

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

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By Amb Debnath Shaw

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Myanmar partners with India, Uzbekistan to boost cotton resilience, fair pricing

UMTA invites members to Akha swing festival in Kengtung



This photo showcases the Akha swing-riding festival held in the previous year.

On 26 August, the programme features visits to key sites, including Mount Loimwe, a colonial house, Mount Pankwe, Buddha's Garden, Standing Buddha Image, churches, and hot springs, plus local food tasting and dinner at Mount Thittapin before flying back to Yangon.

The Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) has invited its members to visit the Akha swing-riding festival, which will be held in Kengtung, Shan State, on 23-26 August.

It is a traditional festival that symbolizes tradition and unity, and the tour group will be

flying from Yangon to Kengtung on 23 August.

Travel destinations include pagodas and monasteries on the first day, and Naungngin village on the Kengtung-Mongla road on 24 August, which will be followed by visiting a historic pagoda in Wamhnyut-Wamshan village and dining on the eve of

the swing-riding festival.

On 25 August, the group will participate in the opening ceremony of the swing-riding festival in Kengtung, visit the ancient city wall and a Sawbwa's tomb, then continue to a 100-year-old tea farm in Kaphakyayba village, rice-liquor producing Wamkan village,

Kengtung waterfall and the Arkatha Resort.

The programme on 26 August is scheduled to visit Mount Loimwe (5,542 feet high), a 100-year-old colonial house, Mount Pankwe, Buddha's Garden, Standing Buddha Image, churches, and hot springs, and tasting local foods, and dining at Mount Thittapin before flying back to Yangon.

Interested members should register with name, company's name, contact phone and national ID card number to office@umtanet.org, secretary@umtanet.org, or by contact numbers 09 2005648 and 09 5170456 by 18 August and pay their travel expenses at the office. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

We must invest in human resources to adapt rapidly changing global economy

❖ In order to adapt and thrive alongside the rapidly changing global economy, we must invest in human resources. Our large workforce must be provided with proper education and comprehensive training.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the opening of the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World held on 21 March 2025)

- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

Thaegon hosts awareness session on children's rights and ethics

THE Township Committee on the Rights of the Child in Thaegon, Nattalin District, Bago Region, organized an awareness session on children's rights and ethical conduct at 9 am on 14 August. The event was held at the "Knowledge Treasure" Hall of Basic Education High School (Padigon).

The opening remarks were delivered by U Yin Htway, Chairperson of the Thaegon Township Committee on the Rights of the Child and Township Administrator. Following

this, Daw Moe Moe Aye, Head of the Pyay District Department of Social Welfare, and Daw Wint Thiri Paing, Social Welfare Staff 3, spoke on topics including the four categories of child protection rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the meaning of human rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the objectives of child rights, the basic rights to which every child is entitled, ethics for children, and the rights of children with disabilities.

Later, Daw Wint Nandar Htay, Staff Officer from the Department of Public Relations and Information, gave an awareness talk under the theme "Ethics as a Human Value for the Development of the Five Strengths".

After the talks, students had the opportunity to ask questions, which the officials answered in detail. Gifts were presented to students who took part in the question-and-answer session. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/KZL



The awareness session on children's rights and ethical conduct in progress yesterday in Bago Region.

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization appointed

THE National Defence and Security Council has appointed Daw Moe Moe Kyi, Deputy Director-General of the Financial Institutions Regulation and Supervision Department of the Central Bank of Myanmar, as Director-General of the same organization on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 14 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal (South Odisha - North Andhra Pradesh Coasts, India) still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and across South Odisha - North Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next 24 hours. — DMH

Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 14 August 2025

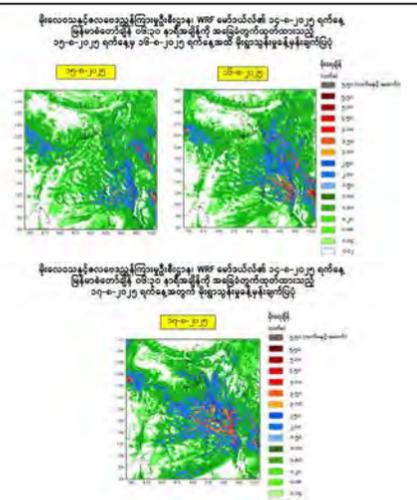
ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the low-pressure area over Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal (South Odisha - North Andhra Pradesh Coasts, India), rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah State and fairly widespread

to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with isolated heavy falls from tonight to 17 August 2025. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along

the Myanmar 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



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)

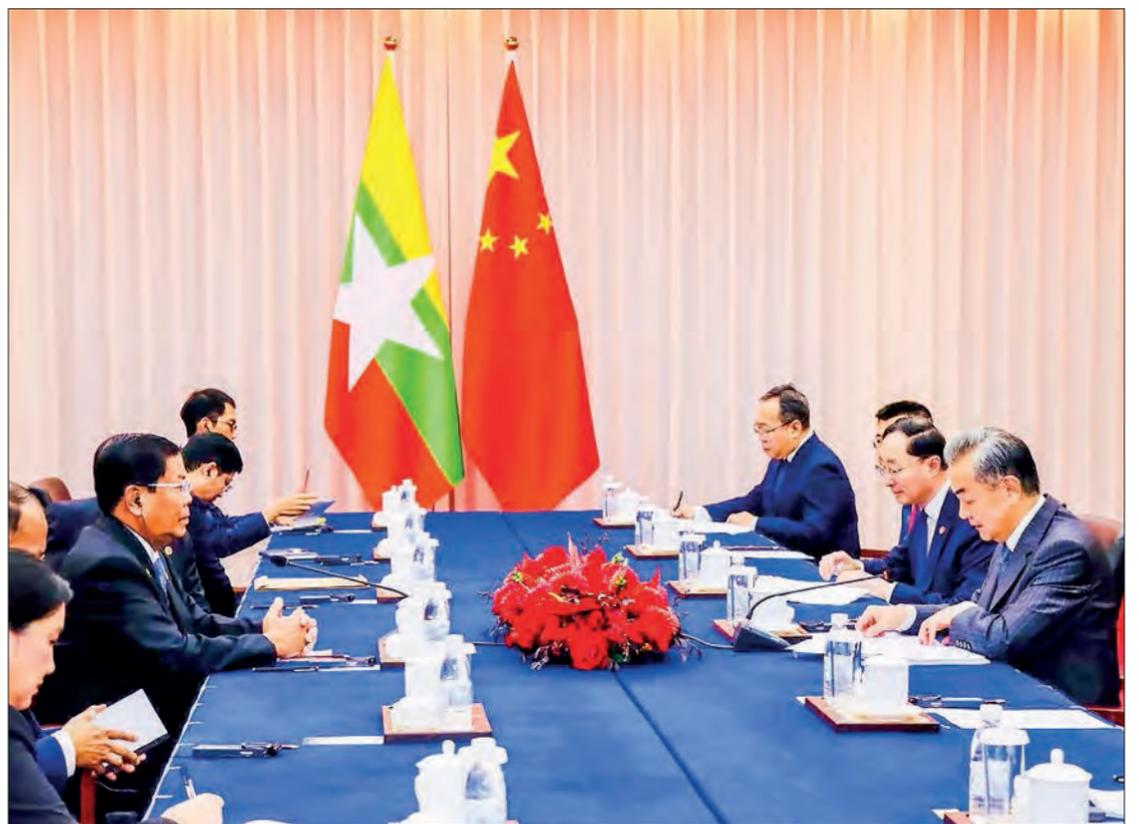
MoFA Union Minister meets Thai FM and Chinese FM in China

During the visit to Anning, China, to attend the 10th Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meeting, U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar met Mr Maris Sangiampongsa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand yesterday and Mr Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China on the same day, respectively.

At the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, both sides updated

the recent developments in their respective countries and exchanged views on strengthening cooperation in border affairs.

