

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR



President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the 7/2026 meeting of the Union Government at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

Boosting Local Production, Exports to Drive Economic Growth

It is essential to effectively serve the interests of the State and its citizens by combining the strengths of regional partner countries and neighbouring nations with Myanmar's own strengths.

Unnecessary checkpoints along transit routes must be reduced, alongside strict measures to prevent illegal trade to ensure the swift and smooth flow of goods, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Union Government meeting at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, the President stated that instead of relying on foreign grants and loans, it is necessary to utilize all domestic resources and

potential to promote local production and advance the national economy in accordance with the saying, 'the strength of the nation lies within'. It is essential to take action to grow the national economy by boosting domestic production and expanding the export sec-

tor. In doing so, priority must be given to supporting manufacturing industries that primarily utilize domestic raw materials, ensuring the production of import-substitution goods while simultaneously striving to increase foreign exports.

SEE PAGE 3

UMTA, Visit Indochina to strengthen Myanmar-Vietnam tourism cooperation

THE Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA) and Visit Indochina jointly organized a five-day, four-night Da Nang-Hue-Hoi An familiarization trip (famtrip), during which discussions were held on further strengthening Myanmar-Vietnam tourism cooperation, according to UMTA.

The famtrip took place from 15 to 19 August, with 61 tourism entrepreneurs from 58 UMTA member companies participating. A B2B mini-workshop was held during the trip, featuring discussions with representatives from UMTA, Myanmar travel agencies, Visit Indochina, and Vietnam's relevant tourism authorities and tourism partners.



A glimpse of UMTA's activities during the five-day, four-night Da Nang-Hue-Hoi An famtrip.

During the workshop, participants discussed tourism market conditions, the needs of Myanmar tourists, and opportunities for future cooperation between tourism businesses in the two countries.

In addition, UMTA and Visit Indochina said they would continue to cooperate in organizing famtrips, B2B meetings and networking activities to create more business and operational opportunities. UMTA noted that such collaboration would help further develop the Myanmar-Vietnam tourism sector; increase tourist arrivals and expand tourism-related opportunities between the two countries. — MT/ZN

Rescue operations continue in flood-affected areas of Ayeyawady

SEE PAGE 4



Ongoing relief efforts in action.

MTSH, GCLSI to jointly develop 200-MW solar power project in Myanmar

YANGON Stock Exchange-listed Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co Ltd (MTSH) will jointly implement a 200-megawatt solar power project with GCL System Integration Technology Co Ltd (GCLSI), a subsidiary of Hong Kong-based GCL Group, according to an MTSH statement.

The solar power pro-

ject is expected to fully meet the electricity needs of MTSH and its subsidiaries and affiliated companies. The partnership will also enable the companies to jointly assess the feasibility of power-generation projects in Myanmar and gain energy-related technical expertise from GCLSI. — TWA/KN



This image captures the signing of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement for a 200-megawatt solar power project.

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Htin Aung Kyaw from the Ministry of Defence as Managing Director of the Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Transport on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

(a) To enhance national prestige, integrity, and preserve the traditional cultural heritage of ethnic people

(b) To preserve national characteristics and promote the national spirit, cherishing traditional culture among the younger generation

(c) To explore, preserve and promote the sustainable development of traditional Myanmar arts

(d) To function as a cultural and artistic institution that contributes to nation-building

Thayezay-Taungpyone train services expanded

DUE to the large number of visitors attending the Taungpyone Festival, Myanma Railways has increased the frequency of trains on the Thayezay-Taungpyone route.

The expanded service began on 19 August to facilitate travel for festival-goers. Two additional trains have been added, bringing the number of Up and Down services to six per day.

Trains depart from Thayezay Station at 7 am, 10:30 am and 1:30 pm, and



This image displays a train running on the Thayezay-Taungpyone railway.

from Taungpyone Station at 9:45 am, 12:45 pm and 5 pm. The trains stop at Ohbo, Myananda and Kapaing stations along the route, with fares set at K1,000 per passenger. Myanma Railways also plans to increase the number of services if passenger numbers rise further. — TWA/MKKS

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 56

Issued at 8 pm MST on 25 August2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the remnants of cloud the tropical strom “Narra” over the Gulf of Tonkin and the low pressure area over the North Odisha and adjoining Jharkhand and the Gangetic West Bengal, such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Eastern Shan States from this morning to 29 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 11-13 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 remnants of cloud the tropical strom “Narra” over the Gulf of Tonkin and the low-pressure area over the North Odisha and adjoining Jharkhand and the Gangetic West Bengal 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

Flood Warning

Issued at 7 pm MST on 25 August 2026

ACCORDING to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is observed as about four inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Bilin River at the Bilin is observed as about two feet and three inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next day.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Hpa-an and Bilin Townships, to take precautionary measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 25 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low pressure area over the West Bengal and adjoining areas of Jharkhand and North Odisha has reached Jharkhand, India. It is likely continue to move west-northwestwards and across Jharkhand, India, during the next 24 hours. — DMH

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Tuesday 25 August 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the West Bengal and adjoining areas of Jharkhand and North Odisha has reached Jharkhand, India. It is likely continue to move west-northwestwards and across Jharkhand, India, during the next 24 hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy over the South Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Special Features: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the tropical storm “Narra” over the Gulf of Tokin is likely to move slowly northeastwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 26 August 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah and Chin States, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and eastern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine states. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 August 2026: One or two times rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 August 2026: One or two times rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26 August 2026: One or two times rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

Boosting Local Production, Exports to Drive Economic Growth

FROM PAGE 1

He noted that relevant officials must strictly inspect and supervise to ensure the quality of imported and exported goods meets standards, and prevent dishonest practices from damaging the country's image.

In the revenue sector, the President underlined that business operators and the public pay taxes, which the government utilizes to carry out national development. These tax revenues must be spent effectively where the country truly needs them. In utilizing tax funds efficiently across ministries, regions, and states, authorities must always be mindful of and considerate towards the taxpayers.

At the meeting, the President explained his

official visits to Thailand, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus in order to strengthen friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and their armed forces. Moreover, the President recounted that he urged the Thai Prime Minister and the Acting President of the National Assembly of Thailand to protect the rights and safety of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

The President outlined that mutual friendship, engagement, and cooperation must be strengthened across all sectors by paying goodwill visits to regional partner and neighbouring countries, and furthermore, it is necessary to analyze and apply the strengths and good practices observed in

those countries.

The President urged all to drive national economic growth by boosting domestic production and expanding the export sector. In doing so, priority must be given to encouraging manufacturing industries that primarily utilize local raw materials, ensuring the production of import-substitution products while also striving to increase foreign exports.

