

President U Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Russian Federation to pay Official Visit



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing receives an official welcome from the Guard of Honour upon his arrival in the Russian Federation.

At the invitation of Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, a high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing left Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft yesterday morning to pay an Official Visit to the Russian Federation. The President and his entourage were seen off at the airport by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, **SEE PAGE 4**

Over 280 entrepreneurs receive MSME development fund disbursement

AS of 31 July 2026, 650 loan applications had been received, and 281 have been approved for a total of K10.64 billion from the MSME development fund. The remaining applicants are under review.

Loans are disbursed through the Myanma Economic Bank, the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, and 16 private banks.

The government has allocated K150 billion from



This image features MSME products on display at a trade exhibition.

its K170-billion MSME development fund for direct lending to micro, small, and medium enterprises, with the remaining K20 billion set aside for sector development activities, according to the MSME

Fund Management Committee of the Financial Regulatory Department.

Small and micro enterprises are eligible for up to K50 million, while medium-sized businesses are entitled to apply for up to K100 million. Interest rates are set at three per cent per annum for machinery purchases and four per cent per annum for raw materials and working capital. — ASH/KK

MDY hosts Tastes of Golden Land 2026 food fair on 22-23 Aug

THE Tastes of the Golden Land 2026 traditional Myanmar food exhibition and competition will take place on 22 and 23 August at the Mandalay Convention Centre (MCC). The event aims to promote tourism through traditional cuisine and offer visitors a comprehensive sampling of premium, internationally standard dishes from various regions in one venue. A pre-event press conference was held on 12 August at Hotel Hazel, attended by U Kyaw Myo Htike, Chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation (Mandalay Zone), who explained the event's objectives and responded to media inquiries. — NN/KK

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Nicaragua Join Forces to Counter Misinformation

MYANMAR Ambassador to Nicaragua U Tun Aung Kyaw and Mr Daniel Edmundo Ortega Murillo, Media Coordinator of Nicaragua's Council of Communication and Information, discussed cooperation between Myanmar and Nicaragua in combating mis-

information and fabricated information on 14 August, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They also discussed exchanges of experience between media professionals from the two countries and cooperation in the media sector. — ASH/MKKS



This photo captures Myanmar and Nicaragua discussing cooperation in combatting misinformation and fabricated information.

OPINION

Uphold intellectual property rights

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

PAGE 4



Rescue, relief efforts continue in Ayeyawady Region

NATIONAL

PAGE 5



Falams solar power installation and reconstruction inspected

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President's Office

Order 63/2026

4th Waxing of Wagoung 1388 ME
17 August 2026

Transfer and Assignment to Duties of Deputy Minister

DR Khine Khine Soe, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, is hereby transferred and assigned duties as Deputy Minister at the President's Office under Section 234 (a) and (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Clause ix of the Section 16 (b) of the Union Government Law.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President's Office

Order 64/2026

4th Waxing of Wagoung 1388 ME
17 August 2026

Appointment and Duty Assignment of Deputy Minister

U Ye Tun Oo is hereby appointed and assigned duties as Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Immigration and Population, under Sections 234 (a) and (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Clause ix of the Section 16 (b) of the Union Government Law.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Heavy Rainfall Warning

No 48

Issued at 8 am MST on 17 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, are likely due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the Well-Marked low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal - North Odisha coasts, India, 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.

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 of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the Well-Marked low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal - North Odisha coasts, India, 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

Depression News,

No 2, 2026

Issued at 4 pm MST on 17 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the depression over the coastal West Bengal, India, and adjoining areas of Bangladesh, Northwest Bay of Bengal has moved slowly north-northwestwards and reached over the interior region of Gangetic West Bengal persists. It is likely to move northwestwards and continue to across Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar, India, during the next 24 hours. — DMH

Reconstruction of Japan Pagoda on Sagaing Hill commences

A ceremony to mark the start of reconstruction work on the Japan Pagoda, which was built on Sagaing Hill as a monument of Myanmar-Japan friendship and cooperation, was held on 15 August.

To restore the quake-damaged pagoda and peace pillars to their original state, the Association of Myanmar-Japan Socio-Economic Development Cooperation (AMJSEDC) has led the fund-raising.



The start of reconstruction work ceremony held at the Japan Pagoda on the Sagaing Hill.

The pegging ceremony took place in accordance with religious rituals with the presence of venerable monks.

At the ceremony, AMJSEDC chair U Saw Min, secretary U Than Naing and CEC/EC members, Counselor of Japanese Embassy Mr Kazuyuki Takemi and Mr Takuya Tazawa from MUFG Bank and the Sagaing Hill trustee board members attended.

AMJSEDC said the ceremony reflected a milestone to help strengthen the Myanmar-Japan friendship and cooperation. — MT/ZS

Wetland Wonders Await on Birdwatching and Photography Tour

THE Kyonkapyin-Tapseik Community Conservation Group (KTCG) has organized a two-day, one-night Wetland Birdwatching and Nature Photography Tour, offering visitors an opportunity to relax while exploring the natural beauty of wetland ecosystems, observing birds in their natural habitats and experiencing local livelihoods.

The tour was developed as part of biodiversity conservation efforts in Wake-ma Township, Ayeyawady Region.

During this tour, experienced local tour guides who have deep knowledge of the area and expertise in bird

and nature observation will accompany visitors. Participants will be able to capture photographs of natural landscapes, water bodies and wetland environments, birds, and the scenic beauty of local lifestyles. Furthermore, they can study the wetland's natural system, aquatic plants, birds, and other natural resources alongside local guides.



Birdwatchers observing birds and natural beauty within the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik area.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy natural beauty by rowing a boat themselves, relax by swimming, and taste fresh local fish dishes.

The tour can accommodate a maximum of 10 people travelling together. For those interested in the tour, visitors can travel by car from Yangon to the agricultural fields, from where a motorized boat will provide pick-up and drop-off services.

For detailed tour information, scheduling, and headcounts, interested individuals can contact 09 250988154 or 09 667298. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing meets Government of Rajasthan officials in India

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing left Nay Pyi Taw Airport by special aircraft yesterday morning to pay an Official Visit to the Russian Federation.

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by the President arrived at the international airport in Jaipur of Rajasthan State of the Republic of India at 10 am local standard time. The President and party were welcomed at the airport by the Cabinet Minister of the Medical and Health Department in the Government of Rajasthan, Gajendra Singh, and officials from the cabinet,

Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Zaw Moe Lwin and officials.

At the lounge of the airport, the President met the Rajasthan Cabinet Minister of the Medical and Health Department and cordially discussed his official visit paid to India in June at the invitation of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, the discussions on further strengthening friendly ties and cooperation between Myanmar and India during the visit, extensive relations between the peoples of both countries, and the best situation of bilateral



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing is pictured being welcomed at the international airport in Jaipur of Rajasthan State of the Republic of India.

relations within the region, further enhancement of cooperation between the two countries, and efforts to promote border trade measures.

The President and the Rajasthan Cabinet Minister exchanged commemorative gifts.

The President and party continued their journey to the Russian Federation via the international airport in Jaipur. They were seen off at the airport by the Rajasthan Cabinet Minister of the Medical and Health Department and cabinet officials, the Myanmar Military Attaché and officials.

— MNA/TTA

President U Min Aung Hlaing Holds Talks with Almaty Governor of Kazakhstan

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing departed Nay Pyi Taw by special flight yesterday morning for an official visit to the Russian Federation.

At 1:25 pm local time, the President and his delegation arrived at Almaty International Airport in Kazakhstan, where Almaty Governor Mr Darkhan Satybaldy, the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and other officials welcomed them.



Myanmar President receives Almaty Governor Mr Darkhan Satybaldy in Kazakhstan.

The President later met Governor Mr Darkhan Satybaldy at the airport VIP lounge. They discussed Myanmar's recent general election and the government's efforts towards national develop-

ment and peace, as well as Myanmar's expanding relations with regional and international countries.

They also discussed strengthening bilateral ties between Myanmar and Kazakhstan through high-level visits and co-

operation in trade, education, culture and tourism.

After the meeting, the Almaty Governor presented a commemorative gift to President U Min Aung Hlaing, who reciprocated with gifts for the Governor and his delegation.

