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang

DEPARTMENTAL staff in Falam, Chin State, jointly cleared debris and cleaned Central School Road in Valai Ward yesterday, where buildings and infrastructure had been damaged during violent incidents.

Deputy Minister for

Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo, accompanied by the Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister and members of state and Falam rehabilitation and reconstruction committees, inspected the cleanup activities. They also inspected debris and



vegetation clearance at No 3 Basic Education High School and assessed the need for major repairs.

The deputy minister later inspected partially damaged buildings and equipment and the runway

at Surbung Airport.

Meanwhile, rehabilitation and reconstruction officials inspected cleanup and vegetation clearance activities and retaining wall construction in Tiddim. In Tonzang, officials also inspected community-led cleanup activities carried out by departmental staff, police personnel, community elders and local communities. — MNA/KZL

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo hears a report by an official at Surbung Airport.

www.gnlm.com.mm

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us
We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Flood protection works underway in Letpadan



Officials inspect flood protection works and prevention of erosion along the Ayeyawady River in Letpadan Township.

AS flood protection works are underway in Letpadan Township, Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, accompanied by the Speaker of the Region Hluttaw and regional ministers, inspected flood protection works being carried out near Ohgon Village in Letpadan Township to prevent erosion along the Ayeyawady River. He also inspected flood protection dykes on the east bank of the river to protect Letpadan and Monyo townships from flooding yesterday morning.

In addition, the chief minister inspected flood protection measures and ongoing preparations at the 9/0-mile point of the Ayeyawady River near Sanisu Village, Letpadan Township. The dyke on the east bank of the Ay-

eyawady River had been damaged by water erosion. Its condition was being continuously monitored due to changes in the course of the Ayeyawady River. The chief minister instructed officials to ensure that all necessary equipment was available for dyke construction and reinforcement.

Similarly, the chief minister and his delegation met local communities and instructed them to maintain the flood protection dykes over the long term. Relief materials, lunch boxes and financial assistance were provided to health workers, while honorariums were provided to departmental personnel and local volunteers working to strengthen the Sanisu embankment. — Region IPRD/MKKS

Emergency Bank Protection Works Underway at Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon)

OFFICIALS from the Mon State Office of Region 8, Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River System, are carrying out emergency bank erosion protection works between bridge piers K12 and K13 of Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon) in Chaungzon Township.

Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Win Than and state ministers inspected the ongoing works yesterday and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned to ensure that the project is completed on time and in accordance with quality standards within the designated financial year; that it is

durable and sustainable, and that workplace safety is ensured.

The bank erosion protection project, involving the installation of 1,000 feet of Bamboo Floating Units, is being implemented

with K40 million allocated from the Mon State government's budget for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The chief minister also inspected the maintenance of the turf, and stands of the township

stadium and the gymnasium in Chaungzon Township. He gave instructions to ensure the long-term sustainability and systematic maintenance of sports grounds and sports halls, facilitate sports training and raise sporting standards, and maintain cleanliness and adequate lighting in the surrounding areas.

The chief minister and party also watched an Under-18 Inter-Basic Education High School Men's Football Tournament match between the Kwanthae Zone Football Team and the Muritkalay Zone Football Team. — Sithu (IPRD)/KTZH



This photo shows the installation of Bamboo Floating Units near the Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon) in Chaungzon Township. PHOTO: SITHU (IPRD)

Flood relief efforts continue in Ayeyawady Region



A Tatmadaw mobile medical team delivers treatment to flood victim in Ayeyawady Region.

FLOOD relief and rescue efforts are continuing in Laymyethna, Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon

townships and surrounding villages in Ayeyawady Region.

On the night of 30 July 2026, heavy rainfall and

riverbank erosion caused a breach in the Ngawun River embankment, resulting in flooding. As of today, floodwaters have affected 15 urban wards and 201 villages across the affected townships.

Personnel from the South-West Command, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department, social rescue and charitable organisations, together with local communities, are conducting search and rescue operations, provid-

ing food and medical assistance, and operating relief camps for affected people.

Efforts are also being stepped up to control and protect the water inlet at Ngawun embankment by installing geobags and sandbags within bamboo barriers and steel sheet piles.

Officials from the South-West Command have inspected the ongoing operations and are coordinating the necessary assistance. — MNA/KZL

Bank erosion control works underway near Myanaung embankment

THE Department of Water Resources and Rivers Development is carrying out conservation works to mitigate bank erosion near the Myanaung embankment between Mileposts 6/7 and 7/0 in Myanaung Township.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw inspected the on-

going works, the storage of emergency supplies at the water control centre and the condition of the embankment yesterday.

U Bo Bo Kyaw instructed officials to take preventive measures, monitor and record any points of concern, and transport necessary emergency supplies to the re-

quired locations as soon as possible if any factors that could damage the embankment are identified. He also instructed them to store additional supplies by water or land transport when necessary and to immediately conduct flood-prevention and emergency-response drills in villages to ensure

a rapid and effective response in the event of an emergency.

During the visit, Deputy Minister U Bo Bo Kyaw inspected Alamyo flood sentry point and Mayanchaung flood sentry point in Danuphyu Township, Kyeinsepin flood sentry point and Wahdaw flood sentry point in Nyaungdon



Deputy Minister U Bo Bo Kyaw inspects the storage of emergency supplies at the flood sentry point.

Township, Minbaw flood sentry point in Maubin Township, and the Latar-

gyi Village embankment in Kyaiklat Township. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

9 August
President accepts cash donations for flood victims

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing received the donations from well-wishers and donors for relief, rescue and rehabilitation activities in flood-hit areas in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region.

President attends meeting to operate rescue and relief measures

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the meeting to operate rescue and rehabilitation against the overflow of Ngawun River due to the flow of water over the lowered embankment at the Ayeyawady Region government office in Pathein.

10 August
Head of State inspects flooded areas

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspected flood-affected areas

in Ayeyawady Region and instructed authorities to expedite rescue, relief, rehabilitation and embankment repair operations.

President visits universities in Ayeyawady Region

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing made an inspection tour of universities in Hinthada and Maubin, Ayeyawady Region.

11 August
President receives Nippon Foundation Chair

Honorary Chair of the Nippon Foundation Mr Yohei Sasakawa paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

School Health Week (Central Level) movement observed

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing joined the ceremony to mark the School Health Week (Central Level) movement for the 2026-27 academic year at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

12 August
NDAA calls on President

A delegation led by Chair of the National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) U Htein Lin paid a

courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

13 August
International Youth Day 2026 marks

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to mark the International Youth Day 2026 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 1 (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

14 August
VP attends the meeting to organize performing arts competition

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye delivered a speech at the first coordination meeting of the Leading Committee on the 27th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition, at the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw.

15 August
Hluttaw Speakers receive Chairperson of Belaya Rus Party of Belarus

Ms Olga Chemodanova, Chairperson of the Belaya Rus Party of the Republic of Belarus, and the party called on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe at the relevant Hluttaw buildings separately. — GNLM/TTA

Over 1,000 Youths Attend Youth Talk 2026

MORE than 1,000 youths, including university students, attended “Youth Talk 2026” held at the National Theatre in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

The event, organized by the Yangon Region Young Entrepreneurs Association, aims to provide a platform for young people to share ideas and experiences, strengthen cooperation, promote leadership, creativity and social responsibility, and foster a more united community.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Maung Thin, Vice-Chairman 1 of the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee, said the discussion would broaden young people’s knowledge and perspectives. He also urged youth to leverage creativity and innovation to pursue new business opportunities beyond traditional



The “Youth Talk 2026” event is underway in Yangon yesterday.

employment. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu also delivered remarks, followed by a video presentation on youth development activities marking International Youth Day 2026. The Youth Talk 2026 discussions were then launched.