In carrying out production activities, the President underscored that rather than relying on the extraction of above-ground and underground resources and minerals, it is necessary to focus on successfully developing sustainable, agriculture- and livestock-based manufacturing industries.

Particularly, the President stressed that to boost export earnings, efforts must be made to revitalize the era of Myanmar's Pawsan Hmwe paddy and regain market share.

He stated that as there is already strong market demand in neighbouring and regional countries for agricultural and livestock products, meeting this demand through production will significantly contribute to national economic development.

The President unveiled that the government is actively working through the best possible means to overcome political and economic sanctions in order to drive national economic progress.

The President highlighted that while the gov-

Salient points from the speech delivered by the President at the Union government meeting

1. Authorities must always be mindful of and considerate towards the taxpayers in utilizing tax funds efficiently across ministries, regions, and states.
2. Priority must be given to encouraging manufacturing industries that primarily utilize local raw materials.
3. The government is actively working through the best possible means to overcome political and economic sanctions to drive national economic progress.

ernment is making efforts to promote the education sector, systematic and comprehensive development can only be achieved through the active cooperation of students, parents, teachers, and administrative bodies alike.

Union ministers and chief ministers of regions and states reported on their sectors.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and officials, together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

MSWRR Dy Minister receives SCI Asia delegation

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin received a delegation led by Mr Arshad Mehmood Malik, Regional Director for Asia at Save the Children International (SCI), at the Ministry's meeting room yesterday afternoon.

They discussed cooperation between SCI and the Ministry on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) activities, SCI's provision of technical assistance for ECCD activities, and the ongoing process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Social Welfare and SCI.

The meeting was attended by SCI Myanmar Country Representative Mrs Wang Le and repre-



The Save the Children International Regional Director for Asia calls on Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin. Representatives, as well as the director-general, deputy permanent secretary and relevant officials from the Department of Social Welfare. — MNA/MKKS

ME to extend passports on 29 Aug for workers with expiring permits



The Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Malaysia.

THE Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has announced that consular services will be available on 29 August, Saturday, for official Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia whose work permits are nearing expiration.

Priority will be given to passport extension applications submitted via

WhatsApp and email, specifically for those workers whose permits are close to expiring.

This is to help ensure they do not lose their employment. Please note that only passport extension requests will be accepted on that day.

The embassy will publish a list of eligible individuals on its Facebook page. — MT/ZS

Handloom Days exhibition set for City Mall St John on 28 Aug

STALLION Goddess has announced that a special exhibition showcasing the step-by-step process of making naturally dyed and handloom fabrics will be held for four days, from 28 to 31 August, at Yangon City Mall Saint John.

The exhibition has been organized to give the public insight into the creative process behind each craft, from yarn dyeing and colour testing to weaving and garment production.



A promotional poster for the Handloom Days Event to be held at City Mall Saint John.

of fabric. Visitors will be able to ask questions and discuss technical interests -- such as how to use natural dyes and weaving techniques -- directly with the creators themselves.

Additionally, because every step, from yarn dyeing to garment making, is done independently, with no intermediaries, high-quality garments will be sold at reasonable prices. Various discounts will also be arranged for wholesale buyers. — TWA/ZN

During the exhibition, visitors will be able to see natural dyeing materials, self-dyed skeins of yarn, eco-print fabrics, and handloom fabrics, as well as ready-to-wear clothing tailored from these fabrics. The step-by-step weaving process will also be practically demonstrated live at the event.

The purpose of this exhibition is not only to sell clothes, but also to share the craftsmanship, time, and efforts of the creators behind every piece

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw families plant saplings at fourth monsoon tree-growing activities



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo planted a teak sapling at the fourth monsoon tree-growing ceremony for 2026 of the families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) near Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) planted 2,400 saplings of teak, ironwood, mahogany and gum-kino species.

The tree-growing ceremony was participated in by Daw Nilar, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and his wife, Tatmadaw members and their families.

At the same time, Tatmadaw families grew 148,226 saplings at relevant military commands.

— MNA/TTA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo pours water onto the Yadana teak tree at yesterday's event.

Frontline Tatmadaw troops honoured in Mudon



This image illustrates triumphant Tatmadaw troops being warmly welcomed home.

A ceremony to warmly welcome back the triumphant frontline Tatmadaw members who courageously served their duties was held at the local battalion in Mudon of Mon State yesterday.

South-East Command Commander Brig-Gen Thura Zaw Lwin Soe, departmental officials, Myanmar Police Force members, people's militia unit members, teachers, students and locals welcomed back returning soldiers with heartfelt enthusiasm.

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 and lively musical and dance performances. An official of command delivered an honorary speech expressing gratitude for their service, and presented cash rewards to the victorious soldiers.

— MNA/KTZH

Rescue operations continue in flood-affected areas ...

FROM PAGE 1

RESCUE and relief operations are continuing in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, after heavy rainfall and river erosion caused a section of the Ngawun River embankment to collapse on the night of 30 July.

The breach led to flooding in five urban wards of Laymyethna, major roads in the town area and 15 urban

wards of Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathaingyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships and surrounding villages.

Officials from the South-West Command, together with Tatmadaw members from local battalions, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams, charitable organizations and residents, have been working together to assist and evacuate flood-stricken communities.

Officials from the South-West Command, together with Tatmadaw members from a local battalion, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams, charitable organizations and local communities, have been working together to assist and evacuate flood-affected communities. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar deports 5 undocumented foreign entrants

MYANMAR deported three Indians and two Malaysians, totalling five individuals, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authorities officially handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

Between 30 January 2025 and 25 August 2026, a total of 14,764 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 13,825 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries. Among the remaining 939 individuals to be deported, there are 724 who were charged under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency) Provisions Act section 3 (1)/13(1) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 215 individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

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



Immigration officials oversee the repatriation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

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NATIONAL

Vocational Motorcycle Repair Course opens in Khaunglanphu

A vocational motorcycle repair course, organized by the Khaunglanphu Township Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, officially opened yesterday in Khowbudae Village. The initiative aims to enhance the socioeconomic lives of local rural residents and create employment opportunities for the 2026-2027 financial year.

U Pyae Phyo Aung, Head of the Khaunglanphu Township Department of Rural Development, delivered the opening remarks explaining the purpose of providing vocational training and officially handed over teaching materials. Following this, the course instructor outlined the subjects and curriculum to be taught during the training.

The department organized the training course, and it will run from 24 August to 26 September, with 20 trainees participating.

