

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Essay competition to mark World Tourism Day

THE Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has invited entries for an essay competition to commemorate World Tourism Day, which falls on 27 September; according to the Article Competition Organizing Committee.

The competition will be held under the theme “Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism”. Interested participants must submit their essays in accordance with the guidelines by 8 September.

Interested individuals can visit the ministry’s official website at www.tourism.gov.mm (both English and Myanmar versions available) or call 0673406104 during office hours for further details. — NN/KK

Bago Pushes High-Value Rice Revival



This photo features the distribution of Yezin-15 soybean seeds to local monsoon rice farmers in Kontha Village-Tract, Nattalin Township, on 20 August to support multiple cropping.

FIELD operations are currently underway across Bago Region to revive and expand the cultivation of high-value indigenous rice varieties, according to the Bago Region government.

At present, a 50-acre seed production plot of the indigenous Taungpyan rice variety has been

successfully established in Natputee Village, Paungde Township, Nattalin District. To expand cultivation of this high-value regional variety for both domestic and export markets, officials plan to carry out seed purification, propagation and large-scale block cultivation.

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NATIONAL PAGE 6

Emergency measures underway to prevent further erosion of Nyaungdon ...



NATIONAL PAGE 10

Agriculture Dept to bid expired chemicals, raw materials

Vietnam Remains a Trusted and Reliable Partner of Myanmar

Myanmar and Vietnam remain good friends and trusted, reliable comprehensive partners, providing mutual support on the international stage.

A delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Hoai Trung 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 yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the President expressed his pleasure at the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and the high-level delegation to Myanmar while the Myanmar government is serving the State responsibilities. Myanmar and Vietnam have enjoyed long-standing diplomatic relations, and they surpassed the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2025. Both nations share many religious and cultural similarities, as well as shared histories in their struggles for independence. Likewise, friendship and cooperation between the leaders of both nations



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Mr Le Hoai Trung, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, during the latter’s courtesy call.

have progressively flourished across successive eras, alongside strong defence cooperation. The

goodwill visit of the Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister to Myanmar will further advance and con-

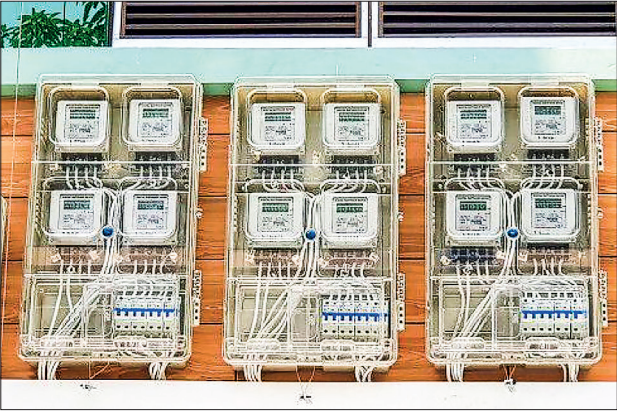
solidate the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

SEE PAGE 3

Public Warned About Online Meter Application Scams

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) has issued a warning to the public about potential financial fraud when applying for new electricity meters.

According to a notice from YESC, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has launched an online meter application system designed to simplify the process, making it quicker, more cost-effective, and free from the involvement of brokers or other staff.



This image displays new electricity meters installed.

However, it has recently come to light that scammers have created

fake Facebook pages impersonating the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and

YESC. These fraudsters are attempting to demand payment from individuals seeking to apply for new meters.

YESC emphasizes that online meter applications are not processed via social media platforms, including Facebook and Telegram. Therefore, the public is advised to submit applications only through the official website of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy at www.emeter.moe.gov.mm. — TWA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service
Organization transferred

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred and appointed Dr Myo Min Kyi Win, Director-General of the Department of National Archives under the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, as Managing Director of Myanma Insurance Enterprise under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

2026 MOFCOM scholarship awarding ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2026 MOFCOM (Chinese Ministry of Commerce) scholarship awarding ceremony was held in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday. The scholarship is awarded for the human resource development of civil servants in Myanmar to pursue Doctoral and Master's degrees.

At the event, Mr Shen Dan, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, delivered remarks regarding the provision of MOFCOM scholarships to Myanmar. Deputy Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Kyaw Htin delivered a speech regarding the awarding of scholarships by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) of the People's Republic of China for the human resource development of civil servants.

A MOFCOM scholarship alumnus and a current scholarship recipient then expressed gratitude for the scholarship. — MNA/KTZH



The 2026 MOFCOM (Chinese Ministry of Commerce) scholarship awarding ceremony in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 August 2026.

Flood Warning

Issued at 5 pm MST on 26 August 2026

ACCORDING to the 4:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Thaungyin River at Myawady is observed as about one foot eight inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next day.

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

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

(a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people

(b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation

(c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts

(d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

AT the invitation of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam Mr Le Hoai Trung, accompanied by the Viet Nam delegation, who paid an official visit to Myanmar from 25 to 26 August 2026, arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 26 August 2026. They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Naing Min Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MoFA

Deputy Minister U Naing Min Kyaw welcomes Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Le Hoai Trung at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday, 26 August 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 27 August 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Upper Sagaing Regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Rakhine State. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: 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 10-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27 August 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.— DMH

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Vietnam Remains a Trusted and Reliable ...

FROM PAGE 1

The Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister stated that he was delighted by the warm and hearty welcome extended to his delegation. He explained the purpose of his visit: that he has come to pay this courtesy call upon being assigned by Mr To Lam, President of Vietnam and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, to convey an official invitation for Your Excellency the President to pay an official goodwill visit to

Vietnam, and to express that your forthcoming visit will be warmly and gladly welcomed. Throughout our shared history, the leaders of both nations have built bonds of friendship, which continue to remain strong and steadfast to this day. During Your Excellency the President's upcoming official goodwill visit to Vietnam, based on the solid friendship fostered over many years, he expressed his firm belief that the two countries will be able to open a new

chapter and a new era for their mutual interests by further strengthening and advancing friendship and cooperation. Vietnam values Myanmar's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and right to self-determination. He stated that Your Excellency can rely on Vietnam as a trustworthy and reliable partner nation.

The President of Myanmar and the Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs frankly discussed the further strengthening of existing friendship

and relations as well as cooperation between the two countries, promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between governments, parliaments, armed forces and people between the two countries, prospects to expand new business areas and bilateral trade, cooperation and investment of both countries, the best efforts of Myanmar in cooperation with ASEAN, endeavours to enhance international relations, plans of Myanmar to attend the Cambodia, Laos,

Myanmar and Vietnam Summit (CLMV Summit) and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit to be held in Vietnam, mutual support between Myanmar and Vietnam on the international stage, and standing as good friends and trustful and reliable comprehensive partners.

After the meeting, the President and the Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs posed for documentary photos and cordially

greeted each other.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe and officials. The Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nguyen Anh Duc, Director-General of ASEAN Affairs, South-East Asia, South Asia and South Pacific Department Mr Nguyen Tat Thant and officials. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

Women's Affairs Ministry, UNOPS discuss women's empowerment, protection



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Zin receives Mr Peter John Cross, UNOPS Acting Country Director to Myanmar.

UNION Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin received a delegation led by Mr Peter John Cross, Acting Country Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Myanmar, at the ministry yesterday. Dr Thet Thet Zin briefed the delegation on efforts to empower women, implement the National Strategic Plan for Advancement of Women (NSPAW), promote women's development and prevent violence against women. She also highlighted programmes for rural and young women and

Myanmar's participation in ASEAN mechanisms on women, women's and children's rights, and women, peace and security. Mr Peter John Cross said UNOPS plans to implement livelihood support programmes for women and initiatives to prevent and protect against gender-based violence. He expressed UNOPS' intention to sign an agreement with the ministry to implement the programmes jointly. The meeting also discussed continued cooperation in promoting, protecting and supporting women. — MNA/KZL

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Saudi Arabia boost bilateral relations

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw received Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Mr Maziad Mohammed Maziad M Alhowishan at the Presidential Palace Diplomatic Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on successfully holding

a free and fair multiparty democratic general election in 2025, political progress of Myanmar, efforts of Myanmar to develop international relations, peace, economic and multiple sectors, and strengthening various sectors, including bilateral relations, investment, trade, agriculture and livestock



Vice-President U Nyo Saw receives the Saudi Arabian ambassador.

sectors between Myanmar and Saudi Arabia. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister at the President's Office U Khin Latt, Deputy

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw and officials. The Saudi Arabian Ambassador was accompanied by embassy officials. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Vietnamese Foreign Minister

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Le Hoai Trung yesterday at the Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw. The Speaker noted that diplomatic relations between the two countries, established in May 1975, have entered their 51st year, highlighted the long-standing friendship and close cooperation across economic, technical and cultural sectors, expressed keen interest in studying Vietnam's Doi Moi



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets the Vietnamese delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Le Hoai Trung. Plan (2.0), which has been a key driver of its economic growth, and expressed eagerness to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation through the Myanmar-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group in parliamentary exchanges and the areas of committee relations, youth, women and technology, as well as co-

operation between the two countries on international parliamentary platforms through AIPA and the IPU and party-to-party ties between the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and the Communist Party of Vietnam. In response, the Vietnamese Foreign Minister noted that the long-standing diplomatic relations provide a solid foundation for further strengthening government-to-government, people-to-people and parliament-to-parliament ties; reaffirmed Vietnam's

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NATIONAL

DPRPW stages 19th Performing Arts, Anyeint, Drama and Magic Competition

THE 19th Performing Arts, Anyeint, Drama and Magic Competition organized by the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare was opened at Hsinbyushin Hall of the Nay Pyi Taw Transit Centre yesterday morning, attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo.

