

President of Republic of Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing to make Official Visit to Kingdom of Thailand

At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand His Excellency Mr Anutin Char-nvirakul, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing will pay an Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand in the near future.

During the visit, the President of Myanmar will meet with the Prime Minister of Thailand and hold bilateral talks, as well as meet the Acting President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand. Additionally, the President will receive representatives from economic organizations and will attend the Business Forum.

During the visit, the President will engage in cordial and open exchange of views to further consolidate the existing friendly relations and implement mutually beneficial cooperation in economic, cultural, and other areas between the two governments and peoples.

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



This image shows the Kanbawza Yeiktha (Chin Tsong Palace) in Yangon Region, where a bronze plaque marking its status as a heritage building is installed.

6,100+ Century-Old Heritage Buildings Preserved Nationwide

A total of 6,105 buildings more than 100 years old are now under conservation as heritage buildings nationwide, including 153 in Yangon Region, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Yangon Branch) under the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture.

As of 2020, there were a total of 5,708 heritage buildings aged more than 100 years across the country.

The department also stated that ceremonies to install bronze plaques designating heritage buildings were held on 28 July at Kanbawza Yeiktha (Chin Tsong Palace) and the Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Yangon Region. — ASH/KNN

ME in Cairo urges nationals to stay alert after 5.5-magnitude quake

A 5.5-magnitude earthquake struck near Cairo, Egypt, on 3 August, and the Embassy of Myanmar in Cairo has advised Myanmar nationals living in Egypt to remain alert and take necessary precautions.

According to the embassy's statement, a moderate earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck at around 3 am on 3 August, with its epicentre near Cairo. The tremour was felt noticeably for several minutes.

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This photo captures the Qasr Al Nile Bridge on a sunny day in Cairo, Egypt, on 16 May 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

MTF, ITE Russia Discuss Tourism Cooperation MoU

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) and ITE Russia held preliminary online talks on a proposed memorandum of understanding to boost tourism and establish long-term cooperation on 27 July, the federation said.

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Free fuel for voluntary groups helping in Laymyethna flood

NATIONAL

ICRC Resident Representative to Myanmar meets Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



MR Arnaud de Baecque, the ICRC Resident Representative to Myanmar, met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday morning. — MNA

4 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 5 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of U Tha Htay, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Thein Ko Ko, Daw Pyone Pyone Aye, U Win Myint and Daw Thin Thin Cho was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw and passed judgements for four special civil appeal cases – Nos: 48/2025 (Yangon), 8/2026 (Kachin), 18/2026 (Yangon), and 19/2026 (Yangon).

In addition, a total of five special civil appeal cases – Nos: 10/2026 (Mandalay), 12/2026 (Yangon), 13/2026 (Mandalay), 20/2026 (Ayeyawady), and 24/2026 (Mon) – were heard. — MNA

Shwedagon to host Myitta Akhadaw Day ceremony and 84,000-flower offering on Wagaung Full Moon Day

ACCORDING to U Bo Thin, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, the Myitta Akhadaw Day ceremony and the offering of 84,000 assorted flowers will be held at the Shwedagon Pagoda.

As the Shwedagon Pagoda celebrates various religious festivals throughout the year, the Metta Day ceremony will also be held at the Ancient Buddha Image Prayer Hall at the platform of the pagoda on 28 August (the Wagaung Full Moon Day).

“On the Wagaung Full Moon Day, 84,000 assorted flowers will be offered at the Shwedagon Pagoda. At 5:30 am, members of the Pagoda Board



This image displays a special day ceremony held at Shwedagon Pagoda.

of Trustees, religious associations and staff will offer dawn alms meals, together with fruit, flowers, water, lights and incense sticks, at the Shwedagon Pagoda. At 6 am, the Myitta Day ceremony will be held at the Ancient Buddha Image Prayer Hall. At 7 am, small Cetis made

of assorted flowers will be carried clockwise from the Ancient Buddha Image Prayer Hall to the pagoda platform. Afterwards, flower Cetis will be offered to the Padamya Myetshin Buddha Image. Pilgrims are also scheduled to observe the Sabbath, participate in a merit-sharing cere-

mony, and offer day alms meals to the Ovadacariya Sayadaws and invited Sayadaws,” said U Bo Thin.

Due to the increasing number of pilgrims, the Shwedagon Pagoda has been open from 4 am to 10 pm since 21 June 2024 to allow worshippers to pray in peace. — ASH/MKKS

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Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday 3 August 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: The monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 4 AUGUST 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Upper Sagaing Regions and Kachin and Shan States. 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, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan States. In the area 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: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar

Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hours. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase in rain in Mandalay, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 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 4 AUGUST 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 4 AUGUST 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 34

Issued at 8 am MST on 3 August 2026

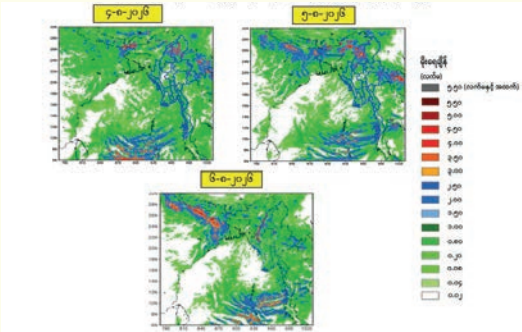
ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the moderate to strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and due to the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw,

Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from today morning to 6 August 2026.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the moderate to strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the Depression area over the West Bengal Coast near west Haldia, India, and such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



NATIONAL

Govt Peace Committee holds second round of talks with UWSP

MYANMAR'S National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) held a second round of peace talks with the United Wa State Party (UWSP) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, focusing on advancing the peace process, political dialogue and regional development.

The meeting took place at the Horizon Lake View Hotel following the government's 21 April invitation for unconditional peace talks aimed at ending armed conflicts and resolving political

cal issues through political means.

The government delegation was led by Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, chairman of the NSPNC, while the UWSP delegation was headed by Vice-Chairman U Xiao Guoan.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the meeting marked the second dialogue between the two sides since the formation of the new government. He called for continued discussions to improve the political environment and address practical is-

sues, including education, healthcare, transport infrastructure and regional development.

The UWSP Vice-Chairman congratulated President U Min Aung Hlaing on assuming the presidency and reaffirmed the party's commitment to safeguarding the Union and supporting the government's ongoing peace process. He said the UWSP remained committed to resolving differences through dialogue and would continue cooperating to combat narcot-



The second meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the United Wa State Party is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

ics, online scams and other crimes while ensuring public security.

During the talks, both sides also discussed the UWSP's political aspirations within the framework of the 2008 Constitution, the national reconciliation process, and cooperation in healthcare, education,

agriculture, livestock and regional development.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing said discussions held in Pangsang on 18 June had strengthened high-level communication between the two sides and paved the way for the current meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. He said maintaining a

direct communication channel between the NSPNC and UWSP would facilitate cooperation on development projects and contribute to achieving sustainable peace.

The first day of the talks concluded, with discussions scheduled to resume on 4 August. — MNA/ST

Kyauktan I and II weirs under construction to supply Kyaukpyu SEZ

THE Rakhine State government stated that Kyauktan I and II weirs are being constructed on Maday Island to store water for the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Naing Oo inspected the construction works on 29 July, accompanied by the deputy speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw and state ministers.

During the visit, the chief minister also inspected the operations of the South-East Asia Oil and Gas Pipeline Project on Maday Island, including oil and gas transport through pipelines, safety equipment installed at the

project site, fire prevention measures, oil tankers at the project's port, and the transfer of fuel oil from tankers to storage tanks.

In Kyaukpyu Township, the chief minister inspected regional development projects being implemented by the State Government, including the condition of the Ngalapwayt saltwater embankment in Pyinphyumaw Ward, the completion of parapet construction on the embankment, the installation of a solar dryer drone in the ward, and the site of gas turbines for supplying electricity to Kyaukpyu Township. — Tin Htun (IPRD)/MKKS



MoFA Dy Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They exchanged views on ways and means to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations and discussed consular affairs and cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including trade and energy. — MoFA

Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw shakes hands with the Bangladeshi ambassador.

Geophysical surveys initiated for safety, durability, and sustainability of Inya Lake

ACCORDING to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), geophysical surveys have been underway since 16 July to ensure the safety, structural integrity, and sustainability of Inya Lake, one of Yangon's iconic natural environments and water conservation zones.

These exploratory operations are being

conducted in detail by officials from the YCDC Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), in collaboration with experts from the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department. They are utilizing theoretical and field-based technical methods to assess the lake's subsurface formation, the stability of its dams, and groundwater

seepage conditions.