During the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, the two sides discussed matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation. The Union Minister also apprised his Chinese counterpart of the preparations for the upcoming election in Myanmar. In response, the Chinese Foreign Minister expressed the full support of China for the holding of the election and political development in Myanmar. — MNA



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe holds talks with Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi in Anning, China.

Myanmar joins online ASEAN Power Grid finance meeting

MYANMAR ASEAN Economic Minister and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung and Union Minister for Energy U Ko Ko Lwin joined the Ministerial Interface Meeting on Financial Mechanisms for the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) hosted virtually in Malaysia yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin said the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank should continue assisting to ensure the participation of Laos and Thailand in the cross-border electricity project to meet the Myanmar's electricity needs as per the ASEAN Power Grid Financing Facility (APGF) project to be implemented before



Union Minister participates in the Ministerial Interface Meeting on Financial Mechanisms for the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), hosted virtually in Malaysia yesterday.

2045.

He added that Myanmar welcomes the investments

for sustainable development in the regional economics and energy sectors utilizing

its geographical position and opportunities. Moreover, the country will work with ASEAN

countries to ensure energy security and development in the energy sector in the country and also in regional countries.

Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung said all should focus on the effective and inclusive approach to enhancing energy security, accessibility, and resilience. As Myanmar is rich in energy resources, the country welcomes investments of ASEAN member states in the energy sector.

The meeting served as a strategic policy dialogue to develop strategies for the ASEAN Power Grid Financing Facility (APGF) and financial assistance of the Asian Development Bank and World Bank for the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) across ASEAN. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

MIFER Union Minister receives Egyptian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung received Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim, Ambassador of Egypt to Myanmar, yesterday at Office 1 of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially exchanged views on matters related to bilateral economic cooperation, signing "Memorandum of Understanding on the General Trade and Business Cooperation" that aims to strengthen trade and investment sectors between the two countries, the Myanmar-Egypt Online

Investment Forum, the participation of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Egyptian businesspeople in this forum, investment and technology transfer in agro-based industries, cotton and textile processing, pharmaceutical products and renewable energy production sector.

The meeting was attended by the director-general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives from the embassy. — MIFER



The Egyptian ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung yesterday.

Myanmar, Egypt vow to deepen agricultural cooperation



Union Minister U Min Naung holds talks with the Egyptian ambassador yesterday.

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim, Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector, cotton sector development and technological collaboration, development of human

resources in agriculture and mutual import and export of farming, fishery products, agricultural machinery and agricultural inputs between the two countries. — MNA/KTZH

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.

MoIP Union Minister meets UN delegation

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Mr Michael Dunford, Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed cooperation in visa and stay permits for UN agencies, citizenship application processes for NV card holders from Rakhine State, temporary

stay permissions in Yangon for UN/INGO staff and families from Rakhine State, according to the negotiation of UNRCO, and the returns depending on stability.

They also exchanged views on coordination for humanitarian aid mentioned in the MoU by WFP and collaboration with UNHCR on receiving displaced people back in Rakhine State.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Htay Hlaing, the permanent secretary and officials. — MNA/KTZH



The UN RC/HC ad interim and WFP Representative calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing yesterday.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister meets Myanmar-India Friendship Association team

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received Myanmar-India Friendship Association Chairman U Win Myint and his team at the Ministry's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they had friendly discussions on the activities of the Myanmar-India

Friendship Association to promote the bilateral friendship and further enhance Myanmar-India friendship.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, the permanent secretary, and officials from the Myanmar-India Friendship Association.

After the meeting, the



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn receives Myanmar-India Friendship Association Chairman U Win Myint at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Chairman of the Myanmar-India Friendship Association present-

ed the donations to the Union Ministry of Information affected by the earthquake. — MNA/MKKS

Filming begins for 'Blooming Lacang-Mekong Heritage' documentary in Nay Pyi Taw

A Chinese television production team from Guangxi, led by Mr Yang Chun, Director of the Guangxi Broadcasting and Television Bureau in Nanning, arrived in Myanmar on 11 August to shoot the documentary programme "Blooming Lacang-Mekong Heritage". The seven-member team is collaborating with Myanmar's audio and visual media for the production.

From 12 August, the team

conducted field research and filming in Aungtha village in Lewe Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, observing clean drinking water projects under the Lacang-Mekong initiative and ongoing research activities at the Pinyinana-Yezin Forest Research Department.

In the evening of 14 August, the team visited 24 Gandhakuti buildings around the Maraviya Buddha Image, the stupa housing stone inscriptions

carved in Pali and Romanized scripts using modern tools, as well as the Mucalinda Lake and Nagayon Pagoda.

The filming will continue in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon until 19 August. Once completed, the documentary will also include footage from other Lacang-Mekong region countries and be broadcast across the region, showcasing Myanmar's development achievements. — MNA/KZL



This photo shows a documentary film shooting of Chinese Guangxi Broadcasting and Television Bureau from Guangxi in Nay Pyi Taw.

Coastal Region Command commander meets 16th batch military trainees in Myeik



The Coastal Region Command commander presents essential items to citizens who will attend the People's Military Service Training 16.

COMMANDER of the Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Han and responsible officials met with citizens from Taninthayi Region who will attend the People's Military Service Training 16. The meeting took place at the local battalion hall in Myeik.

The commander first delivered a speech. Afterwards, he and officials presented essential items to the citizens who will attend the 16th Batch of the People's Military Service Training Course and cordially greeted them. — MNA/MKKS

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Premature fish sales at high prices disrupt breeding and production

THE prices of freshwater products, which are part of basic food-stuffs for people, are on the rise due to the high consumption and the sale of premature fish, although it can disrupt the regular breeding and production chain, according to the Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township, Yangon.

Before the first week of July, when saltwater products started entering the market, freshwater products were fetching good prices. As a result, fish pond owners in Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, and Bago Region harvested their ponds ahead of schedule. This was because the current market prices offered higher profits than raising the fish to full maturity, and the savings on fish feed costs and the ability to avoid possible flooding of ponds caused by weather conditions. The fish were then sent



Photos show a freshwater product, rohu, being sold at the Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

for sale to the Shwe Padauk and Central San Pya fish markets.

“Due to good fish prices and other factors, the fish farmers are sending small-sized fish to the market instead of breeding them to full size as before. This is more profitable for them and also reduces the production costs. However, the production

and consumption are no longer running as usual, and the fish production chain could be disrupted. Normally, fish are raised for 10 months to a year before being sold, but now they are being harvested and sold after only four or five months. Since this is not a seasonal breeding and production pattern, it could



affect both the market and freshwater production. If fish supply decreases, prices will rise, and if there is no regular breeding and production, fish farming could be impacted. The situation may only return to normal in the coming open season and monsoon season,” said Vice-Chair U Aye Ko of the Shwe Padauk Fish Market

Development Committee.

The arrival of small-sized fish into the market, there is only 20 per cent of fish breeding in export size. The fish farming rate declines due to the difficulties in purchasing the fish at four or five inches and the high prices. Such cases cause high fish prices. As the farmed fish are entering the Yangon fish markets, and due to the arrival of undersized fish, the distribution of large-sized fish has decreased. Fish traders are sending these fish to regions and states, including Nay Pyi Taw, and also to various townships in Yangon. Consumers are buying the smaller-sized fish at the prices as same prices as the larger ones.

The Shwe Padauk Fish Market received 500,000 visses of marine products per day previously, and now 300,000 visses or above. — Thitsa(MNA)/KTZH

JLPT applications available 15-17 Aug

FOR the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) to be held in December 2025, application forms will be sold from 15 to 17 August for novices, monks, nuns and those under 10 years old, said the JLPT organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni.

The exam is scheduled on 7 December in Yangon and Mandalay, and the duration of

selling and accepting applications is from 15 to 17 August for Yangon and from 15 to 16 August for Mandalay.

