

# Youth Hailed as Key Force for National Development, Brighter Future

Youth should refrain from actions that could undermine the development and dignity of the country and its people, while upholding their responsibilities as responsible digital citizens.



President U Min Aung Hlaing visits exhibition booths displayed by young entrepreneurs from regions, states, ministries and associations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It is very important to systematically approach effective assistance and investment to initiate the goals and opportunities of youths who play a key role in the future of the State and help those youth successfully overcome difficulties they face, said President of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the International Youth Day 2026. The commemorative ceremony took place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. **SEE PAGE 3**

## Key points from the speech delivered by the President at International Youth Day

1. The younger generation represents invaluable human resources for the nation's development and serves as a key driving force in shaping a better future.
2. They are focusing on creating more employment opportunities and enabling youth to acquire 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills.
3. Youth are urged to value their traditional cultural identity and promote the dignity and standing of the country on the global stage.

# Flood Relief, Cleanup Continue across Ayeyawady Region

IN Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, heavy rainfall and river-bank erosion on the night of 30 July caused a breach in the sand stratum of the oxbow lake at the base of the Ngawun River embankment, allowing floodwaters to break through the barrier. To date, the flooding has affected a total of 11 urban wards and 189 villages, including five urban wards, major downtown roads, **SEE PAGE 4**



Tatmadaw members transport food supplies to flood relief centres in Ayeyawady Region.

## NATIONAL PAGE 4



Myanmar, Vietnam eye agri, rural development cooperation

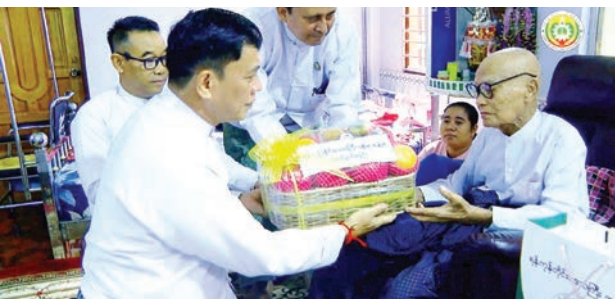
## NATIONAL PAGE 6



9 undocumented foreign entrants detained in Myanmar

# 121-Year-Old Man, Taninthayi Woman Named Myanmar's Oldest Living Citizens

A 121-year-old man from Htantabin Township, Yangon Region, and a 121-year-old woman from Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, have been officially identified as Myanmar's oldest living male and female citizens, according to records **SEE PAGE 5**



This photo showcases officials visiting homes of Myanmar's oldest citizens to pay respects and deliver donations.

# MRF and Vietnamese firms discuss rice seed collaboration

A delegation from the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) explored cooperation in rice seed production to accelerate collaboration in the agriculture and seed sectors with two Vietnamese seed companies during the visit to Vietnam between 25 and 31 July. **SEE PAGE 6**



Participants posing for a commemorative photo during the Myanmar-Vietnam rice seed production cooperation talk.

# NATIONAL

## Notice for MSMEs

- To promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), the MSME Development Fund has been established with capital contributed by the State. Loans from the fund are being provided to MSMEs in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and regions and states at concessional interest rates through Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and 16 private banks, either against collateral or under the Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) system.
- Entrepreneurs wishing to obtain MSME loans must apply for loans at the relevant Township/District MSME Agencies. The terms and conditions for MSME loans are as follows:
  - Maximum loan amount for an MSME
    - Micro and small enterprises — up to K50 million
    - Medium-sized enterprises — up to K100 million
    - Loans under the CGI system — up to K50 million
    - (Myanma Insurance, three private joint-venture general insurance companies and six domestic private general insurance companies)
  - Loan types and interest rates
    - Loans for which at least 30 per cent of the funds will be used for fixed capital: maximum loan term of three years; interest rate – 3 per cent.
    - Loans for which 100 per cent of the funds will be used as working capital: maximum loan term of one year and six months; interest rate – 4 per cent.
    - Loans provided under the CGI system: interest rate – 5 per cent.
    - (Borrowers obtaining loans under the CGI system will be required to pay the CGI premium in addition to the 5 per cent interest rate.)
  - Types of collateral that may be submitted for loans
    - Land and buildings
    - Machinery and equipment
    - Savings certificates
    - Government treasury bonds
    - Fixed deposits (term deposits)
    - Pledgeable securities
    - Credit Guarantee
  - Types of land accepted as collateral
    - Ancestral land, land grant, Lana (39) Land, (3) (a) Land, Laya (30) (a) (b) Land, Farmland use certificate form (7), industrial/business grant
  - Types of buildings accepted as collateral
    - Reinforced concrete (RC) buildings, brick-and-concrete buildings, masonry buildings, brick-enclosed garage buildings, steel structures, condominium units in buildings of six storeys or above
- Therefore, MSME entrepreneurs wishing to obtain loans from the MSME Development Fund may apply for loans by submitting eligible collateral. Those unable to provide collateral may apply for loans under the Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) system for a maximum amount of K50 million.

MSME Development Fund Management Body

## SIBA, Russia’s Buddhist Foundation sign cooperation agreement



The Sitagu Sayadaw and Mr Alexey Maslov are pictured during the signing ceremony.

A cooperation agreement was signed on 11 August in Moscow between Myanmar’s Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (SIBA) and the Russian Federation’s Foundation for the Promotion of Buddhist Education and Research.

Key objectives of the agreement are to

strengthen academic cooperation between the two organizations in the fields of Buddhist literature, research, education, and culture, and to promote mutual understanding.

The agreement has a term of five years and encompasses organizing conferences and academ-

ic seminars on Buddhist philosophy, history, and practices, conducting training programmes and research through reciprocal exchanges of teaching faculty, researchers, and administrators, and collaborating on research concerning ancient Buddhist scriptures, historical sites, and contemporary teachings.

The agreement was signed by the Chancellor and Patron of the Sitagu Buddhist Academies, the Sitagu Sayadaw, and Mr Alexey Maslov, Chairman of the Russian Foundation and Head of Asian Studies at the Russian State University. — MT/ZN

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday 12 August 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal and off West Bengal, India - Bangladesh coasts persists. It is likely to become a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area during the next 12 hours and move northwestwards and intensify into a Depression and across West Bengal, India and adjoining Bangladesh coasts during the next 36 hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 13 August 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Lower Sagaing Regions and Eastern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 mile per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 August 2026:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

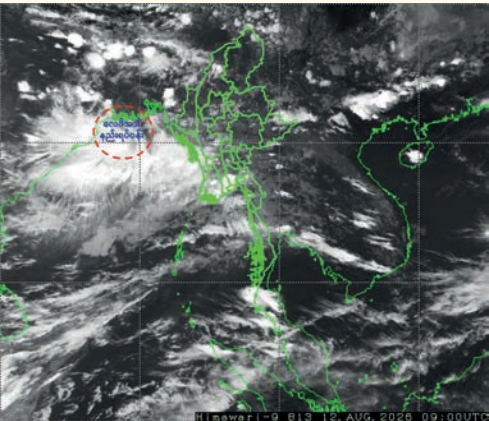
**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 August 2026:** Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 August 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

## Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 12 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal and off West Bengal, India - Bangladesh coasts persists. It is likely to become a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area during next 12 hours and move northwestwards and intensify into a Depression and across West Bengal, India, and adjoining Bangladesh coasts during the next 36 hours. — DMH



# NATIONAL

## Youth Hailed as Key Force for National Development, ...

FROM PAGE 1

At the ceremony, the President recalled that there are approximately 1.3 billion young people aged between 15 and 24 worldwide today. More than half of them live in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, according to the United Nations' key findings on the world's population in 2026.

He noted that the UN findings also underlined the need to invest in improving the health and socioeconomic well-being of youth, provide quality education and decent employment opportunities, and create opportunities for youth to participate fully in society.

The President stated that the United Nations

has designated "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations" as the theme for International Youth Day 2026. The theme highlights that, despite differences in the countries, social conditions and backgrounds in which young people live, they share common aspirations to promote their dignity, rights and opportunities for meaningful participation, and to build a sustainable and prosperous future.

The President explained that countries around the world are also placing emphasis on ensuring youth have access to education and learning opportunities, which serve as fundamental building blocks for their holistic development, and on

promoting their physical and mental well-being as they work to support and enhance the prospects of youth. In addition, they are focusing on creating more employment opportunities and enabling youth to acquire 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills.