Following this, necessary maintenance works will be continuously implemented based on the results obtained from these geophysical surveys.

Inya Lake was initially constructed as a reservoir during the British colonial era (1882-1883) to supply drinking water to Yangon. Originally, it

was called Kokkine Lake, named after a nearby village, and later named Lake Victoria after the British Queen. It was officially renamed Inya Lake after Myanmar regained independence. Records show that water from this lake was once piped to Kandawgyi Lake in the city centre to distribute water across the entire city of Yangon. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

Laymyethna flood victims receive relief, food items

THE Ayeyawady Region government provided rice, medicines and essential food items to flood-affected residents at the Dauntgyi Village Monastery Dhamma Hall, Nyaungwine Village and Paukgon Village Monastery in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

The region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw, accompanied by relevant officials, provided these items to the flood victims in person.

Hluttaw representatives met the residents and encouraged them, while officials from the Region Public Health and Medical Services Department provided health

awareness talks.

They also inspected the completion of embankment reinforcement works to control water flow from the old embankment towards the embankment area, where floodwaters overflowed after breaking through the Ngawun embankment's lower riverbank sand ridge. They also inspected the ongoing construction of left and right-side flood barriers at the embankment water inlet, the storage of necessary materials, and the completion of Geo Bag preparations to prevent deep water currents.

Since floodwaters entered wards and village



Residents are provided with relief and food supplies.

tracts, rescue and relief operations have been jointly carried out by departmental officials, local military units, Myanmar Police Force members, Fire Brigade members, auxiliary firefighters, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and social or-

ganizations. Moreover, charitable organizations, individual donors, social groups and artistes from various regions and states have been providing relief supplies daily in coordination with the relevant coordination offices. — IPRD/KTZH

Free fuel for voluntary groups helping in Laymyethna flood

FUEL has been distributed free to voluntary groups and departmental organizations that have carried out rescue work in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, which has been flooded due to a leak in the Ngawun Dam, according to the Ayeyawady Region government.

Under the regional government's arrangement and with close supervision by the Petroleum Product Regulatory Department, free fuel has been provided to rescue vehicles and vessels.

Altogether, 158 gallons

of gasoline and 53 gallons of diesel were provided free of charge to rescue groups on 2 August, said the regional government, adding that the fuel supply will continue.

During the flood event, 1,734 houses and 1764 families in 10 wards or village tracts, as well as 6,371 rain-fed paddy acres owned by 2,593 farmers in six village-tracts, are still under water. According to statistics on 2 August, more than 14,000 people have been affected by the flood in Laymyethna. —

TWA/ZS

Tonzang residents seek restoration of telephone, electricity services



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo presents foodstuffs to a Tonzang resident.

THE meeting with departmental officials and town elders was held at the Township General Administration Department Hall in Tonzang Township yesterday.

During the meeting, town elders raised concerns about the restoration of telephone services and electricity supply.

Deputy Minister Maj-

Gen Kyaw Swa Oo explained that efforts were underway to restore telephone services. He added that electricity in Tonzang was currently being supplied from a 300 kVA diesel generator on a scheduled basis from 7 pm to 9:30 pm daily, and that efforts were being made to extend the supply hours.

The deputy minister also presented rice, cooking oil, salt and gram, provided by the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, to departmental staff and residents who

had returned after temporary displacement. The supplies were received by departmental officials and town elders.

The deputy minister, together with state ministers, a Chin State Hluttaw representative and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, also opened the Tonzang Branch of Myanmar Economic Bank. They inspected the bank's operations and preparations for the provision of e-pension services. — MNA/MKKS



A boat carrying relief aid supplies in Laymyethna Township.

International Youth Day

12 August 2026 (Wednesday)

INTERNATIONAL
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NATIONAL

Mongyang's MSY village project loans disbursed



A village representative receives the fund in Mongyang District, eastern Shan State.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project in Aungmyay Seesar Village, Mongyang Township, yesterday.

Mongyang Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Moe Khine explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds.

Officials explained project activities, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K30.3 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation group.

Aungmyay Seesar Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K30.3 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project implementation group disbursed revolving loans at a low interest rate to 24 members from the village engaged in systematic agricultural, livestock breeding and trading activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

ME in Cairo urges nationals to stay alert after 5.5-magnitude quake

FROM PAGE 1

The embassy has urged Myanmar nationals in Egypt to pay close attention to earthquake safety measures and to turn on earthquake alerts on their mobile phones.

It also advised them to keep important documents, including pass-

ports and visa cards, in places where they can be easily accessed. The embassy stated that Myanmar nationals who experience injuries or emergencies caused by earthquakes or other natural disasters should contact the Embassy of Myanmar for assistance. — MT/ZN

MPT launches TikTok campaign

MPT will be holding the “Dance with MPT, Growth with MPT” TikTok campaign from 28 July to 27 September to encourage the creativity and entertainment enthusiasm of youth, and to connect more closely with its users.

Participants can be MPT SIM card users (including MPT eSIM), and it is required to follow the MPT Official TikTok Account (@mptofficialpage). Participants must use the campaign’s official theme song to create a dance video and may take part by performing either the official choreography or their own original dance routine. Participants must upload their video publicly, mention @MPTOfficial-

Page, include the hash-tags #DanceWithMPT, #WeLoveMPT, and #FYP, and send a screenshot of the post to the MPT Inbox. Additionally, the “Growth with MPT TikTok Reward” programme is being held for MPT’s followers.

A total of 44 winners out of those who love and repost any of their favourite videos will be selected based on genuine likes, shares, comments, bookmarks, and video views. The prizes to be awarded are K1.5 million each for the two first-prize winners, K500,000 each for the two second-prize winners, and 10GB of MPT data each for 40 “Best Dance Contributors”.

160 randomly se-



A poster for the “Dance with MPT, Growth with MPT” TikTok campaign.

lected individuals will be awarded 2GB of MPT data each. The winners will be announced on MPT’s official Facebook and TikTok pages, and they will be notified via TikTok Inbox. — MT/ZN

Scania Marcopolo YBS service resumes after 5-year hiatus



Scania Marcopolo buses start resuming the Sule-Dala route.

THE Scania Marcopolo Torino Low Entry City Bus resumed service on the Sule-Dala (Civil Servants’ Housing) route on 1 August, returning to operation after a five-year hiatus.

The bus was initially introduced under the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Lite system before being reassigned to the YBS 37 route. Following a five-year suspension of service, it has now returned to operation on the Sule-Dala route as part of the Yangon Bus Service (YBS) network.

In addition to Sule-Dala (civil servants’ housing), the bus line also provides public transport; Sule-Dala (Kyaung Shae), Sule-Dala (Cherry jetty) and Dala-Twantay daily from 5-6 am to 6-7 pm.

“It is quite good for passengers after a break for years. It is good to see the bus service is now back to YBS routes,” said passengers. — MT/ZS

MTF, ITE Russia Discuss Tourism Cooperation MoU

FROM PAGE 1

ITE Russia representative Mr John, along with MTF’s chairman and executive members, attended the online session.

Mr. John clarified that the proposed MOU is non-binding in both legal and financial terms. Furthermore, it would promote Myanmar’s tourism industry in Russia, Uzbekistan, and other CIS markets and enable joint efforts to enhance the visibility of ITE exhibitions within Myanmar. ITE’s Connect Digital B2B platform currently has over 260,000 active users and invited Myanmar tourism businesses to join.

The MTF chairman said the non-binding nature of the proposed MoU made it an appropriate framework for cooperation. He added that its effective implementation would support joint promotional activities, raise Myanmar’s international tourism profile, attract more visitors to the country’s destinations, and bring significant benefits to the sector, particularly if Myanmar is featured on ITE Group’s platforms as a tourism destination.

The draft MOU will be further reviewed at the next meeting, officials said. The session concluded with a Q&A segment. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

People's Military Service Training 27 begins nationwide

THE opening ceremonies for People's Military Service Training 27 were held yesterday at various military commands, with commandants of the training depots delivering opening speeches.

Ceremonies were attended by chief ministers of the respective regions and states, commanders of the relevant commands, and other officials. Trainees were presented with cash awards, foodstuffs and essential items.

The People's Military Service Law was enacted as every citizen has a duty to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of sovereignty. The law came into effect on 10 February 2024 to facilitate the organization of military training courses. Those who have completed the People's Military Service Training are now serving in various military units, fulfilling their responsibilities for national defence and security. — MNA/KTZH



The commander of the Triangle Region Command warmly greets the Training 27 recruits.

Ethnic armed groups allegedly charge fees to move online scam suspects to Myanmar-Thailand border

THE Myanmar government is cooperating with neighbouring countries, regional partners and international organizations to eliminate online gambling fraud and prevent such activities from being established in Myanmar.

