

The

Global

NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

Loan applications open for companies seeking to establish soybean oil mills

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association (MEOMA), companies wishing to establish soybean oil mills to ensure sufficiency in edible oil can apply for loans to purchase oil expellers.

The Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB) will process loan applications in accordance with prescribed loan procedures, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) distributed an MICB's letter requesting a list of companies interested in securing such loans to the MEOMA.

Companies can apply directly to the Loan Department, MICB, located at No 170/176, Corner of Bo Aung Kyaw Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon. Applying companies are requested to send a copy to the UMFCCI via email at [ma@umfcci.com.mm](mailto:ma@umfcci.com.mm).



Various types of oil expellers seen at a sales centre.

SEE PAGE 2

Myanmar's GW-11 Rice Fetches Record Price in Philippine Market

It is necessary to expand dedicated GW-11 cultivation areas in Ayeyawady and other regions while maintaining the quality of the variety to meet growing overseas demand.

Myanmar's GW-11 rice is fetching a record-high price in the Philippines due to strong demand, with more than 800,000 tonnes of rice exported from Myanmar between April and August, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar competes with Vietnam and Thailand in supplying rice to the Philippine market. MRF Management Committee Member U Sai Kyaw said the strong demand for GW-11 is mainly driven by the variety's quality rather than milling technology.

SEE PAGE 3



Export rice bags are seen neatly stacked at the warehouse.

Yangon steps up chlorination to prevent diarrhoeal diseases among city dwellers

CHLORINATION is being carried out in the water supply networks of various townships in Yangon Region to ensure that the prescribed level of residual chlorine, which has disinfecting properties, remains in the water.



This photo shows officials inspecting measures to prevent diarrhoeal diseases.

Yesterday morning, Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman (Mayor) U Myo Myint Aung, inspected additional chlorination operations at water supply networks in Lanmadaw and Latha townships.

After receiving reports from officials, the Yangon Mayor gave necessary instructions to ensure that residents have adequate access to clean drinking water and remain free from disease, and arranged for the needs to be addressed.

— TWA/KZL



A YBS bus is seen at a bus-stop.

YPS gets 500,000 subscribers

THERE are about 500,000 subscribers of the Yangon Payment Services (YPS) which is used for bus fare payment at the Yangon Bus Service (YBS), according to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC).

The YPS subscriber number has risen to 500,000 this year, up from around 300,000 previously, YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

"There are 500,000 YPS subscribers this year, increased from around 300,000 previously. We have also worked on getting further increases in the subscriber number," he said.

SEE PAGE 2

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MPT provides relief aid, emergency telecom support in flood-affected Laymyethna

NATIONAL PAGE 6



Public health talk promotes diabetes prevention and effective management



# NATIONAL

## Notification on the Programme to Shift High-Load Industries to Nighttime Power Consumption with Reduced Electricity Tariffs to Increase Public Distribution

- 1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is continuously striving to implement reforms in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity across the country to ensure uninterrupted power supply for the public and industrial/commercial enterprises, as well as to maintain power system stability.
- 2. In doing so, although hydroelectric power plants can generate at full capacity during the monsoon season due to abundant water inflow, temporary daytime outages occur because of transmission capacity constraints on the national grid during peak daylight hours. Conversely, electricity consumption drops significantly late at night, necessitating a reduction in power generation output. Consequently, water resources are wasted during the monsoon season, and overflow occurs at major hydroelectric dams.
- 3. Therefore, as a first phase, large electricity-consuming industries in Yangon Region that meet the criteria specified by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy will be permitted to use electricity at a discounted rate — reduced from the standard rate of K900 per unit to K600 per unit — daily between 23:00 hour and 05:00 hour the following morning.
- 4. Implementing this measure will yield mutual three-way benefits: the State will generate revenue from water resources that would otherwise be lost continuously during the monsoon season; the stability of the power grid will improve; shifting willing and eligible major industries to nighttime operations will allow more daytime electricity to be distributed to the general public; and industrial enterprises will be able to lower their production costs.
- 5. Since smart grid systems are used internationally, Time of Use (TOU) tariff pricing — such as this programme — is widely adopted. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is initiating this as an initial pilot phase based on current conditions, and respectfully requests the cooperation and constructive feedback of the public to aid in developing the nation’s electric power system.
- 6. For further inquiries, the following contact numbers may be reached:
  - (a) Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Head Office: 09-450541200
  - (b) Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC): 09-428304203 / 1717

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

## YPS gets 500,000 subscribers

FROM PAGE 1

YPS was launched in 2020, aiming to reduce problems with banknotes and bus conductors.

YPS services can be available at YPS counters, G&G convenience stores, Capital Supermarket, Nyein Chan Yay store in

Thingangyun, Thamadi minimart in Insein, Saikpyoyay but-stop in Kamayut, Thitsa Shin in South Okkapala, GYCT company in Dagon Myothit (South), YBS 21 (Power 11) stop, YBS 63 gate in Yankin, Shwepyitha Thar company in Shwepyitha, Cherry jetty in

Dala and Shwesandaw Pagoda in Twantay. In addition, customers can get the service at AYAx counters located in M Tower, Junction City, Junction Mawtin, Junction Square, Sangyoung and Terminal M.— MT/ZS

## Loan applications open for companies ...

FROM PAGE 1

The required documents for applications include sales contract of the land and building, map and history of the

land (Form 105/106), copy of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card, copy of the household certificate, a consent letter from the owner, ward and police

station recommendation letters, business license, debt-free clearance certificate, consent letter for providing the collateral, tax payment records,

photos of the business, photos of the collateral, land lease grant contract, and passport-sized photos of the entrepreneur’s spouse. — MT/ZN

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 8 am MST on 16 August 2026)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Toe River at Maubin is observed as about five cm (two inches) below its

danger level. It may exceed above its danger level at the high tide period during the next one day.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Maubin Township, to take precaution measure and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

## Weather

### Heavy Rainfall Warning No 47

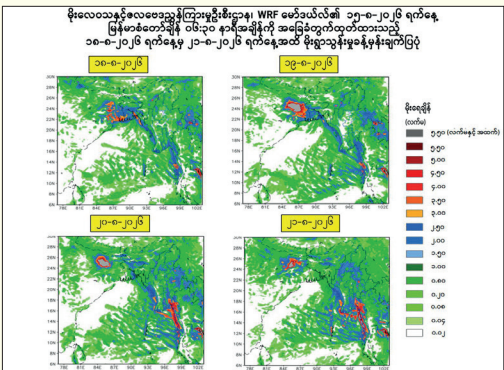
Issued at 8 am MST on 16 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, the heavy rainfalls are likely due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, unstable air conditions over the North 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, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states from 18 to 21 August 2026.

The 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 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

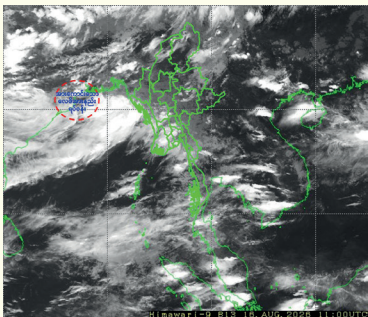
People should be aware are likely due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, unstable air conditions over the North Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds, such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



### Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 pm MST on 16 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal-North Odisha coasts, India intensified into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area. It is likely to move Northwestwards and concentrate into a depression during next 24 hours. — DMH





# NATIONAL

## Myanmar's GW-11 Rice Fetches Record Price in Philippine ...

FROM PAGE 1

“More than 800,000 tonnes have been exported within four months as the Philippines has been actively purchasing GW-11 rice. Among the countries supplying rice to the Philippines, Myanmar is receiving the highest price—one that has never been achieved before,” he said.

Myanmar’s GW-11 rice is currently selling to the Philippines at about US\$580 per tonne, compared with US\$480 per tonne for Thai rice of the same variety.

GW-11 rice was initially exported to the Philippines from Ayeyawady Region at moderate prices. However, growing demand has pushed up prices, with GW-11 produced in Mandalay Region also now receiving favourable prices.

U Sai Kyaw said the Philippines has been purchasing GW-11 from Viet-

nam as well, but its stronger demand for Myanmar’s rice and willingness to pay more than Thailand represents an encouraging development for Myanmar’s rice export sector.

He also stressed the need to expand dedicated GW-11 cultivation areas in Ayeyawady and other regions while maintaining the quality of the variety to meet growing overseas demand.

Myanmar exported GW-11 rice to China in 2024 and began shipments to the Philippines in 2026.

The variety has since gained popularity among Philippine buyers, resulting in increased orders. The Philippines is preparing to purchase up to five million tonnes of rice, while Myanmar’s rice exports continue, including substantial shipments of broken rice to Belgium. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ST

## Yangon authorities step up crime prevention measures



Myanmar Police Force member conduct crime awareness activities to public in Hlinethaya (East) Township.  
**PHOTO: REGIONAL POLICE FORCE.**

POLICE, traffic police and local administrative authorities are jointly carrying out crime prevention and public awareness activities across Yangon Region.

Activities included crime prevention talks and home visits in Hlinethaya (East) and Twantay, pedestrian safety awareness campaigns in Bahan Township, traffic checks in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, patrols in Hlinethaya (West) Township and guest registration records in Botahtaung Township.

The measures aim to prevent crime and maintain public security across the region. — Aung Thu/KZL

## Flood aid delivered in Magway Region

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win and Magway Region Chief Minister U Tin Ko Ko visited flood relief centres across Magway and Minbu to provide cash assistance and relief supplies to displaced residents.

