



State Administration Council Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win presides over the first meeting of the Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Development Work Committee yesterday.

Government disburses K150B in loans, spends K20M on MSME development

Business owners facing challenges in restoring capital are encouraged to report to the business committee via the relevant agencies.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win unveiled that the government is responsible for supporting monetary capital and other fulfilment to MSMEs with linkages with foreign markets so as to secure firm market shares. The Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Development Work Committee held its meeting

1/2025 at the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-Senior General noted that businesspersons have to seek technologies and recruit

human resources from the technological courses jointly conducted by the Ministry of Industry and agencies for the development of their businesses. He urged relevant ministries to cooperate in the dissemination of technologies in providing necessary technology and human resources for MSMEs.

SEE PAGE 3

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Vice-Senior General at the MSME development meeting

1. The Head of State approved that loans would be provided for the recovery and reconstruction of MSME businesses damaged by the major Mandalay earthquake.
2. Businesspeople have to seek technologies and recruit human resources from the technological courses jointly conducted by the Ministry of Industry and agencies for the development of their businesses.
3. A total of 18 private banks are serving the disbursement of MSME loans to entrepreneurs due to the coordination of the MSME fund management committee.

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Khokyun mangrove forest designated for biodiversity protection

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KBZ offers capacity-building training for employees with disabilities

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Embassy urges Myanmar nationals to avoid Thai-Cambodian border

NATIONAL

Only then can citizens of Myanmar decide on Myanmar affairs

❖ The affairs of Myanmar must be decided solely by the citizens of Myanmar.
(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Pro Tem President (Duty), Chairman of the State Administration Council, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the National Defence and Security Council Meeting 1/2025 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 31 January 2025)

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment and Duty-Assignment of Permanent Secretary/Director-General

THE State Administration Council has appointed and assigned U Hau Khan Sum, Director-General of the Union Minister’s Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the duties of Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same organization concurrently.

Party registration applications ongoing after approval to form parties

INDIVIDUALS seeking to form political parties have been submitting applications to the Union Election Commission (UEC), specifying the names of the parties they wish to establish. As of today, 27 groups have applied for party formation, and the Commission has granted permission to 22 of them.

Among those granted permission is the New Generation Wunthanu (Patriotic) Party, led by U Aung Kyi Myine. The party submitted its application for official registration to the UEC yesterday, in line with Section 7 of the Political Parties Registration Law, within 30 days from the date of formation approval.

Out of the 20 parties that have applied for registration so far, 15 have been approved. The UEC is currently reviewing the remaining applications for possible registration approval.

— MNA/KZL



Khokyun mangrove forest designated for biodiversity protection

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC), exercising its authority under Section 6(e) of the Forest Law enacted in 2018, has declared 23,370 acres of land in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, as the “Khokyun Protected Public Mangrove Forest” through Notification 71/2025 dated 22 July 2025.

The ministry designates protected public forests and forest reserves to maintain mangrove forest ecosystems, support biodiversity, protect against natural disasters by serving as natural barriers, provide seafood for local communities, and improve the overall management of mangrove forest areas.

Protecting the Khokyun mangrove forest offers several benefits, including conserving mangrove woodlands, preserving habitats for bird species, enhancing ecosystems for fish, and strengthening disaster resilience, contributing significantly to the stability of marine ecosystems.

— MNA/MKKS

A glimpse of the Khokyun Protected Public Mangrove Forest.

Depression News, No 3, 2025

Issued at 7 pm MST on 25 July 2025

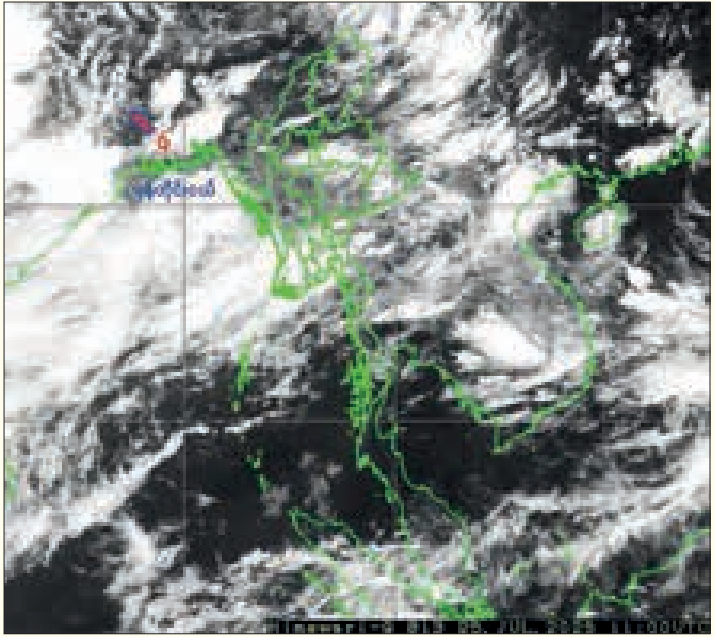
ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Depression that crossed to the interior regions of the South of Kolkata (India) has moved west-northwestwards and it is continuing to cross the interior regions of India.

Forecast
It is likely continue to move west-northwestwards and cross West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha and Jharkhand during the next 24 hours.

Due to the depression and vigorous monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in some Regions and States from tonight to 28 July 2025.

Frequent squalls with very rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 45 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 14-16 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Occasional squalls with rough to very rough sea will be experienced in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-14 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

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



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NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Government disburses K150B in loans, spends K20M on MSME development

FROM PAGE 1

Regarding financial capital matters, the Vice-Senior General underlined that business owners in the country can obtain MSME loans as per established procedures, financial rules, and regulations. Those affected and damaged by natural disasters require financial capital to carry out reconstruction activities. There are certain restrictions based on loan regulations and financial rules for disbursing loans. Among these restrictions, those that should be relaxed are being eased and implemented accordingly.

He stated that the government disburses K150 billion out of K170 billion as MSME loans while spending K20 billion on MSME development initiatives.

Currently, he explained that a total of 18 private banks are serving the disbursement of MSME loans to entrepreneurs due to the coordination of the MSME fund management committee.

In the insurance business, the Vice-Senior General emphasized that the original limit was set at K20 million. Currently, based on negotiation discussions, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being drafted to allow loans up to K50 million, and guarantee companies will proceed accordingly.

In previous MSME expos and competitions, he continued that One-Stop Service



The Vice-Senior General looks into the display at yesterday's meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

support was also provided to business owners who wished to export their products abroad, by facilitating connections through the country's commercial attachés. As a result of these linkages, some were able to connect with international companies and business-related banks for export purposes. In such cases, it is essential to be proficient in using Interact services, digital technologies, and other applicable business-related technologies. Relevant ministries are also conducting training programmes to enhance the technical skills, management capabilities, and market access potential of business own-

ers and workers. Currently, 441 types of training courses are being offered, with a total of 7,273 sessions conducted, attended by a total of 150,819 trainees.

With regard to major challenges faced by MSME businesses damaged by the earthquake, the Vice-Senior General stressed that some business owners have been able to repay their original loans in instalments, while others are unable to make repayments. There are cases where some entrepreneurs have borrowed from multiple sources, requiring verification and scrutiny.

He recounted that the Head of State approved that

loans would be provided for the recovery and reconstruction of MSME businesses damaged by the major Mandalay earthquake. As the first part, K150 billion will be provided as MSME loans from the Earthquake Recovery Fund, which includes K500 billion from the National Economic Promotion Fund and the Natural Disaster Management Fund, as well as K200 billion from the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Secretary of the Work Committee Deputy Minister for Industry U Yin Maung Nyunt reported on the accomplishment of the minutes of the previous meeting and the work process of the work committee.