Earlier that morning, the Union minister attended the “Job-Ready Skills Workshop

for Youth”, jointly organized by Yangon University of Distance Education (YUDE) and the Myanmar Youth Development Association (MYDA). The workshop, which will run until 16 August, covers personal development, organizational cooperation, interview and workplace skills, and workplace-related legal knowledge. — MNA/KTZH

Yangon Hospitals on Full Alert for Diarrhoea Cases

CENTRAL and public hospitals in Yangon, including Yangon General Hospital (YGH), are fully prepared to treat patients with diarrhoea following a recent surge in cases, according to the Ministry of Health.

Patients presenting with symptoms of diarrhoea began seeking medical attention at YGH on the evening of 9 August. Pathogens associated with severe diarrhoea were detected in some of these patients, with the majority of confirmed cases reported in downtown Yangon neighbourhoods.

Addressing recent public concern, health authorities clarified that a 92-year-old man from Lanmadaw Township who died in recent days had underlying chronic lung and heart conditions and did not die from severe diarrhoea. The other hospitalized patients are currently reported to be in stable condition.

“We urge the public to strictly follow preventive measures, such as washing their hands thoroughly with soap before eating or preparing food and after using the toilet, maintaining good personal hygiene, drinking only boiled water, eating well-cooked food, and keeping food properly covered to protect it from flies. Anyone experiencing symptoms should immediately visit the nearest hospital or clinic to receive the necessary medical treatment,” an official from the Ministry of Health said.

Under the guidance of the ministry, healthcare personnel from the Department of Public Health and the Department of Medical Services are conducting field operations in townships with high numbers of cases. They are working in coordination with other relevant ministries to conduct epidemiological surveillance and outbreak-control measures in affected areas. — ASH/TH

Myanmar rice exports bag over US\$230M in Apr-July



Export rice bags are organized at the warehouse.

MYANMAR’S rice and broken rice exports through maritime transport reached 699,730 tonnes in the past four months of the current financial year 2026-2027 beginning 1 April, bagging US\$232 million, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar’s rice ex-

port volume is registered at 169,559 tonnes (\$51 million) in April, 136,262 tonnes (\$42 million) in May, 223,714 tonnes (\$74 million) in June and 170,195 tonnes (\$64 million) in July.

Myanmar aims to achieve export targets of 1.8 million tonnes of rice and 1.2 million tonnes of

broken rice through sea and border trade routes this FY, totalling three million tonnes.

Myanmar’s rice exports in the FY 2025-2026 (April-March) exceeded 2.7 million tonnes, bagging \$861 million, MRF’s data showed. Myanmar generated income of over \$1.129 billion from 2.48

million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March).

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK

MSMEs invited to Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet in India

MYANMAR micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have been invited to participate in the “Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM)” trade promotion event in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh State, India, from 6 to 8 September 2026, according to an announcement on 15 August.

The event aims to connect international buyers with Indian MSMEs and exporters through one-on-one meetings to foster long-term trade partnerships. Key sectors include agriculture and food processing, textiles and garments, handicrafts and handlooms, engineering products, imitation jewelry, and pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Interested buyers can register via the link <https://indiasmeforum.org/itd/register-as-buyer>. For further details, they can visit <https://www.indiasmeforum.org/itd/upcoming-events>. Individuals can also make direct contact with Mr Aayush Sharma at +91 86556 74289, Mr Harsh Nirwan at +91 86556 74286, or email itd@indiasmeforum.org and itd@indiasmeforum.com for registration. Entrepreneurs who have registered can contact the Yangon Region MSME Department on 29 August via 09 798473472, 09 985222753, 09 788933894, 09 255910363, or 09 451095989. — NN/KK

Fuel price caps dip this week ending 20 Aug

THE regulated fuel price caps declined to K3,650 for Octane 92 and K3,770 for Octane 95, K4,020 for diesel and K4,870 for premium diesel this week from 14 to 20 August compared to those of last week.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the market to ensure stable prices and secure supply. Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department



A car is seen refuelling at the petrol station in downtown Yangon.

has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and

Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated

with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar’s. However, Malaysia’s oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

Rice bean price stable on strong domestic and foreign demand



The photo shows pulses and beans displayed for sale in a market.

RICE bean price remains stable, tracking robust demand from the Yangon market and purchasing power from China, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs in Magway Region.

Rice bean from Pakokku commodity depot is steadily flowing to Yangon and Mandalay markets.

The bean growing season runs from October through November. The price is expected to remain stable at the current

high of K84,000 per basket, following the low market inventories. High market prices encourage farmers to maintain and expand their crop acreage for the upcoming planting season. Chinese demand and trade situations will weigh on the prevailing market prices.

Rice beans from Pakokku, Yezagyo, Seikphyu and Gangaw townships are primarily supplied to the Pakokku depot, the main economic and trade hub of Magway Region. — KK

Gold Market Rate as of 15 August 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,050,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Follow health guidelines to control outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease

ACCORDING to reports, outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease in some densely populated downtown townships of Yangon resulted in a total of 182 hospitalized patients over the four days from 9 to 12 August. Of these, 93 were found to have severe diarrhoeal infections, while one elderly person died.

Basic factors such as unsafe drinking water, contaminated food, poor environmental sanitation and inadequate health awareness can cause diarrhoeal diseases, cholera and other infectious diseases. The cholera bacteria are present in the faeces excreted by infected persons and can spread through contaminated hands, flies that carry pathogens and other means, resulting in the transmission and spread of the disease.

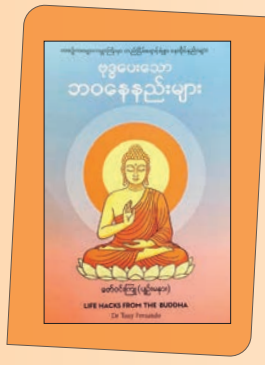
Regarding the current outbreak of diarrhoeal disease, the Ministry of Health is taking special measures to provide comprehensive prevention and treatment while working to control the situation. Therefore, the public should follow the Ministry of Health's guidelines and adopt healthy practices in their daily living, eating and working activities.

the necessary preparations for diarrhoeal disease. Everyone must work together to maintain a clean and healthy environment, which is essential for preventing the further spread of the disease.

Severe diarrhoeal disease is caused by infection with pathogens such as Vibrio cholerae. Symptoms may include watery diarrhoea and vomiting. In severe cases, the rapid loss of water and electrolytes from the body can lead to dehydration, exhaustion, muscle cramps and loss of consciousness. If the disease becomes severe and timely medical treatment is not received, it can be fatal.

The public should pay close attention to personal hygiene and be cautious when consuming unhygienic or stale food, food exposed to flies and overripe fruits. In addition, people should drink clean drinking water or boil water before drinking and pay particular attention to the cleanliness and safety of water used for domestic purposes.

Regarding the current outbreak of diarrhoeal disease, the Ministry of Health is taking special measures to provide comprehensive prevention and treatment while working to control the situation. Therefore, the public should follow the Ministry of Health's guidelines and adopt healthy practices in their daily living, eating and working activities.



Book Title	-	Life Hacks from The Buddha by Dr Tony Fernando
Translator	-	Zaw Win Kyu (Pyinmana)
Publishing House	-	Thar Nge
Publication Date	-	October 2025 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K21,000

Life Hacks from The Buddha by Dr Tony Fernando

THIS week's top pick for readers will help one transform into a calmer, happier and more chilled-out version of oneself in a chaotic world by offering practical and easy-to-follow lifestyle tips on how to find peace and contentment.

This book is a Myanmar translation of Dr Tony Fernando's original work, Life Hacks from the Buddha, by the writer Zaw Win Kyu (Pyinmana).

'The Buddha already outlined the best ways to handle the challenges we face today over 2,500 years ago. The Buddha's teachings reveal that human stress, anxiety, and suffering are nothing new. The life hacks from the Buddha will help you find the stability and contentment you need to calm your mind, create more peaceful living environments,

and enable you to work at your best,' the author stated.