The Myanmar delegation subsequently departed Almaty International Airport for Russia, where they were seen off by the Almaty Governor; the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and other officials. — MNA/ST

Yangon police ramp up crime prevention and public safety measures

POLICE personnel from township police stations in various districts across Yangon Region are working with traffic police and relevant administrative authorities to reduce crime and prevent criminal activities, according to reports.

Yesterday, Police Major Tin Ko Ko from the Botahtaung Township Police Force and party conducted crime prevention awareness activities in Ward 5. Officiating Police Major Kyaw Hein from the Insein Township Police Force and his personnel also conducted door-to-

door crime prevention awareness activities in Gyogon (West) Ward. Meanwhile, personnel from the Kyauktada Township Traffic Police Unit conducted awareness activities at the pedestrian overpass at Sule traffic lights, encouraging members of the public to use pedestrian crossings.

On the night of 16 August, police members led by Police Captain Aung San Lin from the Myoma Police Station in Mingala Taungnyunt Township conducted patrols and checked guest registration records.

— Aung Thu/MKKS



Public safety measures are underway in Yangon. PHOTO: REGIONAL POLICE FORCE

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Russian Federation ...

FROM PAGE 1

Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials from the embassy and the military attaché office of the Russian Federation in Myanmar.

The President is accompanied by Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe, Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Ko Ko Lwin

and Dr Charlie Than, Chief Executive Officer Dr Soe Myint Maung of the Myanmar Space Agency, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Zaw Naing Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers and officials.

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by the President arrived at Vnukovo International Airport in Moscow at 6 pm local standard time.

The President and party were welcomed at the airport by Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Mr Maxim Gennadievich Reshetnikov, the deputy minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Myo Moe Aung, Russian Federation Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Iskander Azizov, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and

Air) Brig-Gen Kyaw Soe Oo and families of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché Office.

At the airport, the Guard of Honour of the Russian Federation accorded a ceremonial welcome to Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing in accordance with the tradition of welcoming Heads of State making state-level goodwill visits. The Myanmar President then took the salute of the Guard of

Honour at the salute dais. During the ceremony, the Guard of Honour played the national anthems of the two countries.

The Guard of Honour marched past the President.

During the visit, the President of Myanmar will meet the President of the Russian Federation, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and the Chairman of the State Duma of the Rus-

sian Federation and other officials from the Russian Government. The President will cordially discuss matters related to the further consolidation of existing friendly relations and strategic cooperation across all areas of mutual interest, including economic, security and social spheres. During the visit, the President will also attend the Myanmar-Russia Business Forum. — MNA/TTA

Rescue, relief efforts continue in Ayeyawady Region



This image displays ongoing relief efforts in Ayeyawady Region.

IN Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, heavy rainfall and river erosion on the night of 30 July 2026 caused water to breach and flow through a sand ridge at the base of the Ngawun River embankment. As of today, floodwaters have entered five urban wards in Laymyethna, another ten wards and villages in Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships have been affected

by flooding.

Tatmadaw personnel from the South-West Command, members of the Myanmar Police Force, firefighters, social rescue groups, charitable organizations and local ethnic groups are jointly conducting search and rescue operations for flood victims while providing food and necessary healthcare. To control and protect the water inlet from the Ngawun embankment, geotextile

bags (geobags) are being placed, sandbags are being filled into floating docks, and steel sheet piles are being driven.

Tatmadaw personnel, members of the Myanmar Police Force, firefighters and charitable organizations are jointly cleaning schools and roads in areas where floodwaters have receded. Officials from the South-West Command are coordinating the necessary measures. — MNA/KTZH

Union Election Commission Hearing on Election Objection Appeal Case 1/2026

THE Plenary Tribunal, comprising Union Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe and Commission members U Aung Moe Myint, U Aung Lwin Oo, U Myint Oo, U Khin Maung Oo, U Myint

Thein, U Ko Ko Lwin, U Than Aung Kyaw, U Khin Zaw, U Than Htut Thein, U Aung Myint Lwin, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Myo Maung, U Kyi Thein, and Daw Khin Thin Wai, held a hearing

on Election Objection Appeal Case No 1/2026 at 10 am yesterday at the Plenary Tribunal Room, Office 22, Union Election Commission Office. — MNA

MPT provides relief supplies, telecom support to Ayeyawady flood victims

YESTERDAY, MPT provided relief supplies to flood victims at the Yaytagun Monastery in Ngathainggyoung and to the Laymyethna Township rehabilitation team, according to the MPT Head Office in Yangon.

The assistance included basic food, clothing, medicines and other essential items for more than 300 flood-affected households. In addition, two B2B satellite terminals and a Cell on Wheels (COW) were installed to support communication

needs in the affected areas by providing internet data, voice calls and SMS services.

“MPT shares the concerns of Ayeyawady Region residents affected by the natural disaster. We are pleased to be able to support flood victims by providing the necessary relief supplies and communication services,” said U Ye Min Oo, Chief Operations Officer of MPT-KS-GM Joint Operations.

MPT will continue to assist flood victims. — Ko Lwin/MKKS



An MPT mobile station for flood victims. PHOTO: KO LWIN

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Residents in Six Townships
Urged to Evacuate as Flood
Risk Rises

AS the water level of Ayeyawady, Thanlwin, Sittoung, Ngawun and Toe rivers has risen, residents living around the riverside or low-lying areas in Hinthada, Zalun, Hpa-an, Maubin, Madauk and Ngathaingyoung townships are advised to evacuate in advance, said the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

According to DMH's measurement at 8 am on 17 August, the water level of the five rivers has exceeded the danger mark in seven towns.

The water level of the Ayeyawady River has reached 33 centimetres above the danger mark in Seiktha, while it is above 46 centimetres in Hinthada and above 48 centimetres in Zalun. It is predicted that the water level will decline below the danger mark in Seiktha in the next one day; however, it will remain above the danger mark in Hinthada and Zalun.

The Thanlwin River

has risen 66 centimetres above the danger mark and is predicted to drop about 15 centimetres in the next one day, though it will remain above the danger mark.

DMH said the Sittoung River has reached 54 centimetres above the danger mark in Madauk and the Ngawun River has exceeded 13 centimetres in Ngathaingyoung and is expected to further increase in the next one day. Similarly, the Toe River has reached two centimetres above the danger mark in Maubin and is predicted to reach about 30 centimetres when the tide rises, it said.

Due to potential flood events, residents living around the riverside and the low-lying area are advised to stay alert, and those in flood-prone areas of Hinthada, Zalun, Hpa-an, Maubin, Madauk and Ngathaingyoung are urged to evacuate in advance. DMH said it will continue providing real-time information about flood events. — TWA/ZS



The water level of the Ayeyawady River has risen, causing flooding in certain townships.

Falam solar power installation
and reconstruction inspected

UNDER the close supervision of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee in Chin State, rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Falam is currently underway at a rapid pace.

With the National Disaster Management Fund, solar power is being installed in Falam district and township-level departments in line with the prioritized office work. Falam district police headquarters and township education head offices are now being operated with 6 kV solar power.

The 6-kW solar power system will be sufficient to operate five sets of office computers and printers, 20 20-watt bulbs, and other electrical equipment with a combined capacity of about 1,000 watts. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo is pictured during his inspection tour in Falam, Chin State.

Kyaw Swa Oo inspected the installation and reconstruction work of the solar power installation in Falam Township.

The deputy minister also inspected the COVID-19 vaccination of 240 departmental staff at the district and township levels at the city hall. The deputy minister also inspected the renovation of the District Forest Department Head Office,

Township Police Station, which was partially damaged due to the violence, the 100-bed Tiddim Township Hospital; the Women's Domestic Science Training School, the dining hall and the two-story dormitory for trainees, the ground maintenance and wall painting work, and the cleaning work carried out by the development committee along the Tiddim-Nginhnon road.

In addition, the Secretary of the Tonzang Township Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee along with committee members, inspected the partially damaged departmental buildings, such as the two-room staff housing at the television broadcasting station, the youth training school student dormitory, the store, and the dining hall. — MNA/MKKS

Building MSME Mandalay's Milestones 2026 held

THE Building MSME Mandalay's Milestones 2026 event was jointly organized by SHWE Bank and the Myanmar Restaurant Association (MRA) at SHWE Bank in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, on 15 August.