In line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, he said that the ASEAN Work Plan on Youth (2026-2030) has been adopted and is being implemented to create greater opportunities for the youth in the ASEAN region to participate in climate change responses, disaster prevention and preparedness, peacemaking, and development processes.

Regarding the 2024 Population and Housing

Census, the President unveiled that Myanmar has a total population of more than 51.37 million, of whom approximately 16.78 million are youth, making Myanmar a country with a large youth population. More than 8.4 million people aged between 15 and 24 account for over 16 per cent of the country's total population. They represent an invaluable human resource for the nation's development and serve as a key driving force in shaping a better future.

He underlined that youth need to develop critical thinking skills to distinguish right or wrong when using technology, and to be mindful of AI ethics and cybersecurity. They are also urged to refrain from

actions that could undermine the development and the country's and its people's dignity, and to uphold their responsibilities as responsible digital citizens.

The President urged the youth to continue striving to cultivate patriotism and proficiency in using modern technologies, while valuing their traditional cultural identity and promoting the country's dignity and standing on the global stage.

At the ceremony, the President awarded the outstanding youths who won awards in international competitions.

Union Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Maung Thin read out the message delivered by the United Nations Secretary-Gener-

al to the 2026 International Youth Day celebration.

The President and distinguished guests watched a video clip on the comprehensive development efforts for youths to mark the 2026 International Youth Day.

After the ceremony, the President visited exhibition booths set up by young entrepreneurs from regions and states as well as ministries and associations.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers and Union-level dignitaries. — MNA/TTA

## Pyidaungsu/Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker signs condolence book on demise of Laos National Assembly President Mr Xaysomphone Phomvihane



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe signs the condolence book at the Lao Embassy in Yangon yesterday.

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, visited the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Dagon Township, Yangon, at 2 pm yesterday to sign the condolence book following the death of Lao National

Assembly President Mr Xaysomphone Phomvihane on 8 August.

At the embassy, U Aung Lin Dwe met the Lao Ambassador and embassy officials in the guest room and conveyed the condolences and sympathies of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar over the passing of Mr Xaysomphone

Phomvihane.

Mr Xaysomphone Phomvihane served as President of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic during its ninth term from March 2021 to December 2025. He was re-elected for the 10<sup>th</sup> term in March 2026 and served until his death at the age of 70. — MNA/MKKS

## Yangon Police ramp up crime prevention, public awareness campaigns

POLICE across Yangon Region have intensified crime prevention and public safety efforts in cooperation with traffic police and local administrative bodies through public awareness campaigns, patrols and security inspections, according to official reports.

As part of the campaign, the chief of the Hmawby District Police Force and officers delivered crime prevention awareness talks during the Ward and Village Administrators' Capacity-Building Training 2/2026 at the Htantabin Township General Administration Department yesterday morning.

Officers from the Hmawby Township Police Station held a crime prevention awareness session at the Hteinhn-gapin Village Administrator's Office. Mean-



A combined team from Ahlon Township checks a guest registration.

while, the chief and officers of the Sangyoung Township Police Station visited homes to educate residents on crime prevention measures.

In Dala Township, traffic police officers conducted a public awareness campaign at the traffic lights near the Dala Bridge, encouraging pedestrians to use designated zebra crossings when crossing roads.

The previous

evening, a joint team led by the acting chief of the Dagon Myothit (North) Township Police Force conducted security patrols across the township. In addition, the chief of the Ahlon Township Police Force and a joint inspection team conducted overnight guest registration checks in the Saw Yan Paing (East) Ward along Waibargi Road as part of ongoing security measures. — Aung Thu/ST

NATIONAL

Myanmar, Vietnam eye agri, rural development cooperation

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received a delegation led by Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Nguyen Anh Duc at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in agriculture and rural development.

They also discussed the exchange of breeding techniques and advanced agricultural technologies, biosecurity measures, fish and shrimp health and disease-control technologies for the shrimp farming sector, investment in animal feed production and livestock enterprises, and cooperation in agricultural research, technology and human resource development. The discussions aimed to coordinate and implement work plans that reflect current circumstances and serve the interests of both countries.



The Vietnamese ambassador calls on Union Minister U Min Naung.

reflect current circumstances and serve the interests of both countries. — MNA/MKKS

Elephant camps across regions/states mark World Elephant Day

A special buffet of food for elephants was held at 20 elephant camps across various regions and states yesterday to mark World Elephant Day. The elephants were provided with a variety of food, including pineapples, watermelons, bananas, cucumbers, pumpkins, mangoes, sugarcane, elephant grass, bamboo leaves and corn.

World Elephant Day has been observed annually on 12 August since



Students keen on exhibits at the Elephant Museum.

2012 to raise awareness of the need to protect and preserve elephants worldwide. The events were organized by camp officials,

and mahouts. Celebrations were also held at Ngalaik Elephant Camp in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and Wingabaw Elephant Camp in Phayagyi, Bago Region.

Visitors also took part in activities such as playing football and bathing with the elephants, while some elephants were released into the forest for pasture. — Diparlin/MKKS

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 43

Issued at 8 am MST on 12 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, unstable air condition over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States from today morning to 15 August 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**Advisory**

People should be aware of the strong monsoon and unstable air condition over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds, such as the 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

Basic foodstuffs provided in Chin State

FOOD supplies, nutritional supplements and essential medicines provided by the National Disaster Management Committee were handed over by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo at Falam Town Hall and the People's Hospital yesterday.

The deputy minister also inspected reconstruction work at damaged government offices, staff housing and other facilities in Falam Township.

In Tiddim and Tonzang townships, officials inspected ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction work at public buildings, schools, staff housing and other facilities. — MNA/MKKS



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo presents medical supplies to the People's Hospital in Falam.

Flood Relief, Cleanup Continue...

**FROM PAGE 1**

and 121 surrounding villages in Laymyethna Township; 37 villages in Hinthada Township; two urban wards and 24 surrounding villages in Yekyi Township; two urban wards in Ngathaingchaung Township, Yekyi Township; and two urban wards and seven surrounding villages in Kyonpyaw Township.

Consequently, Tatmadaw personnel from South-West Command, police personnel, firefighters, social relief groups, volunteers, and local communities have joined forces to establish flood relief centres. They have been actively engaged in search and rescue operations for flood-stricken residents, while also delivering food supplies and providing medical care. Furthermore, emergency efforts to control and prevent water from flowing through the Ngawun embankment are being intensified by laying geotextile bags (geobags), placing sandbags between timber piles, and driving steel sheet piles into the ground.

Additionally, in areas where floodwaters have receded, Tatmadaw personnel, police personnel, firefighters, and volunteer groups are joining forces to clear mud and debris from schools and roads.

Officials from the South-West Command visited the site to inspect the ongoing operations and provided the necessary coordination and support. — MNA/TH

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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](mailto:gnlmnews@gmail.com),  
[newsroom@gnlm.com.mm](mailto:newsroom@gnlm.com.mm)  
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

121-Year-Old Man,  
Taninthayi Woman  
Named Myanmar's ...

FROM PAGE 1

Minister and regional government officials visited his home to pay their respects. They presented him with cash donations totalling K12.1 million, symbolizing his 121 years of age, as well as nutritional supplements and ceremonial gifts.

In a similar gesture, Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win visited Daw Phata Mar, a 118-year-old resident of Ward 5 in Myohla Town, Yedashe Township, Toungoo District, and paid his respects to her. — ASH/TH

109<sup>th</sup> TOPIK set for this Nov

THE 109<sup>th</sup> TOPIK is scheduled to be held in November, according to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Myanmar.

It will take place on 15 November at Kamayut Campus and Hline Campus. Application forms can be submitted online at the Myanmar TOPIK website: <https://www.topik-myanmar.com>.

A membership application is required, and application submissions will be accepted from 13 to 16 August. Eligible applicants are limited to 2910 for each event -TOPIK I and TOPIK II. Seat numbers will be released via the Myanmar TOPIK website at the end of September after the exam fee is paid.

Test vouchers will be available at the Korea TOPIK website <http://www.topik.go.kr> two weeks before the exam. Online form applicants must deposit the exam fee of US\$25 either in person or by a representative; only US dollars will be accepted.

The exam fee payment will be accepted from 20 to 23 August at Toungoo Hall of the University of Yangon. Residents of the host city must attend in person, and non-residents may be represented by a family member, relative, or friend. For more details, applicants can call this number: 09 968862300 or email [myanmartopikofficial@gmail.com](mailto:myanmartopikofficial@gmail.com). — MT/ZS

People's Military Service Training  
4/2024 graduates honoured

THE ceremonies to present certificates of completion of People's Military Service and to award the People's Military Service Badge were held at various regional military commands yesterday.