Psychological Affairs and Public Relations Committee Chairman Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Zaw Hein and Director of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Maj-Gen Ye Yint Aung cut the ribbon to launch the competition.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said that the three responsibilities of informing, educating, and entertaining are the core objectives and duties of the Public Relations and Psychological Warfare units. To



The 19th Performing Arts, Anyeint, Drama, and Magic Competition in progress yesterday, attended by Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo.

successfully carry out these three primary duties, every unit member must initially possess solid foundational qualities such as innate talent, passion, and natural aptitude.

He continued that by stepping into specialized fields like literature, music, and the arts through these strong foundations, the successful implementation of the unit's three core duties makes the public relations and psy-

chological warfare operations, which are indispensable to the State and the Tatmadaw, much more concrete and effective.

He noted that national culture is an ancestral heritage that the ethnic nationalities of a country must value and preserve as dearly as their own lives. It is necessary to deeply realize and understand that preserving Myanmar's fine arts, which have been possessed alongside independence

since the beginning of the history of the national races, amounts to preserving, safeguarding, and protecting the national cultural heritage of the State.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and party watched the performance of Tatmadaw members from the units under the control of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Union ministers and senior Tatmadaw officers.

After the ceremony, the General and party cordially greeted maestros and participating Tatmadaw members.

The competition lasts from 26 August to 1 September. — MNA/TTA

Universities hold project shows

POLYTECHNIC University, Technological University and University of Computer Studies under the Department of Advanced Science and Technology hold annual Project Shows. During the 2025-2026 academic year, 16 universities held Project Shows in their respective fields, while the remaining universities will continue to organize their events.

Yesterday, Naypyitaw State Polytechnic University held the 2025-2026 Engineering and ICT Project Show 2026, showcasing 94 projects in seven fields: Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Smart Automation & Embedded Systems; Green Technology, Sustainable Engineering & Smart Agriculture; Robotics, Mechatronics & Autonomous Systems; Software Engineering; Architectural Design; and Assistive Technologies & Public Welfare. Union Minister

for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw and officials, engineers and representatives of relevant associations attended the event.

Students from universities, colleges, technical schools and No 12 Basic Education High School in Ottarathiri Township visited the exhibition on the same afternoon.

Similarly, the University of Computer Studies (Yangon) also conducted the UCSY Product Show and Job Fair 2026, displaying 75 projects comprising 63 undergraduate and 12 postgraduate projects in Software Engineering, AI, IoT, Image Processing and Networking. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, officials and experts attended, while representatives from 16 companies visited the event for employment opportunities. — MNA/KTZH



Universities' annual project exhibitions are underway, with Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Kyaw in attendance.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Vietnamese ...

FROM PAGE 3

respect for Myanmar's sovereignty and understanding of its practical circumstances, congratulated Myanmar on the successful holding of the general elections and the formation of the government and parliaments, stated that Vietnam is ready to share its development and reform experiences, re-

quested continued support for Vietnamese citizens in Myanmar, and welcomed inter-parliamentary co-operation in the areas of youth, gender and technology, and, conveying warm greetings from the Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, added that invitations for future parliamentary exchanges would be extended and as-

sured that Vietnam would continue to support Myanmar on the international stage, including within AIPA and the IPU.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, Public Accounts Committee Chairman U Teza Kyaw, International Relations Committee Chairman Dr Pwint San, Myanmar-Vi-

etnam Parliamentary Friendship Group Member Daw Myint Than, MP U Thaung Aye and parliamentary officials were present on the occasion. The Vietnamese Foreign Minister was accompanied by Ambassador of Vietnam to Myanmar Mr Nguyen Anh Duc and officials from the Vietnamese Embassy. — MNA/TH

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

NATIONAL

DIPLOMACY

MoL Union Minister meets Thai Labour Minister in Bangkok

UNION Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe, who is in Bangkok, Thailand, to attend the 29th ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting and related meetings, met Thai Minister of Labour Mr Julapun Amornvivat at the Dusit Thani Hotel on the evening of 25 August to discuss bilateral labour issues.

The two sides discussed lists of Myanmar workers in Thailand by occupation, facilitating legal family remittances, expanding Certificate of Identity (CI) issuance centres, introducing a U-turn process for Myanmar workers who have completed four years of continuous employment under the MoU system, ensuring Myanmar workers receive their social security benefits, signing an agreement between the two countries' social security organizations, and establishing a Temporary Data Collection Centre (TDCC) to issue Myanmar passports.

The meeting was attended by Myanmar Ambassador U Zaw Zaw Soe, Director-General of the Department of Labour U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, members of the Myanmar delegation and Thai labour officials.

The Myanmar delegation will also attend the 14th ASEAN+3 Labour Ministers' Meeting and bilateral meetings between labour ministers. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe and Thai Minister of Labour Mr Julapun Amornvivat meet in Bangkok, Thailand.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam departs Nay Pyi Taw



AT the invitation of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam Mr Le Hoai Trung, who paid an official visit to Myanmar, and the delegation de-

parted Nay Pyi Taw on the evening of 26 August 2026. They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and senior officials. — MNA

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Vietnam co-chair 10th Meeting of Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation

U Tin Maung Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Mr Le Hoai Trung, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, who was on an official visit to Nay Pyi Taw, co-chaired the 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-Vietnam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 August 2026.

Both sides discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation in all areas under the framework of the Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership between Myanmar and Vietnam. Their discussions focused on promoting cooperation in political, defence and security, economic, trade and investment, transport, information and communications, education and training, health, science and technology, agriculture, livestock, culture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges. The two sides also exchanged views on developments in their respective countries and discussed ways to provide mutual support and enhance cooperation on regional and international fora.

The Union Minister discussed preparations



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Tin Maung Swe and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Mr Le Hoai Trung, co-host the 10th Meeting of Joint commission on Bilateral Cooperation.

for commemorative activities in 2027 to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Myanmar-Vietnam Comprehensive Cooperation Partnership, as well as cooperation between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, including collaboration between their diplomatic academies. He invited Vietnamese investors to explore investment opportunities in Myanmar's technology-focused special economic zones, including the Yadanapon Cyber City Project, and encouraged cooperation in technology-based manufacturing. He noted that, as Myanmar currently holds the Chairmanship of Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and Vietnam is serving as the Chair of Cambodia-Lao PDR-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV), the two countries would

continue to cooperate closely within these regional cooperation frameworks. He also reaffirmed Myanmar's efforts to further strengthen its relations with ASEAN through a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led approach, while expressing appreciation to Vietnam and other ASEAN Member States for their constructive engagement regarding Myanmar's political developments.

The Vietnamese Foreign Minister congratulated the successful holding of elections in Myanmar. He appraised that Vietnam had successfully convened the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and adopted its political and economic strategies, noting that this is an opportune time for both countries to further elevate bilateral relations and cooperation. He expressed

Vietnam's interest in further strengthening cooperation in bilateral relations, trade and investment, people-to-people exchanges as well as regional and international cooperation and reaffirmed Vietnam's commitment in supporting Myanmar's full and equal participation in ASEAN, the United Nations and other international fora. He also expressed Vietnam's support for Myanmar's continued efforts towards peace, stability, national reconciliation and socio-economic development. He **underscored** Vietnam's **commitment to further strengthening close cooperation with Myanmar** in regional and international contexts, including ASEAN, ACMECS and CLMV.

Following the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers signed the Agreed Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the Myanmar-Vietnam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.

Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and relevant ministries of Myanmar and Vietnam were also present at the meeting.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister hosted a luncheon in honour of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister and members of his delegation. — MoFA

Myanmar CCDAC, UNODC co-host workshop on transnational drug crime investigations

THE Regional Workshop on Transnational Drug Crime Investigations was co-hosted by the Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on the morning of 25 August.

The workshop dis-

cussed challenges in investigating international drug cases, country presentations, information and evidence sharing, documentation and language requirements, extradition and deportation, and cooperation on extradition and the transfer of suspects at border areas.

SEE PAGE 6



The Regional Workshop on Transnational Drug Crime Investigations is underway in Yangon on 25 August 2026.

NATIONAL

Ayeyawady continues rescue, relief operations

RESCUE and relief operations are continuing in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, after heavy rainfall and river erosion caused a section of the Ngawun River embankment to collapse on the night of 30 July.

The breach led to flooding in five urban wards of Laymyethna, major roads in the town area and 15 urban wards of Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships and surrounding villages.

On 14 August, the water level of the Ngawun River in Laymyethna township reached seven feet nine inches, and it was at five feet and eight inches yesterday, whereas 11 feet two inches in Yekyi township on 24 August and only 10 feet four inches yesterday.



This image shows ongoing relief efforts in Ayeyawady Region.

Moreover, the water level of the Ngawun River in Ngathainggyoung township was 10 feet nine inches, and it was only 10 feet three inches yesterday.

Officials from the South-West Command, together with Tatmadaw members from local battalions, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams, charitable organizations and residents, have been working together to assist

and evacuate flood-stricken communities.

Officials from the South-West Command, together with Tatmadaw members from a local battalion, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams, charitable organizations and local communities, have been working together to assist and evacuate flood-affected communities. — MNA/KTZH

Emergency measures underway to prevent further erosion of Nyaungdon Embankment

EMERGENCY measures are underway to prevent further collapse and erosion of the Nyaungdon Island Embankment along a branch of the Ayeyawady River in Chaunggyi Village-Tract, Chaungphya Village, Nyaungdon Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region.

The section between mileposts 11/6 and 11/7 collapsed on 26 August morning due to river erosion. Tatmadaw personnel, Myanmar Police Force members, social organizations and residents are working with heavy machinery to reinforce the embankment with sandbags and con-

struct a temporary protective spur.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw, together with the deputy minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, inspected the damaged section and instructed officials to expedite emergency measures to prevent further erosion and protect residents and their property. Financial assistance was provided to households and betel plantations relocated in advance for construction of the protective spur.

The chief minister also inspected drainage and water-flow improvement works in Maubin Township and discussed plans to rebuild Danubyu Myoma Market as a modern market with officials. — IPRD/KZL



Combined forces use heavy machinery to reinforce the Nyaungdon Embankment.

RBF project introduced in Magway

THE Department of Rural Development (DRD), under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introductory briefing on the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project at the village community hall in Bayapyo (South) Village, Bayapyo Village-Tract, Magway Township, Magway District, on the morning of 26 August.

The project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year to support local devel-

opment activities in the village.

Township Head U Soe Lin Htut of the Department of Rural Development in Magway Township met village elders and local communities to explain the objectives and benefits of implementing the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project. He also provided detailed information on the project implementation process and the rules and regulations that must be followed in accordance with the pro-

ject manual.

The RBF Project staff

member in charge also explained the selection



An orientation ceremony for the Rural Business Fund Project is underway in Magway Township.

criteria and procedures for members of the project working groups, as well as their respective duties and responsibilities. Residents attending the meeting raised questions regarding the project, and the township officer and responsible officials provided explanations and clarifications.

In Magway Township, the government has allocated K30 million in RBF project funds to Bayapyo (South) Village for the 2026-2027 financial year, aiming to create employment opportunities and increase household in-

comes among local communities.

Under the supervision of officials from the Department of Rural Development, villagers will form groups and implement livelihood activities, including agriculture, livestock breeding and other income-generating businesses.

The project is expected to contribute to improving local livelihoods, creating employment opportunities and promoting rural economic development in Bayapyo (South) Village. — Ah Htwe (DRD)

Myanmar CCDAC, UNODC co-host workshop on transnational ...

FROM PAGE 5

CCDAC Joint Secretary Police Brig-Gen Thant Lwin Maung of the Myanmar Police Force's Drug Enforcement Division highlighted the rapid evolution of regional drug trafficking. He said

drugs are increasingly produced in one country and exported to others, while proceeds are concealed in countries under different jurisdictions. Drug trafficking groups are also forming wider networks, using new technologies and

chemicals not yet on controlled-chemical lists, and modifying chemical formulas to evade detection. He cited cases seized in Hsipaw and Mongyai and said trafficking groups had also recruited foreign chemists who illegally enter Myan-

mar through border areas.

He said apprehending drug-trafficking leaders and gathering evidence remain difficult, while delays in cross-border transfers and information sharing, unclear procedures, incomplete documentation

and complex communication processes can allow criminals to evade justice. He therefore stressed the need to prioritize regional cooperation.

The workshop, which runs until 27 August, is attended by 58 represent-

atives, including eight from the Drug Enforcement Division, representatives from Mekong countries, 42 from UNODC and eight from partner Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia and Malaysia. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Kyain-Seikkyi's MSY village project operations inspected



Officials inspect an agricultural field funded by the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project fund in Kyain-Seikkyi Township, Kayin State.

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on the morning of 26 August to monitor the progress of operations carried out under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project fund in Pulein Village. The project is being implemented by the Department

of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, in Kyain-Seikkyi Township, Kyain-Seikkyi District, Kayin State, aiming to boost family income, create job opportunities, and enhance local product outputs.

Head U Min Wai Phyo of the Kyain-Seikkyi District Office, along with staff members, reviewed the implementation of income-generating activities funded by the project and checked the recording of project statistics and accounts, providing necessary guidance.

In Pulein Village, a total of 78 project members engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding, trading, and small-scale manufacturing have been disbursed a loan of K61 million from the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project fund, successfully implementing family income-generating businesses. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural)

Monghsat's RBF project briefed; committee formed



An introductory briefing on the Rural Business Fund Project and a project committee formation in progress in Monghsat Township yesterday.

DEPARTMENT of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introductory briefing on the Rural Business Fund Project (RBF) and formed a project committee in Loihsaung Village, Monghsat Township, yesterday.

Monghsat Township Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Htay first explained the objectives and benefits of the Rural Business Fund Project (RBF), which aims to provide necessary capital

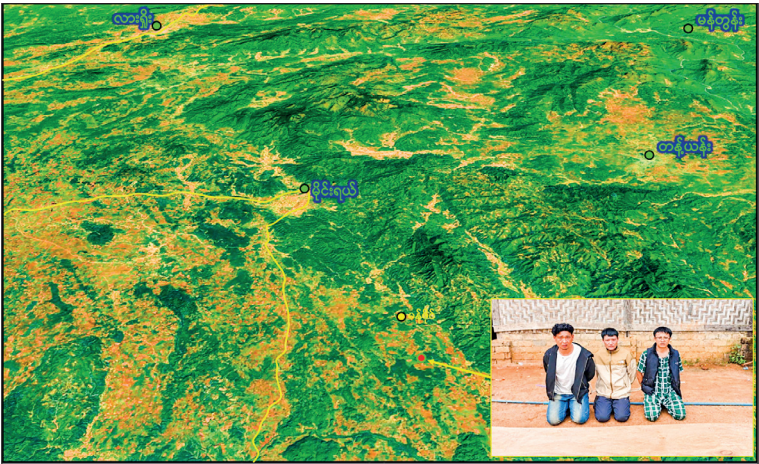
for agricultural and livestock producers as well as small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs, promote rural production activities and increase household incomes through group-based livelihood activities. Project staff detailed the rules and regulations set out in the project manual, implementation procedures, member selection process, and duties and responsibilities to be undertaken.

Villagers then elected and formed a seven-member project committee through consensus to systematically and effectively carry out RBF project activities in Loihsaung Village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Offenders involved in online scam arrested in Shan State

TATMADAW columns arrested three offenders involved in an online scam together with gambling materials in Mongyai Township, Shan State (North), yesterday.

Acting on the tip-off, a Tatmadaw column conducted a security operation in Mongyai of Shan State (North) and arrested three Chinese nationals who had illegally crossed the border into Myanmar and were engaged in online scam and gambling activities were arrested along with equipment used in the illegal activities, about 26,000 metres southeast of Mongyai and about 5,000 metres south of Manphai Village. The seized items in-



Images reveal crackdown sites in Mongyai, northern Shan State, where online scammers and gambling suspects were arrested. Included one 50-foot-long by 20-foot-wide bamboo-mat partitioned and corrugated-iron-roofed building, one temporary tarpaulin tent

measuring 20 feet by 10 feet, one measuring 10 feet by 15 feet, one measuring 15 feet by 10 feet, one measuring 20 feet by 15 feet, and one measuring 20 feet by 20 feet, 25 mobile phones, five all-in-one computers, two power stations, one Starlink device, 10 walkie-talkies, and other equipment related to the gambling operations.