Exam fee and application fee are K57,000 for N1, N2 and N3 and K52,000 for N4 and N5. For novices, monks, and nuns, a copy of a religious ID card and two photos are required. For those under 10 years old, a copy of the birth certificate and two photos are required.

The application will be available at the JLPT Test Management Centre (MAJA) office, located at Snow Garden Housing in Thingangyun Township, as well as at the MAJA Mandalay branch, located at Mandalay Swan Hotel in Chanayethazan Township, from 9 am to 3 pm. The acceptance of applications will be at the same locations. — MT/ZS



File photo shows applicants for JLPT 2024.

Rescue and relief continue for quake-hit communities

AS of 14 August, the death toll has risen to 3,777, with 5,104 injured and 31 people still missing in six regions and states of Myanmar that were severely affected by the powerful earthquake which struck on 28 March.

Members of the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international search and rescue teams, have been continuously conducting timely

operations in affected areas. Up to now, 653 survivors have been rescued from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 855 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Further announcements will be made regarding the ongoing donations of cash and relief items from generous donors both locally and abroad to support those affected by the disaster. — MNA/MKKS

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Office of the State Administration Council
https://sacoffice.gov.mm | |
| 2. Ministry of Defence
https://www.mod.gov.mm | 3. Ministry of Legal Affairs
https://www.mlis.gov.mm |
| 4. Ministry of Information
https://www.moi.gov.mm | 5. Myawady Webportal
https://myawady.net.mm |
| 6. Myanmar National Portal
https://myanmar.gov.mm | |

Myanmar partners with India, Uzbekistan to boost cotton resilience, fair pricing

MYANMAR Cotton and Cotton Products Merchants and Manufacturers Association has been connecting with India and Uzbekistan to get access to cotton varieties that are resilient to weather changes and engineered to withstand high temperatures and diseases, maintaining high yields with a fairer price.

There is a large price gap between premium cotton and non-premium cotton. Therefore, cotton growers need to grow premium pedigree cotton for commercial benefits. If they grow whatever, they might experience low yield and high risks. Cotton ginners also need to maintain quality control, and so, cotton ginners must prioritize cleanliness and systematic operations to ensure product quality, minimize waste and maintain a safe working environment, the association stated.

“When growers neglect cottonseed consistency, their efforts will be fruitless. Ginners need to maintain quality by categorizing the cotton varieties and processing systematic operations. This way, nothing will go in vain. If not, the



This photo shows a thriving cotton field in Myanmar.

time, energy and resources that they put into cotton cultivation and production will be wasted. Later, it might affect the cotton-based industry, resulting in other negative consequences,” said a representative of the association.

The association has already informed the department concerned of this. It will coordinate matters for the growers to get access to high-yielding cotton varieties and achieve good prices.

International Federation of Business Intellectuals and Changemakers (IFBIC), on behalf of 000 Farms located in Rajkot, Gujarat State, India, expressed willingness to collaborate for high-yielding cotton access. The Myanmar Cotton and Cotton Products Merchants and Manufacturers Association held a Zoom meeting on 14 August with counterparts regarding that matter; the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce stated.

Moreover, Uzbekistan also informed Myanmar that the Agriculture Department wants to deliver pest-free high-yielding cotton varieties to Myanmar, according to MyanTrade’s notification dated 7 August.

The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Myanmar Cotton and Cotton Products Merchants and Manufacturers Association have sent the list of premium cotton varieties to the department concerned for further processing. — NN/KK

CBM sells US\$1.5M to edible oil importers on 13 Aug



Foreign currencies are seen at a foreign currency exchange counter.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.55 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$128,200 to CMP companies and individuals who made non-trade payments on 13 August.

CBM announced on 13 August that it would sell \$32 million to those engaged in the fuel oil sector after sales of 300,000 yuan.

CBM injected \$1.3 million into edible oil-importing companies and over \$467,000 into CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments after sales of over 1.97 million yuan on 12 August. Importers of refined sugar, plastic, fertilizers, pharmaceutical and medical

equipment, electrical devices, industrial raw materials, construction materials, auto parts, telecommunication devices, trailers, feedstuffs, paint, tar and food commodities also purchased foreign currencies through the foreign exchange market online trading platform.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold \$1.18 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$415,900 to fuel oil-importing companies on 11 August after purchasing the foreign currencies from companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis.

Furthermore, CBM injected over 65,000 yuan into the market on that day. CBM also sold over \$348,000 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payment transactions. Additionally, importers of refined sugar, pharmaceuticals, pharma raw materials, electrical devices, industrial raw materials, construction materials, auto parts, motorcycle parts, telecommunication equipment, pesticides, tar and food commodities bought foreign currencies via online trading platforms.

CBM injected over 1.46 million yuan and over 930,300 baht on 8 August.

Additionally, CBM sold \$701,120 to edible oil-importing companies and \$361,921 to fuel oil-importing companies on the

same day.

CBM sold over \$1.665 million to edible oil-importing companies after an injection of over 56,000 yuan into the market on 7 August.

CBM sold \$36.5 million purchased from companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis, in addition to the injection of \$8.8 million, 13.3 million baht, 10.5 million yuan and 500,000 rupees in July. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$2.3 million to other commodities-importing companies as per its initial announcement of selling \$10 million. CBM sold \$8.4 million, 13.9 million baht and 5.2 million yuan in June 2025, in addition to the injection of \$14.9 million that was purchased from the CMP enterprises into the financial market.

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

MMFA to hold Credit Analysis Training on 30 Aug

MYANMAR Microfinance Association (MMFA) will conduct Credit Analysis Training Online (Batch 18) from 1 pm to 4 pm on 30-31 August and on 6-7 September.

This training is designed for loan officers and credit officers in a microfinance company and those interested in the microfinance sector.

Credit Analysis Training will cover Introduction to Individual Lending, Overview of IL Loan product and its process, Marketing, Promotion, and Custom Service, Loan Assessment, Loan Appraisal, Loan Disbursement, Loan Recovery, Loan Utilization, Loan Monitoring and Delinquency Management by Certified Trainer U Thet Zaw Aung of Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and MMFA, and Microfinance Professional Myanmar (MPM).

The fee is K80,000 for non-members. Members can enjoy a K20,000 discount. Trainees will receive a completion certificate. Those enthusiastic can enrol in the course by 24 August through <https://shorturl.at/IEKPb>. For further details, individuals can contact 09 965209010 during office hours. — NN/KK

OPINION

Acknowledge honest personnel while charging dishonest ones

ILLEGAL trade can only be reduced and eliminated when the various dishonest methods involved are uncovered, arrested, and suppressed. The increase in arrests also indicates that illegal goods are entering the country monthly through various means along the border.

It is understood that illegal trade poses a major policy and procedural challenge for most countries worldwide. Illegal trade is conducted not only through unauthorized methods on the ground but also through various online channels. Therefore, to prevent the entry of illegal goods, it is necessary to obtain technological assistance and carry out the required research and investigation efforts during inspection and interdiction activities.

To prevent discrepancies between exports and imports in regular and border trade areas and to ensure that the values

of exports and imports are nearly equal, efforts must be made to increase the quantity and volume of value-added exports. Due to security conditions, as some border trade posts have been temporarily closed, normal trade is mainly conducted via waterways. Even in normal trade, responsible authorities must strictly supervise export and import inspections and ensure accurate record-keeping without any weaknesses.

It has been found that some responsible departmental staff and cooperating members knowingly failed to seize illegally imported goods and did not properly verify the lists of illegal goods transported by vehicles. These actions, driven by self-serving interests, including those of individual employees and their organizations, have prevented the state from receiving the right-

ful taxes and duties in full.