In this regard, Tatmadaw columns conducted security operations in Myawady Township, Kayin State, and clashed with KNLA and PDF groups accused of protecting online gambling fraud operators in exchange for payment.

On 27 July, authorities announced the arrest of 777 people involved in online gambling fraud, including 620 Chinese men, 11 Chinese women, three Thai women, 32 Myanmar men and 111 Myanmar women. They also seized one Starlink receiver, 85 computers and 183 mobile phones used in the scams.

The detainees have been taken to Myawady for investigation in accordance with legal procedures. Upon completion of the investigations, legal action will be taken, and the seized equipment will be dealt with according to regulations.

On 17 and 18 July, some ethnic armed groups transported about 210 foreign nationals involved in online gambling scams from Kyaukkhat Village to the Myanmar-Thailand border after receiving payments, before they fled to Thailand.

The authorities are cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries and international organizations to identify and arrest those involved in online gambling scams, including foreign nationals behind such operations, and take strict action against them. The government is also working to repatriate foreigners who are victims of trafficking or facing difficulties in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS



This image reveals illegal movement of illicit online scammers in Myawady, Kayin State.

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 3 August 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,661.50~3663.00	557.00~558.00	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	7,885,588.88	2,902,874.01	25,960,560.07	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, fertilizers, telecommunications equipment, construction equipment, animal feed, car/motorcycle spare parts, and electronic goods. US\$1.65 million was sold to the edible oil sector from revenue of the CMP sector. — MNA

Tatmadaw's (Air) fighter crashes after bird strike during training

A fighter aircraft of Tatmadaw (Air) was involved in an accident during a training flight at about 5:16 am yesterday after experiencing a bird strike near Nyaunghnapin Village, about 8.5 kilometres south-east of Hmawby Township, Yangon Region. According to the report, the bird was ingested into the aircraft's engine, causing an engine fire. The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft away from residential areas before ejecting safely.

The security officials proceeded to the crash site to carry out necessary security and recovery operations. No aircrew members on board were injured in the incident. — MNA/KTZH

Village revolving funds disbursed in Kyaukse



The handover ceremony for the Emerald Green project funds is underway in Kyaukse Township.

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed loans under the Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) to residents of Yedwinpyae Village on the morning of 3 August at the village meeting hall in Kyaukse Township.

Daw Myat Su Aung, Head of the Kyaukse Township Department of Rural Development explained the objectives and benefits of the Village Revolving Fund Project. The project officer then briefed participants on the loan regulations, interest rate, and the repayment schedule for both principal and interest.

Following the briefing, under the supervision of the project staff, members of the project committee systematically disbursed a total of K12.5 million in low-interest loans directly to 36 beneficiaries, comprising 11 agricultural workers, 20 livestock breeders, and 5 small-scale traders from the village.

According to the Kyaukse Township Department of Rural Development, the implementation of the Village Revolving Fund Project in Yedwinpyae Village has enabled rural residents to expand small-scale income-generating activities, contributing to improved socioeconomic conditions and a reduction in poverty. — Ah Htwe (CRD)

NATIONAL

PyinOoLwin's MSY village project loans disbursed



A village representative receives the Emerald Green project fund in PyinOoLwin Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Nyaunggon Village, PyinOoLwin Township, yesterday.

PyinOoLwin District Department of Rural Development Head U Set Naing Tun explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. The PyinOoLwin

Township Department of Rural Development Head and officials explained project activities, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed. They handed over K59.1 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation group.

Nyaunggon Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K59.1 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the district head, members of the project implementation group disbursed the 10th round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 45 members from the village engaged in agricultural activities. — Karan (Rural)

Repair and reconstruction underway at Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project

RECONSTRUCTION and repair work is underway at the Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project, which suffered extensive damage as a result of attacks by armed terrorist groups during June 2024.

The attacks targeted the project headquarters in Kyaukme and facilities at the Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project construction site. Damaged or stolen property included buildings, State-owned vehicles and heavy machinery, construction equipment, generators, quality control office equipment, meteorological and hydrological monitoring instruments, imported electrical and mechanical equipment, substations, transmission lines, transformers and related components.

One office building at the Kyaukme project headquarters and one staff residence at the Upper Yeywa project site were also destroyed by fire. Restoration and reconstruction work is currently being carried out at both locations.

The attacks caused losses estimated at K800 million at the Kyaukme project headquarters, while damage to buildings, civil construction materi-



This image shows the damage to the control room of the tower crane.



This photo reveals the destruction of the machine panels.

als, machinery, vehicles, substations and transmission lines at the Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project is estimated at around K26 billion.

Detailed inspections and cost assessments of damaged imported electrical and mechanical equipment are being conducted jointly by the contracted foreign company and departmental engineers. Following improved security conditions, mine clearance operations were completed,

the reconstruction of the damaged office and staff housing at the Kyaukme project headquarters was finished during the 2025-2026 financial year. Transformer reinstallation and transmission line repairs will continue once power from the national grid is restored to Kyaukme.

At the Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project site, repair and upgrading works for access roads, the project office and staff housing, water and electricity supply systems, and

construction power lines have been underway since the 2026-2027 financial year. Further restoration of damaged facilities will continue with funding from the Union budget.

The 280-megawatt Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project is located on the Dokhtawady (Myitnge) River near Taungchay Village, about 20 miles south of Kyaukme in northern Shan State.

The project was launched in the 2010-2011 financial year and has now reached 53.95 per cent completion. It is scheduled for completion during the 2029-2030 financial year. Upon completion, the project is expected to generate an average of 1,409 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, supplying power through the national grid to approximately 3.7 million people across Shan State and other parts of Myanmar.

The government and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy are continuing to accelerate the implementation of power generation projects to help meet the country's growing electricity demand. — MNA/KTZH

Pinlaung's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Pinlaunggyi (East) Village, Pinlaung Township, yesterday.

Pinlaung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw

Swa explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials then explained project activities,

interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K62.5 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation group.

Pinlaunggyi (East) Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K62.5 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision

of the township head, members of the project implementation group disbursed the 10th round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 96 members from the village, including 63 people engaged in agricultural activities, 27 in trading businesses and six in brick-making activities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



The disbursement ceremony for the Emerald Green Funds is underway in Pinlaung Township, southern Shan State.

OPINION

Nurture babies with breast milks for their future

World Breastfeeding Week is observed in the first week of August every year in many countries across the world. Breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival, and yet currently, fewer than half of infants under six months old are exclusively breastfed.

Although various types of infant formula are available today, breast milk remains the most suitable source of nutrition for babies.

Caring for a newborn baby is of utmost importance, as it provides the initial nutrition and care that determine the child's overall health and development. The first and most essential step in newborn care is breastfeeding. Breast milk is regarded as a vital, life-giving source of nourishment that contains disease-fighting properties essential for strengthening a baby's immune system.

The fat contained in breast milk consists largely of health-promoting polyunsaturated fats, which are well suited to supporting a baby's growth and development.

Breast milk also contains vitamins A, B, C, and D. Its low mineral content is well suited to an infant's needs. Approximately 49 per cent of the iron in breast milk is absorbed and utilized by the body, so babies who are exclusively breastfed until about four months of age are less likely to develop iron-deficiency anaemia. Breast milk also contains iodine, which helps prevent goitre. Feeding a baby whenever he or she is hungry provides sufficient water to meet the infant's daily fluid requirements. Therefore, babies should be fed exclusively with breast milk, without any supplementary foods, until they are about four months old.

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A mother's breast milk is the most valuable nourishment because it is rich in the essential nutrients needed for a child's healthy growth and development. It is the ideal food for newborns, and its benefits extend far beyond meeting a baby's basic nutritional requirements.

Breast milk is the best first food for a baby because it contains all the essential nutrients in the right proportions to meet the baby's needs. It protects infants against infections, allergies, and various diseases. Because breast milk is clean, fresh, and naturally provided at the right temperature, it is easy to digest and helps prevent stomach problems in babies. In addition, breast milk changes over time to meet the baby's evolving nutritional needs and protects against certain illnesses.

Carbohydrates make up about seven per cent of breast milk and give it its natural sweetness. They provide babies with an important source of energy. Likewise, the fat in breast milk is a major source of the energy that infants need.

People's Health Foundation (PHF): WHO World No Tobacco Day Award Winner for 2026

A Commemorative Tribute Article for World No Tobacco Day

The People's Health Foundation (PHF) has been selected as a recipient of the World Health Organization (WHO) World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award 2026. The award is presented annually to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to tobacco control and the reduction of tobacco and tobacco-related product consumption. According to an official announcement, the award for 2026 was granted to the People's Health Foundation, headquartered at No 52, Chindwin Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

How Was the People's Health Foundation (PHF) Established?