The opening ceremony was attended by township departmental officials, staff from the Department of Rural Development, and local trainees, according to U Pyae Phyo Aung, Township Head of the Khaunglanphu Township Department of Rural Development. — Chit Oo Ko



The launch of the vocational mororcycle repair course is underway in Khaunglanphu Township, Myitkyina District, Kachin State.

YR expands Robusta coffee cultivation, targets 1,000 acres by 2026-2027



ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture, a total of 33,200 Robusta coffee plants have been cultivated across 77.50 acres of rubber and forest lands in three townships across the region, with 45 kilogrammes of seeds already distributed to local farmers. Currently, the cultivated areas include 4 acres in Twantay Township (Thanlyin District), 50 acres in Hlegu Township, and 23.50 acres in Taikkyi Township (Insein District).

Driven by growing urban coffee culture and the rising popularity of coffee shops, trial cultivation of lowland coffee has been carried out in Yangon,



Bago, and Ayeyawady Regions alongside traditional highland varieties, paving the way for targeted commercial expansion. In Yangon Region, plans are underway to cultivate a total of 1,000 acres for the 2026-2027 season, comprising 40 acres in Twantay, 60 acres in Kawhmu, 20 acres



Images showcase thriving Robusta coffee cultivation in Myanmar. PHOTO: KANU

in Kungyangon, 100 acres in Hmawby, 500 acres in Hlegu, and 280 acres in Taikkyi.

Robusta coffee is heat-tolerant and thrives in warm, humid lowland conditions through the integration of irrigation, drainage systems, shade intercropping, and organic soil management. Known for its strong, bitter flavour

profile with chocolatey undertones, full body, low acidity, and a lingering bitter finish, Robusta is favoured by strong-coffee enthusiasts. Its commercial production not only fulfils domestic consumption demands but also offers valuable foreign exchange potential through international export. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ST

RBF project introduced; working group formed in Myeik



An orientation and committee formation ceremony is underway in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introduction and working group formation ceremony for the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project at the monastery in Sandawut Village in Myeik Township yesterday.

At the ceremony, U Moe Myint, an Amyotha Hluttaw representative, delivered the opening remarks. Daw Tin Tin Soe, Head of the Department of Rural Development in Myeik District, explained the objectives, benefits and implementation procedures of the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project.

Township Head Daw Khin Aye of the Department of Rural Development in Myeik Town-

ship then explained the guidelines and requirements for forming a village-level project working group in compliance with the project manual.

Afterwards, the Head officer and responsible officials elected and formed a five-member RBF Project Working Group based on villagers' consensus.

Under the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project, agricultural and livestock activities will be carried out through a group-based system in the village. The Myeik Township Department of Rural Development stated that the implementation of the RBF Project is expected to contribute towards improvement of the socioeconomic well-being of rural communities. — Moe Moe (DRD)

Professional Coffee Athletics competition set for 18-21 Sept in Yangon

THE Professional Coffee Athletics (PCA) competition, anticipated by baristas and coffee lovers, will take place from 18 to 21 September at Kan Thar Yar Centre in Yangon, running daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

Sitha Coffee, one of the leading brands in Myanmar's speciality coffee industry, will participate as a Diamond Sponsor. Visitors can expect to witness creative coffee presentations and competitive performances by top professionals in the industry, showcasing the passion, artistry, and technical skill that define the world of speciality coffee. Interested individuals can enquire about more information



A promotional poster for the Professional Coffee Athletics (PCA) event.

about the event or Sitha Coffee's services directly at Sitha showrooms and branch offices in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Taunggyi, PyinOoLwin, and NyaungU. — TWA/KK

NATIONAL

Nyaungdon embankment protection work underway

RIVERBANK erosion has damaged a section of the Nyaungdon Island embankment about 300 feet long and 45 feet wide near Ganchaung Village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, since yesterday morning.

Officials inspected the site and launched emergency protection measures, including the construction of a 700-foot-long and 10-foot-high temporary ring bund about 200 feet west of the damaged section. Military personnel, police, social organizations and residents are also working together to place sandbags and reinforce the embankment.

Authorities have warned nearby villages, including Chaunggyi, Ganchaung, Mayu and Htonwa, to be prepared to relocate to safer areas if necessary. Residents living near the embankment protection works are also being assisted in moving to safety. — MNA/KZL



A collective effort is seen to protect the Nyaungdon embankment.

Nyaunglebin's VDP introduced; committee formed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introductory briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) and formed a village development committee in Yaesone Village, Nyaunglebin Township, yesterday.

Nyaunglebin Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Mi Mi Aung met village elders and local communities to explain the objectives,



An initiation and committee formation ceremony for village development projects is underway in Nyaunglebin Township.

procedures and benefits of the Village Development Project. Departmental staff detailed the rules and reg-

ulations to be followed in selecting and forming the committee and the procedures to be carried out by

the village.

Villagers and village elders elected seven members to the Village Development Committee through consensus to effectively implement development activities in Yaesone Village. The village will carry out development projects chosen by its residents using K15 million in VDP support funds along with local contributions, under the technical assistance and close supervision of department staff. — Karan (Rural)

Free boat transfers for donors visiting flood relief camps in Laymyethna

THE Ayeyawady Region Fire Services Department is providing free boat transfers for donors travelling to flood relief camps in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region.

The department is operating control offices according to water levels and providing free boat services to and from the flood relief camps. A total of 15 boats are being used, with life jackets provided to ensure passengers' safety.

In addition to trans-

porting residents from flooded villages and wards to relief camps, the Fire Services Department is also transporting patients and providing emergency medical transport to hospitals and clinics.

As the water level in Laymyethna Township had receded by about five feet and eight inches by the morning of 24 August, information was issued on the routes and types of vehicles that can be used to reach the township. —

ASH/MKKS



Ongoing rescue and relief efforts are underway in Laymyethna Township.

Low-speed instruction issued for construction on YGN-MDY Expressway

CONSTRUCTION of a tarred road is currently underway between mile markers 23/5 and 24/6 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, involving heavy machinery. Drivers are advised to reduce their speed when approaching

the construction area, as stated by the highway maintenance and supervisory team on August 24.

Motorists are also encouraged to decrease their speed during rainy conditions and at night, while carefully observing

the road. Additionally, drivers using the highway should conduct a thorough check of their vehicles before starting their journey and ensure they do not exceed the speed limits designated for different vehicle types.

The speed limits on the highway are as follows: 90 kilometres per hour for passenger buses, 100 kilometres per hour for small private vehicles, and 60 kilometres per hour for trucks and pickups. — MT/ZS



Construction of a tarred road is ongoing on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Lewe's VRFP funds disbursed



A village representative accepts the fund in Lewe Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday to disburse funds under the Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) in Taungtha Village, Lewe Township.