The book highlights 50 practical life hacks. It is not purely a religious text but a self-development book combined with modern science.

This book explains to the reader how to quieten the mind with methods of mindfulness to focus on the present and reduce anxiety, create peaceful environments with guidance on lifestyles that bring peace to one's surroundings, sleep better (as a psychiatrist, how to deal with sleep deprivation), and cultivate compassion and contentment through simple mental exercises.

Although the book cover features an image of the Buddha, its unique point is that it combines the Buddha's ancient wisdom with modern science,

making it accessible even to non-Buddhists.

In Chapter 1 titled Chasing Happiness, the book begins with this passage: We live on a beautiful blue and green planet called Earth. This planet revolves around a star called the Sun, which is located in the Milky Way galaxy – one of perhaps one hundred or two hundred billion galaxies in the universe. Everything in that universe is made of matter and energy, and those things never settle as they are always changing, moving and active.'

"Think as honestly as you can about a time in your life when everything seemed to be at its best. That time might be your wedding day (or your divorce day), an unforgettable day, the best meal you've ever had, the day you received

your first paycheck, the day you owned your first home, or the day your sick child is discharged from the hospital. Now, think about how long that wonderful feeling lasted. Did it last minutes, hours, or days? How long did it last before your mind shifted its focus to something else that needed to be done? How long after your wedding did you start bickering about the accumulating bills and expenses? How long after your unforgettable honeymoon ended did you face a mountain of laundry to do?"

Since this book is the kind that makes you want to immediately try out its practices after reading it, I would like to encourage you to select the information that suits you best and start putting it into practice.



Book Title	-	The Art of Living in Light of the Patthana Teachings
Author	-	Ashin Nyanavara (Parami)
Publishing House	-	Pann Sett Lann
Publication Date	-	July 2026 (1 st Edition)
Price	-	K21,000

The Art of Living in Light of the Patthana Teachings

ASHIN Nyanavara (Parami) is a young monk who writes and compiles Buddhist literature. Among the books he published before this one are The Art of Living in Light of the 11 Great Paritta Suttas and The Art of Living in Light of the Mahasamaya Sutta. His latest book is The Art of Living in Light of the Patthana Teaching.

Regarding the Patthana, the author states:

"Most people easily assume that the Patthana is merely a discourse to be recited and worshipped for protection against danger, for good fortune, and for business success. In reality, the Patthana is a deeply practical science of natural law ('Natural Law Science') that analyzes in intricate detail the operational mechanics of the world and how

causes and effects are interconnectedly generated. This book will pave the way to take the Patthana beyond traditional recitations and devotional offerings into deeper practical application in daily life."

It is stated that if readers understand just three of the 24 Conditional Relations (Paccaya) in the Patthana, they can learn to live peacefully and happily in their lives. These three are:

1. Hetu Paccaya (Root Condition / The Firm Root)

Hetu means giving support to make things firm, like a root. Just as a tree needs strong roots to survive, in daily life, the underlying motivation behind every action, word, and thought is extremely important. One must be mindful of whether that motivation comes from

rotten roots like greed (Lobha), anger (Dosa), and delusion (Moha), or healthy roots such as loving-kindness (Metta), mindfulness (Sati), and wisdom (Panna). No matter how hard the worldly storms blow, if one is grounded in the good roots of loving-kindness and wisdom, one can stand firm without swaying.

2. Arammana Paccaya (Object Condition/The Supportive Walking Stick)

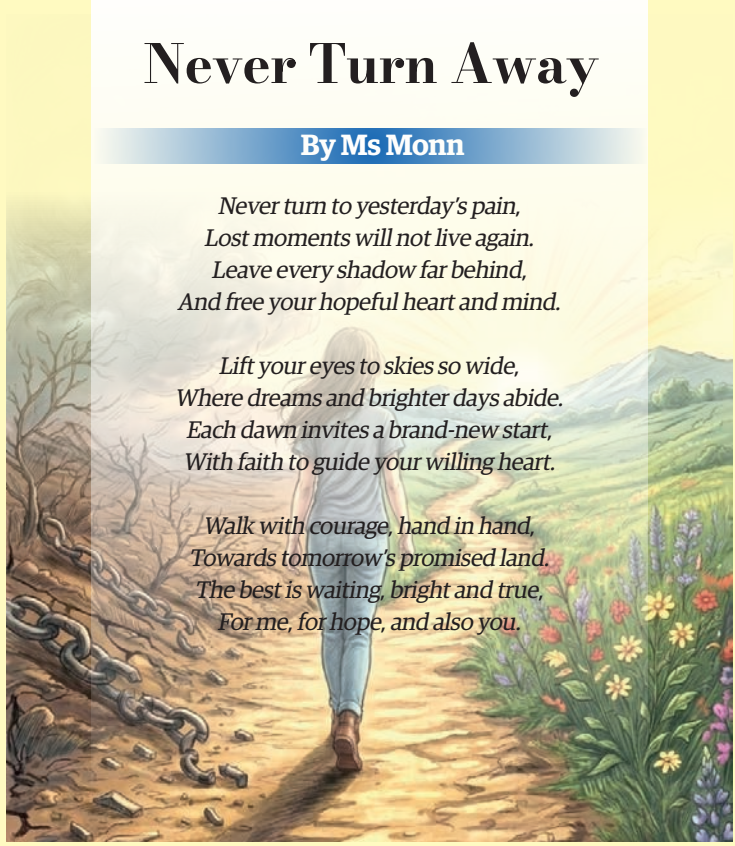
Arammana acts like a walking stick, which provides support. Just as a person relies on a walking stick when walking to avoid slipping and to gain support, the mind also always relies on an object. If one leans on a rotten, broken walking stick made of burning anxieties, grievances, and painful memories from the past, one

will fall and get hurt. Therefore, by cultivating righteous meditation, positive thoughts and wholesome mindfulness as foundations for daily life, one can navigate life's challenges with greater peace and security.

3. Adhipati Paccaya (Pre-dominance Condition/The Creator of Success)

Adhipati means 'governor' or 'leader' – a power capable of driving success to completion. When carrying out life's goals and responsibilities, if you allow any one of these four leaders – intense desire (Chanda), unrelenting effort (Viriya), focused mind (Citta), or analytical wisdom (Vimamsa) – to take the lead and govern, the rest of the mind will naturally follow behind. Because the guiding leader is strong, one will witness even the most difficult tasks and physically exhausting endeavours completed successfully.

The author presents the Buddha's teachings on mind and matter (Nāma and Rūpa), expounded more than 2,500 years ago, alongside modern findings in neuroscience, behavioural psychology and cognitive psychology, explaining them in a way that is accessible and easy for today's youth to understand.



