

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Media Urged to Bridge Hluttaw and Public

Media need to lend their support by serving as a bridge between the Hluttaw and the public, and by helping in the ongoing efforts to build a Hluttaw trying to earn the trust and confidence of the people and contributes to the interests of the nation, said Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi at a meeting with editors and reporters from 48 local news agencies, local-based foreign news agencies and local media at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker stated that there are two types of Hluttaw systems: the



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi attends a press conference on the role of Hluttaw and its relationship with the public and the media in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

bicameral system and the unicameral system. Depending on a country's geographical size, population, and ethnic composition,

some countries around the world have bicameral legislatures, while others adopt a unicameral legislature. Myanmar, with a population

of more than 51 million and 135 ethnic groups, practices a bicameral Hluttaw system. **SEE PAGE 3**



This image shows the Pan Pacific Yangon Hotel that will host the Myanmar Business Trade Show & Travel Expo 2026 on 4 September.

Myanmar Business, Travel Expo 2026 Opens 4 Sept

MYANMAR Business Trade Show & Travel Expo 2026, organized by STP Event Management, will take place on 4 September at the Pacific Ballroom of Pan Pacific Yangon Hotel in Yangon under the theme "From Visit Myanmar Year 1996 to Visit Myanmar Year 2026", with a view to promoting Myanmar's business and tourism sectors.

This event is expected to draw ambassadors, international delegates, domestic and foreign business executives, and invited VVIP guests.

Entertainment will include traditional Myanmar dances presented by Htet Arkar's Lokapala Production, alongside performances by Project K, which blends classical Myanmar dance with contemporary styles.

Pre-event promotions are currently running on LED billboards at Junction City. Local and international media, artistes, and influencers are also slated to cover and attend the expo.

The event will feature numerous travel business exhibition booths, along with special promotional offers. — TWA/KK

Yangon hosts National Red Cross Youth Forum



THE National Red Cross Youth Forum is being held at the Rose Garden Hotel in Yangon for three days, from 31 July to 2 August, according to the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS).

The forum is jointly organized by the MRCS,

This photo features the National Red Cross Youth Forum in Yangon.

the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The first National Red Cross Youth Forum, which was planned over the past three years, has brought together 50 Red Cross youth leaders from 15 states and regions across the country. **SEE PAGE 3**



NATIONAL PAGE 4

SEPF supports double-sided smooth paper production



NATIONAL PAGE 5

ME in ROK reduces charges from 1 Aug for workers on leave



Myanmar Coffee Association Chair U Myo Aye is seen at the Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institution.

MCA, WASI meet to strengthen bilateral cooperation in coffee sector

THE Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA) and Western Highlands Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute of Vietnam (WASI) in Buon Ma Thuot, Vietnam, met to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the coffee sector.

MCA Chair U Myo Aye met a WASI delegation led by coffee researcher Dr Hein on 31 July to discuss

coffee planting techniques, the association said. The meeting, aimed at advancing Myanmar's coffee sector across diverse regions, highlighted the importance of improved coffee plant breeding methods.

Establishing a network between international agricultural research institutions and Myanmar's emerging potential

can support sustainable agricultural practices, constructive technological exchanges, and help a stronger Southeast Asia coffee community to emerge; in addition, it can support Vietnam-Myanmar friendship, said MCA.

Cooperation in coffee research will be heightened in the near future, it added. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

MRTV to air Myanmar vs Laos in ASEAN Championship

THE Myanmar national men's football team will face Laos in the Hyundai ASEAN Championship 2026 Group B match at 4:30 pm on 4 August at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The match will be broadcast live on MRTV HD Channel and MRTV Sports Channel from 4:15 pm.

The Hyundai ASEAN Championship 2026 tournament is being held from 24 July to 26 August 2026. — MNA/KZL

Weather

El Niño Conditions News

Issued on 1 August 2026

- The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) in the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the equator indicate that reach to strong El Niño conditions. According to the forecasts from International Meteorological Agencies based on Numerical Weather Prediction Models, very strong El Niño conditions are likely at the end of 2026.
- Although El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts can generally lead to irregular rainfall patterns, higher day temperatures, abnormal storm activity, drought and other extreme weather events in the upcoming summer season.
- Therefore, all relevant sectors are kindly requested to take necessary precautionary measures in advance. Updates on the El Niño status will continue to be issued and disseminated in a timely manner. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 32

Issued on 8 am MST on 1 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the moderate to strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and due to the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from today morning to 5 August 2026.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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

Notice issued against donating money inside Myazedi Inscription Hall

ACCORDING to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), pilgrims have been notified not to make monetary donations inside the Inscription Chamber the Rajakumar Inscription at Myazedi Pagoda, located in Myinkaba Village, ancient Bagan, and responsible officials have conducted on-site inspections.

Driven by generosity and religious beliefs, the majority of domestic pilgrims visiting Myazedi Pagoda tend to throw and donate money inside the inscription hall. Because the said inscription pillar is a World Heritage-listed monument, fine wire mesh will be installed to prevent

damage to ancient artefacts, avoid disturbances for researchers and pilgrims, and to preserve the visual aesthetics.

The installation of the fine wire mesh will be carried out under the supervision of the Conservation Division of the department, and warning signs will be hung against donating money.

Pilgrims wishing to donate are informed to do so only at the designated boxes and areas set by the board of trustees. Inscribed in four languages – Pyu, Mon, Myanmar, and Pali – the Rajakumar Inscription is prominent as the most complete and earliest piece of Myanmar writing in the history of



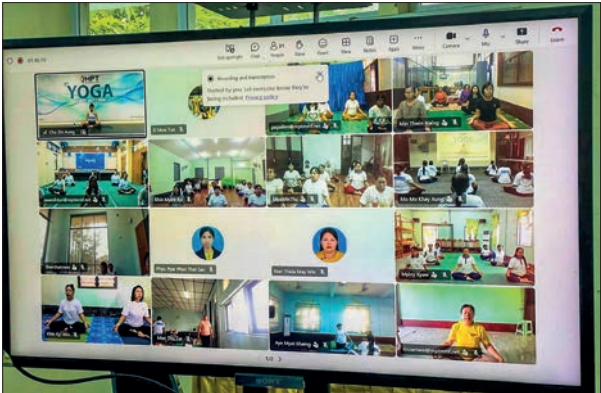
A general view of the Myazedi Rajakumar Inscription Chamber in Bagan.

Myanmar literature, and this quadrilingual stone inscription was designated as a UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2015. — TWA/ZN

MPT staff participate in 7th yoga and fitness activity

MPT staff from across the country participated in the 7th “TeamFit: Unite & Move” yoga and fitness activity, a health and wellness programme aimed at promoting a healthy work-life balance, yesterday morning, according to the MPT Head Office in Yangon.

More than 350 staff members from various regions and states, as well as the Telecommunications and Postal Training Centre (TPTC) in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, took part in the yoga and fitness activity both in person and



MPT staff from across the country participate in the 7th “TeamFit: Unite & Move” yoga and fitness activity.

PHOTO: KO LWIN

online. The programme aimed to promote mental well-being, physical health, unity, and vitality among employees.

“We are delighted to

have successfully held the 7th TeamFit: Unite & Move yoga and health campaign, with more than 350 staff members actively participating both in person

and online. We believe that through this programme, staff members will not only lead healthier lives but also achieve a better balance between their work and social lives while maintaining a healthy mind and body,” said Mr Hiroyuki Okai, Head of Operations, MPTJO.

In addition to the “TeamFit: Unite & Move” programme, which brings staff members together, MPT will continue organizing health and sports activities to further strengthen teamwork and encourage a healthy lifestyle. — Oktha/MKKS



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 159 samples from 8 pm on 30 June 2026 to 8 pm on 31 July 2026, and no new cases were detected.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy) are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

Media Urged to Bridge Hluttaw and Public

FROM PAGE 1

He underscored that the Hluttaw serves as an intermediary institution that bridges the government and the people. It carries out its duties in accordance with the motto: ‘The people’s voice is the Hluttaw’s voice; the people’s aspirations are the Hluttaw’s aspirations; the Hluttaw implements the people’s expectations.’

According to the Constitution, he continued, the Pyithu Hluttaw is formed with 330 elected representatives for 330 townships based on loca-

tion and population and 110 Defence Services Personnel Representatives, totalling 440. Currently, the Pyithu Hluttaw is constituted with 351 lawmakers due to vacancies.

The Speaker highlighted that the Pyithu Hluttaw has four principal responsibilities. The first is to constitute the legislative branch and to elect and approve the heads of the three branches of government—the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The second responsibility is legislation, which involves repealing, amending, re-

placing, and enacting laws in line with changing times and circumstances. The third responsibility is to ensure checks and balances among the other branches of government. The fourth responsibility, as representatives elected by the people, is to represent the interests and aspirations of the people.