Lewe Township Department of Rural Development

Head U San Yu Hlaing explained the objectives, implementation and benefits of the Village Revolving Fund Project. Officials briefed participants on project activities, loan conditions, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed. Lewe Township Department Head U San Yu

Hlaing handed over K35.6 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation committee.

Taungtha Village is implementing systematic agricultural and livestock activities using K35.6 million from the Village Revolving Fund Project. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project committee disbursed the seventh round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 36 beneficiaries from the village, including seven people engaged in systematic agricultural activities, 24 in systematic livestock farming and five in group-based livestock activities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

NATIONAL

National Literary Award-winning translator Ye Mya Lwin passes away at 78

RENOWNED translator and National Literary Award winner Ye Mya Lwin (U Ye Lwin), who specialized in translating Japanese literature and fiction directly into Myanmar, passed away on 25 August at the age of 78.

In a Myanmar translation field traditionally dominated by English-to-Myanmar translations, Ye Mya Lwin was a pioneer who introduced Japanese literary masterpieces directly to Myanmar readers on an unprecedented scale.

He rose to literary prominence through his direct translation of Natsume Sōseki's acclaimed novel *Botchan*, which earned him the prestigious National Literary Award. Throughout his career, he translated numerous other prominent Japanese literary works directly into Myanmar.

A former staff member of the Embassy of Japan



U Ye Lwin (Ye Mya Lwin).

to Myanmar, Ye Mya Lwin frequently emphasized the importance of translation in promoting the country's literary and artistic values. He often encouraged young people to read translated literature extensively and share their knowledge to contribute to national development.

The passing of writer Ye Mya Lwin represents a significant loss to Myanmar's literary and translation communities. Readers, writers and literary peers across the country have expressed deep sadness and condolences over his death. — TWA/TH

Daily newspapers available online

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Water pump house construction inspected in Chauk

RESPONSIBLE officials conducted an on-site inspection yesterday to monitor the progress of a water pump house construction project in Chaungtet Village, Chauk Township, Magway Region. The project is being executed by the Chauk Township Department of Rural Development using the Union Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year.

During the inspection, Daw May Thet Naing, Head of the Chauk District Department of Rural Development, along with engineering staff, company repre-



Officials oversee the water pump house construction project in Chauk Township in Magway Region.

sentatives, and village water supply committee members, assessed the construction site. The district head instructed all involved parties to

complete the work on time and in accordance with the specified quality standards.

According to Daw May Thet Naing, the

project involves constructing a water pump house measuring five feet by five feet by seven feet, installing a 10-kW power meter, and fitting a submersible pump. The project implementation was contracted to Zenith Creative Construction Co Ltd with a Union Budget allocation of K23.06 million for this financial year, starting in the fourth week of June 2026. Currently, implementation has reached 90 per cent completion, delivering a water output capacity of 2,500 gallons per hour. — Naw Lu (DRD)

Myitkyina's MSY village project loans disbursed



The fund disbursement ceremony in progress in Myitkyina Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds un-

der the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Yaenapinlon Village, Myitkyina Township, yesterday.

Myitkyina Township

Department of Rural Development Head U Nay Thura Sein Hla explained the project aims and objectives to increase family incomes, enable residents to expand small-scale income-generating activities, and carry out village development activities using interest income generated by the revolving fund. Project staff detailed applicable interest rates, loan periods, and rules and regulations to be followed, and K30 million in revolving funds was transferred to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Implemen-

tation Committees from Yaenapinlon and Minlel villages.

Yaenapinlon and Minlel villages are implementing local income-generating activities with support from the project funds. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the village project implementation committees disbursed the ninth round of concessional revolving loans totalling K30 million at low interest rates to 55 project members from the two villages, all of whom will undertake agricultural activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Pyu's MSY village project loans disbursed

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

Pyu Township Department of Rural De-

velopment Head U Hein Tay Zar Htet explained the project objectives: the project aims to increase family incomes, allowing residents to expand small-scale income-generating activities, and will carry out village development activities using interest income generated from the revolving fund.

Project staff then detailed applicable interest rates, loan periods, and rules and regulations to be followed, and K42.85 million in revolving funds was transferred to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Working Group.

Kywemaku Village is implementing local in-

come-generating activities with support from the project funds. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the village project working group disbursed the 12th round of concessional revolving loans totalling K42.85 million at low interest rates to 103 project members from



An Emerald Green village project fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Pyu Township.

the village, including 90 engaged in agriculture, six in livestock breeding

and seven in livelihood activities. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Motivate ourselves to step up our efforts at work

Every person must strive and conduct themselves in ways that make the journey through life smooth and successful. Effort means making a determined attempt to achieve a particular result. Working diligently and enthusiastically with perseverance, determination and diligence to achieve our goals and fulfil our aspirations is what is meant by effort. In other words, effort means relying on oneself. The ability and determination to overcome challenges by various means is the spirit of perseverance.

From the time we leave our mother’s embrace and reach an age when we can rely on ourselves and walk our own path in life, we must begin striving to sustain ourselves. Only then can we truly fulfil our potential as human beings. Everyone must seek knowledge

Therefore, we must recognize and understand that good results achieved through effort and hard work are the fruits of success. To become a capable and accomplished person, one must strive continuously. If we stop making an effort, our success may be delayed. Therefore, those who aspire to succeed must remain active and alert at all times and make persistent efforts without giving up to ensure a bright future for themselves. Only then can we truly attain the crown of success.

Therefore, we must recognize and understand that good results achieved through effort and hard work are the fruits of success. To become a capable and accomplished person, one must strive continuously. If we stop making an effort, our success may be delayed. Therefore, those who aspire to succeed must remain active and alert at all times and make persistent efforts without giving up to ensure a bright future for themselves. Only then can we truly attain the crown of success.

When our bodies feel unwell, we look for the right medicine to heal them. We rest, take care of ourselves and seek treatment because we understand that physical pain needs attention. Yet when our minds feel troubled, we often do something very different. Instead of resting, we continue thinking. Instead of accepting what has happened, we repeatedly ask why. Instead of letting go, we hold on more tightly.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges in life is learning that the mind can become tired and wounded just as the body can.

For many people, what is truly difficult to heal is not physical pain, but the worries, disappointments and burdens carried quietly within the mind. We may smile, work and continue with our daily responsibilities while inside we are struggling with thoughts that nobody else can see. Sometimes, the heaviest burdens are not the things we carry in our hands, but the things we refuse to put down in our hearts.

The inability to let go can become a kind of illness. Overthink-

The Healing Power of Letting Go

By Laura Htet (UDE)

ing can become another. Caring too much about what other people think can become another. And holding on too tightly to the belief that everything must happen according to our wishes can also become a kind of illness.