Regarding illegal trade, staff members have been repeatedly reminded to perform their duties correctly and under the law. Therefore, effective action will be taken against those involved who fail to comply with the honesty, employee dignity, and established rules and regulations expected of each government employee.

Staff members must prioritize their organization's interests over personal matters, and when the interests of the organization and the nation conflict, they must prioritize the nation's interests above all. Staff members are also urged not to support or facilitate those engaged in illegal trade activities.

Between January 2022 and June 2025, a total of 25,231 cases of illegal trade were arrested, with an estimated value of K663.919 billion seized. The confiscated goods have been collected as state revenue. The government acknowledged the utmost efforts of service personnel for an increase in successful seizures of illegal goods, attributing it to diligent and honest staff, but on the other hand, plans are underway to investigate and take strict action against dishonest employees involved in unethical activities for personal gain.

AT the 2nd Voice of the Global South Summit hosted virtually by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 17 November 2023, one key focus area was on "Sustain the momentum of exchange and sharing of ideas and best practices between member countries..."

At the 3rd Summit, also hosted by the Indian PM on 17 August 2024, there was a focus on "...challenges of new technologies and need for South-South Cooperation for technology transfers...". Of the four-fold Global Compact put forward by PM Modi, one is on technology sharing. Thus, it is clear that as a responsible voice of the Global South, India is willing to share its knowledge and expertise acquired in governance and other fields, which accelerate development, and is also keen to learn from other nations.

India's journey in leapfrogging development through tech-enabled citizen-centric governance has been nothing short of transformative. Key milestones in India's digital governance experience have been:

Digital India Initiative — the flagship programme of the Government of India, launched in 2015, with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy;

Digital from India: Leapfrogging development through text-enabled citizen-centric governance

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) — platforms like Aadhaar (over one billion citizens with a unique digital identity), UPI (with over 18 billion transactions in June 2025), DigiLocker (eliminating the need for physical documents), and e-Sign, have revolutionized service delivery;

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) — India became the first country to use DBT at scale, reducing corruption and ensuring the timely delivery of welfare benefits; and **AI Integration in Governance** — from grievance redressal systems to predictive analytics in healthcare and agriculture, AI is helping tailor services to citizen needs.

Institutional support and strategic vision to India's Digital Governance is provided by the Digital India Corporation (DIC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the National Institute of Smart Governance (NISG) and a Digital Brand Identity Manual

(DBIM).

The DIC is responsible for establishing the National e-Governance in Accountability, Efficiency, Efficacy and Transparency, to promote digital literacy, accessibility, and inclusion, to develop and empower skilled manpower, to guide ministries/departments in enhancing accessibility and efficiency in public service delivery, and to support the MeitY in all its endeavours.

The NIC integrates emerging technologies like AI, blockchain and data analytics into governance frameworks.

The NISG acts as a strategic partner in implementing digital transformation across central ministries and states, including international collaboration with Global South nations.

DBIM standardizes government websites and applications for a unified citizen-friendly experience.

Impact on Governance and

Society

In terms of Transparency and Accountability, E-governance platforms have reduced bureaucratic opacity and increased public trust.

In terms of Efficiency and Accessibility, public services are now available 24/7, with reduced paperwork and faster processing times.

In terms of Inclusivity, AI-driven tools and multilingual platforms ensure services reach marginal communities.

In terms of environmental benefits, the digital processes have led to paperless offices and reduced carbon footprints.

Some of the **Programmes and Applications** which are noteworthy and have received industry-based awards are:

MyGov.in — a platform to share inputs and ideas on matters of policy and governance, engaging citizens in governance through a "Discuss", "Do" and "Disseminate" approach

POSHAN Tracker - a mo-

bile-based application used by Anganwadi workers to provide real-time data on the delivery of nutrition and childcare services

DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) is a national platform for school education

AYUSH Information Hub (AIH) has been set up to disseminate all authentic and verified information related to Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy

UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance), for accessing over 1,200 central and state government services in multiple languages, including services such as Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System, PAN EPFO, PMKVY, AICTE, CBSE, etc.

National AI Portal [INDIAai] (<https://indiaai.gov.in>) is a constant and dynamic source of knowledge on AI-related topics

Chic-CAD Plus is an open-source software used by artisans

by Amb Debnath Shaw

in making 2D designs like embroidery, chikankari, painting work, etc.

The **Digital India Campaign** supports other Government of India schemes such as:

BharatNet - provides broadband connectivity to unserved regions

Make in India — to produce in India for the country and the world

Startup India — aimed at fostering innovation, supporting entrepreneurs and building a robust ecosystem

Industrial Corridors — being developed along new railway and road alignments

Bharatmala - to enhance road connectivity and improve freight and passenger movement through the development of highways and economic corridors

Sagarmala - port-led development modernising ports, promot-

ing coastal shipping and boosting maritime activities

Atmanirbhar Bharat, whose aim is to make the country and its citizens independent and self-reliant in all senses. Its five pillars are Economy, Infrastructure, System, Vibrant Demography and Demand

Developed in India - Shared with the World

India ranks high in digital competitiveness among G-20 nations, though challenges remain in data security, cybersecurity and digital literacy. India's model is now being replicated globally, with the India Stack serving as a blueprint for digital governance in other developing countries.

The UPI system is operational in Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Singapore and France. It is at various stages of integra-

tion in Qatar, Cyprus, Malaysia, Thailand, the UK, Oman and the Maldives. On 9 July 2025, during the PM's Visit, Namibia became the first country globally to sign a licensing agreement to adopt UPI technology. On 4 July 2025, during his meeting with his counterpart, PM Modi congratulated Trinidad & Tobago on becoming the first Caribbean country to adopt UPI.

Several African nations, Cambodia and the Philippines are keen on replicating India's DPI deployment and India Stack and are availing of capacity-building programmes offered by the GOI.

DPI, UPI, AI, Aadhaar, DigiLocker, e-Sign, and other digital governance tools have been the subject of discussion and dialogue at the highest levels with countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America, including Singapore, France, Cyprus, Ghana, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Cuba, Argentina, Namibia, BIMSTEC partners, and Central Asian countries.

India is committed to sharing its experience and expertise with its global partners on using technology for governance and growth. India is also keen to learn and assimilate the positive experience of friendly nations in the development of technology, for the welfare and prosperity of its people.

When Comparison Becomes a Barrier to Happiness

By Laura Htet (UDE)

IT IS part of human nature to look around and observe the lives of others. From a young age, we are naturally drawn to notice how people live, what they do, and how they succeed. Sometimes, this instinct helps us feel connected, inspired, or motivated to grow. We might see someone overcoming a challenge and feel encouraged to push ourselves, too. But there is a fine line between healthy inspiration and harmful comparison, and once that line is crossed, it can quietly begin to steal our peace without us even realizing it.

We often think of loss as something being taken away from us — a missed opportunity, a broken relationship, or a setback in life. But some of the most painful emotions we experience do not come from what we have lost. Instead, they arise from what

we think we lack. This feeling becomes especially powerful when we compare ourselves to someone else's achievements, lifestyle, or milestones and begin to doubt our own progress and self-worth.

In psychology, this experience is called relative deprivation. It's the uncomfortable and unsettling feeling that we are missing out, not because our lives have gotten worse, but simply because someone else's life appears to have gotten better. Even when our situation hasn't changed at all, we can suddenly feel as if it's not enough. What once felt fine now seems lacking. What once satisfied us may now feel disappointing, simply because we've looked over at someone else's life and seen more.

To understand this more clearly, imagine a small, peaceful village tucked away in the

countryside. For many years, the people in this village lived simple, contented lives. Their homes were modest but similar, their values were shared, and they supported one another through life's ups and downs. The atmosphere was calm and caring. Then, one day, a family in the village built a new house. It was larger, brighter, and more elegant than any other home in the area. They hadn't taken anything from anyone else. They simply improved their own situation. But the presence of this new house stirred something among the neighbours. Warm smiles began to fade. Conversations became shorter or more awkward. A sense of discomfort grew. Slowly, suspicion and envy took root, not because the villagers were now any worse off, but because someone else had visibly gained more. The surroundings

hadn't changed. But something inside the people had.