By Ms Monn

*Never turn to yesterday's pain,
Lost moments will not live again.
Leave every shadow far behind,
And free your hopeful heart and mind.*

*Lift your eyes to skies so wide,
Where dreams and brighter days abide.
Each dawn invites a brand-new start,
With faith to guide your willing heart.*

*Walk with courage, hand in hand,
Towards tomorrow's promised land.
The best is waiting, bright and true,
For me, for hope, and also you.*



ထိုနေရာ

That Place

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

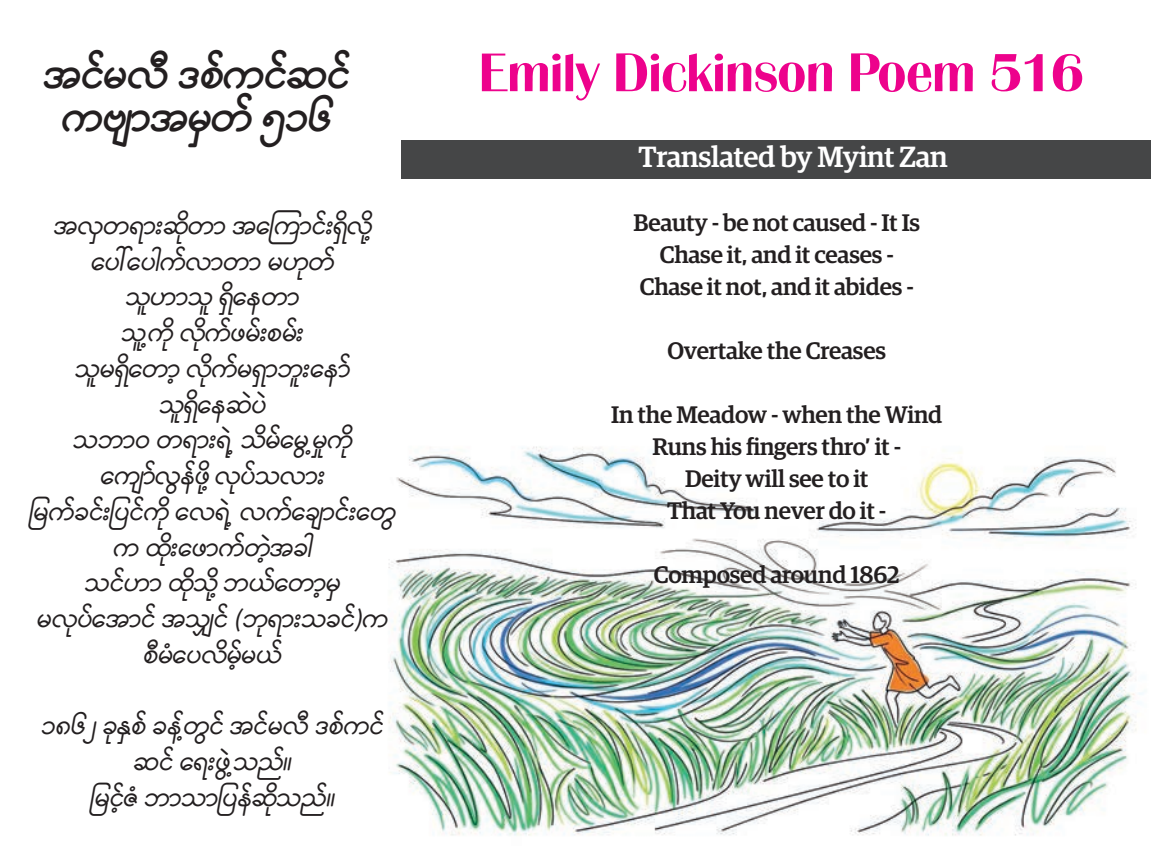
As the poet can't stand by,
He has to say a poem composing,
About an old place something.

In that old place,
Everybody being his own master,
Though there's no one barracking;
Though there's no one barking:
Though there's no one committing slaughter,
Lepers, parasites and scums _
There still are, as always.

ကဗျာဆရာ၊ မနေသာ၍
ကဗျာစပ်ကာ၊ ပြောရပါသည်
နေရာဟောင်း၏အကြောင်းတည်း။

ထိုနေရာဝယ်
ငါကတစ်လူ၊ သူတစ်လူနှင့်
အော်သူတစ်သူ၊ မရှိမှလည်း
ဟိန်းသူဟောက်သူ၊ မရှိမှလည်း
သတ်သူဖြတ်သူ၊ မရှိမှလည်း
လူနုလူပဲ၊ လူသေးဖွတ်တို့
ရှိမြဲရှိသေးသည်တကား။

တက္ကသိုလ်မင်းမော်



**အင်မလီ ဒစ်ကင်ဆင်
ကဗျာအမှတ် ၅၁၆**

Emily Dickinson Poem 516

Translated by Myint Zan

Beauty - be not caused - It Is
Chase it, and it ceases -
Chase it not, and it abides -

Overtake the Creases

In the Meadow - when the Wind
Runs his fingers thro' it -
Deity will see to it
That You never do it -

Composed around 1862

အလှတရားဆိုတာ အကြောင်းရှိလို့
ပေါ်ပေါက်လာတာ မဟုတ်
သူဟာသူ ရှိနေတာ
သူ့ကို လိုက်ဖမ်းစမ်း
သူမရှိတော့ လိုက်မရှာဘူးနော်
သူ့ရှိနေဆဲပဲ
သဘာဝ တရားရဲ့ သိမ်မွေ့မှုကို
ကျော်လွန်ဖို့ လုပ်သလား
မြက်ခင်းမြင်ကို လေရဲ့ လက်ချောင်းတွေ
က ထိုးဖောက်တဲ့အခါ
သင်ဟာ ထိုသို့ ဘယ်တော့မှ
မလုပ်အောင် အသွင် (ဘုရားသခင်)က
စီမံပေးလိမ့်မယ်

၁၈၆၂ ခုနှစ် ခန့်တွင် အင်မလီ ဒစ်ကင်
ဆင် ရေးဖွဲ့သည်။
မြင့်စံ ဘာသာပြန်ဆိုသည်။

NATIONAL

Entertainment

'Pyaw Saya Shwin Saya' Anyeint Mingala to be staged at Wazira

THE performance titled 'Pyaw Saya Shwin Saya' Anyeint Mingala, featuring veteran traditional theatre artistes, will be staged at Wazira Theatre in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region, on 21 August.

The performance will feature veteran Anyeint dancer Kyar Lay Sein, along with veteran comedians U Moe Di, U Tein Nyunt, U Paw Lay and U San Moe. The Myanmar Pyithalay Bo Bo Sint Mingala traditional orchestra and the musical ensemble led by music director KB Htet Aung will provide musical accompaniment.

"The performance by veteran traditional theatre artistes will be staged at the newly reopened Wazira Theatre on the evening of 21 August, following the traditional performance sequence. Along with comedy acts by veteran artistes, "I (Kyar Kyar) will perform my comedy segment without holding back and will also entertain the audience throughout the entire show. We invite all comedy lovers to come and support us," said veteran dancer Kyar Lay Sein. — ASH/KTZH

Anyeint to be performed at Wazira Theatre

COMEDY performances will be staged at Wazira Theatre in Yangon, a venue where traditional Myanmar performing arts flourish, beginning 14 August for fans of traditional Myanmar theatre.

The performances will feature the Thwet Lat on 14 August, the Myanmar Stars troupe on 15 August, and a veteran comedy performance on 21 August.

The performances will be held from 6 pm to 8 pm, with admission tickets priced at K20,000 and K10,000. Tickets have been available for purchase from 13 August via Viber at 09 752774773 and through the chat box. — TWA/KTZH



Veteran Academy star donates for flood victims

THE family of Academy Wah Wah Win Shwe donated K1 million to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization to support rehabilitation and recovery efforts for the ongoing flooding in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, according to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

"The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization will contribute donations toward flood relief and

rehabilitation efforts. Film actors, film companies and well-wishers have been donating money and supplies for flood relief and recovery. On 10 August, the family of veteran film artiste and Academy Award winner Wah Wah Win Shwe came and donated K1 million," said U Aye Kyaw Lay, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

Similarly, Academy Myint Myint Khin, a patron of



the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, donated K500,000, while the family of veteran film artiste Kyi Soe,

also a patron of the organization, donated K700,000 to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization. — ASH/KTZH



Vegetarian butter rice offered to Thae Phyu Sayadaw

ACTOR Nyi Nanda, who has earned the strong love and respect of his fans, offered 400 packets of vegetarian butter rice as day offerings with deep devotion to monks led by the venerable Sayadaw of the Thae Phyu

Monastery and yogis devoted to the Buddha Sasana.

As part of the meritorious donation, actor Nyi Nanda personally visited and respectfully offered the food donations to the Thae Phyu Monastery Sayadaw, mem-

bers of the Sangha and yogis. He also shared photographs documenting the auspicious donation on his social media page so that his fans could rejoice in and share the merit. — TWA/KTZH

Hartha Wingaba members donate K15M for Laymyethna flood victims

Khin Hlaing and Hartha Wingaba have provided food assistance to flood-affected villages in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region.