All seized materials and equipment will be managed according to proper procedures, and the illegal buildings will also be systematically dismantled, and those involved will be taken action against in accordance with the existing law. — MNA/KTZH

Bago Pushes High-Value Rice Revival

FROM PAGE 1

In Letpadan Township, local farmers are being supported in cultivating high-value crops suited to the region's soil and climate following the monsoon rice harvest. Authorities have distributed Yezin-15 soybean seeds to encourage post-harvest soybean cultivation and have raised 50,000 Robusta coffee saplings for distribution.

In addition, awareness programmes are being conducted across Bago Region to demonstrate soil improvement using biochar, produced from discarded rice husks as an alternative to chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as well as techniques for producing foliar fertilizers locally. — ASH/TH

Regional MP calls for probe into online gambling bank accounts

YANGON Region Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Min Htet from Kyauktada Township Constituency 2 raised a question about the crackdown on online gambling at the Yangon Region Hluttaw on 25 August.

He said the government had already approved the Anti-Online Scam Law

and was working to enforce it by forming regional or state working committees. However, online gambling activities have remained widespread until now.

Transactions by mobile wallets such as KPay and Wave Money related to gambling and linked with local bank accounts have been

seen, he added.

"If these working committees can follow up on bank accounts and arrest them, the crackdown will be more workable," he said.

Regarding this inquiry, further clarification from the respective regional authorities remains to be seen. — TWA/ZS



This image shows arrested online scammers seized materials.

OPINION

ARTICLE

Strive to increase agro-livestock production

Every country around the world is striving for economic strength, and Myanmar is likewise utilizing all available resources and opportunities to strengthen its economy. However, due to economic and political sanctions imposed on the country by certain nations, growth has been delayed rather than progressing as much as it should.

A government holds the primary responsibility to foster national economic development, and it can only become one that the public trusts and relies upon if it can advance both the national economy and the socioeconomic lives of its people. Amid political and economic sanctions, the government is actively working through the best possible means to overcome these challenges and drive national economic progress.

In accordance with the motto “the nation’s strength lies within”, all the people cannot rely on foreign grants and loans; instead, they must leverage all available domestic resources to promote local manufacturing and drive the economic growth of the nation.

To achieve this, our country is already endowed with favourable soil and water resources as well as solid foundations to undertake agricultural, livestock, and production enterprises. The primary requirements now are to genuinely put in the work and for all national ethnic brethren to unite to build peace and stability.

The relevant Union ministries, as well as region and state governments, must focus on advancing agro- and livestock-based industrial manufacturing. Furthermore, in carrying out production enterprises, rather than extracting above-ground and underground natural resources and minerals, priority must be placed on successfully implementing production activities based on renewable agriculture and livestock farming.

The relevant region and state governments should establish and designate agricultural and livestock zones to support local farmers and breeders, while the relevant departments must distribute technical know-how and input supplies to strive for increased agro-livestock production. These products must be distributed and sold for local consumption, and any surplus should be shared and exported to other regions and states to ensure food security and self-sufficiency.

Therefore, it is imperative to drive national economic growth by boosting domestic manufacturing and expanding the export sector. In doing so, priority must be given to supporting manufacturing enterprises that primarily utilize domestic raw materials, ensuring the production of import-substitution goods while also striving to increase exports.

That is why efforts must be made to find ways to ensure success in each respective sector; and work must be carried out with full dedication and enthusiasm for the development of the national economy and the improvement of the socioeconomic lives of the people.

During the official goodwill visit of U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the Republic of Belarus, relations between the two countries reached a significant new stage. Although Myanmar and Belarus are geographically distant from one another, their bilateral ties have been built on mutual respect, understanding, and trust. These ties have now developed into a strategic partnership, as demonstrated by the leaders’ meeting and the press conference held in Minsk.

The frank, open, and cordial discussions between the two leaders created a firm foundation for the future development of Myanmar–Belarus cooperation. In particular, the two sides established the necessary groundwork for implementing the Myanmar–Belarus Cooperation Roadmap for 2026–2028. This roadmap is expected to provide a clear framework for expanding practical cooperation and ensuring that the understandings reached by both governments are translated into concrete results.

The historic visit also produced several important agreements between the two governments. Memoranda of understanding and related agreements were successfully signed and exchanged in the fields of legal and commercial cooperation, mutual assistance in criminal matters, cooperation between election commissions, education, science and technology, strategic studies, credit and financial frameworks, and media cooperation. These agreements represent more than formal diplomatic documents. They demonstrate

A New Chapter in Strategic Partnership and Diplomatic Relations

the determination of both sides to transform their friendly relations into practical cooperation that can produce tangible benefits for the people of both countries.

Among the important outcomes of the visit was the official upgrading and opening of the Myanmar Consulate-General as an embassy. This step marks a meaningful strengthening of diplomatic relations and reflects the growing importance that both countries attach to their bilateral partnership. In addition, visa-exemption arrangements between Myanmar and Belarus have come into effect. These arrangements are expected to make travel easier, encourage greater people-to-people contact, and support the expansion of tourism and other forms of social and economic exchange.

Myanmar is continuing to move forward peacefully and steadily along its democratic path. In preparation for the general election scheduled for the early part of 2027, international observer and monitoring teams will be invited to observe the electoral process. In connection with the outcomes of the President’s visit, Belarus has also expressed its willingness to send relevant groups. This demonstrates Belarus’s recognition of, and full support for, Myanmar’s efforts

to maintain political stability and pursue its reform initiatives.

The statement by President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus that the agreements reached between the two countries would be implemented as quickly as possible, without unnecessary bureaucratic delay, is particularly encouraging. Such a commitment reflects the genuine friendship and growing closeness that characterize Myanmar–Belarus relations. It also signals that the two countries intend to move beyond expressions of goodwill and focus on effective implementation.

The positive results achieved during the visit can be regarded as the fruits of the deep trust that Myanmar and Belarus have built over time. They will serve as a strong foundation for the two countries to support one another more actively on regional and international platforms in the years ahead. As their cooperation expands, the strategic partnership will have the potential to contribute not only to bilateral development but also to greater mutual understanding and constructive engagement in the wider international community.

The President’s fourth visit to Belarus is therefore an important milestone in the history of Myanmar–Belarus relations. For Myanmar, the visit is expected



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

to provide valuable access to technology, expertise, and practical experience in a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, livestock breeding, industry, information

and communications technology, education, and national defence. Cooperation in these areas could contribute substantially to national development and help

strengthen the country’s capacity to address its economic and technological needs.

At the same time, the agreements and understandings

By Junior Thin

reached during the visit are expected to support improvements in the social and economic well-being of the people of both countries. Expanded cooperation in education, science, technology, trade, finance, tourism, and media can create new opportunities for institutions, businesses, researchers, students, and ordinary citizens. The benefits of stronger bilateral relations will ultimately depend on the effective and timely implementation of the commitments made by both governments.

The newly agreed areas of cooperation also provide an opportunity for the two countries to learn from one another. Myanmar can benefit from Belarusian experience in industrial development, technological advancement, education, and other specialized fields, while Belarus can deepen its understanding of Myanmar’s circumstances, potential, and role in the region. Regular exchanges between ministries, diplomatic missions, academic institutions, businesses, media organizations, and people from both countries will be essential to maintaining the momentum created by the visit.

The strengthening of official diplomatic channels should make such exchanges more efficient. A fully functioning embassy, clearer legal arrangements, and easier

travel procedures can help transform high-level political understanding into sustained contact at the institutional and community levels. They can also encourage more frequent visits, cultural interaction, commercial links, and the sharing of knowledge and experience. In this way, the relationship can develop on a broader foundation rather than depending only on occasional meetings between senior leaders.

The success of the Myanmar–Belarus Cooperation Roadmap for 2026–2028 will therefore be measured by the practical progress made in each agreed sector. If the two sides maintain close communication and fulfil their commitments, the roadmap can serve as an effective instrument for achieving mutually beneficial outcomes. It can also establish a model for long-term cooperation based on respect for sovereignty, equality, trust, and shared interests.