The ceremonies were attended by the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of regions and states, commanders of respective commands and responsible officials, departmental officials, the People's Military Service members who have completed their service periods, and their family members.

At the ceremonies, chief ministers of regions and states and commanders of respective com-



Senior Tatmadaw officers and officials warmly greet graduates of People's Military Service Training 4 in the North-West Command.

mands delivered congratulatory speeches.

The chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of regions and states, commanders of respective command headquarters, and responsible officials presented certificates of completion of People's Military Service, People's Military Service badges, and commemorative citations to the worthy citizens who had faithfully fulfilled their military service duties and completed their prescribed service periods. Following the presentations, refreshments and congratulatory luncheons were served to the attendees, and the distinguished military service completed personnel were also cordially greeted. — MNA/KTZH

MRCS provides K62.55M+ as second batch to  
139 quake victims in Sagaing



The MRCS providing financial assistance to earthquake-affected households in Sagaing.

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) announced on 12 August that it has provided over K62.55 million in second-batch financial assistance to 139 earthquake-affected households in Sagaing.

The assistance was provided at Minlan Ward, Sagaing Township, on 10 August. In this second batch, K450,000 per household, totalling K62.55 million, were supported. Each household previously received an initial batch of K1.05 million, bringing the cumulative livelihood support to K1.5 million per household.

MRCS Executive Committee Member Professor Dr Tin Maung Hlaing, accompanied by Deputy Secretary-Gener-

al Daw Aye Aye Nyein and other officials, observed the cash distribution in Minlan Ward. During the visit, officials inspected the cash distribution process and monitored how beneficiaries were utilizing the funds to resume their livelihood activities.

This assistance was made possible through the support of the German Red Cross. MRCS staff and local volunteers delivered assistance directly to beneficiaries. — MT/ZN



A coordination meeting on the continued removal of internet and telecommunications cables from Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) utility poles to improve electrical safety in Yangon Region.

YGN to press ahead with underground cable conversion

A coordination meeting on the continued removal of internet and telecommunications cables attached to Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) utility poles was held on 11 August as part of efforts to improve electrical safety across Yangon Region.

According to officials, the clearance of tangled internet and telecommunications cables from YESC utility poles along Kaba Aye Pagoda Road has been completed. To enhance urban infrastructure and further improve electrical safety, the remaining overhead

cables will be gradually converted to an underground system.

At the meeting, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport Dr Myo Thaw coordinated the necessary measures among relevant departments and internet service providers (ISPs) to continue cable-clearance work along Laydauntkan Road, Parami Road and Waizayanta Road. The discussions focused on ensuring the safety of power lines and the proper securing of telecommunications cables. — TWA/KNN

# NATIONAL

## Returning frontline troops honoured in Hmawby, Mawlamyinegyun



Images feature triumphant troops being warmly welcomed home.

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw military units in Yangon Region's Hmawby Township and Ayeyawady Region's Mawlamyinegyun Township yesterday.

The ceremonies were attended by Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Tin Min Latt and South-West Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Khine, respectively, alongside departmental officials, military officers and families, police and veteran organization members, artists, traditional dance troupes, teachers, students, and local communities.

Attendees greeted the returning troops – who served selflessly away from their families to safeguard national stability and the lives and property of citizens – with auspicious Eugenia sprigs, flower garlands, and lively musical and dance performances. During the events, the regional commanders delivered honorary speeches expressing gratitude for their service, with cash rewards also presented to the victorious soldiers in Hmawby. — MNA/ST

## MRF and Vietnamese firms discuss rice seed collaboration

FROM PAGE 1

The MRF delegation visited seed processing plants, farms, and research

and development facilities during the trip. They also signed some memoranda of understanding (MoUs),

according to the MRF. The discussions also covered the exchange of seed and hybridization technologies, training and capacity-building programs, and joint initiatives to boost agricultural productivity.

The federation is actively working to produce high-quality aromatic rice varieties with long, slender grains that have strong demand and better prices in international markets, as well as production for domestic markets. The private sector is exerting efforts to develop Myanmar's seed industry. — ASH/KK



Members of the MRF delegation visit seed processing plants and research and development facilities in Vietnam.

## 9 undocumented foreign entrants detained in Myanmar

MYANMAR detained three Ethiopians, two Ugandans, two Chinese, one Rwandan and one Kenyan, totalling nine foreign nationals, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State.

Between 30 January 2025 and 12 August 2026, a total of 14,749 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 13,820 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries.

Among the remaining 929 individuals to be deported, there are 713 who were charged under the Myanmar Im-



Immigration officials oversee the deportation of undocumented immigrants.

migration (Emergency) Provisions Act section 3 (1)/13(1) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 216 individuals are currently under detention while awaiting re-

patriation. The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

## Man arrested for stealing K60M in Kamayut



This photo shows a suspect along with seized items.

A man who allegedly stole K60 million from a parked vehicle in Kamayut Township, Yangon, was identified and arrested along with evidence on the evening of 9 August, according to reports.

At around 12:15 pm on 5 August, Daw (name undisclosed), 52, from Ward 10 in Hline Township, parked her Nissan March (registration No YGN-8 2F-XXXX) on the roadside near MAB Bank on Insein Road in Ward 1, Kamayut Township. After locking her vehicle, she entered MAB Bank for approximately six minutes

to enquire about depositing money. Upon returning and unlocking the vehicle, she discovered that K60 million that she had stored in the rear compartment was missing. She promptly reported the theft to the Kamayut Myoma Police Station.

Following an investigation by security personnel, Zaw Latt, also known as Aung Zaw Lat, 38, of Ohgon Village, Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, was identified and arrested at his residence on the evening of 9 August, where K14 million was also seized.

The offender said that at about 11:30 am on 5 August, he saw the woman get out of the white Nissan March parked on the roadside near MAB Bank on Insein Road in Ward 1, Kamayut Township. As she locked the vehicle, he lifted the handle of the vehicle's rear left door in a way that prevented it from being properly locked. While the vehicle owner was inside MAB Bank, he subsequently stole K60 million from the vehicle.

Efforts were made to recover the stolen property. On the afternoon of 11 August, two gold rings and K10 million purchased with the stolen money were seized from a residence in Seikkyi East Ward, Seikkyi Khanaungto Township. Another K10 million was seized from a residence in Ward 5, Seikkyi Khanaungto Township.

The offender will face legal action under the existing law. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Bridge Dept invites tenders for Thanlwin Project equipment

THE Task Force 2 of the Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction invited open tenders for the procurement of construction materials and rental of machinery for the Thanlwin Bridge (Tasuttane) project.

The bridge is located on the Wanhat-Wan Salong-Tasuttane-Homain Road in southern Shan State, and is funded by the 2026-2027 Union capital expenditure (construction budget).

The tender also covers delivery of materials to the worksite.

Tender forms are available from 6 August at the Task Force 2 in Langkho Township. The deadline to submit tenders is 4 pm on 19 August. Bids will be opened at 9:30 am on 21 August at the department. Individuals can enquire about details at 09 442074932, 09 798965296, 09 402512599, or 09 403716376. — NN/KK

Agri Dept offers National-Level Rubber Tapper Level-1 Training

THE Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA), is recruiting trainees for the National-Level Rubber Tapper Level-1 Training scheduled to be held from 24 August to 7 September 2026.

The training will combine theoretical and practical instruction on rubber tapping techniques in line with NSSA standards. Trainees will receive internationally recognized certification from the Ministry of Labour. Expert trainers will give instruction free



The rubber tapping process is being demonstrated.



This photo shows a local rubber plantation.

of charge. The course offers free accommodation, training uniform, and learning materials. Participants are required to give K8,000 per day for meals over the 15-day training period, totalling K120,000 per trainee.

Only 30 trainees will be accepted. Those interested can register starting from 14 August by contacting the Skills Assessment Centre of the Perennial Crops Research and Technology Development Farm in Mudon Township, Mon State, via 09 402022002 or 09 458223040. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 12 August 2026

|                              | US\$             | Chinese yuan  | Thai baht     | Indian rupee |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Exchange rates               | 3,648.00~3669.00 | 555.30~558.70 | 125.30~125.70 | 43.60        |
| Trading amount in the market | 8,553,913.43     | 10,818,266.63 | 3,209,195.83  | -            |

The foreign currency volume traded in the market was for the import of edible oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, car/motorcycle spare parts, and construction materials. The revenue from the CMP sector was sold to the edible oil sector and the CMP sector. — MNA

Toll Pass RFID tested at 6 checkpoints on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway



A checkpoint on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway showcasing the trial of the Toll Pass RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Device) system.