Deputy ministers presented reports submitted to the work committee.

Vice-Chairs of the work committee, Union Ministers U Win Shein and Dr Charlie Than, explained the work process of the State for the development of MSMEs, functions of committees, MSME loan measures, implementation of the 14 works of MSMEs, and cooperation of ministries and organizations in the prompt development of MSMEs.

Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, and regional and state chief ministers discussed implementation of the meeting decisions, participation of MSMEs in the external expos, conducting of training courses, encouragement to internal and external market research works, and assistance for running MSMEs.

The Vice-Senior General coordinated discussions and gave a concluding remark. He then viewed MSME products manufactured from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and export-quality MSME products displayed at the meeting room.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers Dr Kan Zaw, U Hla Moe, U Tun Ohn and Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, deputy ministers, work committee members and officials from organizations, together with chief ministers from regions and states through video-conferencing. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

DEDC discusses growing digital economy

STATE Administration Council Member Deputy Prime Minister Union Minister for Transport and Communications General Mya Tun Oo, in his capacity as Patron of the Digital Economy Development Committee (DEDC), addressed the fourth coordination meeting of the committee yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his speech, the Deputy Prime Minister said the Digital Economy makes up at least 15 per cent of the global GDP, and it will see an increase to over 25 per cent by 2030, according to the World Economic Forum. The rapid progress that can be achieved through digital means is an undeniable key factor that enables development in developing countries.

The national level Myanmar Digital Economy Development



The fourth coordination meeting of the Digital Economy Development Committee in progress yesterday, chaired by SAC Member Deputy Prime Minister MoTC Union Minister General Mya Tun Oo.

Committee (DEDC) was formed, and the committee released “Myanmar Digital Economy Roadm-

ap 2030” on 24 December 2024. The roadmap includes one strategic vision, one strategic mission,

six goals, nine priority sectors, nine strategic pillars, 22 strategic goals, and 77 action plans.

He continued that among these 77 action plans, the relevant working committees should work as per the short-term, mid-term term and long-term plans, and all the DEDC members should cooperate in different sectors for the country and create a digital economy.

Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, who is also the DEDC chairman, then discussed the need to carry out all the procedures mentioned in “Myanmar Digital Economy Roadmap 2030”, which was approved as a living document, within the fixed period by the working committees, and other ongoing and future work plans.

The patron of the committee provides proper instructions and concludes the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

20th Asia Media Summit held in Cambodia



The documentary group photo session in progress at the 20th Asia Media Summit in Cambodia.

THE 20th Asia Media Summit (AMS) was held on 23 July at the Sokha Siem Reap Resort and Convention Centre in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint and the delegation attended the event.

In the afternoon, the CEO Session was conducted, during which the “Angkor Declaration 2.0” was announced by Cambodia’s Minister of Information. The declaration emphasizes collaborative efforts in combating disinformation and fake news.

Following the session, the Chief Executive Officer of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) presented commemorative gifts to attending Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

Later in the evening, the closing ceremony of the 20th AMS was held. Cambodia’s Minister of Information, Mr Neth Pheaktra, and AIBD CEO Ms Philomena Gnanapragasam handed over the certificate of hosting the 21st Asia Media Summit to Ms Heena Waleed, Spokesperson of the President’s Office of the Maldives, the next host country.

Maldives’ Deputy Minister Ms Aminath

Namza expressed gratitude for the opportunity to host the next summit.

AIBD CEO Ms Philomena Gnanapragasam then presented a certificate of appreciation to Cambodia’s Information Minister for successfully hosting the event. The Minister delivered concluding remarks, thanking participants and organizers.

On 24 July, delegates from Asia-Pacific nations, accompanied by Myanmar’s Deputy Minister for Information, visited cultural heritage sites including Angkor Wat, Ta Prohm, and Bayon Temples. A commemorative tree planting ceremony was also held in front of Angkor Wat, where Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint and his team planted a memorial tree to mark the 20th Asia Media Summit.

That evening, the deputy minister met Ms Philomena Gnanapragasam at the Sokha Siem Reap Resort Hotel. They discussed potential collaboration in offering broadcast technology training and co-hosting production and technical skill workshops for Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV). — MNA/KZL

SAC Member donates supplies to 109-year-old woman in Pantanaw



SAC Member Mahn Nyein Maung presents donated items to the centenarian woman in Pantanaw.

STATE Administration Council Member Mahn Nyein Maung visited the home of 109-year-old Daw Saw Kyi in the western ward of Pantanaw yesterday afternoon and donated provisions to her.

Following the donation, he inspected the U Thant Library in Pantanaw Township and gave necessary instructions.

He then observed the ongoing training 6/2025 on the handling and use of the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) at the Shwe Nawthiri Hall of the Community Centre (Pantanaw) under the Information and Public Relations Department. — MNA/KZL

MoI Union Minister calls for building strong, progressive society

TO build a progressive and strong society, in other words, to foster a genuine democratic system, it is essential for the entire people to work together with proper awareness, discipline, empathy and a willingness to cooperate, said Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn.

Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Development of a Resilient and Strong Social Community, attended a seminar on creating a resilient and strong social community held at City Hall in PyinOoLwin,

Mandalay Region, yesterday.

During the event, the Union minister highlighted the need to work together with the government and relevant officials as PyinOoLwin returned to its normal condition in security and peace, to help each other, showing sympathy and empathy, to participate in the roadmap of the country for the state stability and development, especially in arrangements for holding elections.

The Union minister and officials drew lots of 10 MRTV DTH receivers and 20 MRTV DVB T2 Set Top Boxes for the



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn speaks at the seminar on Building a Resilient, Strong Social Community in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region.

departmental officials, social organization members, youths and students who attended the event.

In the evening, the Union minister and party visited the BE Falls Nature Amusement Park, and cordially greeted the officials and visitors.

The amusement park boasts Sky Cable Car, 5D LED glass bridge, elephant performance, seasonal flower plantation, photo booth, jumping cloud, playground, unplugged, food services and souvenir shops and so on, and it added further adventurous games like family coaster, bumper car, tea cup, and merry go round in April. Moreover, the park officials arrange to add dinosaur and fossil displays for the visitors. — MNA/KTZH

Endorsement of Revised Myanmar Standards Version Adoption

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

No	Myanmar Standards
29.	MMS IEC 60335-2-23:2016+AMD1:2019 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-23: Particular requirements for appliances for skin or hair care
30.	MMS IEC 60335-2-24:2020 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-24: Particular requirements for refrigerating appliances, ice cream appliances and ice makers
31.	MMS IEC 60335-2-25:2024 -Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-25: Particular requirements for microwave ovens, including combination microwave ovens
32.	MMS IEC 60335-2-26:2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-26: Particular requirements for clocks
33.	MMS IEC 60335-2-28: 2021 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-28: Particular requirements for sewing machines
34.	MMS IEC 60335-2-29:2016+AMD1:2019Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-29: Particular requirements for battery chargers
35.	MMS IEC 60335-2-31: 2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-31: Particular requirements for range hoods and other cooking fume extractors
36.	MMS IEC 60335-2-34:2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-34: Particular requirements for motor-compressors
37.	MMS IEC 60335-2-35:2012+AMD1:2016+AMD2:2020 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-35: Particular requirements for instantaneous water heaters
38.	MMS IEC 60335-2-36:2021 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-36: Particular requirements for commercial electric cooking ranges, ovens, hobs and hob elements
39.	MMS-IEC 60335-2-40:2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-40: Particular requirements for electrical heat pumps, air-conditioners and dehumidifiers