This story is a simple reflection of what happens so often in modern life. As we grow older and begin to move through different chapters of adulthood, we start to measure our progress not just by our own goals or dreams, but by how we stack up against others. We might feel satisfied with our lives until a colleague receives a promotion, a friend buys a new car, or someone posts about a luxurious vacation we've never been able to afford. In an instant, our accomplishments can feel small and unimportant, not because they are, but because they've been placed beside someone else's.

Comparison rarely stops to ask, "Am I doing well for myself?" Instead, it whispers a much more dangerous question: "Am I doing

better than them?" That whisper can grow louder over time.

In today's digital world, where we are constantly exposed to people's lives online, this problem becomes even more intense. Social media platforms show us endless streams of happy photos, carefully edited pictures of new homes, glamorous holidays, and announcements of success. But these are only highlights of the moments people choose to share. We rarely see the behind-the-scenes effort, the stress, the failure, the tears, or the loneliness. These parts of life are often kept private.

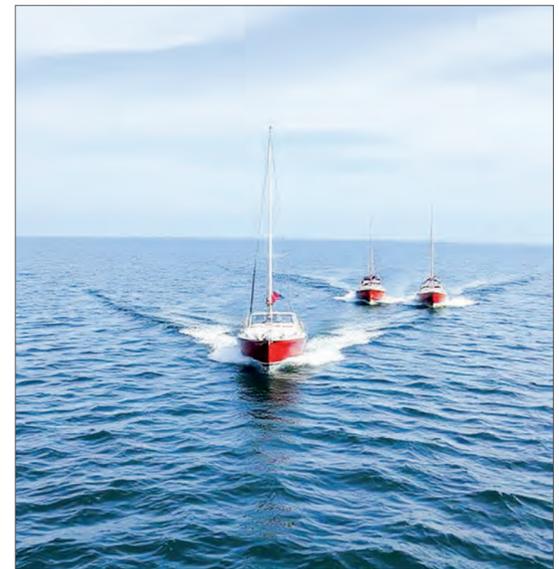
Still, as we scroll through these polished and perfect images, it's easy to forget they are only pieces of a much bigger picture. And in that moment, we may begin to feel like we're not enough. We might even begin to question

the value of our own lives, not because anything is wrong, but because we're seeing our reality through the distorted lens of comparison.

This kind of thinking can be deeply harmful over time. It starts to change how we see ourselves and how we interpret other people's happiness. Someone else's joy can start to feel like a threat. Their progress becomes a reminder of what we haven't done. And before long, we might find ourselves chasing dreams or goals that aren't truly ours, just to keep up, to feel like we belong, or to quiet that inner doubt.

But what if we changed our approach? What if we stepped away from the need to compare and instead focused more on who we are and what we value?

SEE PAGE 11



NATIONAL

Over 170 kg of heroin worth K4.29B seized in Yamethin; 23 arrested

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Police Force, at about 6:30 am on 7 August, a combined team including security personnel inspected two vehicles carrying plastic woven bags near Kin Village, Indaing Village-tract, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, acting on information received.

Upon inspection, they discovered soap cases filled with 171.6 kilogrammes of heroin (estimated value K4.29 billion) that were being transported to Mandalay.

The incident occurred when security personnel stopped and searched two vehicles near

Kin Village — a Mazda Bongo (registration number BGO-11 9P-xxxx) driven by Tin Moe and an I-Zone vehicle (registration number SGG-20 8K-xxxx) driven by Yazar Htun. The vehicles were loaded with plastic woven bags containing soap cases filled with heroin. Security personnel seized the 171.6 kilogrammes of heroin (estimated value K4.29 billion) and arrested the persons responsible for trafficking it — Kyaw Lwin Oo from TadaU Township — together with 22 others, including Pho Paing from Kalaw Township, who helped load the drugs onto the vehicles.



Suspects are seen with confiscated heroin and vehicles.

Investigations revealed that the heroin seized had been ordered to be transported from Kalaw Township to Yamethin Township by a person named Chit Thu (still at large). Acting on his instructions, Pho Paing

and the other 22 individuals transported the drugs from Kalaw to Yamethin. It was further learned that the onward transport from Yamethin to Mandalay had been ordered by a woman named Kyu Kyu Myint

(still at large). Legal action has been taken against those arrested along with the narcotics, and efforts are continuing to apprehend other offenders connected with the case. — MNA/MKKS

Top artistes to perform live in Mandalay on 16 Aug

SINGER Bunny Phyo, together with Bobby Soxer and Amara Hpone, will perform in a live music show at the Square Theatre Bar in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, according to Bunny Phyo.

“On 16 August, we’ll be at the Square Theatre Bar in Mandalay. Along with me, Bobby Soxer and Amara Hpone will also be performing. We’ll be singing loads of songs, so I don’t want our fans to miss

the show,” said Bunny Phyo.

The event, organized and presented by the Square Theatre & the Concert, will take place on 16 August, starting at 6:30 pm. The performances by the singers will be fully accompanied by the Concert Band.

“Let’s gather to fully enjoy the performances of three nationwide artistes who have been in the hearts of audiences for over a decade,” said a representative from the Square Theatre. — ASH/KZL



This image showcases an advertisement poster for the live music show by Bunny Phyo, Bobby Soxer, and Amara Hpone.

Filming begins for Myanmar TV series ‘Sanay Yadana’ in Yangon

THE Myanmar television series ‘Sanay Yadana’ began filming in Yangon on 13 August, according to Academy Soe Pyae Thazin, who will star in the lead role.

The series’ story was written by Evren, with the screenplay jointly developed by Herman Hein, San San Yin, and Tu Hnai Zhan. Directed by Ei Ei Khine, it is being produced

as an original work for the CANAL+ pay-TV channel.

“Sanay Yadana will be broadcast on Canal+. In this series, I play a film-star character. Although I won my Academy Award for the film Shwe Min Thamee, this role is quite different from that one; the personality and behaviour are not the same. I will be portraying a character very unlike myself. I

have often worked with Auntie Soe Moe Kyi, but this will be my first time acting alongside the other MRTV-4 leading actors,” Soe Pyae Thazin said.

The cast includes Aung Yay Chan, Sithu Win, Academy Soe Pyae Thazin, Lin La Pyae Htet, Soe Moe Kyi, and Sabei Moe, along with many supporting actors. — ASH/MKKS

MRCS, ICRC launch family reunification training in Magway

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have jointly launched a basic family reunification training course in Magway Township, Magway Region, according to the Myanmar Red Cross Society headquarters.

The training course is designed to enhance the capacity of Red Cross volunteers to identify and respond to urgent needs arising from natural disasters, migration, and displacement, as well as to ensure the long-term success of family reunification.

Twenty-four Red Cross volunteers from sixteen townships in Magway Region are attending the three-day training, which runs from 13 to 15 August.

The opening ceremony was attended by the club’s executive, members of the Magway Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee, officials from the Disaster Management and Family Reunification Departments, representatives from the ICRC, and Red Cross volunteers participating in the training. — ASH/TH



This photo captures the opening ceremony of the basic family reunification training course in Magway.

ARTICLE/LIFESTYLE WORLD



Tsuchiyu Onsen is a charming hot spring town located in Fukushima Prefecture, about 40 minutes by bus from Fukushima Station. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan venture seeks to export 'espresso' of hot springs

Le Furo aims to export Japan's hot springs and establish several onsen facilities in the Gulf region by 2026.

JAPAN'S renowned "onsen" hot springs, traditionally viewed as unexportable, are now on the verge of international expansion thanks to an innovative idea from Naoki Mita, CEO of the Tokyo-based venture firm Le Furo.