The People's Health Foundation (PHF) was officially registered under the Organization Registration Law (State Administration Council Law No 46/2022 with registration number 1/Internal/0064 (2022).

The idea for establishing PHF began on 7 May 2012, when former President U Thein Sein met with former WHO South-



The Interim WHO Representative to Myanmar presents the World No Tobacco Day 2026 commemorative certificate to Dr Than Sein, Chairman of the Public Health Foundation.



Image of the 2026 WHO World No Tobacco Day award certificate.

East Asia Director Dr Than Sein together with the Minister for Health. During the meeting, the President emphasized the need for an independent non-governmental organization that could work freely at the grassroots level to support the healthcare sector during Myanmar's democratic transition.

He also encouraged the establishment of an organization capable of operating through international assistance or independently secured funding to implement comprehensive healthcare projects that would

also benefit the government. He noted that many health workers were unable to effectively reach rural and underserved communities, where people faced difficulties in accessing healthcare services due to low income and limited transport.

As a result, the People's Health Foundation was established with a total of ten executive committee members, including a chairperson and secretary.

What Has PHF Done?

The People's Health Foundation is one of the most prom-

inent local NGOs in Myanmar's health sector. It has actively participated in tobacco control activities and works closely with the Ministry of Health. PHF collaborates with people's representatives, government departments, volunteer and civil society organizations, as well as regional and international organizations on tobacco control matters.

The Foundation has contributed to tobacco control legislation, tobacco taxation policies, and the implementation of smoke-free areas in collaboration with regional government

By Soe Moe

authorities. It has also conducted educational and awareness activities, including training programs, painting competitions, cartoon competitions, and essay contests involving students from schools under the education sector.

PHF additionally composed educational poems on tobacco and betel chewing and organized group poetry recitation competitions in some schools. People's awareness campaigns were also carried out through television interviews and media engagement.

In 2013, with approval from the President's Office, the Ministry of Health transferred 32 charitable clinics in various states and regions to PHF. Beginning in 2014, the Foundation operated these clinics by appointing healthcare professionals to provide free medical care to the public. Due to funding limitations, PHF currently continues operating 23 clinics.

PHF has also cooperated with the Ministry of Health in improving tobacco control policies. Since Myanmar enacted the Tobacco Control Law in

May 2016, PHF has supported its implementation and provided technical advice to the Central Committee for Tobacco Control regarding the issuance of necessary notifications and directives to strengthen the law.

Furthermore, PHF conducted awareness meetings and implementation training programmes across states and regions to establish Smoke-Free Cities. As a result of these efforts, Bagan Region in Mandalay Region received the ASEAN Smoke-Free Award in 2024.

PHF also provided technical support for successfully implementing pictorial health warnings covering 75 per cent of cigarette packaging. The Foundation coordinated and advised on the implementation of standardized packaging for cigarette products, making Myanmar the third ASEAN country to successfully implement standardized tobacco packaging.

In addition, PHF provided technical support to the Ministry of Health in developing a Code of Conduct concerning interactions with the tobacco industry in ac-

cordance with Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

PHF has also systematically monitored and analyzed interference from the tobacco industry and reported relevant findings to ensure that tobacco control activities are not weakened by industry influence.

Control of E-Cigarettes and Emerging Nicotine Products

During the current period, new tobacco and nicotine products have rapidly expanded and increasingly threaten people's health, particularly targeting children and young people who represent the future generation. As a result, there is an urgent need to regulate and combat electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, heated tobacco products, electronic shisha, and similar modern devices.

Recognizing the need to address these emerging products, PHF collaborated with the Ministry of Health by organizing seminars for lawmakers, government departments, and health officials. The Foundation also proposed the necessary facts to formulate the draft laws and collected recommendations and

decisions from discussions to support restrictions on importing, using, storing, possessing, selling, and distributing such products.

These efforts significantly contributed to the Ministry of Health's decision to classify such products as special goods and impose a complete ban.

Conclusion

Based on international experiences and best practices, PHF continues to play a leading role in Myanmar's tobacco and nicotine control efforts, including combating electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products, electronic shisha, and similar devices.

The Foundation believes that its work helps protect young people from the harms of tobacco and electronic smoking products.

Under the WHO World No Tobacco Day Award programme held annually in commemoration of World No Tobacco Day 2026, the People's Health Foundation of Myanmar was selected as an award recipient from among countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region (SEARO).

This achievement is regarded as a source of pride for both the organization and Myanmar's efforts in tobacco control and the prohibition of e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products, electronic shisha, and related devices classified as special goods.

Child Psychology: What Every Parent and Teacher Needs to Know

Every adult who raises or teaches children has had that moment.

It is the moment a six-year-old suddenly melts down over the "wrong" colour cup, or an eighth-grader shuts down and refuses to open their math book. In those high-stress seconds, it is easy to view child behaviour through the lens of convenience: Are they listening? Are they obeying? Are they being good?

Child psychology invites us to flip that lens entirely. It asks a far more powerful question: "What is this behaviour telling us about what this child needs?"

Understanding how a child's mind develops isn't about mem-

orizing academic textbooks; it is about learning the unspoken language of childhood. Here is what parents and educators need to know to decode that language and help children thrive.

Behaviour Is Communication, Not Malice

Children rarely have the emotional vocabulary to say, "I am feeling overwhelmed by the noise in this classroom," or "I am anxious because you two were arguing last night."

Instead, they communicate through action:

Anxiety looks like stomach-aches, defiance, or clinging.

Overwhelm looks like tan-

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

trums, sensory seeking, or shutting down.

Insecurity looks like attention-seeking or extreme perfectionism.

Co-Regulation Precedes Self-Regulation

We often expect children to "calm down" on command. However, self-regulation is not an innate skill; it is a learned one that develops through co-regulation.

Children learn to soothe their own nervous systems by borrowing the calm of trusted adults. If an adult responds to a child's

chaos with adult chaos, the child's distress escalates. When an adult stays grounded, low-toned, and present, the child's brain gradually mirrors that stability.

Why Traditional Punishment Backfires

1. It Activates the "Survival Brain"

Punishment relies on fear, shame, or distress. When a child feels threatened, their brain shifts into a fight-or-flight state. In this mode, the prefrontal cortex—the area responsible for learning, reflection, and moral reasoning — shuts down. A child in a high-stress state isn't thinking, "I shouldn't have done that." They are thinking,

"I am unsafe" or "How do I avoid getting caught next time?"

2. It Teaches Concealment, Not Control

Punishment teaches children to become better at hiding their actions or lying to avoid consequences. It focuses entirely on avoiding getting caught rather than developing intrinsic values like honesty, empathy, or self-control.

3. It Misses the Root Cause

If a child hits their sibling because they are exhausted, overstimulated, or unable to express anger verbally, punishing them doesn't fix their exhaustion or lack of emotional vocabulary. It treats the symptom while leaving the cause untouched.

What Works Instead: Boundaries and Natural Consequences

Replacing punishment doesn't mean letting children do whatever they want. Permissiveness is just as damaging as harsh punishment. The alternative to punishment is authoritative discipline, which pairs high emotional support with clear, firm boundaries.

1. Natural & Logical Consequences

Consequences should be directly connected to the behaviour so the brain can make a logical link.

Punishment: "You spilt your juice because you were fooling

around, so no screen time tonight." (Unrelated; teaches resentment).

Logical Consequence: "You spilt your juice because you were fooling around. Let's grab some towels and clean it up together." (Directly related; teaches responsibility).

2. Focus on Repair Over Retribution

Instead of asking, "How should you be punished for hurting your friend?" ask, "What can we do to make this right?" Teaching a child to apologize sincerely, draw a picture, or help repair something they broke builds empathy and accountability.

3. Pre-Teaching & Skill Building

If a child consistently struggles with a situation (like leaving the park or sharing toys), the solution isn't punishing them after they fail. It is teaching them the skill before they enter that situation.

Practice transitions at home when stress is low.

Give clear visual or timed warnings before transitions.

Role-play how to ask for a turn.

Childhood is not a race to reach adulthood as quickly as possible. It is a complex process of brain wiring, identity formation, and emotional discovery. When adults replace judgment with curiosity, we give children the greatest gift child psychology has to offer: the security of being truly understood.

NATIONAL

Tachilek opens free vocational carpentry training course



This photo displays the opening ceremony for the vocational carpentry training yesterday in eastern Shan State.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an opening ceremony for a free vocational carpentry training course at Pachihat Model Village in Tachilek Township yesterday.