We may spend hours thinking about a conversation that lasted only a few minutes. We may remember someone’s words again and again, wondering whether we were misunderstood or whether we should have responded differently. We may become disappointed because someone did not treat us as we expected. We may become anxious because life did not follow the plan we had created.

In such moments, the problem is not always what happened. Sometimes, the greater problem is the way our minds continue to hold on to what happened.

Life constantly reminds us

that nothing remains exactly as it is. People change. Circumstances change. Relationships change. Our own thoughts and feelings change. What seems permanent today may become only a memory tomorrow.

Yet we often want life to remain within the boundaries of our expectations. We want people to behave as we wish, situations to happen at the right time, and our plans to unfold exactly as we imagined. When reality refuses to follow our wishes, we suffer.

The teachings of the Buddha offer a different way of looking at this suffering.

They are like medicine for the mind. But they do not tell us that we must cling to that medicine forever. Rather, these teachings help us see our own minds more clearly and gradually learn to let go of the attachments that cause

us pain.

Learning from the Buddha’s teachings is not simply about collecting knowledge, repeating words or identifying ourselves through beliefs. It is about looking inward and understanding how our own minds create suffering. It encourages us to observe our thoughts, understand our attachments and recognize the difference between what we can control and what we cannot.

“Not everything we see is as real as it appears, nor is everything we experience meant to remain forever.”

There are moments when something seems extremely important. A small disagreement may feel like the end of a relationship. A failure may make us believe that our future has been destroyed. A painful goodbye may make us feel that happiness will never return.

But time has a quiet way of changing our perspective.

Months or years later, we may look back at the same experience and realize that it was not as serious or significant as we once believed. What once kept us awake at night may eventually become a lesson. What once broke our hearts may teach us strength. What once felt like an ending may have quietly become the beginning of something new.

This does not mean that our pain was meaningless. It means that our understanding of pain can change.

Sometimes, we suffer not because we are weak, but because we are holding something too tightly. We hold on to old relationships, disappointments, expectations, mistakes and old versions of ourselves. We carry conversations that ended years ago and continue arguing with people who are no longer present. We punish ourselves for decisions made by a younger version of who we were.

Perhaps we sometimes forget that letting go does not mean saying that something did not matter. Letting go means accepting that it happened and allowing ourselves to move forward.

There is also another kind of attachment that can quietly exhaust us: caring too much about what other people think. We may spend too much of our lives trying to be understood, accepted or approved of by everyone around us. But no matter how carefully we live, we cannot control every person’s opinion.

If we build our peace entirely on other people’s approval, our peace will always be fragile.

We will become happy when people praise us and unhappy when they criticize us. We will feel confident when others accept us and doubtful when they do not. In this way, we give other people the power to decide how we feel about ourselves.

A more peaceful life begins

when we understand that we cannot control every opinion, outcome or circumstance.

The purpose of medicine is healing, not possession. In the same way, the purpose of spiritual teachings is not to create another reason for the mind to cling. Their deeper purpose is to help us understand ourselves and eventually become less dependent on attachment, fear and endless desire.

In the end, what we truly need to let go of is not only the people around us, external circumstances or material possessions. What we ultimately need to release is the part of ourselves that wants to hold on to everything – the part of us that refuses to let anything go.

We may not be able to stop change, prevent every disappointment or control what others do.

We can learn to pause before reacting. We can learn to accept what cannot be changed. We can learn that peace does not always come from getting what we want.

Sometimes, peace comes

from no longer needing everything to happen according to our wishes.

The most meaningful healing may therefore begin quietly, within the mind. It may begin when we stop asking, “Why did this happen to us?” and start asking, “What can this experience teach us?” It may begin when we stop trying to control every outcome and start accepting the natural movement of life.

Sometimes, healing does not mean finding something new to hold on to. Sometimes, true healing begins when we finally learn how to let go.

And perhaps, when we learn to let go – not because we no longer care, but because we finally understand – we discover something beautiful. We discover that an empty hand can be peaceful. A quiet mind can be strong. A lighter heart can see life more clearly.

After all, life was never asking us to carry everything forever. Perhaps the real wisdom is knowing what to carry, what to learn from, and, most importantly, what to release.

Children in Parenting Styles

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)



children stay silent or do not even answer back to teachers at class time, whether they pay attention to school studies from their teachers. And hence, we are not required to teach them good manners in most cases. But on the negative side, children who are controlled too much by parents mostly remain so silent that they cannot even easily reply back to

some simple questions frequently asked by their teachers. Worst of all, authoritarian parents tend to use their coercive power in their child control. Really, too much coercive power everywhere tends to retard or affect children’s intellectual development. Also, overly controlled children are prone to hesitate about not only asking for money for school-related finan-

cial cases but also spending their pocket money at school.

Secondly, an authoritative parenting style can be seen to be a sort of optimistic parenting style in which parents seem to favour a close friendship with their children rather than a parent-child relationship as in an authoritarian parenting style. Despite this, authoritative parents like to set

some limits on the relationship with their children, especially meaning a give-and-take relationship or sometimes maybe the carrot and the stick, which can be used in an authoritarian parenting style. In my teaching experience, children who are in an authoritative parenting style discipline themselves at school; they are well-mannered or well-behaved children. In other words, these children have self-discipline, self-control and self-reliance. Unlike those in an authoritarian parenting style, they feel free to say something important or be independent of their parents and teachers in decision-making and studying, respectively. But on the other side, if children in an authoritative parenting style are free from the control of parents on their actions, they may have intrapersonal overconfidence, which can lead to failing the examination unexpectedly.

Thirdly, indulgent parenting style is found to be a type of negative parenting style in which parents are highly involved with anything their children are related to but impose fewer limits or restrictions on their behaviours than authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles. As always, indulgent parents allow their children to do whatever they want, beginning with what to wear; what to eat, what to say, and how to live. It does not matter at all if these indulgent parents are the ones who are economically advantaged. In my teaching experience, children in indulgent parenting styles are less expected. Additionally, they do not usually look interested in school subjects, yet they enjoy following trends and fads such as trendy clothes, smartphones or motorcycles. Their willingness to learn looks like a flash in the pan as usual. Sad to say, children of too indulgent parents don’t have a dog’s chance of passing the exam as often as possible. At the very worst, most children who are in an indulgent parenting style are badly-behaved ones with poor personality.