No	Myanmar Standards
40.	MMS-IEC60335-2-41:2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-41: Particular requirements for pumps
41.	MMS- IEC 60335-2-43:2024 -Household and similar electrical appliances Safety-Part 2-43: Particular requirements for clothes dryers and towel rails
42.	MMS – IEC 60335-2-44:2021 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-44: Particular requirements for ironers
43.	MMS IEC 60335-2-45:2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-45: Particular requirements for portable heating tools and similar appliances
44.	MMS IEC 60335-2-52:2021 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-52: Particular requirements for oral hygiene appliances
45.	MMS IEC 60335-2-55:2021 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-55: Particular requirements for electrical appliances for use with aquariums and garden ponds
46.	MMS IEC 60335-2-65:2023 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-65: Particular requirements for air-cleaning appliances
47.	MMS IEC 60335-2-73:2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-73: Particular requirements for fixed immersion heaters
48.	MMS IEC 60335-2-74: 2021 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-74: Particular requirements for portable immersion heaters
49.	MMS IEC 60335-2-79: 2021 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-79: Particular requirements for high-pressure cleaners and steam cleaners
50.	MMS IEC60335-2-80:2024 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety - Part 2-80: Particular requirements for fans
51.	MMS IEC 60335-2-98:2023 Household and similar electrical appliances - Safety- Part 2-98: Particular requirements for humidifiers

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Tourism surveys to be conducted in 30+ townships nationwide by 2025

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will conduct inbound and outbound tourism surveys in over 30 townships across the country by 2025, as it is also a member of the Survey and Statistics Standards Working Committee.

These tourism surveys aim to identify the needs of tourists, develop plans, discover new tourist destinations, improve services, and explore and promote tourism markets. Additionally, the surveys are expected to help increase the number of visitors to Myanmar's tourist destinations and promote marine tourism. The Ministry is also working with relevant departments to identify cross-border convoy routes, develop new travel routes, and implement nature-based tourism activities.

The Ministry has released the Inbound Tourism Survey, the Domestic Tourism Pilot Study Survey, and the Outbound Tourism Pilot Study Survey.

An opening ceremony was held for the online training session launching the tourism survey and the first edition of the Inbound Tourism Survey at the Jade Hall of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 July 2024. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases visitors making tours of the ancient cultural site of Bagan.

Myanmar-Thailand to enhance cross-border healthcare cooperation

THE Department of Public Health under the Ministry of Health announced that Myanmar and Thailand will strengthen their cooperation on cross-border healthcare.

The promotion of cross-border healthcare cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand includes the exchange of health information, joint infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control activities along the border, maternal and child healthcare initiatives, hospital medical services, collaboration on Twin Hospital Projects in border areas, and the appointment of designated representatives to coordinate efforts between hospitals in both countries.

Cross-border healthcare cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand is being implemented by the Department of Public Health under the Ministry of Health, the



This photo showcases a meeting where officials responsible for Thai-Myanmar cross-border healthcare cooperation discussing with officials from the Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mae Fah Luang University on 3 March 2025. PHOTO: MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), and representatives from the Thai Embassy in Yangon.

Myanmar and Thailand have been hosting workshops on cross-border healthcare cooperation, including a meeting held in Thailand in December 2024 that reviewed the achievements, strengths, and weaknesses of the Myanmar-Thailand Three-Year Health Development Cooperation Plan (2020–2022). — ASH/TH

KBZ offers capacity-building training for employees with disabilities

KBZ Bank has arranged for its employees with disabilities to join capacity-building training to enhance their performance and effectiveness.

This training is tailored specially to KBZ employees with disabilities at KBZ Learning Academy. PowerPoint Presentation, Effective Communication Skill Training, Stress Management Training, and Basic English Training will be included.

It is to promote a culture of

continuous learning and help develop workforce skills, contribute to organizational goals, and improve knowledge, skills, capabilities and emotional intelligence. KBZ is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive work environment to build confidence among employees with disabilities.

KBZ Bank is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace where all employees, including those with disabilities, can thrive. — ASH/KK



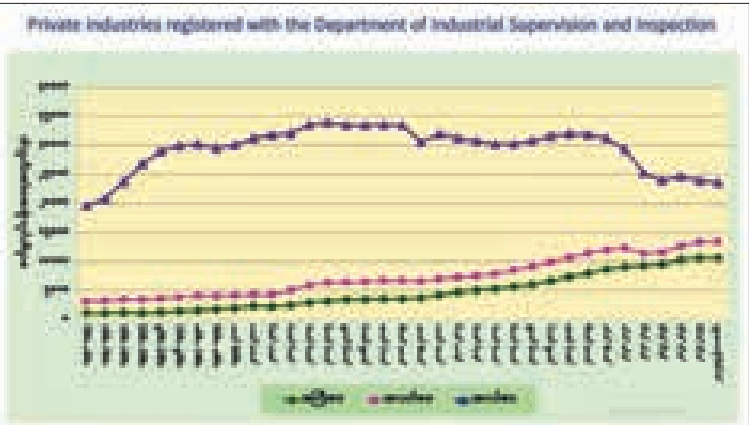
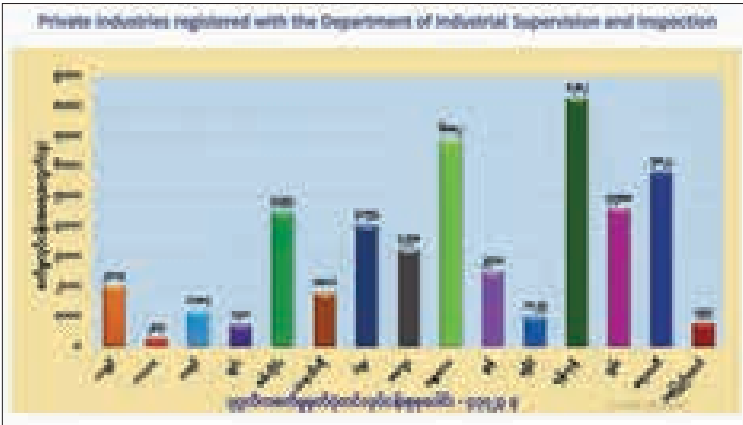
This image shows KBZ conducting the capacity-building training for employees with disabilities.

Private industries registered with DISI total 47,723 as of end-June

A total of 47,723 private industries have been registered with the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection as of June of the current financial year 2025-2026, the Ministry of Industry's data indicated.

Yangon Region, a commercial hub of Myanmar, is home to the private industries with 8,282 registered businesses, followed by Mandalay Region with 6,882 and Ayeyawady Region with 5,822.

The registered private industries grew to 47,609 in the previous financial year 2023-2024 from 45,015 registered in the 2022-2023 FY. A total of 206 industries were officially listed in the past FY 2024-2025 (April-March), reaching a total of 47,815 private industries. In



the first quarter of the current FY, some were deregistered, and the number of private industries registered with the DISI dropped.

Almost fifty per cent of the registered private industries are engaged in the food group. The lists of registered private

industries are classified into 24 business groups; food, tobacco, clothing, wood and finished wood slabs, printing, chemical, rubber and plastic, basic mineral, computer and electronic device, unclassified machine, beverage, fabric, leather, paper and paper products, charcoal

fuel, pharmaceuticals, non-metallic minerals, metal refining equipment, electronics, vehicle and trailer, furniture and machines and equipment repair and installation.

