

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.

Zones designated for groundnut, sesame, and sunflower

Efforts must be made to increase per capita consumption of meat and eggs, thereby improving public health standards.



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw addresses the fourth meeting of the Agriculture and Livestock Development Commission yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the Agriculture and Livestock Development Commission, Prime Minister U Nyo Saw delivered a speech at the meeting 4/2025 of the commission at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Agriculture and Livestock De-

velopment Commission Chairman, the Prime Minister delivered a speech. He recounted that to further develop agricultural and livestock enterprises, the Head of State has given guidance that priority be given to increasing target yields and promoting multiple cropping. In addition, efforts must be made to ensure that current monsoon

rice cultivation areas achieve their target yields, and that summer rice cultivation is expanded depending on water availability. Furthermore, in hilly areas where land cannot be converted for cultivation, guidance has been issued to promote the planting of perennial trees.

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CBM issues new rules on exporters’ proceeds

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over Northwest Bay of Bengal (off the Odisha-West Bengal coasts, India) during next 48 hours.

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)

Zones designated for groundnut, sesame, and ...

FROM PAGE 1

He continued to say that since the expansion of oil crop cultivation is crucial, specific zones have already been designated for groundnut, sesame, and sunflower, which are major oil crops. However, the set targets have not yet been met. As guidelines to expand sunflower cultivation have already been issued since 2022, they must be effectively implemented to ensure success.

For domestic edible oil security and for export purposes, the expansion of sunflower cultivation is essential. Sunflower cultivation offers high yields, shorter growing periods, ease of cultivation, and contributes to economic development. By increasing sunflower oil production, the country's edible oil demand will be met, imports will decline, and foreign exchange spending will decrease. Therefore, policies must implement sunflower expansion programmes.

Based on Myanmar's estimated population of 51.3 million and annual consumption of six visses per person, about 500,000 tonnes of cooking oil are required. Although it is calculated that the current production of groundnut, sesame,

sunflower, niger, and canola seeds could meet national consumption, groundnut and sesame are also widely consumed as whole seeds and exported abroad. Thus, there will still be a domestic oil shortage. To address this, sunflowers, which are primarily used for oil, must be expanded. Currently, about US\$500 million worth of edible oil is imported annually, so expanding domestic sunflower cultivation is necessary to reduce import dependency.

Moreover, moving beyond a monoculture system dominated by rice and beans, the introduction of sunflower cultivation as a major crop allows farmers to achieve crop diversification. Research also indicates that crop rotation with sunflowers can help maintain soil fertility. Since domestic groundnut oil prices are high due to production costs, making edible oil affordable for consumers and ensuring the survival of local oil mills requires a comprehensive policy to expand oil crop cultivation. Therefore, the expansion of cultivated areas and the improvement of productivity must be carried out under the leadership of relevant regional and state governments.

Currently, apart from agricultural and livestock universities, 89 industry, agriculture, and livestock high schools have been established during this government's tenure, with 5,091 students enrolled. Investment in human resources for agricultural research yields high returns for national development and plays a vital role in increasing productivity and competitiveness.

In addition to ten prioritized crops for continuous agricultural development, potato, onion, and garlic have also been designated as important crops. Regional and state governments are urged to focus on achieving the set yield targets for these crops.

For rice cultivation, the government has provided interest-free loans to promote direct seeding using drum seeders, ensuring better yields. Pilot programmes with drum seeders have been implemented in Nay Pyi Taw and six regions, with plans to expand support to other areas.

Since August of this year, under the leadership of the Agricultural and Livestock Development Commission and the Urea Fertilizer Import and Distribution Committee, ferti-

lizers have been distributed to farmers at prices 25 per cent lower than market rates, with priority distribution in Nay Pyi Taw and major regions, and gradual expansion to other states and regions.

According to the guidance of the Head of State, in central Myanmar's hot regions, tree planting is the best way to mitigate extreme heat. Without trees, soil erosion worsens, and in the absence of vegetation, thorny shrubs will spread. Therefore, preventive tree planting must be carried out as directed.

In livestock, dairy farming must be expanded to increase milk and dairy production, thereby reducing reliance on imports. Alongside dairy cattle, beef cattle farming must also be promoted.

Sheep and goat farming, already successful in the country, must be expanded further, along with large-scale pig and poultry farming, which is currently widespread. These modern livestock systems use a cage system and refrigeration technology. Efforts must be made to increase per capita consumption of meat and eggs, thereby improving public health standards.

Furthermore, aquaculture, including freshwater and saltwater fish and shrimp farming, plays a vital role not only in food security but also in foreign exchange earnings. Expanding livestock and aquaculture production, and exporting value-added products such as processed meat and fish, will promote the growth of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and generate higher incomes for farmers.

The secretary of the commission clarified decisions from the third meeting of the commission. Union ministers who are Commission members, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, regional and state chief ministers, deputy ministers, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials discussed accomplishment of the previous meeting's decisions, and further cooperation of relevant ministries, organizations and entrepreneurs in development of agriculture and livestock sectors.

The Prime Minister coordinated discussions and gave a concluding remark. — MNA/TTA

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NATIONAL

Chinese Ambassador calls on MoFA Union Minister

U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed matters pertaining to the further consolidation of the ex-

isting Pauk-Phaw relations and expansion of cooperation between Myanmar and China, continued implementation of Myanmar-China bilateral projects, as well as China's continued support for Myanmar's development and post-earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. — MNA



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe receives Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday.

MoFR Union Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia at the Internal Revenue Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially discussed

matters pertaining to further consolidation of bilateral cooperation, development projects conducted with Chinese loans, payments between Myanmar and China, training for human resource development con-

ducted by China and further mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Also, present at the meeting were the deputy minister and departmental officials. — MNA



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw meets Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia yesterday.

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.

'If My Lover Were a Flower' screened at ASEAN Film Festival 2025

THE Myanmar film 'If My Lover Were A Flower' was shown at the ASEAN Film Festival 2025, according to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO).

The ASEAN Film Festival 2025 is organized by Hong Kong-ASEAN Foundation and has been in progress in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, starting from 8 August till 31 August.

The festival will showcase 24 films from all ten ASEAN countries and four Belt and

Road countries: Egypt, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Turkiye, said MMPO. The Myanmar Consulate-General in Hong Kong joined the festival, and the Myanmar movie 'If My Lover Were A Flower' was shown on 17 August at 3 pm at Emperor Cinema, Entertainment Building, enjoyed by officials from the Hong Kong-ASEAN Foundation, delegates from the ASEAN Consulate-General in Hong Kong, Myanmar nationals and enthusiasts. — MT/ZS

If My Lover Were A Flower
花漾戀人 (2024) 監 Kaung Zan

A film based on bestselling Myanmar writer Ponnya Khin's novel. In the village of Nung Pan, Mya Lay meets Nay Mon, a visitor from Yangon. The two promptly fall in love, despite the objections of Mya Lay's brothers, and a pre-arranged marriage by her late father. Nay Mon brings Mya Lay to the city of Yangon, and the two look forward to a happy future. But Mya Lay continues to be torn between her love for Nay Mon and her obligations to her family.

本片根據暢銷緬甸作家彭尼亞欣的小說改編。彭尼亞欣在蘭潘村長大，有一天她遇見了從仰光來的遊客奈門。兩人很快墜入愛河，儘管她的兄弟們反對，並由她已故父親安排了一場訂婚。奈門帶著Mya Lay來到仰光，兩人期待著美好的未來。但Mya Lay繼續在對奈門的愛和她對家庭的責任之間感到掙扎。

Scenes from the Myanmar movie 'If My Lover Were A Flower'.

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

NATIONAL

MoI Union Minister joins talk on resilient communities, inspects Loikaw development

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, accompanied by Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin, attended the discussion on establishing a resilient and strong social community and entertainment event of artistes for moral support to locals, and inspected the reconstruction and development activities in Loikaw yesterday.

The Union minister and officials, including the artistes attended the donation ceremony for monks at the abbot training schools in Loikaw yesterday morning.

He then joined the discussion on establishing a resilient and strong social community held at the University of Computer Studies (Loikaw).

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said that al-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn participates in the discussion to set up a resilient and strong community in Loikaw yesterday.

though Kayah State did not face the Mandalay earthquake, but the destructive actions of the terrorists and their impacts on state stability. Currently, the government, Tatmadaw and state government are working hard to ensure the state's stability, reconstruction and development programmes. Moreover, the artistes were also here to provide moral support to the locals with

their arts.