Finally, neglectful parenting

style is known as a neutral manner of parenting style in which many parents are almost always busy making a meagre living or running their own business, so they can be uninvolved with their children’s several cases. This means that neglectful parents are unable to take good care of their children, whether they are rich or not, or if their children are good or bad. In my teaching experience, many children who are neglected by their parents have a low expectation of education. That is, it will be okay for them even if they do badly in an exam. But on the other side, no wonder their parents stay mute about their academic achievement or educational success; the parents have been unaware of their children since the beginning. As a result of parental ignorance, their children are prone to have no manners – they respond to whatever situation they are facing either aggressively in a moment or moodily in ages. And sometimes, they may develop certain emotional problems or meet emotional disorders like playing truant, smoking, drug or alcohol abuse, bullying, delinquency, risk of pregnancy,

risk of sexually transmitted diseases, sexual identity, and even dropping out.

Actually, there have been four great influences on children: parental influence, peer influence, environmental influence and self-control. Even though authoritative parenting style is generally supposed to be the best among the four parenting styles, each of them has its pros and cons for diverse children. Some children could do with an authoritarian parenting style, while some thirst for an indulgent or neglectful parenting style. Whatever kind of parenting style it is, children can hardly refuse both their peer influence and their environmental influence. Despite this, any child-friendly parenting style will protect children against the bad influence of their peers and the environment. Above all, self-control is the most essential need for children’s allround improvement in whatever type of parenting style. Only children with self-control will surely achieve self-directed learning throughout their lives, which is also the maximum educational goal for a student’s lifetime.

NATIONAL

MoALI, ICRISAT to collaborate on new pulse varieties

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will collaborate with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to develop new crop varieties of chickpea, pigeon pea, peanut and other millets, said Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tint Tun.

The discussions on tropical crop research took place on 24 August at the Department of Agricultural Research (Nay



Participants are pictured at the tropical crop research discussion meeting, attended by Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tint Tun.

Pyi Taw) during a meeting. The collaboration will focus on breeding varieties resistant to climate stress and diseases, promoting

mechanized farming and postharvest management, and expanding market access for these commodities.

ICRISAT experts also presented updates and future market prospects under the Asia Breeding Network (ASIABENET).

Directors-general from departments concerned, the rector of Yezin Agricultural University, representatives from the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Merchants Association, seed producer associations, and agricultural researchers attended the event. — ASH/KK

Fisheries Dept issues post-flood guidance for fish farmers

THE Department of Fisheries has issued advisories for fish farmers whose ponds were affected by recent flooding to help them safely restore operations.

The advisory covers essential steps to ensure water quality, disease prevention, and pond infrastructure recovery. The public is advised to boil water before use, as floodwater may carry toxic residues (pesticide remnants), viruses, and bacteria that pose risks to nearby communities. Furthermore, fish farmers need to recapture and inspect surviving fish, distinguish mixed fish by species and size and remove predatory fish and wild species that may

have entered the ponds.

They also need to rebuild and reinforce eroded pond banks promptly, using trenches, retaining walls, and grass planting to prevent further soil erosion, install fences to keep livestock (cattle, buffalo, pigs) away from pond banks, clear sediment and debris from inlet and outlet canals, ensure proper depth and width for water flow, inspect, clean, and reinstall intake and drainage pipes, replace worn or damaged nets and sandbags, prepare extra sandbags for future needs.

They must clear bushes, weeds, and aquatic plants (such as water hyacinth, algae, and floating ferns) from



A fleet of fishing vessels in the Myanmar water.

ponds and surrounding canals and regularly check nearby waterways and bridges to prevent blockages.

Conducting health checks on fish and water quality and properly disposing of dead fish to prevent disease spread are required.

Fish farmers are to avoid building structures that could obstruct water sources (rivers, streams) or drainage canals and

design pond layouts to ensure good water flow and easy transport of supplies (feed, medicine) via well-maintained roads and canals.

Testing and adjusting water quality parameters, treating water with lime and fertilizer and securing adequate inputs (feed, fingerlings) are needed to enable timely restocking with suitable-sized fish, the department stated. — NN/KK

2nd EV technology training course opens for applications

THE Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training under the Ministry of Science and Technology will recruit new trainees for Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology Training (Batch 2/2026) at the Technical and Vocational Education and Teacher Training College (Belin) in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, from 9 am to 4 pm from 31 August to 4 September.

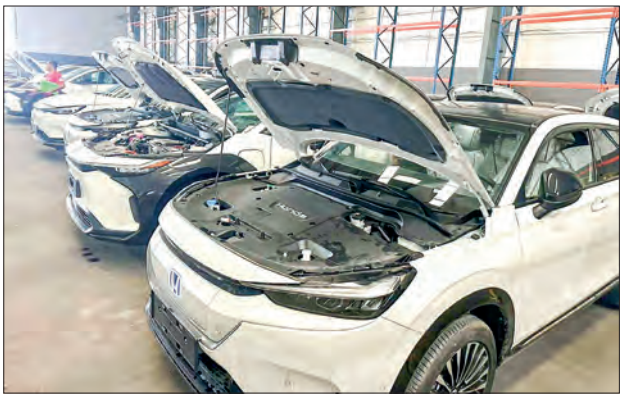
The training aims to equip participants with practical knowledge and technical skills in EV technology.

Eligible applicants are civil service personnel who hold GTHS (AT, EP, ECT), ITC (AT), AGTI, BTech, BE, ME, or PhD (Mech, EP, EC, MC) degrees under the Ministry of Science and Technology or related ministries, staff from private companies and enterprises involved in the

EV sector and individuals who have attended at least high school education. The five-day course will combine theoretical and practical training using modern lab equipment. Participants who complete the full program will receive a certificate of completion.

Only 25 trainees will be accepted. Applications are open from 9:30 am to 4 pm until 28 August. Applicants must provide a copy of the Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC), an original health certificate from the township public health department, a copy of the academic qualification certificate, a copy of household registration, an original police clearance certificate and three passport-size colour photos.

Those interested can enquire for further details through the department at 09 5661235, 09 83982099, or 09-787086456. — NN/KK



This image shows battery electric vehicles (EVs) at the car showroom in Yangon.

Tenders called for systematic farmland development in Hlegu, Taikkyi

AGRICULTURAL Mechanization Department has invited open tenders for systematic farmland development projects in Hlegu and Taikkyi townships, under the regional government's allocated capital fund for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The work will cover 250 acres at Plot No 1032 in Nyaungtathan village, Hlegu Township and 150 acres at Plot 775 in Uto village, Taikkyi Township.

Tender forms are now available at the regional department. The deadline for

tender submission is 4 pm on 9 September. Interested individuals can enquire about details through the department at 09 780520250 or 09 420094884. — NN/KK



Farmers are pictured transplanting monsoon paddy in a field.