At the Alekyaung Dhammayon’s relief camp in Magway’s Myinkin Village, aid was distributed to 525 flood victims across 127 households. In Minbu Township, officials met 1,982 displaced residents from 489 households across two shelters at Hmankin Monastery and



Union Minister Dr Soe Win and Magway Region Chief Minister U Tin Ko Ko comfort flood victims at a flood relief centre in Magway Region yesterday.

Shinpin Kyaunglain Pagoda.

Across all locations, authorities provided rice funds, canned fish, in-

stant noodles, eggs, purified drinking water, and targeted cash assistance of K30,000 per person for pregnant mothers, chil-

dren under five, elderly residents aged 70 and older, and individuals with disabilities. Officials also advised returning families on environmental sanitation, clean drinking water, venomous snake hazards, and youth education once floodwaters recede.

The yesterday’s aid distributions totalled over K31.6 million. Across nine flood-hit states and regions throughout July and August 2026, the ministry and local governments have disbursed more than K2.9 billion in total humanitarian support. — MNA/ST

## Youth Affairs Committees Meet with Red Cross

THE Myanmar Central Youth Affairs Committee and the Yangon Region Youth Affairs Committee met with representatives from the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) yesterday morning at the Yangon Region Government Office.

During the meeting, opening remarks were delivered by Union Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Maung Thin, who is also First Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee and, alongside Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Aung Naing

Thu, who is Chairman of the Yangon Region Youth Affairs Committee.

Following the opening addresses, Professor Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, Deputy General Secretary Daw Aye Aye Nyein, Assistant General Secretary Daw Ei Ei Htwe, and attendees presented updates on their ongoing operations and initiatives. Union Minister Dr Maung Thin then concluded the session with closing remarks. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/ST



The meeting between Myanmar Central Youth Affairs Committee and the Yangon Region Youth Affairs Committee and the Myanmar Red Cross Society is underway in Yangon yesterday.

## Students and teachers from Hlegu BEHS explore national and space museums



STUDENTS and teachers from Basic Education High School (Hlegu) visited the National Museum and the Space Museum in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the National Museum on Pyay Road, they

A curator explains the museum’s exhibits on ancient cultural artefacts to students at the National Museum.

viewed historical records and ancient cultural artefacts, while curators explained the museum’s history and its exhibits on Myanmar’s history and culture.

They later explored the Deep Space Exploration and Space Station galleries at the Space Museum in Yangon, along with exhibits featuring rockets, planets and constellations. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL



# NATIONAL

## Rice export zone farmers receive cultivation support



Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein delivers an address during the ceremony.

FARMERS participating in rice export zones in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area received cultivation funds and agricultural machinery at a ceremony held at the Myanmar Agribusi-

ness Public Corporation (MAPCO) Group rice mill and rice bran oil mill compound in Pynmana Township on 15 August. Union Minister for Cooperatives and Ru-

ral Development U Myo Zaw Thein said the rice export zones aim to increase high-quality rice production for overseas markets, improve farmers' yields and incomes, boost foreign exchange earnings through rice exports and develop the value chain from cultivation to export.

Under the government's economic development fund, K250,000 is provided per acre for rice cultivation. Accordingly, 522 farmers from 10 villages in five townships received a total of K560

million for 2,800 acres, along with seeders.

Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun also delivered remarks. MAPCO Group Chairman U Ye Min Aung explained the group's current operations.

After the ceremony, officials inspected agricultural machinery and farm input displays, factory exhibition halls and the renovation of a 240-tonne rice mill. — TWA/KZL

## Hpa-an Livestock Zone develops 106 plots on 137.46 acres carrying out livestock activities

AS the Hpa-an Livestock Zone was established in 2021 and operated in 2022, a total of 106 plots covering 137.46 acres are being developed for livestock activities.

On 15 August, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo met livestock farmers at the meeting room of the Hpa-an Livestock Zone. Officials from the zone committee and livestock farmers discussed challenges facing livestock activities and measures to address them.

After the meeting, the chief minister visited various farms of pig,



Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo inspects a local goat farms in Hpa-an Livestock Zone on 15 August.

goat, domestic poultry and dairy cow breeding farms in the Hpa-an Livestock Zone. Aw Zar Min Natural Fertilizer Plant, which produces natural fertilizer from

animal waste and other waste products is being operated in the livestock zone.

Similarly, the chief minister visited a four-acre monsoon paddy

(RS-CS) seed-production model field belonging to farmer U Shwe Myar in Kawthinshu Village, Hpa-an Township, where pest infestations had occurred. He inspected the application of Vitagro 50 CE water-soluble insecticide using a sprayer and provided bottles of the insecticide to farmers for use in affected fields.

Similarly, he inspected monsoon paddy cultivation at Plot 1187 in Naungkayaing Village, Hpa-an Township, and coordinated with farmers on their fuel requirements. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)/MKKS

## Public warned of financial scams misusing MCCT programme name

THE Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has issued a public warning about ongoing online financial scams involving the misuse of the name of the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme.

Clarifying its procedures, the department stated that enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under the MCCT Programme is conducted strictly in person through the relevant ward or village administrators. The department emphasized that it does not collect registration or enrolment data online under any circumstances. Furthermore, no fees are charged for applying for or obtaining registration forms. Authorities added

that data collection for eligible beneficiaries for the current 2026-2027 financial year has already been completed.

The MCCT initiative is a key component of Myanmar's National Social Protection Strategic Plan. It provides direct financial assistance to pregnant women and children under two years of age across seven regions and states. Before beginning data collection for each financial year, the department routinely issues advance public announcements through state-owned media and newspapers, advising eligible citizens to register at their local ward or village administration offices or nearby social welfare offices. — TWA/TH



This photo captures a poster featuring the MCCT programme.

## YRTC cancels planned YBS fare hike to avoid burdening commuters

THE Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) has cancelled its planned increase in Yangon Bus Service (YBS) fares

from 1 September, according to the committee.

On 14 August, YRTC announced that YBS fares would rise from K200 to

K300 and from K400 to K600 starting on 1 September, citing rising costs of vehicle spare parts and related components.

However, YRTC cancelled the planned fare increase on 16 August. Joint Secretary U Lyan Cing Mang said the decision was

made out of concern that higher fares could place an additional burden on passengers. YRTC said it is committed to provid-

ing safe and quality public transport without placing an excessive financial burden on commuters. Therefore, YBS fares will continue to be charged at the existing rates. — MT/KZL

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NATIONAL

Ayeyawady Region CM inspects flood relief operations in Laymyethna, Myanaung

AYEYAWADY Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw visited flood-affected residents in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, to offer words of encouragement and provide essential relief supplies, including rice and food provisions. The flooding was caused by embankment subsidence and subsequent water overflow following seepage through sand layers along the Ngawun River embankment.

During a meeting with displaced residents, the chief minister highlighted the ongoing joint response efforts, noting that officials from various ministries, technical experts, departmental staff, military personnel, firefighters and local residents are working collaboratively in day and night shifts to seal and repair the breached sections of the embankment, while the Ayeyawady Region Government will continue to provide all necessary



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw accepts kits of relief supplies for flood victims.

support and assistance. Following remarks by a regional Hluttaw representative, the medical officer from Ainthabyu Station Hospital conducted a health-awareness session on preventive measures against waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea and dengue fever. The chief minister and officials then distributed rice rations and food supplies directly to flood-affected families. The delegation subsequently visited the temporary relief site at Eiksathaya Monastery

in Saryekwin village, Laymyethna Township, to inspect relief efforts and emergency infrastructure. To ensure uninterrupted communications, a Business-to-Business (B2B) satellite terminal was integrated with a Cell on Wheels (COW) mobile vehicle, restoring mobile phone and data services for local residents. The chief minister also inspected temporary medical stations established by the Laymyethna Township Public Health Department and the Department of Traditional

Medicine, as well as the storage of relief materials, and coordinated the provision of necessary resources on site. Additionally, the chief minister presented financial assistance to GAD personnel and their families affected by the floods in Laymyethna Township. While in Hinthada, he accepted a donation of 1,000 emergency relief kits from Rotary Myanmar for flood victims in Laymyethna Township. On 15 August, the chief minister visited the university and encouraged those participating in the cleaning activities to keep Hinthada University clean and green. In addition, the chief minister received cash donations and relief supplies from well-wishers. During the visit, he inspected bank-erosion prevention works in Myanaung Township. — Regional IPRD/TH/MKKS

MPT provides relief aid, emergency telecom support in flood-affected Laymyethna

MYANMA Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) has launched CSR relief initiatives to provide basic foodstuffs, essential medicines and emergency telecommunication services to flood-affected residents in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, following embankment subsidence caused by water seepage through sand layers along the Ngawun River embankment. On 14 and 15 August, MPT officials, led by the Managing Director and accompanied by corporate personnel, visited flood relief centres to distribute provisions directly to displaced families. Supplies, including rice, cooking oil, blankets, clothing and essential emergency medicines, were handed over at the Yaydagun Monastery relief camp in Ngathaing-

young and to local rehabilitation teams in Laymyethna Township. To maintain critical communication channels for affected residents, MPT provided free telecommunication services from 7 to 13 August. Furthermore, beginning on 3 August, MPT deployed two satellite terminals to restore emergency network connectivity—one at the Sayaykwin Monastery relief camp in Sayaykwin Village-tract and the other at the Seiknohkon Village relief camp. In addition, MPT deployed a Cell on Wheels (COW) mobile base station in Sayaykwin Village to strengthen connectivity, while efforts continued to fully restore regular telecommunications services across the affected area as quickly as possible. — District IPRD/TH



Technicians are installing cables of communications in Ayeyawady Region.