He underlined that to carry out these responsibilities, the Hluttaw has established Hluttaw committees, comprising four Standing Committees and 18 Select Committees, totalling 22. These committees are often referred to

as ‘mini-Hluttaws’ or the ‘pillars of the Hluttaw’ because they play a vital role in ensuring the smooth and effective functioning of Hluttaw affairs.

The Speaker replied to queries raised by media personnel.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, Vice-Chairman of the Coordination Committee for Development of Hluttaw U Hla Thein, Information Team leader Dr Nanda Hla Myint of the Pyithu Hluttaw and officials. — MNA/TTA



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin inspects several facilities at the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Control Centre and the National Control Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MoEE accelerates meter replacement, new installation to curb power theft

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is accelerating the replacement of underperforming electricity meters and those that have been in service for more than 20 years, while also expediting the installation of new meters for consumers. The initiative aims to reduce and eliminate electricity theft.

On Saturday morning, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin inspected several facilities in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. These included the Meter Testing Subdivision, where security seals are affixed to digital smart meters before distribution to consumers, the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Control Centre, which monitors electricity consumption in real time and the National Control Centre at the Power Despatch Subdivision in Nay Pyi Taw.

According to the ministry, about 15.6 per cent of the electricity transmitted through the national distribution network is lost each day, equivalent to about 10.7 million units, resulting in an average daily financial loss of more than K 2.75 billion for the State. Such losses not only hinder investment in upgrading the country’s electricity infrastructure but also reduce opportunities for new consumers to gain access to electricity services. To address these challenges, the ministry is implementing comprehensive measures to increase electricity supply, reduce transmission and distribution losses, curb electricity theft, and ensure a more stable and reliable power distribution system across the country. — MNA/KTZH

Collective efforts made to clean and beautify Falam, Chin State



Departmental staff take part in the cleaning activities in Falam, Chin State, yesterday.

TO keep Falam Township in Chin State clean and beautiful, Tatmadaw personnel, police personnel, fire service members, and departmental staff jointly carried out cleaning activities, including clearing bushes and trees, at the No 2 Basic Education Primary School, Taungzalap Road, AD 2000 Jubilee Road, and along the roadside near Vankao Hill yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for

Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo visited the cleaning activities with officials and provided snacks and drinks to the cleaning teams.

Tatmadaw has fully regained control of Falam Township and is carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction work in accordance with the Head of State’s instructions, while also accelerating efforts to clean and beautify the town. — MNA/MKKS

MIDG donates blood at Mingaladon Military Hospital

IN honour of Tatmadaw personnel carrying out national defence and security duties, the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central) organized its 11th blood donation drive at the No 1 Defence Services General Hospital (1,000-bed) in Mingaladon.

During the event,

military medical personnel examined the health of 220 prospective blood donors. Brig-Gen Myint Zaw, Commandant of the hospital, and U Wunna, Chairman of the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Group (Central), together with other officials, visited the donors, offered words of encouragement,



Commandant of No 1 DSGH (1,000-bed), Mingaladon provides honorary donations to blood donors.

and presented them with gifts.

In addition, the blood donors were provided with

breakfast and lunch, medicines, snacks, commemorative T-shirts, and cash donations. — MNA/MKKS

Yangon hosts National ...

FROM PAGE 1

Opening remarks were delivered by Professor Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the MRCS; Ms Nadia Khoury, Country Representative of the IFRC in Myanmar; and Mr Xavier Collard de Macquerh, Head of Programmes and Prevention

at the ICRC. The opening ceremony was attended by the MRCS President, officials from the MRCS, the IFRC, the ICRC, and partner National Red Cross Societies, as well as Red Cross youth leaders from the 15 states and regions across the country. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Dawei holds peace prayer ceremony to promote unity in diversity



The prayers-offering ceremony for peace in progress in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, yesterday.

A prayer ceremony for lasting peace was held at Dawei City Hall in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, at 9 am yesterday, with Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo calling on all citizens to participate in building peace as a national responsibility.

sponsibility.

The ceremony was organized by the Taninthayi Region government to promote "Unity in Diversity, Peace in Diversity" and foster lasting harmony among ethnic communities with different faiths and beliefs.

During the ceremony, the chief minister lit a peace candle and joined the deputy speaker of the Region Hluttaw, the chief justice of the Region High Court, and religious representatives in offering prayers for peace. — IPRD/KZL

DEMU trains begin service on Yangon-Pyay railway



The Myanmar Railways holds the opening event for the operation of DEMU trains on the Yangon-Pyay railway section at Pyay Railway Station on 31 July.

THE opening ceremony for the operation of No 73 Up/No 74 Down DEMU trains on the Yangon-Pyay railway section was held at Pyay Railway Station on 31 July.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win delivered an opening speech, while Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing explained the upgrading of the Yangon-Pyay railway section and the introduction of new modern DEMU train sets operating as No 73 Up/No 74 Down.

Afterwards, the regional chief minister, and officials officially launched the modern DEMU train service. — Regional IPRD/MKKS

SEPF supports double-sided smooth paper production

WITH financial support from the State Economic Promotion Fund, Phyo Wai Wai Paper and Book Manufacturing Cooperative Ltd, based in Myitkyina, Kachin State, has successfully begun producing double-sided smooth paper and distributing school exercise books.

That cooperative collected used office and school books, along with paper scraps from the local area, and recycled them into pulp. It then manufactured and sold various paper products, including rough and smooth paper, tissue paper, and cardboard. To enhance local manufacturing capacity and enable the region's first production of double-sided smooth paper,



This photo shows books produced by Phyo Wai Wai Paper and Book Manufacturing Cooperative Ltd in Myitkyina.

the Kachin State government provided more than K100 million through the revolving State Economic Promotion Fund. This support has allowed the cooperative to significantly expand the production of double-sided smooth school exercise books.

Using the fund, Phyo Wai Wai Paper and Book Manufacturing Cooperative Ltd established a new factory in Mankhane Ward, equipped with tissue paper machines, single-sided smooth paper machines, and double-sided smooth paper production

machines. The Chief Minister of Kachin State, accompanied by responsible officials, visited the factory yesterday to inspect its operations and encourage the workers.

The new factory is steadily increasing its production capacity. Once operating at full capacity, it is expected to produce about 900 tonnes of single-sided smooth paper, 1,000 tonnes of tissue paper, and about 900 tonnes of double-sided smooth paper annually. In addition, the cooperative is conducting trials to produce paper from banana fibre as part of its efforts to diversify environmentally friendly paper products. — Kachin State (IPRD)/KTZH

Gokhteik-1 Up RBE train on Mandalay-Lashio railway route derailed

AN RBE train operating on the Mandalay-Lashio railway route derailed on Saturday morning after heavy rainfall caused sand and soil to cover the railway tracks.

The two-coach RBE train, operating the uphill Gokhteik-1 service from PyinOoLwin to Gokhteik, departed from PyinOoLwin Station and reached an unauthorized level crossing between Mileposts 426/3 and 426/4, located between PyinOoLwin and Pwekauk stations, at 8:17 am. The crossing connects PyinOoLwin with Mogyopyit Village. Due to heavy rain, sand and earth had accumulated on the tracks, causing the lead coach, RBE-30106, to derail.

The train was carrying 61 passengers. No passengers or railway staff were injured in the incident. The Myanmar Railways despatched another RBE train (RBE-25801) from PyinOoLwin Station to the site, arriving at 9:50 am. The stranded passengers were safely transported back to PyinOoLwin, arriving at 11:11 am. Ticket fares were fully refunded to all passengers. Emergency operations are currently underway to re-rail the derailed coach and repair the damaged section of track. — MNA/KTZH

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

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

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar hands over Pitaka, commentary texts to Buddhist archives in Laos



This photo shows Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Aung Ko handing over Buddhist Canon and Atthakatha texts during the ceremony held on 31 July 2026.

THE Government of Myanmar officially handed over 40 volumes of the Pitaka (Buddhist Canon) and 51 volumes of Commentaries (Atthakatha) to the Buddhist Archives of Luang Prabang in Laos during a ceremony held on 31 July 2026.

The handover ceremony took place at the Luang Prabang Provincial Buddhist Archives. The event was attended by Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Aung Ko, representatives of the Lao Front for National Development in Luang Prabang Province, provincial government officials, representatives of the Lao Buddhist Fellowship Organization, Buddhist monks, and diplomats from the Myanmar Embassy in Vientiane.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, these sacred Theravada scriptural texts will be preserved at the archives as valuable reference materials for monks, scholars, researchers, and future generations. The donation is intended to strengthen the long-standing religious and cultural ties between Myanmar and Laos, promote the heritage of Theravada Buddhism, and foster closer friendship between the peoples of the two countries. — ASH/TH

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, these sacred Theravada scriptural texts will be preserved at the archives as valuable reference materials for monks, scholars, researchers, and future generations. The donation is intended to strengthen the long-standing religious and cultural ties between Myanmar and Laos, promote the heritage of Theravada Buddhism, and foster closer friendship between the peoples of the two countries. — ASH/TH

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, these sacred Theravada scriptural texts will be preserved at the archives as valuable reference materials for monks, scholars, researchers, and future generations. The donation is intended to strengthen the long-standing religious and cultural ties between Myanmar and Laos, promote the heritage of Theravada Buddhism, and foster closer friendship between the peoples of the two countries. — ASH/TH

MASES to offer free science programme for youth



This image depicts a poster for the Public Speaking & Science Knowledge Sharing Programme.