The event was held to strengthen business networking among micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) owners in Mandalay and help them access the financial support needed to expand and de-

velop their businesses.

At the event, officials from SHWE Bank, the Mandalay Restaurant Association and the Hotel and Tourism Entrepreneurs Association delivered opening remarks. SHWE Bank's General Manager also introduced the bank's financial support programmes aimed at helping MSME owners strengthen their business operations, expand their businesses and develop new business opportunities. — ASH/KNN



This photo depicts the Building MSME Mandalay's Milestones 2026 ceremony.

Antivenom Stocked at Flood Relief Camps

THE Ayeyawady Region Government has announced that antivenom has been stocked at flood relief camps to ensure timely healthcare and emergency treatment for people relocated there due to flooding.

During floods, snakes may enter homes and residential areas. There-

fore, essential medicines and emergency medical services have been arranged to ensure prompt treatment for snakebite victims.

Under the leadership of respective township medical superintendents, healthcare workers are providing treatment at temporary relief camps.

16 Rapid Response Teams (RRT) have already been deployed to 10 temporary relief camps and three monasteries.

Flood-affected locals are advised to use lighting when travelling at night, avoid walking near garbage dumps, firewood piles, and flooded bushes, and properly wear long

boots and socks while moving around. Furthermore, the Ayeyawady Region Government has urged the public that if bitten by a snake, they should not attempt self-treatment, but rather seek prompt medical care from the nearest healthcare workers as quickly as possible. — MT/ZN



The antivenom used in snakebite cases.

NATIONAL

Pyu's MSY village project introduced, working group formed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introductory briefing on the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project and formed a village project working group in Yayshangyi Village in Pyu Township yesterday.

Pyu Township Department of Rural Development Head U Hein Tayza Htet first explained that K30 million in revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project would be provided at a low interest rate to create employment opportunities, increase family incomes, expand household-based businesses and implement village development activities with the increased revolving funds. The project officer detailed the rules and regulations to be followed in forming the project working group, policies in the project manual and implementation procedures.

Villagers and village elders formed a seven-member Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Working Group through a voting system and consensus to effectively lead and carry out project activities in Yayshangyi Village for the 2026-27 financial year. — Thaw Zin Htoo (Rural)



An orientation and committee formation ceremony for village projects is underway in Pyu Township.

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MLA Welcomes IRU Membership



The International Road Union (IRU) accepts MLA as an official member.

AS its first activity since name from MIFFA to the officially changing its Myanmar Logistics Asso-

ciation (MLA), the association held a ceremony at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon to mark its acceptance as an official member of the Geneva-based International Road Transport Union (IRU).

MLA said it will continue trying for further development in international road transport and cross-border transport in cooperation with IRU. Mr Ran Wang and Ms Erhan Cheng from IRU introduced their future cooperation and capacity-building programmes.

The MLA chair greeted the guests and

delivered a presentation about their plans and needs. MLA vice-chair Daw Ohnmar Maw talked about MLA history and objectives, and the general secretary explained MLA's ongoing projects, cooperation with local and foreign stakeholders and their ambitious plan for digital transformation of the logistics industry.

The education committee and respective committees expressed their future cooperation in training programmes, challenges and opportunities and next steps. — MT/ZS

Tachilek inspects livelihood training, VDP project completion in 3 villages

THE Department of Rural Development, under the management of the Shan State (East) DRD, conducted a field inspection to review the implementation and completion of a livelihood-supporting carpentry training course and Village Development Project (VDP) activities in three villages in Tachilek Township yesterday.

Shan State (East) Department of Rural Development Head U Myo Min Thant, Tachilek District Department Head Daw Amar Lwin, and Tachilek



Officials oversee the implementation progress in Tachilek Township.

Township Department Head Daw Lei Lei Thin inspected theoretical and practical lessons of the carpentry course in Pan Kyi Hat Model Village and

provided training materials to trainees.

Officials then inspected two village concrete roads in Huekhaik Village and Panaut (Old) Village, which have been 100 per cent completed under the Village Development Plan (VDP) for the 2026-2027 financial year. They met Village Development Committees to discuss long-term maintenance strategies and provided necessary coordination for requirements presented. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Taunggyi launches farm-to-market road project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South), is implementing the construction of a rural farm-to-market road in Nawngpyit Village to enable local farmers to transport agricultural produce to markets at lower costs. Responsible officials conducted a field

inspection of the project site yesterday.

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win, Taunggyi Township Head U Zaw Win and engineering staff inspected the commencement of construction on the four-furlong farm-to-market road. They met members of the village road construction committee,

urging them to ensure timely completion in line with prescribed standards and specifications, while providing necessary coordination for matters raised by local communities.

The farm-to-market road project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with K63 million in state-regional funds.

Tender-winning company Thalla Shwe Myay Co Ltd is undertaking the construction with technical assistance from the township department's engineering staff. Upon completion, the road will benefit 405 people across 101 households, allowing them to transport agricultural produce to markets more easily and quickly. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials inspect the construction site of a rural farm-to-market road project in Taunggyi Township.

NATIONAL

Kawkareik’s MSY village project activities inspected



Officials inspect rural development project activities in Kyain-Seikkyi Township.

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to monitor the implementation

of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Phayangasu Village and Winka Village, Kyain-Seikkyi Township. The project aims to create job opportunities, increase family income, and boost local products. The inspection was led by District Officer U Min Wai Phyo and relevant officials.

District Head U Min Wai Phyo and project staff met members of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project committees. They inspected the project implementation progress, verified the proper filling

of financial accounting forms, and ensured compliance with the project manual guidelines, providing necessary guidance and instructions.

According to U Saw Tun Aye, District Staff Officer (Technical), the Kyain-Seikkyi Township Department of Rural Development has disbursed project loans totalling 77.9 million to 93 members in Phayangasu Village, and K50.45 million to 78 members in Winka Village under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural Development)

Open tenders called for procurement of lab equipment and vaccines

THE Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary has announced a second round of open tenders for the procurement of various items under the 2026-2027 Capex budget.

The department will purchase laboratory equipment (17 items), operational machinery (15 items), office equipment (five items), office furniture (eight items), additional laboratory supplies (10 items), FMD Trivalent vaccine (2359,000 doses) and other operational supplies (one item) and all bids are to be submitted in Kyat.

Tender forms, including the price proposal form, are available at the Supply and Store Section, Administration Division of the Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary, located in Office 36, Nay Pyi Taw. Form sales and one per cent PO cheque deposits will close on 21 August. The bid opening date will be announced later. Individuals can enquire about details by dialling 067 3408177 or 09 773477884, according to the Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee of the department. — NN/KK

City Winner Co to empower MSME agro-producers through direct market access

CITY Winner Company will connect MSME agricultural producers directly to domestic and international markets.

The company currently exports Myanmar’s agricultural produce and fishery products overseas. It now seeks to source directly from MSME entrepreneurs, farmers, and grower associations.

City Winner will offer direct purchase arrangements and the opportunity to connect with global buyers. Those interested in becoming an approved agro supplier are invited to submit a product list along with a target offer price (including delivery to the warehouse) to City Winner Admin on Viber at +959681171994 for enquiries. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 17 August 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,661.00~3668.00	557.00~558.40	125.60~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	8,189, 592.92	-	45,163,730.12	-

THE foreign currency volume traded in the market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, car/motorcycle spare parts, construction materials, fertilizers, agricultural materials, packaging materials, and stationery. — MNA

Village project funds disbursed in Sinbaungwe

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed a revolving fund of K50 million under the Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP), aiming at enabling rural residents to operate small-scale agriculture and livestock businesses in Sarapay (West) Village, Sinbaungwe Township, yesterday.

Daw Ei Ei Mon, Acting Head of the Sinbaungwe Township Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives and benefits of the Village Revolving



A fund disbursement ceremony is in progress in Sinbaungwe Township.

Fund Project (VRFP), the rules and regulations outlined in the project manual, interest rates and loan terms, as well as the compliance rules for

loan disbursement. She handed over the K50 million revolving fund to the members of the village project committee.