The DISI is providing services for small and medium enterprises to get access to

technical assistance and funding, explore markets, register the private industrial enterprises following existing laws and conduct safety inspections of boilers and electrical usage at worksites and environmental impact assessment. — KK

MyanTrade holds coord meeting to promote Myitkyina as City of Charm at 22nd CAEXPO

THE Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization (MyanTrade) under the Ministry of Commerce held a work coordination meeting on 24 July 2025 at Office Building 3 in Nay Pyi Taw, regarding showcasing Myitkyina, Kachin State, as a City of Charm at the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo that is scheduled to take place in Nanning, China, from 17 to 21 September.

Kachin State government's Minister for Economic Affairs,

the Director-General of the MyanTrade and officials concerned attended the meeting.

MyanTrade Director-General Dr Htein Lin explained to the Kachin State government about promoting Myitkyina City, Kachin State, as the City of Charm on a grand scale at the 22nd CAEXPO, to U Myo Swe, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Kachin State government, discussed proposals and further matters. — NN/KK

YRIC approves one foreign, one local investment in manufacturing

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed one foreign enterprise and one domestic enterprise to invest in the manufacturing sector, with an estimated capital of US\$0.9 million and three billion kyats, at the recent meeting 7/2025 held on 23 July.

Those enterprises will execute manufacturing of the wearing apparel on a Cutting, Making

and Packaging basis and grinding, purification and production of various kinds of beans (100 per cent designated for exports). They are to create 600 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and committee members coordinated general matters of 10 companies, including an increase in labour force (recruitment of 185 locals). — NN/KK

CBM injects US dollars to support edible oil imports



The facade view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.345 million that were purchased from companies working on a Cut-Make and Pack basis, to edible oil-importing companies on 24 July.

CBM sold over \$2.36 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$320,700 to fuel oil-importing companies on 23 July 2025.

CBM announced on 22 July that it would sell \$27 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry and 130 million baht to importers. CBM injected \$660,000 and 474,900 yuan on 22 July into the financial market

after sales of over \$3 million to edible oil-importing companies

CBM sold over \$1.75 million each into edible oil-importing companies and fuel oil-importing companies on 21 July again, after an injection of over 9.36 million baht to construction companies and over 337,800 yuan and 500,000 rupees to the financial market on that day.

CBM pumped over \$3 million and 700,000 yuan into the financial market on 18 July after selling \$1.1 million to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold over \$1.5 million to edible oil-importing companies on 17 July, in addition to an

injection of over 756,260 yuan and 2,000 baht into the financial market.

CBM sold \$1.2 million, which were purchased from companies working on a Cut-Make and Pack basis, to edible oil companies on 16 July.

CBM announced on 15 July that it would pump \$33 million into the fuel oil industry. In addition to injecting over 324,360 yuan into the financial market, CBM sold over \$771,290 million to the edible oil-importing companies on that day.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating 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

OPINION

Strive to ensure
a longer life expectancy
for people

BASED on projected global population data for 2024 released by the United Nations, an international organization reported that people from Monaco, San Marino, and Hong Kong have the longest life expectancy in the world. According to the data, Monaco has an average life expectancy of 87 years, while San Marino and Hong Kong follow closely with 86 years. South Korea ranks next with an average of 85 years.

Notably, the majority of the ten countries with the longest life expectancy are very small in size. In contrast, people in many African countries have a life expectancy of less than 60 years, with Nigeria averaging just 55 years. The global average life expectancy is 73.5-70.9 years for males and 76.2 years for females. The average

life expectancy in Myanmar is currently approximately 67 years.

Once, the World Health Organization stated that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic reduced the global average life expectancy by 1.8 years. Since life expectancy is one of the key indicators of a country's development, it is essential to prioritize improvements in healthcare services, particularly maternal and child care, to raise the overall lifespan of the population. Moreover, everyone needs to contribute to maintaining peace and stability in the nation, as well as to help meet the basic needs of the people.

Life expectancy is an estimate of how long individuals are expected to live, reflecting their ability to enjoy a longer life. In fact, this indicator is crucial for analyzing a country's overall health, economic performance, and socioeconomic development. Life expectancy is influenced by factors such as access to quality healthcare services, improved nutrition and sanitation, the availability of safe drinking water and nutritious food, and higher individual incomes.

Since 1990, global life expectancy has risen notably. Men now live 5.8 years longer on average, and women 6.6 years. Advances in medical science have helped wealthier countries better manage serious illnesses like cancer and heart disease. Meanwhile, poorer nations have seen declining deaths from diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and diarrhoea. A study in The Lancet also reported that HIV/AIDS-related deaths have decreased across Africa, with life expectancy in many African countries increasing by an average of five years.

The primary factors contributing to a shorter lifespan in a country include inadequate healthcare systems, high rates of infectious diseases and outbreaks, elevated mortality rates, widespread drug addiction and abuse, violent acts and armed conflicts, high poverty levels, a declining education sector, and frequent exposure to natural disasters.

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Failures



LIKE the building in this picture, it's dark in their heads. Not so much intelligence. Failure after failure makes them more and more irrelevant. Failures because they are not known for thinking intelligently. They may be numb to failures. They live in their own fantasy world of denial.

Let's point out to the great envoy and the Supreme Leader, who sits atop the Ivory Tower in New York, the latest failure that is Syria. There are all kinds of chaos in Syria. There have been envoy after envoy for Syria, too. One after another, they manage to drive Syria further into the abyss. They manage to strip Syria, a country so rich in culture dating back to the dawn of civilization, of dignity and sovereignty.

How many envoys have there been for Myanmar, and what single accomplishment can all of them point to? Higher class travels and accommodations (they don't stay at Sheraton Four Square!!!!), statement after statement. Nothing more! Recently, the great envoy is said to have "completed" a tour of Myanmar's neighbours. Wow!! How wonderful!! There it is, folks!

Let's remind them of Libya, Haiti, Sudan, DRC, Somalia, just to name a few. The list goes on and on! The reality is that conflicts only cease or find ways to solutions when the Uncles decide so. Not by these people who sit behind the desk in the Ivory Towers in Geneva and New York, intoxicated by lucrative perks.

By Kyaw Myint Htoon (Paris)

Rational, practical thinking, certainly not part of their practice. Case in point, the useless one-day talkfest scheduled for the end of September in New York. On that date, no one of substance in the international political arena would be there. All those who matter would have visited one week earlier. If the great envoy, the Supremo, couldn't even make the case to hold the meeting when "who's who" is in town, isn't it clear there is no real interest? Useless and time-wasting or not, an event like this provides a nice junket for the great envoy and other "wannabes". The conference is said to be in the hands of so-called "civil society" groups. Who are these people? What's the vetting process? Just gets better and better! If these groups are going to determine such a complex problem, best of luck! Let's repeat. All that doesn't matter. It offers a nice junket to New York!

Let's recall another failure just to rub it in. In the first few weeks in the office in 2017, the Supremo went all in to solve the long-running Cyprus conflict. It failed miserably! Now, in the 91st year in office, I just tried again. Again, failed!

Let's also remember that the Supremo, in the Co year in office, out of such deep compassion, visited Cox's Bazar! Nice pictures with the helpless, hapless kids. ninth year and no achievement to show for, despera-

tions mount!

They can't solve a thing. What they are excellent at is releasing meaningless, vaguely worded, grandiose statements. There is a political expression called "word salad"! The Big Uncle said so in recent months that they can't solve a thing.