In conclusion, President U Min Aung Hlaing’s official goodwill visit to Belarus has opened a new and promising chapter in the history of Myanmar–Belarus diplomatic relations. It strengthened political understanding, expanded the scope of bilateral cooperation, and established practical mechanisms for future engagement. More importantly, it reaffirmed the friendship, mutual respect, and trust between the two countries. With continued commitment from both sides, this strategic partnership can become a valuable force for cooperation, development, and closer ties between the peoples of Myanmar and Belarus.

Reference: *Yadanabon Daily* (23 August 2026)

Mental illness has always presented society with a difficult question: do we care for the person who is suffering, or do we remove the person who makes society uncomfortable? Historically, much of the world chose the latter. The mental asylum became both a place of treatment and a mechanism of exclusion. Although modern psychiatry has largely rejected this philosophy, exclusion has by no means disappeared.

In Myanmar, the problem has additional cultural dimensions. Mental illness may still carry

considerable stigma. Unusual behaviour, psychosis, addiction or emotional disturbance can sometimes be interpreted through supernatural explanations – Karma, possession, curses, spirits or consequences of wrongdoing – rather than primarily through psychological, social and medical frameworks. Traditional beliefs themselves should not simply be ridiculed; they form part of cultural identity. The difficulty arises when superstition delays assessment, prevents effective treatment or encourages rejection of the sufferer.

For some families, having a

Beyond the Asylum Walls: Mental Illness, Stigma and the Unfinished Journey of Psychiatry in Myanmar

By U Khin Maung Myint

relative with serious mental illness can be perceived as a source of shame. The individual may be hidden from visitors, excluded from family decisions or regarded as damaging the family’s social standing and even the marriage

prospects of relatives. Thus, although the physical walls of the old asylum may have receded, an “asylum without walls” can remain within the community.

Modern psychiatry promised something different: deinstitution-

alization, community treatment, rehabilitation, respect for autonomy and recovery. Its philosophy is that people with mental disorders remain members of society, entitled not merely to medication but to dignity, relationships, employment, housing and meaningful participation in community life.

Yet we should also acknowl-

edge an uncomfortable reality. Modern psychiatry has not always lived up to these expectations. Closing institutions is much easier than building comprehensive community mental-health services. Medication without psychosocial rehabilitation is not community psychiatry. Discharging somebody to an overwhelmed family is not

social inclusion. Nor can families reasonably be expected to indefinitely provide the work of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers and rehabilitation services.

The challenge is even greater with addiction. Substance-use disorders occupy an uneasy territory between medicine, psychi-

atry, criminal justice and morality. Where addiction medicine remains underdeveloped, dependence may be interpreted simply as bad behaviour, weakness or criminality. Punishment and family rejection can then replace treatment.

Contemporary addiction science tells us that dependence is considerably more complex. Biological vulnerability interacts with psychological distress, trauma, poverty, displacement, availability of drugs and the social environment.

SEE PAGE 11

NATIONAL

MPA to auction 22 containers, one shutout cargo

MYANMA Port Authority will sell the contents of 22 containers and one shutout cargo container through open tendering.

The containers are currently held at AWPT, MIP, and MITT ports without proper identification or documentation. The goods will be sold in their current condition through an open-tender auction scheduled at 1 am on 10 September.

Auction forms and terms and conditions are available from 27 August to 8 September at the Central Store Department, Myanma Port Authority, Strand Road near the Toll Gate, Concrete Road, west of Botahtaung Pagoda in Botahtaung Township, Yangon. Individuals can enquire about details in person at the MPA during office hours, according to the Auction and Disposal Committee. — NN/KK



A container yard is seen at Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

Agriculture Dept invites tenders for fuel purchase

THE Department of Agriculture has invited tenders for the procurement of 15,000 gallons of diesel and 1,500 gallons of Octane 92 for the 2026-2027 financial year, with bids to be submitted in Myanmar kyats.

Tender forms are available by 3 September at the Procurement, Supply & Logistics Division, Department of Agriculture, located at Office 43, Nay Pyi Taw. The submission deadline is at 1 pm on 4 September.

Individuals can enquire for further details at the Department of Agriculture (Supply Branch), Office 43, Nay Pyi Taw, in person or by dialling 067 3410210 or 067 3410518, according to the Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee. — NN/KK

Agriculture Dept to bid expired chemicals, raw materials



A workplace which operates production of rubber sheets.

THE Department of Agriculture called for bids to sell expired chemicals and raw materials from the Myanma Agricultural and Industrial Rubber Products Factory, located at the Rubber Research and Development Centre (Yangon) of the Perennial Crops Division, within the 2026-2027 financial year.

Tender forms will be available from 28 August

to 3 September at the Department of Agriculture, located at Office 43, Nay Pyi Taw. The submission deadline is at 1 pm on 3 September.

Individuals can enquire about details through the Rubber Research and Development Centre (Yangon) of the Perennial Crops Division of the Agriculture Department in person during office hours, or by dialling 09 449250084 or 09 782236628, according to the Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 26 August 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,661.60~3,669.00	557.00~557.10	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	12,373,185.55	3,258,934.00	43,354,471.85	-

THE foreign currency volume traded in the market was for the import of fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, car/motorcycle spare parts, construction materials, fertilizers, electronics, agricultural materials, and animal feed. The revenue from the CMP sector was sold to the CMP sector. — MNA

Mongyawng inspects farm-to-market road, bridge project site

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a preliminary field inspection yesterday at the site of a proposed rural farm-to-market road and bridge project in Wanphyo Village, Mongyawng Township.

The project is planned to improve local farmers' access to markets by enabling them to transport agricultural produce more conveniently and at lower costs.

Mongyawng District Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Soe and engineering staff, together with village representatives, inspected the proposed site for a four-furlong farm-to-mar-



Officials oversee the site of a proposed rural farm-to-market road and bridge in Mongyawng Township.

ket road and a concrete bridge measuring 20 feet in length, 14 feet in width and six feet in height. He met members of the village road construction committee, explaining plans for project implementation and providing necessary coordination for matters raised by the local community.

The farm-to-market road and bridge project will be implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with K104.459 million in State-approved funds. Tender-winning companies will undertake the construction, which will allow residents to transport agricultural produce to markets more easily and quickly upon completion. — Karan (Rural)

Thayet's MSY village project activities inspected

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection yesterday to monitor the implementation of Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project activities in Methwepoke Village, Htongtaung Village-Tract, Thayet Township, Magway Region, under the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Township Head U Yu Naing Lin of the Thayet Township Department of Rural Development, along with relevant officials, inspected the progress of agricultural and livestock farming activities carried out with MSY Village Project funds in Methwepoke Village, as well as the completeness of monthly register records, and the township head provided necessary instructions.

The MSY Village Project in Methwepoke Village was launched in the



Officials oversee the implementation of an Emerald Green village project in Thayet, Magway Region.

2014-2015 financial year. To date, a total revolving fund of K50.3 million has been disbursed to 87 members, comprising K34.2 million to 58 agricultural workers, K9.6 million to 17 livestock workers, and K6.5 million to 12 trading business operators, and project operations are currently ongoing. — Set Lu (DRD)

ARTICLE/SCI/TECH
WORLD

Citizens help researchers
map Shanghai’s hidden
wildlife, preserve biodiversity

Bats play an essential role in supporting urban environmental health ecosystems.

AMID the skyscrapers of Shanghai, residents armed with acoustic sensors are teaming up with researchers to track the city’s hidden bat population. Zhou Xinran and her 8-year-old daughter are among them. Using a matchbox-sized ultrasound detector linked to Zhou’s smartphone, they search for bats in their neighbourhood, recording their calls, locations and video footage of sightings.

“At first we thought bats were mysterious,” Zhou told Xinhua. “But after joining the programme,



Shanghai residents use mobile acoustic sensors to track local bat populations. **PHOTO: UNSPLASH**

we learned they are an important part of the ecosystem. Their presence shows

the city’s environment is improving.” Zhou and her daughter

are among more than 300 volunteers taking part in the “City Bat Hunt”, a citizen-science program led by the Shanghai Natural History Museum and several research institutions across the Yangtze River Delta.

Volunteers submit their observations through a program on the social media platform WeChat, contributing to a growing biodiversity database that researchers at Shanghai’s Fudan University can use for further analysis. — Xinhua

SpaceX announces
plans for \$100B
‘spaceport’ in
Louisiana

ELON Musk’s SpaceX announced plans Tuesday to build a \$100 billion facility in the southern US state of Louisiana to launch its highly anticipated Starship megarockets, currently being developed at the company’s Texas Starbase.

“A spaceport on the Louisiana Gulf Coast enabling a multiplanetary future,” declared the SpaceX website.

The new facility will be built in Vermillion Parish, about 115 miles (185 km) west of New Orleans.