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 25 August 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,648.00~3669.00	555.30~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9,525,808.50	46,888,008.83	89,495,147.64	-

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, and electronic goods. The revenue from the CMP sector was sold to the edible oil sector, CMP sector, and fuel oil sector. — MNA

Dutch broadcaster
AVROTROS withdraws
from Eurovision 2027 over
concerns about neutrality

DUTCH public broadcast-
er AVROTROS said Mon-
day that it will not partici-
pate in the 2027 Eurovision
Song Contest, arguing that
the event can no longer be
considered neutral while a
participating country re-
mains involved in a large-
scale military conflict.

“It is undeniable that
international conflicts are
increasingly affecting the
Contest, undermining its
neutral character. The
Eurovision Song Contest
has therefore become a
platform for division,”
Taco Zimmerman, direc-
tor-general of AVROTROS,
said in a statement.

The Netherlands,
along with four other
countries, has boycotted

the 2026 Eurovision Song
Contest in Austria over
Israel’s participation, ex-
posing widening cracks
across Europe.

AVROTROS said in
the statement that over
the past year it had repeat-
edly called on the Euro-
pean Broadcasting Union
(EBU), which organizes
the Eurovision Song Con-
test, to establish transpar-
ent rules governing the
participation of countries
involved in military con-
flicts.

Earlier this month,
the EBU updated its rules,
saying that if a country in-
volved in an armed conflict
wins the competition, it will
be ineligible to host it the
following year. — Xinhua

France, Saudi Arabia agree to build
“Dragon Ball” theme park near Paris

FRANCE and Saudi Ara-
bia agreed on Monday to
build three theme parks
in the Paris suburbs, in-
cluding one inspired by the
popular Japanese manga
and anime series “Drag-
on Ball,” according to local
media.

French President Em-
manuel Macron, who held
talks with visiting Saudi
Arabian Crown Prince
Mohammed bin Salman,
posted on X saying, “we
are making an unprece-
dented announcement”
and hailed the project as
being on a scale not seen
“since Disneyland Paris”.

“As you know, I have
a passion for manga. You
also know how determined
I am to attract investment
to France that creates jobs
and makes the most am-
bitious projects possible,”



A child walks along the dam of the artificial lake at the abandoned former theme park ‘Mirapolis’ in Courdimanche, near Cergy-Pontoise, on 25 August 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Macron said. “We’re not
done surprising the world.”
To be built in Cer-
gy-Pontoise, northwest of
Paris, the project is expect-
ed to involve a 6 billion euro
(\$7 billion) investment by a
Saudi state-owned compa-
ny and create about 22,000
jobs.

Both Macron and
Mohammed are said to
be Dragon Ball fans and
the project stemmed from
a conversation about their
shared passion during a
meeting in Riyadh in De-
cember 2024.

Dragon Ball started
as a manga comic series

serialized from 1984 to 1995
following the adventures of
protagonist Goku and his
allies as they battle pro-
gressively stronger ene-
mies. Its success in and
out of Japan has spawned
multiple anime series,
films and extensive mer-
chandise. — Kyodo

Adachi Museum tops US
Japanese garden ranking for
23rd year



Undated photo shows the Adachi Museum Gardens in Yasugi, Shimane Prefecture, western Japan. PHOTO: KYODO

THE Adachi Museum of
Art in western Japan said
on Tuesday its gardens
topped a US magazine’s
2025 Japanese garden
ranking, marking its 23rd
straight year as No 1.

For the list by “Sukiya
Living Magazine: The Jour-
nal of Japanese Garden-
ing”, garden experts from

Japan and abroad rated
gardens they visited on cri-
teria including quality and
harmony with buildings.

Katsura Imperial Vil-
la in Kyoto placed second,
while Yamamoto-tei in To-
kyo ranked third.

Founded in 1970 in Yas-
ugi, Shimane Prefecture,
the Adachi Museum of Art

is known for its collection
of modern Japanese paint-
ings by Taikan Yokoyama
and others.

Its gardens, which are
tended to every day year-
round by a group of dedicat-
ed gardeners, were created
under the belief that “the
garden is also a canvas.”
— Kyodo

Australia’s top music charts ban AI songs

MUSIC made by artificial
intelligence will be banned
from Australia’s top charts
under new guidelines
aimed at protecting “the
human nature of artist-
ry”, an industry body said
Tuesday.

Under new rules in
force from Friday, music
must be “substantially hu-

man made” in order to be
eligible for the charts, the
Australian Recording In-
dustry Association (ARIA)
said. “Wholly AI-generated
tracks will not be eligible
for the ARIA Charts,” the
group said.

It said its charts would
exclude songs that use AI
“to generate the entirety or

the primary portion of the
creative elements”.

But “recordings that
use generative AI in a sup-
porting role remain eligi-
ble,” it added.

The move follows
growing concern in the mu-
sic industry over a surge in
AI-generated music hitting
the airwaves. — AFP

Norway to crack down on use of smart glasses

NORWAY said Tuesday
it planned to regulate
the use of smart glasses
and similar devices and
was considering a ban on
features that enable fa-
cial recognition in public
spaces.

Smart glasses allow
the wearer to shoot pho-
tos and videos, listen to
music, take phone calls,
translate signs in a foreign
language, project text or
maps into your field of
view, or interact with an
integrated AI assistant.

“We can see that

people’s private lives and
privacy are coming under
pressure from new tech-
nology, and I therefore
want to regulate smart
glasses and similar de-
vices more strictly than
today,” Digitalisation Min-
ister Karianne Tung said
in a statement.

“This could, for ex-
ample, mean banning
features such as facial rec-
ognition of other people in
public spaces,” she said.

She said she planned
to appoint an expert group
to advise the government

on how to better protect
consumers from the new
technologies, and urged
the public and private sec-
tors to consider their own
guidelines.

“There is a clear trend
that artificial intelligence
is being combined with
cameras and microphones
that are built into things
like glasses, earbuds, caps,
and other items we use in
everyday life. We must
avoid this equipment be-
ing used to monitor other
people in public spaces,”
Tung said. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Tokyo’s Haneda airport to expand terminal in Sept amid rising demand

A new satellite facility with six boarding gates was unveiled Tuesday at Tokyo’s Haneda airport ahead of its September launch amid growing air travel demand.

The North Satellite Facility of Terminal 1 marks the first large-scale expansion since the terminal’s launch in September 1993. The hybrid structure uses steel and about 1,800 cubic metres of timber to reduce its environmental impact, according to Haneda’s operator, Japan Airport Terminal Co.

The new facility will also increase passenger convenience. Coming with a lounge and a kids’ area, it offers self-driving vehicles for help getting around, in-



Undated supplied photo shows a new satellite facility at Tokyo’s Haneda airport. **PHOTO: KYODO**

cluding “iino”, which can carry up to four people and is available free of charge.