THE Myanmar Astronomical Society and Environmental Society (MASES) will organize a free Public Speaking and Science Knowledge Sharing Programme for young people interested in discussing environmental issues, light pollution and astrotourism.

The programme will cover the fundamentals and real-world impacts of light pollution and its effects on ecosystems, while helping participants strengthen their public speaking, critical thinking and presentation skills.

Applicants must be 18 to 35 years old. The programme is best suited to those currently living in Yangon, as accommodation and meals for participants travelling from other areas will not be provided.

Selected participants must attend the full three-day programme, which includes two days of public speaking and science knowledge-sharing sessions, followed by a round-table discussion on the final day. The programme is free of charge and includes lunch and two tea breaks each day. The training will run from 28 to 30 August, with around eight hours of sessions per day. Applications close on 18 August, and successful applicants will be notified on 22 August. Applications can be submitted through the programme's online registration form. — TWA/KZL

2 veteran writers receive 32nd Pakokku U Ohn Pe Lifetime Literary Award

THE 32nd Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement has been awarded to veteran writers U Pe Nyein (Kyaw Zaw Han) and U Soe Win (Tekkatho Soe Yin).

The Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement carries a prize of K1.5 million, while the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Manuscript

Awards will provide K1 million for first prize, K700,000 for second prize and K500,000 for third prize. Winners of the Pakokku Literary Awards are requested to contact the Editorial Department of the Sarpay Beikman in Yangon. The date and venue of the award presentation ceremony will be announced later.

The Pakokku Scholarship, founded by U Ohn Pe, has been awarded to Ma Mary Phyu Sin, a first-year music student at the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), and Maung Tin Lin Naing, a first-year painting student at the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay). — TWA/KZL



Dr. Khin Than Oo (Ma Moe Myay), winner of the 31st Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement, receiving her award in 2025.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 8 am MST on 1 August 2026)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded its danger level by about 0.5 foot. It may rise about 0.5 foot during the next day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially advised that people living near the riverbanks and low-lying areas in Madauk should take precautionary measures. — DMH

ME in ROK reduces charges from 1 Aug for workers on leave



Myanmar migrant workers are seen at the airport.

STARTING from 1 August, charges for a recommendation letter and leave form will be collected at 10,000 Korean won, announced by the Myanmar Embassy in the Republic of Korea.

Regarding the announcement by the Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour on the requirement for Myanmar nationals working abroad to obtain recommendations before taking

leave, the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul stated that it had already issued a notice on 30 April 2026 regarding the leave policy for PJ passport holders.

For returnees on leave, payment for a recommendation letter per piece and leave form was previously collected at 40,000 Korean won and 1,000 Korean won, respectively. However, starting from 1 August, it has been reduced to 10,000 Korean won; 9,000 for the recommendation letter and 1,000 for the leave form, it said. — MT/ZS

Advertise
with us / Hotline



09 454237515
09 255597511

NATIONAL

Weekly
Roundup

26 July

Traditional Food Competition and Exhibition commences

Myanmar’s first-ever Traditional Food Competition and Exhibition 2026, held under the theme “Taste of the Golden Land 2026”, organized by the Myanmar Restaurant Association under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture, took place at the Yangon Convention Centre in Yangon, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye.

Deputy Minister for Construction appointed

The President’s Office issued Order 61/2026 to appoint Dr Thaung Naing as Deputy Minister for Construction under Section 234 (a) and (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Clause (ix) of Section 16 (b) of the Union Government Law.

29 July

Red-Carpet Theatre inaugurates

Myanmar’s historic Wazira Cinema in Yangon has been officially reopened as an international-standard Red-Carpet Theatre. It is located on Bogyoke Aung San Road in Kyauktada Township, and the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the reopening ceremony.

Budget laws enacted

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the Amendment to the Law Related to Drafting and Submitting Union Budget (2026), and the Region or State Budget (2026), signed by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing.

MSA hands over technological projects to the State

President U Min Aung Hlaing attended the handover and practical demonstration ceremony of the technological projects completed by the Myanmar Space Agency (MSA) at the Myanmar Space Agency (MSA) in Hline Township, Yangon Region.

President visits National Museum, National Library

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing made inspection tours of the National Library (Yangon) and the National Museum (Yangon).

29 July

Myanmar-Japan Business Forum launched

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum at the Myanmar Convention Centre (Yangon) in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region.

31 July

Ethiopian Ambassador calls on Head of State

A delegation led by Tokyo-based Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Myanmar Mr Daba Debele Hunde, who had completed his tour of duty, paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

West Yangon University observes Silver Jubilee celebration

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye joined the 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) of the West Yangon University under the Ministry of Education on its campus in Yangon.

1 August

President reports 100-Day Progress of the government

As the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has delivered a message of invitation, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address emphasizing the report on 100-day progress of the government in accord with Section 210 of the Constitution and Section 65 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law at the 12th-day meeting of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Anti-Online Scam Law enacted

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted the Anti-Online Scam Law as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 3/2026 on 31 July 2026. — GNLM/TTA

Frontline troops welcomed back in Monghsat



Triumphant Tatmadaw members are seen being warmly welcomed home in Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), the Triangle Region Command.

A ceremony to honour and welcome back Tatmadaw members who returned from frontline duties after conducting security operations to ensure national stability and regional peace was held at a local battalion in Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), yesterday evening.

The event was attended by Triangle Region

Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Myat Htut, officials, departmental personnel, Myanmar Police Force members, war veterans, local militia members and residents.

The returning troops were honoured for performing security duties in frontline areas away from their families, ensuring public safety, stability

and peace across various regions and states. The commander and attendees welcomed them back with traditional offerings and ethnic cultural performances.

The commander also delivered a congratulatory speech and presented cash awards to the returning personnel. — MNA/KZL

300+ returnees of terrorist groups handed over to relevant families

A total of 303 members from terrorist groups, namely KIA, KNU, AA, ABSDF, SAF and PSF, who accept the peace process of the State and Tatmadaw, have rejoined society. Those returnees were handed over to parents and guardians at the hall of the Central Command Headquarters yesterday morning.

On the occasion, the

returnees handed over 10 assorted arms, 17 magazines, 678 rounds of ammunition and 12 grenades to the commander of the Central Command.

The Mandalay Region chief minister and the commander presented cash rewards for arms and ammunition to the returnees and systematically handed over those who returned to the legal

framework to parents and guardians.

More members of the terrorist groups wish to return to the legal fold. If they contact nearby district and township administrative bodies, military camps and police stations, authorities will welcome them with assistance and cash rewards for arms and ammunition.

— MNA/TTA



The reception ceremony for PDF members returning to civilian life is in progress yesterday in Mandalay on 1 August 2026.

NATIONAL

55 container vessels slated to dock at Yangon Port in Aug

YANGON Port will handle 55 container vessels in August 2026, the Myanma Port Authority announced.

Ten container vessels run by M/S Cosco Shipping Line, nine by M/S SITC Shipping Line, six by M/S One Line, five each by M/S Maersk A/S Line, M/S CMA CGM Line and M/S MSC Line, three each by M/S BLPL Shipping Line, M/S Evergreen Asia Line and M/S RCL Line, two each by M/S Samudra Shipping Line and M/S Ti2 Container Line and one by M/S Land and Sea and M/S BAY Line are scheduled to enter the Yangon Port in August.

The Myanma Port Authority (MPA) has expanded maritime trade channels to accommodate rising imports to meet domestic demand, boost exports and enhance port capacity to handle increased vessel arrivals. The MPA said it will promptly notify exporters and importers of any changes to vessel



A merchant vessel is seen berthing alongside the Yangon Port.

arrival schedules.

Yangon Port handled 55 container vessels in July, the same number as in June, compared with 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 each in February and January, and 63 in December 2025.

Following the discovery of the new Kings Bank Channel, providing access to the inner Yangon River, work to increase the navigational draft was accelerated, enabling the port to accommodate larger vessels. On 22 June, the Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line's container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 metres beam, 29,232 GRT and a capacity of 2,698 TEUs) made its maiden call at the Asia World Port Terminal (AWPT), becoming the largest vessel ever handled by the terminal.

— NN/KK

MRF courts Japanese agribusiness investment

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) participated in the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum on 28 July at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township, showcasing local produce, exploring agribusiness investment potential from Japan and signing new partnership agreements.