“We’re committed to investing at least \$100 billion and creating more than 3,000 new jobs at Starbase, Louisiana,” the company said, with

construction to begin next year.

SpaceX says the buildout will go beyond mere launch pads and include all the infrastructure necessary to support “thousands of Starship flights per year”, with the first expected in 2029.

Starship is the company’s megarocket, still under development, which it plans to use for missions to the Moon and Mars.

“Starbase Louisiana will ultimately have over a dozen launch towers, enabling more than 30 Starship flights per day and making it the biggest launch site on Earth!” Musk wrote on X, which he also owns. — AFP

S Canadian student wins water cleanup prize

A Canadian student has won the 2026 Stockholm Junior Water Prize for developing an autonomous robot that uses artificial intelligence (AI) and magnetic technology to remove plastic from water while minimizing harm to aquatic life. Moroti Adegboyega of Canada, selected from national winners repre-

senting more than 40 countries and regions, received the award from Sweden’s Crown Princess Victoria at a ceremony on Tuesday evening in Stockholm.

Adegboyega’s project, Ecoferroquatics, combines AI, robotics and a specially developed ferrofluid-based magnetic suspension to detect and collect plastic

particles from water.

According to the Stockholm Water Foundation, which hosts the annual competition, the project offers an alternative to existing cleanup methods such as nets, trawlers and filters, which can be labour-intensive and may harm marine organisms. Tests showed the system outperformed

a simple sieve in collecting small particles, including microplastics that can pass through conventional screening methods.

Plastic debris can break down into smaller particles, be ingested by wildlife and carry harmful chemicals through the food chain, the foundation said. — Xinhua



SpaceX plans giant new Starship spaceport on the Louisiana Gulf Coast. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Beyond the Asylum Walls: Mental Illness, ...

FROM PAGE 9

Effective care may require withdrawal management, appropriate medication, psychological therapies, harm reduction, rehabilitation, family involvement and long-term relapse prevention. Treating only the drug while ignoring the person is rarely enough.

Myanmar faces par-

ticularly difficult circumstances. Years of political instability, armed conflict, displacement, economic hardship and migration inevitably place additional burdens upon mental health. At precisely the time when psychological and addiction services are most needed, health systems themselves may be struggling for resources and trained personnel.

The answer is therefore neither a return to the asylum nor an unrealistic expectation that every mentally ill person can simply be “managed by the family”. Some individuals with severe illness genuinely require protected residential or inpatient treatment. The ethical distinction is crucial: **residential care should provide sanctuary and**

treatment, not become a place of banishment.

Myanmar needs a culturally sensitive model in which psychiatry, primary care, addiction medicine, social services, families and communities work together. Religious and traditional community leaders can also contribute when their influence encourages compassion and appropriate profes-

sional treatment rather than fear or superstition.

Ultimately, progress in mental health cannot be measured simply by the number of psychiatric hospitals, psychiatrists or prescriptions. It should also be measured by what happens when the patient returns home.

Does the family open the door?

Does the community offer another chance?

Can the recovering person study, work,

marry and participate in ordinary life without permanently carrying the label of “mad”, “addict” or “disgrace”?

The old asylum excluded people behind walls. A modern society must be careful not to rebuild those walls out of **stigma, superstition, neglect and rejection.**

Mental healthcare reaches maturity only when treatment is accompanied by belonging.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Global economy ‘storm-tossed’ between crises and AI opportunity: IMF chief

US-Iran war causes skyrocketing global energy prices and Strait blockage.

THE International Monetary Fund chief on Tuesday compared the global economy to a “storm-tossed vessel,” caught between high inflation, debt and trade wars while driven by tailwinds from the AI revolution.

Kristalina Georgieva told journalists in Washington that the global economy had so far “weathered the energy shock caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz better than we feared.”

Worldwide energy prices have skyrocketed



In July, the IMF cut its global growth projection for the second time this year, flagging “uncertainty and risks” related to the war in the Middle East. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

since the United States and Israel launched their war on Iran, engulfing the Middle East in violence as Tehran’s retaliatory action

targeted US allies and blocked the vital Strait of Hormuz.

In July, the IMF cut its global growth projection

for the second time this year, flagging “uncertainty and risks” related to the war in the Middle East.

Global economic growth is estimated at 3.0 per cent this year; the IMF said in its update to its World Economic Outlook at the time, down from 3.1 per cent in its April forecast.

Georgieva on Tuesday said the impact of the war had been “asymmetric”, based on countries’ exposure to Gulf oil imports and their overall macro-economic stability. — AFP

Canada announces counter-tariffs on over 700 US goods

THE Canadian federal government on Tuesday announced retaliatory tariffs on over 700 US goods valued at 27.6 billion Canadian dollars (about US\$20 billion), alongside a 7.5-billion-Canadian-dollar assistance package for domestic businesses and workers.

Canadian officials said the countermeasures match the total value of Canadian products targeted by the latest 50-per-cent US tariffs, achieving a “dollar-for-dollar, rate for

rate” response. The counter-tariffs are scheduled to take effect officially on 8 September. Canadian Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said the reciprocal tariffs as well as the multi-billion-dollar support package will protect workers, farmers, families and businesses.

According to a list released by the Finance Ministry, the new targeted counter-tariffs are concentrated in sectors such as steel, dairy, appliances,



A customer shops for painting supplies at a hardware store in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 25 August 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics, with tariff rates set

at three tiers: 15 percent, 25 percent and 50 percent. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Migrant departures hit Southern Africa remittances

THE recent return of large numbers of foreign nationals from South Africa could put pressure on remittance flows and household incomes in parts of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, a South Africa-based economist has warned. Tafadzwa Ruzive, a researcher and economist at the University of the Free State, told Xinhua recently that a decline in the number of migrant workers in South Africa could lead to lower remittance flows to neighbouring countries.

“There will be a negative shock to remittances going forward,” Ruzive said. “There will be a dual negative shock: locally in South Africa, because these individuals will stop buying goods and services here, and back home, where families can no longer buy essentials.”

His comments come as South Africa has stepped up immigration enforcement and neighbouring countries have facilitated the return of large numbers of their nationals in recent months. — Xinhua

Kenya bans banned foreign pesticides

KENYA announced Tuesday that it will prohibit pesticides banned abroad from entering the country, aligning its policy with international chemical regulation standards.

Agriculture and Livestock Development Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe confirmed in a statement issued in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, that the government will step up border enforcement to block non-compliant chemicals due to escalating health and safety concerns.

Reaffirming that Kenya will not become a dumping ground for products banned elsewhere, he urged unified pesticide regulations across the East African Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa to prevent rejected chemicals from infiltrating regional markets.

Fredrick Muchiri, chief executive officer of the Pest Control Products Board, confirmed that unauthorized and smuggled pesticide imports into Kenya have plummeted by an estimated 95 percent.

Muchiri attributed the sharp decline to heightened surveillance following the deployment of regulatory officers across 10 major gazetted border points and entry ports, effectively closing key smuggling routes. — Xinhua



A pasture in Beaufort, France, where cheesemakers can usually feed their cows only local grass. **PHOTO: AFP**

France eases dairy rules for cheese

WIDESPREAD drought and record-breaking heatwaves have forced France to relax some of its famously strict rules on cheese production, with authorities announcing Wednesday special measures for abundance, beaufort and comte.

France’s vast array of local cheeses are a source

of national pride and authorities go to great lengths to protect traditional production methods and ensure authenticity.

To earn a coveted “appellation d’origine protégée” (Protected Designation of Origin) label -- and the right to give their cheese a particular protected name -- producers

must follow rigid rules on where their animals graze and what they eat.

But the summer’s drought, which affected 95 per cent of mainland France in July, has left normally rich pastures dry and bare.

In response, the government has said producers of abundance, beaufort and comte, hard cheeses made

from the raw milk of cows grazing in the Alps and Jura mountains, can supplement the animals’ diet with more fodder and grain brought in from elsewhere. Growth on permanent grasslands as of 10 August is a third less than the 1989-2018 average, according to the Agriculture Ministry’s statistical service. — AFP

Brazilian banks to increase investment in AI

BRAZIL'S banking sector plans to invest nearly three billion reais (US\$583 million) in artificial intelligence (AI), analytics and big data this year, up eight per cent from 2025, the Brazilian Federation of Banks (Febraban) said Tuesday.

The data, released during the Febraban Tech 2026 event in Sao Paulo, was based on a survey conducted by the global consulting firm Deloitte. The investment aims to improve operational efficiency,

data analysis, customer service and fraud prevention, said the report, noting that 92 per cent of surveyed banks cited greater speed in routine tasks as the primary benefit of AI.