The Union minister presented a cash prize to the performers, and donated books for schools, an MRTV DTH receiver and an MRTV T-2 Settop Box for the University of Computer Studies (Loikaw).

The Union minister and academy Yan Aung drew lots for the attendees and handed over an MRTV DTH receiver and an MRTV T-2 Settop Box to the winners.

The Union minister and party headed to Thiri Mingalar New Market in Loikaw, and heard the report made by the person in charge of the market.

The Union minister, officials and artistes observed the market area and cordially greeted the sellers and buyers. — MNA/KTZH

40th Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP held in Yangon

UNION Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe attended the opening ceremony of the 40th Technical Committee Meeting of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) at the Eravati Sule Grand Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The Union minister highlighted the chances of meeting to review the progress, share the experiences and opportunities to apply, promoting the suitable advancements. He added that all should propose new innovations and practical solutions during the three-day meeting, and try hard not to leave any places unexplored through the stairs heading to cooperation, innovation and unity. All should move forward together to a future of sustainable and inclusive rural transformation in the Asia-Pacific region.

CIRDAP Director-General Mr Chandra Shekara Putte Gowda briefed on the intention of the meeting.

The 40th Technical Committee Meeting of CIRDAP will be held on 25-26 August, and the participants will visit Yemon village of Hlegu township and Union National Races Village (Yangon) on 27 August.

After the opening ceremony, the Union minister attended the handover ceremony of fertilizer under the crop lien system to monsoon paddy farmers at Good Brother centre in Hlegu. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar hosts ASEAN-China forum on tourism security, travel facilitation, and statistics

THE ASEAN-China Tourism Security and Safety Forum and Travel Facilitation and Tourism Statistics Harmonization Workshop, jointly organized by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, ASEAN-China Centre and Lancang-Mekong Integrated Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Centre, took place at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism, and Deputy Minister U Phyo Zaw Soe met Mr Shi Zhongjung, Secretary-General of ASEAN-China Centre, and openly discussed enhancement of cooperation in the tourism industry, exchange of visits, implementation of plans mentioned in the agreement and MoU of tourism cooperation and human resource development.

At the opening ceremony of the ASEAN-China Tourism Security and Safety Forum, the Union minister said that exchanging ideas, knowledge, and innovative solutions, practical strategies can be developed through the forum. Collaboration across multiple sec-



tors is crucial in order to implement effective measures to protect tourists and the tourism industry. Moreover, the mutual support and cooperation between ASEAN and China can help foster and enhance a better environment for travellers from around the world.

Mr Shi Zhongjung, Secretary-General of ASEAN-China Centre and Mr Davuth LY, Deputy-Secretary General of Lancang-Mekong Integrated Law Enforcement and Security Cooperation Centre, made remarks, and a video message of ASEAN Secretary General Dr Kao Kim Hourn was played.

The attendees discussed different topics covering tourism safe-

ty and security for sustainable regional development, ensuring safe and secure travel for tourists from Myanmar and Thailand, tourism security in the digital era, regional development through a safe and resilient tourism environment and a safe and secure tourism industry.

At noon, the Union minister made an opening speech at the Tourism Statistics Harmonization Workshop, and Mr Shi remarked.

Participants discussed the importance of travel facilitation, procedures for information exchange, utilizing global tourism statistics for sustainable development, and sharing best practices and experiences in developing tourism statistics. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Organizations condemn TNLA terrorists for destroying 125-year-old Gokteik Viaduct

THE world-famous Gokteik Viaduct, a 125-year-old rail-cum-bridge, is Myanmar’s highest and the second highest in the world. It is also the largest railway trestle bridge globally. The viaduct, located on the Mandalay-Lashio railway line, connects Nawnghkio and Kyaukme in Shan State (North). On the morning of 24 August, TNLA terrorists exploded the Gokteik Viaduct by planting mines, damaging a 60-foot section of the viaduct between Pier P-16 and the approach structure AB-2 on the Kyaukme side. Both the viaduct deck in that section and the approach structure AB-2 were destroyed.

The Gokteik Viaduct, a 125-year-old world-famous railway bridge that is one of Myanmar’s iconic landmarks and has been listed among the world’s wonders, was deliberately blown up with mines by TNLA terrorists. Instead of being preserved and protected, the viaduct was destroyed in a reckless act unrelated to military measures. The entire people have strongly condemned and rejected this action as completely unacceptable.

Moreover, Young Men’s Buddhist Association (Central), Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance, Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), Faith Evangelical Church (Bago), Deliverance Church (Yangon), All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ), Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association, Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar, Pinnaygon Yakhine Jaame Mosque, Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional Development Association, Myanmar Artists Organization (Central), Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central), Myanmar Comedians’ Association, Myanmar-Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Central), Myanmar Press Council, Myanmar Sports Media Federation, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, Myanmar Writers’ Association, and Myanmar Music Association (Central), issued their statements of strong condemnations over such action of TNLA terrorists. — MNA/TTA

YMBA (Central) condemns TNLA and PDF attacks on historic Gokteik Viaduct

25 August 2025

THE Gokteik Viaduct in Nawnghkio, Shan State (North), which connects Shan State (North) with central Myanmar and has stood for 125 years as a source of national pride and a site listed among the world’s wonders, was systematically sabotaged and destroyed with mines by TNLA and PDF terrorist groups. The act resulted in the loss of this historic heritage, which the people of Myanmar have long used. So, the Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) has strongly condemned and denounced this act.

Central Executive Committee
Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA)
(Central)

Statement of Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

25 August 2025

TNLA terrorists, unable to withstand Tatmadaw’s offensive and fleeing in disarray, senselessly planted mines and destroyed the Gokteik Viaduct, which is a prominent national landmark unrelated to the military target, on 24 August.

The Gokteik Viaduct, which has stood for 125 years, is Myanmar’s highest and the world’s second-highest railway bridge, as well as the largest railway trestle globally, and is recognized as a prominent landmark. So, the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) strongly condemns and completely rejects TNLA terrorists’ senseless act of mining and destroying this historic Gokteik Viaduct.

Central Executive Committee
Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

25 August 2025

TNLA armed terrorists, without regard for the interests of the local population, set fire to and destroyed houses in villages while fleeing during clashes with Tatmadaw in Naungpain Village, Shan State (North). While retreating, on the morning of 24 August 2025, they maliciously and violently mined and destroyed Myanmar’s prominent landmark and world-renowned Gokteik Viaduct. In the incident, a 60-foot section of the viaduct frame and the bridge’s abutment (AB-2) between the Kyaukme side P-16 pier and the abutment were destroyed.

The Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance has issued a statement, strongly condemning and completely rejecting the TNLA armed terrorist group’s malicious and reckless act of mining and destroying a prominent and historic site in Myanmar that is unrelated to military measures.

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance

Statement of All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

25 August 2025

1. TNLA armed terrorists, having retreated from Naungpain village in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North), recklessly blew up the historic Gokteik Viaduct, which is one of Myanmar’s prominent landmarks unrelated to any military activity, causing its destruction on 24 August 2025. We shared sorrow and grief among the residents as TNLA terrorists destroyed the 60-foot-long viaduct span and the viaduct’s abutment (AB-2) between the P-16 viaduct pier on the Kyaukme side and the abutment (AB-2).
2. The All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ) absolutely rejects TNLA armed terrorists committing such terror acts and strongly condemns them.

All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation (HQ)

Statement of Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

25 August 2025

WHEN Tatmadaw reoccupied Naungpain Village in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North), TNLA armed terrorists who had fled blew up the world-famous Gokteik Viaduct, which is a 125-year-old rail-cum-viaduct connecting Nawnghkio and Kyaukme, recklessly with explosives on 24 August. We are sorrowful to hear that the 60-foot-long section of the viaduct deck between viaduct pier (P-16) on the Kyaukme side and the abutment (AB-2), along with the abutment (AB-2) itself, has been destroyed.

We, the Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association, strongly condemn the act of TNLA armed terrorists who mined and destroyed a prominent and historical site of the nation that is unrelated to military operations.

Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Association

Statement of Deliverance Church (Yangon)

25 August 2025

THE TNLA armed terrorist group maliciously and recklessly blew up the Gokteik Viaduct, a prominent landmark of Myanmar, resulting in the collapse of a 60-foot-long section of the viaduct deck between pier (P-16) and abutment (AB-2) on the Kyaukme side. Therefore, our Deliverance Church (Yangon) strongly condemns and completely rejects these terrorist acts.

Deliverance Church (Yangon)

Statement of All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

25 August 2025

TNLA armed terrorists maliciously and recklessly mined and destroyed the 2,260-foot-long Gokteik Viaduct, connecting Nawnghkio and Kyaukme. The facility is the highest viaduct in Myanmar, the second-highest in the world, and the largest railway truss viaduct globally. As a result of the attack, a 60-foot-long section of the bridge deck between Pier (P-16) on the Kyaukme side and abutment (AB-2) was destroyed. So, the All Myanmar Hindu Central Council categorically rejects these acts of terrorism and strongly condemns them.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Council

Statement of Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

25 August 2025

THE TNLA armed terrorist group on 24 August 2025 maliciously and recklessly mined and destroyed the famous Gokteik Viaduct on Myanmar’s railway line, which connects Nawnghkio and Kyaukme. The viaduct is recognized as a prominent national landmark and a world-renowned heritage site. The 2,260-foot-long Gokteik Viaduct, situated at an altitude of 1,100 feet, has a history spanning 125 years. It is Myanmar’s highest viaduct and the second-highest in the world, also recognized as the largest railway steel viaduct globally. Renowned for the advanced technology used in its construction and the beauty of its natural surroundings, the viaduct has long been celebrated and visited by numerous domestic and international tourists.

Hence, the Faith Evangelical Church (Bago) strongly condemns and completely rejects the actions of the TNLA armed terrorist group for maliciously and recklessly mining and destroying the historic Gokteik Viaduct.

Faith Evangelical Church (Bago)

NATIONAL

Statement of Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar)

25 August 2025

IT is with deep regret that we have learned that on 24 August, the Gokteik Viaduct, located on the Mandalay-Lashio railway connecting Nawnghkio and Kyaukme townships in Shan State (North), was exploded by the TNLA armed terrorist group.

The TNLA armed terrorist group’s malicious and reckless act of mining and destroying a prominent and historic site in Myanmar, unrelated to military activities, is completely unacceptable to the entire nation and strongly condemned by the public. So, the Union of Myanmar Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar) also absolutely rejects and vehemently condemns this action.

Union of Myanmar Methodist Church
(Lower Myanmar)

Statement of Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

25 August 2025

WHEN Tatmadaw totally reoccupied Naungpain Village on 23 August 2025, the TNLA armed terrorists retreated from the scene; however, they blew up and destroyed the 125-year-old Gokteik Viaduct, which is the highest in Myanmar, the second highest and the largest rail viaduct in the world, on 24 August. Regrettably, a 60-foot-long section of the viaduct deck between Bridge Pier (P-16) on the Kyaukme side and the abutment (AB-2), along with the abutment (AB-2) itself, has been destroyed.

That is why we, the Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Myanmar, strongly condemn and denounce the acts of TNLA armed terrorists over the malicious and brutal mine explosion and destruction of the prominent and historic venue of the nation.

Islamic Religious Affairs Council Myanmar

Statement of My Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Central)

25 August 2025

IT has been learnt that on 24 August, the world-famous Gokteik Viaduct, a 125-year-old historic structure located on the Mandalay-Lashio railway connecting Nawnghkio and Kyaukme in Shan State (North), was destroyed with explosives by a terrorist group.

The Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious Organization (Central) has issued a statement declaring that it completely rejects and strongly condemns the acts of the terrorist group that blew up and destroyed the historic Gokteik Viaduct.

Myanmar Shiah Muslim Religious
Organization (Central)

Statement of Myanmar Sports Media Federation

25 August 2025

IT is sorrowful to hear that the 125-year-old Gokteik Viaduct, Myanmar’s landmark and one of the world’s wonders, was exploded by TNLA terrorists on the morning of 24 August.

The Myanmar Sports Media Federation has released this statement, strongly condemning the destructive action of TNLA terrorists who bombed and destroyed the historic Gokteik Viaduct.

Myanmar Sports Media Federation

Statement of Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

25 August 2025

IT is sorrowful to hear that the 125-year-old Gokteik Viaduct, Myanmar’s landmark and one of the world’s wonders, was exploded by TNLA terrorists on the morning of 24 August.

The Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization has released this statement, strongly condemning the destructive action of TNLA terrorists who bombed and destroyed the historic Gokteik Viaduct.

Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization

Statement of Myanmar Music Association (Central)

25 August 2025

THE Myanmar Music Association (Central) has released this statement, strongly condemning the destructive action of the TNLA terrorist group that exploded the 125-year-old world-famous Gokteik Viaduct that connects Shan State (North) and the middle part of Myanmar on the morning of 24 August.

Myanmar Music Association (Central)

Statement Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional Development Association

25 August 2025

1. It was learnt that on 24 August, TNLA terrorists planted explosives and destroyed the Gokteik Viaduct, located on the Mandalay-Lashio railway in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North), which links Nawnghkio and Kyaukme. The viaduct, measuring 2,260 feet in length and standing 1,100 feet above sea level, is 125 years old. It is recognized as the tallest bridge in Myanmar, the world’s second tallest and one of the largest railway viaducts in the world.
2. We, the Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional Development Association, strongly denounce and categorically reject the terrorist act committed by TNLA terrorists in destroying the Gokteik Viaduct, which is regarded as a historic landmark of Myanmar. We firmly condemn their acts of violence.

Buthidaung-Maungtaw Regional
Development Association

Statement of Pinnaygon Yakhine Jamme Mosque

25 August 2025

1. We have learnt with deep regret that on 24 August, armed TNLA terrorists planted explosives and destroyed the 125-year-old Gokteik Viaduct in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North). As a result, a 60-foot section of the viaduct’s steel structure between pier (P-16) and abutment (AB-2) on the Kyaukme side, together with the abutment itself, was damaged.
2. We, the Pinnaygon Yakhine Jamme Mosque, strongly denounce and categorically reject such brutal and destructive acts of terrorism being committed by TNLA armed terrorists.

Pinnaygon Yakhine Jamme Mosque

Statement of Myanmar Writers’ Association

25 August 2025

THE 125-year-old world-famous Gokteik Viaduct that connects Nawnghkio and Kyaukme in Shan State (North) was destroyed due to the mine explosion carried out by terrorists on 24 August.

Such an explosion of a non-military target bridge that facilitates the transport of ethnic people in the country is supposed to be committed intentionally, aiming at deteriorating the State’s stability and ethnic unity. The Myanmar Writers’ Association strongly condemned such a destructive action by terrorists.

Myanmar Writers’ Association

Statement Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

25 August 2025

WE have learnt that on the morning of 24 August, TNLA terrorists planted explosives and destroyed the Gokteik Viaduct, situated on the Mandalay-Lashio railway in Shan State (North). The viaduct is a well-known landmark frequently visited by large numbers of domestic and international tourists.

The Myanmar Artists Organization (Central) has declared that it totally rejects and strongly condemns such senseless acts of violence carried out by TNLA terrorists.

Myanmar Artists Organization (Central)

Statement Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

25 August 2025

IT is deeply regrettable to learn that on the morning of 24 August, the world-famous Gokteik Viaduct — one of Myanmar’s most significant landmarks, the highest bridge in the country and the second highest of its kind in the world — was destroyed by explosives planted by the TNLA terrorist group.

The Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) has issued a statement declaring that it absolutely does not accept such acts by the TNLA terrorist group and strongly condemns them.

Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central)

Statement Myanmar Comedians’ Association

25 August 2025

IT has been learnt with regret that on the morning of 24 August, the world-famous Gokteik Viaduct, a 125-year-old historic structure on the Mandalay-Lashio railway connecting Nawnghkio and Kyaukme, was destroyed with explosives by the TNLA terrorist group.

The Myanmar Comedians’ Association has issued a statement declaring that it completely rejects and strongly condemns the actions by TNLA terrorists in destroying the Gokteik Viaduct, a historic landmark and part of Myanmar’s heritage.