As part of the donation, actor Khin Hlaing and his team personally delivered essential food supplies worth more than K15 million, includ-

ing rice, cooking oil, instant noodles and drinking water, to flood-affected residents. — TWA/KTZH



Rising star actress receives huge applause from fans with Daisy series

ACTRESS Adira Oo, who has gained strong audience recognition through the series "Daisy", told the media that her acting and facial expressions have become more convincing thanks to detailed coaching and guidance provided by her mentor, veteran actress Moh

Moh Myint Aung (Ti Moh). She said that the "Daisy" series marked a milestone in her artistic career and that she was delighted and proud that it became widely known nationwide and earned awards. "Ti Moh taught me everything in great detail.

These are skills that I need to remember carefully and apply in other films and series. I feel that Ti Moh helped refine my eyes, gestures and body language, which I previously did not know how to use appropriately," said Adira Oo. — TWA/KTZH

'Achit Zay' premiere show held at Thamada Cinema

THE premiere show of 'Achit Zay', a film depicting the rivalry between love and money, was held grandly at Thamada Cinema in Yangon on the evening of 12 August. 'Achit Zay' was produced by Bellaire Production based on a story and screenplay by Moe Ni Lwin and directed by Pyae Phyo Naing. The film features an ensemble cast including Nine Nine, Academy Nay Toe, Academy Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, Academy Chaw Yadana, Lin La Pyae Htet, Academy Zaw Oo, Zin Myo, Ko Zaw, Aye Ni Zaw, guest actor Thar Nyi and many other artistes. — TWA/KTZH



INTERVIEW

Winner of 32nd Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award

“I am pleased and proud to receive this award. I have always had a strong attachment to Pakokku. Although I never met U Ohn Pe in person, I respected him. I read the books he wrote and was proud of him.”

WRITER Mya Kya Ngon is the winner of the Library Book Award for her book Emerald Jewel in the Heart (Hnalontha Hte Ka Mya Yadana), among the 32nd Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award winners, awarded on 12 August. Writer Mya Kya Ngon, under her real name Dr Nilar Thein, writes travel articles and health-related articles. Under her pen name Mya Kya Ngon, she continuously writes aesthetic literature: novels, essays, and poems. The current award-winning book Emerald Jewel in the Heart is a collection of essays regarding a mother’s love and a woman’s life journey. Therefore, The Global New Light of Myanmar interviewed Writer Mya Kya Ngon regarding her award-winning book. (Editor)

Q: The book Chicken Soup for the Woman’s Soul, published in 1996, has been translated and published in China, Russia, and Vietnam, and in Myanmar, you translated it in the Myanmar Language under the name Emerald Jewel in the Heart in 2025. First, please let us know what motivated you to translate and write this book.

A: Actually, I had been striving to publish this little book for quite a few years. I got the original book from a writer. I am more inclined towards writing texts related to motivation that give strength. I learned that there are about 276 Chicken Soup books in total. Among those such as Chicken Soup for the Soul, Chicken Soup for the Mother’s Soul, Chicken Soup for the Woman’s Soul, Chicken Soup for the Mother and Daughter Soul, Chicken Soup for My Beloved, etc., intended for the nourishment of the heart, for mothers, for women, for

lovers, for daughters, for expectant mothers, and for working mothers, I chose the ‘Chicken Soup’ written about a mother’s love and mothers. As I am also a mother, I think I can be said to be someone who practically knows how important a mother’s role is towards her children. That is why I translated it as a collection of texts that replenish the strength and feelings of a mother’s love.

Q: The subject of a mother’s love and sacrifice for her family is like an undying song anywhere in the world up to this day. I would like to know if the image of a mother’s love in our country is brighter or dimmer compared to the international community. (I am asking this because I wonder if the rate of abandoning newborn babies is increasing in our country.)

A: A mother’s love is immeasurable. No matter how different religions, races, and ideologies are, and regardless of differences in poverty, wealth, prestige, and social class, a person cannot come into this world without a mother. Whether humans or animals, every living being has a ‘mother’. Although the ways of living, social systems, and standard measurements might differ from one country to another because customs, lifestyles, and eating habits are not the same, I think it will be identical when it comes to a mother’s love. Even though languages differ, since having a heart, carrying a child for nine months, and giving birth in the 10th month are the same, the mother’s love flowing from that heart will only be pure love and sheer sacrifice without expecting anything in return. Although mothers want to lovingly nurture the little lump of blood that formed in their

Interview with Writer Mya Kya Ngon



Writer Mya Kya Ngon receives the 32nd Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award.

hearts, when they have to struggle exhaustingly for basic survival and are unfulfilled, there will certainly be times they cannot show affectionate behaviours. Even though the heart is full of love, practical lives are harsh. Besides such lives, for underage young girls who unexpectedly get pregnant due to being subjected to violence, when they cannot face the sudden twists of fate or when they are at their wits’ end, things like abortion and abandoning the baby after birth happen. Single Moms are increasing. There are many such incidents internationally as well. Therefore, one cannot determine that mothers from a certain country have greater love, or mothers from another country have lesser love. I accept what Dell Hansen Boss wrote: “Children are like having your heart taken out of your body and kept outside for a lifetime”.

Q: You stated that “One must revere the essence that ‘a mother is just a mother’...”. Since you yourself also possess the life of a mother, by what can “being a mother or not being a mother” be measured and decided?

A: In this matter, regarding what to use to measure and decide, there is no measuring ruler or stand-

ard rule like in science or mathematical calculations. However, I think it can only be measured with a ‘ruler of the heart’. It must be measured by affection, tender care, the ability to give love, sacrifice, and the capacity to give. Regarding those who do not deserve to be mothers, we hear that there are mothers who abandon their children. They might also have reasons for abandoning them. For example, (1) the mother suffering from mental illness, (2) an unexpected pregnancy, (3) the spouse’s lack of responsibility, and (4) problems such as social and economic issues or being a victim of rape, lead them to blame the child and commit heartless, cruel acts. Leaving a baby at the hospital after birth or abandoning them on the streets existed in the past. It exists now. And it will continue to exist in the future. Therefore, there can be no fixed formula for being or not being a mother. I think it relies upon the underlying causes. As for some mentally ill mothers, although they are so out of their minds that they cannot even keep clothes on their bodies, they tenderly hold and embrace their children out of fear that others might snatch them or take them away. Since I have seen such mentally ill mothers full of motherly love, I believe that every mother is

someone who can give love to her own children.

Q: I would also like to hear your joyful words regarding your book Emerald Jewel in the Heart winning the 32nd Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award.

A: I am pleased and proud to receive this award. Although I was born in Thazi, moving along with my father to the towns where he was assigned as an education officer, I lived in Pakokku for five years. Since I had to move to Yenangyoung only after that, my childhood memories are also in Pakokku. Even when living in Yenangyoung, whenever the school was closed for the summer, I mostly stayed in Pakokku. I have always had a strong native attachment to Pakokku. Although I never met U Ohn Pe in person, I respected him. I read the books he wrote and was proud. I have always been keenly interested in the facts that Pakokku U Ohn Pe donated literary funds in commemoration of his 76th birthday, that the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award ceremony was first held starting from 7 February 1994, and that it has now reached its 32nd time. I am deeply and affectionately proud to receive the Library Book Award at this 32nd literary award ceremony.

Q: In the award-winning book “Emerald Jewel in the Heart”, what is your own favourite essay, and please explain to the readers why you like it.