Engineers strengthen weakened sections of Ngawun embankment



Tatmadaw members carry out supply of relief aid for flood victims in Ayeyawady Region.

WATER breached the Ngawun River embankment in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, after heavy rain and river erosion

caused a breakthrough beneath the embankment on 30 July. Flooding has affected five wards and several villages in La-

ymyethna Township, as well as 15 wards and villages across Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships. Local authorities, Tatmadaw members, police, firefighters, relief groups and residents are carrying out rescue operations, delivering food and relief aid and providing emergency healthcare to affected communities. Engineering teams are also strengthening weakened sections of the Ngawun embankment using geobags, sandbags and steel sheet piles, with machinery and manpower deployed to control further water inflow. — MNA/KZL

EARTHQUAKE  
(Issued at 7:50 am MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.1 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 10 miles north-north-west of Homalin), latitude 25.01°N, longitude 94.90°E, depth 110 kilometres, about 66 miles northeast of the Tamu Seismological Observatory was recorded at 7 hour 3 minute 7 second MST on 16 August 2026. — DMH



# NATIONAL

## Returning frontline troops honoured in Mingaladon, Phayagyi

FRONTLINE Tatmadaw members returning from security and regional stability operations were warmly welcomed back at local battalions in Yangon Region's Mingaladon Township and Bago Region's Phayagyi yesterday.

The ceremonies were attended by Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Tin Min Latt and Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Kyaw Htet, respectively, alongside departmental officials, military officers and



Images feature triumphant troops being warmly welcomed home.

families, police and veteran organization members, artistes, 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

commanders delivered honorary speeches expressing gratitude for their service, with cash rewards also presented to the victorious soldiers in Mingaladon and Phayagyi. — MNA/ST

## Maung Theikdhi's 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Exhibition held

AN art exhibition titled Seven Years On: Remembering Maung Theikdhi is being held free of charge at SV Gallery from 14 to 23 August to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the demise of renowned artist Maung Theikdhi, a pioneering figure and influential mentor of Myanmar modern art.

The exhibition celebrates Maung Theikdhi's distinctive minimalist concepts and enduring artistic legacy, which he developed through his unique vision and creativity.

Alongside Maung Theikdhi's outstanding works, the exhibition

also features pieces by his mentor, Paw Oo Thet, and renowned contemporary artists who were his peers, including Win Pe Myint, Pe Nyunt Wai, Aung Khaing, Beikthano Tin Win, San Min and Khin Wan.

The exhibition is open free of charge from 10 am to 5:30 pm during the period between 14 and 23 August, at SV Gallery, 212, U Wisara Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, within the Shwe Lin Yon car workshop compound.

Art enthusiasts and members of the public are invited to visit the exhibition during this period to



A poster for the 'Seven Years On: Remembering Maung Theikdhi's art exhibition.

view works by some of the most prominent artists in the history of Myanmar modern art. — TWA/KZL

## Lewe District wraps up construction capacity-building course



Lewe District Department of Rural Development conducts a capacity-building training course in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 August.

THE closing ceremony for a capacity-building train-

ing course on construction works took place at the

Lewe District Department of Rural Development on 15 August.

Nay Pyi Taw Department of Rural Development Head U Soe Maung delivered closing remarks. Officials encouraged trainees to apply the construction techniques and lessons learned during the course to rural development projects in line with

prescribed standards and presented certificates of completion and training materials to the attendees.

A total of 10 officers and staff from the Lewe District, Lewe Township and Dekkhinathiri Township departments attended the five-day training, which ran from 10 to 14 August. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

## Public health talk promotes diabetes prevention and effective management

A public health awareness talk jointly organized by the Myanmar Diabetes Association and the Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism was held at Victoria Hospital in Yangon yesterday morning, with the aim of raising public awareness to effectively prevent diabetes and its complications, promote early detection, and ensure proper and effective treatment and control of the disease.

"Diabetes has become a major public health concern in today's society, as it is a chronic disease that can affect people of all ages. Poorly controlled diabetes can lead to serious complications, including cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, impaired vision, and nerve and foot problems. Therefore, preventing the disease, detecting it early, and treating and controlling it effectively are particularly important.

"Treatment of diabetes cannot be adequately managed simply by taking medication. It is also important for patients and their caregivers to have a proper understanding

of health information related to diabetes," said Professor Dr Thein Myint, Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Diabetes Association and the Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

At the talk, Professor Dr Thein Myint gave a presentation on "What is Diabetes? Its Types and Causes", while Associate Professor Dr Cho Mar from the Department of Medical Endocrinology at University of Medicine 1, Yangon, discussed "Symptoms of Diabetes, Diagnosis and Treatment Goals".

As accurate and inaccurate information about diabetes is widely circulated nowadays, it can be extremely dangerous if patients and their caregivers mistakenly believe and follow false information. Therefore, the Myanmar Diabetes Association and the Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism are planning to hold public health awareness talks every two months under the slogan "Control Diabetes with Knowledge". — News/Photo: Kyaw Gyi/KNN



A public health awareness talk jointly organized by the Myanmar Diabetes Association and the Myanmar Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism in progress in Yangon yesterday.

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# NATIONAL

## Youth join ‘Healthy Communities Start with Us’ panel discussion

TOGETHER with AIESEC in Myanmar, the Goethe-Institut Myanmar will organize the monthly Youth Dialogue Lab panel discussion series under the theme “Healthy Communities Start with Us”, which focuses on SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being, encouraging young people to explore how they can contribute to building healthier communities during the rainy season.

It has been scheduled from 2 pm to 4 pm at the Goethe-Institut Myanmar library on 27 August.

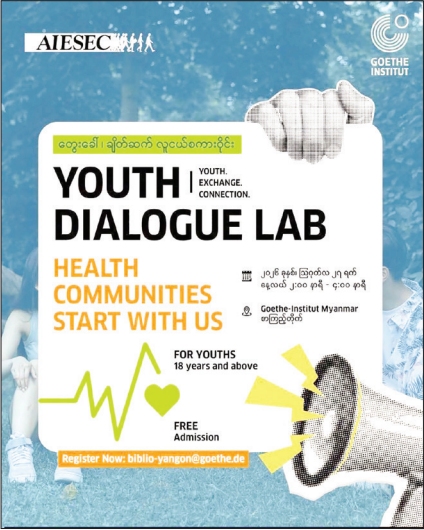
Throughout the session, participants will discuss the health challenges that commonly arise during the rainy season, examine why health awareness remains limited in many communities, and exchange ideas on practical ways that young people can promote healthier habits and preventive healthcare.

This is not a typical one-way lecture, but it is an interactive dialogue designed for youth to share perspectives, learn from others’ experiences, and collaborate on meaningful solutions with fellow young people.

The discussion will also explore how simple day-to-day actions can contribute to healthier communities and how youth can inspire positive behavioural change through their everyday choices.

Young people who are passionate about creating healthier communities and being catalysts for positive change are warmly invited to join.

Admission to the event is completely free. To register, please email your name, age, and phone number to [biblio-yangon@goethe.de](mailto:biblio-yangon@goethe.de) during library opening hours, said the Goethe-Institut Myanmar. — MT/ZS



This image displays an advert showcasing the panel discussion ‘Health Communities Start with Us’.

## Mongyawng’s MSY agricultural activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection on 15 August to review the progress of agricultural activities financed through the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Wanhwayhtan Village, Mongyawng Township.

Mongyawng Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Moe Khine inspected the progress of systematic agricultural activities being carried out with loans from the project’s revolving fund. She also met members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee to examine whether monthly financial records had been properly completed, while coordinating and providing necessary assistance for matters raised by local communities.

The MSY Village Project was initially launched in Wanhwayhtan Village with a revolving fund of K30 million. At present, 10<sup>th</sup>-round loans totalling K41 million have been



Officials of Department of Rural Development inspect the progress of agricultural activities financed by the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Mongyawng Township.

disbursed at low interest rates to 37 project members, all of whom are successfully operating local systematic agricultural activities with support from the project funds. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

## KBZ Bank, Shwe Minn Tha Foundation sign MoU



The MoU signing ceremony for the “Building Bridges by Breaking Barriers - 5B”

KBZ Bank and the Shwe Minn Tha Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a five-year project titled “Building Bridges by Breaking Barriers - 5B,” which will provide scholarships to 47 students with disabilities.

The MoU signing ceremony was held on 13 August at the KBZ Learning Academy. The programme is aimed at helping individuals with disabilities overcome educational barriers and build a better future.

Under this programme, a total of 47 outstanding students from various regions across Myanmar, representing diverse types of disabilities, including physical, visual, hearing, and intellectual disabilities, were selected and awarded scholarships. The recipients include 24 high school students (from Grade 8 to Grade 12), five university students, and 18 distance university students.

KBZ Bank will provide monthly support for an initial period of five years, and will also create opportunities for future employment. Responsible officials from both parties, along with the scholarship recipients and their parents, attended the ceremony. The event also featured a Digital Literacy Awareness Programme, sharing essential dos and don’ts to prevent digital fraud via mobile wallets, as well as guidance on using KBZPay safely.