State Hluttaw Representative U Sai Ohn Kham delivered opening remarks, and Tahley Town Administrator U Lin Lin Aung made additional comments. Tachilek District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Amar Lwin explained that the vocational training course was organized based on local products, market requirements, labour demands and suitable vocational skills in the area to create employment opportunities and promote livelihood development for rural residents.

Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lae Lae Thin explained the course objectives, and trainer U San Nyo Maung detailed technical subjects and training schedules before trainees introduced themselves.

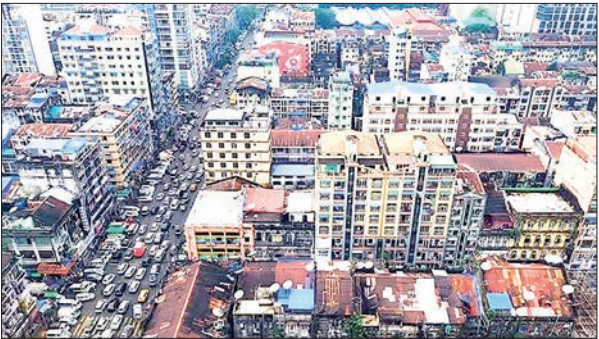
A total of 20 trainees from Pachihat Model Village are attending the 15-day course running from 3 to 17 August, where skilled instructors will provide free theoretical and practical training in carpentry techniques. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Yangon sees 3-fold increase in property prices over 2 years

RISING domestic migration has driven a significant increase in Yangon's property market over the past two years, with rental prices in prime locations surging by as much as threefold, according to real estate sources.

A senior estate agent said that whenever a rental room becomes available in Yangon, prospective tenants are already waiting to secure it due to strong demand. Meanwhile, property transactions continue, with buying and selling activities taking place and prices remaining high.

“Previously, a 12-foot-by-50-foot higher floor in downtown would have been rented for around K350,000, but it



This photo captures residential buildings in Yangon.

is now nearly K650,000 at present, climbing up almost double over two years. The price of rented houses has now more than doubled, and it is more expensive if the location is good,” he said.

People from Sagaing, Mandalay and upper Magway regions, Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states have moved to Yangon, directly affecting the property rental

market, he said.

He added that land prices around Inya Lake and along Pyay Road in Hline and Kamayut townships have surged to nearly K1.8 million per square foot, up from about K1 million previously.

The property prices surged in late 2024 and have continued to rise rapidly in 2025, he said. — MT/ZS

50 Myanmar nationals in Malaysia to be repatriated home

THE Embassy of Myanmar in Kuala Lumpur has announced that 50 Myanmar nationals currently held at the Pekan Nanas Camp under Malaysia's Immigration Department, who have voluntarily applied to return home, will be repatriated to Myanmar aboard Myanmar National Airlines flight 8M-502 on 4 August, Tuesday.

The embassy also warned that it has received reports from those concerned that unauthorized individuals have been fraudulently demanding money from family members of Myanmar nationals being held in detention centres. It urged members of their families and relatives to remain vigilant and exercise caution against such scams. — TWA/KZL



The Embassy of Myanmar in Kuala Lumpur.

MNHRC resolves 295 complaints within 6 months

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) resolved 295 complaints, including media-reported cases, between January and June 2026, according to an announcement issued on 14 July.

The commission investigated the complaints through 21 meetings of its investigation teams. Of the total, 64 complaints were referred to relevant government departments and organizations for further action, while 33 were addressed by providing recommendations to the complainants.

The remaining 196



A glimpse of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission office.

complaints included cases already before the courts, those with final court rulings, complaints that did not meet the required criteria, and cases that had already been handled. Two

additional cases were recorded and closed at the complainants' request.

The commission also inspected detention facilities and care centres to assess compliance with

human rights standards, international norms and domestic law. Between January and June, it visited two central prisons, one detention centre, four prison camps, seven police detention cells, two court detention cells, three youth training schools and three elderly care homes, before submitting recommendations to the relevant ministries.

During the inspections, MNHRC officials also held private meetings with 98 inmates and detainees who wished to raise concerns and record their statements for further review. — TWA/KZL

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

CBM injects over US\$64M into financial market in July

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$64 million, purchased from CMP companies, to the foreign exchange market in July

CBM pumped over \$35 million purchased from CMP companies into the financial market in June and over \$51 million and 1.2 million baht into the foreign exchange market in May. CBM transacted over \$70 million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market and the edible oil and fuel oil import sector, with a view to curbing instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation and maintaining market stability. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collabo-



The rate has reached above K1,400 starting from 4 February 2021. PHOTO PHOE KHWAR

rating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Hluttaw Communications Committee to curb CEIR-driven handset price surge



Mobile phones on display at a retail shop.

CHAIRPERSON Dr Nanda Hla Myint of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee on Transport, Communications, Digital and Science and Technology said that coordination with relevant ministries and organizations to address the rising prices of imported mobile handsets caused by the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system is underway.

Dr Nanda Hla Myint, who also serves as the head of the Pyithu Hluttaw's press team and as the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Kalaw constituency, made the remarks during a media briefing following the parliamentary proceedings on 1 August 2026.

If the current discussions are proceeding smoothly, consumers could purchase handsets at cheaper rates than the prevailing prices, he added.

All imported mobile phones must be registered in the CEIR system to be activated starting from March 2026. Consequently, devices brought into the country after 31 March have seen price increases ranging from K100,000 to K1 million per unit depending on the model and brand. Even the prices in the second-hand handset market are rising relatively. — TWA/KK

India to host 27th ISCC-2026 on 23-27 Nov

THE 27th International Sericultural Commission Congress, a triennial event, is scheduled to be held under the theme "Silk for A Sustainable Future" at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chennai, India, from 23 to 27 November 2026.

The ISCC 2026 aims to bring approximately 350 participants from across

the silk production value chain, including researchers who will present scientific papers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers, featuring eight session

tracks. Attendees must submit their registration applications along with the applicable participation fee to iscc2026@gmail.com by 25 September. Submission

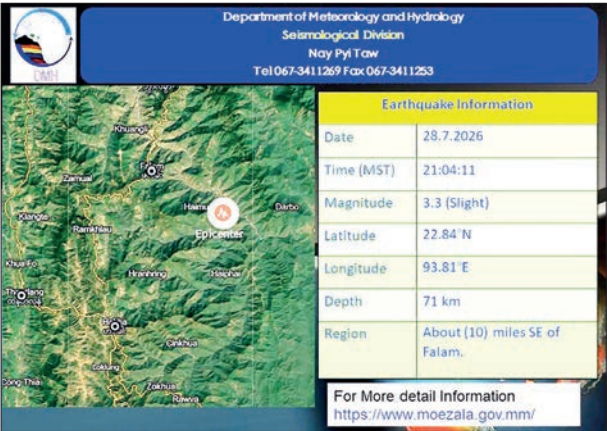
of abstracts is also due on 25 September, while full papers must be submitted by 23 October 2026 to iscc2026@gmail.com. — NN/KK

Earthquake Committee hosts Earthquake Bootcamp 2026 this Aug

THE Myanmar Earthquake Committee will organize the Earthquake Bootcamp 2026 in August for people to learn more about earthquakes, respond correctly in emergency situations, and gain practical training.

It will be held on 8, 15, 22, and 29 August at the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, Myanmar Engineering Council, Hline University Campus, Yangon.

During this boot-



This image displays an announcement regarding the holding of the Earthquake Bootcamp 2026.

camp, participants will be able to learn the causes of earthquakes and basic knowledge of

disaster risk reduction, as well as emergency preparedness and safety measures to follow before, during, and after an earthquake.

Similarly, through team activities, discussions, and practical exercises, cooperation and leadership skills can be enhanced, and this will foster a greater understanding of the role of youth in building disaster-prepared and resilient communities.

Therefore, those who are interested, as well as those who wish to learn experiences and knowledge through interactive discussions with experts, can apply regardless of age, and no prior experience is required. All interested youth can register via the registration link (<https://forms.gle/deo4vo3w8XtdC8Em6>), according to the Myanmar Earthquake Committee. — MT/ZN

Public Notice

- Due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, global fuel prices have increased, affecting transport costs for essential goods distributed by diesel-powered vehicles. To help stabilize prices of basic commodities, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue had previously announced a tax exemption on imported High-Speed Diesel (HSD 500 ppm), including customs duty, special commodity tax, commercial tax, and a two per cent advance income tax, effective from 1 April 2026 to 31 July 2026, as published in state-owned newspapers. This tax exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 August 2026.
- Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 August 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of HSD (500 ppm).