Not much of a track record on accountability either. No one in the management has ever paid the price for the pain inflicted due to the child sex abuse scandal in Haiti. Not just sex abuse! Child sex abuse!!! No one even got fired! May they descend straight to hell! No wonder the Big Uncle thinks it's one big wasteful place.

Elections are planned in Myanmar later this year. The Ivory Tower has something called the Electoral Assistant Division. Nah-hhh!!! These are bureaucrats lower than lightweight. Don't let them anywhere near. If the great envoy interferes with the process, hit back hard immediately. Keep pointing out their failures. Myanmar has enough friends and political capital to plough straight ahead. They will just come in and complicate matters, preaching "inclusivity", "all the key stakeholders", etc. They might throw in some gender issues just to check the boxes. They'll just bring all kinds of rubbish!

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author.)

In the Quiet Grain of Pine

By @ Editor

He rose each dawn with duty in his stride.
A servant of the state, steadfast with pride.
Behind a desk or in the field, he stood,
Upholding the law with quiet strength and good.
Rewarded not with riches, but with grace,
A place at Shwewahchaing, a well-earned space.
Yet greater still, the gifts he left to me:
A life of order, calm, and dignity.
He showed me how to wash my plate with care
And scrub my clothes with the weekend's measured air.
Not just in chores, but in the life he led,
A father's wisdom gently, deeply spread.
He read the world within a pinewood box.
Its corners are worn like time-smoothed travel rocks.
And now those books, like echoes, remain.
The weight of love is in every page and grain.
I walked his path, though far, while he stayed true.
And when he left, I never said adieu.
For I was in Bangkok, too far to embrace
The man who shaped my steps, my mind, my grace.
O Father, if I failed to say enough,
Know still, my heart is built of all your stuff.
And in the quiet grain of pine, I see
The man you were and still remain in me.



Profession

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

So as to acquire knowledge,
Dear little children, be educated.

For parents and teachers,
Again and again, to their learners,
In order to be easy on the ear,
Make them listen to the letter.

Without the art of rowing and
paddling,
Or any other line of working.
A person will always be labouring.

But if he is a real scholar,
Getting praised to the skies the
world over,
Will exactly set the world on fire,
Superior to the moon and the sky.

အတတ်ပညာ

သိပ္ပံပညာ ဖြစ်ပွားအောင်
ချစ်သားတို့သင်ကြပါ။

မိဘဆရာတို့
ဖန်ခါခါ တပည့်သားတို့
ထောင်နားဆန် မငြင်း
အောင်
သွင်းကြပေရာ။

လှေလှော်လှေခတ်နှင့်
အတတ်ကယ့်ခွဲသူမှာ၊
ဝန်ထမ်းသာဖြစ်မြဲ။

ပညာရှင်ဖြစ်ပေကာ
လူပြည်မှာ ပူဇော်လို့
မျှော်ပေါ် ဂုဏ်ထင်ပလိမ့်မည်၊
မိုးလထက်ကဲ။

စွန့်ပါဆရာတော်

When Rivers Rise

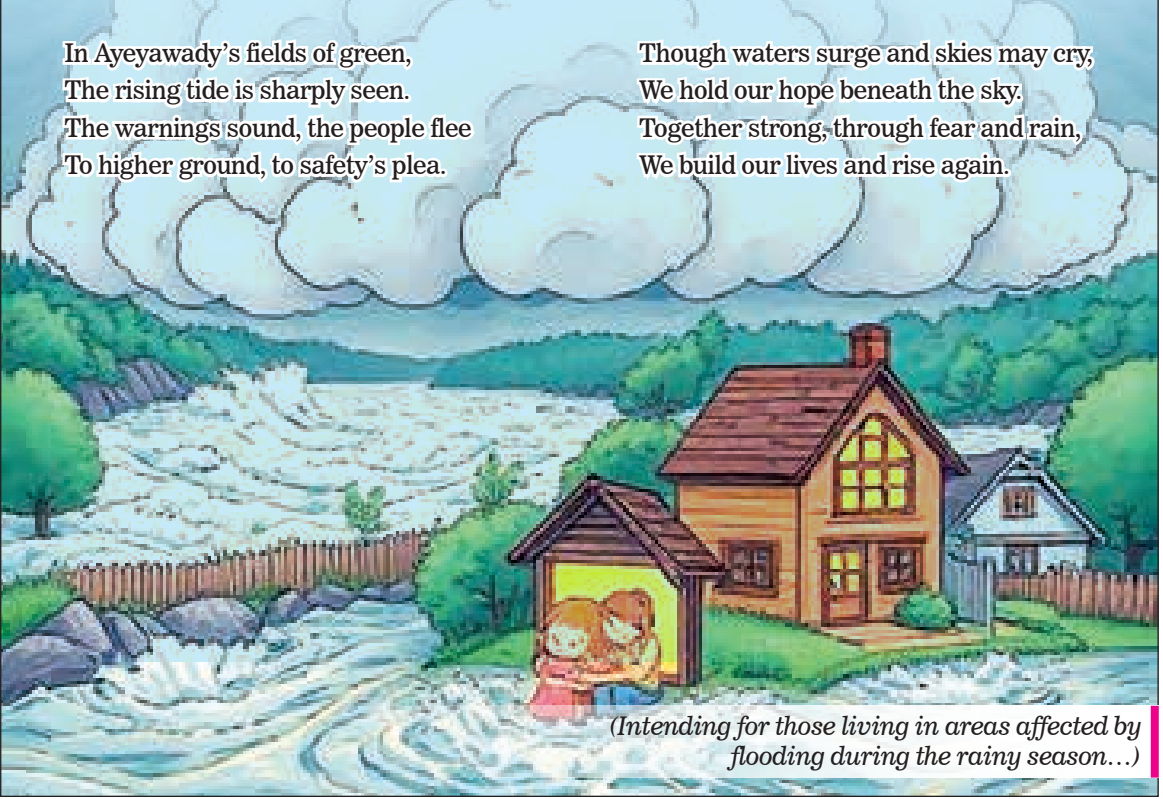
By Min Zan

The storm clouds build, the rivers roar;
They break their banks and sweep the shore.
Our homes may shake, the night turns wide,
But courage keeps us safe inside.

In Ayeyawady's fields of green,
The rising tide is sharply seen.
The warnings sound, the people flee
To higher ground, to safety's plea.

Prepare your food, your lamp, your bread
Keep watch where warning words are spread.
The flood may come, yet hearts endure
For love and care, make shelters sure.

Though waters surge and skies may cry,
We hold our hope beneath the sky.
Together strong, through fear and rain,
We build our lives and rise again.



NATIONAL

MCEF, CHID Bank sign MoU on banking and construction cooperation



This photo showcases MCEF and CHID Bank at the signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding.

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation and the Construction, Housing & Infrastructure Development Bank have signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in the banking and construction sectors.

The MoU signing ceremony between MCEF and CHID Bank was held on 25 July at the MCEF Hall. At the ceremony, MICEF President U Shein Win delivered a speech, and he was followed by CHID Bank Chief Executive Officer U Ye Tun Oo.

After the opening ceremony, the attendees introduced each other. MCEF said that the MoU was signed to facilitate cooperation between the two parties in the banking and construction sectors. — MT/ZN



This image depicts CHID inviting tender loan services.