KBZ Bank stated that it is continuously striving to create equal opportunities and bright futures for young people who are overcoming challenges to fulfil their dreams. — MT/ZN

## Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2026 held in Yangon

ORGANIZED by the Indian Embassy in Yangon, the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2026 was held on 14 August at the India Centre in Yangon.

This ceremony has been designated and held annually by the Government of India since 2021 to commemorate the millions of people who were displaced and suffered various hardships during the partition of Indian Territory in 1947, and to recognize the resilience and courage of the survivors.

Mr Shri Abhay Thakur, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, said, “The remembrance of victims and survivors of the Partition isn’t just honour, but it is also reaffirmation of our collective responsibility for maintaining peace and mutual respect and for solving conflicts through dialogue.”

Including representatives from local political parties and some organizations, scholars and Indians in Myanmar, more than 150 guests attended the event.

At the ceremony, an exclusive photography exhibition of rare historical photos, personal archives, and contemporary reports of the Partition was also featured. — TWA/ZS



This photo shows the ceremony for the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2026 in Yangon.



OPINION

Boost cultivation and production of crops

MYANMAR has over 33 million acres of agricultural land, including farmlands, highland farms, and croplands. This area is sufficient to meet the country’s needs, so there is no longer a need to expand the agricultural land area. Instead, it is necessary to transition from traditional farming methods to modern mechanized agriculture, achieve the targeted crop yields, promote multiple cropping, and increase overall agricultural productivity.

The State is striving to ensure that all farmlands achieve the targeted yield of rice, so as not only to meet domestic consumption but also to restore Myanmar’s position as a major exporter of rice and paddy. Efforts are also being made to secure a place for Myanmar’s renowned Pawsan rice in the international rice market. With

As such, the government is encouraging and supporting efforts to increase the production of major crops, including paddy. Relevant ministries and local authorities must provide farmers with the necessary agricultural inputs, farming machinery, and advanced agricultural technologies. Only through such efforts can agricultural targets be successfully achieved, leading to increased production of high-quality crops that can meet not only domestic consumption needs but also penetrate and expand in international markets, thereby generating income for crop growers and contributing to the nation’s economy.

In addition, to achieve domestic self-sufficiency in edible oil, the government has designated 12 special zones for the cultivation of oil crops such as groundnut, sesame, and sunflower, and is implementing measures to increase yields per acre and achieve the targeted production levels. For sesame, the target yield has been set at 20 baskets per acre, and farmers are being encouraged and supported to achieve this target while efforts are being made to increase overall crop production. Higher agricultural yields will help reduce production costs, which in turn can contribute to lowering commodity prices.

As such, the government is encouraging and supporting efforts to increase the production of major crops, including paddy. Relevant ministries and local authorities must provide farmers with the necessary agricultural inputs, farming machinery, and advanced agricultural technologies. Only through such efforts can agricultural targets be successfully achieved, leading to increased production of high-quality crops that can meet not only domestic consumption needs but also penetrate and expand in international markets, thereby generating income for crop growers and contributing to the nation’s economy.

Reviving the Five Strengths: A Blueprint for Myanmar’s Future Human Capital

HOW Bala Nga Tan can connect Myanmar’s enduring wisdom with the knowledge, character and capabilities of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century citizen

From Traditional Wisdom to Future-Ready Human Capital

Education is more than the transmission of knowledge. It is the foundation upon which a nation develops its human capital, strengthens social cohesion, expands economic opportunity and builds long-term prosperity. As Myanmar responds to the opportunities and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is an important opportunity to connect the country’s rich cultural heritage with the knowledge, competencies, values and capabilities required in a rapidly changing world.

In this context, Bala Nga Tan – the Five Strengths offers a meaningful framework for considering education as a process of holistic human development. Rather than defining educational success primarily through examination results or the ability to memorize information, the concept encourages attention to the development of the body, mind, character, relationships and capacity for productive economic

participation.

The Five Strengths comprise Kaya Bala (Physical Strength), Nyana Bala (Intellectual Strength), Saritta Bala (Moral Strength), Mitta Bala (Social Strength), and Bhoga Bala (Economic Strength). These dimensions are interconnected rather than separate. Physical well-being creates a foundation for learning; intellectual strength enables critical thinking and innovation; moral strength provides ethical direction; social strength supports cooperation and community participation; and economic strength transforms knowledge and skills into productive and sustainable opportunities.

Reinterpreting Bala Nga Tan in the context of contemporary education does not mean replacing traditional wisdom with modern concepts. Rather, it creates an opportunity to connect the two. In an era shaped by artificial intelligence, digital transformation, global interconnectedness and rapidly changing labour markets, Myanmar needs citizens who can think critically, adapt confidently, act ethically, cooperate effectively and continue learning throughout their lives.

The ultimate objective, there-

fore, should not simply be to produce more graduates. It should be to cultivate healthy, capable, principled, socially responsible and economically productive citizens who can contribute meaningfully to their families, communities and nation.

Kaya Bala - Physical Strength The Foundation for Learning and Well-Being

Every journey of learning begins with a healthy human being. Kaya Bala, or Physical Strength, therefore extends beyond physical fitness to include nutrition, health, physical activity, hygiene, emotional well-being and healthy daily habits.

For children and young people, adequate nutrition and regular physical activity can support healthy development and create favourable conditions for learning. Schools can contribute by promoting health awareness, physical education, sports and games, hygiene practices and nutrition education.

The educational value of Kaya Bala extends beyond physical development. Learners who are healthy and active are better positioned to participate regularly in school activities, concentrate

By Dr Zaw (Sli)

on learning and develop positive habits for life.

In this sense, investment in children’s health is also an investment in educational participation, human capability and national human capital. Health-promoting schools can help ensure that physical well-being becomes an integral part of education rather than a separate concern.

Nyana Bala - Intellectual Strength From Memorizing Information to Thinking and Creating

If Kaya Bala establishes the foundation for learning, Nyana Bala, or Intellectual Strength, develops the ability to understand, question, analyze, create and adapt.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, intellectual strength cannot be measured simply by how much information a learner can remember. Information is increasingly accessible through digital technologies and artificial intelligence. The greater challenge is to determine whether learners can evaluate information, distinguish reliable

evidence from misinformation, solve unfamiliar problems and apply knowledge creatively.

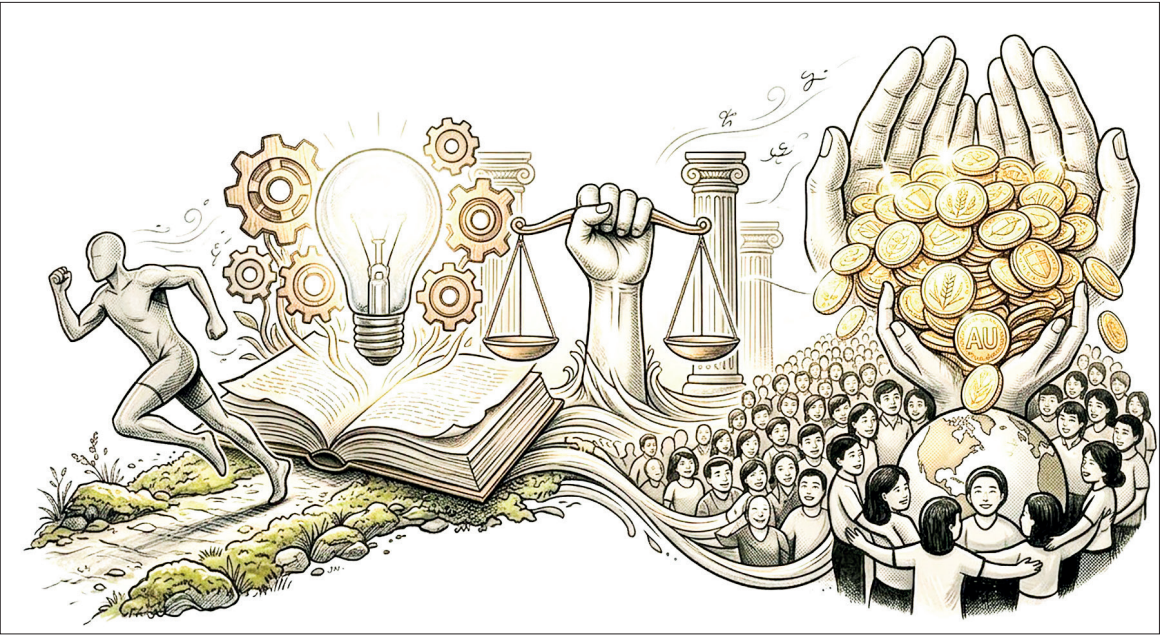
Contemporary education therefore places increasing emphasis on critical thinking, creativity, inquiry, problem-solving and lifelong learning.

Classrooms can support these capabilities by giving students opportunities to ask questions, investigate evidence, explain their reasoning and develop solutions. Inquiry-based learning in Science and Mathematics, for example, can help students apply knowledge rather than simply reproduce it.

As artificial intelligence transforms the nature of work, human capacities such as judgement, curiosity, creativity and ethical reasoning become increasingly valuable. Nyana Bala can therefore serve as the intellectual engine of future-ready citizenship.

Saritta Bala - Moral Strength Character as the Compass of Capability

Knowledge creates capability, but character guides how that



capability is used. Saritta Bala, or Moral Strength, represents the ethical dimension of human development, including integrity, discipline, responsibility, compassion, fairness and respect.

In a rapidly changing society, young people encounter complex choices both offline and online. Education therefore has an important role in developing the judgement necessary to make responsible decisions.