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

- To ensure continuous development of the agricultural sector, which is a key foundation of the State economy, and to reduce production costs for farmers, a two-per-cent advance income tax on imported fertilizers will be exempted from 1 April to 30 July 2026, and announced in the state-run newspapers. This exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 August 2026.
- Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 August 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of fertilizers.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

China’s marine economy posts steady growth in H1



A drone photo taken on 15 July 2026 shows fishing boats sailing at a marine farm in Rongcheng City, east China’s Shandong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA’S gross ocean product reached 5.5 trillion yuan (about US\$810.09 billion) in the first half (H1) of 2026, up 5.1 per cent year on year, according to data released by the Ministry

of Natural Resources on Monday. The amount accounted for 7.9 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product, the ministry said, noting that the marine economy is experienc-

ing steady growth with a positive development momentum. Meng Qinglei, an official with the ministry, said that since the beginning of this year, the supply of marine resources nationwide has remained stable, laying a solid foundation for the development of the marine economy. Meanwhile, China’s shipbuilding industry maintained strong growth during the January-June period. The industry saw its new shipbuilding orders, completed deliveries and order backlog increase by 105.2 per cent, 34.8 per

cent and 37.1 per cent year on year, respectively. The global market shares for these three indicators reached 73.9 per cent, 55.4 per cent and 63.3 per cent, respectively, maintaining a leading position worldwide. The sector continues to optimize product structure, achieving improvements in both quantity and quality of deliveries, the ministry said. In H1, over 40 large vessels such as container ships exceeding 10,000 TEUs, ultra-large crude oil carriers and large liquefied natural gas carriers were delivered. — Xinhua

China to Expand Cross-Border Yuan Payments - Central Bank

THE People’s Bank of China (PBC) said on Sunday it will develop the system of cross-border payments in yuan and expand international cooperation in this area in the second half of 2026. China “will promote the development of the cross-border yuan payment system, expand international cooperation in the field of cross-border payments, and improve the infrastructure for



Chinese yuan coins and banknotes. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK** cross-border use of the digital yuan,” the bank said in a statement. The bank also noted

the necessity “to comprehensively develop the offshore yuan market, support the expansion of Shanghai’s capabilities in the field of cross-border and offshore financial services, and strengthen Hong Kong’s status as a key international centre for offshore yuan transactions”. On Saturday, the PBC held a meeting devoted to the operation of the bank in the second half of 2026. — SPUTNIK

Vietnam welcomes 13.9 mln intl arrivals in first seven months of 2026

VIETNAM welcomed nearly 13.9 million international visitors in the first seven months of 2026, up 13.8 per cent year on year, the National Statistics Office reported Monday. Of the total, 11.5 million visitors arrived by air, up 10.7 per cent from the same period last year, the report said.

Arrivals by road reached 2.2 million, rising 33.6 per cent year on year, while arrivals by sea

totalled 210,900, up 14.7 per cent. Asia remained the largest source market, contributing nearly 10.3 million arrivals during the period, followed by Europe with more than 2.3 million visitors, according to the report. Vietnam targets 25 million international arrivals in 2026, according to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. — Xinhua



Visitors leave a temple by West Lake in Hanoi, Vietnam, 3 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Indonesia’s H1 trade surplus reaches US\$3.58B

INDONESIA’S trade surplus reached US\$3.58 billion in the first half of 2026, while the country posted a 450-million-dollar trade deficit in June, according to data released by Statistics Indonesia (BPS) on Monday. Exports reached \$140.81 billion in the Jan-

uary-June period, up 4.13 per cent year on year. Palm oil and its derivatives, as well as coal, remained Indonesia’s leading non-oil and gas export commodities. In June, exports totalled \$25.46 billion, while imports reached \$25.91 billion, resulting in a \$450 million trade deficit. — Xinhua

S Korea’s online shopping posts double-digit growth in June

SOUTH Korea’s online shopping posted double-digit growth in June, boosted by soaring online purchases of cars and mobile devices, official statistics showed Monday. Online shopping sales expanded 10.7 per cent from a year earlier to 24.61 trillion won (US\$17.2 billion) in June, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics. Online sales of cars and car accesso-

ries jumped 56.8 per cent amid surging online purchases of models from the US automaker Tesla. Online demand for mobile devices skyrocketed 144.4 per cent thanks to the launch of new smartphones, while demand for food and beverages, home appliances, computers, farm goods, culture and leisure services all recorded double-digit increases. — Xinhua

Türkiye’s annual inflation eases slightly to 31.75% in July

TÜRKIYE’S consumer prices edged up 1.78 per cent in July, up from a 0.99 per cent rise in June, slightly slowing annual inflation to 31.75 per cent due to favourable base effects, the Turkish Statistical Institute announced Monday. Lower food prices due to seasonal effects have helped soften annual consumer prices

in July, despite a rise in energy prices linked to geopolitical tensions, according to the institute. Türkiye’s annual inflation eased to 30.6 per cent at the end of 2025 before rising to 32.6 per cent in May, as food prices surged due to adverse weather conditions earlier this year and higher energy costs. Türkiye has been

struggling with high inflation for nearly a decade, and high prices, especially of food, transportation and energy, have significantly eroded the purchasing power of households and businesses alike. In its latest Economic Outlook report published in early June, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) lowered its 2026 growth forecast for Türkiye to 3.1 per cent, down from 3.3 per cent. The OECD also projected that inflation in Türkiye will fall below 20 per cent in the first half of 2027, as a tight monetary policy continues to cool price pressures despite risks from the Middle East conflict. — Xinhua

Alibaba unveils latest AI model with enhanced coding, reasoning capabilities

CHINESE tech compa-ny Alibaba on Monday unveiled its latest large language model, Qwen3.8-Max, marking a major upgrade in its Qwen series with advanced capabilities in coding, real-life work and research.

The model features 2.4 trillion parameters and supports a context window of up to 1 million tokens, said the company.

According to third-party evaluation platform Arena, Qwen models rank among the world's

top-tier large language models.

Qwen3.8-Max demonstrates proficiency in autonomous coding and long-horizon execution, operating independently over extended periods without human intervention, ac-

cording to Alibaba. Tasked with creating a self-evolving agent framework from scratch, Qwen3.8-Max established an engineering loop that synthesized user feedback, community best practices, and self-test data. — Xinhua

Nissan logs 3.76 bln yen Apr-June net profit on restructuring progress

NISSAN Motor Co said Monday it posted a net profit of 3.76 billion yen (\$24 million) in the three months through June, making further progress in its restructuring efforts.

Nissan posted a net loss of 115.76 billion yen in the same quarter last year.

The Japanese auto-maker logged an operating profit of 77.89 billion yen in the April-June period, a turnaround from a loss of 79.12 billion yen a year earlier. Sales rose 9.5 per cent to 2.96 trillion yen.

The company has been pushing ahead with massive streamlining efforts to restore profitability, including the closure of seven vehicle plants in Japan and overseas and the reduction of 20,000 jobs globally by financial 2027.

In the first quarter ended June, global sales volume fell 0.9 per cent from a year earlier to 701,000 vehicles as sales in Europe dropped 14.6 per cent to 64,000 vehicles. Nissan saw 9.6 per cent growth in US sales to 243,000 vehicles, while domestic sales grew 1.3 per cent to 88,000 vehicles.

For the current business year through next March, the carmaker maintained its earnings outlook, projecting a net profit of 20 billion yen. — Kyodo

LX570 VehicleTender Invitation for the Sale and Transfer Announcement Kyauk Phyu Electric Power Company Limited

1. Transfer Conditions

- 1.1 The vehicle under this transfer is an official vehicle originally registered under the name of Kyauk Phyu Electric Power Company Limited. This transfer has been approved through the Company's internal decision-making process and in accordance with the approval requirements of the superior entity, and is now being transferred to the public by way of open transfer.
- 1.2 This transfer adopts an open transfer method, openly soliciting prospective transferees from the public. Based on the response documents submitted by each prospective transferee, the Company will comprehensively consider factors such as the offered price, commercial reputation, payment capability, and performance assurance, and select the most suitable transferee.

2. Basic Information of the Subject Vehicle

- 2.1 Vehicle Owner: Kyauk Phyu Electric Power Company Limited
- 2.2 Brand and Model: Toyota Lexus LX570 (including license plate)
- 2.3 Engine Displacement / Transmission / Seating: 5.7L / Automatic / 5 seats
- 2.4 Date of First Registration: October 2021; Mileage: 66,209 km
- 2.5 Vehicle Location: Yangon, Myanmar
- 2.6 Vehicle Condition: Good condition, no major accidents, 0 insurance claims, never transferred. For detailed photos, please refer to the end of this announcement.
- 2.7 Vehicle Viewing Arrangements: Interested parties may make an appointment with the Transferor's contact person for on-site vehicle viewing after registration.