The federation set up an exhibition booth showcasing Myanmar-registered Japonica rice varieties, premium-quality Myanmar Pawsan rice, value-added rice products and by-products, as well as rice husk fuel pellet production and rice bran oil extraction. It also promoted agribusiness investment opportunities in Myanmar to prospective Japanese investors.

MRF President U Ye Min Aung took part in a panel discussion. The Myanmar Rice Producers



The exhibit booth of the Myanmar Rice Federation at the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum on 28 July at the Myanmar Convention Centre showcases local products.

Association, an affiliated association of the MRF, also signed a memorandum of understanding with Japan's Green Carbon Company, the federation said in a statement.

Myanmar-Japan business leaders observed the booths. Organizers served sushi made with Myanmar rice and traditional Japanese sekihan (sticky rice steamed with red beans) to the guests. Japanese companies have expressed strong interest in purchasing Pawsan rice, sticky rice, and rice-bran oil. Both sides are currently in negotiations to finalize export and sales arrangements, MRF announced.

— NN/KK

RTAD rolls out new fuel QR codes to curb fraud

THE Road Transport Administration Department has introduced a new procedure to reissue QR codes for vehicle owners whose licence plate numbers were fraudulently used by others to purchase fuel.

Vehicle owners affected by the fraudulent purchase are entitled to apply for new codes at their respective RTAD offices in regions and states.

Applicants must present the original vehicle registration certificate, coloured photographs of

the front, rear and sides of the vehicle, and the QR code from the registration certificate for verification.

Once the department has completed its review and verification, the existing QR code will be cancelled and a new one issued. Vehicle owners will then be able to use the new QR code to purchase fuel.

The measure is designed to prevent further misuse of vehicle numbers for unauthorized fuel purchases and to protect the legal rights of vehicle owners. — TWA/KK



This image displays the vehicle registration book and its corresponding QR code.

Yangon International Schools Report Launches 16 Aug

THE Yangon International Schools Industry Report 2026-2027 Launch & Panel Seminar will take place on 26 August in Yangon, organized by MMRD Industry Insight.

Private-school market report launches were previously held in 2019, 2024, and 2025. Last year's event attracted founders, principals, teachers, representatives, new-school investors, and panellists from 53 international and private schools.

This year's seminar will provide attendees with accurate market intelligence on which townships host the most international schools, which institutions hold the largest market share, the most widely adopted curricula, optimal pricing strategies, and grade levels with the highest



The launch of the Yangon International Schools Industry Report 2025-2026 in the previous year.

enrolment.

MMRD Industry Insight, which has 33 years of experience providing business research for domestic and international organizations, will help participants understand the international school market's current value, market size, enrolment conditions, and future outlook.

The event will feature a presentation on the 2026-2027 interna-

transitioning to international status, institutions reconsidering their curriculum, fee structure, or market positioning, and potential investors in the education sector.

Attendees will gain actionable data on Yangon's international school market, accessing critical insights for business planning, learning about market trends, identifying promising schools, networking with other education professionals, receiving a complimentary Education Industry Market Tree chart, and purchasing the full market report at a discounted rate.

Interested individuals can enquire about the event through 09 7654040428 or 09 765404039, or email educationguide@mmrdpub.com. — NN/KK

Stakeholders must work together to ensure food security

FOOD is an essential necessity for all living beings to survive and sustain life. The energy obtained from adequate nutrition supports daily activities, physical growth, intellectual development, and protection against various diseases. Therefore, food can be regarded as one of the most fundamental needs in a human being’s life.

Food security is not only one of the most fundamental needs for a family, but also plays a crucial role in ensuring the stability, peace, prosperity, and sustainable development of a country. Therefore, countries around the world, including Myanmar, have been continuously striving to achieve food abundance and security by focusing on agriculture and livestock breeding.

The State is implementing agriculture and livestock breeding zones in various regions as necessary to ensure that the people have

Only through such cooperation can climate-resilient agricultural and livestock breeding systems and good practices be developed, leading to increased production of agricultural and livestock products. This will help ensure the availability and abundance of safe and nutritious food, while contributing to the sustainable development of the country.

access to adequate food and ease in their daily lives. Such efforts are not primarily aimed at making profits, but rather at enabling the people to purchase and consume sufficient meat, fish, and seasonal crops at affordable prices.

Myanmar has a favourable foundation and natural conditions that enable the extensive operation of agriculture and livestock breeding businesses. In addition, as more than 70 per cent of the country’s population consists of rural residents engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding, there are greater opportunities to successfully develop these sectors. Therefore, to achieve targeted yields in the cultivation of rice and other crops, farmers and agricultural businesses need to systematically follow and apply the methods

of “seed, land, water, and technology.” They should use quality and pure seeds, systematically improve soil conditions, efficiently utilize irrigation water, and apply modern technologies in agricultural and livestock production.

Moreover, priority should be given not merely to expanding cultivated areas, but to increasing productivity per acre. If multiple cropping and intercropping can be practised on existing land resources, farmers’ incomes will increase further. Through the enhancement of agricultural and livestock production in every rural area, local economic activities will become more developed and create more employment opportunities.

As such, all relevant stakeholders, including the government, responsible authorities, and those engaged in agriculture and livestock breeding, must work together collaboratively to ensure food security, the availability of healthy and nutritious food, and the stability and improvement of ecosystems.

Only through such cooperation can climate-resilient agricultural and livestock breeding systems and good practices be developed, leading to increased production of agricultural and livestock products. This will help ensure the availability and abundance of safe and nutritious food, while contributing to the sustainable development of the country.

	Book Title	-	Yekantha Kya Tine Aye The Glass Palace by Amitav Ghosh
	Translator	-	Nay Win Myint
	Publishing House	-	Udayabhaya Village Publishing House
	Publication Date	-	January 2025 (6 th Edition)
	Price	-	K30,000

Yekantha Kya Tine Aye (The Glass Palace by Amitav Ghosh)

YEKANTHA Kya Tine Aye is the Myanmar translation of The Glass Palace, the acclaimed historical novel by Amitav Ghosh. Spanning nearly a century — from the final years of British colonial expansion to the aftermath of World War II — the novel intricately weaves together the histories and lives of people across Myanmar, India, and Malaya into a rich historical tapestry. The story opens in 1885 with the fall of Mandalay during the Third Anglo-Burmese War and the exile of King Thibaw and Queen Supayalat by the British. The Myanmar edition was translated by renowned Mandalay writer Nay Win Myint under the title Yekantha Kya Tine Aye (A Lotus Pond Forever Cool). Widely regarded as one of his finest

literary translations, it won the 2010 National Literary Award for Translation (Aestheticism). One of the translation’s greatest strengths is Nay Win Myint’s elegant writing style. Despite the complexity of the original novel, he succeeds in making the story accessible and engaging for Myanmar readers while faithfully preserving its essence. Dividing the novel into seven major sections, he carefully retains both the historical depth and literary beauty of the original work. Why the Title Yekantha Kya Tine Aye: The translator explained that although The Glass Palace could have been translated literally as “The Glass Palace” or “The Crystal Palace”, he felt such a direct rendering lacked literary charm in Myanmar. After much

thought, he recalled the classic Aungmyaythazan Patpyo (traditional Myanmar classical song) composed by Prince Pakhan, a cherished work of traditional Myanmar literature that exposes the longing of an exiled prince for his homeland. He was also inspired by the late translator Mya Than Tint, who translated M M Kae’s The Far Pavilions as ‘Shwepyidaw Hmyaw Tine Way’ (The Golden Land Seems Ever Farther Away the More One Yearns for It). Admiring how that title beautifully reflected both the spirit of the novel and the original title, Nay Win Myint sought a similarly poetic expression. Thus, he chose the evocative title Yekantha Kya Tine Aye. Meeting the Author: In his

preface, Nay Win Myint recounts meeting Amitav Ghosh during the Southeast Asia Literature and Art Festival held at Brown University in Rhode Island, the United States. He and fellow Myanmar writer Myo Myint Nyein attended the event as invitees. During their meeting, Nay Win Myint apologized for translating The Glass Palace without first seeking permission. Ghosh responded with understanding and expressed that he was honoured that his novel had been translated into Myanmar.

Ghosh also shared his hope of visiting Myanmar, particularly Mandalay, explaining that the novel held deep personal significance because his own ancestors had served on the Burmese front during the colonial era. He said he had written the novel with great emotional commitment and was delighted by its international success.

Opening Lines: The novel begins with a vivid scene in which the distant thunder of approaching events rolls across the plains towards Mandalay’s western city walls. Among those who sense what is coming is an eleven-year-old Indian boy named Kumar, whose life will become intertwined with the sweeping historical changes that follow.