CHID offers tender loans

TENDER loan services can be applied for at its branches, said the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank. Companies which won tenders can get this loan service at CHID to expand their business, it said. Construction tender loans and procurement tender loans can be applied for with full documents, it said. Businesses can apply easily for the tender loans being offered at CHID branches, the bank said. For more information about CHID's services, customers can ask at its branches or call centre 09 401010810 and 09 401010820 during office hours. — MT/ZS

Embassy urges Myanmar nationals to avoid Thai-Cambodian border



The Myanmar Embassy to Thailand.

MYANMAR nationals in Thailand shouldn't travel to Thailand and Cambodia border and be aware of safety to avoid unwanted incidents between the two countries' conflict, said the Myanmar Embassy to Thailand on 25 July. The armed conflict has started on the border, said the embassy and added that it has seen reports that civilians living on the border

are being warned to evacuate to a safety zone. In the statement, the embassy said Thailand and Cambodia are nations which have a good relationship with Myanmar, as well as they are ASEAN members, and Myanmar believes the two countries will solve this current conflict peacefully. Concerning the Thailand and

Cambodia conflict, State Administration Council Information Team Leader Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun said Myanmar believes Thailand and Cambodia can seek a peaceful solution to the conflict, and Myanmar nationals in those countries need to be aware of safety and can ask for assistance from Myanmar embassies and consulates. — MT/ZS

3-year-old Rattha Nandaka undergoing peaceful human-elephant interaction training

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, peace and human-elephant interaction training is being taught to the healthy and happy royal white elephant, Rattha Nandaka, which turned three years old on July 23, 2025. A 33-year-old female elephant, named Zar Nan Hla and kept by the Myanma Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township, Rakhine State, gave birth to a white male elephant at 6:30 am on 23 July 2022. When it was born, the baby elephant was two feet and five inches in height, three feet and one inch in girth and weighed 180 pounds. At three years old, the

baby white elephant is five feet and three inches in height, eight feet in circumference and weighs 1,573 pounds. It stays healthy and happy with its mother elephant under the peaceful human and elephant interaction training system. It has pearl-coloured eyes, a plantain branch-shaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail with a tuft of hair at its end, auspicious plot signs on the skin, reddish-brown or pinkish skin, five claws on the front legs, four claws on the back legs and big ears. Therefore, these features conform to seven out of eight characteristics of a royal white elephant. — Htun Htun/ZN



Step up: Walking even just a little more every day could have big health benefits. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Walking 7,000 steps a day a huge boost to health: research

WALKING just 7,000 steps a day can nearly halve your risk of early death and significantly lower the chances of dementia, depression, and diabetes, according to the largest-ever review of step-count health data.

People who walk 7,000 steps a day have a dramatically lower risk of a broad range of serious health problems, the largest review of the evidence yet said Thursday.

The most widely promoted

target for people tracking their number of steps is 10,000 — but that figure reportedly originally came from a 1960s marketing campaign for a Japanese pedometer.

To find a more scientific target, an international team of researchers sifted through 57 previous studies that covered 160,000 people.

The results published in the Lancet Public Health journal found that walking 7,000

steps a day nearly halved people’s risk of early death from all causes, compared to 2,000 steps.

The study also looked into health problems not previously covered by research into step counts.

Walking 7,000 steps a day was linked to people’s risk of dementia falling by 38 per cent, depression dropping 22 per cent and diabetes decreasing 14 per cent. — AFP

Hungary bans Kneecap performance over ‘antisemitic hate speech’

THE Hungarian government on Thursday barred provocative Irish rap group Kneecap from entering the country for three years and performing at the upcoming Sziget festival, accusing the band of “antisemitic hate speech”.

The Belfast group has made headlines in recent months after it sharply criticized Israel and its military campaign against the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza.

Known for their confrontational style and Irish nationalist messaging, the band has denied

supporting violence or banned groups.

But their anti-Israel comments on stage at the Glastonbury Festival in June drew global condemnation.

While Kneecap has denied any terrorism connection, singer Liam O’Hanna, known by his stage name Mo Chara, has been charged in the UK with a “terror” offence over alleged support for Hamas and Hezbollah in connection with a performance last year.

He is due to appear in a London court in August. — AFP



Kneecap have also been cancelled for festivals in Scotland and Germany. PHOTO: AFP

Stellan Skarsgard to be honoured with Heart of Sarajevo at Sarajevo Film Festival 2025

SWEDISH acting star Stellan Skarsgard will be honoured with the prestigious Heart of Sarajevo award at the Sarajevo Film Festival in August, reported Deadline.

According to the outlet, the actor is a longtime friend of the festival, as well as a curator and one of the patrons of the Katrin Cartlidge Foundation, the scholarships of which were awarded at the Sarajevo Film Festival.

“The Sarajevo Film Festival

remains unwavering and driven in its aim to highlight subjects of great consequence, underscored by an intense lust for life. I love going there”, said Skarsgard as quoted by Deadline. The actor follows in the wake of past celebrated Sarajevo honorees who include Meg Ryan, Alexander Payne, Lynne Ramsay, Charlie Kaufman, Jesse Eisenberg, Ruben Ostlund, Mads Mikkelsen and Angelina Jolie, reported Deadline. — ANI



Swedish acting star Stellan Skarsgard will be honoured with the prestigious Heart of Sarajevo award at the Sarajevo Film Festival in August. PHOTO: ANI

IICT signs MoUs to boost India’s AVGC-XR Ecosystem

THE Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) signed the two strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Comic Con India, and Green Rain Studios after the formal inauguration by Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Railways Minister and Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, at the IICT-NFDC Campus in Mumbai.

These partnerships mark a significant step towards

strengthening India’s AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality) ecosystem by integrating world-class industry expertise with academic excellence.

The MoU with Comic Con India, India’s largest pop culture platform, will focus on structured opportunities for student engagement, original IP development, and industry-academia collaboration, as per the press note by IICT. — ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

US chip maker Intel says revenue rose as it cut ranks

Intel faces challenges from rivals like TSMC and Samsung, which dominate the semiconductor market, and Nvidia, the leading AI chip provider.



Silicon Valley chip maker Intel says it cut about 15 per cent of its 'core workforce' in the recently ended quarter. **PHOTO: AFP**

INTEL on Thursday posted quarterly revenue that topped market expectations, saying it has cut about 15 per cent of its workforce to be "more agile".

The US chip maker also said it "will no longer move forward" with projects in Germany and Poland as part of a push to save billions

of dollars.

The struggling chip maker's earnings report came as rivals specializing in graphics processing units (GPUs) for artificial intelligence thrive due to rapid adoption of the technology.

Intel is one of Silicon Valley's most iconic companies,

but its fortunes have been dwarfed by Asian powerhouses TSMC and Samsung, which dominate the made-to-order semiconductor business.

The company was also caught by surprise with the emergence of Nvidia as the world's preeminent AI chip provider. — AFP

Economists see Malaysia's new measures to boost growth

ECONOMISTS foresee Malaysia's new measures to address rising costs as providing a near-term growth boost to the country.

TA Securities said in a note on Thursday that these new measures, including cash aids, are expected to boost consumption and raise household incomes.

The research house noted that the recent overnight policy rate (OPR) cut, alongside targeted cash assistance and other consumer-friendly initiatives, will likely support private consumption and provide a modest uplift to gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the near term. "These announcements should help cushion the domestic econ-

omy, especially as weak external demand continues to weigh on export performance. That said, if the proposed 25 per cent US tariff on Malaysian goods proceeds as planned, it could pose downside risks to Malaysia's export-driven sectors and overall GDP," it said.

Nonetheless, it opined that the expected strength in domestic demand may partially offset the external drag, helping the economy stay broadly on track.