3. Qualification Requirements for Transferees

- 3.1 The transferee under this transfer shall be an enterprise legal person, other organization, or a natural person with full civil capacity duly registered in Myanmar, and shall have good commercial reputation and payment capability.
- 3.2 Qualification Requirements: Enterprise legal persons shall provide a business license / commercial registration certificate; natural persons shall provide scanned copies of their ID card / passport.
- 3.3 Credit Requirements: No record of major violations of laws, regulations, or dishonesty in the past three years; the source of transfer funds shall be lawful.

4. Obtaining Transfer Documents

- 4.1 Interested parties are kindly requested to submit scanned copies of business license, letter of introduction, and ID card (or passport) of the handling person at Floor 25th, Myanmar Plaza Office Tower 1, No. 192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar, from August 4, 2026 to August 28, 2026, between 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Myanmar time) each day; or send the scanned copies to the email: lucusigyangon@gmail.com. After preliminary review by the transferor, the transfer documents and relevant requirements will be provided on-site or sent to the bidder via email.
- 4.2 Any response submitted by a party that fails to register through the channel required in Article 4.1 of this Announcement shall be rejected. Each set of transfer documents is free of charge and non-refundable after issuance. Response documents that are delivered after the deadline, not delivered to the designated location, not sealed (or encrypted) as required by the transfer documents, or that fail the pre-qualification review (if any) shall be rejected by the Transferor.
- 4.3 Quotation document submission time: August 29, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.; bid opening at Floor 25th, Myanmar Plaza Office Tower 1, No. 192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
- 4.4 After the expiration of this public notice period, we will select the most suitable transferee within 30 working days based on comprehensive consideration of factors including the quoted price, business reputation, payment capability, and performance guarantee. We will notify the successful party of the transaction result using the contact information provided, and proceed with the contract signing and vehicle delivery.

5. Contact Information:

Transferor: Kyauk Phyu Electric Power Company Limited
Address: Floor 25th, Myanmar Plaza Office Tower 1, No. 192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Postal Code: 100048,
Commercial Contact: Min Thwin Khant, Tel: +95 9965119940,
Email: lucusigyangon@gmail.com
Vehicle Physical Contact: Sun Shiguang, Tel: +86 13911020502,
Email: sunshiguang-htjp@powerchina.cn, Website: www.powerchina.cn

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09 4542 37515

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EM SPETSES VOY.NO. (046W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EM SPETSES VOY.NO. (046W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (006W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (006W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 14 VOY.NO. (03)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 14 VOY. NO. (03)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS CO LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Hungary faces “most critical 5 days” as drought threatens nuclear plant shutdown

HUNGARY is entering its “most critical 5 days” as dropping water levels on the Danube River threaten the complete shutdown of the Paks nuclear power plant amid an extreme heatwave, Hungary’s Prime Minister Peter Magyar said on Sunday, warning that the plant could be shut down for more than a month.

Speaking to local commercial television channel RTL, Magyar said the last remaining operating turbine at the 2,000 MW facility will likely be shut down late Sunday or on Monday. A complete halt to power generation at Paks, which accounts for nearly half of Hungary’s domestic electricity generation, would mark the first full closure in the plant’s 44-year history.

Magyar explained earlier on social media that strict nuclear safety regulations mandate the shutdown because of record-low river levels needed for cooling water. He reassured the public that nuclear safety remains fully guaranteed, with around 50 water management experts assisting plant personnel to maintain cooling



An aerial drone photo taken on 2 August 2026 shows a view of the Paks nuclear power plant near Dunaszentbenedek, Hungary. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

operations.

The unprecedented energy crisis comes as Hungary braces for temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius or higher over these “most critical five days,” placing immense strain on the national grid.

The Hungarian government has introduced emergency measures to maintain grid stability. Under a decree that took effect on Saturday, mandatory consumption cutbacks can be enforced on major industrial consumers if necessary.

However, Magyar not-

ed that voluntary conservation efforts by businesses and the public have so far helped avoid enforced rationing. Major companies, including MOL, Audi, and Gedeon Richter, have pledged significant demand reductions.

Nearly 300 companies have already pledged voluntary reductions for Monday, along with numerous state-owned firms, most local councils, civil society groups and churches, he said.

To save power, decorative lighting on Budapest’s iconic landmarks, including the Hungarian Parlia-

ment, Buda Castle, and the Chain Bridge, was turned off on Sunday evening.

Additional measures include halting most rail freight transport between 5 pm and 10 pm starting Monday, bringing reserve power units on standby, and maximizing electricity imports.

“If Hungary can get through these most critical five days, temperatures are expected to drop by 5 to 7 degrees Celsius,” Magyar said, adding that household restrictions remain an absolute last resort to maintain system stability. — Xinhua

Lao weather bureau warns of flood, landslide risk as rain continues

THE Lao weather bureau issued a warning urging the public to remain vigilant as continued rainfall is expected to increase the risk of flash floods and landslides.

According to a notice issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Environment on Monday, a low-pressure system will continue affecting Laos, combined with southwesterly winds to bring scattered thunderstorms, moderate to heavy rain, and strong winds in some areas.

Authorities have identified high-risk areas for flooding and landslides, particularly in Khammuan, Bolikhamxay, and Huaphan provinces.

Residents and local authorities are advised to remain alert for possible flash floods and landslides caused by heavy rainfall. Everyone should be prepared for weather extremes and keep track of forecasts, the weather bureau said. — Xinhua

15 killed, 7 missing in rain-related incidents across India’s Kerala

AT least 15 people were killed, and seven others reported missing in rain-related incidents across India’s southern state of Kerala, officials said Monday.

The information was given by Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan in a press briefing after reviewing the flood situation in the state with top officials.

“The death toll in rain-related incidents across Kerala has risen to 15, while seven people remain missing,” Satheesan said.

The local government has intensified rescue and relief operations amid continuing heavy rain.

As per official data until Monday morning, 11,018 people displaced by the rain and flooding have been accommodated in 316 relief camps set up across the state. — Xinhua

About 60,000 people ordered to evacuate as wildfires threaten US Spokane area

ABOUT 60,000 people have been ordered to evacuate by Sunday as three fast-moving wildfires threatened Spokane and nearby communities in the northwestern US state of Washington, local officials said.

Officials estimated that at least 600 homes, businesses and other structures had been destroyed. No deaths or injuries had been reported, and no one was known to be unaccounted for as of Sunday afternoon.

The three major blazes were identified as the Old Trails Fire, the Fair-

view Fire and the Autumn Lane Fire. They had burned a combined 5,390 acres (22 square kilometres) by Sunday and remained uncontained, according to a federal incident management team.

Large areas of Spokane and Spokane County were placed under Level three evacuation orders, requiring residents to leave immediately.

An emergency shelter was opened at the Spokane Convention Centre. The fires also prompted the evacuation of patients from the Mann-Grandstaff Department of Veterans



Three members of the Spokane Fire Department sit on a curb in front of burned out residential homes in the Balboa neighbourhood of Spokane, Washington, on 2 August 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Affairs Medical Centre and disrupted operations at several public facilities

and utility services.

The fires spread rapidly on Saturday amid

strong winds, high temperatures and extremely dry vegetation. Power

outages were reported across parts of the Spokane area.

Washington Governor Bob Ferguson declared a statewide wildfire emergency, mobilized National Guard personnel and imposed restrictions on outdoor burning. He said Sunday that the state had also requested federal emergency assistance.

State officials said more than 250,000 acres (1,010 square kilometres) were burning across Washington as about 4,000 firefighters battled more than a dozen major wildfires. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Kuwaki wins Women's British Open for 1st major title



Japan's Shiho Kuwaki tees off on the first hole during the final round of the Women's British Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lytham St Annes, England, on 2 August 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S Shiho Kuwaki won the Women's British Open after a playoff on Sunday, securing her maiden LPGA Tour title and becoming the seventh female major winner from her country.

The 23-year-old beat Esther Henseleit of Germany on the second playoff hole at Royal Lytham & Saint Annes Golf Club in England, joining Miyu Yamashita from last year and Kuwaki's fellow Okayama native Hinako Shibuno from 2019 as a Japanese winner of the tournament.

"It's unbelievable," said Kuwaki, who missed the cut on her debut appearance at the tournament last year. "It's been an honour just to play on this stage. I faced each hole with everything I had and tried to enjoy it until the end."