Myanmar Comedians’ Association

OPINION

ARTICLE

Efforts to boost the national economy to raise living standards

EVERY person aspires to live a long and healthy life. While longevity and good health may be attributed to merit and fate, they are also supported by improved socioeconomic conditions, proper living standards, and peace of mind. Social and economic advancement plays a central role but reducing poverty within society.

In Myanmar, socioeconomic development still faces challenges. The country's life expectancy is 69 years, the lowest among ASEAN and neighbouring countries. To improve health and life expectancy, not only must the national economy grow, but people must also have access to proper nutrition at affordable prices. It is

To achieve higher life expectancy in practical and sustainable ways, the most effective approach is to promote rural economic development. The current government is already supporting agriculture and livestock, and it is believed that future governments will continue to prioritize these sectors. Livestock farming businesses are suitable for Myanmar's natural conditions. In agriculture, achieving higher yields in the 10 major crops as targeted will also contribute to overall economic growth.

national economic growth, reduce poverty, and raise life expectancy. The government is prioritizing rural economic development, and future governments will also need to continue efforts to improve rural socioeconomic conditions. According to World Bank calculations, Myanmar's poverty rate was 21.6 per cent in 2014, but it is estimated to have risen to 49 per cent in 2024. Regardless, it is essential for all citizens to work diligently and collectively.

To achieve higher life expectancy in practical and sustainable ways, the most effective approach is to promote rural economic development. The current government is already supporting agriculture and livestock, and it is believed that future governments will continue to prioritize these sectors. Livestock farming businesses are suitable for Myanmar's natural conditions. In agriculture, achieving higher yields in the 10 major crops as targeted will also contribute to overall economic growth.

As such, to reduce poverty and raise life expectancy, it is necessary to strengthen rural agriculture and livestock industries, which form the backbone of the national economy. By working together with collective effort, the nation can achieve socioeconomic progress and improved living standards for the people.

therefore essential to ensure the availability of quality food at reasonable costs.

If the economy strengthens, household incomes will rise, enabling families to consume sufficient and nutritious food. Better nutrition will, in turn, extend life expectancy. According to the 2024 Population and Housing Census, Myanmar's resident population is more than 54 million, including about 3.4 million citizens working abroad. This brings the total population to over 54 million.

If all able-bodied citizens can engage in productive work, the economy will grow on the strong foundations already in place, and social and economic conditions will improve. Around 70 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, where most people depend on agriculture and livestock activities as their livelihoods. Therefore, uplifting the socioeconomic life of rural communities will boost

The US will not Win against China

By UAC

WITH the first meeting between China and US trade officials in Geneva over, the two global giants agree to continue to negotiate without setting specific deadlines or targets. The Trump administration, as usual, exaggerates to claim empty victory over successful negotiations, yet the battle is far from over. Trump has given in, lowering the tariffs from the impossibly high 145 per cent. The trade war talk is taking its toll on US consumers, with Walmart, the US's largest retailer, raising prices every month, citing Trump's tariffs as a reason.

The prediction

In the end, when the dust settles, the world trading system will go forward with or without the US. The US is already getting isolated even from its

closest allies, such as Canada, Mexico and the EU, and it would end up getting isolated from the rest of the world too. The world with continue with the renewed commitment to the formal rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The rules may not be perfect, but they are the best we have at present.

The Trump version is slightly different. He wants the US to remain at the centre of power, the system and the US dollar as the main trade currency. The officials have been quite explicit about that, saying other countries would fall in line with the US against China, i.e., join the US side in its trade war against China. Totally unreachable dream, knowing how much homework China has already done in the past five years in the global south, for most of them to be on the Chinese side. Being on

the Chinese side means development, being on the Western and US side means ideologies and systems that have no proven record of making any developing countries prosper.

The reasons

If you look at what real economic power the US maintains today, it is a far cry from the rhetoric that the Trump administration touted. The idea that the US market is central to every economy and using the threat of cutting exporting countries out of the US market would make them kowtow to all their whims and whistles is as outdated nowadays. It may have been true 25 years ago, but the consumer power is no longer centralized in the US alone. The numbers simply do not support that theory. The US imports are no longer substantial enough for most

countries to alter their whole foreign policy and economic orientation because of that threat, barring Mexico, Germany (~70 per cent of their exports to the US) perhaps.

The US imports only 12 per cent or so of the world's exports. It's just not that significant anymore at this point in time, after the enormous growth of China and some countries of the global south.

The counter to all these facts and figures was that when the US blocks China's exports, China would be forced to flood the EU with its wares, forcing Europe to eventually put up barriers against China, which would be equivalent to joining the trade war with the US. That could be what the Trump people are hoping for, but again, the figures do not support that either.

China currently only ex-

ports about \$450 billion a year to the US. Its total export to the whole world is \$3,600 billion. The exports to the US have come down significantly in the past ten years because of anti-China policies. The long-term master planner, China, has already diversified its trade. What do you think the same Chinese leadership under President Xi has been doing in the past ten years? Just ignoring US threats and not preparing for any eventual possibilities? So the idea that China would flood the world markets with its inexpensive goods if the US market is cut off is merely a fantasy. The US simply does not have the power to do that anymore.

Another factor is that China's favour is the US being a deficit country with a lot, really a lot of debts. These debt instru-

ments are being held by their major trading partners/adversaries like China, Japan, etc. In the event of a real tit for tat war, once these countries sell their bond holdings, the demand for US debt will be cut significantly, thereby raising interest rates and receiving downward credit ratings, causing it to pay more interest (in billions of \$). With current yearly deficits in trillions, it's a bitter pill that the US simply cannot swallow. A recent anecdote of Japan and China selling US bonds in response to Trump's threats forces the treasury rates above five per cent, causing markets to free-fall in US stocks. These directly affect 401K (US pension schemes) and make the retirement funds of US workers smaller.

If we use Trump's words on Zelensky, 'Trump simply does

not have the cards'. Trump does not have a strong hand against China. He is overestimating his hand in his bluff. When Trump was barking from afar, Xi again did his work by visiting some Southeast Asian countries, further augmenting their trade ties with these countries.

The US is now just a shadow of its past. It is a diminishing superpower in the world now. China's economy has overtaken the US in the past two years, and the reversal of fortunes is not in sight. The US is no longer indispensable in the world economy.

With the non-US dollar trades on the uptrend and with BRICS planning a new global currency (BRICS pay is already in place), the privileged position

and sanction-imposing power of the US\$ would be over in less than 10 years.

What about us?

The current position of multilateralism in international relations might serve Myanmar good before the year 2000. Maybe it is time to rethink this guiding principle for the coming decades. Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, etc., have become richer than Myanmar by sticking to and getting help from their northern friendly neighbour. Instead of appeasing the West, Western puppets and the US, where the help comes with attachments, ideologies and dogmas of faith, our orientation might require readjustment, to cater for the need to at least catch up with our neighbours and get out of the poverty trap.

Peace and Unity in Diversity

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

IN a world marked by differences in culture, religion, language, and ethnicity, the ideals of peace and unity in diversity stand as powerful principles that can bring people together. While diversity often presents challenges, it also offers great strength. When people from different backgrounds learn to live together peacefully, they build societies that are more energetic, inclusive, and resilient.

Diversity means that people are different in many ways in their beliefs, appearances, lifestyles, and histories. Every culture holds unique wisdom and beauty, and every person's perspective can contribute to the richness of society. However, diversity also brings challenges. Misunderstanding, prejudice, and intolerance can cause division. This is why peace is essential. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the presence of harmony, mutual respect, and cooperation among

people, despite their differences.

Unity in diversity means living harmoniously despite our differences. It recognizes that every individual has a unique identity shaped by their culture, beliefs, and experiences. Rather than allowing these differences to divide us, unity in diversity encourages us to respect, celebrate, and learn from them. Peace, in this context, is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of mutual understanding, tolerance, and cooperation. For example, international cooperation in science, humanitarian aid, and environmental protection shows how people from different nations can unite for the greater good.

In multicultural nations such as India, South Africa, or the United States, diversity is a natural part of daily life. Different communities live side by side, practising their own traditions while contributing to a shared national identity. Festivals, food, music,

and languages vary from region to region, yet people often come together during national events or in times of need, showing solidarity that transcends individual differences.

However, achieving peace in a diverse society is not always easy. Misunderstandings and discrimination can lead to tension and conflict. To maintain peace, it is essential to promote education, dialogue, and empathy. The schools, media, and governments play an important role in spreading messages of unity and ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all citizens. When people feel respected and heard, they are more likely to contribute positively to society.