Mita's company has developed a patented technology called "craft onsen," which condenses hot spring ingredients into an ultra-high concentration, akin to espresso coffee extraction.

Le Furo aims to utilize this technology to export Japan's

hot springs, with plans to establish several onsen facilities in the Gulf region by 2026.

Historically, transporting hot springs overseas was deemed logistically challenging due to the large volume of water and concerns about contamination. However, Mita's invention allows for the grinding of mineral resources into fine powders, making them soluble in water.

Unlike synthetic "onsen powders" that merely mimic the appearance and scent of hot springs, Le Furo's concen-

trate retains the natural minerals essential for therapeutic effects.

The "Craft Onsen" product is packaged in bottles or small tanks, enabling easy distribution and use in other countries.

With Japan boasting 28,000 hot spring sources as of 2021, Le Furo is particularly targeting nations like the UAE, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, where water is a precious resource. Mita believes that Japan's culture of health and relaxation through bathing will resonate with international audiences. — AFP

Denzel Washington prioritizes craft over awards recognition

DENZEL Washington, a celebrated actor with nine Academy Award nominations and two Oscars for his roles in "Glory" and "Training Day," places little importance on awards, according to a recent interview with Variety.

During his press tour for "Highest 2 Lowest," Washington emphasized that his career decisions are not influenced by the desire to win accolades. He stated, "I don't do it for Oscars. I don't care about that kind of stuff," reflecting on his long career and the inconsistencies of award recognition.

Washington expressed that awards do not define his worth or success, saying, "On my last day, [Oscars] aren't going to do me a bit of good." Earlier this year, he



Washington expressed that awards do not define his worth or success. **PHOTO: ANI**

faced criticism for not receiving a best supporting actor nomination for "Gladiator II", but he remained unfazed, humorously dismissing the snub. — ANI

Trump names 2025 Kennedy Centre honourees, hosts event

UNITED States President Donald Trump has named Sylvester Stallone, Kiss and more as the 2025 Kennedy Centre honourees. He is also set to host the event, reported Variety.

Trump announced the news during a press conference at the performing arts centre on Wednesday. Other honourees include country singer-songwriter George Strait, British actor and comedian Michael

Crawford and singer Gloria Gaynor, according to the outlet.

"The 48th Kennedy Centre Honourees are outstanding people, an outstanding group — incredible. We can't wait to celebrate the Kennedy Centre Honors," said Trump as quoted by Variety. This year's Kennedy Center honourees are the first chosen since Trump took over as chairman of the board. — ANI

When Comparison Becomes a . . .

FROM PAGE 9

One powerful truth to remember is this: life is not a competition. There is no single, perfect timeline that everyone must follow. Success has many shapes. Happiness comes in many forms. What works beautifully for one person may not suit another at all. We each have different backgrounds, strengths, challenges, and responsibilities. And those differences mean that our paths will naturally look different, too. That's not a flaw; it's a fact of life.

Choosing to walk our path can be difficult, especially when

the world around us seems so focused on showcasing how others are walking theirs. But it is a brave and essential step if we want to find real peace and personal fulfilment.

There are a few simple but powerful things we can all do to keep comparison from taking over our thoughts and stealing our joy:

First, learn to celebrate other people's success without letting it make us feel small. Just because someone else is experiencing something good doesn't mean we're falling behind. Joy

is not limited. There is enough space in the world for everyone to shine.

Second, reconnect with our values. Take time to ask ourselves what truly matters to us. What makes us feel fulfilled? What goals come from our heart — not from outside pressure or expectations? Focus on building a life that reflects the person we want to be, not just the image others present.

Third, practise daily gratitude. It might sound simple, but noticing the good things we already have can change the way

we see our lives. Gratitude won't erase our problems, but it will help us feel more grounded and more aware of the beauty we've already created.

Lastly, be patient with our journey. Everyone's path unfolds at a different pace. Some people may reach certain milestones earlier. Others may find success in quieter, less obvious ways. What matters is not how fast we go or how flashy our progress looks; it's whether our path is meaningful to us.

Letting go of comparison doesn't mean giving up on growth or ambition. It simply means we stop letting the wrong things hurt us. It means choosing peace over pressure, depth over display, and

meaning over mere appearance.

It takes wisdom to admire someone's life without wanting to trade it for our own. It takes maturity to stay committed to our goals even when someone else reaches theirs first. And it takes strength to believe that our story matters, even when it feels like others are writing faster or more beautifully.

So, the next time we hear that quiet voice inside asking, "Why not me?" — pause for a moment. Take a deep breath. Remind ourselves gently: We are not behind. We are exactly where we need to be. We are walking our path. And that, in itself, is more than enough. ■

ECONOMY WORLD

Korea's govt sees positive signs of economic recovery

Despite positive trends, concerns persist regarding the Asian economy, particularly due to delayed recovery in construction investment.



A woman browses for clothes at a stall at Namdaemun Market in Seoul. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SOUTH Korea's government on Thursday saw positive signs of economic recovery on the back of consumption growth that offset lingering uncertainties.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance said in its monthly report, called Green Book, that concerns remained about the Asian economy affected by a delayed recovery in construction investment, employment difficulties for vulnerable groups and export slump from the US tariffs imposition.

The ministry, however, noted that positive signs of economic recovery were also seen as consumer spending turned upward, thanks to policy effects.

It said the global economy was worried about facing continued volatility in the global financial market and sluggishness in trade and growth due to the worsened trade environ-

ment, vowing to rapidly implement its supplementary budget and support local companies damaged by the US tariff imposition.

As part of its extra budget plan, the government began to offer cash handouts to all people last month in a bid to bolster the sagging private consumption.

Sentiment among consumers over economic situations improved for four consecutive months in July.

Credit card spending expanded 6.3 per cent in July from a year earlier, while the number of Chinese tourists visiting the country surged 36.2 per cent in the cited month.

Exports swelled 5.9 per cent in July from a year earlier, while shipments to the United States added 1.4 per cent in July after sliding for the past three months. — Xinhua

Philippines' approved foreign investments down 64.4% in Q2

THE Philippines' approved foreign investments (FI) in the second quarter of 2025 reached 67.38 billion pesos (roughly US\$1.19 billion), down 64.4 per cent from a year earlier, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Thursday.

Singapore was the leading

source of FI pledges, accounting for 79.4 per cent of the total approved FI, the PSA said.

The PSA added that the electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply industry attracted the largest share of FI, followed by administrative and support service activi-

ties, and the manufacturing industry.

Total approved investments from both foreign and Filipino nationals in the second quarter of 2025 reached 299.08 billion pesos (about \$5.27 billion), a 58.5 per cent decline from a year earlier. — Xinhua

Bitcoin hits record high above \$124,000

BITCOIN hit a record high on Thursday during early Asian trading, surpassing \$124,000,

driven by favourable US legislation and a rise in US equities. The cryptocurrency rose

above its previous July record, briefly exceeding \$124,500 before retreating. US stocks ended higher Wednesday, with the S&P 500 index and the tech-heavy Nasdaq reaching new heights this week, contributing to the cryptocurrency's rise.

Bitcoin's value has recently soared, fuelled by US regulatory changes under US President Donald Trump, a strong backer of the crypto sector.

Its price has also been boosted by large holders of cryptocurrency, referred to as "whales". — AFP



Bitcoin's value has recently soared, fuelled by US regulatory changes under US President Donald Trump. **PHOTO: AFP**



Britain's economy grew 0.3 per cent in the second quarter — better than feared but a slowdown from 0.7 per cent in the first three months of the year. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

UK economy slows less than feared after tariffs

BRITAIN'S economy performed better than expected in the second quarter as it weathered the impact of US tariffs and a higher UK business tax, official data showed Thursday.