Moral strength can be cultivated through formal learning and everyday school culture. Academic honesty, respect for teachers and peers, responsible use of technology, environmental responsibility, community service and constructive participation in school activities can all contribute to character development.

A highly educated society needs not only competent individ-

uals but also citizens who understand responsibility and accountability. Strengthening Saritta Bala can help develop people who use their knowledge and abilities for constructive purposes and who value integrity, fairness and service to the wider community.

Mitta Bala - Social Strength Learning to Live, Work and Grow Together

Human development does not take place in isolation. Mitta Bala, or Social Strength, highlights empathy, communication, cooperation, mutual respect and the ability to contribute constructively to groups and communities.

Modern workplaces increasingly depend on teamwork and communication, while communities require citizens who can listen to different perspectives, manage differences constructive-

ly and work toward shared goals.

Schools provide a natural environment for developing these capabilities. Collaborative projects, classroom discussions, peer learning, sports, arts and community-based activities can help students practise cooperation and communication in meaningful ways.

The deeper value of Mitta Bala is the recognition that individual achievement and collective well-being are interconnected. A learner who can listen, cooperate and respect different perspectives develops capabilities that remain valuable far beyond the classroom.

For Myanmar, strengthening social capability can contribute to more connected communities, more collaborative workplaces and more responsible citizenship.

SEE PAGE 12

To Create Happiness

By Mya Thae (Research)



duce a cognitive dissonance. I feel unhappy, but I am acting happy, which people resolve sub-

consciously by feeling happier. Psychologist Richard Wiseman calls this the “As If Principle”:

iversity of California at Riverside asked people to behave in either extroverted or introverted ways for one week.

Those who purposely acted extroverted, which decades of research have shown is one of the most common characteristics of happy people, saw a significant increase in wellbeing. Meanwhile, acting introverted led to a decrease. So, try to be happy people.

Similarly, spending money on others and volunteering have been shown to raise one’s own happiness levels. Singing songs is one of the ways to get happiness.

One plausible explanation is that prosocial behaviours in-

peace but because it was home to a psychiatric hospital where he and his wife could receive treatment for chronic depression. There he was a patient of a famous psychoanalyst, with whom Rockwell racked up large bills.

That a man with such significant happiness problems would be known for painting images of undeniable happiness might seem ironic. In truth, it’s not strange at all. Research shows that not only can you bring joy to others even if you’re unhappy but also that doing so is a reliable way to improve your own wellbeing. So, you try to get way for happy. Think out the happiness things several times. Don’t think about unhappiness.

The key is to act like a happy person, even if you don’t feel like it. In 2020, researchers at the Uni-

NORMAN Rockwell created some of the most iconic images of 20<sup>th</sup>-century America. His paintings, such as the “FOUR Freedoms series from World War II” and “The Problem We All Live With from the civil rights movement, were intended to evoke the best in people who saw them: hope, solidarity, courage, justice. Besides, they intended to get peace, love and joy. Moreover, they intended to live without worry. Much of his work also inspired happiness, capturing scenes of light-hearted joy. His work helped him gain self-confidence and courage to face the difficulties.

And yet Rockwell himself struggled with happiness. In 1953, he moved to a small, rural town not for its natural beauty and

if you want to feel a certain way, act as if you already do and your brain will grant you that feeling, at least for a while.

This is not a substitute for traditional medical treatment for depression, of course. Rockwell was in formal therapy most of his adult life. But his happy paintings were clearly part of his treatment. As Rockwell’s biographer Deborah Solomon points out, “He was painting his longing”. Playing sports and other games is also a way to bring happiness.

Even if not literally, you can use the Rockwell formula to bring joy to yourself and the people around you when you are down. First, think about what happy people in your situation would do to make things better for themselves and others.

How would they greet someone in the first call of the day? How would they call just to check in? If you’re stuck, ask happy people you know about the title things they do for others.

Next, make a plan to follow through on everything you just imagined. Write three ideas for extra-king greetings on some note-paper and consult it before making a phone call. Draft a sample email in the voice of a happy person and use it as a template.

By deliberately preparing yourself to cheer up the people around you the way a happy person would, you’ll create the conditions by which you can produce your own happiness naturally and give the gift of happiness to others as well. By behaving like a happy person, you will eventual-

ly produce your own happiness. Moreover, you will get happiness by seeing humour films, writing poems, short stories also give you pleasure and happiness. When your manuscripts are published in journal, you will get happiness.

This happiness is not like other happiness. Your heart shakes when you see your poems, short stories are published in journals, magazines and newspapers.

To create happiness, you listen to Sayadaws’ sermons, take meditations, sympathy, kind and help to poor people, pious and take part of religious activities. These are not only given you happiness at that moment but also good for several lives. This way is the best of all to be happiness.

Reference: The Atlantic



# DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

## Sa Phye

This week, we are presenting a traditional ethnic dish for those who enjoy exploring and trying unusual and distinctive foods. The dish is called ‘Sa Phye’.

Once mainly enjoyed by local people in Kachin State, Sa Phye has now become a staple on the menus of traditional Kachin restaurants in major cities, including Yangon and Mandalay. It is particularly popular among noodle and Montti lovers, young people and office workers who enjoy sour, salty and spicy flavours, as well as those eager to try new and unusual dishes.

Although many people consider Sa Phye to be a traditional Kachin dish, it is actually believed to have originated as a traditional Shan (Shan-Chinese) food. It is said to have originated among the Shan-Chinese, or Dai people, in Yunnan Province, China. As the dish became increasingly popular among Shan and Kachin communities in Kachin State, it came to be widely served at traditional Kachin restaurants and became known as a Kachin food.

Here, we would also like to explain the meaning of the term ‘Sa Phye’ for those interested in its background.

‘Sa Phye’ is a Shan term derived from ‘Sap Phie’ or ‘Sap Hong’.

- Sap in Shan means ‘to mix’ or ‘salad’.
- Phie may refer to a mixed or sour liquid, or, in some areas, to the internal lining of cattle.

Taken together, the term can broadly be understood as referring to a dish in which meat and noodles are dipped into a distinctive sour sauce or slightly bitter dipping liquid.

So, let us take a closer look at what goes into this distinctive and delicious dish, how it is prepared and, most importantly, how it is eaten.

## Traditional Myanmar Delicacies



### Ingredients

1. Meat – beef, pork or fish paste. Chicken can also be used for a lighter, leaner option.
2. Noodles – Mohinga noodles or rice vermicelli.
3. Vegetables – garlic chives, cilantro, basil, cucumber, carrot and lettuce.
4. Sour sauce – green chillies, garlic and lime juice, or boiled juice made from dried roselle fruit.
5. Salt
6. Seasoning powder
7. Bitter broth – required only for beef Sa Phye. This

is a broth made by simmering the tender intestines of beef. If pork, chicken or fish is used, the bitter broth is not required.

### How to prepare the meat

- Select the meat and remove all fat and sinew.
- Finely mince the meat with a knife until it is soft and finely chopped. Chopping it by hand is said to produce a better texture than grinding it in a blender.
- Add finely chopped cilantro or other herbs, finely chopped garlic chives, a little salt and seasoning powder to the minced meat and mix thoroughly.

For those who do not wish to eat raw meat, although raw meat marinated in lime juice is traditionally eaten in some Shan and Kachin areas, the meat can instead be cooked for safety. Place the seasoned minced meat in a pan without adding oil and cook it in its own juices until dry. Alternatively, shape the meat into small balls and boil them.

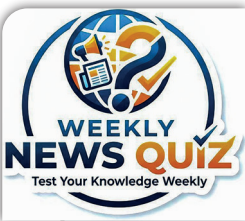
### How to make the sour or sour-bitter-spicy dipping sauce

- Pound green chillies and garlic until finely crushed.
- Place the mixture in a bowl and add plenty of lime juice or boiled Chinsawgathi juice (an ingredient of southern Myanmar).
- Add salt and seasoning powder, adjusting the flavours to achieve a balanced combination of sourness, saltiness and spiciness.

For beef Sa Phye: Add the prepared beef bitter broth to the seasoned sour sauce to create the distinctive sour-bitter-spicy Sa Phye dipping sauce.