THE Toll Pass RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) system is currently being piloted at six toll checkpoints along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and is expected to be introduced soon, according to the Ministry of Construction.

Installation of the telematics system on the expressway began in August 2024. As of July 2026, it had been fitted to 2,514 trucks and 3,184 passenger vehicles.

The existing Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system is also

being upgraded to incorporate RFID technology. During the trial period, motorists can access the system through the Toll Pass mobile application.

Once fully implemented, the RFID system will allow vehicles to pass through toll checkpoints without stopping, improve the data collection accuracy and support cashless payments.

In addition, a telematics system has been installed at the Nay Pyi Taw checkpoint to monitor the condition of large passenger and freight vehicles and enhance road safety on the expressway. — ASH/MKKS

Taxila to host GED graduation ceremonies in Yangon, Mandalay

TAXILA, an authorized GED provider, will hold graduation ceremonies for GED certificate holders on 29 August at Novotel Yangon Max in Yangon and on 26 September at Mingala Mandalay Hotel in Mandalay.

Taxila noted that its past GED graduations have drawn praise from parents and teachers for their well-organized, formal ceremonies, which feature US embassy officials as speakers. This graduation ceremony honouring GED credentials will include traditional academic regalia and student marshals to guide the processional/recessional.

Participants will also have the opportunity to apply for scholarships to pursue internationally recognized American-Myanmar bachelor's degree programmes (with awards up to K3.36 million) and the University & Career Readiness Program of the University of Minnesota with awards up to K500,000).

All GED graduates are eligible to register, regardless of which school they attended, the year they passed, or which test centre they used. Registration can be made through the link <https://forms.gle/QEkubKV1D-4MaAsFu5> on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interested individuals can enquire about the details of the ceremony by dialling 09 954230681, 09 954230469, or via email [ged@taxila.edu.mm](mailto:ged@taxila.edu.mm). — NN/KK

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Provide special care for students’ physical and mental health

MYANMAR is placing special emphasis on the education sector in its efforts to build a modern and developed nation. In promoting the development of the education sector, the country is implementing Health-Promoting School programmes in line with those prescribed by the World Health Organization. These programmes adopt a comprehensive school health system that goes beyond disease prevention to promote students’ physical and mental health, nutrition and healthy lifestyles.

Establishing healthy eating habits in schools can have a significant impact on the future health of schoolchildren and help them develop good health practices from an early age. To promote health awareness in schools and support the growth of students, nutrition education should be provided in preschools and primary schools to help children learn to consume a balanced diet.

The school-based nutrition programme for KG students was launched in the 2024-2025 academic year through coordination and cooperation between the Department of Public Health and the Department of Basic Education. Funds are being allocated to the Ministry of Health for the provision of school-based nutrition, and K2.82 billion was initially allocated for this purpose in the 2026-2027 academic year.

The 2026-2027 academic year School Health Week activities will be conducted by the respective ministries from 10 to 14 August 2026. The activities will include school-based health education and promotion, school environmental sanitation, school health care, school-based disease prevention, physical education and sports, school-based nutrition development and food safety, community participation and school-to-community outreach, counselling and social support, as well as training and research activities. The systematic implementation of school-based nutrition programmes can help students and youth develop healthy eating habits, support their overall health, and contribute significantly to maintaining healthy bodies.

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Today’s students and youth will become an important force for the nation in the future. As a motto: “The strength of the nation lies within”, parents, teachers and all students need to work together in implementing school health activities to help school-age children grow into healthy and responsible citizens.

The Unfolding Crisis: External Interference Confirmed

Last year, in an extensive piece on the Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the XXI Century, published by Russia in Global Affairs, I argued that external interference in the affairs of Eurasian countries has consistently prevented their successful and independent development. I traced this pattern from the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to the post-Cold War US strategies of “enlargement” and geostrategic domination articulated by former US National Security Advisers Anthony Lake and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

The current conflict in the Middle East has tragically and irrefutably confirmed this observation. This conflict is not merely another regional tragedy. It is the latest violent proof that external actors cannot manage Eurasian security. Once again, we have witnessed the familiar pattern: unilateral intervention in violation of international law, disregard for local realities, attempts to pit neighbours against each other, and the pursuit of strategic interests that have nothing to do with the well-being of the nations caught in the crossfire. The result, as always, is more death, more displacement, and a deeper erosion of any hope for regional stability.

In implementing school health care services, individual health examination record cards for students have been maintained starting from KG since the 2022-2023 academic year. This initiative needs to cover not only primary school children but also adolescents. Therefore, starting from this academic year, emphasis should be placed on ensuring continuous coverage through Grade 12.

Regrettably, the architects of these policies have not learned the lessons of the Balkans, Iraq,

Afghanistan, or Ukraine. They continue to believe that military force, unilateral sanctions, and political manipulation can reshape Eurasia according to their own blueprints. And every time they fail, but only after causing immense suffering to the people on our continent.

For Eurasian countries, the message could not be clearer: We cannot rely on external guardians to provide our security. We cannot wait for a “benign international liberal order” to return, because such an order never truly existed in practice – it was never liberal, it was hegemonic. And we certainly cannot afford to remain passive while others attempt to determine the future of our continent. What we need – urgently – is our own solution, forged by us and for us. We need Eurasian solutions to Eurasian problems.

The core lesson of the current Middle East conflict, as well as of every other failed external intervention in Eurasia over the past three decades, is this: only an indigenous, inclusive, and consensus-based security architecture can work. The CSCE succeeded during the Cold War precisely because it was a

The Eurasian Charter: An Indigenous Solution Based on Indivisible Security

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‘Why Eurasia Cannot Wait: A Charter for Our Time’

By Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Maxim Ryzhenkov

genuine forum for dialogue between the two camps that respected each other’s existence. The OSCE failed when it became an instrument for one group of participating states to impose its will on others. The so-called US-led “liberal order” failed because it was never liberal – it was hegemonic.

What Eurasia needs instead is a new approach, grounded in the principle that has been invoked since the 1975 Helsinki Final Act but never truly implemented: the indivisibility of security. No country in Eurasia should seek its own security at the expense of others. No external power should be allowed to play one Eurasian state against another. And no regional conflict should be treated as an opportunity for geopolitical gain.

This is precisely what the Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the XXI Century is supposed to offer.

As I argued in my piece from 2025, the Charter would not be directed against any country or groups of states. It is envisaged as a constructive, indigenous, collective, inclusive, and comprehensive effort. It will seek to establish a pan-Eurasian security architecture based on the norms and principles of the United Nations Charter. It will cover not only security, but also

economic cooperation, humanitarian exchanges, and civilizational dialogue. It will welcome all Eurasian states, from Lisbon to Manila in principle.

At the heart of the Charter will lie the principle of indivisible security – present in the Helsinki preamble but never front and centre. This time, it must be. But we must go beyond invocation. The Charter should operationalize indivisible security through concrete, verifiable commitments, such as, for instance:

1. No state may join a military alliance whose membership criteria systematically exclude other Eurasian states without multilateral consultation.
2. No state may host permanent foreign military infrastructure that materially threatens the core security interests of its neighbours without prior notification and verification under a multilateral framework.
3. All disputes between participating states should be subject to mandatory consultation through the Charter’s institutions.
4. Participants should not apply unilateral coercive measures against each other. These should be the points for negotiation. They should translate the principle of indivisible security from a noble slogan into an operational framework.

As a result, no Eurasian country should feel threatened by another’s legitimate security arrangements. No conflict in Eurasia should be resolved by force or by external diktat. And no country should be forced to choose between competing blocs.

The Charter will not be a vague declaration. It is intended to be a practical framework for action – a geostrategy for our supercontinent, covering security, economics, technology, culture, and more. To that end, we envision the Charter establishing some specific institutions that do not overlap with numerous existing Eurasian structures. Such new institutions may include, among others, a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Eurasia, a small secretariat based in a neutral venue, a dispute resolution mechanism, and regular confidence-building exercises involving military-to-military dialogue. These ideas should be negotiated. The Charter should be a declaration with teeth.

From Discussion to Action

For nearly three years, the idea of the Eurasian Charter has been discussed in international forums, bilateral consultations and academic publications. The concept has attracted growing interest, and many Eurasian states have expressed support in prin-

ciple. But discussion, however valuable, is not enough.

The Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation, as co-sponsors of the initiative, have prepared a concrete roadmap to move from discussion to formal negotiation. That roadmap is set out in a non-paper that has been shared with our Eurasian partners. Specifically, we propose to launch the negotiation process in September 2026, during the high-level week of the 81<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the assumption that it would lead to the adoption of the Charter’s final text at a Summit of Eurasian leaders, tentatively scheduled to be held before the end of 2027.

We understand that some may view the Charter with scepticism. Some may fear that it is directed against them. They may believe that their existing alliances and partnerships are sufficient. Others may simply be waiting to see how the process unfolds.

To these hesitations, I would like to offer three observations.

First, the Charter is not directed against anyone. It is open to all. Your participation is not a betrayal of any existing commitment – it is an investment in a more stable and predictable Eurasian order. The European Union, NATO members, and oth-

er Western-aligned states are welcome to come to the table in good faith – as equal participants, not instructors.

Second, the external conditions that have supported European prosperity and security are rapidly changing. The United States is deprioritizing Europe, as is affirmed in its 2025 National Security Strategy. The era of unlimited free trade and cheap resources is over. Europe’s demographic, economic, and migratory challenges are mounting. No external power will save Europe from these trends. But cooperative action within Eurasia surely will.

Third, and most importantly, the cost of non-participation is growing by the day. Non-participation carries a different cost: the loss of a voice in shaping the rules that will govern this continent for decades. Every state that sits at the table helps write the final text. Every state that stays away accepts rules written by others. We say this as a fact of diplomatic life. If you choose to stand outside the emerging Eurasian order, you will not be able to stop it. You will simply forfeit your seat at the table while others shape the future of the continent where you live.

We have seen what indigenous cooperation can achieve. The Shanghai Cooperation Or-

ganization’s quiet containment of border tensions in Central Asia, ASEAN’s resilience despite great power competition, the Collective Security Treaty Organization’s rapid consultations during the 2022 crisis in Kazakhstan – these are not perfect models. But they are ours. The Charter seeks to scale these lessons continent-wide, learning from both the successes and the failures of every Eurasian security experiment.

The time for discussion has passed. The time for hesitation has passed. The events of 2026 have sounded an alarm that no responsible country can ignore.

Eurasia needs a new security architecture – one based on indivisible security, mutual respect, and genuine partnership. The Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the XXI Century is the means to build that architecture. And September 2026 in New York is the moment to begin.

I call upon all Eurasian states to join us in launching this historic process. Let us prove that we can shape our own destiny. *(Views and opinions in this article solely belong to the author).*

<https://www.mfa.gov.by/en/press/smi/d088e7351505a1f7.html>

WE HAVE all felt the sharp, lingering sting of the near-miss. It is the job offer that went to another candidate after three rounds of interviews, the relationship that dissolved just as you were



beginning to build a life together, or the dream apartment secured by someone else five minutes before you applied. In those moments, the narrative we construct is immediate and painful: I lost what was meant

When Good Plans Fail; There’re Always Better Plans

It didn’t work out because you deserve better

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

for me. I missed my chance.

We grieve these outcomes because we evaluate them against the blueprint of what we believed we deserved. We decide what our peak potential looks like, draw a tight circle around it, and label anything outside that boundary as a failure.

But there is a profound, necessary truth hidden behind every shut door: sometimes a situation doesn’t work out not because you failed, but because you were settling for a version

of success that was far too small for you.

The Trap of the “Ideal” Chance

When we fixate on a specific

outcome, we confuse desiring something with it being right for us. We romanticize the potential of a job, a person, or a path, building an entire future around an ideal that exists only in our imagination.

When that chance slips away, it feels like a cosmic error.

We replay the tape, searching for the exact moment we made the wrong move, convincing ourselves that if we had just been slightly smarter, more patient, or better prepared, the outcome would have belonged to us.

What we fail to see in the heat of disappointment is that we are often fighting fiercely for things that would have ultimately diminished us.

You miss out on a role that seemed like a career peak, only to realize later that its culture would have burned you out.

A connection ends with someone you thought was your match, leaving you heartbroken until time reveals how much

of yourself you were quietly compromising just to keep the peace.

We mourn the loss of the chance we thought we deserved, blind to the fact that we were asking for a glass of water while standing in front of an ocean.

The Universe Doesn’t Subtract Without Adding

There is an underlying order to how life reshapes itself when a plan falls apart. When something fails to materialize despite your best efforts, it is rarely an act of punishment; it is an act of redirection.

ARTICLE/SCIENCE/TECH:  
WORLD

Chinese meteorological  
satellites track Typhoon Dolphin  
in coordinated observation

*Positioned at 133 degrees east, Fengyun-4C provides continuous, wide-coverage atmospheric observations.*

CHINA'S Fengyun meteorological satellites, developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST), have been deployed in coordinated multi-satellite observations to track Typhoon Dolphin, providing critical data support for the country's meteorological authorities.

The Fengyun-4C and Fengyun-4B satellites operated in tandem to continuously monitor the typhoon's evolution from its formation over the open ocean to its approach toward China's coast.

Positioned at 133 degrees east longitude, Fengyun-4C is currently the world's most powerful

single geostationary satellite for comprehensive atmospheric sounding. Facing the typhoon-prone waters of the northwestern Pacific, it offers wide-coverage, high-frequency and continuous observation



A radar antenna at a Fengyun-4 meteorological satellite ground receiving station in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China. **PHOTO: CGTN**

capabilities, according to the SAST.

Equipped with advanced payloads, including a multi-channel scanning imaging radiometer and a lightning mapping imager, this satellite captured

real-time information on cloud structures, severe convection activities and lightning variations, enabling timely detection of key signatures during the typhoon's rapid intensification phases.

As the typhoon edged closer to China's coastal areas, Fengyun-4B, positioned at 105 degrees east longitude, adopted a more favourable viewing angle to focus on offshore waters, conducting high-frequency, high-resolution monitoring at one-minute intervals and 250-metre resolution for the typhoon, the associated mesoscale and smaller weather systems, the SAST noted. — Xinhua

How Britain's  
mapmakers track  
ongoing climate  
change

ONCE used to defend Britain's shores against Napoleonic France, the Ordnance Survey's detailed maps are now essential for tracking and adapting to climate change.

"I would argue there is no clearer way to see the impact of climate change than looking at a traditional map," Tom Gray, a utilities and transport expert for Britain's national mapping agency, told AFP.

He was sitting in front of an aerial photograph of dry land projected onto a big screen at the OS headquarters in the port city of Southampton, southern England.

Here, hundreds of people work to collect location data and maintain the National Geographic Database, which includes more than 600 million features, monitoring "almost anything you can think of" and updated 30,000 times a day, Gray said.

The OS first started mapping Britain 230 years ago and has since documented the changes in the country's topography.

"There's a noticeable change in habitats, mainly because of human intervention ... but also the direct impacts of climate change, especially around waterways," said Gray. — AFP



This data helps emergency services respond quickly during natural disasters. **PHOTO: FIRE BRIGADES UNION**

Researchers develop contactless optical method

ISRAELI researchers have developed a new contactless method to study how mirror-image materials respond differently to light, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem said in a statement on Tuesday.

The study, published in the journal Small, ex-

amined chiral two-dimensional materials that exist in two mirror-image forms.

The researchers used circularly polarized light to measure how electrical charges separate inside the materials without attaching metal contacts or building a complete elec-

tronic device.

The two forms responded differently depending on the direction in which the light rotated. One responded more strongly to right-circularly polarized light and the other to left-circularly polarized light. A mixture

containing both forms showed no significant difference between the two types of light. The findings suggest that the materials' unusual structure can act like a microscopic filter for electrons, affecting how they move and separate. — Xinhua

When Good Plans Fail; ...

FROM PAGE 9

The universe – or timing, fate, or the natural unfolding of life – operates on a scale of perspective that we cannot see while standing in the middle of our own immediate desires. We operate on micro-timelines, demanding results right now. Life operates on macro-plans, rearranging circumstances

so that when the right fit arrives, you actually have the capacity to receive it.

If you are forced to let go of something you wanted, it is usually because holding onto it would leave your hands too full to grab what is actually meant for you. Rejection is often just protection in disguise. It is the quiet removal of good options so that you are eventually forced to align

with the extraordinary ones.

**Redefining What You "Deserve"**

To step out of the grief of a missed opportunity, you have to upgrade your definition of what you actually deserve.