Banks also expect to invest approximately 3.9 billion reais (\$758 million) in cloud infrastructure in 2026, marking a 30 per cent year-on-year increase. Overall, Brazil's banking sector projects a total of 50 billion reais (\$9.7 billion) in technology investment this year.

— Xinhua

Second auto show in a month opens in Nepal, with strong Chinese brand presence

NEPAL'S 18th NADA Auto Show kicked off here on Tuesday, bringing together more than 50 vehicle brands. This is the second large-scale international auto show held in Nepal this month.

Organized by the NADA Automobiles Association of Nepal, the five-day exhibition features around 200 stalls displaying four-wheelers, two-wheelers, auto parts and related services. The show features 23 light passenger vehicle brands, 17 light commercial vehicle



A robot of Unitree Robotics is pictured at the 18th NADA Auto Show in Kathmandu, Nepal, 25 August 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

brands and 13 two-wheeler brands. Chinese automobile brands have a strong presence at the exhibition, with brands including BYD,

Geely, Aion, Great Wall Motors, and Foton showcasing their products.

Inaugurating the exhibition, Nepali Vice-President Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav called for greater promotion of electric vehicles alongside the development of domestic automobile manufacturing.

"The widespread use of electric vehicles directly helps reduce dependence on fuel imports and thereby contributes to narrowing the country's trade deficit," Yadav said.

— Xinhua

Vietnam plans vehicle restrictions in southern hub

VIETNAM'S southern hub Ho Chi Minh City has proposed gradually restricting gasoline and diesel vehicles in its central area and Thu Thiem new urban area from July next year as part of a plan to establish a low-emission zone (LEZ), local media VnExpress reported Wednesday.

The proposal, which aims to control transport emissions, calls for emission requirements for different categories of vehicles to be tightened in phases.

By 2035, most vehicles operating within the LEZ are expected to use electricity or other green energy, while the city aims to complete the transition to green vehicles by 2040, the report added.

The proposal is currently open for feedback, the report said.

— Xinhua

TENDER INVITATION

- China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Myanmar Limited) is inviting tenders for a subcontract of Temporary Steel Trestle Bridge Works for ASK Development Project.
- Work Description –
 - Temporary Steel Trestle Bridge: 100 meters in length with a total deck width of 9 meters.
 - Unloading Platform: 12 meters in length with a total deck width of 24 meters.
 - Structural Composition: The steel trestle and unloading platform utilize a steel pipe pile and Bailey panel/steel section trestle structure.
 - Pile Top Main Beams: Double 45a I-beams.
 - Main Beams: Bailey beams, H700a sections, and H588a sections.
 - Distribution Beams: 25a I-beams.
 - Decking: 10mm thick checkered steel plate.
- Work Scope – The selected subcontractor shall be solely responsible for the arrangement, mobilization, and supply of all necessary resources, including but not limited to:
 - Personnel: Skilled labor for steel structure processing, fabrication, and erection.
 - Machinery & Equipment: Crawler cranes, pile-driving machine, and all associated heavy machinery.
 - Tools & Consumables: Small tools and auxiliary materials (including cutting torches, oxygen, propane, cutting tips, welding machines, and welding electrodes).
 - Temporary Utilities: Site utilities required for construction (including lighting fixtures, three-level distribution boxes, cables, and related apparatus).
- Bid Submission Deadline: August 31, 2026
- Bid Submission Address: BP-2, Shwe Zabu River View Condo, Kyee Myindaing Kanner Road, Alone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
- Contact information for more details:
 - Email: yuhuiguan53@gmail.com
 - Phone: +95(9)696810283

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0102N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0102N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-8-2026** 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 HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B83RS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B83RS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **27-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Chinese president to visit
Kyrgyzstan and Egypt

At the Bishkek Summit, Xi will have in-depth exchanges of views with participating leaders on deepening SCO cooperation in various

FROM 30 August to 3 September, Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) Summit 2026 in Bishkek, and pay a state visit to Kyrgyzstan and Egypt upon the invitation of President Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyzstan and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt, the Chinese foreign ministry announced on Wednesday.

This year marks the 25th founding anniversary of the SCO. At the Bishkek Summit, Xi will have in-depth exchanges



This photo taken on 24 October 2023 shows the Manas statue at the Ala-Too Square in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

of views with participating leaders on deepening SCO cooperation in various fields under the new circumstances and

major international and regional issues, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a regular news briefing when

asked for more information about the trip.

They will provide guidance for the SCO's high-quality development and participation in the reform and development of the global governance system, Lin said. During his stay in Kyrgyzstan, Xi will have an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations, cooperation in key areas, and international and regional situation with his Kyrgyz counterpart in their talks, and attend various state events, Lin noted. — Xinhua

Indian companies step up acquisitions
for AI, technology and talent: Crisil

INDIAN companies across sectors such as artificial intelligence, enterprise technology, pharmaceuticals and consumer businesses are increasingly turning to acquisitions to gain technology, talent and intellectual property capabilities as merger and acquisition activity broadens across India Inc, according to Crisil Ratings.

The ratings agency said mergers and acquisitions are evolving from an occasional growth option into a core strategic tool

for companies seeking to scale faster, enter new markets and acquire capabilities that would take

longer to build internally. "Indian corporates are increasingly using M&As to accelerate



Indian companies expand strategic business acquisitions to boost technology and talent. PHOTO: ANI

growth, expand market access and acquire capabilities that would take years to build organically. This is reflected in annual deal volumes, which have more than doubled since fiscal 2017," Subodh Rai, Managing Director, Crisil Ratings, said.

Crisil's analysis covers around 600 deals valued above Rs 500 crore each across 20 sectors, excluding financial services, infrastructure, private equity-led and inbound transactions. — ANI

German airport worker dies of malaria

A Frankfurt Airport worker has died of malaria after a rare outbreak led to six employees contracting the serious infection spread by mosquitoes.

It is believed the mos-

quitoes arrived at Germany's busiest airport on a plane, according to German public health officials.

The remaining five infected individuals are receiving medical treatment,

a spokesperson for airport operator Fraport said.

Traps have been installed at the airport and mosquitoes captured will be analysed in a laboratory to determine their species

and origin.

"Sadly, we must confirm that one employee has died as a result of the infection," the Fraport spokesperson told the BBC. — AFP

Flags lowered for
Dolly Parton

FLAGS across the United States were flying at half-staff Wednesday and grieving fans gathered in the late country music star Dolly Parton's hometown in Tennessee as the nation paid tribute to the beloved cultural icon.

Parton, who rose from grinding poverty to become a rhinestone-studded entertainment giant with hits like "Jolene" and "9 to 5", has died at 80, her family

announced Tuesday.

Parton was more than a singer -- she wrote 3,000 songs, starred in major Hollywood films and donated millions to charities in her home state and beyond.

She was also an accomplished businesswoman, with interests spanning from her popular Dollywood theme park to cosmetics, pet apparel, baking mixes and even a truck stop. — AFP



Parton was more than a singer -- she wrote 3,000 songs, starred in major Hollywood films and donated millions to charities in her home state and beyond. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran says US to achieve nothing
through economic pressure

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday that the United States will not achieve anything through its economic pressure against Iran. He made the remarks at a meeting in the capital Tehran to discuss the latest situation of Iran's major monetary, foreign currency and financial indices. Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, Central Bank Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati and a group of prominent economists attended the meeting, according to a statement published on the website of his office. Pezeshkian said that although Iran seeks to resolve issues through engagement and negotiation, it will, at the same time, stand firm against economic pressure, as it has so far. — Xinhua

WA appeals Fortescue Aboriginal
compensation ruling

THE state government of Western Australia (WA) said on Wednesday that it will appeal a compensation ruling against mining giant Fortescue over iron ore mines that were built without the permission of Aboriginal traditional owners.

The Federal Court in May ordered Fortescue to pay the Yindjibarndi people of WA's northern Pilbara region 150.3 million Australian dollars (US\$107.9 million) for cultural and economic losses caused by four iron ore mines that were built without permission from the Yindjibarndi Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation (YNAC). — Xinhua

SPORTS

Spurs sign Marmoush from City

TOTTENHAM Hotspur have agreed a season-long loan deal with Manchester City for Egypt forward Omar Marmoush, with an obligation to buy for £60 million (\$82 million) next year, according to British media on Wednesday.

Both Sky Sports and the Press Association said Marmoush was set to undergo a medical at Spurs before completing the move.

Marmoush is now on course to become Tottenham's second signing from City in a matter of days after Brazil winger Savio joined Tuesday for

a reported initial fee of £75 million.