A: Among all of them, I like Bobbie Lippman’s ‘Words for the Heart’. I think this phrase is an essence highly necessary not only between a mother and her children but also among husbands, wives, and friends. Women are not the type who want to hear the words “I love

you” from their spouses every single day. Once they become married, their romantic thoughts from the past are pushed away, and they tend to devote their minds only to practical life for their husbands and children. They do not get sad even if their birthdays and anniversaries are forgotten. Many dedicate their time full-time solely to their families. Every mother gets tired. No matter how tired they are, I want it to be known that a single phrase from the husband and children, like ‘Are you doing well?’, ‘Are you tired?’, or ‘The curry you cooked today is very good’ is a dose of medicine that relieves exhaustion. I want them to earnestly speak words from their hearts so that they will not face situations where they have to regret later, or situations where they are continually grieving with longing and sorrow. A house will become a glorious home only when the mother in the house is happy and healthy. The affectionate and mutual respect shown by the father, the head of the household, towards the mother is also something for the children to emulate and follow. Because a mother is also just a human being built with flesh and blood, there are times when she feels sad, feels helpless, and feels exhausted. Therefore, if spouses, parents and children, and friends can express words infused with kindness coming from the heart, empathy, and understanding among themselves, they will be able to possess pleasant, peaceful, and happy lives.

Q: Thank you, Writer Mya Kya Ngon, for taking the time to answer like this.

A: I also thank The Global New Light of Myanmar.



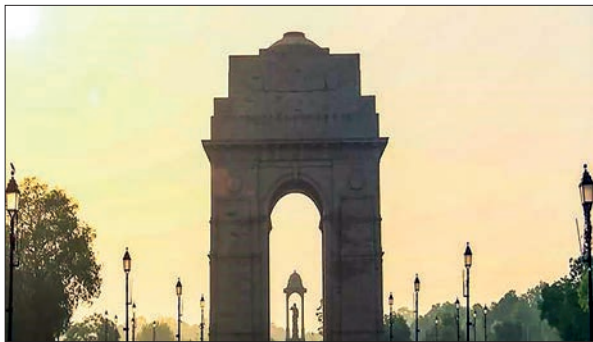
ECONOMY WORLD

‘India was, is and will be one of fastest-growing economies’: SBI Research

SBI recently projected real GDP growth at eight per cent in the first quarter of FY27.

INDIA has demonstrated economic resilience through successive global and domestic challenges and will continue to be among the world’s fastest-growing economies, SBI Research said in a special report marking the country’s 80th Independence Day, pointing to strong growth, rising credit and deposits, robust corporate performance and an improving monsoon outlook.

“India was. India is. And India will continue to be one of the fastest-growing economies in the world,” SBI Research said, while describing the country’s macroeconomic story as one of resilience despite elevated global



SBI Research highlights India as a fast growing global economy. **PHOTO: XINHUA /AFP**

uncertainties.

SBI recently projected real GDP growth at eight per cent in the first quarter of FY27. It said credit demand remained strong, with credit growth at 19.3 per cent for the fortnight ended 31 July, while bank deposit growth rose to 15.4 per cent. The research also highlighted

the impact of foreign currency inflows under the special FCNR(B) deposit mobilisation scheme. As of 13 August, FCNR(B) deposits mobilized stood at US\$52.3 billion, while total mobilization, including overseas foreign currency bonds and external commercial borrowings, reached US\$56.8 billion.

Even after the scheme’s one-month truncation, SBI Research expects FCNR(B) mobilisation to reach US\$65-70 billion by its end, with total mobilization including OFCBs and ECBs potentially reaching US\$80-85 billion. It said the RBI had recouped around US\$31 billion in foreign currency assets as of 7 August.

The report said the stronger deposit and foreign-currency funding position could also support the government securities market, with the 3-7 year segment likely to benefit most from lower supply pressure and maturity matching, followed by the 7-10 year segment. — ANI

Jordan ready to expand economic cooperation

JORDAN regards China as a strategic partner in advancing investment, industrial cooperation and economic transformation, Jordan’s Minister of Investment Tareq Abu Ghazaleh has said.

“We look forward to elevating Jordan’s economic partnership with China to broader and more diversified levels in a way that serves our shared interests and supports sustainable development in both countries,” Abu Ghazaleh said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Recalling his visit to China in June, Abu Ghazaleh said the trip provided

him with an opportunity to gain first-hand insight into China’s development experience and the progress it has achieved in infrastructure and long-

term strategic planning.

China has established itself as one of the world’s leading industrial, technological, and trading economies, the minister

noted, adding that its continued development creates broad opportunities for cooperation with Jordan, particularly in the fields of investment, industry, and trade.

The importance of this partnership continues to grow in light of China’s leadership in a number of sectors that are national priorities for Jordan, “including advanced industries, electronics, renewable energy, energy storage technologies, electric mobility, railway systems, logistics, agricultural technology and pharmaceuticals”, He added. — Xinhua



Tourists ride camels and others an electric cart, during their trip to Jordan’s famed ancient city of Petra, some 230 kilometres (143 miles) south of the capital Amman, on 27 October 2021. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

European Union pushes back trade pressures

THE EU pushed back Friday at renewed trade pressure from the United States.

Washington’s ambassador to the EU, Andrew Puzder, called on the bloc Friday to “align” the provisions of two landmark new laws on environmental and human rights supply chain standards with the EU-US trade deal struck last year.

“Now it’s time for the EU to deliver,” Puzder posted on X, along with a US government document detailing a long list of “concerns” with the rules. — AFP

South Africa top court sets aside Shell offshore exploration

SOUTH Africa’s top court on Friday ruled in favour of coastal communities and environmental groups, overturning oil and gas exploration rights that were granted to energy giant Shell more than a decade ago.

The landmark ruling ended a years-long battle over Shell’s plans to conduct offshore seismic surveys along South Africa’s Wild Coast. The Constitutional Court overturned the appeals court ruling that gave the British oil heavyweight another chance to renew its permit. — AFP

Dutch economy projected to grow this year



Lorries at a motorway resting area in the Netherlands. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Dutch economy is projected to grow by 1.4 percent in 2026 before slowing to 1.2 per cent in 2027 amid considerable international uncertainty, the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) said Friday.

In its draft Macro Economic Outlook, the independent economic research institute said strong exports and increased government spending, particularly on defence, are expected to

support economic growth. Financial buffers built up by households in recent years are also expected to help sustain consumption in the face of economic shocks.

However, the outlook remains subject to considerable uncertainty, with further increases in energy prices, new trade barriers or financial market turmoil potentially weighing on GDP growth, the CPB said in the report. — Xinhua

Vucic inspects China-built Expo 2027 venue as project enters final phase

SERBIAN President Aleksandar Vucic on Friday inspected the construction site of the Serbia Exhibition Centre, a venue for Expo 2027 Belgrade being built by a Chinese company.

Vucic was accompanied by First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Sinisa Mali and Chinese Ambassador to Serbia Li Ming. During the visit, Vucic also had breakfast with Chinese and Serbian construction workers.

Vucic said the pro-

ject had entered its final construction and interior finishing phase, but the construction schedule remained tight and work needed to be accelerated to ensure timely completion.

In response to a question from a Xinhua reporter during the tour, Vucic said Serbia's friendship with China and bilateral cooperation would remain stable and continue over the long term. "We have truly built an unbreakable China-Serbia friendship," Vucic said. — Xinhua

US Aug consumer sentiment weakens amid unexpected dip in retail sales

US consumer sentiment weakened materially in August from July as consumers worried about rising living costs due to the conflict in the Middle East, a survey showed Friday.

According to a preliminary reading released by the University of Michigan (UM) Surveys of Consumers, the Index of Consumer Sentiment fell to 51 in August from the final reading of 55.2 in July, ending two consecutive months of improvement and coming in below the



A customer shops at a grocery store in New York, the United States, on 11 December 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

consensus outlook of 54.2. In May, the index fell to a record low of 44.8 due to the Middle East conflict.

The survey also showed that the Current Economic Conditions Index fell to 51.8 in August,

down from 54.8 in July and 61.7 a year earlier.