Unity in diversity also prepares us for a globalized world. As we interact more with people from different countries and cultures, the ability to work together peacefully becomes even more crucial. Peaceful coexistence not only benefits individual communities

but also helps in addressing global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and conflict.

Building peace and unity in diversity requires dialogue, empathy, and education. Dialogue helps us understand one another's experiences and challenges. Empathy allows us to put ourselves in others' shoes and respond with kindness. Education teaches respect for cultural differences and prepares future generations to be global citizens. Governments, communities, and individuals all have a role to play in promoting these values.

In addition, peace and unity in diversity are not just ideals; they are necessities in today's interconnected world. When we embrace our differences and choose understanding over division, we create stronger, more compassionate societies. Let us all work together to build a future where diversity is celebrated and peace is a shared reality for everyone.



NATIONAL

Library development and reading awareness campaign held in Loikaw

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Libraries Development Cooperation Committee, and Kayah State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin, who is also Patron of the State Libraries Supervisory Committee, attended the campaign on developing libraries and raising reading habits at No 1 BEHS in Loikaw of Kayah State yesterday.

After the ceremonial procedures, the Union minister and party inspected the library and competitions.

The Union minister said efforts are being made to restore stability in Loikaw of Kayah State. The Head of State likes reading, and he also urges the people to read, publish and do-

nate fine literature. The youths should also read. All should participate in rebuilding a more peaceful and prosperous future.

The state chief minister reported on efforts to promote reading habits despite the challenges, and expressed gratitude to the officials of the Ministry of Information and artistes for coming to provide moral support to departmental officials and locals.

The Union minister donated 50 MRTV DTH receivers and 120 MRTV T-2 settop boxes for the state government and regional military station. The Union minister and party also presented cash prizes to the winners in competitions.

In the evening, the Union minister and party arrived at



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn joins the campaign on developing libraries and raising reading habits in Loikaw yesterday.

Loikaw University and inspected the maintenance work on the main building, library, classroom and convocation hall of the university.

They also heard reports on damage and repair works of the university, duty resumption of faculty members, attendance of students and contacts with distance education students.

Moreover, academy Yan Aung, academy May Than Nu,

academy Soe Myat Thuzar, Dein Daung, Ohn Thee, Nyein Chan, Yin Latt, Thinzar Myintmo, Nay Chi Nyein Chan and other artistes currently in Loikaw hosted entertainment programmes together with the local artistes at night.

The departmental officials and locals participated in the event happily. In Loikaw, due to security conditions at the end of 2023, the dis-

tribution of electricity in urban areas was suspended. However, starting from May 2024, power distribution was gradually expanded with proper arrangements. At present, 20 downtown wards and 23 surrounding villages of Loikaw are receiving a full 24-hour electricity supply. The officials are continuing efforts to increase electricity generation and integrate it into the national grid. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar MSME products set to enter Thai market



The Maha Nwe shopping centre in Mahachai, where Myanmar MSME products will be displayed.

SOME Myanmar MSME products have been planned to penetrate the Thai market through official exports, said Mya Pon-nama wholesale trading centre owner U Hein Htike Aung.

This plan will be introduced at Mahar Nwe shopping centre in Mahachai, Thailand, in September and October with about 30 booths. “As a trading company, we

trade agricultural products, and we have also tried to trade MSME products for 3-6 months. Now we have planned to introduce our MSME products on the shelves of the Maha Nwe shopping centre in Mahachai, Thailand, through official export,” he said.

At the shopping centre booths, clothes, shoes and lacquerwares as well as ready-made

foods such as monhingar paste and ngapi kyaw (fried fish paste) will be sold.

At present, they have sought a Thailand FDA certificate, he said.

“For now, about 20 MSME businesses have initially proposed. We have aimed to launch it with about 30 booths,” he added. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Myanmar-China friendship market to be built in Sagaing Region

A Myanmar-China friendship shopping mall is reportedly going to be built in Sagaing, Sagaing Region.

The Chinese Embassy to Myanmar and the China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (CECCM) jointly donated US\$223,000 for the Shwe Minwun Market, which will be built as a bilateral friendship market in Sagaing, during the launch of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) 2025 report at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 August, according to a statement by the CECCM.

Chinese businesses in Myanmar implemented more than 160 CSR projects in the past eight years, benefiting a total population of more than 420,000 in



Donation for the Shwe Minwun Market, which will be built as a Myanmar-China friendship shopping centre.

10 regions and states.

In addition to the infrastructure development and job creation mentioned in the CSR Report 2025, education, healthcare, and environmental conservation services are important for the country’s sustainable development, Dr Wah Wah Maung, Union Minister for Foreign Investment and Economic Relations, said in her opening speech at the ceremony. – Htun Htun/ZN

Statement of Myanmar Press Council

25 August 2025

1. It has been reported that on the morning of 24 August 2025, the world-famous Gokteik Viaduct, Myanmar’s highest and the second-highest railway bridge in the world, with a 125-year history and connecting Nawnghkio and Kyaukme in Shan State (North), was blown up and destroyed by TNLA terrorists in a reckless and unlawful manner.
2. The Myanmar Press Council has issued a statement strongly condemning the TNLA terrorists for the deliberate destruction of the historic Gokteik Viaduct, which is listed among the world’s remarkable landmarks and has no connection to any military activity.

Myanmar Press Council

NATIONAL

Coord meeting on
22nd China-ASEAN Expo
held on 22 Aug

A coordination meeting regarding the 22nd China-ASEAN EXPO took place at a meeting hall of the Trade Department (Yangon) on 22 August.

The 22nd China-ASEAN Expo will be held on 17-21 September 2025 in Nanning City, Guangxi Province, China. The director-general of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization instructed traders who will participate in the expo to abide by the rules. The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry's joint

general secretary also coordinated some matters. Director Dr Thet Lwin Oo also discussed compliance rules with the businesspeople and responded to the questionnaire raised by the traders and attendees.

Myanmar will participate in the 22nd China-ASEAN Expo with 120 booths to showcase local products, gems and jewelry, agricultural produce, food products, consumer goods and services, according to the Trade Development Division of the MyanTrade. — NN/KK

Avocado-based beauty
products target Chinese
market



This image shows avocados designated for cosmetics manufacturing.

MYANMAR'S avocado cosmetics are aimed at the Chinese market, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

Those cosmetics need to comply with the Special Cosmetics and General Cosmetics Regulation of the Cosmetic Supervision and Administration Regulation (CSAR) to penetrate the Chinese market.

Myanmar and China have agreed to practise Remote Video Inspection for pest risk analysis of fresh avocado.

Processed goods (avoca-

do oil, frozen pulp, beverages) are required to be registered through the CIPHER system of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Avocado has been grown in Myanmar for the last 75 years, mainly in Shan State, Chin State, Sagaing Region and PyinOoLwin, of Mandalay Region. Avocados are rich in vitamins and 20 minerals. Avocado has become popular due to its health benefits so stakeholders in the supply chain are making efforts to boost avocado exports. — ASH/KK

‘Prosperous Lancang-Mekong Home’ documentary
highlights Myanmar projects



Filming of the “Prosperous Lancang-Mekong Home” documentary programme in progress.

THE documentary programme Prosperous Lancang-Mekong Home, which features footage filmed in China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam, will be compiled and edited, and then distributed for broadcast on television channels in the respective countries.

In August, Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) under the Ministry of Information collaborated with Guangxi Radio and Television from Nanning, China, to film parts of the documentary in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Bago.

From 12 to 15 August, the

Guangxi Radio and Television team, working together with MRTV, filmed the provision of clean drinking water in Aungtha Village, Nay Pyi Taw; research activities at the Forest Research Department in Yezin; and the ongoing work at the National Herbal Garden of the Herbal Nursery in Nay Pyi Taw.

Similarly, from 16 to 19 August, filming continued in Bago's Ywathit Village, focusing on projects implemented with special funds under the Lancang-Mekong cooperation. In Yangon, the team also recorded footage at Sitagu International Buddhist Acad-

emy in Dagon Myothit (North) and cityscapes. Additionally, at the Ministry of Science and Technology's Department of Research and Innovation, the crew documented activities related to food innovation under the 2020 Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Programme. They also filmed at the Solar Energy Exhibition Centre and the National Laboratory, capturing MSME development work, testing of raw materials and product quality, and the use of large-scale dryers for processing pennywort leaves into dried and powdered form. — ASH/KNN

Myanmar film series ‘Hsankyelthaw
Phuuza’ to air on Channel K



This image showcases a poster for the drama ‘Hsankyelthaw Phuuza’.

THE Myanmar drama series ‘Hsankyelthaw Phuuza’ is set to be broadcast on Channel K starting 30 August, airing

at 7 pm on Saturdays and Sundays, according to lead actress May Thu Tun.

The story and script were

written by May Thu Tun, while the series is directed by Min Sanay for Verdan Production.

“This drama will be very exciting. I play the role of Thet Hnin. As the name suggests, the story involves mysterious encounters mixed with love. Viewers will have to stay tuned to see how the drama unfolds in unexpected ways,” said May Thu Tun.

The cast includes Nay Thit Aye Aung, Nay Shine, May Thu Tun, Chaw Sint Thu, Yin Yin, Nyein, Khin Kyawt Shin, and many others. — ASH/MKKS

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NATIONAL BUSINESS

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced compliance guidelines to exporters regarding export proceeds on 22 August.

As per the CBM's statement, some companies lack up-to-date information related to exports. Some companies heavily rely on third-party agents or their staff, resulting in unauthorized exports under their company name. Despite the remittance of export proceeds into the company's bank account, there is a procedural gap in bank documentation, leading to errors and misstated financial reports. Lack of consistency in bank reconciliation for export proceeds occurs, causing the company to be listed among companies failing to repatriate export proceeds in the prescribed timeline. Consequently, the director and the BOD have to face actions and get blacklisted. As a result of this, exporters are informed compliance with the repatriation of export proceeds.

Exporters need to obtain a licence through Trade Net 2.0 of the Ministry of Commerce before signing a sales contract with foreign buyers. The Department of Customs will issue an Export Declaration (ED) only after verifying export licence validity and the values of goods shipped as per the sales contract. Myanmar Port Authority will issue a Bill of Lading (B/L) after receiving ED and screening the necessary documents.

Export earnings must be deposited into the domestic bank accounts within 30 days for the goods to be exported to Asian



CBM issues new rules on exporters' proceeds

Containers fill the yard with Yangon Port terminals in the background.

countries and within 60 days for other countries outside Asia starting from date of ED number of the Customs Department, under the Section 35 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, according to Notification 27/2023 of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Those exporters who fail to comply with compulsory repatriation rules will face actions (a sentence of less than one year and/or fines) under Section 42 of the Foreign Exchange Management Law.

CBM's Foreign Exchange Management System (FEMS) will cross-check ED records from the Customs Department's Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS).

CBM will report overdue receivables to the authorized dealers (private banks) upon findings

of FEMS. The authorized dealers must deal with exporters by setting deadlines and inform the Commerce Ministry and export repatriation institutions to process the temporary revocation of the export-import licence due to non-compliance.

Action Task Force must contact and urge companies in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay to repatriate export earnings in the set period. Those companies that fail to meet with the action task force and those that fail to complete bank reconciliation will lead to the temporary suspension of the export/import licence of the Ministry of Commerce. The list of those companies will be forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs as well.

Repatriation will be waived for goods rejected due to inferior

quality and incorrect shipment. Companies can ask for CBM to be removed from the list for cargoes damaged by submitting other necessary documents.

Blacklisting companies and directors lead to banking restrictions, travel bans, loss of government contracts, legal prosecution and loss of public trust and company staff.

Those companies that want to delist need to clear all export proceeds and submit a bank recommendation of settled balances to the CBM.

Furthermore, the CBM will verify the export proceeds balance, identify whether directors listed in the company registration with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration are serving multiple companies or not, and check

whether they pay court-imposed fines for prosecuted companies. Upon resolution of export repatriation, the CBM will continue to notify the Ministry of Home Affairs and the departments concerned to remove them from the blacklist.

Prosecution against those companies with overdue receivables will be undertaken only after progressive steps; the respective banks contact them to clarify the overdue receivables, the action task force encourages them to repatriate during a set period and blacklisting.

Afterwards, exporters must notify the banks of the ED number for receipt of export proceeds, along with the sales contract, invoice and B/L. This way, banks can specify them accordingly. Companies having unmatched export proceeds will remain listed as overdue. In order to avoid this, documentary consistency is mandatory. Companies can request the CBM to correct discrepancies in ED and the contract.

The Customs Department's MACCS will share ED records with the respective banks. The Bank Name Change process can be carried out in one working day if the bank's filled-in ED differs from the company's preferred bank.

Thus, exporters must immediately contact the banks for the receipt of export repatriation to avoid unprecedented blacklisting. They are to strictly adhere to export/import rules and regulations and forex repatriation rules for exports within a set time frame. — NN/KK

Yangon palm oil reference price set at K6,300 per viss

THE wholesale reference rate of palm oil set for the Yangon market slightly increased to K6,300 per viss for the week ending 31 August from that of the previous week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale

market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to

attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments



Cooking oil bottles are arranged for sale in the supermarket.

concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about

400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported annually through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

China makes headway in trade facilitation, customs cooperation in 14th Five-Year Plan period

CHINA has made steady progress in trade facilitation and international customs cooperation during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), a customs official said on Monday.

Trade facilitation is crucial in advancing high-standard opening-up, improving the business environment, and safeguarding the multilateral trading system, Sun Meijun, head of the General Administration of Customs (GAC), told a press conference.

During the past years, the GAC has led annual initiatives to improve cross-border trade efficiency, introducing 108 reform measures aimed at creat-

ing a more convenient, secure and predictable business environment, which has been widely welcomed by enterprises.

Simplified clearance procedures and optimized supervision models have ensured faster cross-border logistics and smoother economic and trade exchanges, while institutional innovations have supported the growth of new forms of foreign trade, Sun said.

Data showed that China has added or expanded 40 ports of entry since the beginning of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), bringing the total to 311 nationwide, and 271 types of agricultural



An aerial drone photo taken on 19 August 2025 shows a view of Qingdao Port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

and food products from 81 countries and regions have been newly approved for import.

These efforts have underpinned steady growth in foreign trade. In 2024, China's total goods trade

reached 43.8 trillion yuan (US\$6.16 trillion), maintaining its position as the world's largest trading

nation for the eighth consecutive year.

China has ranked among the top three trading partners for 157 countries and regions worldwide, Sun said. In 2024, China's trade with Belt and Road Initiative participating countries reached 22 trillion yuan, comprising over 50 per cent of its total imports and exports. The nation's trade with emerging markets, including ASEAN, Latin America, Africa and Central Asia, has expanded at an annual pace of more than 10 per cent since the beginning of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), according to Sun. — Xinhua

S Korea passes law amendment to boost shareholder rights

SOUTH Korea's parliament on Monday passed a revision to a corporate law that will make boards at major companies more accountable to shareholders, as the government promotes reform to lift undervalued equities.

Asia's fourth largest economy is dominated by family-run conglomerates — known as chaebol — which maintain control through complex webs of

cross-shareholdings that allow them to wield outsized power without majority stakes.

Critics have long argued that greater transparency in corporate governance is needed at such groups, including tech giant Samsung Electronics.

Lawmakers passed the revised Commercial Act with 180 votes in favour, while opposition members, who had staged

a filibuster, boycotted the vote.

The revised bill requires firms with assets exceeding \$1.4 billion to introduce a new voting system that allows shareholders to concentrate their votes when electing board members.

The measure, designed to strengthen minority shareholders' rights, would effectively allow them to use all of their

votes on a single candidate to elect the board representative they want.

The revision also lifts the number of audit committee members not elected by controlling shareholders from one to at least two.

President Lee Jae Myung, elected in June, campaigned on a platform of corporate reform to better protect minority shareholders.

South Korea's stock market is known for the so-called Korea discount, with shares undervalued compared with global peers in part due to opaque corporate governance at family-run conglomerates.

The reform bill "has enhanced corporate governance transparency, paving the way for the advancement of the capital market and the realization of economic justice," said

ruling Democratic Party lawmaker Park Soo-hyun in a statement.

But business groups voiced concern, warning it could increase management disputes and legal risks.

"We urge parliament to pursue balanced legislation that minimizes such adverse side effects," the Federation of Korean Industries said in a statement. — AFP

UniCredit ups Commerzbank stake amid takeover talk

ITALIAN bank UniCredit said Monday it had formally increased its stake in Germany's Commerzbank, bringing it closer to a possible takeover that has provoked uproar in Germany.

UniCredit has since last year been building up a holding in its German rival, seeking a merger to create a pan-European banking giant, despite fierce opposition from Berlin.

In a statement, Uni-

Credit said it had increased its direct stake in Commerzbank to 26 per cent by converting derivatives into shares.

That is up from a previous level of 20 per cent in July.

The lender said it intended to convert a further tranche of derivatives to Commerzbank stock in due course, which would take its direct stake to 29 per cent.

Under German law,

shareholders must make a bid for the entire company if their stake exceeds 30 per cent.

UniCredit's initial holdings in Commerzbank were in large part indirect, and converting them into physical shares increases the pressure on Commerzbank.

Commerzbank has strongly resisted UniCredit's advances and insists it will remain independent.

Following news of Uni-

Credit's increased direct stake, the German lender said it "does not change the fundamental situation and our stance".

It has sought to cut costs to make itself more attractive to shareholders, with 3,900 jobs to be axed by 2028.

The German government, which has backed Commerzbank's efforts to fend off UniCredit, reiterated its opposition to a takeover Monday. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (906N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (906N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **26-8-2025** 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.

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ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Putin and Pezeshkian agree to meet at upcoming SCO Summit in China

A telephone conversation took place between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian, the Kremlin said in a statement.

Vladimir Putin informed Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian about the key outcomes of the recent Russian-American high-level

meeting in Alaska. Pezeshkian expressed support for the ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian crisis.

In addition, the leaders discussed current issues on the bilateral agenda. The situation around the Iranian nuclear programme and developments in the South Caucasus region were

also addressed.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin in a telephone conversation discussed the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant (NPP), as well as Russia's replacement of fuel at an operating reactor, the presidential office said on Monday. — SPUTNIK



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian shake hands before a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**



Rain falls above the buildings and a street in Vinh city, Nghe An province on 25 August 2025, before Typhoon Kajiki makes landfall in Vietnam. **PHOTO: AFP**

Vietnam evacuates tens of thousands ahead of Typhoon Kajiki

TENS of thousands of residents were being evacuated from coastal Vietnam on Monday, as Typhoon Kajiki barrelled towards landfall expected to lash the country's central belt with gales of around 160 kilometres per hour.

The typhoon — the fifth to affect Vietnam this year — is currently at sea, roiling the Gulf of Tonkin with waves of up to 9.5 metres (31 feet).

More than 325,500 residents in five coastal provinces have been slated for evacuation to schools and public buildings converted into temporary shelters, authorities said.

The waterfront city of Vinh was deluged overnight, its streets largely deserted by morning with most shops and restaurants closed as residents and business-owners sandbagged their property entrances.

By dawn nearly 30,000 people had been evacuated

from the region, two domestic airports were shut and all fishing ships in the typhoon's path called back to harbour.

It is expected to make landfall around 1:00 pm (0600 GMT) with winds of 157 kilometres per hour (98 miles per hour), Vietnam's National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting said.

However, its power is due to dramatically dissipate thereafter.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Centre said conditions suggested "an approaching weakening trend as the system approaches the continental shelf of the Gulf of Tonkin where there is less ocean heat content".

Over a dozen domestic Vietnamese flights were cancelled on Sunday, while China's tropical resort of Hainan evacuated around 20,000 residents as the typhoon passed its south. — AFP

Record drought in Europe, Mediterranean in early August: monitor

MORE than half of Europe and the Mediterranean basin was affected by drought in the first ten days of August, according to an AFP analysis on Monday of European Drought Observatory (EDO) data.

The 51.3 per cent figure is the highest level registered for the period of 1-10 August since data collection began in 2012.

Around half of the area has been affected by drought since mid-April 2025, a situation worse than the severe drought of the summer of 2022.

The Drought Observatory Indicator determined by the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service uses satellite imagery to measure precipitation or rainfall, soil moisture and the state of

vegetation.

Findings are then categorized into one of three levels of drought: watch, warning and alert — the last level signalling that vegetation is developing abnormally.

In early August, 7.8 per cent of Europe and the Mediterranean basin was on alert, the highest level, while 38.7 per cent was on a warning level and 4.9 per cent on watch.

The Caucasus and north Balkans regions were most affected by the drought, with Georgia and Armenia affected on 97 per cent of their territory, followed by Bulgaria and Kosovo. Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania, Hungary and Montenegro all saw three quarters of their surface area

put on warning or alert.

This area of Europe in July and August experienced heat-waves which led to numerous wildfires, which left one dead in Montenegro, and one in Albania.

Spain, Portugal and Italy, also battered by strong wildfires this month, are currently only affected at a local level. In Britain, however, 69.5 per cent and France 63 per cent of their territory are affected, according to the EDO.

Central Europe saw the only improvement, with soil humidity and the state of vegetation returning to normal in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and the Czech Republic, which had been heavily affected over previous months. — AFP



A firefighter helicopter drops water above a wildfire in Garano, near Leon, northwestern Spain, on 25 August 2025. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Myanmar's ISPE women
beat Guam's Strykers in AFC
Champions League qualifiers

MYANMAR Women's Institute of Sports and Physical Education Club won a 9-0 triumph over Guam Women's Club Strykers on the first day of group A of the 2025-2026 AFC Women's Champions League qualifiers at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The champion of the Myanmar Women's League, ISPE club, consisted of players from the national team, the junior team, as well as five loan players from other Myanmar Women's League clubs. Due to this squad, they outperformed their opponents and achieved an emphatic win.

The ISPE's first lineup included Zu Latt Nadi (goalkeeper), Khin Marlar Tun, Moe Ma Ma Soe, Phyu Phway, Phyu Phyu Win, Lin Myint Mo, Shwe Yee Tun, Lin Lei Oo, Yin Lunn Eain, Hay Marn Soe and May



May Htet Lu (2nd R) of ISPE Club vies with players of Guam's Strykers Club during the first day of group A of the 2025-2026 AFC Women's Champions League.

Htet Lu.

In five minutes, ISPE opened the scoring when Club Strykers conceded an own goal. That was quickly followed by goals from Yin Lunn Ein in eight minutes, May Htet Lu in 12, Lin Myint Mo in 16, Phyu Phyu Win in

18 and 30, and Shwe Yee Tun in 44, giving ISPE a commanding 7-0 lead at halftime.

ISPE made substitutions in the second half and added two more goals — San Thaw Thaw scored in 87 minutes and Moe Moe Than struck again in 89.

The ISPE club is in Group A with the Philippines club Stallion Laguna, Guam club Strykers, and Mongolian club Khovd Western. Myanmar's ISPE club will play the Mongolian club Khovd Western in the second group match on 28 August. — Ko Nyi Lay

OBITUARY

Asleep in Jesus

Daw Nu Nu Yi (88 years)

Daw Nu Nu Yi, beloved wife of U Percy Lao, daughter of (U Kyin Hone-Daw Tin Tin), daughter in law of (U Htin Sein-Daw ThaugTin), beloved mother of U Thet Lwin, U Zaw Min-Daw Mi Mi Soe Thu, Daw Nilar-Pedro Vargas, U Chit Howe-Jane, beloved sister of Daw Mya Mya Yi-(U Ngwe Tun), U Myo Tin-Daw Helen, U Zaw Myo Khine-Yasuyo, grandmother of eight grandchildren was called to her heavenly home on 23-8-2025 at 3:40 AM local time, at her home in San Francisco, California. Her remains will be entombed at Oakmont Cemetery, Lafayette, California at 10:00 AM local time on 30-8-2025. Relatives & friends, please accept this the only intimation.

Bereaved Family

Man United held,
Everton enjoys winning
debut at new home in
Premier League

MANCHESTER United's difficult start to the season continued Sunday as Ruben Amorim's side was held to a 1-1 draw away at Fulham, following its opening-day defeat to Arsenal.

Bruno Fernandes missed a penalty for United with the score at 0-0, but his side went ahead in 58 minutes when Leny Yoro's header deflected into the Fulham net.

The home team responded well, with Emile Smith-Rowe volleying in the equalizer in 73 minutes, shortly after coming on as a substitute. Fulham looked the more likely to win in the closing minutes, but both sides had to settle for a point.

Everton opened its new Hill-Dickinson Stadium in style with a 2-0 win over Brighton. Jack Grealish delivered a standout performance, setting up Iliman Ndiaye for the first-half opener and playing a key role as James Garner doubled the lead in 52 minutes. Jordan Pickford then saved Danny Welbeck's 73rd-minute penalty to secure the victory.

Crystal Palace was also held to a 1-1 draw at home by Nottingham Forest. Ismaila Sarr put Palace ahead after 37 minutes, before Callum Hudson-Odoi equalized for

Forest. Reports in England suggest Forest coach Nuno Espirito Santo could lose his job next week following a disagreement with club owner Evangelos Marinakis.

On Saturday, Arsenal cruised to a 5-0 win at home to Leeds United on the same day the club confirmed the signing of Eberechi Eze from Crystal Palace. Jurrien Timber and Viktor Gyokeres both scored twice, while 15-year-old Max Dowman made his debut. The win was marred by injuries to Bukayo Saka and Martin Odegaard, with Saka's hamstring issue a particular concern.

First-half goals from Brennan Johnson and Joao Palhinha gave Tottenham a 2-0 win away to Manchester City, who repeated the defensive lapses that proved costly last season.

Elsewhere, Bournemouth beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 1-0 at home, while Burnley recorded its first win of the season with a 2-0 victory over Sunderland in a clash of newly promoted sides.

On Friday, Chelsea thrashed West Ham 5-1 at the London Stadium to increase early-season pressure on West Ham manager Graham Potter. — Xinhua

Mbappe at the double as Real Madrid
wins in Oviedo

KYLIAN Mbappe scored twice as Real Madrid maintained its perfect start to the season with a 3-0 win away to newly promoted Oviedo.

The home side pushed Madrid hard in front of a packed Carlos Tartiere Stadium but was undone by a controversial call and missed chances at key moments.

Mbappe opened the scoring in 38 minutes after a pass from Aurelien Tchouameni, although Oviedo players protested that the referee had failed to call a foul in the buildup.



Real Madrid's French forward Kylian Mbappe scores his team's first goal during the Spanish league football match between Real Oviedo and Real Madrid CF at Carlos Tartiere Stadium in Oviedo on 24 August 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Oviedo nearly equalized in 83 minutes when Kwasi Sibbo struck the

post. Moments later, Mbappe netted his second after receiving a

pass from substitute Vinicius Jr, who then added Madrid's third deep into stoppage time.

Villarreal cruised to a 5-0 home win over Girona after racing to a 4-0 lead inside 28 minutes. Nicolas Pepe struck in the seventh minute before Tajon Buchanan scored twice and Rafa Marin added another. Buchanan completed his hat trick in the second half as Villarreal claimed its first victory of the campaign, while Girona has conceded eight goals in just two games. — Xinhua



Host city Tianjin gears up for SCO summit

TIANJIN Municipality, a major port city in north China, is putting the finishing touches on its preparations to host the largest-ever Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit on 31 August and 1 September, with leaders from more than 20 countries and heads of 10 international organizations set to attend the event.

“Tianjin is a city that makes you feel welcomed and inspired at the same time — it’s the people and their warmth that have left the deepest impression on me,” said Muhammad Sarfraz, a Pakistani doctoral student at Tianjin University.

In making preparations for the summit, the city has undergone extensive upgrades. The Haihe River, which winds through Tianjin, now glows with enhanced night views thanks to a lighting project covering 217 buildings, 14 bridges and 8.2 kilometres of waterfront.

These upgraded night views along the river are attracting an increasing number of tourists — more than ever before. Over 70 night cruises operate daily, with services running until late at night. Tickets are in high demand, said Fan Fukun, manager of Tianjin Jinlv Haihe Cruises Co Ltd.

Nazanin Dehghanbordbar from Iran praised the city’s blend of tradition and modernity. “Tianjin is a perfect bridge between the ancient and the modern. Here, I can sense the city’s growth and feel connected to the great souls and people.”

An aerial drone photo shows a pedestrian overpass adorned with a banner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 in Xiqing District, north China’s Tianjin, 5 August 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



The municipal government has also focused on improving urban infrastructure — including smoothing roads, maintaining bridges, expanding green spaces and strengthening public services.

According to Hu Xuechun, director of the Tianjin Municipality Commission of Urban Management, these efforts have infused the city with “a stronger sense of vibrant local life, cultural depth and international appeal”.

A team of nearly 1,000 youth volunteers from local universities have been trained in diplomatic etiquette, emergency response and language services — thereby helping to support the SCO Summit. Wang Yutong, a translation volunteer from Tianjin Foreign Studies University, said: “The world will not only see our modern skyline and economic vitality but also our rich history and our warm hospitality.”

Community volunteers, including

retirees, students and Party members, have also joined neighbourhood “SCO service teams” to help create a friendly atmosphere. “We are making the most of this important opportunity to host the summit in Tianjin, steadily advancing our preparations and service support, and ensuring everything is in place for this major international event,” said Yu Pengzhou, a Tianjin official involved in preparations. — Xinhua

Trump advisor says US may take stakes in other firms after Intel

THE US government could take stakes in other companies after doing so with chipmaker Intel, President Donald Trump’s top economic advisor Kevin Hassett said Monday.

Hassett, who is director of the National Economic Council, cited Trump’s plans for a sovereign wealth fund in a CNBC interview, saying “I’m sure that at some point there’ll be more

transactions” in the semiconductor industry or others.

He was responding to a question on whether a recently announced deal for the US government to take a 10-per-cent equity stake in Intel was the start of broader efforts towards similar moves in other industries that authorities have been funding.

Under the agreement with Intel, the US government will receive 433.3 million shares of common stock, representing a 9.9-per-cent stake in the company, Intel said in an earlier statement.

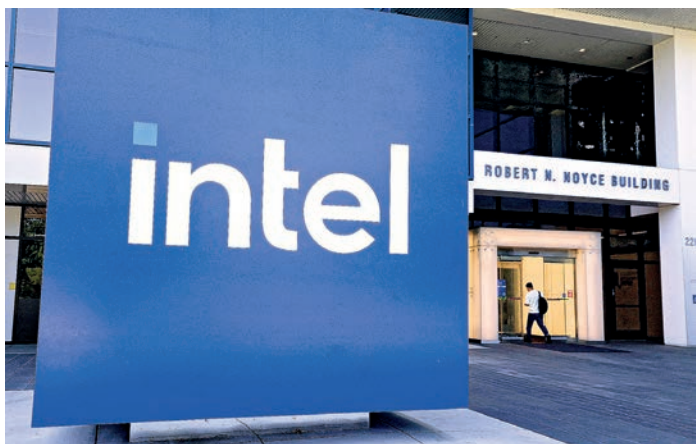
This amounts to an \$8.9 billion investment, funded partially by \$5.7 billion in grants awarded but not yet paid under the CHIPS and Science Act — a major law passed under former president Joe Biden, which Trump has criticized.

Hassett said on Monday that “in the past, the federal government has been giving money away” to companies.

But he maintained that under potential deals like that with Intel, “these are going to be shares that don’t have voting rights.”

He said that the US government plans to stay out of how companies are run.

Critics of the deal warn it could be bad for the company’s viability if politics are seen as driving business decisions. — AFP



The Intel logo is displayed on a sign in front of Intel headquarters on 16 July 2025 in Santa Clara, California. **PHOTO: JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

Indonesia-Japan local currency transactions rise to US\$5.1 bln in first 7 months

TRANSACTIONS using local currencies between Indonesia and Japan reached US\$5.1 billion from January to July this year, more than double the \$2.23 billion recorded in the same period last year, Bank Indonesia said in a statement on Monday.

The use of local currencies, the Indonesian Rupiah and the Japanese Yen, also showed steady growth among users, with an average of 2,072 customers per month this year compared to 1,360 per month last year. Under the direct settlement scheme, trade and investment can be conducted in Rupiah and Yen without relying on third-party currencies. This arrangement reduces foreign exchange conversion costs and enhances transaction efficiency, the statement said. — Xinhua