You do not deserve a life where you have to constantly convince someone to stay, persuade an em-

ployer to see your value, or force a circumstance to fit. You do not deserve the anxiety of clinging to a half-open door out of fear that nothing else will ever open again.

You deserve alignment, not friction. You deserve opportunities that recognize your worth without requiring you to shrink, and connections that choose you with the same clarity and certainty with which you choose them.

When you realize this, the phrase "it didn't work out" stops sounding like a tragedy and starts sounding like a promise. It means the universe refused to let you settle for a placeholder.

**Trusting the Bigger Script**

The next time a door slams shut on something you desperately wanted, resist the urge to bang on the lock. Stop treating the end of a plan as the end of your story.

The chance you missed was only a single scene; it was never the entire play. The timing that felt unfair was actually saving you from a destination that was too small for your potential.

Let the failed plans fall away. Stop mourning the smaller life you almost built, step back from the closed door, and trust that the universe is simply clearing the stage for something far greater than you dared to ask for."

# Spotify launches new badges for AI music

STREAMING giant Spotify said Tuesday it would launch a new “AI Persona” badge in mid-September clearly identifying content producers that are AI-generated and not real people.

“Listeners have been clear in telling us that they don’t like seeing an artist profile that seems human, only to find out that the persona is AI-generated,” Spotify said in a statement.

The move is the Swedish company’s latest effort to be transparent about how the music on its platform was made, amid growing concern across the music industry over AI-generated content overwhelming streaming catalogues.

In April, the company launched its “Verified by Spotify” badge, signalling that a profile has been reviewed and meets its authenticity standard.

“Alongside artist profiles that self-disclose as AI Personas, we will also start applying badges to relevant profiles,” the company said.

Spotify will not include AI Personas in editorial or personalized recommendations, unless a user follows an AI Persona, it said. — AFP



Spotify introduces AI badges to identify generated music profiles clearly. PHOTO: AFP

# Rod Stewart cancels tour dates after heart surgery

*This procedure widens blocked coronary arteries to let blood flow.*

BRITISH rock star Rod Stewart, 81, has cancelled forthcoming US tour dates after having a heart operation, his social media announced.

A message posted late Tuesday on his Instagram page said the raspy-voiced rocker, known for hits such as “Da Ya Think I’m Sexy?,” has “successfully undergone a routine coronary stent procedure”.

This procedure is to widen blocked or narrowed coronary arteries by interesting a tube that allows blood to flow more freely. He had been due to play a series of US tour dates this month including in Las Vegas.



Rod Stewart cancels tour dates following a routine heart procedure. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Now, “on the advice of his doctors, he will take the next four weeks to recuperate and regain full fitness before returning to the stage,” his management said. “Unfortunately, this means he will be unable to continue his current tour dates”.

The spiky-haired singer and songwriter, who had a string of megahits in the 1970s and 1980s, has kept

up a busy touring schedule despite his age.

He wrote in 2025: “I love what I do, and I do what I love. I’m fit, have a full head of hair and can run 100 metres (330 feet) in 18 seconds.”

Stewart has recently cancelled several US shows over ill health, however; most recently on Sunday in Cincinnati, described at the time as due to “an unforeseen but minor medical procedure”.

In June, he cancelled a concert in California at the last moment after contracting laryngitis, but faced criticism for attending a World Cup match the next day. — AFP

# Japan families face hurdles disposing of parents’ homes

AS more Japanese families grapple with what to do with homes left vacant after parents die or move into care facilities, interest is growing in “jikka-jimai” — the process of disposing of a family home.

While managing an empty house can be difficult and leaving one neglected can lead to disputes with neighbors, reaching agreement among relatives and covering the costs involved can become major hurdles when selling or otherwise disposing of the property.

Experts say preparation, including discussing the matter with family members and relatives in advance, is essential to ensuring the process goes smoothly.

“If I don’t deal with it while I’m still alive, I’ll be leaving a burden for my children.” — Kyodo

# Afghan girls face ban from secondary schools

AROUND 2.4 million girls and women are formally banned from secondary and higher education,” Hoda Jaberian, UNESCO’s programme coordinator for education in emergencies, said.

“Five years is not a temporary interruption in a child’s education.

The figure has risen by about 200,000 since last year and could reach nearly four million by 2030 if the ban remains in place.

“Afghanistan remains the only country in the world where girls

It is clearly almost an entire secondary school cycle.”

Why are Afghan girls banned from secondary schools and universities?

The Taliban seized power on 15 August 2021, as US and NATO forces withdrew after two decades of war.

They initially assured the international community that women would be allowed to continue studying. — ANI



Severe educational restrictions in Afghanistan trigger long-term consequences. PHOTO: ANI

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Milk tea helps nourish grassroots governance, ethnic unity in Xinjiang

IN a community in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, milk tea is not just a beverage.

While a pot of milk tea simmers in a courtyard, local residents gather with cups in hand to discuss everyday issues — faulty streetlamps, alleys in need of repair, or other minor neighbourhood disputes.

Kunqi Maili Community in the city of Yining, in the Kazak Autonomous Prefecture of Ili, is home to more than 2,100 residents from nine ethnic groups, including Uygur, Han, Hui, Kazak, Mongolian and Uzbek.

Using the popular local beverage as a bond, the “milk tea gathering” replaces dreary formal meetings, offering a relaxed space for residents to sit down and speak their minds over a cup of tea. At one such meeting in late July, resident Batnasun Badma, a regular attendee, raised her concerns about child safety during the summer break.

“Many children swim in the nearby river to escape the summer heat, which is quite dangerous,” she said. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD

## India proposes foreign investment in commodity derivatives

*SEBI proposes expanding foreign portfolio investment in Indian non-agricultural commodity derivatives.*

FOREIGN portfolio investors (FPIs) are set to get wider access to India's exchange-traded commodity derivatives market, a move that could deepen institutional participation, improve liquidity and strengthen price discovery across key non-agricultural commodities, according to a SEBI consultation paper issued on Tuesday.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed allowing FPIs to participate in non-agricultural index derivatives and non-cash-settled, or physically settled, non-agricultural commodity derivative contracts, subject to safeguards designed to ensure that FPIs do not



ONGC Offshore Oil Platforms: An aerial shot of an Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) offshore drilling rig operating in the Mumbai High field in the Arabian Sea. **PHOTO: ONGC**

end up with physical delivery obligations. The regulator said greater foreign participation could help integrate India's commodity derivatives market more closely with international commodity markets and support the development of domestic

commodity contracts as credible price-discovery venues. FPIs are currently permitted to participate only in cash-settled non-agricultural commodity derivatives and indices comprising such commodities. SEBI had allowed FPI participation

in Indian exchange-traded commodity derivatives in 2022. Since then, there has been a notable increase in liquidity and open interest, particularly in crude oil and natural gas options, with FPIs accounting for a meaningful and growing share.

Under the proposed framework, FPIs would be required to square off or roll over open positions in physically settled contracts before the commencement of the tender or staggered delivery period. If an FPI fails to do so voluntarily, the position would automatically be transferred to the designated Trading Member (TM) or Trading-cum-Clearing Member (TCM). — ANI

## Libya's oil export revenues exceed US\$15 bln in H1 of 2026

LIBYA'S oil export revenues exceeded US\$15 billion in the first half of 2026, according to data published by the Ministry of Economy and Trade on Tuesday.

The revenues reached \$15.234 billion during the first six months of the year, exceeding the target of \$13.985 billion by almost nine per cent, the minis-

try said.

Crude oil production during the period stood at about 246 million barrels, compared with a target of 252 million barrels.

The half-year results "represent a positive indicator" of progress in implementing the targets of the country's unified financial expenditure agreement, the ministry said.

It added that the next phase requires continued coordination among state institutions, linking performance to actual revenues and directing resources towards sup-

porting economic activity and improving citizens' living standards.

In April, the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, Libya's two legislative bodies, signed a unified public spending agreement at the Central Bank of Libya, marking the first consensus on unified spending across Libya in more than 13 years.

Oil and gas exports are Libya's main source of revenue, but production has been repeatedly disrupted in recent years by conflict and political instability. — Xinhua



The Brega oil port in Marsa Brega, 270 kilometres west of Libya's eastern city of Benghazi. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Laos continues drive to attract more investment

Lao officials and business representatives have gathered for the country's first nationwide investment promotion and management conference, emphasizing investment's role in national development and the need for improved management to attract more investment.