Gross domestic product grew 0.3 per cent in the April-June period, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement — beating analyst forecasts of 0.1 per cent growth after reaching 0.7 per cent in the first quarter.

"Today's economic figures are positive with a strong start to the year and continued growth in the second quarter," said finance minister Rachel Reeves.

"But there is more to do to deliver an economy that works for working people," she added in a statement, following a difficult first year in power for the Labour government as the economy struggles to grow significantly. — AFP

India's microfinance industry stress continues, to witness muted loan growth till 2Q-3QFY26

THE stress continues in the Indian microfinance industry, which is expected to see muted loan growth for a few more quarters, till 2Q-3QFY26 before recovery begins, noted a report by Morgan Stanley.

The report stated that growth in assets under management (AUM) for microfinance institu-

tions (MFIs) has slowed or even declined in recent quarters. In 4QFY25, some institutions posted double-digit declines in quarterly growth.

It stated, "We see continued stress, muted loan growth for few more quarters (till 2Q-3QFY26) before recovery begins".

Highlighting some

companies, the report stated that Spandana Sphoorty recorded the sharpest drop at 24 per cent, followed by Asirvad MFI with an 18 per cent fall. IndusInd Bank and Fusion MFI posted declines of five per cent.

While Bandhan Bank reported a seven per cent drop in 1QFY26.

Even for lenders that managed positive growth, such as IIFL Samasta and Muthoot Micro, the pace was much slower than earlier quarters. — ANI

The stress continues in the Indian microfinance industry, which is expected to see muted loan growth for a few more quarters. **PHOTO: ANI**



Eyeing robotaxis, Tesla hiring New York test car operator

TESLA is recruiting a motorist to test its driver-assistance technology in New York with an eye towards autonomous driving, according to a job listing reviewed by AFP on Wednesday.

The role of "Vehicle Operator, Autopilot" involves the driving of an "engineering vehicle" for extended periods, "conducting dynamic audio and camera data collection for testing and training purpose," according to the job listing.

The position is based in Flushing, New York in the borough of Queens. The functions described in the full-time position are still many steps away from providing autonomous or robotaxi service in New



Tesla is eyeing robotaxi operations in New York and other American cities. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

York City.

New York State law currently limits the use of autonomous cars to testing. Waymo in June said it applied for a permit to begin testing self-driving cars.

Billionaire CEO Elon Musk has described Tesla as poised for potential rapid deployment of autonomous

vehicles, emphasizing the company's use of artificial intelligence to analyze real-world data that has been gathered by the company's existing fleet of vehicles.

Tesla in June finally launched limited robotaxi service in Austin, Texas following many delays. — AFP

Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. to Titan Agro Science Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticides manufactured by Zhejiang Heben Pesticide & Chemicals Co.,Ltd.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Myanmar Arysta Life Science Co., Ltd., Suite # 09 – 02, Crystal Tower, Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. 01 – 933 93 59, 933 93 60

No.	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Gold Plus 72 WP	Chlorothalonil 64% + Metalaxyl 8% WP	FF 2021 – 784
2.	Indomect 20 SC	Emamectin Benzoate 4% + Indoxacarb 16% SC	P 2021 - 4099

Notice for change of distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official distributor – Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. to Titan Agro Science Co.,Ltd. has been changed for the following pesticide manufactured by Shandong Cynda Chemical Co.,Ltd.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Myanmar Arysta LifeScience Co.,Ltd., Suite # 09 – 02 , Crystal Tower, Kyun Taw Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. 01 – 933 93 59, 933 93 60

No.	Brand Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Dimichi 500 WP	Dimethomorph 50% WP	F 2018 – 1720

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HAKATA VOY.NO. (2522S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAKATA VOY.NO. (2522S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2025** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2510S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC CHENMING VOY.NO. (2510S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SAMAL VOY.NO. (0UVEUS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SAMAL VOY. NO. (0UVEUS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **15-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Israeli army okays "main framework" of Gaza attack plan

ISRAEL'S military chief Eyal Zamir on Wednesday approved the main framework of a government plan to expand the offensive in Gaza to areas not yet under Israeli control.

The offensive will later target refugee camps in central Gaza and the southern area of Al Mawasi, where most of Gaza's 2.2 million residents have taken shelter, according to a statement by the Israeli military.

The principles of the plan were approved in a meeting of security officials earlier on Wednesday, the statement said, adding that "the central concept for the plan for the next stages in the Gaza Strip was presented and approved, in accordance with the directive of the political echelon." — Xinhua

N Korea rejects S Korea's conciliatory approach as "pipe dream"

North Korea denied Seoul's assertion that it had removed loudspeakers used for propaganda along the border.

NORTH Korea on Thursday rejected the conciliatory approach taken by the new South Korean government of President Lee Jae Myung as a "pipe dream", denying Seoul's claim that Pyongyang has removed loudspeakers for blasting noise along the border in response to a similar move by the South.

Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and a senior ruling party official, said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, "We have never removed loudspeakers installed on the border area and are not

willing to remove them," adding Seoul is "misleading the public opinion".

Soon after his inauguration in June, Lee ordered the South Korean military to stop propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts along the border with North Korea in an effort to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Last week, Seoul said it has begun dismantling the loudspeakers.

The broadcasts had been resumed after a six-year hiatus under Lee's predecessor Yoon Suk Yeol, who adopted a hard-line stance on Pyongyang. — Kyodo



Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korea's leader, has denied reports by Seoul's military that Pyongyang removed propaganda loudspeakers along the border. **PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE**

Japanese tea ceremony master Sen Genshitsu dies at 102

MASTER of Japanese tea ceremony Sen Genshitsu, known for his pursuit for world peace through the art, died Thursday, the tea ceremony school he formerly headed said. He was 102.

Genshitsu, a former grand master of Urasenke, one of the art's top three schools in Japan, was recruited to the Imperial Japanese Navy during World War and trained to be a kamikaze pilot but was demobilized following Japan's defeat.

After visiting the United States in 1951 to introduce tea ceremony, he travelled to more than 60 countries to convey his philosophy of "peacefulness through a bowl of tea". — Kyodo



File photo shows Sen Genshitsu, a former grand master of the Urasenke Japanese tea ceremony school, serving tea during a ceremony at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in April 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Trump launches content 'review' of Smithsonian museums

THE Smithsonian Institution said Wednesday that it was reviewing a White House letter announcing a probe of content at several museums for "divisive or partisan narratives".

The review is the latest pressure campaign by Presi-

dent Donald Trump's administration as part of his war on "woke" racial and gender viewpoints, and follows similar moves to assert unprecedented control over American cultural institutions since his second term began in January.

An independent organization which receives public funding, the Smithsonian is one of America's most hallowed institutions, with its vast network of museums boasting tens of millions of artefacts for public display. — AFP

China boosts aid to UN Palestinian refugee agency

CHINA signed an agreement on Wednesday to contribute to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) and called for continued international support for the body, which says it faces an "existential crisis" from the war in Gaza and a severe funding gap.

The contribution agreement, part of Beijing's annual donation, was signed in the Jordanian capital by Zeng Jixin, head of China's office to the State of Palestine, and Karim Amer, UNRWA's director of partnerships.

Zeng praised what he called UNRWA's "indispensable" role in providing humanitarian assistance to millions of Palestinian refugees. He said China has increased its annual donation and provided medical supplies and other aid since the Gaza conflict erupted. — Xinhua

Man dragged away by brown bear on Hokkaido mountain, still missing

A man in his 20s was attacked and dragged away by a brown bear Thursday on Mt Rausu on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido and remains missing, according to local police.

Authorities were notified around 11:10 am by the man's companion after the two encountered the bear at an altitude of about 550 metres. Police have launched a helicopter search around the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site.

The other man was uninjured and moved to an observation deck with dozens of hikers, who were advised to descend the mountain. Entry to the mountain has been restricted to ensure safety.