	Book Title	-	Centenary and Beyond Mandalay (Aesthetic Articles in Mandalay settings)
	Author	-	Sue Hnget
	Publishing House	-	Pyi Myanmar
	Publication Date	-	June 2026 (1 st Edition)
	Price	-	K30,000

Centenary and Beyond Mandalay (Aesthetic Articles in Mandalay settings)

SAYA’S Sue Hnget’s Centenary and Beyond Mandalay is a compilation of compelling aesthetic literary works rich with explorations of Mandalay society, landscape and history. This is not a typical travelogue one often finds in bookstores, but a masterpiece that captures the soul of Mandalay City, once the golden royal capital of Myanmar. This book dives deep into the historical tales of the Mandalay Palace, King Bagan, and King Mindon. It serves as a living, breathing and complex character, mapping out emotional and physical portraits of the city through modern cafes, street food shops, ancient pagoda foundations, and contemporary buildings. Every page is crafted to let readers feel

the heart of Mandalay City where the scent, the sounds, and the light collide in a rush of life. The author offers a balanced reflection on the conflict between urban development and historical heritage. The author, Sue Hnget, stated that on the 6th Waning of Kason 1388 ME, Mandalay marked its 167th year as a city. I, too, have written over a hundred articles about Mandalay. I have already compiled and published over forty books from those pieces, and I am still writing for daily newspapers, weekly journals, and online media. The Pyi Myanmar Publishing House has selected and compiled my 109 artworks into this special collection to mark the 167th anniversary of Mandalay.

titled “My Dear Ko Shwe Lu, I don’t even love you,” begins with the lines of a song: “Mandalay, the golden city, Our Yadanabon capital, So graceful, so prosperous. In those days, Let us not dwell on those thoughts, but move forward and plan afresh”. The singer, composer and lyricist A1 Saya Hnya and Myoma Association encouraged people to rebuild the city with renewed strength after the war. But the people were suffering from post-traumatic stress. The war had left the city in ruins, and many had to search for their own homes and set up temporary shelters. The unyielding spirit of the local communities remains the true foundation for restoring the war-torn urban landscape to a recovering city. The war left behind moral decay and social erosion, functioning as a destructive generational inheritance. The gambling and illegal entertainment activities that came with foreign soldiers led Myanmar young people who were at an age of curiosity and adventure astray. What we learnt is that the collapse of education during the war caused deeper devastation than the loss of jobs.



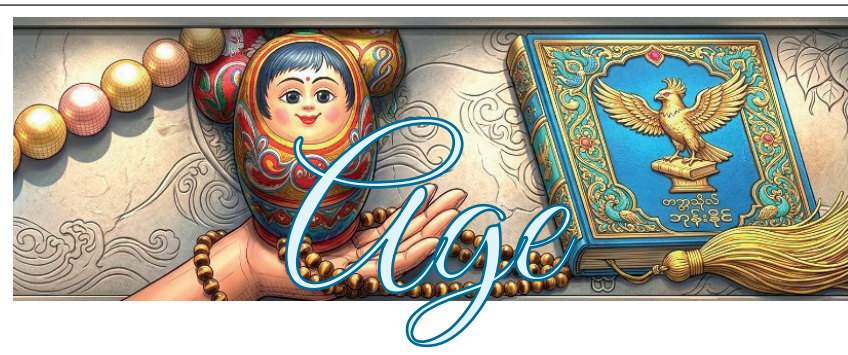
By Ms Moon

A Night Like This

Beneath the moon’s soft silver light,
The stars above shine clear and bright.
I hold my love both warm and near,
Our hearts are filled with joy sincere.

A gentle breeze begins to play,
It carries all our fears away.
A shooting star lights up the sky,
Our dreams together soar and fly.

This peaceful night will never fade,
For precious memories have been made.
As long as love remains in sight,
We’ll treasure every starry night.



By Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)

In the region upper,
As always, the festival of the pagoda.

In the crowded long stalls,
Having it in mind for her to wear,
A string of pearls was bought.

But next year
Differently from the stall
A chubby toy was bought.

And the next year for the bookshelf,
Of choice at a half-price cost,
Just from the stall, books were bought.

In what year and which situation
Was a string of holy beads bought?

အရွယ်

ဓလေ့အညာ
ရိုးရာစဉ်မြို့ ဘုရားပွဲတည့်။

ဈေးတန်းကရှည်၊ လူကစည်၏
ရွယ်ရည်စိတ်ထဲ၊ သူ့လည်ဆွဲဖို့
ပုလဲတစ်ကုံးဝယ်ခဲ့သည့်။

နောက်တစ်နှစ်မို့
မတူဆန္ဒ၊ ဈေးတန်းကလွှင့်
ဦးဝအရုပ်ဝယ်ရပြီ။

သည်နောက်နှစ်တွင်၊ စာအုပ်စင်တွက်
လိုချင်ရာရွေး၊ တစ်ဝက်ကြေးနှင့်
ဈေးတန်းကပင် ဝယ်တော့သည့်။

ဘယ်နှစ်သော်တုံ၊ ဘယ်သွင်ကြုံ၍
ဂုဏ်တော်ပုဂံဝယ်မိလိမ့်။

ဘုတလင်ချစ်လေး



Food Security

By Min Min Zan

Across the fields where golden harvests shine,
We sow with hope in every careful line.
With fertile soil and rains from skies above,
Our land will bloom through labour, care, and love.

Good seeds, rich earth, and water pure and clear,
Bring stronger crops to feed us year by year.
With skill and science guiding every hand,
We build a brighter future for our land.

Together let us work with heart and might,
To keep our nation’s future safe and bright.
With food secure, our dreams will proudly grow,
And peace and prosperity freely flow.

NATIONAL

Entertainment

Academy actor holds Waso robes donation event



ACADEMY Khant Si Thu and his family donated K10 million on 30 July towards Waso robes and a Padethabin offering of the four monastic requisites for monks residing at Dhamma Vihara Pathamakyaw Monastery in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.

"We are offering Waso robes today. We also donated alms meals to more than 200 monks from Dhamma Vihara Pathamakyaw Monastery and Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, along with a cash donation of K10 million. The monastery still lacks adequate infrastructure. Many of the old buildings and the ordination hall have deteriorated, with leaking roofs, while the monks' residence has also suffered damage due to large trees growing around it. My mother wished to help restore the monastery after attending meditation retreats here. As her health is no longer good, I wanted to fulfil her wish while she is still able to make these donations herself," said Khant Si Thu.

On 26 July, the actor also donated K1 million to the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Conservation Association in support of a traditional Myanmar marionette-making training programme. — ASH/KTZH



Autobiography of Academy Awards winner launched

THE launch ceremony for the autobiography of Academy Awards winner and Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Sithu Myint Myint Khin was held at M3 Food Centre on 25 July.

During the event, Sithu Myint Myint Khin, now aged 92, performed the classic song Na Pan San together with her five daughters.

The ceremony was attended by officials from the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization and the Ministry of Information, alongside distinguished figures from the arts and cultural community and invitees. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Screen legend inspires youths to self-effort

ACADEMY May Than Nu has expressed her wish to support children who are unable to attend school, while stressing that they must also be committed to their own education.

"Whenever I see children of school age who cannot attend school, I naturally want to help them. However, they also need to make an effort themselves, and I hope they will continue striving for their education," she said.

Her remarks received positive responses online, with many praising her compassion and describing her message as an inspiration for young people. — TWA/KTZH



'King Bimbisara' comes alive again at Wazira Cinema



THE Phoe Chit traditional theatrical troupe has presented the grand stage performance King Bimbisara at Wazira Cinema, attracting enthusiastic audiences with its rich display of Myanmar's traditional performing arts.

The performance portrays the deep devotion of King Bimbisara, one of the Buddha's foremost royal patrons, his donation of the historic Veluvana Monastery, and the tragic story of Prince Ajatasattu's misguided actions against his father.

Audiences praised the emotionally moving performances and high artistic quality of the production, with many describing it as both inspiring and deeply touching. — TWA/KTZH

Theatrical rising star to perform at National Theatre in Sept

SAN YAY MOE traditional theatre troupe, renowned for preserving Myanmar's theatrical heritage while incorporating contemporary presentation, will stage its regular monthly performances at the National Theatre (Yangon) on 19 and 20 September.

The troupe has worked consistently to establish monthly performances at the National Theatre and has now reached another significant milestone in its artistic journey. The September performances will be organized with Panhtwa Entertainment's support. "We aim to create a stronger bridge between artistes, audiences



and organizers while ensuring that the beauty of Myanmar's traditional theatre reaches a wider audience," an official of Panhtwa Entertainment said. — TWA/KTZH

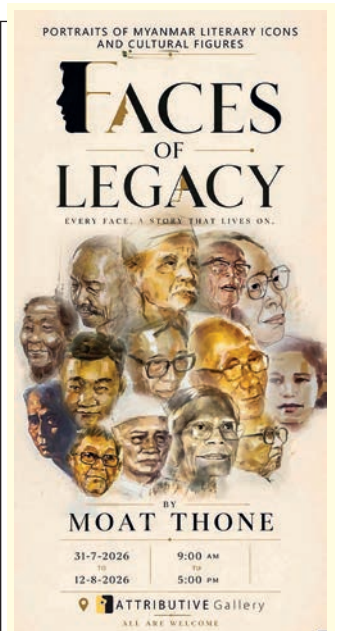


Academy actor shares father's journey

ACADEMY Nay Win has shared his heartfelt reflections on becoming a father, saying, "I was once simply Nay Win, but now I am Ra's father, and I am proud to be known by that title."