Meanwhile, the Index of Consumer Expectations also weakened this month, standing at 50.6, compared with 55.4 in July and 55.9 in August 2025.

Consumers' expectations for inflation over the next year rose to 4.3 per cent in August from 4.2 per cent in July, while the long-run inflation expectations remained unchanged at 3.3 per cent, the survey reported. — Xinhua

Researchers in Australia uncover potential hydrogen source

RESEARCHERS in Australia have uncovered a potential source of naturally occurring hydrogen in the state of Western Australia's (WA) vast iron ore deposits, a discovery they say could help unlock a new low-emission energy source.

Edith Cowan University (ECU) researchers in WA have found that magnetite, a mineral found beneath the state's red soil, can generate hydrogen gas when it reacts with hot water deep underground, ECU said

in a recent statement.

The research provides insights into how natural hydrogen forms underground and the conditions needed to sustain production, the statement said.

Researchers from ECU's School of Engineering found that injecting a solution into banded iron formations could significantly increase hydrogen production, noting that WA has some of the world's largest such formations. — Xinhua



They discovered that mineral reactions deep underground generate valuable hydrogen gas. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIPEDIA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC FOTRUNE VOY.NO. (SB632A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC FOTRUNE VOY.NO. (SB632A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MTT PORT KELANG VOY.NO. (630W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT PORT KELANG VOY.NO. (630W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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 MAERSK A/S

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0101N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0101N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GLS HIPHONG VOY.NO. (007N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HIPHONG VOY.NO. (007N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

AUGUST 15

China’s landmark Ecological and Environmental Code takes effect on 15 Aug

CHINA took a major step toward green modernization on Saturday as its landmark Ecological and Environmental Code officially came into force, strengthening the legal foundation for a more harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature.

Adopted by China’s top legislature in March, the code is China’s second formal statutory code after the Civil Code.

The code comprises 1,242 articles in five chapters, covering pollution control, ecological protection, and green and low-carbon development, among other areas.

As China advances its Beautiful China initiative, the code is expected to strengthen rule-of-law guarantees for ecological protection and provide fresh impetus for the country’s green and low-carbon transition.

The new code has also been welcomed by local judicial authorities across the country. — Xinhua



This aerial photo taken on 29 March 2023 shows the scenery of Xiling Gorge, one of the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River, in central China’s Hubei Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

AUGUST 14

Russia suggests strengthening BRICS cooperation in AI

RUSSIA proposed strengthening cooperation between the BRICS member states in artificial intelligence and digital transformation during a meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bankers in India this week, the Russian Finance Ministry said on Friday.

“The Russian delegation suggested strengthening cooperation in digital transformation and artificial intelligence, ensuring equal access of BRICS member states to latest technologies and an opportunity to create their own products,” the ministry said in a statement.

Russian Deputy Finance Minister Ivan Chebeskov said at the meeting that BRICS states were a leading force in the global economy with its combined GDP exceeding 40 per cent. However, external factors such as armed conflicts, sanctions and asset freezes limit their growth and create risks, which require mitigation. — SPUTNIK

AUGUST 13

US climate science under siege

A benchmark US report on the fast-changing state of the Arctic has been canceled. The nation’s top research body has removed a chapter on global warming from a reference manual for judges.

After the mass layoffs and budget cuts of the early days of President Donald Trump’s second term, the administration is barreling ahead in its war on climate science, at a time when the world’s oceans and land masses face record-breaking heat.

In 2025, the Arctic Report Card, cancelled this week, found the polar region had experienced its hottest year since records began, with cascading impacts from melting glaciers and sea ice to greening landscapes and disruptions to global weather.

Rick Spinrad, a former NOAA chief said that Arctic warming is a bellwether for global climate change. — AFP

AUGUST 12

US helicopter fired on blockade-breaking ship

A US helicopter fired missiles on Tuesday into the engine room of a Panama-flagged cargo ship that attempted to break the American blockade of Iran’s ports, the United States military said.

The US Navy MH-60 helicopter fired on and disabled the M/V Vela Nova “after the ship’s civilian crew ignored repeated warnings from American forces,” US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on X, adding that the vessel “is no longer transiting to Iran in violation of the US blockade.”

It was the third time the United States, in a months-long war against Iran, has forcibly halted a vessel since reinstating the ports blockade on 14 July.

CENTCOM said it has redirected 55 ships that tried to run the blockade and boarded two others as of Tuesday.

US forces blockaded Iranian ports April-June, disabling nine ships, redirecting over 140 vessels. — AFP

AUGUST 11

Workers discover gold at building site

BELGIAN police are calling on treasure hunters to steer clear of a building site where construction workers this week stumbled on a stash of gold reportedly worth more than \$10 million.

The surprise haul came to light on Tuesday during renovation work on a building in the east Flemish town of Dendermonde.

Police said workers alerted them after discovering “a large quantity of gold” — publishing photographs of around 50 gold bars and piles of gold coins on their Facebook page.

Belgian news outlets reported that bars and coins worth an estimated nine million euros (\$10.4 million) were found bricked into the cellar walls during the renovation of a house belonging to a local charity, CAW East-Flanders.

One worker interviewed by Belgian news outlet VRT said the crew’s “first reaction was actually disbelief, amazement.” — AFP

AUGUST 10

CXMT joins MSCI China index after STAR Market debut

CHINA’S leading memory chipmaker, ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT), was officially added to the MSCI China All Shares Index on Monday, just two weeks after its blockbuster debut on Shanghai’s STAR Market. This marks the latest sign of global investors’ growing appetite for Chinese assets, especially in the hard-tech sector.

The inclusion took effect upon close of the first trading day of the week under MSCI’s fast-track rule for large IPOs. The global index provider announced CXMT’s eligibility on 28 July, one day after its listing, in line with its practice of notifying qualifying large IPOs on the first or second day of trading. — Xinhua

AUGUST 9

Türkiye denies trilateral pact conflicts with NATO Article 5

TÜRKIYE has rejected claims circulated on social media that its newly signed trilateral defence agreement with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan conflicts with NATO’s Article 5.

In a statement posted on the social media platform X, the Centre for Combatting Disinformation of Türkiye’s Communications Directorate described the allegations as “entirely unfounded” and “a clearly orchestrated attempt to create a false perception.”

The centre said the defence agreement does not conflict with Türkiye’s NATO commitments. NATO’s Article 5 enshrines the principle of collective defence, stipulating that an armed attack against one member state shall be considered an attack against all members. Saudi, Turkish, Pakistani leaders signed Makkah Joint Defence Agreement Friday. — Xinhua

SPORTS

491 compete in MDY-PyinOoLwin MTB Race

A total of 491 men and women aged 16 and above, including 12 participants aged 60 and over, took part in a 43-mile Mountain Bike (MTB) novice race from Yadanabon Zoological Gardens in Mandalay to National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

The race was jointly organized by the Mandalay Region government, Mandalay Region Forest Department and Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department. It started at 5:30 am in front

of Yadanabon Zoological Gardens, with Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung flagging off the competitors.

Officials presented awards to the winners at the end of the race. The event aimed to promote cycling, nurture talented cyclists capable of representing the country, improve public health and fitness, and raise awareness of wildlife and flora conservation. It also sought to promote local tourism and regional socioeconomic development. — MNA/KZL



The Mandalay-PyinOoLwin Mountain Bike Race kicks off yesterday.

British cyclist dies in Tour of Portugal accident

BRITISH cyclist Finlay Tarling, 19, died Friday after colliding with a light commercial vehicle travelling in the opposite direction during the eighth stage of the 87th Tour of Portugal, according to Portugal's National Republican Guard (GNR).

Tarling, born in Wales, was riding for the Swiss team NSN Development Team. He had fallen behind the main peloton when a vehicle traveling against the flow of race traffic struck him head-on on the EN 306 road in Arcozelo, in the Ponte de Lima municipality of northern Portugal, Lusa news agency reported, citing GNR.