The meeting, held in Lao capital Vientiane from Tuesday to Wednesday, was chaired by Lao Deputy Prime Minister Saleumxay Kommasith and attended by Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, ministers and deputy ministers, senior officials, and business representatives, the Vientiane Mai newspaper reported on Wednesday.

In his speech, Saleumxay said the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and government have recognized the important role of domestic and foreign investment in national development. — Xinhua

## Norway sovereign wealth fund sees record gains on semiconductor boon



Norges Bank is the central bank of Norway. **PHOTO: NORGES BANK**

NORWAY'S sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, reported Wednesday a record return on investments of \$185 billion in the first half, recovering from heavy losses seen in the first three months of the year.

The 9.4 per cent return was due largely to its holdings in Asian technology firms, which have powered ahead on massive demand for artificial intelligence gear.

It marked a sharp rebound from the \$58 billion loss reported in the first quarter, when the fund was weighed down by declines in US tech companies.

At the end of June, the fund, which is fuelled by the Norwegian state's oil revenues and invested in assets worldwide, was valued at 22.6 trillion kroner (\$2.38 trillion).

Nicolai Tangen, chief executive of Norges Bank Investment Management, which manages the fund, attributed the increase to "chips, chips, chips" at a press conference, referring to demand to develop and power AI models.

The technology sector alone accounted for 1.065 trillion kroner (\$112 billion) of the gains in the first half of the year. — AFP

# Australian bank reports strong yearly profit

AUSTRALIA'S largest bank on Wednesday reported an annual cash net profit after tax of 10.98 billion Australian dollars (US\$7.76 billion) for the 2025-26 financial year, but issued a warning over slowing economic growth.

Full-year results released by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) showed a cash net profit after tax of 10.98 billion AUD (US\$7.76 billion), an increase of 7 percent year-on-year.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that analysts had expected the bank, which is Australia's second-largest company by market capitalization, to post a full-year cash profit of about 10.85 billion AUD (US\$7.67 billion). — Xinhua

# Japan urges fee-free transit through Hormuz

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Wednesday stressed the importance of not imposing fees on passage through the Strait of Hormuz in phone talks with Iran's president, as the trade artery has been effectively closed amid stalled US-Iran negotiations.

On the Strait of Hormuz, Takaichi said she told Pezeshkian it is "important for the free and safe navigation of the Strait of Hormuz to be restored as soon as possible without additional fees". Resource-poor Japan relies heavily on the Middle East for crude oil.

During their roughly 20-minute talks, Pezeshkian explained Iran's position, including the status and prospects of its discussions with Oman regarding the Strait of Hormuz, according to Takaichi. She spoke with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said on Monday. — Kyodo



The Idemitsu Maru in the sea off Chita, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 25 May 2026. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

# China's NEV monthly sales share exceeds 60% for first time

CHINA'S new-energy vehicle (NEV) sales in July 2026 accounted for more than 60 percent of the monthly new car sales for the first time, while the cumulative share for the first seven months of the year also surpassed 50 percent, industry data showed on Wednesday.

Overall auto output and sales in July stood at 2.57 million and 2.58 million units, respectively, edging down both month on month and year on year, a decline that CAAM Deputy Secretary-General Chen Shihua attributed to seasonal factors. — Xinhua

In July alone, NEV output and sales reached over 1.57 million and 1.56 million units, respectively, up 26.8 per cent and 23.7 per cent year on year, according to data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM). Among the NEVs, pure electric vehicle output and sales both exceeded 1 million units in July, rising over 30 per cent from a year earlier, the data revealed.

In the first seven

months of 2026, NEV output and sales reached 9.01 million and 9 million units, respectively, both up nearly 10 per cent year on year.



This photo shows China's 20 millionth new energy vehicle (NEV), which is produced by GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co, Ltd, in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

# Foxconn profits surge on artificial intelligence

CHINESE Taipei's tech hardware titan Foxconn reported on Wednesday a forecast-busting second quarter net profit, as exploding demand for artificial intelligence servers needed in data centres powered the company's growth.

Foxconn, whose official name is Hon Hai Precision Industry, has gone beyond assembling low-margin iPhones to making AI servers for US tech giant Nvidia, along with electric vehicles and robots.

The company said net profit for April-June reached NT\$59.97 billion (US\$1.86 billion), up 35 percent from the previous year.

The result beat estimates of NT\$58.38 billion in a Bloomberg survey of analysts.

Revenue for the three months hit NT\$2.53 trillion, up 41 per cent from a year ago, the company said, with "AI infrastructure... driving growth".

"We are seeing very strong customer demand for AI," rotating CEO Michael Chiang said during an analyst briefing. — AFP

# South Korea and India boost customs ties

SOUTH Korea and India have agreed to strengthen cooperation in customs affairs and facilitate smoother trade between the two countries, South Korea's Korea Customs Service (KCS) said Wednesday.

The KCS said its officials met counterparts from India's Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs in New Delhi on Tuesday. During the meeting, the Korean side requested Indian authorities to support smooth customs clearance for Korean companies operating in the country.

The KCS also shared cases involving Korean businesses in India that have experienced difficulties related to customs procedures. The two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation, including through customs training programmes.

"With India being a major partner in the Asia-Pacific region, the two countries intend to bolster cooperation down the road to address hurdles faced by Korean firms seeking to export to India," Han Min, director general for international affairs at the KCS, said in a statement.

The agreement is expected to help reduce customs-related obstacles for businesses and contribute to more efficient trade between South Korea and India. — ANI

ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

Colombia declares three days mourning for quake victims

Rescuers search for survivors as Cali lowers death toll to 216.

COLOMBIA on Wednesday declared three days of mourning for victims of an earthquake that demolished buildings in the west of the country, killing more than 200 people.

At 7.4 magnitude, Monday’s quake was the strongest to hit Colombia in a century.

The government said flags would be lowered to half-staff on official buildings, as well as at Colombian embassies around the world, “in honour of all the dead”.

Frantic attempts to find survivors continued, as authorities revised the



Rescuers and volunteers search for survivors amid the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake in Cali, Colombia on 11 August 2026. PHOTO: AFP

death toll down to 216 after local officials in Cali corrected earlier figures. In Pereira and in Cali,

emergency crews used cranes, dogs and heavy machinery to search ruined buildings while vol-

unteers formed human chains to clear debris by hand, hoping to reach people still trapped beneath collapsed structures.

The first two days after an earthquake are crucial for finding survivors under rubble, with some experts saying there is a 72-hour window, after which hopes quickly tail off. There was joy on Tuesday when rescuers pulled out 32-year-old Daniela Largo.

“We were losing hope and then we received a call,” said her mother Sandra Milena Perez in Pereira. — AFP

Iran ready for protracted conflict with US

IRAN is ready for a protracted conflict with the United States to fully ensure its security, a top adviser to the commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Mohammad Reza Naqdi, said.

“We have to attain deterrence so that the enemy never dares to attack us, so we can live with security. One way is to prolong this war until we get to the next term of the presidency and cause attrition, so that if anyone else wants to attack Iran, they will know there is a cost,” Naqdi said in an interview with the PBS broadcaster.

The US armed forces turned out to be weaker

than Tehran thought, the official added.

Overnight into June 18, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum to end the conflict that began on 28 February. However, on 8 July, US President Donald Trump announced that the ceasefire was no longer in effect. On 12 July, Iran announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz until the end of US interference in the region following another wave of exchanges of strikes. The next day, Trump said the US would become a “guardian” of the Strait of Hormuz. He also reinstated the US blockade of Iranian ports. — SPUTNIK



A file photo of Zhu Rongji. Former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji died of illness at the age of 98 in Beijing at 11:06 am Wednesday. PHOTO: XINHUA

Former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji passes away at 98

FORMER Chinese premier Zhu Rongji died of illness at the age of 98 in Beijing at 11:06 am Wednesday.

Zhu had served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Central Committees of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

An obituary, jointly issued by the CPC Central Committee,

the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, the State Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, extolled Zhu as an excellent Party member, a time-tested and loyal communist fighter, and an outstanding proletarian revolutionist, statesman and leader of the Party and the state. — Xinhua

Economic losses from natural disasters fall significantly

ECONOMIC losses from natural catastrophes worldwide are estimated to have reached \$100 billion in the first half of this year, reinsurance group Swiss Re said Tuesday -- a sharp decline from the period last year.

Despite severe storms in the United States and the deadly earthquakes that struck Venezuela in June, the losses were well below the \$152 billion re-

corded in the first half of 2025, the group said in its latest report.