He thanked his fans for their unwavering support, noting that the affection shown towards his daughter reflects both the Myanmar people's love for children and her own endearing charm.

Following his emotional remarks about fatherhood and family life, many fans expressed their admiration online, offering messages of encouragement and affection for both father and daughter. — TWA/KTZH



Moat Thone brings Myanmar's literary legends to life

RENOWNED artist Moat Thone will present a portrait exhibition titled Faces of Legacy (Portraits of Myanmar Literary Icons and Cultural Figures) from 31 July to 12 August at Namawithethana Art Gallery, according to Seikku Cho Cho Publishing House.

The exhibition will be held alongside the publisher's annual book fair with special discounts on its publications. It will take place on the fifth floor of the SKCC Building, No 7/8, Myanmar-Sri Lanka Rama Monastery Road, Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township, from 10 am to 5 pm daily.

"The portraits in Faces of Legacy of Saya Moat Thone are not merely depictions of renowned figures from Myanmar's literary, poetic and artistic circles. Through their eyes and expressions, the works reflect the eras they lived through, their inner emotions, the spirit of their times and their enduring humanity. The exhibition illustrates that the legacies they left behind continue to live on, not only in history but also in the hearts and memories of future generations. We warmly invite art lovers to experience this exhibition," said a responsible person of the gallery. — Htun Htun/KTZH

WORLD

Lebanese president warns Israeli blasts threaten talks

LEBANESE President Joseph Aoun said on Friday that Israel’s massive explosions in southern Lebanon threaten the implementation of the framework agreement and risk undermining diplomatic negotiations ahead of a meeting in Rome to discuss its implementation.

“The timing of these attacks, on the eve of the session scheduled in Rome to continue discussions on implementing the trilateral framework, sends negative messages and undermines international efforts aimed at consolidating stability,” Aoun said in a statement.

Powerful Israeli explosions shook the area surrounding Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon early Friday, causing damage to several homes.

The resulting shockwaves were felt across large parts of southern Lebanon, according to Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency. — Xinhua



President Joseph Aoun delivers a televised address to the Lebanese people from the presidential palace. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Indian Prime Minister Modi speaks with UK PM Burnham

The two leaders agreed to boost collaboration in technology, defence, clean energy, education and innovation.

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with the newly elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Andy Burnham and said both countries would work closely to fully harness the trade and investment opportunities presented by the recently operationalized India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

In a post on X, PM Modi said he was delighted to speak with the UK Prime Minister and again congratulated him on assuming office, conveying his best wishes for a successful tenure.

“Delighted to speak with Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Andy Burnham. Congratulated him on as-



Two leaders are exploring trade and investment opportunities under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). PHOTO: ANI

suming office and conveyed my best wishes for a successful tenure,” PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation across key areas, including tech-

nology, innovation, defence, security, clean energy, education and people-to-people ties, while taking the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to new heights.

According to the

statement from the UK Government on the conversation between the two leaders, Burnham discussed the strength of the UK-India partnership and its impact on local communities across the United Kingdom. — ANI

Iranian FM warns Britain against cooperation with US strikes on Iran

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi has warned Britain against any military cooperation with the United States in carrying out strikes on Iran.

Araghchi made the remarks during a phone call with British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband on Friday, stressing that any cooperation with “aggressors”, including under the pretext of existing defense agreements, would be “unacceptable”, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday.

Araghchi criticized what he described as the British government’s “un-

justified and inappropriate” policies toward Iran, citing London’s recent designation of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guard Corps as a national securi-

ty threat and its “complicity” in two wars imposed by the United States and Israel against Iran in recent months. He called on Britain to reconsider its

approach toward Tehran.

He said that under international law and the Convention for the Definition of Aggression, allowing a country’s territory and facilities to be used for illegal attacks against another state constitutes an act of aggression and gives the attacked country the right to self-defence.

Araghchi said Iran had entered a diplomatic process with the United States in good faith and signed a memorandum of understanding with Washington in June aimed at ending the conflict, but Washington failed to honour its commitments. — Xinhua



France and the United Kingdom have assembled a coalition of countries to help restore maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan sign Treaty on Alliance Relations

KYRGYZ President Sadyr Japarov and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Friday signed the Treaty on Alliance Relations between the two countries in Cholpon-Ata during the Azerbaijani leader’s state visit to Kyrgyzstan, according to the Kyrgyz president’s press service.

Earlier in the day, the two leaders held talks, after which they made statements to the media.

Japarov described the signing of the treaty as a major outcome of their discussions. “This truly historic event marks a new stage in Kyrgyz-Azerbaijani cooperation,” he emphasized.

The Kyrgyz president also noted the signing of a substantial package of bilateral agreements covering energy, transport, cybersecurity, education, financial market regulation, and the circulation of precious metals. “The agreements reached confirm the mutual desire of Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan to further deepen allied relations,” he said. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD

French, Italian winegrowers
face earliest ever harvest

This early harvest is attributed to recent abnormal heatwaves, a clear sign of climate change impacting agriculture.

SCORCHING summer temperatures have disrupted life for millions of Europeans, but for winegrowers in Italy and France, who are harvesting grapes unusually early, the hot weather offers both advantages and challenges.

In a historic shift, the grape harvest in Oltrepo Pavese, northern Italy, has begun in July for the first time, coinciding with similar developments in southern France. The harvest started around 27 or 28 July, well ahead of the usual August 10-15 timeframe, according to Matteo Castellani of Coldiretti.

This early harvest is attributed to recent abnormal heatwaves, a clear sign of climate change im-



Gleyzes had to uproot 30 per cent of his vines in 2025 after two years of acute drought in Mediterranean France. **PHOTO: AFP**

impacting agriculture. Farmers now face the challenge of predicting harvest quality amid rising sugar concentrations caused by record temperatures and drought.

While initial reports indicate that grape maturation and alcohol levels

are optimal, experts warn that continued heat could force an even earlier harvest, potentially affecting wine quality. The early start signals a significant shift for winegrowers across Italy and Europe, as they adapt to changing climate patterns.

In southern France, months of soaring temperatures have also led to an early harvest. “A July 30 start is exceptional, to say the least,” said Alain Gleyzes, a winegrower in La Palme in the southern region of Aude. He began harvesting Muscat grapes at night on Thursday, destined for sparkling white wine.

“I’m in the wine business 43 years, and it’s the first time in my life I’ve been harvesting in July,” he noted.

Scientists say human-driven climate change is intensifying extreme weather events like heatwaves, droughts, and floods, making them more frequent and severe. — AFP

New York sues online
prediction markets
giant Kalshi

NEW York’s attorney-general sued betting platform Kalshi on Friday, accusing it of operating an illegal gambling business. The lawsuit claims Kalshi exposes New Yorkers to significant personal and financial risks, seeking to halt its operations, order restitution, and impose fines. Prediction markets like Kalshi have gained popularity as alternatives to traditional polling and sports betting, but concerns about corruption and insider trading have grown.

Allegations include secret efforts to target

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and risky bets on US-Iran conflicts. Notably, Trump’s former teleprompter operator and Donald Trump Jr, an investor in rival Polymarket, are linked to the industry, highlighting political ties.

Kalshi claims to be a federally regulated “event contracts” exchange, not a sportsbook, but New York officials argue otherwise. Attorney-General Letitia James emphasized that prediction markets are gambling platforms that violate state laws, harming residents. — AFP



New York sues online prediction markets giant Kalshi over regulatory and legal concerns. **PHOTO: AFP**

Forever chemicals and pesticides:
what to know

SINCE returning to power, President Donald Trump’s administration has approved five new pesticides many scientists and environmental advocates label as PFAS “forever chemicals”, a class of highly toxic substances being phased out globally.



Pesticides protect crops but may harm human health and the environment. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

However, the EPA’s alternative definition of PFAS excludes these pesticides, claiming they pose no threat to human health. The last three approvals were made without official press statements, surfacing only when nonprofits publicized them.

Critics warn these chemicals may pose hidden risks; many break down into trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), now widespread in drinking water and linked to serious health issues, including fetal and reproductive harm.

PFAS are characterized by their carbon-fluorine bonds, which give them durability and water-repelling properties, leading to their use in firefighting foam, nonstick cookware, and raincoats.