"We maintain our GDP growth forecast at 4.4 per cent year-on-year for 2025, underpinned by private consumption growth of around five per cent year-on-year," it added. — Xinhua

Tanzania set to join top 10 global uranium producers

WITH an estimated 139 million tonnes of uranium deposits and a projected mine life of 22 years, Tanzania is poised to secure its place among the top 10 global producers of uranium, said Minister for Minerals Anthony Mavunde on Tuesday.

Mavunde made the remarks during an inspection of a strategic uranium mining project in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region, which is expected to commence soon following the completion of a pilot uranium processing plant, according to a statement by

the communications unit of the ministry. "One of the priorities of the government is to add value to minerals within the country. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has given us specific directives to ensure this is achieved," said Mavunde.

"The launch of this project, which includes construction of a value-addition plant for uranium, is a clear demonstration of the government's commitment. The Ministry of Minerals will continue to oversee this initiative to ensure it benefits our nation," he added. — Xinhua

UK expected to lose most millionaires globally in 2025: British consultancy report

THE United Kingdom (UK) is expected to lose 16,500 millionaires, the most in the world, this year, a report from the British investment migration consultancy Henley & Partners showed Thursday.

According to the Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2025, a total of 142,000 million-

aires are projected to relocate globally this year, and the UK is forecast to record the greatest net outflow of high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) among all countries.

The United Arab Emirates continues to hold its position as the world's top destination for wealth migration, with a record

net inflow of more than 9,800 relocating millionaires anticipated this year, the report noted.

For the first time, the European Union (EU) heavyweights France, Spain and Germany are expected to see net HNWI losses this year, with predicted net outflows of 800, 500 and 400 millionaires, respectively. — Xinhua



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the world's leading destination for wealth migration. The Italy-flagged cruise ship Costa Smeralda is pictured cruising off the Dubai Marina in Dubai on 4 January 2025. **PHOTO: GIUSEPPE CACACE / AFP/FILE**

Power bank that caught fire on Tokyo loop line was recalled product



Photo shows recalled power banks, the same model as the one that caught fire on Tokyo's Yamanote loop line on 20 July 2025. **PHOTO: CONSUMER AFFAIRS AGENCY/KYODO**

A power bank that caught fire and caused suspensions on Tokyo's busy Yamanote loop line on the weekend was found to be a recalled product, an investigative source said Friday. The power bank was one of 39,300 sold from December 2019 to August 2021, and a total of 16 fires have been reported since fiscal 2021, the Consumer Affairs Agency said after receiving a report from its seller on Thursday.

The fire broke out at around 4:10 pm Sunday on a train travelling between Shin-Okubo and Shinjuku stations, triggering brief suspensions of services on the loop line and other lines and affecting around 98,000 people, JR East said. Police have quoted the female owner of the power bank as saying, "The battery became hot when I was charging my smartphone, and


(the phone) caught fire in around 30 seconds." In addition to the woman, who sustained a burn on her finger, four others were injured while evacuating the train. Lithium-ion batteries, commonly used in power banks, can ignite upon physical impact or due to gradual degradation, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. — Kyodo

S Korea's LG Electronics logs double-digit fall in Q2 profit

SOUTH Korea's tech giant LG Electronics logged a double-digit fall in the second-quarter profit due to the US tariffs imposition and stiff competition, the company said Friday. Operating profit dived 46.6 per cent from a year

earlier to 639.4 billion won (US\$464.1 million) in the April-June quarter. Revenue dipped 4.4 per cent to 20.74 trillion won (\$15.1 billion), and net income reduced 3.1 per cent to 609.7 billion won (\$442.5 million) in the

second quarter. The downturn was attributed to intensified competition, higher logistics expenses and increased tariff burdens, driven by changes in the US trade policy. — Xinhua



Announcement to Shareholders

- We are pleased to announce that the 33rd Annual General Meeting (2024–2025 FY) of Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd. (MCB) will be held soon. The meeting will be arranged in accordance with the MCB's Constitution. Accordingly, some directors shall retire by rotation, and new directors shall be elected to replace them, as provided in the existing Constitution.
- The applications of candidates shall be submitted to the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in advance of the Annual Meeting. Accordingly, among the Special Account Holders at Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and the Security Account Holders at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), shareholders holding 1,000 shares and above, and associations/companies holding 2,000 shares and above as of 31.03.2025, the date on which the MCB's Board of Directors will confirm shareholder status, who are willing to be elected as directors, may visit MCB at No. 383, Maharbandula Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, and submit the applications by 16:30 on 29.07.2025.
- Candidates must meet the qualifications stated in Sub-clauses 1 to 8 of Clause 76 (b) of Section 10, the Financial Institutions Law.
- Please bring your original NRC, one license-size photo, and supporting documents for proof of share ownership at the time of application. The time and venue of the Annual General Meeting will be announced later. For more information, please reach out to MCB's General Services Department at 01- 8386023 or 01-8386029.

Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd

THE CITIZENS' CHOICE

US tourism slump hits retail sales hard, threatening economic growth: reports

RETAILERS in major US cities are facing severe losses due to a sharp decline in international tourists, with an estimated US\$20 billion in retail sales expected to vanish this year, according to reports by Bloomberg Intelligence and Travel and Tour World published on Thursday. In key metropolitan hubs such as New York,

Los Angeles and Chicago, luxury brands and prominent retail chains are particularly affected, Bloomberg's report said, adding these cities traditionally depend heavily on foreign visitors who, prior to the downturn, spent significantly on apparel, electronics, and luxury goods. Retail experts attributed the decline to several critical factors. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2512S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY.NO. (2512S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-7-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (155W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (155W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-7-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Cambodia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn briefed diplomats and defence attachés on the border situation.
- Clashes occurred between Cambodian and Thai forces on Thursday and Friday, with both sides blaming each other for violations.
- Thai military reported Cambodian forces used heavy weapons, including field artillery and BM-21 rocket systems, while Thai forces responded with supporting fire.
- As of Thursday night, 14 Thai individuals were killed and 46 injured; one Cambodian villager was killed and five wounded.
- Over 2,900 families near the border have been evacuated to safe locations due to ongoing fighting.

Thailand-Cambodia border clashes: Latest developments



Cambodian police officials stand next to the closed gate at Poipet International border checkpoint between Cambodia-Thailand, at Poipet town in Banteay Meanchey province on 24 June 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

- Cambodian officials reported that Thai troops used heavy weapons, F-16 fighter jets, in attacks on Cambodian territory, as border clash escalates.

- UN security council closed-door meeting was scheduled to discuss the border clashes, requested by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged both countries to exercise maximum restraint and resolve issues through dialogue.
- The Thai embassy to Cambodia advised Thai nationals to leave the country amid escalating tensions.
- Artillery fire was reported near the border area early Friday, indicating continued hostilities.

SOURCE: AGENCIES

Britain-India trade deal signed with applause, apprehension

BRITAIN and India officially signed a free trade agreement on Thursday during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Britain at Chequers, the country house of the British prime minister, following the initial announcement made in May.

The British government said that India’s average tariff on British products will decrease from 15 per cent to three per cent. Under

the terms of the agreement, tariffs on whisky and gin exported to India will be halved from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, with a further reduction to 40 per cent over a decade. Meanwhile, British automotive tariffs will decrease from over 100 per cent to 10 per cent, subject to a quota. In return, 99 per cent of Indian exports to Britain will face zero tariff.