Following this, under

the close supervision of the staff from the Township Department of Rural Development, the village project committee members disbursed the total of K50 million directly into the hands of 111 members on the same day with low interest rates: K26.3 million for 54 individuals engaged in agricultural businesses, and K23.7 million for 57 individuals engaged in livestock businesses, according to Daw Ei Ei Mon, Acting Head of the Sinbaungwe Township Department of Rural Development. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

MFVP signs MoUs with 5 organizations to mark 20th anniversary

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) signed memoranda of understanding with five partner organizations and celebrated its 20th anniversary with a gala dinner on 11 August at Western Park Ruby Hall.

The MoUs were signed with Myanmar International Freight Forwarders Association (MIFFA), Dehong Prefecture Chamber of Commerce, Myanmar Tourism Human Resource Development Association (MTHRDA), Chang Hau Company and Myanmar Fruit Integration Group (MFIG).

MFVP also presented awards to members and staff who had contributed to the association over the years, with 20, 15, 10, and five years of service.

The dinner was attended by key supporters, chairpersons and delegates from UMFCCI and affiliated associations, partner organizations, and representatives from various regions, states, and commodity groups. — NN/KK

Uphold intellectual property rights

IN building the nation into a modern and developed country, the existence of a strong and effective intellectual property rights system will greatly contribute to industrial development and the promotion of increased foreign investment. A country’s economic growth and standard of living depend on factors such as innovation and creativity across various sectors, the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), increased foreign investment, and the expansion of trade and the flow of goods.

In Myanmar, the National Intellectual Property Strategy (2023-2028) has already been formulated to ensure the effective development and advancement of intellectual property-related activities. Intellectual property is categorized into four types: industrial design

rights, trademark rights, patent rights, and copyright for literary and artistic works. Relevant intellectual property laws have also been enacted to govern and protect these types of intellectual property. In the fields of foreign trade, foreign investment, and scientific and technological co-operation, intellectual property issues have become increasingly extensive and are now an essential requirement. Intellectual property is a system that can contribute to the national interests of the entire nation and greatly support the country’s development. It provides effective protection for individuals and organizations in safeguarding their intellectual creations and business interests.

In establishing an intellectual property protection system in the country, relevant ministries and organizations must work together with the Intellectual Property Department under the Ministry of Commerce to implement the processes outlined in the strategies. In accordance with intellectual property laws, procedures for receiving, examining, and registering intellectual property applications from both domestic and international applicants can now be carried out. Therefore, due attention must also be given to preventing and taking measures against violations of the intellectual property rights of those who have already obtained such protection.

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Intellectual property rights determine who the true creator of a particular work is. Intellectual property laws provide assurance and protection to creators for the works they have created. Their works may only be copied or reproduced with the permission of the owner. If a person uses or imitates a work protected under intellectual property law without the owner’s knowledge or authorization, that person shall be subject to legal action.

Those who first create and develop something new, ranging from machinery to various forms of creative content, achieve success and enjoy the benefits of their creations only after investing great effort, dedication, and intellectual thought. As such, everyone, including businesspeople, must respect the physical efforts, creativity, and intellectual contributions of original creators.

Effective writing begins with effective paragraph writing. Whether writing an essay, an article, a report, or a story, a writer must present ideas clearly, logically, and engagingly. A well-written paragraph is more than a collection of sentences; it is a carefully organized unit in which every sentence focuses on only one main idea.

The foundation of every effective paragraph consists of five essential elements: the hook, the topic sentence, supporting sentences, the concluding sentence, and appropriate word choice. These elements work together to make writing interesting, coherent, and meaningful.

A writing hook draws readers into the paragraph and encourages them to continue reading. Since first impressions are important, an effective hook makes the opening memorable and creates curiosity. Depending on their purpose, writers can use four main types of hooks: (1) a thought-provoking question that encourages readers to reflect on the topic, (2) a famous quotation that introduces a meaningful idea, (3) A brief historical background that provides useful context, and (4) presenting a surprising fact or statistic that attracts interest immediately. Selecting the most suitable hook depends on both the topic and the intended audience. After engaging the reader,

Stuttering once sat on my childhood like a stubborn shadow. Nearly eighty years ago, in kindergarten, my words emerged not as smooth sentences but as stones tripping along a narrow path. The ideas were clear, the thoughts fully formed, yet the moment I tried to speak, my tongue hesitated as if unsure of its own rhythm.

Then came Teacher Margaret. She was a pianist, a woman whose fingers understood timing and flow better than most people understood speech. She recognized that my difficulty was not shyness, fear, or confusion. It was something deeper — a disruption in the brain’s timing system. But she did not explain this with theories. She explained it with music.

Margaret taught me through songs. She allowed melody to carry

Building Effective Paragraphs and Organizing Ideas for Successful Writing

By Maung Maung Aye

the writer introduces the topic sentence, which presents the main idea of the paragraph. This sentence functions as a key by informing readers what the paragraph will discuss. It also helps the writer remain focused on one main idea throughout the paragraph. A clear topic sentence prevents unnecessary digressions and makes sure that every supporting sentence contributes directly to the main point. Without a strong topic sentence, a paragraph can easily become confusing or disorganized.

The supporting sentences develop the topic sentence by providing explanations, examples, facts, reasons, evidence, or descriptions. They add depth, clarity, and credibility to the paragraph. They help readers understand the writer’s message more completely. Every supporting sentence should relate directly to the topic sentence so that the paragraph maintains unity and coherence. Well-developed supporting details transform a simple statement into an inform-

ative, convincing, and engaging discussion.

The concluding sentence provides a satisfying sense of ending. It summarizes or restates the main idea in different words and reinforces the main message. A concluding sentence reminds readers of the paragraph’s key point while preparing them for the next paragraph. Without an effective conclusion, a paragraph may appear incomplete or end too abruptly.

Apart from the essential paragraph structure, effective writing also depends greatly on careful word choice. Good writers understand that communication is influenced not only by what they say but also by how they express their ideas. Three common types of words frequently used in writing are neutral words, emotive words, and descriptive words.

Neutral words present information objectively without expressing strong personal feelings. They are commonly used in academic essays, research papers, reports, textbooks, and

news articles because they emphasize accuracy, fairness, and clarity. Neutral language allows readers to focus on facts rather than emotions, thereby making the writing more reliable and professional.

Emotive words express feelings and appeal to readers’ emotions. Words such as inspiring, heartbreaking, remarkable, and courageous create emotional responses and make writing more memorable. These words are especially useful in speeches, opinion essays, narratives, advertisements, and persuasive writing. However, emotive language should be used carefully in academic writing, where objectivity and balanced discussion are generally more appropriate.

Descriptive words can create vivid mental images by appealing to the senses. By means of words such as golden, peaceful, magnificent, fragrant, and towering, etc., readers can see people, places, objects, and events in their mind’s

eye. Descriptive language is valuable in travel articles, descriptive essays, narratives, biographies, and cultural writing. It can bring scenes to life and enrich the reading experience.

Skilled writers know how to balance these three types of language. Topic sentences are usually written with neutral words to introduce the main idea clearly and objectively. Supporting sentences often include descriptive words to make explanations more vivid and interesting. When writers wish to persuade or inspire readers, they may carefully incorporate emotive words without overwhelming the writing. Finally, concluding sentences generally return to neutral language to summarize the discussion, although a carefully chosen emotive word can sometimes leave a lasting impression.

Idea organization implies arranging thoughts, supporting details, and evidence so that readers can easily understand

the writer’s message. It creates a natural flow from one sentence to another and from one paragraph to the next, resulting in coherent, unified and meaningful writing.

In paragraph writing, idea organization begins with the topic sentence, continues through logically arranged supporting sentences, and ends with a concluding sentence. Each sentence should connect smoothly with the next so that readers never lose track of the writer’s purpose. Every detail should support the same central idea to ensure unity throughout the paragraph.

Writers can organize ideas in several different ways depending on their purpose. Chronological order presents events according to time and is especially useful for narratives, biographies, and historical writing. Spatial order describes people, places, or objects according to physical location, making it suitable for descriptive essays. Order of importance arranges ideas from the least important to the most important, or vice versa, and is

often used in persuasive writing. Cause-and-effect organization explains reasons and results, while comparison-and-contrast organization examines similarities and differences between two or more subjects. Selecting the appropriate organizational pattern helps writers communicate their ideas more effectively.