According to the Shiretoko Nature Foundation's social media, brown bears have approached hikers to within 3 to 4 metres, and there have been reports of the animals following people even after bear spray was used. — Kyodo

Myanmar U12 team to compete in Japan's Junior Soccer World Challenge 2025

THE Myanmar U12 football team will compete in the Japan Invitation Junior Soccer World Challenge 2025, which is held annually in Japan.

This year's tournament will take place from 19 to 21 August at Fukuda Denshi Arena in Chiba, Japan, with a total of 40 participating teams, including the U12 squad of European giant FC Barcelona, invited teams, and Japan-based clubs. The competition will be divided into eight groups, each comprising five teams.

Myanmar U12 is placed in Group D alongside Japanese youth clubs Vegalta Sendai, Tokyo Verdy, Economy Set, and Shonan Bellmare. According to the tournament programme, participating teams will visit famous sites in Japan and enjoy a J-League match after the competition.

The Myanmar U12 team is formed with 18 players selected from regions and states, as well as



The Myanmar U12 football team to compete in the Japan Invitation Junior Soccer World Challenge 2025. **PHOTO: MFF**

from the National Football Academy (Yangon) and Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay). The team is managed by U Tun Aung Kyaw with U Tin Maung Win as head coach. The Myanmar Football Federation has been sending youth players to this tournament since 2023 to gain international experience. This will mark the third consecutive participation. — Maung San Gyi/KZL

VAR to feature in Myanmar-Thailand 2025 ASEAN Women's Championship semifinal



Teams advanced to the semifinals of the ASEAN Women's Championship 2025.

VAR will be used in the semi-final match between Myanmar and Thailand for the ASEAN Women's Championship 2025, according to a statement from the ASEAN Football Federation.

This will be the first time the video assistant system (VAR) is used in the ASEAN Women's Championship semifinals in Vietnam, in which the Myanmar

women's national football team is competing.

The Myanmar women's team won Group B with seven points after beating Australia U23 and Timor-Leste, and drawing with the Philippines. Myanmar's striker, Win Theingi Tun, who scored a goal in the 1-1 draw with the Philippines, was named Player of the Match.

The Myanmar team is currently ranked 55th in the world, alongside rivals Thailand (45th), Vietnam (37th), and the Philippines (41st).

The semifinals will be played on 16 August, with Myanmar facing Thailand at 4 pm and host Vietnam facing Australia at 8 pm Myanmar Standard Time. — Htun Htun/ZN

Second SkyNet Sepak Takraw Tournament set

THE Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation will organize the second SkyNet Sepak Takraw Tournament, to be hosted by the Shwe Thanlwin Media. A press conference on the event was held at 2 pm yesterday at Shwe Htut Tin Compound, West Horse Race Course Street, Tamway Township, Yangon.

At the event, Ko Thitsa, General Manager of SkyNet TV Channel under the Shwe Thanlwin Media, and U Htut Khaing Win, Tournament Manager of the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, explained the details of the upcoming SkyNet Sepak Takraw Tournament.

On behalf of the participating athletes, Sepak Takraw player Saw Myat Hmue expressed words of thanks regarding the organization of the tour-

nament.

The tournament will feature national-level athletes who have won gold medals in international Sepak Takraw competitions, as well as young Sepak Takraw players. Competitions will include Men's Regu, Men's Quadrant, and Women's Quadrant events, with a total of 18 teams participating.

Tournament matches will be broadcast live daily from 6 pm onwards on SkyNet Sports-X and the SkyNet application. Some group-stage matches will also be aired live on free-to-air Channel 9.

Ticket prices have been set at K5,000 for group-stage matches and K7,000 for quarterfinals, semifinals, and the final. The tournament will take place from 17 to 24 August. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Shan United faces EZRA in ASEAN Club Championship 2nd leg today



This photo showcases Shan United and EZRA head coaches and captains present at the pre-match press conference. **PHOTO: SUFC**

THE 2025-2026 ASEAN Club Championship second-leg match will take place at 6 pm today at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre, featuring Myanmar's Shan United against Lao EZRA FC. Shan United is offering free tickets to local fans attending the game.

In the first leg on 8 and 9 August, Shan United won 2-1 away against EZRA, while Brunei's Kasuka defeated the Philippines' Cebu 2-1. Shan United

now has the advantage but must avoid mistakes in the home leg to secure overall victory. EZRA recently played two matches against Myanmar clubs in international competitions, including an AFC Challenge League away win against Yangon United on 12 August.

During the pre-match press conference on 14 August, Shan United head coach Hiro Ono said the team studied both EZRA's recent matches and their performance, acknowledging

the opponent's strength and readiness despite fatigue from multiple games. Team captain Nanda Kyaw echoed the sentiment, stressing discipline and respect for the opponent to advance in the group stage.

EZRA coach Byung Soo Na stated his team is prepared for the second leg and aims to win, respecting Shan United as a top Myanmar club with strong players and strategy. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL



China to launch new type of visa for young science, technology professionals

The K visa will be added to the existing categories of visas for foreigners entering and exiting China.

CHINA will introduce a new visa category for young science and technology talents, following a decision by the State Council.

Premier Li Qiang has signed a State Council decree to promulgate the decision to amend the country's regulation on the administration of foreigners' entries and exits.

According to the decision, China will add a K visa to its ordinary visa categories, available to eligible young science and technology professionals.

Applicants for this visa must meet the qualifications and requirements set by relevant Chinese authorities and submit supporting documentation.

The new rules will take effect on 1 October. — Xinhua



Zhao Luyuan, a 26-year-old PhD student, introduces robotic chemist "Luke" at a lab of the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, 29 October 2024. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ ZHANG DUAN/XINHUA**

Osaka expo opening delayed by 30 min after subway disruption

THE World Exposition in Osaka opened 30 minutes later than usual at 9:30 am on Thursday, following disruptions to the local metro service that left a large number of visitors stranded in the area well into the night before.

The opening time was

brought forward from the earlier planned 10 am, as there was a large build-up of visitors in front of the entrance gate, the organizers said.

The Osaka Metro's Chuo Line, which offers sole direct train access from the city centre to the expo site on

Yumeshima, an artificial island, resumed at around 5:25 am after a power failure hit the line at 9:30 pm Wednesday.

After the subway malfunction, expo visitors planning to exit via the eastern gate, which is connected to Yumeshima Station, were asked to remain inside the site.

People were seen sitting in rows beneath the expo's giant wooden structure, known as the Grand Ring, as midnight approached. Buses transported some visitors away from the site and others were able to access a tram line from a different station.

A total of 36 people were taken to hospital by Thursday morning due to suspected heatstroke or other symptoms, but none of the cases were serious, local authorities said. — Kyodo



People head from Yumeshima Station to an entrance gate of the World Exposition in Osaka on 14 August 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

LOCATION CONFIRMED

Putin-Trump summit to take place at Alaska's Elmendorf-Richardson Base

THE talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump will take place at the Elmendorf-Richardson military base in Alaska, reported Russian President's aide Yuri Ushakov.

"As you all know, the meeting will take place in Anchorage, Alaska. Specifically, one of the facilities at the joint Elmendorf-Richardson military base will be used," Ushakov told journalists.

Putin and Trump will first hold a one-on-one meeting, followed by talks with their delegations, he added.

"Everything will begin tomorrow, 15 August, at around

11:30 am local time, with a conversation between Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. This conversation will be one-on-one, of course, with the participation of translators. Then, delegation talks will take place, continuing over a working breakfast," he told journalists.

Before the meeting, Putin and Trump will make a few introductory remarks. Ushakov stated, "It is expected that at the beginning of the meeting, both presidents will, of course, say a few words. This is standard practice in international negotiations." The duration of the talks will depend on the course of the discussion, he added. — SPUTNIK