Beginning the final round three shots off the pace, Kuwaki carded three birdies and two bogeys for a 1-under 70 and finished at 5-under 279 overall before Henseleit forced a playoff by sinking a long birdie putt on the final 18th hole.

Kuwaki teed off into the rough on the first playoff hole but played a superb approach as the pair saved par before Paris Olympics silver medallist Henseleit settled for a bogey on the following hole, leaving Kuwaki to prevail with another par. "After hitting my putt on the 18th, I thought it would probably go to a playoff and got myself mentally ready," said Kuwaki, who finished 14th at the US Women's Open in June, the second major of the year, before winning the fifth and last major of 2026. — Kyodo

Yangon Galacticos (YG) honoured after finishing runner-up at EWC 2026

A ceremony was held yesterday afternoon at Sedona Hotel in Yangon to honour the Mobile Legends MLBB team, which proudly secured the runner-up title at the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang tournament of the Esports World Cup 2026, held in Paris, France.

The event began with the national anthem, followed by a video presentation highlighting Yangon Galacticos' impressive performance throughout the world championship.

Dr Kaung Myat San, President of the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation (MESF), delivered a congratulatory speech. Coaches and players also expressed their gratitude to fans across Myanmar for their enthusiastic support during the tournament.

The players who earned the runner-up title received various awards and cash prizes from sponsors, including Daw Thet Mar Aye, CEO of KBZ Bank/KBZPay, presented an honorary cash award of K500 million, Delous Group of Company awarded K10 million in cash along with cookies worth K 4 million, Cherry Oo Watch presented US\$20,000, Shwe Nadi Application awarded eight Apple AirPods Pro



The welcome ceremony for the Yangon Galacticos (YG) is underway in Yangon.

3 headsets and one-year subscriptions to the Shwe Nadi application.

"It is an immense source of pride that Myanmar reached the grand final of the Mobile Legends tournament at the Esports World Cup and competed alongside the world's strongest nations. I would like to sincerely thank everyone across Myanmar, including those in rural areas, who passionately supported and watched the tournament. I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the State leaders and all responsible officials who have supported the development of esports. My sincere thanks also go to KBZ Bank and KBZPay for providing finan-

cial support and constant encouragement to our players throughout the competition. I would especially like to commend all the team members who demonstrated that Myanmar can stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's leading nations in esports. Although we narrowly missed the world championship and finished as runners-up, we will strive to achieve even greater success and continue bringing honour to our country at the upcoming Asian Games," said Dr Kaung Myat San.

Myanmar remained unbeaten throughout the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang competition at the Esports World Cup 2026 in Paris, advancing all

the way to the grand finale. In the championship match held on 1 August, Myanmar faced Russia's Team Spirit in a fiercely contested series but narrowly lost 4-3, finishing as runners-up.

The Esports World Cup was held from 22 July to 1 August. The grand final attracted enthusiastic viewers not only in Yangon but also throughout Myanmar's regions, states, and rural communities. Yangon Galacticos (YG), which brought honour to Myanmar by finishing second in the world championship, is now preparing to compete at the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, aiming to win more medals for the nation. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH



The opening ceremony of the 2026 MGF President's Cup Amateur Golf Tournament in progress yesterday. **PHOTO: MGF**

Yangon hosts 2026 MGF President's Cup Amateur Tourney

THE 2026 Myanmar Golf Federation President's Cup Amateur Golf Tournament, aimed at improving the skills of the new generation of golfers and enabling them to compete at an international level, is being held at the Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) for four days from 3 to 6 August.

Organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation with the support of SAE PAING Development Ltd and Phyo Si Thu Teak Plantation (Myanmar), the tournament features 159 players, including 108 amateur golfers, 19 senior amateur golfers aged 55-60, 20 aged 61-65 and 12 aged 66-75. The opening ceremony

was attended by the President and Vice-President of the Myanmar Golf Federation, as well as the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the World Handicap Subcommittee and the Senior Amateur Level Subcommittee. The first day of the competition began with an 18-hole round of golf. — Ko San/MKKS

Hungary faces “most critical 5 days” as drought threatens nuclear plant shutdown

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WORLD

Iran says talks with Oman focused on designating temporary route for safe shipping in Hormuz Strait

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said Monday negotiations between Iran and Oman are focused on reaching an agreement on designating a “temporary” route to ensure safe shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

“The negotiations have been focused on the idea that the southern route, which passes through Oman’s waters, and the northern route, which passes through Iran’s territorial waters, would turn into an intermediate route,” Baghaei said at a weekly press conference in Tehran.

He said the talks are centred on a round-trip



This photo taken on 20 June 2026 shows the Strait of Hormuz near Khasab, a small town in northern Oman. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

corridor, not two or three separate routes, and the intermediate route will be used temporarily until a permanent one is finalized.

The waterway’s closure stems not from differences between Iran and

Oman, but from US-Israeli “military aggression” against Iran, Baghaei said, adding the strait’s status will stay unchanged as long as Washington continues its “malicious” actions against the country.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting in Tehran on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said the negotiations between Iran and Oman are in their final stages, according to the official

news agency IRNA.

Baghaei also said at the press conference the country will take every necessary action to hold Ukraine to account for its recent attack on an Iranian vessel.

On 25 July, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his country’s forces had hit a Russian warship and vessels used for transporting Iran-linked military cargo in the Caspian Sea.

Iran tightened its grip on the strait on 28 February, barring safe passage of vessels belonging to or affiliated with Israel and the United States following their joint strikes on Iranian territory. — Xinhua

Africa CDC hails Uganda for Ebola containment

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Monday praised Uganda for successfully containing its latest Ebola outbreak, attributing the achievement to strong national leadership and coordinated action.

Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya made the remarks on social media platform X after co-chairing a meeting in Kampala with World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa Mohamed Yakub Janabi and officials from Uganda’s Ministry of Health.

“We commended Uganda for successfully containing the Ebola outbreak through strong national leadership and coordinated action,” wrote Kaseya.

“This progress must be protected. Sustained preparedness, vigilant surveillance, and strong cross-border coordination remain essential to prevent further transmission and strengthen health security across the region,” he added.

Uganda declared the end of the Ebola outbreak on 28 July. The announcement came before the completion of the WHO’s standard 42-day countdown following the discharge of the last patient. Uganda discharged its last Ebola patient on 16 July after the individual tested negative for the virus. — Xinhua

Seoul issues first ‘severe heatwave warning’ under new system

SOUTH Korea’s weather agency issued a “severe heatwave warning” for Seoul on Monday, the first such advisory since

introducing the designation this year to alert the public about extreme temperatures.

New national heat

records were set on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with the mercury soaring up to 42.5C, leading to nearly 300 people being hospitalized, according to health authorities.

The sweltering heatwave continued on Monday, albeit without breaking the weekend’s all-time record.

But the Korea Meteorological Administration issued its first “severe heatwave warning” for Seoul, saying some districts in the city of nine million people could expect more roasting tem-

peratures to come.

The agency said Monday marked the second consecutive day when the apparent, or “feels-like”, temperature in some districts reached 35C — and forecast figures as high as 38C from 11:00 am (0200 GMT) on Tuesday.

“Outdoor activities and work should be halted or postponed as much as possible,” says the heat warning. “Individuals should move to cool locations, such as air-conditioned indoor spaces or designated heat relief shelters.”

Pedestrian commuters in the capital snaked their way to work through patches of shade on Monday, avoiding direct sunlight even in the morning’s cooler early hours.

The “severe heatwave warning” category was introduced in South Korea this year, mirroring similar designations other countries have brought in.

Japanese cities have this summer experienced “cruelly hot days”, a new meteorological term Tokyo uses to designate days with intense heat above 40C. — AFP



People cool off below sunshades over the Cheonggyecheon Stream in Seoul on 3 August 2026.

PHOTO: AFP

Spain fully deploys sea barrier as death toll of Ceuta migrant crisis

SPAIN has fully deployed a floating sea barrier on Sunday along the maritime border of its North African enclave of Ceuta as the authorities continue to tighten border controls following the recent mass migrant influx from Morocco.

The floating barrier, in-

stalled off Ceuta’s Tarajal beach, is now fully operational. The measure is designed to prevent irregular sea crossings after tens of thousands of migrants entered the enclave in recent days, many by swimming.

Spanish authorities also said on Sunday that

the official death toll linked to the crisis has risen to 72. Meanwhile, the regional government of Ceuta said 88 bodies are currently being held in the city’s morgue. Local authorities said some of the bodies were recovered from the sea more than two weeks after the migrant

surge. The process of identification is still underway. — Xinhua

People gather on the Moroccan side of the border with Spain’s North African enclave of Ceuta, preparing to cross into the enclave, on 30 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