With the Japanese government aiming to raise the number of foreign visitors to 60 million in

2030, Haneda airport users exceeded 90 million last year for the first time. The number of takeoffs and landings reached approximately 490,000, the upper limit for flight capacity.

Along with the congestion, earlier expansions of terminal buildings have already increased the time required to transport baggage, contributing to flight delays. — Kyodo

Beijing ports see 15 mln entry-exit trips, 20 days earlier than 2025

THE total number of entry-exit trips at Beijing ports has surpassed 15 million as of Tuesday, up nine per cent year on year and reaching the milestone 20 days earlier

than in 2025, according to the Beijing General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection.

Foreign arrivals at Beijing ports reached 4.88 million during the

period, an increase of 31.6 per cent compared with the same period last year, accounting for 32.5 per cent of the total entry-exit trips. Among them, 1.86 million foreign

nationals entered under visa-free or temporary entry permits, representing 74.5 per cent of all inbound foreign arrivals. — Xinhua

Pacific nations could save hundreds of millions of dollars from renewable shift: report

PACIFIC island countries could save hundreds of millions of dollars annually by replacing imported fossil fuels with renewable energy, according to a report released on Tuesday.

The report by Australia’s University of New South Wales Institute for Climate Risk & Response found Pacific nations spend between 10 and 25

per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on fossil fuel imports. As around 80 per cent of the Pacific’s energy supply comes from imported oil products, this year’s Middle East conflict has driven Pacific diesel prices up by about 35 per cent, intensifying pressure on economies heavily dependent on imported fuels, the report said. — Xinhua

Russia may use digital currency for settlements with friendly countries

RUSSIA is not ruling out the possibility of using digital currency for co-operation with friendly countries that have also been subject to Western sanctions, the Russian Foreign Ministry’s ambassador-at-large, Alexander Trofimov, said in an interview with Sputnik.

“It’s worth noting that the example of sanctions against Russia has shown everyone that the dollar was being used as a geo-



Digital rouble. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

political weapon. Excessive dependence on the

German economy grows 0.3% in Q2, up from earlier estimate

GERMANY’S economy grew slightly faster than initially estimated, with gross domestic product rising 0.3 per cent in the second quarter (Q2) from the previous three months, the Federal Statistical Office said on Tuesday.

The figure, adjusted for price, seasonal and calendar effects, was 0.1

percentage point up from a preliminary reading of 0.2 per cent.

“The German economy is maintaining the growth momentum seen at the start of the year,” the statistics office President Ruth Brand said in a statement, adding that Q2 growth was driven mainly by stronger exports. — Xinhua

Vietnamese PM encourages SMEs to become strong foundation for large businesses

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Le Minh Hung on Tuesday encouraged small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to become a strong foundation and a steady source for larger corporations, contributing to the country’s pursuit of double-digit growth during 2026-2030, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

Addressing a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, Hung said the private

sector must grow in scale, raise productivity, strengthen technological capacity and deepen participation in value chains, better serving the domestic market and expanding into international markets. He called for a more business-friendly environment through the removal of overlapping and unnecessary regulations, streamlined administrative procedures and diversified resources for SMEs, especially capital, land and production space, said the report. — Xinhua

ity, prompting many countries to seek alternative payment and settlement instruments. Could digital currency be used for this purpose? Probably,” he said.

As the diplomat noted, amid unprecedented pressure on Russia from the West, improving trade and economic ties with foreign partners from friendly states has become a priority. — SPUTNIK

US dollar has come to be perceived as a vulnerabil-

Japan firms develop earphones, test van for hearing support

JAPANESE companies have stepped up efforts to assist people with hearing difficulties amid growing concern that the problem affects younger generations as well, coming up with ideas ranging from comfortable and stylish earphones to a hearing test vehicle and communication boards at convenience stores.

Major digital watch and electronic equipment maker Casio Computer Co released the “earU”, a wireless ear-cuff hearing-assistance device, in May for people who have trouble hearing conversations but do not require hearing aids.

The device, expected to sell for around 50,000 yen (\$310), digitally adjusts human voices to make them sound more natural and also helps users identify where speakers are and how far away they are.

It can be worn comfortably without blocking the ear canal, and each earpiece weighs about eight grammes, making it unobtrusive even during extended use.



Yasuyuki Ebashi, an official of Casio Computer Co who developed hearing-assistance earphones, speaks on 27 July 2026 in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

Users can fine-tune its settings through a dedicated smartphone app and can also enjoy music with the device.

According to a survey by Casio, about 35 per cent of people aged between 45 and 69 said they have difficulty hearing conversations clearly.

Yasuyuki Ebashi, a Casio official in charge of developing the earphones, said the company aimed “to create a product that would be useful not only for seniors but for anyone troubled by hearing difficulties”. — Kyodo

Thailand targets 5% tourism revenue growth in 2027

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) set out a 2027 marketing plan on Monday, targeting at least a five per cent increase in tourism revenue and shifting a larger share of visitors to emerging destinations, in a strategic move to rebalance growth.

Alongside the revenue target, measured against 2026, the state tourism body aims to distribute visitor traffic



Tourists walk past souvenir shops outside the Grand Palace in Bangkok on 20 May 2026. PHOTO: AFP

at a 60:40 ratio between primary and second-

ary cities, and rank the country among Asia’s top

spots for traveller loyalty, with the ultimate goal of becoming the region’s leading high-value and meaningful destination.

Under the theme “The Year of Transformation,” TAT governor Thapanee Kiatphai-bool announced plans to transition Thai tourism’s growth focus from visitor numbers towards quality, value, and long-term competitiveness. — Xinhua

Saudi Aramco signs deals worth US\$3.7B with French companies

SAUDI Arabia’s state petroleum company Aramco announced Monday the signing of agreements and a memorandum of understanding with French companies, with a potential combined value of more than US\$3.7 billion, amid a visit by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud to France. A press statement by Aramco said the partnerships are expected to strengthen the

company’s supply chain ecosystem, enhance business continuity and efficiency, advance industrial artificial intelligence and digital technologies, and deliver economic value to Saudi Arabia and France.

The deals, which include a corporate procurement agreement for drilling equipment, were announced during the French-Saudi Investment Roundtable Meeting held in Paris. — Xinhua

Appreciation from the Myanmar Red Cross Society

Myanmar Red Cross Society hereby records its special appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Norwegian Red Cross for its generous sponsorship and support of the “Green Bago 2026 Campaign,” an environmental conservation and fundraising tree-planting campaign held in Bago City, