

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.

China tops Myanmar rice imports in 4 months

CHINA was the leading buyer of Myanmar rice with over 402,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice in the past four months of the current financial year 2025-2026 beginning 1 April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Indonesia is the second largest importing country of Myanmar rice with over 89,600 tonnes, followed by the Philippines with over 89,500 tonnes, Belgium with over 78,600 tonnes, Spain with 29,800 tonnes, Senegal with 20,500 tonnes, the UK with 16,100 tonnes, Poland with over 15,200 tonnes, Madagascar with over 13,100 tonnes, Bulgaria with over 12,000 tonnes, the Netherlands with 9,900 tonnes and Italy with 900 tonnes.

Myanmar exported over 840,000 tonnes of rice to the international market during the April-July period, bagging US\$290 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation. Myanmar exported over 142,700 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth \$52 million in April, over 529,500 tonnes worth \$91 million in May, over 212,400 tonnes worth \$71 million in June, and 230,671 tonnes valued at \$77 million in July. Rice exports mainly depend on sea trade, while only small volumes were exported to neighbouring countries via border points.

The federation aims to achieve three million tonnes of rice exports in the current FY.

Myanmar bagged over \$1.129 billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and

broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025 (1 April-31 March). The federation is projected to export 2.5 million tonnes of rice in the FY 2024-2025, falling short of the target.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports.

— NN/KK



Lorries carrying export rice bags await loading onto an overseas-bound vessel at Yangon Port.

Article

Rurbanization:  
A Strategic Change for  
Transforming Rural  
Lives

By Khaing Khaing Shwe  
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President's Office Ministry 2 Union Minister receives ICRC Resident Representative

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Myanmar avocados bound for Singapore, Thailand

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Applications for medical, dental, and related universities open on 2 Sept

# NATIONAL

## Nation’s future depends on educated individuals

❖ It is essential to always recognize that only with educated individuals can the future of the nation be assured.  
*(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the government coordination meeting of SAC on 19 May 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.



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## Weather

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4 pm Wednesday 27 August 2025)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the well marked low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal (Odisha Coast, India) still persists. It is likely to move slowly west–northwestwards and across Odisha, India during the next 24 hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**Special Features:** According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the wind wave which reached crossing Shan State, Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar) continue to move Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway Regions. It is likely continue to move westwards and still lies as Monsoon trough over the Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway Regions and Chin, Rakhine States during the next 12 hours.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 28 August 2025:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Mon State and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, (southern and eastern)Shan States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in the Deltaic, the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in off and along the Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along the Rakhine Coast.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August 2025:** Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August 2025:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August 2025:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

### Wind Wave News, 7, 2025

Issued at 2 pm MST on 27 August 2025

**Wind Wave Condition**  
According to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, the wind wave which reached eastern Shan, Myanmar is moving westwards and crossing Shan State, Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw (Myanmar).

**Next 12 hours forecast**  
It is likely continue to move westwards and still lies as a Monsoon trough over Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing Regions and Chin, Rakhine States during the next 12 hours.

Due to the wind wave rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyarwady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States with regionally heavy falls and isolated heavyfalls in some Regions and States from today morning to 29 August 2025. Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experience off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

### Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at noon MST on 27 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 11:30 am MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal (off the Odisha Coast, India) moved slowly west–northwestwards and has further intensified into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area. It is likely continue to move slowly west–northwestwards and across Odisha, India, during the next 24 hours. — 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)

President’s Office  
Ministry 2 Union  
Minister receives  
ICRC Resident  
Representative

U Ko Ko Hlaing, Union Minister for the Ministry 2 of the President’s Office, received Mr Arnaud de Baecque, ICRC Resident Representative, yesterday morning at the parlour of the Office of the National Defence and Security Council in Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides cordially ex-

changed views on cooperation in humanitarian assistance distribution, post-disaster recovery efforts and building a progressive and strengthened social community.

Officials from the Ministry 2 of the President’s Office were present at the meeting.

— MNA



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing meets ICRC Resident Representative Mr Arnaud de Baecque in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Workshop on ‘Understanding Myanmar’s  
International Boundary’ held

A workshop titled ‘Understanding Myanmar’s International Boundary’ was held at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 27-28 August 2025. During the opening ceremony, U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered opening remarks. In his address, he emphasized the significance of boundary matters, noting that they constitute a crucial representation of state sovereignty. He also stressed the importance of efficient and effective boundary management to safeguard sovereignty, national integrity, security and stability, as well as to promote peaceful



A workshop titled ‘Understanding Myanmar’s International Boundary’ in progress at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday, opened by Union Minister U Than Swe.

coexistence with neighbouring countries.

Also, present on the occasion were U Naing Min Kyaw, Deputy Foreign Minister, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and senior officials from relevant Ministries. The workshop was

attended by around 100 representatives from the various Ministries and Departments, including the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as representatives from Myanmar Embassies and Consulates-General located in neighbouring countries.

The first day of the workshop focused on the discussion regarding Myanmar’s Land Boundary. Experts and representatives from the Department of Water Resources and River Development of the Ministry of Transport and Communications,

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Myanmar to join Global South Media, Think Tank Forum in China



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn observes the performance of the dance troupes of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

THE delegation from six ministries led by Union Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn will attend the Global South Media and Think Tank Forum to be held in Kunming of China.

The Union minister met with the delegates at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union minister said the trip is a China-Myanmar friendship trip and the representatives who will join the trip should carry out their respective responsibilities properly to promote the existing China-Myanmar friendship and Swemyo Pauk-Phaw relation. The representatives

from six ministries, private media outlets and organizations will join the trip, and the media cooperation, in addition to natural landscape, culture, cultural dance, puppet dance and handicrafts of Myanmar, will be shown off at the event. Therefore, all should cooperate to make a successful trip, as it can promote the image of the country.

The dance troupes of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and MRTV performed in full dress and puppet show as they will entertain at the opening ceremony of the Global South Media and Think Tank Forum and the opening

ceremony of the Global South Market Fair.

The participants reported on the topics to be discussed at the forum and other entertainment programmes.

The Union minister inspected the Myanmar handicrafts to be displayed at the market fair by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

A total of 53 delegates: 36 from ministries and 17 from private media and organizations will attend the Global South Media and Think Tank Forum to be held in Kunming from 4 to 8 September. — MNA/KTZH

Workshop on ‘Understanding Myanmar’s International Boundary’ held

FROM PAGE 3

Myanmar Naval Hydrographic Centre of the Myanmar Navy, General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Boundary Division of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Survey Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservations participated in the panel sessions. In addition, the Myanmar Ambassador to Kuwait, Minister Counsellor at the Myanmar Embassy in Kuwait and Chargé d’Affaires ad interim/Minister at the Myanmar Embassy in Pretoria joined the discussions via online as panellists.

The second day of the workshop will be dedicated to discussions on Myanmar’s Maritime Boundary. Experts from the Department of Marine Administration of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar Naval Hydrographic Centre, International Law and Legal Division of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Legal Affairs, and Ministry of Education will share their insights and expertise on matters relating to the maritime boundary. Chargé d’Affaires ad interim/Minister at the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore will also contribute to the discussions online as a panellist. — MNA

Top websites and web portals to access Military Service Rules

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

New North Okkalapa Township court building inaugurated

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, accompanied by relevant officials, attended the opening ceremony of the newly constructed North Okkalapa Township court building in North Okkalapa Township on 26 August.

The chief minister and party cut the ribbon to inaugurate the new court building, and pressed the button to inaugurate the signboard.

The managing director of

G3 group briefed the building construction, and handed over the document to North Okkalapa Township Justice U Ye Min Tun.

The chief minister and party observed the new court building.

The four-storey North Okkalapa Township court building was constructed by G3 Group Company Limited with K4,325 million of Union Supreme Court budget from 2021-2022FY to 2024-2025FY. — MNA/KTZH



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the new North Okkalapa Township court building in Yangon on 26 August 2025.

NATIONAL

MoH Union  
Minister receives  
ICRC delegation

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Mr Arnaud Deneufbourg, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at the guest hall of the Ministry of Health yesterday morning.

They discussed matters relating to the humanitarian assistance being carried out by ICRC, joint healthcare activities currently being undertaken between

the Ministry of Health and ICRC, cooperation between ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society in rehabilitation efforts following the recent major earthquake in Mandalay, as well as ICRC's planned activities in Myanmar for 2025.

Also, at the meeting were the deputy minister for health and senior officials, as well as ICRC representatives. – MNA/KZL



Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross Mr Arnaud Deneufbourg exchange views on humanitarian assistance and cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoFA Deputy Minister  
receives Nepali  
Ambassador



Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw receives Nepali Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar Mr Harishchandra Ghimire at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed bilateral matters, including consular affairs. — MNA

21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Working Group on  
Halal Food held

THE 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food, hosted by Myanmar, was held virtually at 8:30 am yesterday.

The meeting was attended by representatives from ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN Secretariat; the Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation; officials from the Planning Department; and representatives from the Veterinary and Slaughterhouse Departments of the Development Committees in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

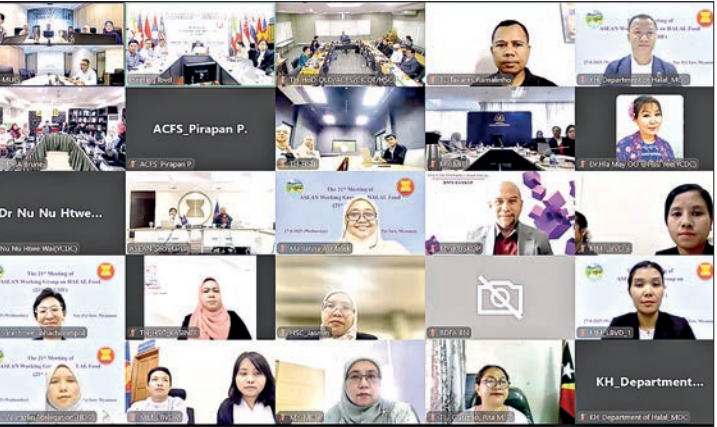
At the opening ceremony, Dr Toe Min Tun, Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, served as chairman and delivered a welcoming speech.

At the meeting, ASEAN member countries discussed

and agreed on the ASEAN Halal Food Cooperation Action Plan (2021–2025), including the progress of the project proposal on issuing ASEAN-level halal food certification, the official accreditation scheme, the registration of flavoring agents in halal food, the establishment of the ASEAN Halal Food website, and the general guidelines for ASEAN Halal Food.

The ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food was es-

tablished in 2000 under the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting (AMAF) to promote the development and cooperation of the halal food industry within ASEAN. The working group meetings are hosted annually by ASEAN member countries on a rotating basis. Myanmar hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food Meeting in 2015 and is now hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting for the second time. — MNA/TH



Myanmar hosts the online 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food yesterday.

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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

## MRS, IFRC hold disaster response information management training

MYANMAR Red Cross Societies (MRCS) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) worked together to deliver Information Manage-

ment in Disaster Response Training from 26 to 28 August 2025, according to MRCS.

A total of 22 Red Cross volunteers from Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Bago regions and Mon and Kayin states attended the training. This training is to use technology for disaster management and hazard mapping, and real-time data and monitoring.

MRCS President Dr Myo Nyunt and IFRC NSD Delegate Ms Laura gave the opening remarks at the opening ceremony of the Information Management in Disaster Response Training held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Pabedan Township. — ASH/KK



This photo shows the opening ceremony of the Information Management in Disaster Response Training at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon.

## Myanmar romantic drama 'Nya Mingala' premieres in Yangon

THE premiere show of the major Myanmar film 'Nya Mingala' was held on 26 August at the President Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, according to actress

Yadana Bo, who appears in the film.

The story and script of the film were written by D D Htet Aung, who also directed the film.

"While filming this movie, I had so many memorable experiences. I was very happy when the film was completed. My fellow actors and I worked hard, sometimes until dawn, which is something I will always remember. Acting alongside my seniors Nay Toe and Shwe Shwe, as well as all the other cast members, was a great experience. Audiences will enjoy watching it, feeling suspense and thrill in different ways," said Yadana Bo.

The film is scheduled for release in major cinemas nationwide on 29 August. The cast also includes Academy Soe Myat Thuzar, Shwe Thame, Yamon Myint Myat, Mo Kham, Wai Lu, Sin Ma, and many others. — ASH/MKKS



Actors and audience members attending the premiere show of the movie 'Nya Mingala'.

## Alinka Kyawswa Dr Chit San Win passes away



This photo shows Alinka Kyawswa Dr Chit San Win, winner of the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement.

ALINKA Kyawswa Dr Chit San Win, winner of the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement, passed away in Yangon at around 12:30 am on 26 August from an age-related illness, his younger brother U Aye Lwin confirmed.

Writer Chit San Win, who passed away at 86, was a prolific author of articles, books, papers, and film scripts, and was honoured with the National Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2022 and the Alinka Kyawswa title in 2023.

He was born on 22 January 1940 in Yetkangyi Village, Kawa Township, Bago Region, to U Kyaw Sein and Daw Hla Than, and was originally named U Chit San. He studied at Yetkangyi Village Primary School, matriculated from Yetkangyi Village Sasana Zawtika Poppa School in 1957, continued his education at Yankin College and Yangon University, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Workers' College in 1967.

From 1967 to 1988, he served as Assistant Editor, Executive Editor, and Editor-in-Chief at the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party and the Peasants' Union Central Headquarters. Since 1965, he had been writing articles for newspapers and magazines such as Taiyinmay, Oway, Kyemon, Botahtaung, Shaetho,

Lanzin Thadin, Loktha Pyithu Nayzin, and Myanma Alinn.

He also served as a contributing editor, honorary editor, editor-in-chief, and consulting editor for Panmyotaya, Lungeahmanh, Pale Myopyamyaya, and Kyapan Yayzin magazines, and as an editor for books written by high-ranking officials.

The writer produced about 9,000 articles, 210 books, 20 papers, and five film scripts, including historical works such as Beikthano or the Pyu's Panhtwa City, Pyu, Hanlin (Hansanagara Pyu City), The Old Myanmar City of Tagaung, and A Study of Myanmar's Origins, as well as books like Mother and About Mother and Mother's Child.

He won the National Literary Award twice, for his book Is This Journey Short? (1986) and The Old Man Who Whitened Rice (1990). He also received the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award, the Thutasweson Literary Award, the Tun Foundation Literary Award, and international honours such as the International Trophy for Quality (1998) and the Golden America Award for Quality (1999).

Writer Chit San Win is survived by his wife, Daw Maw Maw (also known as writer La Min Eain of Panmyotaya Publishing House), and three sons. — ASH/TH

### 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](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

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NATIONAL

Myanmar avocados bound for Singapore, Thailand

MYANMAR avocado will be mainly exported to Singapore and Thailand, according to the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association.

There is an abundant harvest of avocado in the September-December season. Beyond self-sufficiency, they are exported to international markets.

Avocado varieties such as Hass, Buccaneer, and Amaya are delivered to foreign buyers. There are about 20,000 growing acres of Hass avocado in the country. Last year's avocado output was estimated at 3,000 tonnes. The yield is expected to increase this year.

The Department of Agriculture and the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter Association (MAVO) are joining hands to seek registration with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) for legitimate export to China.

On 19 July 2025, the Agricul-



Quality avocado fruits prepared to be distributed to markets.

ture Department (southern Shan State) held a workshop for avocado growers on raising awareness of customs inspection and safety regulations of the GACC, in cooperation with the Myanmar Avocado Producer and Exporter

Association (MAVO).

Farmer owners need to cooperate in testing six common insects to export avocado to China, said MAVO secretary U Kyaw Soe.

MAVO's chair set up a farm-

er public company, eyeing Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand for avocado export this season. The association will help expedite imports of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and pesticide, along with member growers.

The head of the Shan State Department of Agriculture also elaborated on annual avocado export, avocado import conditions of potential markets such as China, India, Russia and Middle East countries and Myanmar avocado quality requirements in line with the European Standard.

U Ye Lin Oo, a grower, also discussed plant nutrient management in the presence of growers and business entities. Farm owners also vowed to boost exports. A virtual meeting held at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, the Ministry of Commerce, on 14 August 2025, highlighted collaboration with India in the value-added production of avocado, reporting the quality of Myanmar's avocado and its yield to India, and inviting Public-Private Partnership investments from India in avocado value-added production in Myanmar. — NN/KK

CBM to inject forex to ease import costs



US dollars in the foreign currency market.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 26 August that it would sell US\$32 million and 15 million yuan to importers of other commodities.

CBM also sold \$930,000 to edible oil-importing companies, \$260,354 to fuel oil-importing companies and over \$452,280 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments.

CBM sold over \$444,430 to edible oil-importing companies and \$390,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 25 August after sales of over \$29,440 to those who made

non-trade payments.

CBM pumped \$1.177 million into edible oil importing companies and over \$287,600 into fuel oil importing companies on 22 August, after sales of 500,000 baht.

Furthermore, it sold over \$102,700 to companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis and those who made non-trade payments.

CBM sold over \$602,000 to fuel oil importing companies and \$150,000 to edible oil importing companies on 21 August, beyond the injection of over 702,000 baht

into the market.

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

MMPO revises DVD introductory clips

SOME video clips, which are usually introduced at the start of DVDs, have been amended as they are no longer appropriate for the present day, and newly edited DVDs can be copied at the office, said the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

Video clips lasting 1 minute and 58 seconds are aimed at public awareness and introduced at the start of DVDs such as Myanmar video, karaoke, Anyeint, short film, documentary and Lethwei, and some of them are no longer appropriate for the present day and unqualified, said MMPO on 26 August.

MMPO has now replaced them with DVDs, and the new version can be copied at the MMPO office, it said. — MT/ZS



The signage of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO).

## Conserve the world’s lakes for long-term perpetuity

LAKES, one of the most vital natural resources, play a key role in maintaining biodiversity by providing habitats for countless species of fish, plants, and wildlife. They are also a crucial source of freshwater, supplying not only drinking water but also supporting agriculture and other human activities.

The United Nations stated that there are more than 117 million lakes on Earth, covering about four per cent of the planet’s land surface. Holding over 90 per cent of the Earth’s surface freshwater, lakes are lifelines for drinking water, food security, climate

regulation, and biodiversity. Yet, they face growing threats from pollution, overuse, and climate change.

Everyone around the world is responsible for conserving lakes, invaluable natural resources, to prevent their disappearance and minimize degradation. Indeed, the loss and deterioration of the world’s lakes threaten the continued existence of human societies and the survival of other living beings. Therefore, people everywhere must work to ensure the long-term preservation of lakes, the lifeblood of the Earth.

lakes play in human life and nature.

Large lakes in Myanmar, such as Inlay, Indawgyi, and Inya, are vital water sources for their respective regions and play a key role in conserving the natural environment. They provide habitats for diverse species and serve as resting and hibernation sites for migratory birds, helping to maintain ecological balance and harmonize climatic conditions for both wildlife and human communities.

World Lake Day 2025, which falls on 27 August, was not just a commemoration but also a “call to action”. Governments of global countries pledged stronger protection policies, non-governmental organizations launched awareness campaigns, and local communities renewed their commitment to sustainable practices. For many, it was a day of reflection—and a promise that by protecting lakes, humanity safeguards its own survival, ensuring clean water, rich biodiversity, and resilient livelihoods for generations to come.

Everyone around the world is responsible for conserving lakes, invaluable natural resources, to prevent their disappearance and minimize degradation. Indeed, the loss and deterioration of the world’s lakes threaten the continued existence of human societies and the survival of other living beings. Therefore, people everywhere must work to ensure the long-term preservation of lakes, the lifeblood of the Earth.

MYANMAR, a vast green land adorned with golden temples, is my home country, and I am proud to be its citizen. When I began travelling abroad three decades ago for international assignments, immigration officers in the international airports rarely knew where the country printed on their red passports was located in the world. The easiest way to help them identify our country was just to refer to “Thailand”, a neighbouring country that is more widely renowned internationally. While I was studying in Singapore in 2000, the National University of Singapore (NUS) organized a seminar on the topic related to “Constitution”, where the speaker was the former Philippine President F Ramos. Our Faculty of Public Policy sent students to attend this seminar, and I raised a question to the President. Before answering my question, he asked me back, “Where are you from?” Before I could reply, my classmates from the MPP programme responded loudly for me: “Myanmar, Myanmar, Myanmar”, which gave me amazing pride as a Myanmar citizen. My homeland has always been in my heart, wherever I have been staying, and it even lives in my email address, paired with my name.

Not only for me, but for many, Myanmar is home to 54 million people belonging to 135 different national ethnic groups. Around 70 per cent of the population lives in greener rural areas, farming rice paddies and various other crops, surrounded by vast forests and diverse landscapes including mountains, hills, valleys, coastlines, and plains. Nearly 19 million rural people (about 50 per cent of the rural population) are engaged in agriculture. Therefore, agriculture is not only the backbone of our rural economy but also a key part of our national identity. It serves as the main livelihood for most ethnic national communities and is vital to the country’s overall economy. Successive governments, in different periods, have sought ways to improve the agricultural sector as part of endeavours for national economic development. However, agricultural growth has remained slow, progressing gradually under transitional farming practices.

It still needs to properly adopt new technologies and techniques at its own pace, while promoting sustainable farming practices that

## Rurbanization: A Strategic Change for Transforming Rural Lives

By Khaing Khaing Shwe

ensure long-term agricultural productivity and minimize environmental impacts through the optimal use of chemical inputs. We need to guide the rural economy in the right direction. Otherwise, under ongoing economic hardship, low-income farmlands may be used for other purposes as people turn to negative coping strategies. Some are already selling their assets, lands and properties to earn quick money for daily survival, investment, or to send working-age family members to seek jobs inside or outside the country.

### What we have learnt through liberalization ...

After socialism ended in 1988, economic liberalization allowed private investment, enabling companies to introduce new technologies, including information technology, which connected us to the global network. In rural areas, farming techniques have improved in areas like seed treatment, water management, and smart farming. As with any new technology, there are both advantages and disadvantages, and the outcomes depend on how the technology is used. Some companies entered by leasing land at high seasonal rental rates, promising to introduce new technologies that would benefit farmers. However, while they reaped the benefits, they left behind foreign waste on the farms, such as plastic materials used to protect plants and fruits, single-use underground plastic water pipes and failed to properly prepare the soil to support healthy root development, plant tissues, and young offshoots.

Plastic waste does not decompose easily in the soil; it can take anywhere from ten to a hundred years to break down, depending on the type, making it one of the biggest challenges for land use. The most visible negative impacts are seen in plantations

of foreign-gene melons and tissue-cultured bananas, where plastic ropes and sheets are used to support fruit growth and maintain quality. According to one study, growing 500 banana plants can generate up to 77.5 viss of plastic waste from fruiting to harvest. These environmental issues can be addressed by strengthening legal frameworks. Therefore, economic liberalization should be accompanied by strong legal regulations to ensure sustainable development.

Financial decentralization plays a very important role in economic liberalization. Centralized decision-making often overlooks local needs, leading to uneven development and increasing inequality. Decentralization is also necessary to direct resources and opportunities to less developed states and regions, ensuring better access to essential rural services such as education, healthcare, and agricultural support. Financial decentralization at the state and regional levels should offer enough flexibility to prioritize rural needs, rather than concentrating primarily on micro-urbanization and industrial development, as rural development is often replicated from urban models. If sub-national governments can properly implement decentralization and respond to local needs, agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods will improve.

While the above structural foundations are important for rural development, rural communities also need basic infrastructure such as transport networks linking them to markets, access to essential services, electricity, communication networks, and a clean water supply.

Yangon and Mandalay are undergoing rapid urbanization, attracting rural-urban migrants and creating economic opportunities, but also leading to the growth of urban slums. As with many rapidly urbanizing areas,



This is Rubanization - urbanizing the rural. Rubanization is a process of improving rural livelihoods by enhancing agriculture, promoting agro-tourism, and creating jobs, while also narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas. A rubanization programme in Afghanistan is pictured above.

town planning often falls short of meeting the infrastructure, environmental, and social needs of the overcrowding population. These cities face challenges such as infrastructure deficits, including inadequate housing, water supply, sanitation, and waste management, along with environmental degradation, including higher carbon emissions, air and water pollution, and groundwater depletion. The widespread use of concrete surfaces, as a town style, prevents rainwater from naturally seeping into the ground, which is essential for recharging groundwater, further worsening the environmental impact.

Moreover, when development is unfolding under conditions of inadequate town planning and weak regulatory enforcement, stark disparities in development have emerged between city centres and their peripheral areas. For example, while central Mandalay enjoys relatively stable access to paved roads, electricity,

and public services, nearby TadaU faces poor road networks, unprotected riverbank along the Dokhtawady, limited water supply, and long travel requirements for daily schooling. Similarly, Hlegu, on the outskirts of Yangon, lacks the basic infrastructure, transport and municipal support found in the urban core. These uneven development patterns have contributed to urban sprawl, informal settlements, and increased social and economic inequality. Then, a big gap can be imagined between villages and towns within a state/region. These gaps can be addressed through inclusive planning, proper infrastructure investment, and stronger local governance is essential to ensure balanced and sustainable urban and rural development in Myanmar.

When the income gap between rural and urban areas is narrowed, disparities are reduced and equality improves across the country. In our country, inequality

remains a major concern, and the quickest way to address this is by focusing on the development of the majority population, most of whom live in rural areas. Therefore, rural development must be prioritized in the national development agenda. According to the World Bank, Myanmar had approximately 10.99 million hectares (27.17 million acres) of arable land as of 2021, and if double-cropping is implemented on 6.39 million acres along the Ayeyawady River and its tributaries, the country could move closer to becoming a prosperous nation. Rural areas hold both human and natural resources, and although successive governments have worked to improve the agricultural sector and tackle its challenges, there is still a need to create the right conditions and strengthen key contributing factors for sustainable growth.

With the liberalization of financial and capital markets, the free movement of money, invest-

ments, and credit has become possible, allowing markets to open to foreign competition and integrate them across borders. This interconnected environment enables capitalist enterprises to access funding, expand their businesses, invest in innovation, and enter new markets more easily. At the same time, it intensifies global competition, which is a key feature of capitalism which inevitably creates both better-offs and worse-offs. Well-connected financial and capital markets, therefore, serve as a strong foundation for the expansion and deepening of capitalism on a global scale. This is an important consideration for rural development to ensure the protection of rural populations. Most capitalist countries are industrialized nations that depend heavily on raw materials such as agricultural products, oil, metals, and timber for manufacturing and energy. They will find the places where they can get raw materials and use a business strategy to get them cheaply. To protect local farmers and farmer groups from being disadvantaged in this competitive environment, it is essential to have a strong rural financing policy that ensures equal access to financial resources.

Our country has abundant raw materials, which have long been exported in their unprocessed forms. Now, our country also has a good mission to promote sustainable development in Myanmar’s agriculture sector through the growth of agro-based industries. This mission will bring technologies that add value by transforming raw materials into refined or finished products, creating employment and generating economic benefits in the agricultural sector. The most critical challenge is to strategically plan and build an enabling environment where agro-based industries can thrive with the support of adequate infrastructure while preserving rural social and cultural norms, minimizing the negative impacts of liberalization under globalization, and protecting against the downsides of capitalism.

### Transforming Rural Lives through Rubanization ...

There are many theories and pieces of literature on rural development. With over 30 years of experience working on rural development, I have often reflected

on how we can truly improve the lives of people in rural areas in Myanmar. Twenty years ago, a professor opened my eyes to the importance of breaking down the rural-urban divide by strengthening agriculture, creating jobs, and promoting agro-tourism. This requires a focus on land use planning, environmental conservation, and resource management, while ensuring social equity and equality; all aimed at improving residents’ quality of life and achieving sustainable development. This is Rubanization – urbanizing the rural. Rubanization is a process of improving rural livelihoods by enhancing agriculture, promoting agro-tourism, and creating jobs, while also narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas. This approach encourages rural regions to adopt certain urban characteristics such as improved infrastructure, modern lifestyles, and better services. It also aims to diversify the rural economy and reduce migration from villages to cities.

India began implementing this concept in 2016 through the National Rurban Mission, which focuses on developing 300 clusters – groups of geographically connected villages. The mission aims to promote a more balanced and sustainable model of development by combining the benefits of urban life with rural settings, ensuring inclusive growth across the country.

It is difficult to rubanize a village when it is already well-established in terms of physical layout and infrastructure, as rubanization requires properly allocated land for various purposes, such as residential, industrial, commercial, educational, health, and communal areas, as well as space for transport, utility networks (water, sanitation, waste management, electricity), and other essential systems to support village functioning. Rubanization is more commonly applied to the planning of new village settlements.

### Right timing..

For the past decade, I have quietly dreamed of pursuing rubanization in our rural areas, but found significant challenges in reorganizing land use and creating an enabling environment. Now, our country is entering a favourable period to begin rubanization in our rural areas.

SEE PAGE 11

# NATIONAL

## Ingo PEACE hosts Myanmar Human Rights Seminar 2025



A documentary group photo session underway at the Myanmar Human Rights Seminar 2025.

THE Myanmar Human Rights Seminar 2025 was hosted by the international non-governmental organizations PEACE (Ingo PEACE) on 26 August at 1 pm at the Crystal Ballroom of the Lotte Hotel in Yangon.

Special guests from various civil society organizations and NGOs in Myanmar, as well as public figures and media personnel, were invited to the seminar, titled “Redefining Human Dignity and Human Rights”.

Myanmar is planning to

hold multiparty general elections by the end of this year, and Ingo PEACE stated that it is important to have internationally recognized elections and a democratic system. It also aimed to describe it as a beginning step of change from the current situation in Myanmar.

“I am confident that every one of the participants will become a seed of the future for a new civilization. The future is something we have to build together. May the rights of all

human beings be bridges to the world we choose to create together,” said Japan Chairman Hiroyuki Nakazawa in his opening speech.

It was held with 10 agenda items, and those who delivered speeches included Kaung Thet Htoo Zaw, Japanese Chairman Mr Hiroyuki Nakazawa, Chairman of the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Organization U Wunna, Christopher Peter Robert Atkins, Mr Khual Lian Kam, and Dr Peter Ngun Za Cung.

— Htun Htun/ZN

## Surasura Tadoku scheduled for 29 Aug

SURASURA Tadoku, a free reading event for Japanese learners from N5 to N1, has been scheduled on 29 August, said the Japan Foundation, Yangon.

The Japan Foundation, the Japan Culture House, holds a Tadoku reading event on the last Friday.

Unlike reading class, tadoku is very simple and involves reading a lot of books of your own choice at your own pace. Everyone from N5 to N1 can join for free. A Tadoku reading card will be made for participants, and rewards will

be given when they have three points. New tadoku books have arrived now, and the Japan Foundation has been waiting for readers, it said.

This month, tadoku has been scheduled from 10 am to 11:30 am on 29 August, and the venue is the Japan Foundation located in Natmauk Lane 1, Bahan Township. — MT/ZS



An invite to the Surasura Tadoku reading event.

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## Applications for medical, dental, and related universities open on 2 Sept

FOR students who passed the matriculation examination in 2025, applications for medical, dental and medicine-related universities will be open from 2 September, according to the Ministry of Health.

Those who want to apply as a priority for medical, dental and medicine-related universities under the Department of Human Resources for Health must apply with a university admission application envelope issued by the University Enrolment Committee (Department of Higher Education).

Those who want to apply as a priority for pharmacy, medical technology, nursing and basic health universities should send the university application bags



The University of Medicine 1, Yangon.

to the designated universities under the Ministry of Education to submit the application. For the first-priority ap-

plicants to medical and dental universities, the university ap-

plication bag must be sent to any one of the eight locations – the Department of Human Resources for Health (Nay Pyi Taw), the University of Medicine 1, Yangon, the University of Medicine 2, Yangon, the University of Medicine, Mandalay, the University of Medicine, Magway, the University of Medicine, Taunggyi, the Dental University (Yangon) and the Dental University (Mandalay).

The admission selection will be made according to the university admission guide, and the application should be made only after carefully reading the guide. Applications will be accepted from 2 to 19 September on all days, including weekends and public holidays, the ministry announced. — MT/ZN

# Rubanization: A Strategic Change for Transforming Rural Lives

FROM PAGE 9

With the possibility of cease-fire agreements on the horizon, there will soon be a need to rebuild conflict-affected regions where rubanization can play a crucial role in shaping future development. Without a doubt, rubanization has the potential to bring out the best possible outcomes, even in the worst-case scenarios affected by the conflicts.

Strengthening synergies with agro-based industries ...

Moreover, while rubanization keeps agriculture at its heart, it also promotes economic diversification by creating more jobs and income opportunities. It connects with other sectors such as agro-tourism, service industries, and manufacturing, fostering a more resilient rural economy. Alongside economic diversification, rubanization encourages local entrepreneurship and supports small businesses based on local context and available raw products. Ensuring equal access to credit and financial services for rural entrepreneurs is essential for business investment and growth. In a post-conflict setting, rubanization serves as a powerful tool to transform hardship into opportunity, offering every rural person a mean-

ingful new beginning. Rubanization must follow a multifaceted process influenced by a variety of interconnected factors. These include investments in infrastructure such as transport, energy, and communication; better access to education and healthcare; support for entrepreneurship and economic diversification; and the development of social infrastructure like housing and sanitation, all guided by active community participation. In addition, policies that strengthen agriculture, protect the environment, reduce climate change impact, promote sustainable natural resource management, and ensure access to credit and financial services are essential to driving rubanization forward.

That's why rubanization requires multi-sectoral planning, involving various areas of expertise. Town planners are needed to develop and implement participatory rural development plans; architects to design public facilities; engineers for infrastructure and transportation systems; economists to assess the economic impacts of planning decisions and diversification; sociologists to bring community voices into the process and analyze the social implications of rubanization; environmentalists to carry out environmental assessments

and recommend sustainable ecosystem practices; land use experts to study the impacts of land use; and agricultural and tourism specialists, along with other technical professionals, to provide essential services in education, health, water and sanitation, waste management, and more. Rubanization must also take population growth into account. It aims to create functional, livable, and sustainable villages that meet the needs of residents while maximizing economic development, protecting the environment, and promoting social and economic equity.

However, the siloed working culture in Myanmar makes multi-sectoral coordination difficult. From my experience between 2014 and 2019 in establishing government-led multi-sectoral coordination platforms in three regions – Mandalay, Magway, and Sagaing – only one-third were successful. Yet, evidence shows that with good governance and strong political will focused on the public interest, it is possible to bring different stakeholders to the table. For example, after the tsunami, the government of the Maldives – an island nation in South Asia with 26 atolls – developed a plan to provide one school and one health clinic in each atoll, regardless of population size, to ensure equal access to basic

education and healthcare. Coordination among actors is already challenging in our country, and establishing integrated regulations for rural development will be even more difficult.

In rubanization, establishing structural frameworks is essential, including regulations on minimum wage, land use that considers physical layout, economic functions, social and environmental impacts, and the management of activities such as chemical use in agriculture and manufacturing. Countries like Thailand and Vietnam, now among the world's top rice exporters, have implemented strong regulatory frameworks in their agricultural sectors, including tax relief and setting timely minimum wages for agricultural workers. Improving such regulatory frameworks in our country will take time, especially given the parliamentary process and inexperienced members. However, good governance can effectively guide rubanization in a transparent, accountable way paving the rule of law which are essential for attracting investment, coordinate multi-sectoral actors, and coordinating multi-sectoral actors, and ensuring efficient and effective use of resources.

In conclusion, rubanization,

an approach that blends rural and urban development strategies, offers a powerful means to improve rural livelihoods, drive economic diversification, and invite more investments. Adding value to agro-based industries and promoting sectors like agro-tourism creates a strong foundation for sustainable rural development that integrates agriculture, modern infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. Although rubanization requires coordinated efforts across sectors, strong regulatory frameworks, and effective governance, these challenges can be addressed through inclusive planning and committed leadership. By learning from successful regional examples and tailoring them to Myanmar's context, we can build rural communities that are livable, productive, and equitable. Ultimately, rubanization provides a transformative change to reduce inequality, strengthen rural economies, and contribute to long-term national progress.

*(The author, Khaing Khaing Shwe (Public Policy, NUS), wrote this article based on 30-year rural development experience in Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Maldives, Israel, Kenya and Uganda.)*

## European Commission approves twice-yearly HIV prevention injection for rollout

THE European Commission has formally approved a twice-yearly injection to prevent HIV, paving the way for its rollout across the European Union, Euro News reported, citing drugmaker Gilead.

The new treatment comes amid a rise in HIV cases across parts of Europe.

The approval follows a recommendation last month from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for the first-of-its-kind medicine, which has been hailed as a game-changer in the fight against the HIV epidemic, Euro News added.

The drug, called lenacapavir, is a form of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) that prevents the virus from replicating and spreading within the body, reducing the



The new treatment comes amid a rise in HIV cases across parts of Europe. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

risk of acquiring HIV among both adults and adolescents.

In clinical studies, the jab

was 100 per cent effective at preventing the virus, prompting experts to call it one of the biggest medical breakthroughs of 2024, Euro News reported.

Lenacapavir will be sold as Yeytuo in the European Union, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. It will be the first twice-yearly PrEP option available, replacing the need for daily pills. Dr Dietmar Berger, Gilead Sciences' chief medical officer, said, "The Commission's quick approval underscores the transformative potential of Yeytuo to help address the urgent unmet need in HIV prevention across Europe." — ANI

## Tokyo logs record 10 days of 35C or more

TOKYO has recently recorded an unprecedented 10 consecutive days of temperatures exceeding 35°C, marking a significant milestone in Japan's climate history, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

This extreme heat follows the hottest June and July on record, highlighting the increasing intensity and frequency of heatwaves attributed to human-caused climate change. Residents and tourists in Tokyo are struggling to cope with the oppressive heat. Many, like Haruka Fujii, find even short walks outdoors overwhelming, opting to stay in shaded areas or use parasols. — AFP

# Rice sowing crosses 109% of normal area as good Monsoon boosts Kharif sowing: Report



The overall sowing success is supported by cumulative rainfall across India, which stands at 104 per cent of the long-period average, an increase from 101 per cent the previous week. **PHOTO: ANI**

INDIA'S rice sowing during the ongoing monsoon season has surpassed expectations, reaching 109 per cent of the normal sown area, according to a report by ICICI Bank.

*While rice, sugarcane, and coarse cereals have been sown beyond their normal levels, crops like jute, cotton, and oilseeds have experienced declines of 3.1 per cent, 2.6 per cent, and 2.8 per cent, respectively.*

THE progress has been supported by above-normal rainfall in many parts of the country, which has also accelerated overall kharif sowing.

It stated, "rice sowing has now reached 109 per cent of the normal sown area."

The report noted that kharif sowing is progressing well, showing a 3.4 per cent year-on-year increase. This has been driven largely by rice, which recorded a 7.6 per cent growth over last year.

Coarse cereals, sugarcane, and pulses have also registered positive growth. Out of the normal sowing area of 109.7 million hectares, 107.4 million hectares have already been covered,

compared with 103.9 million hectares in the same period last year.

Importantly, rice, sugarcane, and coarse cereals are sown over areas exceeding their normal levels. However, crops such as jute & mesta, cotton, and oilseeds have lagged, recording declines of 3.1 per cent, 2.6 per cent, and 2.8 per cent respectively on a year-on-year basis.

The substantial progress in sowing has been supported by surplus rainfall.

The report stated that cumulative rainfall across India stands at 104 per cent of the long-period average (LPA), compared with 101 per cent last week. — ANI

## ‘The marshes are dead’: Iraqi buffalo herders wander in search of water

IRAQI buffalo herder Watheq Abbas faces an existential crisis as persistent drought devastates the marshlands of southern Iraq, threatening his traditional way of life.

For 15 years, Abbas has grazed his buffaloes in these wetlands, but now, after five years without sufficient water, the marshes have become barren.

This year has been one of the driest since 1933, with summer temperatures soaring above 50°C, exacerbated by climate change and upstream dams in Türkiye and Iran that limit river flow.

The once-thriving ecosystem, historically significant and home to diverse wildlife, has seen a drastic reduction in wa-

ter, impacting the livelihoods of tens of thousands of herders, fishermen, and hunters.

Abbas has lost several buffaloes to dehydration and disease, and the buffalo population has plummeted dramatically. Environmental activist Jassim al-Assadi highlights the ongoing "battle for water" in Iraq, as the government prioritizes drinking water and agriculture over the marshes.

With the buffalo population at risk of extinction, many families, like that of Tawayeh Faraj, are struggling to survive, facing the potential end of their ancestral profession.

The future of this ancient way of life hangs in the balance. — AFP

## ‘Old things work’: Argentines giving new life to e-waste

ARGENTINA'S Cyber Dumpster Divers are a collective of tech enthusiasts dedicated to repurposing electronic waste into innovative products.

With Argentina generating approximately 520,000 tons of e-waste annually, the group aims to combat the immorality of discarded technology.

Esteban Palladino, known as Uctumi, emphasizes the movement's charitable, techno-political, and playful aspects. Founded in 2019, the collective gained momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic by refurbishing old machines and donating them to those in need.

Their third annual meeting in Buenos Aires featured workshops on reviving defunct smartphones and showcased creations like the "Ven-



Men play a video game made from used and recycled electronic components during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Federal Cybercruja Meeting in Buenos Aires. **PHOTO: LUIS ROBAYO/AFP**

tilastation", a gaming console made from an industrial fan.

Members, including electronics engineer Juan Carrique, advocate for hands-on learning and criticize planned obsolescence.

While celebrating the po-

tential of old devices, they express concern over the negative impact of smartphones on youth, highlighting the need to reclaim the right to determine the functionality of technology.—AFP

# Japan tariff negotiator to ask US to implement lower auto duties swiftly

JAPAN'S top tariff negotiator Ryosei Akazawa said Wednesday he is planning to visit Washington this week to request the swift implementation of lower auto tariffs and special treatment to reduce the burden of "reciprocal" tariffs.

The minister in charge of economic revitalization will visit the United States from Thursday through Saturday.

"The honest and prompt implementation of the trade agreement between Japan and the United States is of utmost importance," Akazawa said at a press conference.

The two countries agreed on 22 July that so-called reciprocal tariff on Japanese goods as well as those on automobiles would be set at 15 per cent, which was confirmed on 7 August, but the date they will go into effect has yet to be set. — Kyodo



On 22 July, both countries agreed to set reciprocal tariffs on Japanese goods and automobiles at 15 per cent, a decision confirmed on 7 August, but the effective date for these tariffs has not yet been established. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# Lego posts record sales, sees market share growing further: CEO

DANISH toymaker Lego, the world's biggest, posted record sales for the first half of the year and continues to gain market share despite global volatility, its chief executive told AFP.

"Over the last several years, we have been able to outgrow the market and take market share pretty consistently," Niels Christiansen said in an interview.

"I don't think we are at the end of it."

In the first six months of the year, the global toy market expanded by 6.9 percent, with Lego's share growing "at twice that rate", Christiansen added.

In the January-June period, the maker of the



A Lego replica of Beijing's Forbidden City at the Legoland Shanghai Resort. **PHOTO: AFP**

colourful plastic bricks saw its net profit jump 10 percent from a year earlier to nine billion kroner (\$1.39 billion).

Sales rose by 12 per cent to a record 34.6 billion kroner, its sixth straight increase for a half-year period.

"There's been challenges and there's been volatility in the world, but I think our operating model and the dedication throughout has been really good," Christiansen said. — AFP

# German factory outfitters warn of 'crisis' from US tariffs

GERMANY'S plant and equipment makers' federation warned Wednesday the sector is facing an "existential crisis" after the United States broadened the reach of its metals tariffs.

In a letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the

VDMA trade group warned the expanded levies "have now sent a fresh chill of uncertainty rippling through European industry".

"The harm caused by them, along with the prospect of still more in the months to come, are sending key machinery sectors hurtling towards

the precipice of an existential crisis," wrote the group's president Bertram Kawlath.

The European Union and US President Donald Trump struck a deal in late July under which EU exports to the United States face a 15-per-cent across-the-board tariff rate, though negotiations are not over.

But the VDMA, which represents some 3,600 companies in Europe's biggest economy, said the US move to expand steel and aluminium tariffs took the levies far beyond that level for some products. — AFP

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (157W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (157W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-8-2025** 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.

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M.V JNS DRAGON VOY.NO. (2502)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V JNS DRAGON VOY.NO. (2502)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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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## MYANMA Port Authority "NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.21 feet to 21.46 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of September 7<sup>th</sup> to September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

German cabinet agrees steps to boost army recruitment

*The German cabinet has approved measures to boost recruitment for the armed forces and improve military readiness.*



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, on the right, and Defence Minister Boris Pistorius announce plans to boost army recruitment. **PHOTO: AFP**

FOR the first time since suspending conscription in 2011, Germany is preparing to reintroduce elements of mandatory service, as part of a wider plan to bolster defence.

The German cabinet on Wednesday signed off steps to boost recruitment for the country’s armed forces and strengthen military readiness.

Defence Minister Boris

Pistorius said the drive aims to attract volunteers to the Bundeswehr, but the proposal also includes provisions for compulsory service in case numbers fall short in coming years.

From 1 January next year, a questionnaire will be sent to all young German men and women to assess their interest in serving, including questions on their level of fitness, skills

and interests.

While men are required to complete it, it will be voluntary for women, according to a draft law that must still be passed by parliament. Starting on 1 July, 2027, all 18-year-old German men will also be required to undergo a mandatory medical examination, even if they do not opt for voluntary military service. — AFP

France returns skull of beheaded king to Madagascar

FRANCE on Tuesday returned three colonial-era skulls to Madagascar, including one believed to be that of a Malagasy king decapitated by French troops during a 19th-century massacre.

The skull, believed to be-

long to King Toera, was handed over in the first restitution of human remains since France passed a law facilitating their return in 2023, along with those of two other members of the Sakalava ethnic group.

French troops beheaded

King Toera in 1897, with his skull then taken as a trophy to France.

It was placed in Paris’s national history museum alongside hundreds of other remains from the Indian Ocean island. — AFP

Police search Australian bush for gunman after two officers killed

POLICE searched the Australian bush on Wednesday for a heavily armed 56-year-old gunman still on the run a day after allegedly killing two officers and wounding a third.

Officers hunted through the night for the man identified as Dezi Freeman, who fled on foot into densely forested terrain after a shootout Tuesday morning in the northeast of Vic-

toria state. Police said they deployed “every resource” to find him, setting up a wide cordon at the scene, a rural property with a house and a bus in the small town of Porepunkah. — AFP

Japan’s ruling party to solicit views on leadership race in early Sept

JAPAN’S ruling party plans to gauge support in early September for a snap presidential election and make public the names of those backing such an idea, lawmakers said Wednesday.

The Liberal Democratic Party, which suffered a major setback in the 20 July House of Councillors election, aims to conduct an internal survey of party members and local chapter executives, likely on 8 September, requiring written, signed responses.

Under the party’s rules, a majority of members and local

chapters must support holding a leadership race midterm. At least 172 of the 342 votes — 295 from lawmakers and 47 from local chapter representatives — are required this time.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, whose current three-year term runs until September 2027, has ruled out resigning despite the ruling bloc losing control of the upper house. The LDP and its coalition partner, the Komeito party, are already a minority in the more powerful House of Representatives. — Kyodo

Donald Trump to hold “large meeting” to discuss “comprehensive plan for post-war Gaza

US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff announced that President Donald Trump will chair a “large meeting” at the White House on Wednesday in which he will discuss a “comprehensive plan” on the management of Gaza after the war, Times of Israel reported, citing Fox News.

As per Times of Israel, this is the first time Witkoff has revealed the existence of a US plan for post-war management. “Many people are going to see how robust it is and how well-meaning it is, and it reflects President Trump’s humanitarian motives,” Witkoff said in a Fox News inter-

view, without elaborating further.

Witkoff also reiterated the Trump administration’s official position on the ceasefire deal, which he said is to oppose additional partial Gaza hostage deals.

Earlier, Trump backed this stance when he posted on Truth Social hours after Hamas accepted the Arab mediators’ latest proposal on 18 August that the hostages would only be freed after Hamas was dismantled entirely. However, the White House stated that it is reviewing the latest phased hostage deal proposal, as reported by the Times of Israel. — ANI



The Israeli military said troops were operating on the outskirts of Gaza City. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

France overlook Ekitike for World Cup qualifiers, Akliouche called up

HUGO Ekitike missed out on a place in the France squad named Wednesday for the start of their 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign, but coach Didier Deschamps did hand a first senior call-up to highly-rated Monaco winger Maghnes Akliouche.

Ekitike has made an impressive start to his Liverpool career with three goals in three competitive outings since arriving in the close-season from Eintracht Frankfurt.

However the 23-year-old striker, who scored five goals in five appearances for the France Under-21 side last season, will have to wait for his chance in the senior squad, where competition is fierce.

France, World Cup winners in 2018 and runners-up in 2022, begin their bid to qualify for next year's finals in North America with a trip to Poland to play Ukraine next Friday, 5 September.

They then host Iceland in Paris on Tuesday, 9 September. Azerbaijan will be their other opponents in Group D, with further matches to be played in October and November and the group winners qualifying automatically for the finals.

Akliouche, 23, has been on the fringes of the full France squad for some time thanks to his impressive displays for Monaco which have led to him being linked with other big clubs around Europe. — AFP

Brazil to face South Korea, Japan in World Cup build-up

BRAZIL will play October friendlies in South Korea and Japan as all three teams step up their preparations for the 2026 World Cup.

Coached by the Italian Carlo Ancelotti, Brazil will be one of the favourites to win the tournament next year in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

They will face a South Korea side captained by Son Heung-min at the 66,000-capacity Seoul World Cup Stadium on October 10, the Korea Football Association said late Tuesday.

The Brazilians last visited South Korea for a friendly in June 2022, ahead of the Qatar World Cup, and thrashed the hosts 5-1 with Neymar scoring twice from the penalty spot.

Ancelotti's men will then play Japan at Tokyo Stadium, which has a capacity of just under 50,000, on 14 October, the Japanese FA said. Neymar again scored from the spot as Brazil won 1-0 in the Japanese capital in June 2022. — AFP



Myanmar national Sepak Takraw athletes are seen competing at the SkyNet Cup tourney.

Myanmar Sepak Takraw team eyes seven events at Thailand SEA Games

THE Myanmar national Sepak Takraw team will compete in seven of the nine events at the XXXIII South-east Asian Games (SEA Games), which will be hosted by Thailand. The Myanmar athletes are currently in training camps as they prepare for medal success at the upcoming games.

“At the forthcoming XXXIII South-east Asian Games in Thailand, nine Sepak Takraw events will be held, and we will compete in seven of them. For this major competition, we began training camps in Nay Pyi Taw in August 2024. During national tournaments, we temporarily released players to their respective departments, but afterwards, we regrouped and continued training in Nay Pyi Taw. When the earthquake risk arose, we moved our camp to Yangon, and once the grounds in Nay Pyi Taw were repaired, we returned there to continue training,” said U Htut Khaing Win, Executive Officer of the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation.

The host Thai team will be the strongest opponent at this year’s games, and Myanmar aims to chal-

lenge Thailand while targeting medals. The Myanmar team has set its sights on winning gold in two or three events while ensuring podium finishes in the rest.

The Myanmar Sepak Takraw athletes currently train five days a week, with one session from 8 am to 11 am and another from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. At the XXXII SEA Games in Cambodia, the Myanmar national Sepak Takraw team won two golds, two silvers, and several bronzes for the country. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Myanmar U23 completes preparations for AFC Championship

THE Myanmar U23 national football team is finalizing preparations for the 2026 AFC U23 Championship, which it will host and compete in Group B matches.

This year, the Myanmar U23 team will participate in three international tournaments, with the AFC U23 Championship scheduled as the second, from 3 to 9 September. The team has been preparing for international competitions since March, including two friendly matches against Hong Kong U23 in Yangon during International Match Week, and two friendlies against China U23 in China during June’s International Match Week.

Earlier this year, Myanmar U23 drew both group-stage matches in the



The Myanmar U23 team is pictured in a training session. PHOTO: MFF

ASEAN U23 Championship against Timor-Leste and Thailand and exited at the group stage. The team will not play any international

players, with the final 23 to be selected closer to the tournament.

In Group B of the AFC U23 Championship, Myanmar will face Japan, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. Matches will be held at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon. On 3 September, Myanmar will play Kuwait at 4 pm and Japan will face Afghanistan at 7 pm. On 6 September, Myanmar meets Japan at 4 pm and Afghanistan plays Kuwait at 7 pm. On 9 September, Myanmar will face Afghanistan at 4 pm, and Japan will play Kuwait at 7 pm.

The tournament consists of 11 groups, with the group winners and the four best runners-up, making a total of 15 teams advancing. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



# US tariffs threaten lakhs of jobs in India, says CTI

THE Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that the 50 per cent tariff imposed by the US could devastate key Indian industries and threaten the livelihoods of lakhs of Indians.

“The 50 per cent US tariff will have a devastating impact on India’s textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, chemicals, pharma, seafood, electronics and other sectors,” CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said.

He explained that because of the increased tariffs, Indian goods will be up to 35 per cent costlier in the American market compared to competitors, prompting buyers to look elsewhere.

According to CTI, the hike could affect more than US\$48 billion worth of Indian exports. Sectors like engineering goods, which saw exports of Rs1.7 lakh crore last year, are expected to take a sharp hit. Similarly, gems and jewellery exports worth Rs90,000 crore, and India’s booming electronics shipments are also under severe threat

Products that earlier faced a 10 per cent tariff will now carry a 50 per cent tariff, drastically raising costs for US buyers. — ANI

*The tariff hike could affect over US\$48 billion in Indian exports, particularly impacting sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, seafood, and electronics.*



The tariff hike could affect over US\$48 billion in Indian exports, particularly impacting sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, auto components, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, seafood, and electronics. An artisan weaves a ‘Banarasi saree’ on a handloom at a workshop in Varanasi on 25 August 2025. PHOTO: AFP

# First IAEA inspector team returns to Iran, preparing to begin work: Grossi

THE first group of inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has returned to Iran and is preparing to begin its

work, Director-General Rafael Grossi said on Tuesday.

“We have been discussing with them [the Iranian authori-

ties] now. The first team of IAEA inspectors is back in Iran, and we are about to restart [inspections],” Grossi told Fox News.

On 26 August, the talks between Iran and the E3 countries — the United Kingdom, Germany and France — took place against the backdrop of a statement by the E3 countries on their readiness to use the mechanism for restoring international sanctions if Tehran does not agree to a nuclear deal by the end of August or to extend UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which expires on 18 October 2025.

European countries demanded that Iran begin negotiations with the United States to reach a new agreement on the Iranian nuclear deal. — SPUTNIK



The first group of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors has returned to Iran and is set to resume inspections, according to Director-General Rafael Grossi. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

## INNOVATIVE GENETIC MODIFICATIONS

### China reports first successful pig lung transplant into human body: Nature

FOR the first time on record, a lung from a genetically modified pig has been successfully transplanted into a human body, Chinese scientists announced in a study published in Nature.

“Lungs are complex organs to transplant, but the surgery is a step towards clinical trials,” Nature reported Tuesday.

The recipient, a 39-year-old man in China who was brain dead, received the lung that had undergone six genetic modifications to improve compatibility with humans. The organ remained

viable and functioning for nine days in his body with no signs of hyperacute rejection or infection.

He Jianxing, corresponding author of the study, told Xinhua that with growing global demand for organ transplants, xenotransplantation is considered a promising solution to the shortage of donors. He said the achievement marked a vital step forward in lung xenotransplantation. “This study marks a milestone in translational medicine,” said Beatriz Dominguez-Gil, director of the National Transplant Organization. — Xinhua