### How to eat Sa Phye

Sa Phye is not eaten as a salad by mixing all the ingredients. Instead, the ingredients are wrapped and dipped into the sauce before eating. **SEE PAGE 11**



## Weekly News Quiz

(for 16 August 2026)

### National News Quiz

1. According to official records from the Ministry of Immigration and Population, who have been officially recognized as Myanmar’s oldest living male and female citizens?  
A. U Than Aung (Yangon Region) and Daw Phata Mar (Bago Region)  
B. U Than Aung (Yangon Region) and Daw Pan Nwe (Taninthayi Region)  
C. U Myo Swe Win (Bago Region) and Daw Pan Nwe (Taninthayi Region)  
D. U Tin Maung (Sagaing Region) and Daw Aye Aye Nyein (Yangon Region)
2. The Toll Pass RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) system is currently being piloted by the Ministry of Construction at how many toll checkpoints along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway?  
A. 4 checkpoints  
B. 6 checkpoints  
C. 8 checkpoints  
D. 12 checkpoints

3. At the 39<sup>th</sup> King’s Cup ISTAF World Sepak Takraw Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand, Myanmar won one gold and three silver medals. In which event did the Myanmar national team win the gold medal?  
A. Men’s hoop-kick event  
B. Women’s two-player team event  
C. Men’s four-player team event  
D. Women’s hoop-kick event

### Global News Quiz

4. Positioned at 133 degrees east longitude, which Chinese meteorological satellite tracked Typhoon Dolphin and is recognized as the world’s most powerful single geostationary satellite for comprehensive atmospheric sounding?  
A. Fengyun-4A  
B. Fengyun-4B  
C. Fengyun-4C  
D. Fengyun-4D
5. Following a powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake that demolished buildings and killed more than 200 people, which country declared three days of national mourning?  
A. Venezuela  
B. Colombia  
C. Ecuador  
D. Peru

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15



NATIONAL

# Weather

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 16 August 2026)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal-North Odisha coasts, India, intensified into a Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area. It is likely to move Northwestwards and concentrate into a depression during next 24 hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 17 AUGUST 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Magway, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails 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 in the deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. The squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts and about 8-10 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and eastern Shan states.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 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 17 AUGUST 2026:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17 AUGUST 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

# Applications open for Synergy between Art and Architecture programme

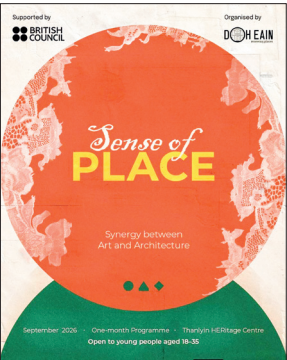
A one-month programme titled Synergy between Art and Architecture will be organized by Doh Eain, a Non-Profit organization in Yangon, in September.

The programme will explore the connections between art and architecture through the lens of Sense of Place, while looking at creative approaches to culture and heritage conservation. Participants will have opportunities to develop their own ideas and creative work through hands-on activities and practical exploration throughout the programme. All the modules will be delivered at Thanlyin HERitage Centre.

At the end of the programme, participants will receive certificates of completion and have the opportunity to showcase the creative works developed through their learning and practical activities in a final exhibition.

Young people aged 18-35, including artists, architects and anyone with an interest in culture and heritage, are welcome to apply. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for an interview, and 20 participants will be selected as the final participants of the programme.

Interested applicants can learn more about the programme and its modules through the application form: [docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf\\_enFtN-n0UbP0U8YK3oMBc06d-82pJJrtPZDHYqQUX-m\\_78D6g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_enFtN-n0UbP0U8YK3oMBc06d-82pJJrtPZDHYqQUX-m_78D6g/viewform) and submit their applications by 23 August. — MT/ZS



A poster depicts Synergy between Art and Architecture programme.

# Mongla's MSY income-generating activities inspected

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, on 15 August, looked into the progress of income-generating activities financed through the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in three villages of Mongla Township.

Mongla District Department of Rural Development Acting Head U Thet Nyi Nyi and officials visited Panhoke, Tapin, and Namkuan villages to inspect the progress of agricultural, livestock breeding and trading businesses being carried out with loans from the project's revolving fund.

The MSY Village Project was initially launched in the three villages with a revolving fund of K30 million. At present, 10<sup>th</sup>-round loans totalling K40 million have been disbursed at low interest rates to 31 project members. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



Officials for Department of Rural Development review the progress of agricultural activities financed by the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Mongla Township.

# Traditional Myanmar Delicacies

FROM PAGE 10

- Arrange the prepared noodles, minced meat, garlic chives, cucumber, lettuce and herbs attractively on a serving platter.
- Spread a lettuce leaf or herb leaf (Phae Phae in the Kachin Language) on the palm of your hand.
- Place a small amount of noodles, minced meat, garlic chives and cucumber on the leaf.
- Roll everything together into a small wrap, dip it generously into the prepared sour-bitter-spicy sauce and enjoy it in one bite.

## Potential health benefits of Sa Phye

When eaten as part of a balanced diet and in moderation, Sa Phye can be both delicious and nutritious. Naturally fermented pickled mustard greens and some fermented broths may contain beneficial bacteria, or probiotics, which can support healthy digestion and gut function.

The carbohydrates from the noodles and protein from the meat can also provide the body with energy and essential nutrients.



In addition, ingredients such as ginger, garlic and Kachin coriander are traditionally valued for their potential health benefits. They are commonly believed to support circulation, ease cold-related symptoms such as nasal congestion and contribute to overall immune health. However, these traditional health claims should not be regarded as substitutes for medical treatment.

So, why not try making Sa Phye at home this week? It is distinctive, flavourful and fun to eat – and offers a delicious way to discover the rich culinary traditions of Myanmar's ethnic communities. — MOON



# NATIONAL/ARTICLE

## KBZMS General Insurance holds Building Continuity Through Resilience seminar

KBZMS General Insurance hosted its “Building Continuity Through Resilience” seminar at the Jasmine Taunggyi Hotel in Taunggyi, Shan State (South), marking the official launch of the company’s 2026-2027 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Roadshow.

The initiative highlights KBZMS’s commitment to going beyond standard insurance claim payouts by actively partnering with local communities and businesses to foster long-term resilience and disaster preparedness before, during and after crises.

U Nyo Myint, Vice-Chairman of KBZ Group, delivered the welcome address and outlined the group’s overarching disaster risk reduction

frameworks. Featured presentations included insights from architect and researcher Daw Chaw Kalyar of Statement Architecture+Design, who discussed methods for preserving Shan State’s cultural heritage while constructing earthquake-resilient structures based on historical seismic data. In addition, Daw Yamon Thaw, Excellence & Resilience Lead at the

Inlay Resource Centre (IRC), shared perspectives on community-based disaster preparedness and sustainable local livelihoods. U Kyaw Zeyar Lin and Daw Yu Wai Maung from KBZMS’s Inspection and Engineering Department also presented technical evaluations and risk-prevention practices.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the initiative, KBZMS CEO U Sai

Lu Mon Aung emphasized that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is an essential component of the company’s long-term vision and extends beyond corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives. He said KBZMS would continue working with its partners to promote insurance education, financial preparedness and protective measures aimed at supporting Myanmar’s sustainable development and strengthening community resilience.

Also present at the seminar were Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Nang Kham Lu, representatives of philanthropic organizations, industry experts and local business leaders. — ASH/TH



This photo features the “Building Continuity Through Resilience” seminar organized by KBZMS General Insurance.

## Awareness event on cultural heritage preservation in Bagan held at Shwezigon Pagoda



A cultural heritage preservation awareness event being held in the Bagan World Heritage Site.

AN awareness event on cultural heritage preservation in Bagan was held at the Shwezigon Pagoda in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, on 14 August.

Officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, the Mandalay Region Cultural Heritage Preservation Committee, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, and the Bagan Heritage Trust gave talks on heritage conservation rules, Bagan’s cultural

heritage, tourism, archaeology, and the history of its culture and pagodas.

Dr Ei Shwe Sin Myint, Deputy Director of the Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, explained the purpose of the awareness event and called on the public to help preserve Bagan as a lasting World Heritage Site in accordance with relevant laws, directives and regulations, particularly through cultural tourism. — ASH/KNN

# Reviving the Five Strengths: A Blueprint ...

### FROM PAGE 9 Bhoga Bala - Economic Strength Transforming Knowledge and Skills into Opportunity

Bhoga Bala, or Economic Strength, connects education with livelihoods, productivity, innovation and sustainable prosperity.

Economic strength should not be understood simply as material wealth. In the contemporary context, it includes financial literacy, employability, entrepreneurship, resource management, digital competencies, innovation and the ability to create sustainable economic value.

Young people increasingly need adaptable capabilities rather than preparation for only one occupation. Entrepreneurship education, technical and vocational skills, financial literacy and workplace learning can help them navigate changing employment patterns.

Micro, Small and Me-

dium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, social enterprises and emerging digital businesses can provide pathways for young people to turn knowledge and ideas into productive activities.

Bhoga Bala can therefore be understood as a progression from knowledge to skills, skills to productivity, and productivity to sustainable opportunity.

### The Five Strengths as One Human-Capital Framework

The real strength of Bala Nga Tan lies in the connection among its five dimensions.

Kaya Bala provides the foundation for healthy learning and participation.

Nyana Bala develops the ability to think, create and innovate.

Saritta Bala provides the ethical compass for using knowledge responsibly.

Mitta Bala enables co-operation and constructive social participation.

Bhoga Bala transforms capability into productive and sustainable livelihoods.

Together, they offer a broader understanding of what education should achieve.

A healthy learner is better prepared to learn. An intellectually capable person can generate ideas and solve problems. Sound character ensures that knowledge is used responsibly. Social capability enables people to work effectively with others. Economic capability helps transform these qualities into productive opportunities.

The Five Strengths should therefore be viewed not as five isolated objectives, but as five interconnected dimensions of human capital.

### A Harmonious Path Forward

Connecting Myanmar’s Heritage with the Future  
The enduring value

of Bala Nga Tan lies in its potential to connect Myanmar’s cultural heritage with contemporary educational priorities.

Myanmar does not need to choose between tradition and modernity. A more constructive pathway is to draw strength from cultural wisdom while embracing the competencies required in a rapidly changing world.

This approach invites educators and policymakers to consider a broader set of questions: Are learners physically healthy? Can they think critically and creatively? Do they demonstrate integrity and responsibility? Can they co-operate with others? Are they equipped with the skills needed for productive participation in a changing economy?

When these questions are considered together, education becomes more than preparation for examinations. It becomes preparation for life, work,

citizenship and the future.

The ultimate goal is therefore to cultivate people who are healthy in body, capable in mind, grounded in character, constructive in society and productive in the economy.

### Preparing Citizens to Shape the Future

Myanmar’s future will depend greatly on the quality of its human capital. The young people in classrooms today will become tomorrow’s teachers, professionals, entrepreneurs, skilled workers, community leaders and citizens. Their development is therefore one of the country’s most important long-term investments.

Bala Nga Tan provides a distinctive framework for thinking about that investment. It reminds us that physical health, intellectual capability, moral character, social responsibility and economic productivity are most powerful when developed together.

Revitalizing the Five Strengths does not simply preserve a traditional idea. It gives that wisdom a contemporary purpose. It creates a bridge between heritage and innovation, education and employment, individual development and national progress.

The vision is not merely to prepare young people for the future, but to prepare them to shape the future.

By nurturing the Five Strengths together, Myanmar can move toward a human-capital development approach that values competence and character, innovation and responsibility, individual achievement and collective well-being, productivity and social contribution.

That is the contemporary promise of Bala Nga Tan: a holistic pathway toward capable, ethical, resilient and future-ready citizens who can contribute to a stronger and more prosperous Myanmar.



‘Normal guy’ turned  
killer over US insurance  
industry grievances

THE man who admitted to shooting dead a US health insurance executive used a charged courtroom appearance to blame a back injury for His crimes that He said sought to make “health care work better for everyone”.

Luigi Mangione, 28, was thrust into the spotlight in 2024 after gunning down UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, a father of two, in broad daylight in Manhattan.

The case laid bare deep frustration and anger with America’s privatized medical system that Mangione said failed Him after a back injury.

Speculation about Mangione’s motives ex-

ploded after His dramatic capture in Pennsylvania after a tipster spotted Him at a McDonald’s.

Mangione has amassed an army of ardent fans and followers who lavish Him with prison mail and donations to His defense fund.

His critics, led by US President Donald Trump, have called for Him to face severe punishment.

A photo on one of His social media accounts included an X-ray of an apparently injured spine.

While no explicit political affiliation has emerged, an apparent manifesto found on Mangione after His arrest contained anti-corporate sentiments. — AFP

Textile-apparel exports fall 1.84% to  
\$11.96 bln in Apr-July 2026

INDIA’S textile and apparel exports declined 1.84 per cent year-on-year to \$11.96 billion during April-July 2026, with a sharp fall in apparel shipments offsetting growth in textiles, according to an analysis by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI).

Apparel exports fell 10.52 per cent to US\$4.95 billion during the first four months of the financial year, while textile exports rose 5.38 per cent to US\$7.01 billion, the analysis showed. The overall textile and apparel segment had recorded exports of US\$12.18 billion in the corresponding period last year. The July data, however, showed some



Textile exports rose 5.38 per cent to US\$7.01 billion. PHOTO: ANI

improvement in the combined segment. Textile and apparel exports grew 1.44 per cent year-on-year to US\$3.14 billion, as textile shipments increased 5.94 per cent to US\$1.87

billion. Apparel exports, though, remained under pressure, declining 4.48 per cent to US\$1.28 billion. Within textiles, cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom

products recorded 8.4 per cent growth in July to US\$1.11 billion, while man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups rose marginally by 0.45 per cent to US\$ 424.13 million. — ANI

Holidaymakers rush home on final day of  
Japan’s “Bon” holidays

PEOPLE returning from domestic and international trips crowded major train stations and airports on Sunday, the final day of Japan’s summer “Bon” holiday period.

Many shinkansen bullet trains bound for Tokyo were full on Sunday afternoon, according to Central Japan Railway Co, which links the Japanese capital with places such as Nagoya and Osaka. Traffic was also heavy on expressways.

Both JR Shin-Osaka



A shinkansen platform at JR Tokyo Station is crowded with travelers on 16 August 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

and Tokyo stations were packed with travelers carrying large luggage items,

including foreign tourists. “It was nice to see my cousin. We went out,

played games and so on,” said Yuna Kawauchi, a third grader from Tokyo who visited Osaka with her parents.

At Narita airport near Tokyo, one of the busiest international hubs in Japan, many were returning home from overseas.

Rin Mitsunobu, a fifth grader from Tokyo, took a family trip to Bangkok and Phuket in Thailand. “It was fun (swimming). I want to do it again,” the 11-year-old said. — Kyodo

EasyJet strike sees hundred  
French flights cancelled

BRITISH budget carrier easyJet has called off about 100 flights out of French airports on Saturday and Sunday because of a strike by cabin crew furious over repeated changes to their schedules.

Unions said about half of the company’s 900 French-based cab-

in crew would join the strike, which would affect about half of the flights out of two Paris airports, Nice, Bordeaux and Lyon.

The airline’s management has called the action “opportunistic” as it falls on a major national holiday weekend when airports are busy. — AFP

Global AI investment reaches \$1 tln

GLOBAL investment in artificial intelligence is projected to reach around \$1 trillion in 2026, with AI-related capital expenditure expected to remain robust in the near term, according to a research report by Goldman Sachs.

The investment is

forecast to rise from 0.9 per cent of global GDP in 2026 to 1.3 per cent in 2027 and 1.4 per cent in 2028, suggesting that the AI buildout could continue to support capital spending over the next two years.

Goldman Sachs Research estimated that

global AI-related investment would amount to about \$1 trillion this year, including \$581 billion in the US. The estimate is broader than the commonly cited projection of around \$794 billion in capital expenditure by US hyperscalers, as it also in-

corporates AI investment by private companies, non-hyperscaler firms and companies outside the US.

The research estimates that the cumulative investment in AI since 2022 could reach \$1.8 trillion by the end of 2026. — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT005)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-8-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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

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ROLLING UPDATES  
WORLD

Iran accuses Qatar of thwarting probe into fate of pilots

Iranian Air Force experts waited months seeking entry for field investigations.

IRAN accused Qatar on Sunday of thwarting efforts to work out what happened to three pilots Tehran says were captured during the Middle East war, though the Gulf state has denied detaining them.

The Islamic republic had previously reported one pilot killed and others missing after a sortie to Qatar in March, but had not claimed at the time that any of them had been captured.

“A team of experts from the Iranian Air Force has been waiting for several months to travel to Qatar to conduct an on-site investigation,” said Gen-



An Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-29A (Fulcrum-A) fighter aircraft prepares for takeoff at Tehran - Mehrabad International Airport. PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/FILE

eral Mohammad Bagherzadeh of the Iranian armed forces.

“However, due to per-

sistent delays by Qatari authorities, the return of our brave pilots to their homeland remains impossible,”

he added, according to the Tasnim news agency.

He called on Doha to authorise the team to travel to Qatar.

Bagherzadeh had accused Qatar on Saturday of having captured three Iranian pilots who were carrying out an operation against the United States’ Al Udeid air base in early March and demanded their release.

Qatar denied holding the pilots and said an invitation had been sent to Iran “to be briefed on the details of the search & rescue operations in April, but the Iranian side has yet to respond”. — AFP

Australia’s NSW to launch gun buyback scheme after Bondi Beach attack

AUSTRALIA’S New South Wales (NSW) will launch a gun buyback scheme as part of tighter firearm controls introduced after last year’s deadly Bondi Beach attack, local media reported Saturday.

The scheme, set to begin on 2 November, will make NSW the first Australian state to implement the buyback program announced following the attack, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

Up to 274,000 firearms

and about 50,000 licence holders are estimated to be affected by the state’s new firearm restrictions, the ABC reported.

Under the scheme, most surrendered firearms will receive fixed compensation of 450 to 1,000 Australian dollars (about US\$319 to 708), while higher-value firearms may qualify for up to 10,000 Australian dollars (about US\$7,080) each from early next year.

NSW Premier Chris Minns said reducing the



The scene of the shooting at Bondi Beach in Sydney. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

number of dangerous firearms in the community would make the state safer.

NSW tightened its firearm laws following the Bondi Beach attack,

introducing limits on the number of firearms most licence holders can possess and tighter controls on certain types of firearms. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamas team holds peace talks in Cairo

A delegation from the Palestinian Hamas movement has arrived in Cairo and is holding talks with the head of Egyptian intelligence, Saudi Arabia’s Al-Hadath television channel reported on Sunday, citing the movement’s source.

“A Hamas delegation, led by Khalil al-Hayya, a member of the movement’s political bureau, has arrived in Cairo and is currently holding talks with Hassan Rashad, the head of Egyptian intelligence,” the source told the Al-Hadath channel.

Hamas is discussing forcing Israel to implement the Board of Peace’s plan for the Gaza Strip, the Asharq broadcaster reported. — SPUTNIK

Two security personnel injured in airport firearm discharge

TWO security screeners were injured on Sunday morning at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi after a round was discharged during a mandatory weapons inspection, airport authorities confirmed.

The incident occurred at approximately 9:30 am ahead of Air India Express flight IX-1810 to Mumbai. The passenger, who was travelling alongside his wife, had declared carrying a licensed firearm before boarding as required by aviation guidelines. — ANI

Iran sets conditions for reopening shipping strait

RESTORING full security and normal commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz depends on the US ending its naval blockade, unlawful actions, interference and threats, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said, Press TV reported.

Baghaei said the current insecurity in the strait is the direct result of illegal and aggressive actions by the US and Israel, including the use of the waterway and its southern shores as a platform for attacks against Iran.

“The process of fully restoring security in the Strait of Hormuz and the normal passage of commercial vessels depends on the cessation of unlawful actions, interference, threats, and the naval blockade imposed by the United States, as well as compensation for the violations of commitments that have occurred over the past two months,” Baghaei said. — SPUTNIK



Migrants line up at an emergency reception centre in Lampedusa, Italy. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP

European Union first asylum applications drop sharply

FIRST-TIME asylum applications in the EU fell to 42,525 in May 2026, down 22 per cent from a year earlier and two per cent from April.

The total covered non-EU citizens applying for international protection, a term used for people seeking asylum

or similar protection, the EU statistics office said in a statement.

A further 8,050 people were counted as subsequent applicants — meaning they had applied before — a figure virtually unchanged from May 2025 but 12 per cent lower than in April

2026.

Venezuelans were the largest group of first-time applicants in May, with 4,465 people, followed by Afghans (3,425), Bangladeshis (2,860) and Sudanese (1,690).

Italy recorded the highest number of first-time applicants at 10,660,

followed by Spain (7,945), France (7,180) and Germany (5,965), together accounting for about three-quarters of the EU total.

There were 9.4 first-time asylum applicants per 100,000 people across the EU in May 2026, Eurostat said. — ANI



SPORTS

Eight clubs to compete in Myanmar's first international invitational futsal tournament

Five Myanmar clubs and three overseas clubs will compete in an international invitational futsal tournament at the MFF Futsal Arena of Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon from 5 to 12 September.

The Myanmar clubs are YRG, YCDC Dream Team, MIU, M2K and TG United. Thailand's Black Pearl United and Cambodia's Lucky and Black City of Indonesia have been confirmed for competition.

The eight teams will be divided into two groups



YRG and YCDC Dream Team face each other in the 2026 MFF Futsal Championship final. PHOTO: MFF

of four, with the top two teams from each group advancing to the semi-fi-

nals. The tournament will be the first international club invitational futsal

competition to be hosted in Myanmar. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Myanmar women's team begin Asian Games preparations



Myanmar women football team new head coach Colin Bell. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

MYANMAR'S women's national team has selected a 33-player preliminary squad for the Asian Games in Japan in September, with training set to begin on 17 August. New head coach Colin Bell will prepare the team for about a month. Players from Ayeyawady FC and those currently on loan will join the squad on 24 August. Myanmar women have been drawn in the same group as North Korea, South Korea and Bangladesh. — Maung Nyi/KZL



Spain shines with duet free double title

SPAIN stole the spotlight at the 2026 World Aquatics Junior Artistic Swimming Championships on Saturday, sweeping both the women's duet free and

mixed duet free titles with routines of high difficulty and expressive artistry.

In the women's duet free final, Naia Alvarez Vicente and Daniela Suarez Fernandez, both 17, won the title with 298.6813 points.

China's He Zhien and Zhou Kunyi performed a routine themed "Moderation" to take silver with 295.0701, while Russia's Kristina Chekhanova and Anastasiia Sidorina finished third with 294.0996. — Xinhua

Silver medalists He Zhien/Zhou Kunyi (L) of China pose for photograph during the awarding ceremony for the Women's Duet Free Event of the World Aquatics Junior Artistic Swimming Championships in Budapest, Hungary, 15 August 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Petros, Vainio set new championship records to win Euro marathons

ERITREAN-BORN German Amanal Petros and Finland's Alisa Vainio won the men and women's marathons at the European championships in Birmingham on Sunday.

Petros, the Olympic silver medalist, claimed victory in a championship record of 2 hours 09 minutes 11 seconds, beating by 40 seconds Belgian Koen Naert's previous best, set in Berlin in 2018.

Italy's Pietro Riva, who took Eu-

ropean silver in the half-marathon in Rome two years ago, claimed silver in 2:09.18, just three seconds ahead of Ethiopian-born Israeli Gashau Ayale. Vainio, who finished fifth at last year's world champs in Tokyo, clocked a dominant winning time of 2:22.26, her long solo effort beating by almost three minutes the previous championship record set by France's Christelle Daunay in Zurich in 2014.

— AFP



Germany's Amanal Petros celebrates after winning the men's European marathon. PHOTO: AFP



Novak Djokovic departs Stadium Court in Cincinnati after falling in his opening match to Thiago Tirante

Djokovic feels the heat in Cincinnati defeat, Zverev wins all-nighter

NOVAK DJOKOVIC suffered from punishing heat and humidity on Saturday but made a match of it before falling 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Thiago Tirante in what could be the Serb's last appearance at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The second-round battle

lasted for more than two and a half hours, and it proved too much for the 24-time Grand Slam champion who was playing his first match since he lost to Jan-nik Sinner in the Wimbledon semi-finals more than a month ago. — AFP

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10



Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

1. B. U Than Aung (Yangon Region) and Daw Pan Nwe (Taninthayi Region) (From the "121-Year-Old Man, Taninthayi Woman Named Myanmar's Oldest Living Citizens" story on Page 1 & 5)
2. B. 6 checkpoints (From the "Toll Pass RFID tested at 6 checkpoints on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway" story on Page 7)
3. C. Men's quadrant event (From the "Myanmar shines at King's Cup Sepak Takraw Championship with gold, 3 silvers" story on Page 15)
4. C. Fengyun-4C (From the "Chinese meteorological satellites track Typhoon Dolphin in coordinated observation" story on Page 10)
5. B. Colombia (From the "Colombia earthquake death toll exceeds 200, President declares 3-day mourning" story on August 13 Page 14).





# WORLD

## Kim Jong-un Thanks Putin for Liberation Day Greetings

*Kim stressed historic ties forged when Russian soldiers fought common enemies.*

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-un sent a reply message to Russian President Vladimir Putin, thanking Him for His greetings on the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Korea's liberation, KCNA reported.

Kim said Korea's liberation ended decades of Japanese colonial rule and restored the country's independence and sovereignty.

He stressed that the history of Korea's national liberation is linked to the



A defence pact agreed upon by Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (R) in June 2024 has gone into force as of 4 December 2024.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE

feats of Red Army soldiers who fought against the common enemy.

"I am always proud to be able to expect more excellent future of the bi-

lateral relations by leading, together with You, the DPRK-Russia ties," Kim Jong-un said.

He also expressed firm belief that the "fra-

ternal army and people of Russia" will defend the country's sovereignty, security interests and territorial integrity under Putin's leadership. — SPUTNIK

## China-Europe Arctic shipping route enters regular weekly operation

THE China-Europe Arctic container express route entered regular weekly operations for the summer season on Saturday, opening a faster and more resilient logistics link between China and Europe.

At around 7 pm, the container ship Dubai Tower departed from the Ningbo-Zhoushan Port in east China's Zhejiang Province, marking the start of the route's regular seasonal service.

The route crosses the Northeast Arctic Passage before reaching major European ports including Felixstowe in Britain, Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Hamburg in Germany and Gdynia in Poland, according to the operator.

The route complet-

ed its first trial voyage in September 2025, reaching Felixstowe Port in about 20 days, nearly halving the time required via the Suez Canal and outpacing the China-Europe freight train.

"The route stands out for its advantages in transit time and supply chain security," said Xin Jianning, general manager of Zhejiang Seaport Logistics Group Co Ltd.

The Dubai Tower carries high-value-added, temperature-sensitive goods, including energy storage cabinets, power batteries, photovoltaic modules and new-energy vehicle components, mainly from cities in the Yangtze River Delta. — Xinhua



The first cargo ship of the China-Europe Arctic Express berths at Ningbo Zhoushan Port in East China's Zhejiang Province on 6 December 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

## Brave firefighters battle blaze across Greek island

FIREFIGHTERS battled for a second day on Sunday to contain a forest fire on the Greek Aegean island of Skyros, as the local mayor voiced hope It could soon be brought under control.

"Within the day I believe the fire will be fully

extinguished," Skyros mayor Kyriakos Antonopoulos told state TV ERT.

The fire, which broke out on Saturday, prompted the evacuation of two small communities, but Antonopoulos said no inhabited areas were

under threat on Sunday. Reinforcements to the island of some 3,000 have been rushed in from neighbouring areas.

"We must act quickly to bring this fire under control as soon as possible," Kostas Tsigas, president of the association of

fire service officers, told the TV station.

"Fire commandos equipped with machinery and excavators are trying to clear a path in a difficult area. We hope the situation will improve during the day," Tsigas said. — AFP

## Devastating quakes kill dozens across Indonesian islands

AT least 47 people have been confirmed dead following a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia on Saturday morning, according to preliminary data released by the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB).

According to official figures released by the BNPB as of Saturday, the highest casualties were recorded in Manggarai Regency, where 24 people lost their lives, followed by East Manggarai with 17 fatalities. Deaths were also reported in Sikka (3), West Manggarai (1), Ngada (1), and Ende (1) regencies. — ANI

## Iran and Oman reach shipping map agreement



Iran and Oman successfully negotiate navigation rules across the strategic Hormuz waterway. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

IRAN and Oman have reached an agreement on a shipping map for the Strait of Hormuz, although some issues are still being discussed, Press TV reported citing Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei.

Earlier, Saudi broadcaster reported that Iran and Oman had reached an agreement to fully open the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, which is subject to approval by Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

According to the channel, the agreement will be officially announced in the coming days.

In recent weeks, Washington and Tehran, with the help of Middle East mediators, have been attempting to agree on the terms of a new deal to end the conflict. US President Donald Trump said on August 9 that Washington was negotiating with Tehran at a half-hearted pace, while Iran's economic situation allegedly had worsened. — SPUTNIK