

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

NATIONAL PAGE 5



NPT herbal park to support MDY traditional medicine production

NATIONAL PAGE 7



Doh Eain to organize Women in Construction II kick-off session

Magway Region targets nearly 40,000 acres of long-staple cotton this FY



Farmers work in the long-staple cotton field in Pantawpyin Village-tract, Minhla Township, on 1 August 2026.

A total of 39,749 acres of long-staple cotton are planned for cultivation in Minhla Township, Magway Region, during the current financial year, with 7,858 acres planted to date, according to the Magway Region Department of Agriculture.

The Magway Region Chief Minister accompanied by regional ministers, met cotton growers in Pantawpyin Village-tract, Minhla Township, on 1 August. During the visit, he distributed compound fertilizers to long-staple cotton farmers and overviewed a two-acre high-yield model plot of long-staple cotton cultivated by farmer U Aung Thura.

The Chief Minister and party also visited a tissue-culture banana plantation in Pantawpyin Village. — Win Myat (Upper Minhla)/KNN

Myanmar pledges support for southern Shan coffee farmers to boost exports

The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development has pledged to provide financial assistance and essential agricultural inputs to coffee growers in Shan State (South) to expand production and increase coffee exports.

The commitment was made by Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein during a visit on 1 August to the Green Gold Coffee Cooperative and the Coffee-Neo processing factory in Hopong Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

During the inspection tour, the Union minister

SEE PAGE 4



Farm workers handpick coffee beans in Shan State.

Aid provided to flood-affected residents in Laymyethna

AYEYAWADY Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw, accompanied by officials, provided rice, drinking water and basic food supplies to flood-affected residents sheltering at village monasteries in Khattu Village-tract, Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, yesterday morning.

During the visit, arrangements were made to maintain communication networks, ensure fuel supplies for government departments, social organizations and local residents, and provide solar power systems and generators for charging phones

and electrical devices.

The chief minister also inspected healthcare services being provided to flood victims at the Ywathitsu Village Dhamma Hall and observed erosion prevention works being carried out at the Stumukha Pagoda.

SEE PAGE 4

Tax exemptions on imports of diesel, fertilizer and LNG extended through end-Aug



Ships carrying fertilizer and liquefied natural gas (LNG) are seen at a port.

THE Ministry of Finance and Revenue has announced that tax exemptions on imports of diesel, fertilizer and liquefied natural gas (LNG) have been extended until the end of August.

Due to rising fuel prices caused by conflicts in the Middle East, imports of high-speed diesel (HSD 500 ppm) were exempted from customs duty, special goods tax, commercial tax and the two per cent advance income tax from 1 April to 31 May. The ministry has now approved a

further extension of these exemptions until the end of August.

The extension is intended to help stabilise the prices of diesel-powered transport services and goods, including basic food commodities that rely on diesel-powered transportation.

The ministry also stated that the tax exemptions on imports of diesel, fertilizer and LNG will apply to shipments imported under Import Declarations (IDs) issued by the Customs Department. — ASH/KNN

NATIONAL

Admissions open for Araham Missionary Dhamma College's Diploma in Dhamma Studies



This photo features a group commemorative photograph of graduates at the 2nd Graduation Ceremony of Araham Missionary Dhamma College.

THE Araham Missionary Dhamma College, an initiative under the Araham Foundation's first missionary programme, has opened admissions for laypersons, monks, and nuns to enrol in its Batch-7 Diploma in Dhamma Studies (Ara-

ham Dhamma Mamaka) programme and its 9th Dhamma Literature Course. The tuition-free diploma programme will be conducted entirely online via Zoom over 12 months, consisting of three academic semes-

ters. Designed to emphasize deep understanding and practical application rather than rote memorization, the curriculum includes open-book examinations. The programme is open to enthusiastic learners of all ages, including Buddhist monks and nuns seeking to strengthen their foundation in Pariyatti studies and Buddhist scriptures. Although tuition is free, students must maintain a minimum attendance rate of 85 per cent and will be assessed through assignment submissions and compliance with academic regulations. Upon successful completion of all three semesters, graduates

will be awarded the Diploma in Dhamma Studies (Araham Dhamma Mamaka). The diploma is recognized by Buddhist universities in Thailand, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Graduates will be eligible to pursue a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Dhamma Studies and may also have opportunities to participate directly in the Araham Foundation's ongoing missionary activities. Interested applicants may apply or make inquiries by telephone at 09 779838480. Returning students enrolled in the second and third semesters are not required to re-register. — TWA/TH

Rescue operations continue after flooding in Laymyethna Township



Tatmadaw members are seen in rescue operations at flooded area in Laymyethna Township.

RESCUE and relief operations are continuing in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, after heavy rainfall

and river erosion caused a section of the Ngawun River embankment to collapse on the night of 30 July.

The breach led to flooding in five urban wards of Laymyethna, major roads in the town area and 45 surrounding villages. Officials from the South-West Command, together with Tatmadaw members from local battalion, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams, charitable organizations and local residents, have been working together to assist and evacuate flood-affected communities. Relief efforts in-

clude search and rescue operations, relocating belongings to safer areas, delivering food supplies, providing necessary healthcare services, reinforcing water barriers and carrying out earth-filling work to repair and strengthen the damaged embankment. Officials from the military command have inspected the ongoing emergency response activities and coordinated necessary support measures. — MNA/ST

Weather

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 8 am MST on 2 August 2026)

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

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Madauk, to take precaution measure. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 33

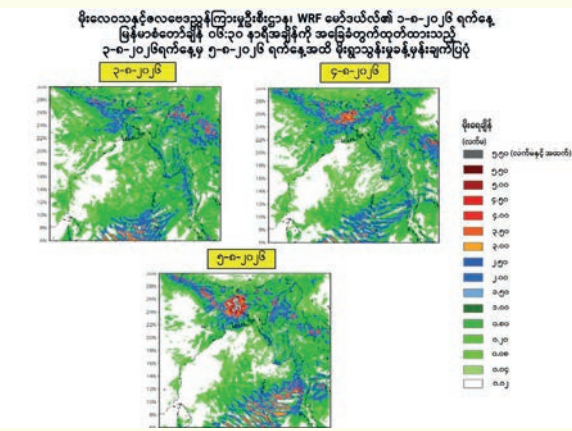
Issued at 8 am MST on 2 August 2026

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.

The 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. The wave height will be about 7-9 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 the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flight. — DMH



The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Rural production road project underway in Magway Township

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development (DRD) in Magway Township conducted a field inspection yesterday morning of the ongoing laterite road construction for the South Thamantaw Village farm access road. The project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with Union Government funding of K 239.4 million to enable local agricultural products to be transported throughout the year at lower transport costs.

During the inspection, officials inspected the construction of the 7.3-fur-long-long and 12-foot-wide production road, including

earthworks, laterite surfacing, the construction of one concrete cassway, and two slab culverts.

The departmental officials instructed the engineer from Myinzu Aung Construction Company to ensure that the road and all related structures are completed within the specified timeframe in full compliance with the required technical standards.

The rural production road and related structures have been implemented since 6 June 2026. The project has now reached approximately 20 per cent completion.— Ah Htwe (DRD)



Officials and project committee members inspect progress of rural production road in Magway Township.

Paper pulp production from bamboo varieties under trial at Yeni Paper Mill

TRIALS are underway at the laboratory of Yeni Paper Mill in Yeni, Bago Region, to produce paper pulp from different bamboo varieties, according to the factory.

The trial process was inspected yesterday morning by Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than, who was accompanied by officials.

During the visit, the Union Minister instructed officials to maintain proper records of research activities, assess

the commercial viability of pulp production, and prepare for the transfer of relevant technologies to MSMEs. He also called for technical support to develop local production of digesters used in paper manufacturing.

The Union Minister also inspected packaging paper production at the 20-tonne Yeni Paper Mill, operations at KKN Tissue and Golden Bamboo Chopstick Enterprise in Myohla, Yedashe Township, machinery installation at the 50-tonne YDE Pulp and Paper



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than inspects the 50-tonne Paper Mill of YDE Pulp and Paper Company Limited in Yeni, Bago Region, yesterday.

Company Limited paper mill, and operations at the 50-tonne Kyaw Moe Naing Family rice mill. He provided guidance on operational matters and coordinated solutions to issues raised by MSME entrepreneurs.— MNA/KZL

Bago Region government hands over patrol boat for security and rescue operations

THE Bago Region Government has purchased a high-speed fibre-glass boat to strengthen efforts to intercept the illegal transport of goods on the Ayeyawady River, enhance law enforcement activities and support disaster rescue operations.

The vessel was handed over by Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win to Bago Region

Police Force Commander Police Colonel Tin Myo Htoo on the morning of 1 August on the bank of the Ayeyawady River in Pyay, according to the Bago Region Government.

The boat, valued at more than K180 million, is 27 feet long, nine feet wide, and 4.5 feet high, with a one-foot draught. It is powered by a Suzuki DF-200A (Japan) engine.— Region IPRD/KNN



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win hands over documents related to a high-speed fibre-glass boat to Bago Region Police Force Commander Police Colonel Tin Myo Htoo in Pyay on 1 August.

Myanmar steps up local goat and sheep breeding in Meiktila

MYANMAR is expanding efforts to conserve and improve native goat and sheep breeds at the Applied Research and Goat Breeding Farm in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

On 1 August, Deputy

Minister Dr Ye Tun Win inspected the facility and urged officials to strengthen breeding programmes to produce higher-quality goats and sheep while preserving local genetic resources.

During the visit, he also met goat farmers from Hsuphyukwet Vil-

lage to discuss expanding goat farming suited to local climate and conditions, as well as increasing the use of domestically produced animal feed.

The deputy minister also visited private goat farms and met livestock officials from Meiktila, Pyawbwe and Yamethin

townships. Discussions focused on promoting region-specific livestock development, supporting micro-, small- and medium-sized livestock-based industries, strengthening biosecurity measures and improving the prevention and control of animal diseases.— MNA/ST



Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tun Win inspects goat breeding farm in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, on 1 August.

NATIONAL

Mobile medical team treats 808 residents in Wa region

A mobile medical team provided healthcare services to 808 ethnic residents in Mongmao Township, Wa Special Region 2, Shan State (North), on 30 July under the guidance of the Ministry of Health.

The outreach programme was jointly carried out by the Pangsang Township Public Health Department, the Wa Health Department and partner organizations.

During the mission, 151 people received blood tests for HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), hepatitis B and C, dengue fever and malaria. Another 202 residents underwent chest X-rays



Ethnic people are seen in a queue to receive medical treatment provided by specialists in Mongmao Township, Shan State (North) on 30 July.

and sputum tests for tuberculosis, with treatment provided where necessary.

The team also administered vitamin A supple-

ments, anthelmintics and routine vaccinations to 469 children.

In addition, health workers conducted public

health education sessions and distributed insecticide-treated mosquito nets to local residents. — MNA/ST

Specialist medical team provides care to more than 600 patients in Thazi Township

A specialist medical team from Meiktila 200-bed People's Hospital provided healthcare services to residents of Thazi Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, on 31 July.

The medical outreach team, led by hospital medical superintendent Dr Win Min Thiri and comprising specialists from various fields, conducted examinations and treatments at Thazi People's Hospital.

Patients from urban wards and nearby villages received medical care with the support of Thazi Township Medical Services Department Head Dr Sai Zeya Myo and healthcare staff. A total

of 698 patients were treated, including 154 general medicine cases, 45 surgical cases, 66 orthopaedic cases, 59 obstetrics and gynaecology cases, 23 paediatric cases, 150 eye disease cases, 58 musculoskeletal cases, 47 dental cases, 30 ear, nose and throat (ENT) cases, and 66 dermatology cases.

Among the patients, 24 people requiring further treatment — including 12 general medicine patients, one child patient, five surgical patients, five orthopaedic patients and one obstetrics and gynaecology patient — were referred to Meiktila General Hospital (200-bed) for continued care. — Tun Tun (Thazi)/ST



Specialists give healthcare services to people in Thazi Township.

Aid provided to flood-affected residents in ...



Volunteers are building barriers to prevent overflow of the Ngawun River in Laymyethna Township.

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw led inspections of riverbank protection measures aimed at preventing further erosion of the existing embankment. The works included installing geo bag protection structures, placing sandbags supported by bamboo barriers, and reducing water flow speed at a 120-foot water inlet by reinforcing both sides with bamboo barriers and sandbags.

The team also reviewed measurement surveys and material preparations for ongoing embankment maintenance. The chief minister instructed officials to accelerate the supply of sand, stones and machinery from nearby areas to support erosion control measures and prevent strong water currents from damaging the riverbank. — Region IPRD/ST

Myanmar pledges support for southern Shan coffee...

FROM PAGE 1

said the ministry would help coffee farmers gain access to investment and production inputs to enable systematic expansion of coffee cultivation. He

also met local growers to discuss the challenges facing the sector and ways to address them.

During the visit, the Union minister stressed the importance of collect-

ing accurate grassroots data when planning rural development projects and urged local authorities to prioritize practical projects that deliver tangible benefits through

close coordination among government agencies.

Shan State (South) is internationally recognized as one of Myanmar's leading producers of high-quality specialty

coffee. Myanmar exports thousands of tonnes of coffee annually, generating an estimated US\$3 million to US\$5 million in foreign exchange each year.

Myanmar's specialty coffee is primarily exported to the United States,

the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, France, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan Province of China and Australia, while border trade also supplies neighbouring China and Thailand. — Htun Htun/ST

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

Three creek dredging projects completed to reduce flood risk in Myeik

THREE creek dredging projects aimed at preventing flooding in paddy fields and improving water flow have been completed in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, according to the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

The projects, funded under the financial year 2026-2027 regional budget, involved dredging three waterways in Sandawut, Inngamaw and Thamoto village-tracts. The



An excavator works in a field to prevent flooding in paddy fields in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: KHINE HTOO (IPRD)

dredging works included Pachishaung Creek, the 5,000-foot section in 6,000-foot section in May-

inng Creek, and the 6,000-foot section in U Chan Aye Creek to improve drainage into nearby rivers.

Officials said the completed projects will help protect around 140 acres of monsoon paddy fields from flooding. They are also expected to reduce flood risks along sections of the Union Highway near Kyaukphyutaung junction and the S-Curve Bridge, while improving water flow in the affected areas. — Khine Htoo (IPRD)/ST

5 Myanmar students selected for Asian Science Camp 2026



Photo shows Myanmar students selected to participate in the 16th Asian Science Camp 2026.

TWO male and three female students from Myanmar have been selected to participate in the 16th Asian Science Camp 2026, which will be held at the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China, from 2 to 8 August.

The Asian Science Camp, launched in 2007, is held annually in different Asian locations, including Taiwan Province of China, Bali of Indonesia, Japan,

India, South Korea, Israel, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and China.

The programme brings together Nobel laureates and leading scientists from across Asia with young students for a week of scientific exchange. Participants take part in lectures, study visits and science-related competitions, with around 300 young people from across Asia attending the event each year. —Myo Min Thura/KZL

NPT herbal park to support MDY traditional medicine production

THE Nay Pyi Taw National Herbal Park, located in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, has been established to supply raw materials to traditional medicine factories in Mandalay, according to the Department of Traditional Medicine under the Ministry of Health.

The park contains more than 50,000 medicinal plants and is one of the nine medicinal gardens in Myanmar. It also preserves more than 460



Visitors observe thriving herbal plants in Nay Pyi Taw Herbal Park.

medicinal plant species and maintains seedlings for propagation.

The park collects, cultivates, propagates, and exhibits medicinal plants from various states and regions across the country.

The Department of Traditional Medicine under the Ministry of Health opened the park in 2008, and the ministry oversees the management of its 73.4-acre area. — ASH/MKKS

Individual registration for December JLPT opens online starting 1 August

INDIVIDUAL applicants intending to sit for the December Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) can submit their registrations online starting 1 August, according to an announcement by the JLPT Test Organizing Committee and the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

For the upcoming examination, individual candidates are required to complete their pre-registration details before application submission. The committee noted that applications for novices, monks, nuns, and candidates under the age of 10 must be processed exclusively through the online system. Online registration will be available without days off at 4:30 pm from 1 to 7 August. Candidates who successfully secured examination slots for the July test are exempt from re-registering. However, those students encountering issues accessing their accounts are advised to contact MAJA for assistance.

Each email address is strictly limited to one registration and one application submission. Applicants must ensure that their name spelling and date of birth are entered accurately. While corrections can be made during the designated period, approval will take up to three days. Furthermore, modifications will not be permitted if the name or date of birth conflicts with identification cards. Applicants are strongly advised to fill out the registration information personally. An activation code link will be delivered via the applicant's personal email address. Payment methods for the examination fees include local cards — specifically eCommerce-registered MPU cards — and KBZ Pay QR codes, as confirmed by the JLPT Test Organizing Committee and MAJA. — MT/ZN

Mongton's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project in Mauksali Village, Mongton Township, yesterday.

Mongton District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Kyawt Kyawt Khine explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as expanding small-scale agricultural activities. Officials then explained project activities, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K52.5 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation group.

Mauksali Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K52.5 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the departmental officials, members of the project implementation group disbursed the 13th round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 27 members from the village engaged in agricultural activities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

NATIONAL

Inlay Lake communities adopt bio-septic tanks



Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein observes bio-septic tank in Heya Ywama Village in the Inlay area.

AUTHORITIES are working with local communities in the Inlay Lake region to replace direct waste disposal systems with bio-septic tanks as part of efforts to protect the environment and improve sanitation.

The Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development is implementing bio-septic tank replacement projects, communal water supply projects and reha-

bilitation programmes for earthquake-affected villages in 15 villages, including Heya Ywama Village in the Inlay area.

Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myo Zaw Thein inspected the ongoing projects and met with local residents, urging households and communities to actively participate in adopting improved sanitation systems to ensure the long-term conservation of Inlay Lake.

He also stressed the need for cooperation among relevant departments to effectively im-

plement environmental protection measures.

During the visit, the Union Minister provided project funds to village committees for rural development initiatives, including the Emerald Green Village Project, rural economic development fund establishment, village development projects and Model Village programmes in Nyaungshwe Township.

He also met with and encouraged trainees attending a basic sewing course at the Ethnic Affairs and Vocational Training Centre in Aye-thaya. —MNA/KZL

Ethnic language support programmes to reduce school dropout rates

ETHNIC language support programmes aim to reduce school dropout rates caused by language barriers. Since the 2017-2018 academic year, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and the Ministry of Education have jointly appointed ethnic language teaching assistants and teachers to support these programmes.

Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Than Maung made the remarks during a meeting with ethnic literature teaching assistants (TAs) and ethnic language teachers (LTs) from Yangon Region at the ministry's regional office.

He said the meeting was held to discuss challenges faced by teachers and seek solutions to improve ethnic language teaching programmes, encouraging teachers to openly share difficulties encountered in their work.

During the meeting, leaders of ethnic literature and cultural organizations and ethnic language teachers discussed issues including opportunities for permanent appointments and the presentation of awards to outstanding students at educational ceremonies.

The Union Minister coordinated with relevant officials to address the challenges faced by teachers and support the continued development of ethnic language education. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar's first major Game Awards set for 9 Aug



Poster depicts the Myanmar Game Awards (MGA).

MYANMAR'S first and largest-ever game industry awards ceremony, the Myanmar Game Awards (MGA), will be held at the Rose Garden Hotel in Yangon on 9 August.

Organized by Game Makers Myanmar and the French Institute of Myanmar (IFB), the event aims to recognize local game developers and help connect them with international studios.

Awards will be presented to the best games released between 2016 and 2026. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet a jury of local and international experts, creating potential employment opportunities for young people in the industry.

An Expo Zone, opening at noon, will feature playable demonstrations of new Myanmar-made games, studio showcases, meet-and-greet sessions with Myanmar PUBG and MLBB teams that competed at the Esports World Cup, a dedicated cosplay area and career booths.

Game submissions will be accepted until midnight on 3 August, with the nominees list to be announced on 5 August. Sponsorship and partner booth opportunities are also available. — TWA/KZL



Union Minister U Than Maung meets ethnic literature teaching assistants (TAs) and ethnic language teachers (LTs) from Yangon Region on 2 August.

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm

Contact us to buy newspaper 09 454237515



Departmental officials of DRD view products from basic sewing training course in Thayetchaung Township.

Basic Sewing Training Course opens in Thayetchaung Township

THAYETCHAUNG Township Department of Rural Development held the opening ceremony of a Basic Sewing Training Course on 1 August at the department's meeting hall. The training is aimed at creating employment opportunities and supporting the livelihoods of rural residents.

Head of the Township Department of Rural Development, U Kaung Myat Htet, explained the objectives and benefits of the Basic Sewing Train-

ing Course. Officials presented training materials and learning aids to the trainees.

The training course will run for 46 days, from 1 August to 15 September, and will provide both theoretical and practical instruction in basic sewing skills free of charge, with a full set of training materials. A total of 20 female trainees from villages across Thayetchaung Township are attending the course. — Myo Myo (DRD)

NATIONAL

Zalun’s VDP project introduced, committee formed

A ceremony to conduct an introductory briefing on the Village Development Plan (VDP) and form a project committee for the 2026-2027 financial year took place in Meelaungkong Village, Zalun Township, yesterday.

The Head of Zalun Township Department of Rural Development and officials explained the objectives, processes and expected benefits of the Village Development Plan (VDP), the rules and regulations to be followed in selecting and forming the Village Development Committee, as well as the tasks to be carried out by the village. The villagers formed a seven-member Village Development Committee to effectively carry out village development activities.

In the village, villagers undertake village development activities for the 2026-2027 financial year using support funds from the Village Development Plan (VDP).— Maung Khaing (Rural)



An official explains functions of village development plan in Zalun Township.

with us / Hotline

Advertise

09 255597511, 09 454237515

MYS launches video contest to mark International Youth Day 2026

THE Myanmar Youth Stars (MYS) will hold a video competition to mark International Youth Day 2026, aiming to showcase young people’s creativity and raise awareness of issues affecting youth.

Under the theme “Youth creativity has the power to spark change”, participants may use smartphones, cameras or generative AI tools to create videos on topics such as relationship abuse, domestic violence, HIV awareness, PrEP/PEP, Chemsex, U=U, discrimination-related sexual and mental health issues, and the experiences of young people today.

Entries must be 1.5-3 minutes long and posted on Facebook with the caption “International Youth Day: Our Voice. Our Right. Our Future” and the hashtags #internationalyouthdaymyanmar, #myanmar and #iyd2026. The video link must then be submitted in the comments section of the competition announcement on the MYS Facebook page.

Cash prizes of K500,000, K300,000 and K200,000 will be awarded to the top three entries. Submissions close at midnight on 8 August, and winners will be announced on 9 August via the Myanmar Youth Stars Official Facebook page.



Poster depicts a video competition to mark International Youth Day.

Selected videos will be screened and prizes presented at the International Youth Day celebration on 12 August.— TWA/KZL

Doh Eain to organize Women in Construction II kick-off session

FOR women who wish to take a step in construction careers, a kick-off session on the second batch of Women in Construction programme will be organized online on 5 August, according to Doh Eain.

At the Zoom meeting scheduled from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, the programme team will introduce the programme’s objectives and what it brings benefits for women.

For interested women, applications are open until 16 August and those who have difficulty in answering the application form, the online session will offer an opportunity to ask questions interactively for necessary helps.

Doh Eain has invited all parties who want to know details about the programme or want to join as partnered organization and women who want to start a career in the construction industry to join the online session. Registrations can be made at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jWYY2AEzVzXcN3wYOXJcX1DRiMWqkb3SXS-5dWVNCHMs/edit>.

Doh Eain is a Yangon-based social enterprise founded in 2017 focusing on citizen-led heritage conservation and urban regeneration.



Women in Construction II kick-off session is being advertised.

— MT/ZS

Over 930 people killed in traffic accidents in the first half of this year



A white Isuzu crashed into a tree, following a flat tyre in Ayeyawady Region on 28 July.

ACCORDING to a state- Road Transport Administration Department

(RTAD), a total of 1,686 traffic accidents occurred and 932 people were killed in Myanmar during the first half of 2026.

Based on the traffic accident statistics across regions, states, and the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, there were 1,686 traffic accidents, 2,371 injuries, and 932 deaths from January to June 2026.

Yangon Region recorded the highest number of accidents among the regions and states with 360 traffic accidents, 444 injuries, and 191 deaths; followed by Ayeyawady Region with 270 traffic accidents, 396 injuries, and 113 deaths; and Bago Region with 260 traffic accidents, 393 injuries, and 122 deaths.

Records show that during the first 6-month period of 2025, there were 1,692 traffic accidents, 2,478 injuries, and 892 deaths. Although the number of traffic accidents in

the first six months of this year decreased slightly compared to the 1,692 cases during the same period in 2025, the number of deaths increased by about 4.5 per cent, while the number of injuries decreased by about 4.3 per cent.

To reduce traffic accidents, the RTAD has urged the traffic users to strictly follow traffic rules and regulations and to pay special attention to safety.

— MT/ZN

Gold Market Rate as of 2 August 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,950,000 as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Encourage tourism industry to generate incomes for the State

TOURISM is an important sector in increasing the income of a country. Countries that earn the highest revenues from international tourism have been developing and promoting this sector. Countries around the world refer to tourism as a “smokeless industry”. Through tourism, continuous income is generated from various sectors, contributing to the growth of the national economy.

Myanmar is located in a strategically important position within the region and possesses many prominent religious edifices, ancient cultural heritage buildings, and beautiful natural surroundings that attract international tourists. The country also has abundant tourism resources, including cultural heritage sites, natural scenic attractions, beaches and coastal areas, as well as the diverse traditional cultures and customs of various ethnic nationalities, catching the attention of travellers.

Private tourism entrepreneurs need to systematically conduct effective marketing and promotional activities to develop tourism destinations in Myanmar that are competitive with those in neighbouring countries. All Union ministries, regional government bodies, and tourism entrepreneurs must make concerted efforts to ensure that international tourists gain a better understanding of Myanmar's true situation and realities.

need to systematically develop tourism products based on destinations, identify and promote places showcasing cultural heritage, highlight prominent year-round festivals, ethnic New Year festivals and traditional cultural events, and develop travel itineraries that are of interest to tourists.

Private tourism entrepreneurs need to systematically conduct effective marketing and promotional activities to develop tourism destinations in Myanmar that are competitive with those in neighbouring countries. All Union ministries, regional government bodies, and tourism entrepreneurs must make concerted efforts to ensure that international tourists gain a better understanding of Myanmar's true situation and realities.

Therefore, as tourism is an important sector for increasing national income, all stakeholders must make concerted efforts to effectively utilize Myanmar's tourism resources and promote the development of the tourism industry, which is a smokeless industry. Through these efforts, continuous income can be generated from various sectors, contributing to the steady growth of the national economy and the improvement of socioeconomic conditions.

Integrity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Safeguarding Academic Honesty and Intellectual Property in 21st-Century Education

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is transforming education in unprecedented ways. Intelligent learning platforms, AI-assisted writing tools, language translation systems, virtual tutors, coding assistants, and research support applications now enable students, teachers, and researchers to access knowledge more efficiently than ever before. When used responsibly, these technologies enrich learning, encourage creativity, improve productivity, and promote lifelong education.

Rather than replacing human intelligence, AI should be regarded as an educational partner that enhances learning, supports informed decision-making, and inspires innovation. Its greatest value lies in helping people learn more effectively while allowing teachers and learners to focus on creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

However, every technological advancement also brings new responsibilities. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into education, research, business, healthcare, government, and many other sectors, concerns about its misuse continue to grow worldwide. While AI offers significant educational opportunities, excessive dependence on it may weaken meaningful learning and academic development.

Education is founded on understanding, curiosity, independent thinking, and ethical behaviour. These values are compromised

when learners rely on AI to complete assignments without understanding the subject matter; present AI-generated work as their own, fabricate or manipulate research data, or avoid independent reasoning. Such practices undermine academic integrity, weaken critical thinking, reduce originality, and gradually erode the values of honesty, responsibility, and intellectual independence that education seeks to cultivate.

Protecting Intellectual Property in the Digital Age

One of today's most significant concerns is the protection of intellectual property. Every academic work, whether a book, journal article, research report, thesis, artistic creation, software programme, or digital publication, is the result of human creativity, knowledge, and intellectual effort.

Presenting another person's words, ideas, images, data, computer programmes, or creative work without proper acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism and may also violate intellectual property rights. Although plagiarism has long existed, advances in AI have made it easier to generate sophisticated content that may obscure original sources if users fail to provide proper citation and attribution.

Students, researchers, and professionals should understand that AI does not remove their responsibility to respect copyright, authorship, academic ownership, and intellectual property. AI can



make many tasks faster and more efficient, but its convenience should never become an excuse for compromising ethical standards. Academic qualifications should reflect genuine learning, independent analysis, original thinking, and authentic achievement rather than technological shortcuts.

Transparency and Responsible AI Use

Around the world, many educational institutions now encourage or require transparency regarding AI-assisted work. When AI makes substantial contributions to drafting, editing, coding, data analysis, image generation, or content creation, students and

researchers should follow their institutional policies and recognized academic referencing guidelines regarding disclosure.

Transparency strengthens trust among learners, teachers, researchers, publishers, employers, and society. It also helps preserve the credibility of academic qualifications and reinforces confidence in scholarly work.

At the same time, users should recognize that AI systems are not always accurate, objective, or free from bias. AI may occasionally produce outdated information, inaccurate responses, fabricated references, or content influenced by biases within training data. For this reason, human judgement, careful verification, and critical

By Dr Zaw (Sli)

thinking should always guide the use of AI. AI should support human decision-making – not replace it.

Principles for Responsible AI Use

A few simple and practical principles should guide the responsible use of AI. These principles help ensure that AI supports ethical learning, innovation, and responsible decision-making.

Appropriate Uses of Artificial Intelligence (Do's)

- ✓ Use AI to deepen understanding of complex concepts rather than replace personal learning.
- ✓ Use AI to generate ideas, organize information, improve language, receive constructive feedback, or assist with coding and data analysis before producing original work.
- ✓ Verify AI-generated information using reliable academic publications and trusted sources, as AI systems may occasionally produce inaccurate or fabricated information.
- ✓ Cite and acknowledge AI use whenever required by institutional policies or recognized academic referencing guidelines.
- ✓ Take personal responsibility for every assignment, report, research paper, presentation, thesis, or publication submitted under one's own name.

- ✓ Protect confidential information, personal data, and sensitive research materials when using AI systems.
- ✓ Use AI to strengthen creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and sound judgement – not to replace them.

Practices to Avoid (Don'ts)

- ✗ Do not submit AI-generated essays, reports, research papers, dissertations, or projects as entirely original personal work.
 - ✗ Do not use AI to plagiarize, fabricate evidence, manipulate research data, falsify research findings, or generate false academic references.
 - ✗ Do not use AI during examinations or assessments where institutional regulations prohibit its use.
 - ✗ Do not present AI-generated ideas, images, software, or research outputs without proper acknowledgement whenever disclosure is required.
 - ✗ Do not allow AI to replace independent reasoning, personal reflection, ethical judgement, or informed decision-making.
 - ✗ Do not misuse AI to spread misinformation, create deceptive content, violate intellectual property rights, or engage in academic misconduct.
- These principles remind us

that the ethical challenge lies not in the technology itself but in the way it is used. Like books, calculators, computers, and the Internet before it, AI is fundamentally a tool. It can either support meaningful education or facilitate academic dishonesty depending on human choices. Ultimately, integrity remains the defining factor

Building Responsible AI Literacy in Myanmar

As Myanmar continues to strengthen competency-based education and digital learning, responsible AI literacy should gradually become an integral component of educational reform. Students need not only digital competence but also ethical competence.

Teachers play a vital role in introducing learners to internationally recognised principles of academic honesty, intellectual property protection, responsible citation, copyright awareness, digital citizenship, and ethical AI use from the earliest stages of education. Such knowledge will prepare future graduates to participate confidently in the global academic community while preserving Myanmar's enduring cultural values of honesty, responsibility, respect, and accountability.

Educational institutions should also establish clear AI policies, provide guidance on responsible AI use, promote digital literacy, and encourage learners to think critically about AI-generated information. In doing so,

education can embrace technological innovation while safeguarding academic standards and public trust.

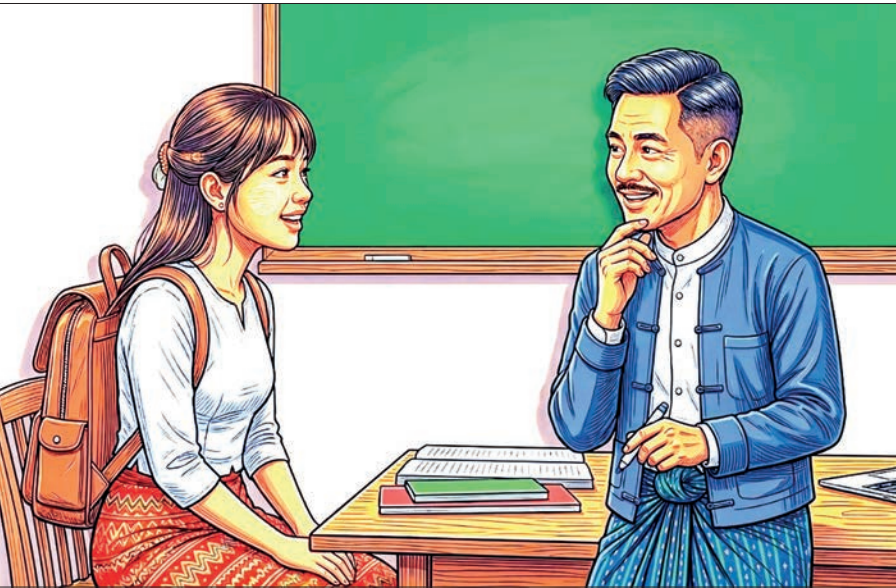
A Shared Responsibility for the Future

The success of education in the age of AI should not be measured solely by how effectively technology is used, but by how wisely and ethically it is applied. AI may increase efficiency and expand access to knowledge, yet only integrity transforms knowledge into wisdom and innovation into lasting social benefit.

As AI continues to reshape education and society, honesty, accountability, respect for intellectual property, academic integrity, and responsible human judgement will remain the enduring foundations of educational excellence, scientific progress, and sustainable national development.

Artificial Intelligence should strengthen human integrity – not replace human integrity. AI can support learning, improve productivity, and inspire innovation, but it must always be guided by honesty, responsibility, transparency, and respect for ethical values. Academic certificates recognize educational achievement, but integrity earns public trust. By combining knowledge with character, education can ensure that technology remains a force for human progress while nurturing responsible, capable, and compassionate citizens for the future.

SEE PAGE 11



Key Qualities, Including Reliability and Considerations in Language Testing

IF you mention the word “testing” or “exam” to a person, they typically picture a set of questions they had to answer in an exam hall. Of course, testing is more than just a collection of questions on paper. It is a carefully designed tool that should have some important qualities, including authenticity, interactiveness, reliability, validity, practicality, and impact. Because these qualities often pull in different

directions, test developers must carefully balance them to develop a fair, useful, and effective language test.

One important quality is authenticity. Authenticity implies that test tasks should be similar to real-life language use. Students should be asked to do tasks that they may face outside the classroom. For example, writing an email, reading a newspaper article, listening to an announcement, or taking

part in a conversation are authentic language activities. When tests include such tasks, students can show how well they can use language in real situations. Authenticity makes language testing more effective because it connects classroom learning with the real world.

Another important quality is Interactiveness. Language is not just knowledge stored in

By Maung Maung Aye

the mind. It is something people use to communicate. Thus, a good language test should require students to think, understand, and respond actively. Students should use their language knowledge, background knowledge, and thinking skills to complete tasks. For example, during a speaking test, students may need to listen carefully, organize their ideas, choose

suitable words, and respond to questions. During a reading task, they have to identify main ideas and make inferences. Interactive tasks help students show their true language ability, not simply recalling memorized information.

However, authenticity and interactiveness alone are not enough. A language test must also be reliable. Reliability

denotes consistency. If students take the same test under similar conditions, the results should be similar. Similarly, different teachers should give similar scores to the same piece of work. Reliability is important because test scores often influence important decisions such as promotion, graduation, admission, and employment. If scores are inconsistent, the test becomes unfair.

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Talabaw Curry – A Traditional Kayin Delicacy

THIS week, we'd like to introduce a dish that is perfect for the rainy season: Talabaw Curry, one of the most popular and cherished traditional dishes of the Kayin people.

Not only is it delicious, but it is also a wholesome and nutritious meal. Talabaw curry is served not only at everyday family meals but also at festivals and special occasions, where it is considered an essential part of the feast.

A Traditional Kayin Favourite

Talabaw curry holds a special place in Kayin culinary tradition. In earlier times, Kayin families, who often lived in forested and mountainous areas and tended to have large households, would cook Talabaw in a large pot and enjoy it with plenty of curry and just a small portion of rice.

As farming communities, the Karen people traditionally did not need to visit markets to prepare a meal. Fresh bamboo shoots were harvested from nearby bamboo groves, vegetables were picked from home gardens, and fish, shrimp, or meat were gathered from nearby streams and ponds. Combining these fresh ingredients created a hearty and flavourful pot of Talabaw bamboo shoot curry.

The Star Ingredient - Fresh Bamboo Shoots

The key ingredient in Talabaw curry is bamboo shoots.

The dish tastes best when prepared with fresh bamboo shoots, making it an ideal seasonal dish during the bamboo shoot harvest. Among the various edible bamboo shoots, including Wahgok, Kyakhat, Wahphyu, Hnibwa, Wahya, Wahbo and Htiwah, Hnibwa and Wahgok varieties are especially prized for their natural sweetness, making them excellent choices for Talabaw curry.



Traditional Myanmar Delicacy

Wahya, Wahbo and Htiwah, Hnibwa and Wahgok varieties are especially prized for their natural sweetness, making them excellent choices for Talabaw curry.

Ingredients

- Fresh or fermented bamboo shoots (about five shoots for one pot; fresh shoots are sweeter)
- Pork, chicken or fish (pork and pork bones are the most commonly used)
- 3 tablespoons rice flour (to thicken the soup)
- 1 teaspoon shrimp paste (for added savouriness)
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 onion
- 1 stalk lemongrass
- A pinch of turmeric powder
- Salt and seasoning powder to taste

- Mixed leafy vegetables such as basil, water spinach, spinach, sawtooth coriander, pumpkin shoots, or any preferred greens

Method

Prepare the Meat

Wash the pork or chicken thoroughly and cut it into bite-sized pieces. Season lightly with salt and seasoning powder.

Boil the Bamboo Shoots

Slice the fresh bamboo shoots thinly and boil them once or twice to remove their bitterness. Drain well.

Prepare the Aromatics

Pound the garlic, onion and the lower part of the lemongrass into a fine paste.

Mix the Rice Flour

Dissolve the rice flour in a small amount of water to make a smooth slurry. Traditionally, roasted rice is pounded into a fine powder before being mixed with water.

Cook the Curry Base

Heat a small amount of oil in a pot. Sauté the pounded aromatics with the turmeric until fragrant, then add the seasoned meat and stir-fry until lightly browned.

Add Shrimp Paste and Bamboo Shoots

Dissolve the shrimp paste in a little water and add it to the pot once the meat is partially cooked. Stir in the boiled bamboo shoots and mix well.

Simmer

Add enough water to make a soup and simmer, covered, until both the meat and bamboo shoots are tender.

Add the Rice Flour Slurry

Once the soup comes to a boil and the meat is tender, slowly pour in the rice flour slurry while stirring continuously to prevent lumps from forming.

Season and Add the Greens

When the soup has thickened and the rice flour is fully cooked, season with salt and seasoning powder to taste. Finally, add your choice of leafy vegetables, such as basil and pumpkin shoots – and switch off the heat.

Your fragrant and delicious traditional Kayin Talabaw curry is now ready to serve.

It is best enjoyed piping hot with steamed white rice.

SEE PAGE 11



Weekly News Quiz

WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ

The following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Monday's newspaper (27 July 2026).

National News Quiz

1. The historic Hsipaw Haw Palace, which was recently designated as a heritage building over 100 years old, was first constructed in which year and by whom?
A. 1920, Sao Ohn Kya
B. 1924, Sao Ohn Kya
C. 1930, Sao Kya Seng
D. 1936, Sao Oo Kya
2. What percentage of construction has been completed for the 1,390-megawatt liquefied natural gas (LNG)-fired power plant being built at Meelinyaing in Ayeyawady Region?

- A. 15.5 per cent
B. 24.4 per cent
C. 35.0 per cent
D. 50.2 per cent

3. Under which theme was the First National Traditional Myanmar Food Competition and Exhibition 2026, held in Yangon, organized?

- A. "Taste of the Golden Land 2026"
B. "Flavours of Myanmar 2026"
C. "Traditional Food & Tourism 2026"
D. "Golden Cuisine Expo 2026"

Global News Quiz

4. At the 48th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the Jingdezhen Ceramic Industry Sites of which country were officially inscribed on the World Heritage List?

- A. Japan
B. Republic of Korea
C. China
D. Vietnam

5. Which of the following is not one of the five D-Day landing beaches in Normandy, France, where Allied forces landed during the Second World War?

- A. Utah
B. Omaha
C. Pearl
D. Gold

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

ARTICLE/LIFESTYLE
WORLD

Spectators gather in Türkiye’s
hot air balloon festival

BEFORE sunrise, thousands of spectators gathered across the ridges and valleys of Cappadocia, in central Türkiye, waiting in near silence as giant balloons slowly came to life.

Within minutes, bursts of flame illuminated the darkness, and a dazzling procession of colorful aircraft

began drifting above the region’s fairy chimneys, turning one of the world’s most iconic landscapes into an open-air spectacle.

For the visitors eager to experience the charm of Türkiye, the seventh Cappadocia Hot Air Balloon Festival, or BalonFest, held from Friday through Sunday,

is an experience not to be missed.

Among the highlights of this year’s festival were dozens of special-shaped balloons from around 20 countries, including giant parrots, wolves, rockets and a horse-shaped balloon marking China’s Year of the Horse. — Xinhua

Talabaw Curry - A Traditional Kayin Delicacy

FROM PAGE 10

A Healthy Traditional Dish

One of Talabaw curry’s distinctive qualities is that it contains very little oil while being rich in vegetables and thickened naturally with rice flour, making it a nutritious traditional dish.

In authentic Kayin cooking, Talabaw can even be prepared with-

out any oil. Fresh meat or fish is combined with a variety of seasonal vegetables, providing a balanced source of protein, vitamins and minerals. The rice flour gives the soup a smooth, hearty texture, making it warming, filling and nourishing.

Talabaw curry is also quick and easy to prepare. Its colourful combination of vegetables

makes it as attractive as it is delicious, which explains why everyone who tries it tends to enjoy it.

Although Talabaw curry is not commonly available in restaurants, it is easy to prepare at home. On a cool, rainy day, gather your family together and enjoy cooking — and sharing — a steaming pot of this comforting Kayin traditional dish. — MOON

‘Damn hot’: Last summer for
Japan cosplay extravaganza

Cosplayers at Japan’s World Cosplay Summit endure “damn hot” summer weather.



Cosplayers gather in a hotel before taking part in the Osu Cosplay Parade, during the second day of the World Cosplay Summit 2026 in Nagoya on 1 August. PHOTO: AFP

SHAWN, like her sister Whitney dressed as a character from “Demon Slayer”, has two words to describe the weather as she waits to watch the grand parade at this year’s annual cosplay extravaganza in Japan: “Damn hot”.

“I have had about five

of these (bottles of water). I have on full sleeves, socks, and whoo! When we first came outside we were just drenched in sweat,” the Houston, Texas native told AFP at the World Cosplay Summit in Nagoya.

But relief is coming for the upwards of 250,000 people from all over the

world who attend the WCS every year to embody manga, animation or video game characters.

From next year, the three-day event in the central Japanese city will be in November in pleasant autumn temperatures, as opposed to the oppressive 40C (104F) forecast for this Sunday, the final day.

“Since around the end of the COVID pandemic, Japan has been getting increasingly warmer,” said Tokumaru Oguri, chief executive of the WCS.

“The heat can genuinely put people’s lives at risk, so first of all, we ask each individual to take every possible precaution themselves, by making sure they are in good physical condition, getting enough sleep and staying hydrated,” Oguri told AFP. — AFP

Key Qualities, Including Reliability and Considerations in Language Testing

FROM PAGE 9

Many factors can affect reliability. Unclear instructions may confuse students. Different teachers may score speaking or writing tasks differently. Noise, poor lighting, or limited time can also affect performance. To improve reliability, test developers use clear instructions, detailed scoring criteria, and standardized testing procedures. Reliability makes sure that test results are dependable and fair.

Validity is another key quality in language testing. Validity means that a test accurately measures what it is designed to assess. In other words, a valid language test assesses language ability rather than unrelated factors. For example, a reading test should measure students’ reading comprehension,

not their background knowledge or general intelligence. Likewise, a speaking test should evaluate learners’ speaking ability, not their confidence or personality. Therefore, validity ensures that test results accurately reflect the language skills the test is intended to assess.

Two important aspects of validity are content validity and construct validity. Content validity implies that the test covers the important parts of the syllabus or course objectives. Students should be tested on what they have learned. Construct validity implies that the test measures the language skill it is intended to assess. Both are necessary because a test should include the right content and assess the right ability. Without validity, test scores have

little meaning.

Practicality is also important in language testing. A test may be authentic, interactive, reliable, and valid, but it may still be difficult to use. Practicality involves how easy a test is to administer and manage. It mainly depends on cost, time, and execution.

Cost relates to the money and resources needed to conduct a test. Schools and institutions have limited budgets, so tests must be affordable. Time concerns how long the test takes to prepare, administer, and score. A test that requires too much time may not be practical. Execution relates to how easy the test is to organize and use. Teachers and students should be able to understand the procedures without difficulty. A practical test can be carried

out successfully with the available resources.

Balancing these qualities is often difficult. A highly authentic speaking interview may provide useful information about students’ communication skills, but it may require a lot of time and money. A multiple-choice test may be easy to administer and score, but it may not fully reflect real-life language use. Thus, test developers must find a balance between quality and practicality. The best test is not necessarily the most complex one. It is the one that works effectively in a particular context.

Test developers have to consider impact since language tests affect students, teachers, schools, and society. These effects can be positive or negative. Positive impact occurs

when tests encourage students to learn and motivate teachers to improve instruction. Good tests help learners identify their strengths and weaknesses while supporting access to education and employment opportunities.

However, tests can also have negative effects. High-stakes examinations may cause stress and anxiety. Teachers may focus only on test preparation instead of developing real communication skills. This is often called “teaching to the test”. In some cases, students from wealthier families may have advantages because they can afford private tutoring and test preparation courses. Consequently, testing may sometimes create inequality.

Impact can be viewed at two levels. Micro-im-

pact relates to the effects on individual students and teachers, but macro-impact relates to the effects on schools, educational systems, and society. Because language tests have such wide-ranging consequences, test developers must consider their impact carefully.

In conclusion, effective language testing requires a careful balance of authenticity, Interactiveness, reliability, validity, and practicality, contributing to the fairness and usefulness of a test. In addition, the impact of testing on learners, educators, and society must be taken into consideration by test developers. Well-designed language tests not only evaluate ability accurately but also support positive educational outcomes and opportunities.

ECONOMY WORLD

China unveils five-year plan to upgrade supply and marketing cooperatives for better rural services

China plans 220+ fertilizer centres to secure national food supply.

CHINA has released a five-year plan for its national supply and marketing co-operative system, aiming to strengthen agricultural services and ensure food security for the 2026-2030 period.

The plan outlines 18 key tasks centred on ensuring food security and advancing rural revitalization, according to the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives.

By 2030, the system will build or renovate over 100 national-level strategic fertilizer depots and roughly 1,000 county-level distribution centres in



Stunning scenery in the Huawu Village in Southwest China's Guizhou Province. **PHOTO: VCG/GLOBAL TIMES**

major grain-producing counties.

For this year, the system aims to build or renovate about 20 national-level strategic fertilizer depots and more than 200 county-level distribution

centres, creating a smooth and efficient agricultural input distribution network to safeguard national food security, according to the federation.

The federation said that the system will build

or renovate 200 agricultural service centers this year, which will speed up the development of emergency services such as drying and storage to reduce post-harvest grain losses. The supply and marketing cooperatives are organizations that serve agriculture, rural areas and farmers under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. It is an important vehicle for the Party and government to carry out work related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers, and a key force in advancing China's agricultural and rural development. — Xinhua

Oman reports higher oil, natural gas production



Total oil production reached 198.01 million barrels by the end of June. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

OMAN'S oil production increased 10.6 per cent and natural gas produc-

tion rose 6.7 per cent in the first half of 2026 from a year earlier, according

to data released Saturday by the country's National Center for Statistics and Information.

Total oil production reached 198.01 million barrels by the end of June, from 179.05 million barrels in the same period last year, while average daily output increased to 1.09 million barrels per day, up from 989.2 thousand barrels per day a year earlier.

The average price of

Omani crude climbed 9.4 per cent to US\$80.9 per barrel, and crude exports edged up 2.4 per cent to 155.22 million barrels.

The country's natural gas production, including domestic output and imports, reached 29.54 billion cubic metres during the first half of 2026, compared with 27.69 billion cubic metres during the same period in 2025. — Xinhua

Iraq, Türkiye sign agreement to transport crude oil exports

IRAQ signed a one-year agreement with Türkiye on Saturday to transport and load Iraqi crude oil through the Iraq-Türkiye pipeline to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, the Iraqi Oil Ministry said.

Under the agreement, Iraq will export a minimum quantity of 750,000 barrels per day of crude oil through the pipeline, Iraqi Oil Minister Basim Mohammed Khudhair said in a statement issued by the ministry's media office.

"Iraqi and Turkish companies will begin implementing the agreement, while the two governments will move forward, through a carefully planned process, to finalize a comprehensive framework agreement covering the oil, electricity, and water resources sectors, along with other areas of cooperation that advance

our shared interests and support development and stability," Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi said on his X page.

This pipeline, which safely and uninterruptedly delivers Iraqi oil to world markets via Ceyhan, has a more strategic position than ever before in terms of regional and global energy supply security, as demonstrated by developments in the global oil markets, Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said on X. The agreement comes after the decades-old accord governing Iraqi oil exports through Ceyhan expired on Monday, as Baghdad seeks to secure alternative export routes to diversify its channels amid ongoing regional tensions impacting shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. — Xinhua



Photo shows a power plant in Halfaya oil field in the southern Iraqi province of Maysan on 25 September 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

US companies recognize strengths of Chinese economy

US companies recognize the strengths of China's economy and innovation system and are seeking to partner with Chinese companies to boost their competitiveness, Sean Stein, president of the US-China Business Council (USCBC), said Friday.

Stein made the remarks prior to a discussion and exchange event be-

tween a delegation of Chinese entrepreneurs led by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the USCBC and its member companies in Washington, DC.

He said many American companies are eager to communicate with Chinese partners through the event and are committed to deepening cooperation

with Chinese companies.

On potential areas of cooperation, Stein said that beyond frequently mentioned industries like agriculture and aviation, US businesses are eager to advance partnerships with Chinese companies in such fields as financial services, life sciences, research and manufacturing. — Xinhua

Fuel price surge drives record electric car sales in Q2: IEA

SOARING fuel prices due to the Mideast war have supercharged sales of electric cars in the second quarter, according to the International Energy Agency.

Electric vehicle sales jumped 35 per cent in the second quarter from the first three months of this year, hitting records in 50

countries, the IEA said in a new report.

"Despite a challenging backdrop for the global car market, sales of electric cars surged in the second quarter of this year as the energy crisis sparked by the war in the Middle East brought fuel price volatility back into sharp focus," it said.

Crude oil prices soared from around \$60 a barrel at the start of the year to nearly \$120 after Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz — through which a fifth of the world's oil normally transits — after Israel and the US launched attacks in February. — AFP

Switzerland's national airline resumes flights to Israel

SWISS International Air Lines (SWISS), Switzerland's national airline, resumed service to Israel on Saturday, as a flight from Zurich arrived at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv.

The airline, part of the Lufthansa Group, suspended flights to Israel at the end of February following the launch of US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Lufthansa, Germany's national carrier, also resumed its Munich-Tel Aviv route on Saturday,

with two daily flights, after restoring service from Frankfurt last month.

Another Lufthansa Group airline, Belgium's national carrier Brussels Airlines, is scheduled to resume flights to Israel on Wednesday, with a weekly flight, the group said in a statement.

The group added it will add three weekly Austrian Airlines flights on the Vienna-Tel Aviv route, which resumed operations in June, further expanding its services to Israel. — Xinhua

Afghanistan mining investments top \$151 million

AFGHANISTAN has secured more than 10 billion afghanis (over US\$151 million) in investment for both small- and large-scale mining projects over the past year, government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Sunday.

Addressing an online press conference reviewing the administration's economic progress, Mujahid said that the capital inflows had targeted a diverse range of minerals, including gold, marble, nephrite, chromite, coal,

salt, iron, zinc, polymetallic, fluorite, gypsum, granite and other resources.

During the same period, authorities issued 1,138 professional mining licenses and 72 mineral processing licenses, said the official, adding that 45 mineral sites were identified and formally registered across 27 provinces.

Mujahid stressed that mining operations nationwide are now conducted in a professional and standardized manner. — Xinhua

Russian ship sinks after drone attack

THE Russian container ship Yanina has sunk following an attack by Ukrainian naval drones in the Black Sea, and all 17 crew members aboard have been rescued, the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom announced Saturday.

Rosatom said on social media that the vessel was attacked on Friday at around 10 pm Moscow time (1900 GMT) by two Ukrainian naval drones, about 130 nautical miles (241 kilometres) from Novorossiysk. The strike

caused damage and the ship later sank.

Alexei Likhachev, director general of Rosatom, said the civilian container ship was sailing in international waters and carrying commercial cargo at the time of the incident. "All 17 crew members were rescued and are feeling well," Likhachev said, noting that the rescue was carried out with assistance from naval aviation units from Russia's Black Sea Fleet and the international crew of the vessel Delphinus. — Xinhua

Exhibitors at US textile trade show grapple with unprecedented headwinds

RISING raw material, production and shipping costs together with shifting tariff policies are putting pressure on textile and apparel exporters eyeing the US market and forcing many companies to absorb higher expenses while competing for customers.

Those challenges were a common theme among participants at Texworld NYC, which marked its 20th anniversary this year and brought together more than 400 exhibitors from around the world at the end of July.

For exhibitors, trade shows remain one of the

most direct ways to reach buyers. But many said buyer traffic has slowed in recent years as costs continue to climb across the supply chain, forcing companies to balance profitability and competitiveness.

Booth traffic was "better than expected", according to Jason Liu, business director with Chinese textile manufacturer Sumec Textile & Light Industry Co, Ltd, which exhibits at Texworld NYC for the first time.

Liu said the company has collected around 50 to 60 leads from potential



Visitors are pictured at a booth during Texworld NYC, a textile sourcing trade show, in New York City, the United States, 30 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

clients, mainly from the United States, Canada and Mexico. Liu added that its US buyers are mainly importers and brand owners,

whose end customers include major retailers such as Costco, Walmart, Sam's Club and Burlington. — Xinhua

India's data centre capacity may reach 3-3.6 GW by 2030



India's installed data centre capacity currently stands at around 1.3-1.4 GW. PHOTO: ANI

INDIA'S data centre capacity could rise to around 3-3.6 GW by 2030, with hyperscalers and emerging AI-focused cloud players

expected to become the dominant drivers of new demand, according to a report based on expert assessment cited by Axis

Capital. However, execution and supply-chain constraints could keep actual operational capacity below the 6-8 GW targets publicly announced by industry players.

The report estimated that hyperscalers could account for around 90 per cent of data centre demand by 2030, compared with the current 60 per cent share, as companies such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft and Google expand capacity and emerging neo-cloud and large

language model hosting requirements gather pace. Enterprise demand, meanwhile, is expected to remain broadly flat in absolute terms. India's installed data centre capacity currently stands at around 1.3-1.4 GW. Third-party colocation facilities account for the largest share at 60-65 per cent, followed by hyperscaler captive or leased capacity at 25-30 per cent. Enterprise and edge data centres account for around 8-10 per cent and 2-3 per cent, respectively. — ANI

AI boom triggers severe memory shortage

PRINT-OUTS of articles about the global memory chip shortage are pinned beside a price list at a Hong Kong computer shop, offering an explanation to confused customers feeling the pinch.

Price rises for goods such as laptops and smartphones, with cars potentially next, have been an unwelcome side-effect of the artificial intelligence gold rush

— and the squeeze is far from over.

Samsung Electronics' chief financial officer said this week shortages of microchips that store digital data will likely deepen in 2027 and stay tight through 2028.

The crunch has been nicknamed "RAMageddon" after the components called RAM, or "random-access memory". — AFP

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (36145)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (36145)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2026** 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

EU to hold videoconference over Ceuta migrant crisis after calls from Spain, 22 European countries

Italy and Denmark urged a coordinated European response to Ceuta border developments.

THE European Union (EU) will hold an extraordinary videoconference on Tuesday to discuss the situation in Ceuta, a Spanish enclave in North Africa, according to Italy's ANSA news agency on Saturday.

The announcement was made by Micheal Martin, the Irish prime minister whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, after calls from Spain as well as a 22-country initiative led by Italy and Denmark for a coordinated European response to the migrant crisis.



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez (C) observes the work of the Civil Guard in Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta, on 31 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Italy and Denmark on Saturday spearheaded a joint initiative, calling

for a coordinated European response to recent developments at the EU's

external border in Ceuta, according to a statement released by the Italian

government.

The letter, signed by 22 European heads of state and government, was sent to top EU leaders, citing "serious concern" over the situation in Ceuta and stressed the need to prevent uncontrolled irregular crossings, fight migrant trafficking networks, eliminate all factors that may incentivize new illegal entries and ensure a unified and effective European response.

"We are determined to prevent smugglers from challenging the integrity of the Union's external borders," the letter said. — Xinhua

China discovers universe's most powerful particle accelerator

SCIENTISTS using China's Large High Altitude Air Shower Observatory (LHAASO) recently found that a remarkable binary system in the constellation Cygnus, Cygnus X-3, is the most powerful particle accelerator discovered to date, according to the Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Cygnus X-3 is a binary system composed of a compact object (either a black hole or a neutron star) and a massive companion star. As the compact object voraciously accretes material from the intense stellar wind of its companion, it accelerates particles to extremely high energies. However, previous mainstream theories held that charged particles within the Milky Way could reach energies of about 1 PeV (peta-electron volt), scientists said. Through detailed analysis of the time variability and spectral characteristics of ultra-high-energy gamma rays, LHAASO has confirmed that Cygnus X-3 can accelerate cosmic-ray particles to energies of at least 30 PeV, said Cao Zhen, principal investigator of LHAASO and an academician of CAS. — Xinhua

OPEC+ tipped to raise production again but new quotas loom

SAUDI Arabia, Russia and five other members of OPEC+ are expected to raise their oil production quotas for September when they meet online Sunday as the Middle East war continues to disrupt global energy supplies.

The enlarged Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will likely increase production by 188,000 barrels per day, following several months

of similar hikes, said Jorge Leon, an analyst at Rystad Energy. However, the September increase is likely to be the last in the current series of production adjustments, he said. Between late 2022 and 2023, OPEC+ became concerned that oil prices were falling, and agreed to cut oil production in three separate rounds, reducing total output by nearly six million barrels per day.

But Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — before their exit from the group on 1 May — then changed their strategy by gradually upping production starting in 2025. A September increase would complete the unwinding of the second of the three production-cut packages introduced by OPEC+. — AFP



Saudi oil output remains well below prewar levels after Iranian attacks and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz disrupted exports. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Iranian pilgrims flood Iraq during regional conflicts

UNDER a blazing sun, clad in black and clutching portraits of their slain leader Ali Khamenei, Iranian pilgrims streamed across the border into Iraq to observe the Arbreen, the most revered event in Shia Islam.

Some stamped on a portrait of US President Donald Trump, others raised their fists or flashed victory signs, as

fresh strikes rattled the region, drawing Iraq back into the Middle East war.

Amir, a 55-year-old pick-up driver, has been attending the Arbreen ceremonies in Iraq for years, but said that this time is different.

"The difference is that we are at war. Now, the United States is attacking us... yet this crowd that you see has

left everything behind" to attend, the father-of-three added, at Iraq's al-Zurbatiyah border crossing.

Arbaeen, which means forty in Arabic, marks the 40th day of mourning for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Mohammed and a founding figure in Shia Islam. — AFP

Sri Lanka deploys troops after prison riot

SRI Lanka deployed hundreds of troops and elite commandos on Sunday to contain riots at an overcrowded prison in which an inmate was killed and six others wounded, police said.

Deputy police inspector-general Sanjeewa Medawatte said the situation was under control after inmates destroyed multiple buildings on

Saturday inside Mahara Prison, just outside the capital Colombo. "We got reinforcements from the armed forces and the Special Task Force commandos to restore order and send the inmates back to their cells," Medawatte told reporters outside the prison. In November 2020, a riot erupted at the facility in which 11 inmates were shot and killed, and nearly

120 others wounded.

The latest unrest came almost a month after another prison riot in the same region, in which 10 guards and 21 inmates were killed. Medawatte said inmates at Mahara Prison had completely destroyed the kitchen, the hospital, a newly built rehabilitation building and vocational training facilities. — AFP

SPORTS

Top teams eye crucial wins in Women’s League

THE 2026-27 Myanmar Women’s League Week 8 fixtures will run from 3 to 5 August, with league leaders Sports and Physical Education Institute aiming to strengthen their position at the top.

Sports and Physical Education Institute, who lead the standings with 19 points will face Myawady on 5 August, while second-placed Ayeyawady (16 points) take on Yangon City on 4 August.

The week’s key clash will see third-placed Shan United (14 points) meet Ya-

danarbon (11 points), as both teams look to close the gap in the top half of the table.

Other fixtures include Yangon United vs Young Lionesses and Zwegapin United versus Thitsar Arman on 3 August.

The league is organized by the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League, with Max Energy as the main sponsor. AYA Pay Player of the Match awards have also been increased to K500,000 per match this season. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar Women’s League players battle for possession during a match. PHOTO: MWL

11th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship set for 9 August

THE 11th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship will be held at Theinbyu Lethwei Arena in Yangon at 2 pm on 9 August, organized by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation (MTLF) and Myanmar Martial Arts Group (MMAG), with Myanmar Economic Corporation serving as the main sponsor and support from MAI, Mingalar Aviation, A Bank and Max Cement.

The event will feature a series of bouts across six weight classes, beginning with a 53 kilogramme event, four-round contest between rising prospects Daung Mike Thway (Nine Lethwei) and Saw Ruby (YMA). The second bout will see Kayin Champion Aung Ko Latt (Ray) take on Saw Htein Lin (555 Sports) in a 65 kilogramme, four-round match.

The championship will then move into its

gold belt contests, with MLWC gold medallist Salai Thang Kwi Shein (Kyar Ma Naing) facing SEA Games bronze medallist Hein Tun Aung (Khay Yu Wah) in the 56 kilogramme, five-round title bout. Another gold belt clash will pit MLWC champion Eh Mwi (Eh Kanyaw) against Sky Net Gold Flag champion Thant Zin (Python Tawwin Ayeya) in the 60 kilogramme category.

The co-main event will feature MLWC gold medallist Naing Win Tun (Nine Lethwei) against Kayin Champion Kabar Shah (Zar Htet Meiktila) in a 67 kilogramme, five-round gold belt fight.

The headline attraction of the evening will be the 75 kilogramme, five-round gold belt showdown between Tun Min Aung (Top One) and Raman (Yoe Yar Swan Ah). Both fighters have built strong



This poster depicts 11th Myanmar Lethwei World Championship to be held on 9 August.

reputations in domestic and international competitions and are known for their knockout power, making the bout one of the most highly anticipated contests of the cham-

pionship. Tickets are priced at K15,000, K30,000, K50,000 and K100,000, with the highest-priced seats offering the closest ringside view. — Bala/KZL

De Zerbi unsure over Richarlison’s future at Spurs

TOTTENHAM manager Roberto de Zerbi is unsure whether Richarlison will stay at the club, saying the Brazilian forward “sometimes” wants to leave.

The 29-year-old Richarlison reinforced his importance with a last-minute winner as 10-man Spurs beat Chelsea 2-1 on their pre-season tour in Sydney on Saturday.

He also scored in their 2-0 win over Auckland FC last weekend.

Richarlison’s fate has come into focus after Tottenham’s aggressive summer of spending to boost their fortunes after avoiding the drop by coming 17th in the Premier League last season.

Tottenham have yet



Tottenham manager Roberto De Zerbi is unsure about Richarlison’s future at the club. PHOTO: AFP

to recruit a striker, but De Zerbi has made clear he is not finished in the transfer market yet with Manchester City forward Savinho among those reportedly in his sights.

“I don’t know,” De Ze-

rbi said when asked about Richarlison’s future after the Chelsea match.

“As a player, as a guy, it is unbelievable his attitude and behaviour, but at the end we have to respect what he wants

to do.

“For me he is still an important player because it is not so easy to find another striker as Richarlison, because Richarlison scores goals and he knows the way.” — AFP

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10



Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

1. B. 1924, Sao Ohn Kya (From the Hsipaw Haw Palace story on Page 1)
2. B. 24.4 per cent (From the Meelingyaing LNG power plant story on Page 1)
3. A. “Taste of the Golden Land 2026” (From the Traditional Myanmar Food Competition story on Page 4)
4. C. China (From the UNESCO World Heritage story on Page 14)
5. C. Pearl (From the D-Day Beaches story on Page 16. The five D-Day beaches are Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.)

EU to hold videoconference over Ceuta migrant crisis after calls from Spain, 22 European countries
PAGE 14



WORLD

South Korea records its highest-ever temperature of 42.5C

SOUTH Korea registered its highest temperature since records began more than a century ago on Sunday, as authorities warned people to “immediately” stop all outdoor activities in affected areas.

The southeastern city of Yangsan saw the temperature reach 42.5C at 1:26 pm (0426 GMT),

the Korea Meteorological Administration said on its website.

Yangsan has been the epicentre of the ongoing heatwave, where temperatures exceeded 40C for a fifth consecutive day on Sunday, while many other cities including Dae-gu and Busan are seeing temperatures climb into the high 30s. — AFP



A man walks between buildings in Seoul on 2 August 2026.
PHOTO: AFP

Trump says US to hold off attack on Iran

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he has agreed to hold off fresh attacks against Iran, even as the two sides continue to trade threats while offering conflicting accounts.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the United States “is locked and loaded and ready to go against the Islamic Republic of Iran, at levels of Military Terror, Strength, and Power not seen since World War II”. — Xinhua

Indian PM Modi inaugurates Vizag airport, seeks Southeast Asian travellers

The airport will commence commercial operations on 17 August 2026.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vizag Airport, named Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, located at Bhogapuram, marking a significant milestone in India’s aviation infrastructure journey and strengthening Andhra Pradesh’s position as a key economic and connectivity hub.

The airport has been developed on 2,200 acres of land by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL), a GMR Aero-led subsidiary, under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

The airport, completed several months ahead of schedule, will commence commercial operations on 17 August 2026.

Strategically located,

the Vizag Airport is envisioned as the Gateway of the East, improving connectivity for northern Andhra Pradesh and its coastal belt, as well as southern Odisha.

With giants like Microsoft, Google, Reliance, and others announcing plans to set up Data Centres near Vizag Airport, Visakhapatnam is all set to become the economic capital of the East.

The airport is expected to act as a powerful catalyst for economic growth, tourism, employment generation, and inclusive socio-economic development, directly supporting the Government of India’s vision of Viksit Bharat powered by modern, resilient infrastructure.

Dubbed as a powerful engine of growth, the Vizag Airport will strengthen trade, boost



The Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 August 2026, serving as a major new aviation hub for North Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

exports, and unlock the immense tourism potential of Andhra Pradesh by

enhancing connectivity for people and businesses. — ANI

Main structure of first cross-border ropeway between China and Russia completed

THE main structure of the first cross-border ropeway linking China and Russia has been completed, bringing closer the prospect of more efficient people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, a Chinese official said on Sunday.

Construction of the passenger ropeway connecting Heihe City in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province



This photo taken on 22 July 2026 shows an exterior view of the joint customs and immigration inspection hall of the first cross-border ropeway linking China and Russia, in Heihe, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province.

PHOTO: XINHUA

and Russia’s Blagoveshchensk across the Heilongjiang River began in July 2019.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed before the end of this year, said Zhang Qijun, deputy director of the management committee of the China (Heilongjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone’s Heihe section.

Once operational, the ropeway will cut cross-riv-

er travel time between the two border cities to just six to eight minutes, according to Cao Xinhong, chairman of Heihe-based Jinlonggang Construction and Development Co, Ltd, the contractor for the Chinese section of the project.

The ropeway has a horizontal cross-river span of 970 metres and is equipped with two carriages, each capable of carrying 110 passengers,

Cao said.

The ropeway runs at a maximum speed of 12 metres per second, with a designed annual one-way passenger throughput of 2.6 million.

Zhang said Heihe and Blagoveshchensk, twin border cities facing each other across the Heilongjiang River, have long maintained close economic, trade and cultural ties. — Xinhua