Evidence links PFAS to cancers, immune disorders, and reproductive issues, prompting lawsuits, new laws, and corporate phase-outs. The OECD adopted a broad definition

in 2021, but the EPA under Biden narrowed it in 2023, excluding chemicals with only one fully-fluorinated carbon atom.

During Trump’s term, five more pesticides fall under this narrower definition. Critics argue this approach ignores potential health risks, especially since many pesticides break down into TFA, now prevalent in water.

Former industry lobbyists in senior EPA roles reportedly influenced agency language, further complicating regulation efforts. Experts advocate for the precautionary principle, emphasizing the need for stricter oversight to protect public health. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

India approves \$8.81 bln offshore oil
and gas exploration plan

INDIA said Friday it will provide \$8.8 billion in financial support for offshore oil and gas exploration as part of its efforts to reduce its heavy reliance on energy imports.

India, the world’s third-largest importer of oil and the second-largest buyer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), has faced major disruptions due to restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz driven by conflict between the United States and Iran.

To cushion the impact, New Delhi has expanded its pool of crude suppliers from 27 to 41 countries, including Venezuela, while increasing purchases from Russia and several African nations. — AFP

Dutch inflation rises above 3% in July

STATISTICS Netherlands (CBS) said on Friday that the Netherlands' inflation rate rose to 3.1 per cent in July with flash estimate, up from 2.9 per cent in June.

According to CBS, higher oil prices were the main driver of the increase. In July, prices of energy and motor fuels rose 9.7 per cent year-on-year, compared with a six per cent increase in June. Service prices were unchanged, while prices of non-energy goods rose 0.8 per cent, slightly faster than in June.

In February, before the Middle East conflict, inflation in the Nether-

lands stood at 2.4 per cent. It rose to 3.5 per cent in May, partly due to higher airfares resulting from increased fuel costs. Inflation then eased to 2.9 per cent in June as energy and motor fuel prices rose at a slower pace.

Marcel Klok, senior economist at ING Netherlands, said earlier this month that inflation could remain volatile for the rest of 2026, as prices for expiring household energy contracts were still trending upward and other consumer prices might continue to reflect the lagged effects of the earlier energy price spike. — Xinhua

WTO says global goods trade growth exceeds expectations in Q1

THE World Trade Organization (WTO) released the latest data on Friday which showed that global merchandise trade growth exceeded expectations in the first quarter of 2026, as surging trade in electronic components related to artificial intelligence (AI) offset the negative impact of the Middle East conflict.

According to the data, the seasonally adjusted volume of world merchandise trade rose by 1.9 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 3.2 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of this year.

In value terms, global merchandise trade increased by two per cent from the previous quarter



File photo shows the Pasir Panjang wharves in Singapore. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

and by 11 per cent from the same quarter of 2025. The year-on-year growth rate recorded in the first quarter

of 2026 is particularly noteworthy, given that trade growth in the first quarter of 2025 had been largely

driven by front-loading of imports in North America ahead of expected tariff hikes. — Xinhua

Amazon beats expectations with cloud and AI growth



Amazon's revenue surged in the second quarter, the company said. PHOTO: AFP

AMAZON beat analysts' expectations on Thursday when it reported growth in overall revenue and sales, particularly in its cloud, artificial intelligence and chips divisions.

Its revenue increased 20 per cent to more than \$200 billion in the second quarter, com-

pared to last year, with its cloud business, Amazon Web Services, jumping 37 per cent to reach \$42.2 billion.

The company meanwhile said that two of its AI-related divisions grew by "triple-digit percentages" — its AI cloud and chips businesses each "exceeded" \$25

billion annual revenue run rates, a measure of recurring sales.

Amazon stock jumped by more than seven per cent after hours.

The company is working to show that its heavy investments in artificial intelligence, alongside the rest of the tech

sector, are paying off.

AWS is "booming", Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said during a call with analysts Thursday afternoon.

He added that the company believes AWS alone could "very possibly be a trillion-dollar annual revenue business for us in time". — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V TRADER VOY.NO. (SB630A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TRADER VOY. NO. (SB630A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (178W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (178W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0404N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0404N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

AUGUST 1

EU to expand enforcement of AI Act from 2 August

UNDER the rules, chatbots and other interactive AI systems must inform users that they are interacting with AI rather than a human. AI-generated or altered images, videos and audio, including deepfakes, must be clearly labelled and carry machine-readable markings.

The requirements are aimed at reducing deception and manipulation while helping users identify AI-generated content, the Commission said.

The Commission's AI Office will enforce rules covering providers of general-purpose AI models, including advanced models that may pose systemic risks. — Xinhua



Server racks inside a data centre. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

JULY 31

Portugal approves 33% solidarity tax on oil profits

PORTUGAL'S Council of Ministers approved a temporary windfall tax on the excess profits of oil extraction and refining companies, becoming the first of five European Union countries that had urged the European Commission to authorize such a measure to put forward concrete legislation.

The Temporary Solidarity Contribution on the Petroleum Sector will impose a 33 per cent levy on the portion of a company's 2026 profits that exceeds by more than 20 per cent the average profits recorded in 2024 and 2025.

The tax will be assessed and paid by the end of September 2027.

The measure targets extraordinary profits resulting exclusively from external market circumstances.

Revenue from the tax will be directed toward supporting households and sectors most affected by rising fuel costs. — Xinhua

JULY 30

Cuba to open pharmacies, gas to private firms

CUBA moved to open several crisis-ravaged sectors of its economy to private firms, as the communist government tried to ease acute shortages of basic goods and services resulting from a US energy blockade.

In a lengthy decree, the authorities lifted restrictions on a swath of sectors hard-hit by the crisis — including petrol distribution, port services, aged care and pharmacies.

The move represents a loosening of decades-old communist doctrine as the party tries to withstand its biggest crisis since the death of longtime leader Fidel Castro and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

For months, daily life in Cuba has been upended by rolling blackouts, water cuts and shortages of basic necessities. Cubans who once feared government reprisals now criticize the country's leaders. — AFP

JULY 29

Boeing reports loss on Air Force One

BOEING reported a bigger-than-expected loss Tuesday fuelled by \$280 million in additional costs in outfitting two US presidential planes, but said broad-based revenue growth showed progress after several troubled years.

The US aerospace giant scored an eight percent increase in revenues to \$24.6 billion on increased commercial plane deliveries and higher volume in defence, space and security. Boeing reported a second-quarter loss of \$428 million, smaller than in the year-ago period, but bigger than projected by analysts.

The results included \$280 million in losses on the VC-25B programme for the presidential plane, Air Force One, which has been beset by delays and cost overruns.

The latest Air Force One expenses are for "additional production and certification resources", Boeing said in its earnings press release. The original 2018 contract was to modify and outfit two 747-8 aircraft for presidential use. The contract aimed for initial delivery of an Air Force One aircraft by the end of 2024. — AFP

JULY 28

Nepal's first road tunnel opens

NEPAL has inaugurated the Nagdhunga-Sisnekhola tunnel, the country's first modern road tunnel, built with assistance from Japan.

The 2,688-metre tunnel was opened by Minister for Infrastructure Development Sunil Lamsal and Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Maeda Toru. The tunnel is expected to reduce travel time, improve road connectivity and safety, including lowering the risk of landslides along the route. The project has also raised concerns in a nearby village over water shortages and damage to some homes linked to its construction.

The tunnel, funded largely through Japanese concessional loans, marks a milestone in Nepal's transport infrastructure, promising significant fuel savings, reduced emissions, and faster movement of goods and passengers between Kathmandu and western Nepal. — ANI

JULY 27

Yoon's election voided over suspended sentence

SOUTH Korea's former President Yoon Suk-yeol faced the nullification of his election over a suspended prison sentence for election law violations linked to false statements during the presidential campaign, live footage showed Monday.

The Seoul Central District Court sentenced Yoon to one and a half years in prison, suspended for three years, saying Yoon disseminated false information during the presidential campaign in violation of the election act.

The team of Min Joong-ki, an independent counsel who led an investigation into corruption allegations involving Yoon and his wife, sought a two-year prison term for violating the Public Official Election Act.

Election invalidated if final fine exceeds 1 million won. — Xinhua

JULY 26

Houthi attacked 3 Saudi oil tankers

YEMEN'S Houthi group had targeted three Saudi oil tankers over the past 48 hours, a source within the group, cited by Lebanon-based broadcaster Al Mayadeen, said on Sunday. The source said the attacks were part of efforts to enforce the group's maritime ban on Saudi shipping.

The source claimed that no Saudi tankers have passed through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea, since the blockade was imposed last Monday, alleging that "16 Saudi ships have been turned back and denied passage".

The claims could not be independently verified, and there was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities or the Saudi-led coalition. — Xinhua

SPORTS

German FA calls for 'full investigation' into FIFA proposal

THE German FA (DFB) on Saturday called for a "full investigation" into the development of FIFA's World Cup private investment plan, while demanding a "fundamental cultural change" at the governing body.