Tarling was attended to immediately at the

scene but succumbed to his injuries.

The eighth stage, between Melgaco and Fafe, was suspended with approximately 20 kilometres remaining following the accident.

"The organization of the Volta a Portugal (Tour of Portugal) and the Portuguese Cycling Federation deeply regret to announce the death of British rider Finlay Tarling, aged 19, of NSN Development Team, following a serious accident during the eighth stage," organizers said in a statement, extending condolences to his family, teammates and friends.

In a mark of respect and mourning, the scheduled podium ceremony was cancelled. — Xinhua

7 teams to host home matches in 2026-2027 MNL season



Taunggyi Stadium, the home ground of Shan United. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

THE 2026-2027 Myanmar National League (MNL) season will feature 12 teams and is scheduled to begin on 28 August, with seven teams hosting home matches at their designated grounds. The first round will run from 28 August to 21 December, followed by the second round from 1 January to

14 March.

The participating teams are defending champions Shan United, Yangon United, Dagon Star United, ISPE, Hanthawady United, Sagaing United, Yadanabon, Ayeyawady United, Thitsa Arman, Chinland, Myawady and Yangon City.

The seven teams hosting home matches are Shan United at Taunggyi Stadium, Yangon United at YUSC Stadium, ISPE at Thihadipa Stadium in Thanlyin, Hanthawady United at Bago Region Sports Ground, Yadanabon at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay, Ayeyawady United at Kyauktaing

Ground in Patheingyi, and Yangon City at Padetha/Mya Thida Ground in Yangon. Teams unable to host matches at their own grounds will play their home fixtures at Thuwunna Stadium.

The league will be played in a two-round format, with the fixture schedule to be announced soon. This will be the 17th edition of the MNL. Shan United have won seven titles, Yangon United five and Yadanabon four. Shan United are the defending champions and have won the title for a record seventh time, including six consecutive seasons. They also hold records for five unbeaten league seasons, four consecutive unbeaten seasons and a 100-match unbeaten league run. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

Atletico Madrid signs Argentina defender Cristian Romero

ATLETICO Madrid has sealed the signing of Argentina international defender Cristian Romero from Tottenham Hotspur.

"Atletico Madrid and Tottenham Hotspur have reached an agreement over the transfer of Cristian Gabriel 'Cuti' Romero, who has signed for our club until 30 June 2031," Atletico announced on Saturday morning.

Romero has agreed a five-year contract for a price estimated to be in the region of 33 million euros (US\$38 million) with a further seven million euros in incentives.

The former Tottenham captain moves to Spain after four years in north London. He has also had spells with Serie A sides Genoa and Atalanta.

He becomes Atletico's fourth signing of the summer after attacking midfielder Lee Kang-in, Spain international Alex Grimaldo and Danish midfielder Morten Hjulmand.

Diego Simone's side kicks off the new season at La Liga home to Malaga promoted on 19 August. — Xinhua



Atletico Madrid secure Argentine defender Cristian Romero on a five-year deal. PHOTO: TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR/FILE

Crystal Palace sign Israel winger Anan Khalaili



Crystal Palace officially announce the signing of Israeli winger Anan Khalaili. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

CRYSTAL Palace have signed Israel winger Anan Khalaili from Belgian club Union Saint-Gilloise on a five-year contract.

The 21-year-old, who can play as both a full-back and winger, has made 16 appearances for his country. "I'm happy to be here, I'm excited, and I can't wait to start," said Khalaili.

"I've followed the Premier League — it's a new challenge for me — and I've followed Crystal Palace for a long time. I'm happy to

be here."

Khalaili becomes Palace's fifth signing of the summer transfer window, with Oscar Mingueza, Takehiro Tomiyasu, Dwight McNeil and Evann Guesand all having arrived at Selhurst Park.

"We are very excited to have completed this signing and we are delighted that Anan has chosen to continue his journey with Crystal Palace," said Palace chairman Steve Parish. — AFP

India's Modi woos youth with free coaching, AI training

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that one crore youth will be trained in artificial intelligence skilling courses. He also announced that free online coaching will be provided to youth preparing for various examinations.

The PM stressed the importance of technological development in the nation, which is part of the 'Saptadhara' (seven streams of power) vision by the PM. The PM made this announcement in his address to the nation on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day. He was speaking about the landmark India AI Impact Summit held in February this year.

PM Modi said the government is undertaking

A nationwide sports talent hunt for children aged five to fifteen.



The image shows delegates and visitors walking through the Bharat Mandapam convention centre in New Delhi during the India AI Impact Summit held in February 2026. PHOTO: ANI

civil defence reforms with modernised training and enhanced capabilities to address evolving security challenges. He also said a nationwide sports talent hunt will be launched to identify and nurture chil-

dren aged five to 15 years across villages and cities. "I announce today from the Red Fort that we will establish a vibrant Civil Defence network in the coming days.

We will familiarize them with modern systems.

What measures can be put in place to protect citizens from modern-day crises? We are going to create a massive, modern Civil Defence volunteer force capable of overcoming contemporary challenges. — ANI

Maghreb region sees fertility decline

North African nations experience unprecedented historical decline in fertility rates.

ECONOMIC pressures and changing social norms are driving couples in Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria to have fewer babies, with a recent study saying Maghreb fertility was at a historic low. Experts and cou-

ples interviewed by AFP spoke of a combination of factors, including longer educations and growing professional ambitions among women, along with rising divorce rates and financial strain on young profes-



Tunisian students walk outside their school in Bizerte. PHOTO: AFP

sionals. The trend mirrors changes seen in many parts of the world. But in

the Maghreb, it challenges stereotypes of families tending to be large. — AFP



Singapore implements strict new laws against artificial intelligence abuse images. PHOTO: TOMASZ ZAGÓRSKI ON UNSPLASH

Singapore criminalizes AI-generated abuse images

New laws allow prosecuting offenders for grooming minors abroad.

SINGAPORE authorities prepare to enforce legislation that goes into effect on Monday, protecting citizens from online sexual abuse including banning the use of artificial intelligence to create explicit images without consent.

The laws will also allow authorities to prosecute offenders suspected of grooming minors abroad and then sexually abusing them, if either the perpetrator or the victim travelled from the city-state before the offence was committed.

The changes include "a new offence of producing intimate images, including AI-generated materials, without consent", Singapore's home affairs department said on Friday. Offenders face a jail sentence of up to two years, a fine, or both.

If the material in question depicts a minor younger than 14, "the offence is punishable with mandatory imprisonment of up to two years, and the offender shall also be liable to a fine or caning", the department said in a statement.

Those found guilty of grooming minors overseas and committing sexual offences will now face stricter punishment including a jail sentence of up to seven years if the victim is younger than 14. — AFP



South Korea's fortune-telling business is growing, but many turn to apps and AI chatbots instead of human practitioners. PHOTO: AFP

Outflanked by artificial intelligence, fortune-tellers fade

Traditional blind fortune-tellers struggle against modern artificial intelligence platforms.

CLIENTS have drifted away from Song Oh-soon's fortune-telling village on the edge of Seoul, preferring online AI-powered divination to the centuries-old prophesying tradition still practised there. At 86, Song is one of the last members of a community of visually impaired practitioners that drew generations of South Koreans seeking answers and advice about everything from illness and money to love and fate.

In one of the world's most AI-connected societies, the village's greatest challenge

is not fading belief in fortune-telling, but the way it is consumed. Song remains adamantly offline, relying on the "Four Pillars of Destiny" astrology in braille and on her four decades of experience in careful listening — a skill her automated competition cannot match.

"There were people who came here wanting to died," Song told AFP in northern Seoul's Mia village. "I persuaded them to keep living." "I also once wanted to die, but I found this work and survived." — AFP