Good idea organization offers many benefits. It improves clarity by presenting information in a logical sequence, making the writer’s message easier to understand. It strengthens coherence by creating smooth connections between sentences and paragraphs. It maintains unity by making certain that every idea supports the central purpose. Logical organization also increases persuasiveness because readers are more likely to accept arguments supported by clear reasoning and well-arranged evidence. Moreover, organized writing is more enjoyable to read because it flows naturally and maintains readers’ interest from beginning to end.

In contrast, poor organization can weaken even well-researched writing. Randomly arranged ideas, unnecessary repetition, irrelevant details, unrelated sentences and abrupt shifts between topics confuse readers and reduce the effectiveness of the message. When ideas lack logical connections, readers may lose interest before concluding.

Luckily, writers can improve idea organization through careful planning. Before writing, they should brainstorm ideas, select the most relevant points, and prepare an outline. During drafting, they should arrange ideas logically so that each paragraph will be able to develop only one main idea, and use transition words such as first, next, however; therefore, and finally to create smooth connections. Revising the draft further improves coherence by doing away with unnecessary information and strengthening the overall structure.

In conclusion, these elements, as mentioned above, are combined with careful idea organization and smooth transitions; writers produce paragraphs and essays that are coherent, persuasive, engaging, and professionally organized. By means of mastering these fundamental principles, their ideas can be communicated with confidence by writers and leave readers with a clear, meaningful, and lasting impression.

When Music Taught My Tongue to Dance: A Childhood Story and the Science of Stuttering

By U Khin Maung Myint

the weight my speech could not bear.

Her classroom became a gentle river, smoothing the pebbles of my speech until they finally rolled freely.

There is a proverb that says, “Where water flows, the stone learns to dance.”

Under her guidance, my stones dance.

Understanding Stuttering: What Science Now Knows

Modern neuroscience has finally caught up with what intuitive teachers like Margaret understood decades ago. Stuttering is not a sign of low intelligence, emotional

weakness, or poor upbringing. It is a neurodevelopmental timing disorder — a mismatch between how the brain plans speech and how the mouth executes it.

Several brain regions are involved:

- Left frontal speech areas that plan words
- Basal ganglia that initiate and time movements
- Cerebellum that coordinates and smooths speech
- Auditory feedback circuits that monitor how speech sounds

When these circuits fire slightly out of sync, speech becomes effortful. Words may repeat, prolong, or become blocked.

The child knows exactly what they want to say — the difficulty lies in the timing, not the thinking.

Why Music Helps
Singing activates different neural pathways from ordinary speech.

Melody bypasses roadblocks. Rhythm stabilizes timing. Music becomes a neurological key, unlocking pathways that speech alone struggles to open.

This is why many children who stutter speak fluently when they sing, chant, or recite rhythmic lines. Long before neuroscience

produced diagrams and terminology, teachers like Margaret were already healing with intuition, compassion, and a piano.

Current Best-Practice Management for Youth Who Stutter

Today, stuttering can be managed effectively with evidence-based approaches. Youth, parents, and educators should be aware of the following:

Early Identification

Repeated sounds, blocks, or prolonged speech in children

aged 3-7 should be recognized early. Early support leads to better outcomes.

Speech-Language Therapy

Therapy focuses on:
• gentle onset of speech
• relaxed breathing
• slower, more deliberate speech patterns

• building confidence and reducing communication pressure
Qualified therapists are increasingly available in Myanmar’s major cities and through online platforms.

Rhythm-Based Training

Singing, chanting, clapping

patterns, and reading aloud with rhythm remain powerful tools — the same methods that helped me decades ago.

Supportive Family and School Environments

Children should never be rushed, mocked, or pressured to “speak properly”.

A calm, patient environment reduces stress, which in turn improves fluency.

Emotional Regulation

Stress and anxiety worsen stuttering. Mindfulness, quiet breathing, prayer, and reflective practices help stabilize the brain’s timing circuits.

Technology

Apps that provide rhythmic pacing or auditory feedback can assist older youth in practising fluency.

Community Awareness

Stuttering is common. It is not shameful. It is not a barrier to intelligence or success.

Youth should know that their voice is valid, and their speech can improve with support and practice.

A Final Reflection

Looking back across eight decades, I realize that Teacher Margaret did more than help me speak. She helped me understand that healing can come from unexpected places — a melody, a rhythm, a teacher who listens with her heart as much as her ears.

My words learned to dance because someone played the right song.

Today’s youth deserve the same chance: understanding, patience, and the knowledge that science and compassion together can open doors once closed.

NATIONAL



This map shows the crackdown on online scam hubs, arresting scammers in Myawady Township.

Online scam hubs demolished; 777 offenders arrested in Kayin State

A total of 777 individuals involved in illegal online scam and gambling operations were arrested along with a large quantity of equipment during a security operation in Myawady Township, Kayin State, yesterday.

Various equipment used in the operations, including 85 computers, 183 mobile phones and one Starlink device, was also seized. The seized equipment was burned and destroyed on 12 August to prevent it from being reused.

Under the government’s guidance, relevant departmental teams systematically demolished the illegally constructed buildings at the site of the arrests to prevent their reuse. On 12 August, two two-storey residential buildings were demolished; on 23 August, one single-storey residential building; on 14 August, one single-storey residential building; on 15 August, one single-storey residential building; on 16 August, one single-storey residential building; and yesterday, one single-storey and one three-storey residential buildings were demolished and

destroyed. All eight buildings have now been systematically demolished and destroyed.

Tatmadaw columns seized further buildings used for online scam and gambling activities in the same afternoon at a location about 4,000 metres southeast of the above-mentioned site. The seized structures included one single-storey, CI sheets used building measuring 100 feet long and 40 feet wide, one measuring 80 feet by 20 feet, two measuring 50 feet by 40 feet, one measuring 50 feet by 20 feet, one measuring 90 feet by 20 feet, and one 30-foot-by-20-foot zinc-roofed building with a steel structure and two large water tanks.

During area security operations, Tatmadaw columns engaged in seven clashes with terrorists who were allegedly protecting online scam and gambling operators in exchange for payment. Some bodies, various weapons, ammunition and related equipment were seized from the terrorist insurgents, while some military personnel sustained injuries. — MNA/KTZH

Staff capacity-building advanced
Excel training concludes

A closing ceremony for the Staff Capacity-Building Advanced Excel Training, organized by the Myaungmya District Department of Rural Development (DRD), Ayeyawady Region, was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the district DRD office.

Speaking at the ceremony, District DRD Head U Kyaw Thu Ko Ko explained that the advanced Excel training was conducted to enhance the capacity and efficiency of civil servants. He noted that the training would help staff implement work and project-related activities more effectively and systematically, enabling them to perform their duties accurately and promptly.

Following the remarks, U Kyaw Thu Ko Ko presented



A group commemorative photo session at the training in Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region.

ed certificates of completion to the trainees, after which a commemorative group photo was taken.

The training was conducted over a period of 12 days, from 3 to 14 August. Sixteen trainees from district and township offices under the supervision of Myaungmya District attended the training, according to the Myaungmya District Department of Rural Development. — Myo Myo (DRD)

NyaungU’s RBF project funds disbursed for third time



A village project representative accepts the fund at the ceremony in NyaungU Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Mandalay Region, held a ceremony to disburse funds under the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project in Myinka-ba Village, NyaungU Township, yesterday.

NyaungU Township Department of Rural Development Head U Nyi Nyi Oo explained that the RBF Project funds were provided with the objectives of enabling farmers, livestock breeders and small and medium-sized business owners to access necessary financial

capital and promoting group-based livelihood activities. Project officials then briefed participants on the prescribed interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed.

Under the supervision of the township department, officials disbursed K30 million in RBF Project funds for the third time to four local groups – Nyi Naung Group, Tet Lu Group, Anuradha Group and Tawwin Group – at K7.5 million per group. The four groups are utilizing the funds to produce various lacquerware products through a group-based system, thereby increasing family incomes and contributing to the development of the rural economy. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

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Waw head-on collision leaves 2 dead

AT about 7:15 am on 17 August, a Fuso lorry and a passenger vehicle collided head-on at milepost 8/3 on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway in Waw Township, Bago Region, killing one man and one woman, according to the Fire Services Department.

Upon receiving the report, the Waw Township Fire Station immediately dispatched a search and rescue team to the

scene. The bodies of the two deceased were transported to Waw Township People’s Hospital in a vehicle belonging to a local social welfare organization. — TWA/MKKS

This image captures the collision between the Fuso lorry and passenger vehicle. PHOTO: MFSD



Researchers in Australia predict new form of quantum matter

RESEARCHERS in Australia have predicted a new type of quantum matter, challenging decades of thinking about how ultra-cold particles behave.

The study shows that under the right conditions, mixtures of two fundamentally different types of quantum particles — bosons and fermions — can form stable, self-bound “quantum droplets,” according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s Monash University.

Until now, scientists believed these exotic droplets were unlikely to exist in strongly interacting

Bose-Fermi systems, according to the study, published in Physical Review Letters with collaborators from Heidelberg University in Germany.

Researchers said the discovery provides a new theoretical roadmap for experiments around the world and could deepen understanding of quantum materials that underpin future technologies, from ultra-precise sensors to quantum computing.

Lead author Sam Foster, a PhD candidate at Monash University’s School of Physics and Astronomy, said the findings

open the way to exploring new quantum states and address a long-standing theoretical challenge.

“These two very different types of particles could balance each other perfectly to create a stable droplet that effectively holds itself together,” Foster said, adding that previous theories could describe such systems only when particles interacted relatively weakly, while the new approach allows researchers to explore stronger interactions where more complex physics emerges. — Xinhua

Fiji reports record high HIV cases in 2025

FIJI recorded its highest annual number of newly diagnosed HIV cases in 2025, with 2,016 cases reported, prompting renewed calls for stronger prevention, testing and treatment across the Pacific island nation.

Fiji President Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu said Monday the 2025 figure was 27 per cent higher than the 1,583 cases recorded in 2024, describing the increase as a serious public health

concern which requires urgent action.

Speaking at the Pacific HIV Symposium 2026 in Nadi, Lalabalavu said the actual number of people living with HIV could be higher because some people may still be reluctant to undergo testing, reported Fiji Broadcasting Corporation.

The president said Fiji could not afford to become complacent as HIV transmission continued to increase, stressing the

importance of expanding prevention programmes, encouraging more people to test and ensuring those diagnosed can begin treatment early.

The symposium has brought together health professionals, policy-makers, community organizations and other stakeholders to discuss HIV prevention, testing, treatment and efforts to reduce stigma surrounding the disease. — Xinhua

China launches new satellite



A Long March-2C carrier rocket carrying an SEO satellite blasts off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China’s Shanxi Province on 17 August 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINA successfully sent a new satellite into space on Monday from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China’s Shanxi Province.

The SEO satellite was launched at 11:02 am (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-2C carrier rocket. It entered its preset orbit successfully.

This launch marked the 664th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series, according to the launch centre. — Xinhua

Australia’s cancer population projected to top 2.6 mln by 2050: study

MORE than 2.6 million Australians are projected to be living with a cancer diagnosis in 2050, an increase of about 1 million from 2025, new modelling shows.

The total number of people across all age groups living with cancer is projected to rise 57 per cent, from 1.66 million in 2025 to 2.61 million in 2050, driven by population growth, an ageing population, rising incidence of some cancer

types and improved cancer survival due to both early detection via screening and improved treatments, according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s University of Sydney (USYD).

The number of people aged 80 and over living with cancer is expected to more than double, from 480,000 in 2025 to more than 1 million in 2050, according to the study published in Lancet

Regional Health Western Pacific.

Around 1.15 million people are expected to be undergoing active treatment or closely monitoring a cancer that has not been cured in 2050, according to the research, which projects that by 2050, breast cancer will be Australia’s most prevalent cancer, followed by prostate, melanoma, colorectal and kidney cancer. — Xinhua

Largest US reservoirs hit record lows as experts warn of Colorado River crisis



This photo taken on 11 August 2026 shows a view of Lake Mead near Boulder City, Nevada, the United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

LAKE Mead and Lake Powell, the two largest reservoirs of the United States on the Colorado River, have both fallen to record-low levels since they were filled, according to federal data.

US water officials and experts said the declines are increasing risks to water supplies, agriculture and hydropower across the Southwest.

Lake Powell fell

to 3,519.91 feet (about 1,072.869 metres) above sea level on Saturday, according to provisional data published Sunday by the US Bureau of Reclamation. The reading was marginally below the previous record of 3,519.92 feet set in April 2023, and the bureau said provisional data are subject to revision.

Downstream, Lake Mead fell to as low as 1,039.85 feet Sunday af-

ternoon, according to the bureau’s report. Bureau records show that the previous record low was 1,040.58 feet, recorded in July 2022.

Jack Schmidt, director of the Centre for Colorado River Studies at Utah State University, was quoted by CNN on Sunday as saying the basin was “in uncharted territory”.

Lake Mead and Lake Powell were formed by the Hoover Dam and Glen

Canyon Dam, respectively, and together they serve as the primary water storage and supply system for the Colorado River’s 40 million downstream users across seven US states and Mexico.

The US Interior Department told a Senate hearing in June that long-term drought had reduced Colorado River system storage to about 34 per cent of capacity. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Cambodia's RCEP trade hits US\$28 bln, up 22.9% in first 7 months

CAMBODIA'S trade volume with Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) members surged 22.9 per cent to US\$28.27 billion in the first seven months of 2026, up from \$23 billion during the same period last year, according to a Ministry of Commerce report released Monday.

During the January-July period, Cambodia's exports to RCEP members grew 11 per cent to \$6.41 billion. Imports climbed 27 per cent to reach \$21.86 billion, the report said.

The free trade pact remains Cambodia's largest



An aerial drone photo taken on 11 September 2024 shows a container terminal at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

market. It accounted for 62.1 per cent of the country's \$45.48-billion total global trade volume during the period.

China, Vietnam, Singapore, Japan and Thailand are Cambodia's top

five trading partners within the RCEP.

Penn Sovicheat, ministry of commerce's secretary of state and spokesperson, said that the RCEP continues to drive economic growth, serving

as a primary catalyst for Cambodia's long-term export expansion and a powerful incentive for foreign direct investment.

The regional trade pact will help Cambodia graduate from Least Developed Country status in 2029, transition into an upper-middle-income country by 2030, and fast-track its goal of becoming a high-income country by 2050, he told Xinhua. The RCEP entered into force in 2022. It includes 15 Asia-Pacific nations, combining 10 ASEAN members with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. — Xinhua

Thailand's economic growth softens to 1.9% in Q2



A model poses with crocodile mascots as part of a commercial photo session promoting sales outside a mall in Bangkok on 4 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

THAILAND'S economic growth weakened in the second quarter of 2026, as a slowdown in private consumption and government spending offset surging private invest-

ment and sustained export gains, official data showed on Monday.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the April-June period grew 1.9 per cent from a

year earlier, decelerating from a 2.8 per cent rise in the previous quarter, according to the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC).

On a quarterly basis, GDP declined a seasonally adjusted 0.2 per cent in the second quarter, reversing from a revised 0.6 per cent increase in the earlier three months and marking the first contraction in three quarters, the NESDC said in a statement.

Private consumption rose 1.9 per cent year on year, down from 3.3 per cent in the previous

quarter, in line with the deceleration in spending across most categories. Government expenditure expanded 0.2 per cent, down from 3.4 per cent, the state planning agency said.

Meanwhile, public investment fell 1.6 per cent, marking the first contraction in three quarters, compared to a 9.4 per cent expansion in the first quarter.

Despite that, private investment soared 13.4 per cent, quickening from 10.1 per cent in the previous quarter and registering the highest growth in 54 quarters. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Türkiye's budget deficit widens nearly 16-fold in July as interest payments surge

TÜRKIYE'S central government budget deficit surged 1,484.6 per cent year on year to 378.1 billion Turkish liras (about US\$7.9 billion) in July from 23.9 billion liras a year earlier, according to data released Monday by the Turkish ministry of treasury and finance.

The sharp deterioration was largely attributed to a significant increase in interest payments. Interest expenditure more than doubled year on year, rising 142.8 per cent to 326.8 billion liras in July.

Central government budget spending increased 59.8 per cent year on year to 1.8 trillion liras, while budget revenues rose 28.8 per cent to 1.4 trillion liras. Tax revenues increased 30 per cent year on year to 1.2 trillion liras, while income-tax revenue rose 47.9 per cent to 432 billion liras.

However, corporate tax revenue fell sharply by 69.8 per cent year on year to 3.6 billion liras, weighing on overall tax collection.

The central government budget deficit reached 1.3 trillion liras during the January-July period, compared with 1 trillion liras in the same period of 2025.

Despite the wider overall deficit, the primary balance remained in surplus at 470.1 billion liras, up from 241.7 billion liras a year earlier, official data showed. — Xinhua

Virgin moves closer to launching Eurostar rival in 2030

BRITISH group Virgin has been granted track access to run new cross-Channel train services from 2030, the country's rail regulator said Monday, bringing it closer to launching a rival service to Eurostar.

The agreement allows Virgin Trains to operate up to 20 daily return services between London and Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam from 1 October 2030 to the end of 2040, the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) said in a statement.

Founded by British entrepreneur Richard Branson, Virgin promises to shake-up cross-Channel rail traffic by challenging Eurostar, which has held a monopoly on passenger services through the tunnel linking Britain and France since it opened in 1994.

"This is an important next step in bringing competition and growth to the market for international rail services," said Martin Jones, deputy director of access and international at the ORR.

"While there is still more work to do, we are supporting Virgin and the wider industry to grow international services," he said. — AFP

China's retail sales of goods, services up 2.6% in first seven months

CHINA'S total retail sales of goods and services, a major indicator of the country's consumption strength, increased by 2.6 per cent year on year in the first seven months of 2026, official data showed on Monday.

Retail sales of servic-

es increased by five per cent in the January-July period from a year earlier, while that of goods rose by 1.1 per cent, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

NBS chief statistician Yuan Yan said that

retail sales of services have consistently grown faster than retail sales of goods over the past three years, with a clear shift in the consumption market from a focus solely on goods to placing greater emphasis on both goods and services.

"Consumer demand has become increasingly personalized, diversified and quality-oriented, while the consumption market has grown more diverse, further demonstrating the advantages of China's super-sized market," Yuan said. — Xinhua



Customers buy fruit at a supermarket in Mengzi City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 11 May 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Japanese economy ekes out modest growth

THE Japanese economy eked out modest growth in the second quarter despite the impact of the Iran war, official data showed Monday, but the reading fell short of market expectations.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew 0.3 per cent between April and June, according to seasonally adjusted preliminary data released by the cabinet office.

Economists had expected stronger growth of 0.5 per cent, according to a Bloomberg News survey.

On an annualised basis, GDP expanded 1.1 per cent, against market expectations of 2.0 per cent.

The reading will still likely boost expectations that the Bank of Japan (BoJ) will hike interest rates as inflation accelerates in the world number four economy.

A BoJ rate hike could also lift the yen.

The yen has lost ground since the historic recent joint market intervention by the United States and Japan to support the Japanese currency. — AFP



A woman buys vegetables at a grocery store in Tokyo's Itabashi ward on 17 August 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Canada inflation hits 3% as new US tariffs loom

THE Middle East conflict drove up Canada's annual inflation rate to three per cent in July, data showed Monday, days before punishing new tariffs threatened by US President Donald Trump could further roil Canada's economy.

Statistics Canada said gasoline prices last month were 27.5 per cent higher than in July 2025.

"The conflict in the Middle East, including the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and the partial closure of Red Sea shipping routes in late July, put upward pressure on gasoline prices," the national statistics agency said.

Increased costs in tourism-related areas,

including air travel, also helped drive up prices, the agency said, with analysts pointing to elevated spending related to the World Cup, which Canada co-hosted.

While the three per cent mark is at the upper edge of the central bank's preferred inflation range, analysts said an interest rate hike to cool inflation was not likely any time soon, given the looming threats facing Canada's economy.

US trade friction was already viewed as a major risk even before Trump threatened to hit Canada with new 50 per cent tariffs on a range of goods from Wednesday. — AFP

Shanghai Disneyland expansion on track as construction advances

SHANGHAI Disneyland is set to begin testing rides at its new Spider-Man-themed section, the park's ninth themed land and its third expansion since opening, Shanghai Disney Resort said Sunday.

The Worldwide Engineering Brigade, or "WEB," will make its Shanghai debut when the park opens its new Spider-Man-themed land, according to the resort. The WEB facility, conceived as a cutting-edge R&D hub where Marvel heroes, inventors and engineers team up to develop and test disruptive technologies, will immerse visitors in a Spider-Man adventure built around



Performers dressed as Disney characters stage a performance during the 10th anniversary celebration of Shanghai Disneyland in east China's Shanghai, 16 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

creativity and advanced engineering.

The resort's expansion efforts, however, extend well beyond the Spider-Man project. Also

in the pipeline are an upgrade to Soaring Over the Horizon, the park's signature attraction, and two new themed hotels adjacent to the park, as

well as a residential community for cast members designed to support front-line staff as they deliver unforgettable guest experiences. — Xinhua

Russia-China trade to hit new record high by year-end

TRADE between Russia and China could reach a new historic high by the end of 2026, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui said on Monday.

"In recent years, Chinese-Russian trade and economic cooperation has demonstrated steady growth ... It is quite possible that a new historic high

will be reached by the end of the year," the diplomat said at the opening of the Sprouts business forum in Russia's Kazan.

From January to July 2026, bilateral trade reached \$159 billion, exceeding the figure for the same period last year by 26 per cent, Zhang added.

The volume of bilat-

eral investment between Russia and China remains at a stable level, he said, adding that large joint projects in the energy, chemical, aviation and space industries, as well as in communications, are also being consistently implemented.

The 4th Sprouts international forum titled

"Sprouts: Russia and China — Mutually Beneficial Cooperation" is taking place in Kazan from 16-19 August. The main business programme started on Monday. This year, organizers have prepared more than 50 business sessions, with over 200 Chinese companies expected to participate. — SPUTNIK

Transferring Distributorship For Registered Pesticides

We, **Shenzhen Noposion Agrochemicals Co., Ltd** would like to change the distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar from **Myanmar Woodpecker Agrosience Co.,Ltd** to **Agro Golden Rose Co.,Ltd**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration No
1	Tar Mi Nay Tar	Acetamiprid 200 g/l SL	Full registration	F2020-2734
2	Ban Do	Emamectin Benzoate 3.4% WG	Full registration	F2020-2727

Myanmar Woodpecker Agrosience Co.,Ltd

Add: No.177, Ka(3) Street, Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon Myanmar. Tel: 09-449188188

Transferring Distributorship For Registered Pesticides

We, **Shenzhen Noposion Agrochemicals Co., Ltd** would like to change the distributor of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar from **Myanmar Woodpecker Agrosience Co.,Ltd** to **Htet Thiha Naing Co.,Ltd**. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Type	Registration No
1	Htet Metho	Dimethomorph 80 % WG	Full registration	F2020-2731
2	Htet Hexa	Hexaconazole 25 % SC	Full registration	F2020-2732

Myanmar Woodpecker Agrosience Co.,Ltd

Add: No.177, Ka(3) Street, Ka Quarter, Insein Township, Yangon Myanmar. Tel: 09-449188188

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

UNCCD COP17 opens in Mongolia's capital

THE 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) officially opened in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia, on Monday.

Held under the theme “Restoring Land, Restoring Hope”, COP17 brings together 12,000 representatives from the UNCCD’s 197 Parties at a pivotal global forum aimed at accelerating action to combat desertification, land degradation and drought.

In his opening remarks, Mongolian Prime Minister Nyam-Osor Uchral said the world was entering a new era of collective decision-making on how to protect and restore the planet’s land resources and what kind of world to leave for future generations.



This photo taken on 17 August 2026 shows the opening ceremony of the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) held in Ulan Bator, capital of Mongolia. The UNCCD COP17 officially opened here on Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

“It is now widely recognized that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges that transcend national borders

and require a collective response from humanity,” Uchral said. “We need greater efforts now to turn commitments to combat desertification and land degradation into concrete

action, supported by adequate financing, technology and institutional frameworks. Therefore, COP17 should not be a conference that simply repeats decisions and declarations from previous meetings, but one that accelerates their implementation,” he noted.

The high-level segment of COP17 will feature ministerial dialogues, while the broader programme includes multistakeholder forums and thematic discussions on science-policy integration, innovation and solutions, tools and technologies, and financing. The programme also features four thematic days focusing on finance, water, land and people, and food systems and soil health. — Xinhua

S Korea says hopes relations between US, DPRK leaders can lead to “meaningful” dialogue

THE South Korean presidential office Blue House said Monday that it hopes the relationship between US President Donald Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong Un will lead to meaningful dialogue and discussions on advancing peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The Blue House made the remarks following Trump’s statement on Sunday that he had instructed the Pentagon to substantially scale down the Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) exercise, citing his good relationship with Kim.

To this end, the South Korean government will make necessary diplomatic efforts as a “pace-maker” in close coordination with the United States, the Blue House said.

Seoul and Washington have closely coordinated on maintaining a firm combined defence posture as well as joint exercises and training, and will continue to coordinate on specific details, it added. — Xinhua



North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump cross south of the Military Demarcation Line that divides North and South Korea, after Trump briefly stepped over to the northern side, in the Joint Security Area (JSA) of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized zone (DMZ) on 30 June 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rakuten to tie with German drone firm to supply Japan Defence Ministry

RAKUTEN Group Inc will partner with Helsing, a German interceptor drone start-up, to help the defence artificial intelligence company provide its drones to Japan’s Defence Ministry, a source familiar with the matter said Monday.

Rakuten is also considering mass producing drones in Japan in the future, targeting the country’s defence industry where demand for drones is expected to grow.

Helsing, founded in 2021, designs systems

that utilize AI to operate drones autonomously and its drones are capable of shooting down missiles, among other capabilities.

The Ground Self-Defence Force will conduct demonstration experiments through the end of September to decide whether to introduce Helsing’s drones.

Although the specific usage and volume of the drones to be provided have yet to be determined, they are expected to be used in coastal areas for anti-landing operations. — Kyodo

DR Congo Ebola outbreak becomes deadliest in country’s history as death toll tops 2,300

THE ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has become the deadliest in the country’s history with over 2,300 deaths reported, according to the latest official figures released on Sunday.

The DRC has recorded 4,945 confirmed cases, including 2,325 deaths, since the current outbreak began, putting the case fatality rate at 47.0 per cent, according to a situation report released

Sunday by the country’s health authorities.

The latest death toll surpassed that of the 2018-2020 Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, making the current epidemic the deadliest Ebola outbreak ever recorded in the country.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the 2018-2020 Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC recorded 3,481 cases, including 2,299 deaths. — Xinhua

Municipalities in Chiba remove abandoned cars after rain disaster

MUNICIPALITIES in Chiba Prefecture hit by torrential rain last week continued to remove cars that had been abandoned after becoming submerged as traffic increased Monday following the Obon holidays.

Some 2,700 vehicles remained abandoned in the prefecture as of Sunday, with many roads still blocked by them, triggering traffic jams Monday.

There were also reports of rear-end crashes



Cars remain abandoned in the city of Chiba on 17 August 2026, after becoming submerged in torrential rain days earlier. **PHOTO: KYODO**

involving stranded vehicles following the heavy flooding in the prefecture Thursday and Friday. The

city of Chiba said it has moved to the roadside about 500 of the roughly 2,500 cars stranded on

roads it manages.

Abandoned vehicles reduced two lanes to a single usable lane on many roads in the city, forcing drivers to slow down.

The city set up a disaster volunteer centre Monday to accept volunteers for cleaning up houses damaged by the rain.

According to the prefecture, 10 people died in the torrential rain and two men remain missing. — Kyodo

Semifinal matches of 2026 Inter-State/Region Traditional Lethwei Championship held





Iran's president says peace MoU with US advanced with "dignity, power"

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday Iran reached the recent peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States with "dignity" and "power," while taking into consideration the principles outlined by former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

He made the remarks at a meeting attended by Education Minister Alireza Kazemi, where the president defended the MoU signed between Iran and the United States on 18 June to end the war in the region, according to a statement released by his office.

"We pursued the recent agreement with strength and did not surrender to our enemies," Pezeshkian said, adding that the MoU was drafted after careful deliberation and in-depth discussions with experts. — Xinhua

El Niño could affect Sri Lanka's power generation in early 2027: energy minister

SRI LANKA could face pressure on electricity generation in March and April 2027 due to prevailing El Niño conditions, Energy Minister Anura Karunathilaka said on Monday.

Karunathilaka, who also serves as minister of ports and civil aviation, said the government plans to strengthen the national grid through battery energy storage systems to help manage possible supply constraints.

Under the first phase, projects with a combined capacity of 160 megawatts are expected to be connected to the national grid before December.

The government plans to add 130 megawatts in September and another 10 megawatts in October through the system, he said. Karunathilaka added that another 50 megawatts could be connected to the grid if issues surrounding the privately developed Mannar wind power project are resolved. — Xinhua

Russia-Indonesia ties successfully thriving, Putin emphasizes

Relations between Moscow and Jakarta are developing very successfully and the two countries continue to work together, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

"Dear Mr President, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the national holiday — the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia... Relations between Moscow and Jakarta are developing very successfully, which is confirmed by our fruitful contacts. And we will undoubtedly continue our constructive joint work to further strengthen mutually beneficial partnership ties both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of the



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indonesian defence minister and president-elect, Prabowo Subianto shake hands as they pose for photos before a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

BRICS group, the Russia-ASEAN dialogue, and other international structures," the

message read.

Earlier in the day, Putin congratulated Indonesian

President Prabowo Subianto on the country's Independence Day. — SPUTNIK

Belgium fire halts short of German border, but not 'contained'



An aerial view shows smoke hanging on 17 August 2026 over houses in Kalterherberg near Monschau, western Germany, close to the border with Belgium. **PHOTO: AFP**

FIREFIGHTERS and farmers backed by water-dropping aircraft battled through a fourth day Monday to tame Belgium's worst wildfire in a century, still

burning through pristine parkland though it was halted short of the German border.

The blaze charring the High Fens nature reserve, a

vast expanse of boggy peatlands, pine forests and hiking trails, has grown since Friday to 3,000 hectares (7,500 acres) — half the size of Manhattan.

Crisis cell spokesman Tony Hosmans told AFP Monday the fire was "had not spread further but we cannot yet say it is contained".

"It could change according to the weather," he warned.

Europe has been swept by weeks of devastating wildfires fuelled by dry conditions and a historically hot summer, with France, Greece, Portugal and Spain also battling major fires.

Hosmans confirmed

the High Fens blaze was no longer advancing towards the German border after creeping nearer over the weekend, prompting an evacuation order in the town of Monschau.

Much-needed rain delivered some respite Monday to the 500 firefighters and emergency crews mobilized on site, but officials said conditions could shift fast.

Philipp Krueger, firefighting chief in Monschau, told reporters crews were preparing to deal with "strong winds" on Tuesday — warning it was a challenging "new situation." — AFP

Nearly 13,000 displaced by deadly Indonesian quake await aid

THOUSANDS of people displaced by a powerful earthquake in eastern Indonesia awaited aid on Monday as they camped out at schools, police stations and government offices.

The 7.7-magnitude quake early on Saturday killed 68 people, according to an updated toll, and injured more than 100. Rescue officials have said there

were no reports of people missing.

The number of people unable to return to their homes had risen to 12,800 by Monday, dispersed among several towns on Flores island, Berton Suar Pelita Panjaitan, spokesman for Indonesia's BNPB national disaster agency, told AFP.

Many Flores inhabitants were preparing to sleep

outside for a third night, afraid to go home as more than 1,600 aftershocks have rumbled through the area, according to the BMKG geological agency.

AFP saw several residents of the small town of Mbay, in Nagekeo regency nearest the epicentre, camped out in makeshift tents they had erected using tarpaulins and poles.

"Our houses are no longer liveable, because many have collapsed and are full of cracks, so we can't go inside anymore," Mbay resident Junaidin, 32, said outside a self-made tent that was sleeping about 30 people.

"We only go back home to get water, clothes, pillows, and then we... spend the nights here." — AFP



Goats walk past a crack on the road in Marapokot, Nagekeo, East Nusa Tenggara, on 17 August 2026, following a 7.7-magnitude earthquake. **PHOTO: AFP**