FIFA on Saturday scrapped a controversial plan pushed by president Gianni Infantino which would have allowed private investment in the World Cup, after resistance from UEFA and other continental confederations.

The DFB, who joined UEFA in opposing the proposal and calling for a boycott of FIFA competitions including the World Cup, on Saturday called for more transparency about the proposal.

"The FIFA President acted unilaterally, without transparency, and ultimately irresponsibly regarding the interests of football," DFB President Bernd Neuendorf told AFP subsidiary SID in response to an inquiry. "Together with UEFA and other confederations, we must ensure that a fundamentally different culture takes hold at FIFA — a culture where, above all, decisions are once again discussed and made by members within the governing bodies."

The DFB joined their English counterparts, the FA, who called for "a full and robust review of FIFA's leadership and governance to ensure that the global game is run transparently," on social media. — AFP



German FA boss Bernd Neuendorf hit out against FIFA's plan and called for an investigation into how it was developed. PHOTO: AFP

AC Milan legend Baresi dies at 66

AC Milan on Friday confirmed the death of club legend Franco Baresi at the age of 66.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest defenders in football history, Baresi spent his entire 20-year professional career with the Rossoneri, winning three European Cup/UEFA Champions League titles and six Serie A crowns. AC Milan retired his No 6 shirt following his retirement.

At international level, Baresi earned 81 caps for Italy and was part of the country's 1982 World Cup-winning squad. He was inducted into the Italian Football Hall of Fame in 2013. — Xinhua

Maresca's first Man City outing ends in shootout defeat to Inter

ENZO Maresca's first game as Manchester City manager ended in defeat on penalties after drawing 1-1 with Inter Milan in a friendly in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Matteo Lavelli netted the decisive spot-kick for a 3-1 shootout win for the Italian champions as Maresca led out City for the first time since taking over from legendary Pep Guardiola in June.

An open first half saw City take the lead in 14 minutes when Antoine Semenyo jinked towards the byline and crossed for youngster Divin Mubama to tuck in from a few yards out.

Semenyo was a constant menace and almost scored a wonderful solo goal soon afterwards when he weaved through several Inter defenders but could not squeeze the ball past goalkeeper Josep Martinez.



Manchester City's goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma (C) catches the ball against Inter Milan in Hong Kong. PHOTO: AFP

Within minutes the Italian champions equalised when City failed to clear a Jamal Idrissou cross and the ball fell for Benjamin Pavard to slot home from near the penalty spot.

Both sides missed golden chances soon after the restart but the game began to drift as the substitutions piled up.

City's Vitor Reis sliced a shot against the crossbar while young winger Ryan McAidoo hit the post as the Manchester club pushed for a late winner that never came.

Maresca took over in June and faces a tough task to succeed Guardiola, who won 20 trophies in a glorious decade at City.

Many clubs have struggled after the exit of serial title-winning managers, with local rivals Manchester United notably falling from the pinnacle of the English game after Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. — AFP

Richarlison, Tonali fire 10-man Spurs to 2-1 Sydney win over Chelsea

BRAZIL striker Richarlison scored a 90th-minute winner and club record signing Sandro Tonali got his first goal as 10-man Tottenham beat London rivals Chelsea 2-1 in a feisty pre-season friendly in Sydney on Saturday.

Both sides fielded strong line-ups and Spurs struck first on 19 minutes through Tonali's deflected shot before Estevao levelled the scores barely two minutes later.

Tottenham defender Kevin Danso was given a straight red card just three minutes after coming off the bench at the



New signing Sandro Tonali scored his first goal for Tottenham in their clash against Chelsea in Sydney. PHOTO: AFP

break for bringing down Joao Pedro, with Chelsea dominating second-half proceedings.

But in front of 80,363 fans at Stadium Australia, they failed to capitalize and Spurs stunned them with a late winner.

"Very happy, especially for the first half because we played very well," said Spurs manager Roberto De Zerbi.

"The red card was no good for us, but also (not) for Chelsea because with the condition of the pitch, all players behind the line of the ball, it was tough for them.

"But we won a good game, a good test."

The loss means new Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso will head to Hong Kong for a clash with Juventus on Wednesday on the back of his first defeat, following a 6-4 victory over Western Sydney Wanderers in midweek.

"It was a really competitive game," said Alonso. — AFP

Japan urged to debate limiting youth social media use

Japan considers international developments for youth online protection measures.

A panel of experts on Thursday urged the Japanese government to accelerate discussion on whether to introduce blanket age-based restrictions on social media use, amid efforts by other nations to protect young people from harmful content, addiction and health problems.

In addition to stricter age verification, the panel, convened by the Children and Families Agency, also called for measures requiring social media operators to follow protocols to provide safer services for young users, as well as penalties for violations of the regulations. The panel included the recommendations in an interim report released on Thursday, with its final version expected around December. The agency aims to submit legislation to revise relevant laws during the regular Diet session next year. The initiative comes amid moves by overseas countries to implement similar bans. Last December, Australia began enforcing the world's first law prohibiting people under the age of 16 from holding accounts



This image shows a group of young girls engaged in a coordinated pose. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/ TIKTOK**

on some social media platforms, including Instagram and TikTok.

In Australia's case, social media operators face fines if they fail to take reasonable measures to prevent underage users from creating accounts. Children and their guardians are not subject to penalties.

Britain, Canada and the European Union are also

planning to introduce regulations on the use of social media by young people.

Regarding age restrictions, the interim report said, "It is important to take international developments into account, continue discussions within the government, and develop a protection framework that reflects the realities of Japan." — Kyodo

S Korea's biggest AI users are also driving reading boom

SOUTH Koreans in their 20s and 30s, the country's most avid users of artificial intelligence, are also driving a reading renaissance that is reshaping the domestic publishing market.

The share of South Korean adults who read at least one book a year, whether in print, digital or audio format, has steadily declined for more than a decade, falling from 72.2 per cent in 2013 to 38.5 per cent in 2025, according to the culture ministry's 2025 National Reading Survey.

Young adults, however, appear to be going against the trend as they maintain the highest reading participation among adults.

The reading rate among people in their 20s stood at 75.3 per cent and among those in their 30s at 66.4 per cent, while a separate government survey by the science ministry on internet usage found that the same age groups also had the highest rates of generative AI use, at 75.3 per cent and 71.1 per cent, respectively.

Their enthusiasm was on full display at the Seoul International Book Fair, held at the COEX convention center in late June, with lines snaking around the venue before the doors

Book sales surge among youth, inspired by digital and social sharing.

opened at 10 am. Crowds flocked to booths run by major publishers including Minumsa, while a booth where visitors picked a bookmark and received a matching book recommendation drew one of the longest queues of the day. Oh Da Young, a 21-year-old university student, stood in a long checkout line at the Minumsa booth holding an armful of thick literary classics.

She said she read 24 books last year, ten times the national adult average, and has set an even higher goal for this year, driven in part by a small reading circle with two friends, where they swap books and share

reviews.

"I became interested in books because the people around me like reading," Oh said, adding that she prefers physical books to electronic ones, noting that "when you actually buy a book with your own money, you really feel like you own it". Minumsa has emerged as a standout example of the trend, with revenue surging 23.8 per cent in 2025 even as the overall trade book market shrank 6.9 per cent, pushing it from 11th to eighth place among major publishers, according to the Korean Publishers Association's annual market report. — Kyodo



People browse books at a booth at the Seoul International Book Fair on 24 June 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Who is Nirmal Purja, the renowned Nepali climber?

Purja summited 14 highest peaks in just over six months.



Nirmal Purja. **PHOTO: NIRMAL PURJA/INSTAGRAM**

ACCLAIMED British-Nepali climber Nirmal Purja, who is missing after an avalanche on Pakistan's Broad

Peak, is a trailblazer who summited the world's tallest mountains and smashed records.

Purja, 43, served with Britain's Brigade of Gurkhas and then the Special Boat Squadron of the Royal Marines before becoming a full-time mountaineer and guide. In 2019, he famously completed the summit of the 14 highest peaks in the world in just over six months, shattering the previous record of seven years.

The determined climber had the 14 mountains tattooed across his back, complete with swirling clouds and Tibetan prayer flags. His efforts were chronicled in a 2021 Netflix documentary, inspiring a new wave of climbers.

But Purja has also faced criticism for his use of guides, oxygen and fixed

ropes, as well as helicopters to go from one base camp to another.

In 2021, Purja made history with the first winter ascent of the treacherous K2, the world's second-highest peak, along with a team of nine other Nepali climbers. Purja wrote on X this week that he was close to becoming the first person to climb

all 14 "super peaks" twice without oxygen. "Broad Peak, I ask for nothing but safe passage up and back down," he wrote.

"My purpose has never been about me. It's about what I represent. It's about showing YOU that your own mountains — whatever they are — are climbable." — AFP