According to the British

government’s statement, the agreement will create over 2,200 jobs across Britain and will stimulate sectors including aerospace, technology and advanced manufacturing. “Thanks to the deal, British workers will enjoy a collective uplift in wages of 2.2 billion British pounds (US\$2.98 billion) each year and could also see cheaper prices and more choice on clothes, shoes and food products,” the government said in a press release.

According to the British government, the deal is expected to “increase bilateral trade by nearly 39 per cent in the long run, equivalent to 25.5 billion British pounds a year, when compared to 2040 projected levels of trade in the absence of an agreement”.

— Xinhua



Under the terms of the agreement, tariffs on whisky and gin exported to India will be halved from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, with a further reduction to 40 per cent over a decade. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY**

Google commits US\$37 million to AI development in Africa

GOOGLE on Thursday unveiled a \$37 million package to accelerate artificial intelligence development across Africa, pledging support for local AI research and projects ranging from crop monitoring to adapting technology for the continent’s languages.

The commitment from the US tech giant also included efforts to back startups in the health and education sectors.

“Africa is home to some of the most important and inspiring work in AI today,” said James Manyika, a senior vice president at the company, speaking during the launch of an “AI community centre” in Ghana’s capital, Accra.

The centre will serve as a hub for training, collaboration and experimentation, including programming for AI literacy.

Among the flagship initiatives unveiled is the AI Collaborative for Food Security, meant to connect researchers

and non-profits to develop tools to improve early hunger detection, crop resilience and decision-making for smallholder farmers.

The project aims to help African food systems withstand growing climate and economic shocks.

AI has already been deployed by some farmers across the continent, including in nearby Nigeria, long home to a booming domestic tech industry. Local agri-tech companies have popped up to monitor soil conditions for crops or temperature and humidity on chicken farms.

Google is also set to launch a financing platform to back AI-driven startups in the agriculture, health and education sectors. Through its philanthropic arm, it committed \$7 million to expand AI education initiatives in Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and Ghana. — AFP

SPORTS

Arsenal sign Valencia defender Mosquera



Cristhian Mosquera (below) in action for Valencia. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ARSENAL on Thursday announced the signing of Valencia defender Cristhian Mosquera, taking their spending during the summer transfer window close to £140 million (\$189 million).

The Spain under-21 international joins for an initial fee of around £13 million, with performance-related add-ons, and is understood to have agreed a five-year deal with an option of a further year. The 21-year-old, Arsenal's fifth signing in recent weeks, is set to provide cover for William Saliba and Gabriel at the heart of the Gunners' defence, but can operate anywhere along the

back line. Mosquera, who played 41 times for Valencia last season, has joined Arsenal for their tour of Singapore and Hong Kong.

"It means a lot to me," he told the club website. "There's been a lot of hard work behind all of this."

"It's an opportunity that came up and I couldn't let it pass me by. I'm joining a historic, massive club. When you arrive here with your family, you really feel the greatness of this place."

Manager Mikel Arteta described Mosquera as "an intelligent player with good pace, who can play centrally and on both sides". — AFP

Thomas Muller to continue career abroad after leaving Bayern Munich

GERMAN football icon Thomas Muller has confirmed he will continue his playing career after parting ways with Bayern Munich, ending his 25-year tenure with the record German

champion. Speaking during a commercial shoot, the 2014 FIFA World Cup winner said, "I will continue to play football," quashing speculation that he might retire.

The 35-year-old revealed he is set to leave Germany and Europe in pursuit of "an experience abroad".

"I still have the passion for the game," said Muller. "That's why I've decided to keep going."

Multiple media outlets report that Muller is likely to join Major League Soccer, with Los Angeles FC - a partner club of Bayern Munich. Other reported suitors include FC Cincinnati and Australia's Sydney FC. — Xinhua



German football icon Thomas Muller has confirmed he will continue his playing career after parting ways with Bayern Munich, ending his 25-year tenure with the record German champion. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Cardoso hoping to make history as first US player at Atletico

NEW Atletico Madrid signing Johnny Cardoso said Thursday he wants to "make history" as the first player from the United States at the club.

The American midfielder joined the Rojiblancos from Real Betis last week for an estimated 25 million euros (\$29 million).

"All of this is very special and I hope to make history here as the first American to play at this club," Cardoso told Atletico's club media.

The 23-year-old made his

international debut in 2020 and has 22 international caps.

Diego Simeone's side have rebuilt this summer after letting Saul Niguez, Axel Witsel, Angel Correa, Cesar Azpilicueta and others depart.

Cardoso joined along with Alex Baena from Villarreal, Thiago Almada, Marc Pubill and Matteo Ruggeri.

The midfielder highlighted some of Atletico's players he was excited to play with. — AFP



Johnny Cardoso (L) became the first player from the United States to sign for La Liga outfit Atletico Madrid. PHOTO: AFP

Canada hockey players found not guilty of sexual assault

FIVE Canadian professional hockey players accused of sexually assaulting a woman in 2018 were found not guilty on Thursday, with the judge ruling the complainant's account of the alleged offences was not credible.

The case had captured the country's attention, and raised concern about broader

issues in the culture of hockey, Canada's cherished national sport.

Michael McLeod, Alex Formenton, Dillon Dube, Carter Hart and Callan Foote stood trial on charges they assaulted the woman in a London hotel room following a national men's junior team celebration. — AFP



World Internet Conference Digital Silk Road Development Forum held in Quanzhou



This photo taken on 24 July 2025 shows the opening ceremony of the World Internet Conference (WIC) Digital Silk Road Development Forum in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province. PHOTO: WEI PEIQUAN/XINHUA

The forum is themed
“Embracing the
Digital and Intelligent
Maritime Silk Road
— Jointly Building
a Community with
a Shared Future in
Cyberspace.”

THEMED on “Embracing the Digital and Intelligent Maritime Silk Road — Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace”, the World Internet Conference (WIC) Digital Silk Road Development Forum kicked off in Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province on Thursday, drawing more than 600 guests from 49 countries and regions and 13 international institutions. — Xinhua

Iran, European countries resume nuclear talks in Istanbul

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei stated that the talks would allow the E3 to reassess their stance towards Iran and evaluate their approach to the nuclear programme.

NUCLEAR talks between Iran and the three European countries of France, Britain and Germany, collectively known as the E3, began in Istanbul, Türkiye, on Friday morning, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.



The meeting took place in Istanbul. PHOTO: AFP

The Iranian delegation is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-Ravanchi and Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told the official news agency IRNA that the talks would be an opportunity for the three European countries to rectify their attitude towards Iran and test their approach to the country's nuclear programme.

Speaking previously at a weekly press conference, Baghaei said the talks would focus on the removal of sanctions and issues related to Tehran's “peaceful” nuclear programme, noting that Iran would present its demands seriously at the upcoming meeting. — Xinhua

DIPLOMATIC MILESTONE

PM Modi holds meeting with Maldivian President Muizzu in Male

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu held on Friday a meeting in Male.

The meeting was held after PM Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Republic Square.

PM Modi is visiting Maldives at the invitation of President Muizzu and will attend the country's 60th Independence Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour.

The two leaders met at Republic Square following the ceremonial welcome, which included a 21-gun salute, Guard of Honour by the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), and a cultural dance performance by children. The national anthems of both countries were also played during the reception.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the visit marks 60 years of diplomatic ties between India and the Maldives.

“Commemorating 60 years of special & historic India-Maldives ties. PM Narendra Modi arrived at the Republic Square to a warm & colourful ceremonial welcome & Guard of Honour. Warmly welcomed by President Dr Mohamed Muizzu. Delegation level talks lie ahead,” he posted on X. — ANI