The losses were also 10 per cent below the 10-year average for the period. But Swiss Re, which serves as an insurer for insurance companies, noted that losses from natural disasters often increase in the second half of the year, mainly due to hurricanes in the North Atlantic ocean. — AFP

Brazil demands safety controls on Discord

BRAZILIAN authorities are calling on US-based messaging platform Discord, popular among teens, to take action after a suicide case sparked outcry and the first lady called for its shutdown.

Investigators say a

13-year-old girl was encouraged to self-harm and take her own life during a Discord livestream, and five teenagers have been arrested in connection to the death.

The office of the Attorney - General of the

Union (AGU), a public body that defends the legal interests of the Brazilian state, told AFP on Tuesday it requested and has received a proposal from Discord to “adopt measures aimed at strengthening

the safety of its users, particularly children and adolescents”.

In a statement sent to AFP, Discord said it was “cooperating with authorities in the investigation into this serious case”. — AFP



Hurricane Helene made a mess in Horseshoe Beach, Florida, on 28 September 2024. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

# Defence, Construction reach Inter-Ministry Futsal Championship finale

THE Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Construction teams advanced to the final of the 2026 Inter-Ministry Futsal Championship after winning their respective semifinal matches in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence team defeated the Ministry of Home Affairs team 2-1, while the Ministry of Construction team beat the Ministry of Finance and Revenue team 4-2.

The final will be held at 1 pm on 14 August at Wunna Theikdhi Futsal Stadium, with free admission for spectators. The final and awards ceremony will also be broadcast live on MRTV Entertainment, MRTV-4 HD, MRTV Sports Channel and



This image captures the semifinal match of the Inter-Ministry Futsal Championship.

# Myanmar shines at King's Cup Sepak Takraw Championship with gold, 3 silvers



Sports fans welcome the victorious Myanmar national Sepak Takraw team at the airport.

MYANMAR'S national Sepak Takraw team won one gold and three silver medals at the 39th King's Cup ISTAF World Sepak Takraw Championship, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4 to 11 August.

A 29-member Myanmar delegation, comprising team officials, coaches and 24 athletes, competed in the championship against teams from Southeast Asia and other Asian countries.

Myanmar won gold in the men's four-player team event and silver medals in the men's hoop-kick event, women's two-player team event and women's hoop-kick event.

The Myanmar team returned to Yangon International Airport yesterday morning, where they received a warm welcome from officials of the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), and the athletes' families and friends. — Bala/KZL



FIFAe Mobile World Ranking.

## Myanmar eFootball Mobile team moves up to world's 40<sup>th</sup> rank

MYANMAR eFootball Mobile team stood 57<sup>th</sup> in the world ranking when the Nations League was in progress; however, the team qualified for the continental championship and even climbed to 40<sup>th</sup> in FIFAe's world ranking for their wonderful performances in previous matches, said the Myanmar Football Federation.

After the FIFAe Nation League Qualifier (Mobile) finished, the Myanmar team moved up 17 places in the ranking.

The Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) expressed pride in the Myanmar team's performance, saying the result could create better opportunities in upcoming matches. Higher-ranked teams will have the privilege of making draft picks in the group stage and may also face teams of similar ranking, providing opportunities to compete against stronger opponents in quality matches.

The MFF also urged fans to continue supporting the Myanmar eFootball Mobile team as it pursues further victories in its future competitions. — Htun Htun/ZS



# Ayeyawady FC Women ramp up training ahead of AFC Women's Champions League

AYEYAWADY FC Women are stepping up their preparations for the upcoming AFC Women's Champions League (AWCL), in which they will represent Myanmar as the reigning Myanmar Women's League champions.

Group F matches will be held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon from 17 to 23 August. Ayeyawady will open their campaign against Singapore's Albirex Jurong before taking on Lebanon's No Limits. Their final group match will be against Chinese Taipei's New Taipei Hang Yuan.

With only the group winners advancing from the four-team preliminary stage, the final match could prove decisive in determining which team progresses to the next round.

Ayeyawady FC Women have called on Myanmar football fans to attend the matches at Thuwunna Stadium and support the team as they seek to make the country proud on the continental stage. — Htun Htun/KZL

Two Ayeyawady FC Women players in action.



# WORLD

## Pakistan plans global health tourism hub launch

THE government is preparing an ambitious plan to turn the country into a regional hub for global health tourism, targeting up to \$10 billion in annual revenue within five years. The initiative, developed by the SIFC, Ministry of Health, and Health Tourism Working Group, aims to attract patients worldwide with quality treatment at lower costs. The government sees health tourism as a way to advance healthcare, tourism, and economic prosperity together.

India and Turkiye already have established medical hubs, with thousands travelling for treat-

ment, so Pakistan has successful models to look to as it develops its own health tourism sector.

Pakistan has three advantages, says Ali Ehsan of the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy: many qualified doctors, a developed private medical sector, and the fact that medicine in Pakistan is very westernised, with many doctors holding foreign qualifications.

“Yes, Turkiye and India have established medical markets, but I think Pakistan also has some role to play here and can absorb a major portion of medical tourists here,” Ehsan believes. — SPUTNIK



Pakistan unveils ambitious plan to become a global medical tourism hub. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

## Vietnam targets 10M AI-trained workers by 2030

VIETNAM aims to train or update the basic AI skills for at least 10 million workers by 2030 under a national program on AI human resources development, local daily Nhan Dan reported Wednesday. The program, approved by Deputy Prime Minister Le Tien Chau on Tuesday, aims to develop a workforce to meet the demand of strategic technology sectors and strengthen national technological self-reliance. It targets the training and upskilling of 10,000 highly

qualified and specialized AI professionals, including at least 1,500 experts capable of researching and mastering core technologies and leading key AI tasks.

To achieve these targets, the programme sets out several groups of tasks focusing on improving institutions, developing AI experts, expanding AI education and reskilling, linking training with businesses and the labour market, and developing infrastructure, data and practical training environments. — Xinhua

## Russian Pacific Fleet ready to board and detain shadow fleet vessels of Western nations: Commander

*Western nations use third-country vessels to transport their own cargo.*

RUSSIAN Pacific Fleet is prepared to carry out tasks involving the inspection and detention of shadow fleet vessels belonging to unfriendly Western countries, Fleet Commander Admiral Viktor Liina has reported to President Vladimir Putin aboard the cruiser Varyag.

“Western states are actively employing vessels flying the flags of third countries to transport cargo in their own interests. In essence, this constitutes their shadow fleet. We have the forces required to inspect and detain vessels of unfriendly states that belong to their shadow fleet. Interagency coordination has been established. We are ready to begin carrying out these tasks,” Liina said.

Other Statements: Clear trend is emerging of NATO military and political resources being drawn into regional



Russian President Vladimir Putin visits the Guards missile cruiser Varyag during the final stage of the Pacific Fleet's exercises off the coast of Sakhalin region, Russia. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

affairs in the Asia-Pacific Military-political situation in the Asia-Pacific region remains tense and shows a steady trend towards growing complexity More than 1,000 ships have transited through Russia's exclusive economic zone near the Kuril Islands over the past 3.5 months, with 379 of them

sailing under the flags of unfriendly states

The drills aimed at defending Russia's Far Eastern borders commenced on 4 August. The main operational and combat training event of the Pacific Fleet for 2026 is being conducted under the command of Admiral Viktor Liina. Approximately

60 surface ships, submarines, and support vessels are participating in the maneuvers, along with around 30 aircraft, helicopters, and unmanned aerial systems from the fleet's naval aviation branch. More than 13,000 military personnel are also involved in the exercises. — SPUTNIK

## The boom in China-Europe travel runs in both directions

DURING a nearly three-week journey through Beijing, Shanghai and southwest China's Yunnan Province, German travel blogger Sorin Liviu Jurj found that a passport and a smartphone were all he needed to enjoy much of what China had to offer.

“Your phone is not just your phone in China. It is your wallet, map, translator, taxi tool, ticket office and communication device,” he wrote in a travel guide published in

May. “China was one of the smoothest, most modern, and most surprising coun-

tries I have visited.”

Jurj is part of a growing flow of European trav-



A Chinese tourist poses for a photo at the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, 6 October 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

ellers heading to China this summer, with data from Chinese travel platform Trip.com showing that bookings for scenic attractions by European travellers have increased more than 20-fold year on year. The growth in China-Europe travel isn't unidirectional. Chinese tourists are also increasingly travelling to Europe, drawn by its historic cities, cultural experiences and high-profile sporting and cultural events. — Xinhua