Tottenham's overall outlay in the summer transfer window now stands at beyond £300 million, with Sandro Tonali, Mateus Fernandes, Jan Paul van Hecke, Andy Robertson and Marcos Senesi all having joined the north London club before the arrival of Savinho, who now wishes to be known as Savio.

But despite the influx of new players, Spurs started their Premier League season with a woeful 3-0 loss away to Brentford last weekend.

— AFP



Egypt striker Omar Marmoush in action for Manchester City during their FA Cup semifinal win over Southampton last season. PHOTO: AFP

Mon State wins men's and women's gold in Doubles Sepak Takraw events

MON State won gold medals in both the men's and women's doubles team events at the 2026 Inter-Region and State Sepak Takraw Championships being held at Sports Hall A of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

The championships are jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports, and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation to develop new-generation athletes and raise the standard of Sepak Takraw.

In the men's event,



Players from opposing teams are in action.

Mon State beat Nay Pyi Taw 2-1 in the final, while Sagaing Region defeated Rakhine State 2-0 to take third place. In the women's event, Mon State beat Magway Region 2-0 in the final, while Rakhine State defeated Ayeyawady Region 2-0 for third place.

The men's regu event and the women's regu round-robin matches will continue from 9 am today.

— MNA/KZL

Barcelona pursuit of Alvarez continues

BARCELONA remain hopeful of signing Julian Alvarez before the transfer window closes, club president Joan Laporta said Wednesday, but Atletico Madrid continue to resist attempts to prise away the Argentina forward.

Barca coach Hansi Flick acknowledged that the club could end the summer without signing a new striker if their pursuit of Alvarez ultimately fails.

The Catalan giants have made Alvarez their prime target, with Spanish media reporting Laporta's stance is effectively "Alvarez or nobody" as Barca seek to strengthen their attack following the departures of Robert Lewandowski and Ferran Torres.

Atletico, however, have repeatedly stated the 2022 World Cup winner is not for sale. Asked by AFP for comment, an Atletico source said the club

had made their position clear already on multiple occasions.

Alvarez, 26, missed Atletico training on Wednesday due to illness, days after being jeered by some of his own supporters during Sunday's 2-2 La Liga draw against Villarreal.

Barcelona's interest in Alvarez has been public for months, and the player said during the World Cup that he would like to leave. — AFP

Asian Games chiefs hold talks as participant numbers balloon

JAPANESE Asian Games organisers said Wednesday they were holding "regular discussions" with Asian Olympic chiefs after a report claimed they had asked for the ballooning number of participants to be scaled back.

About 15,000 athletes and officials were initially expected at the Games, which are being held in Nagoya and the wider Aichi area from 19 September to 4 October.

But an Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) press release last week put the number at 17,000 — 11,000 athletes and 6,000 officials — potentially putting a strain on accommodation.

There is no dedicated



Japan prepares venues and accommodations for upcoming major Asian Games competition. PHOTO: AFP

athletes' village, organisers instead relying on a cruise ship, wooden containers and hotels.

Japan's Kyodo news

agency said the local organising committee has asked the OCA to address the surge in numbers.

The organising commit-

tee told AFP that they would "prefer not to comment on the details of our discussions with the OCA".

"We are sharing information with the OCA, the event organiser, regarding the registration status of the various national teams, and are holding regular discussions with them regarding arrangements such as accommodation for the teams," a spokesperson said.

AFP has contacted the OCA for comment.

Organisers have opted for temporary athlete accommodation to cut costs, hiring the Italian cruise ship Costa Serena for the event. — AFP

Olympic champion Liu skips season

THE women's Olympic figure skating champion Alysa Liu, 21, announced Wednesday that she will not take part in any competitions in the upcoming season.

The American won gold in both the women's individual and team event at the Milan-Cortina Games earlier this year.

"While people are announcing programs, imma take this time to announce that I will not be competing this season," she said on her social media.

"I always want to challenge myself in new ways, so my artistry & skating can evolve. It's important to me that my sport reflects my personal growth."

It's not the first break that she has taken from the sport.

A former child prodigy and the youngest US champion at 13, Liu retired in 2022 when she was just 16, worn out by elite competition. She then laced up her skates again two years later. — AFP



WORLD

Iran, Oman agree at Hormuz talks to share revenue from shipping fees through strait

IRAN and Oman have agreed to share revenue from shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesman Hossein Mohebbi said on Wednesday.

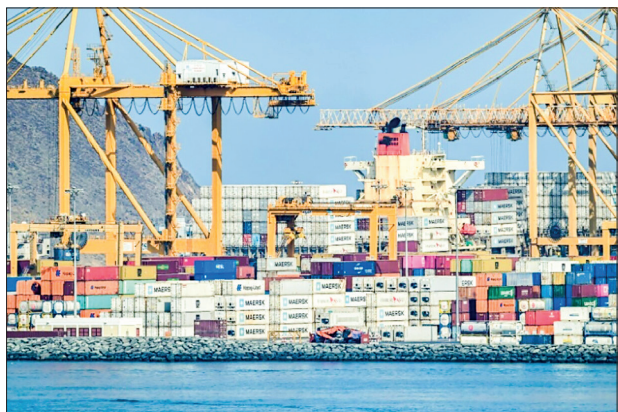
On Tuesday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said it discussed the creation of a temporary shipping corridor through the Strait of Hormuz and joint demining of the route with Oman.

"During these negotiations, agreements were reached on the share of each side in the waters of

the strait, as well as on the share of income of Iran and Oman," Mohebbi said.

The strait will remain closed until the United States accepts the Iranian conditions, Mohebbi added.

Tehran has previously stated that a condition for the opening of the Strait of Hormuz is the fulfillment by the United States of the memorandum on ending the conflict, including provisions concerning the cessation of hostilities "on all fronts" and the lifting of the naval blockade. — SPUTNIK



Traffic picked up visibly at the Khorfakkan container terminal on the Gulf of Oman, UAE. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Mekong river floods affect thousands in Cambodia

THE flooding of the Mekong River has affected 13,688 families across four Cambodian provinces, forcing 1,551 families to evacuate to higher ground, a disaster control spokesperson said Tuesday.

Soth Kim Kolmony, spokesperson for the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), said Kratie, Tboung Khmum, Stung Treng, and Kampong Cham provinces have faced severe flooding since last Friday, triggered by the aftermath of Typhoon

Saudel.

"Among them, Kratie and Tboung Khmum were hit the hardest, affecting 7,934 and 3,951 families respectively," Kolmony said.

He said the rising waters have inundated over 9,000 homes and submerged over 4,000 hectares of rice paddies. No casualties have been reported. Cambodia regularly experiences flash floods of the Mekong River between July and October, with NCDM data showing 19 fatalities from floods last year. — Xinhua

Putin, Syrian president praise deal to reorganize Russian bases at Khmeimim and Tartus: Kremlin

Russian President Vladimir Putin held strategic telephone discussions with Syrian leadership.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Syrian transitional President Ahmed al-Sharaa highlighted the importance of a memorandum on reorganizing the Khmeimim airbase and the logistics support facility in Tartus, the Kremlin said.

"Both sides noted the importance of the memorandum of understanding signed on 9 August on the reorganization of the Khmeimim airbase and the logistics support facility in Tartus," the Kremlin said in a statement.

Putin held a phone call with al-Sharaa on Wednesday. — SPUTNIK



Russian service members attend a welcome ceremony for Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Khmeimim Air Base in Latakia, Syria, on 11 December 2017. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE**

US revokes asylum seekers' visas

THE US government plans to revoke the visas of foreigners who came to the country for tourism or business but sought to stay longer by applying for

asylum, the State Department said Tuesday. The crackdown marks another step in the Trump administration's signature drive to reduce immigration into

the United States.

The administration said it is now working with the Department of Homeland Security to identify and revoke the visas of

people who, it said, came to America billing themselves as temporary visitors but then applied for asylum so they could stay permanently. — AFP

Indian exporters continue Iran rice trade routes

INDIAN rice exports to the Middle East have remained resilient despite the economic crisis in Iran, with exporters saying trade with the country is likely to continue uninterrupted as shipments are increasingly routed through alternative destinations amid US sanctions.

Iran purchased more than one million tonnes of rice from India in the last financial year, an increase of 17 per cent from



Iran remains the second-largest market for Indian basmati rice globally and imports around 1 million tonnes of rice from India annually. **PHOTO: ANI**

a year earlier, according to government data.

Exporters said the rise underlines the importance of the Iranian market and reflects the ability of Indian suppliers to keep shipments and payments moving despite geopolitical and logistical challenges.

Speaking to ANI, Dev Garg, Vice-President of the Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF), said Iran remains the second-largest market for Indian basmati rice globally and imports around one million tonnes of rice from India annually. — ANI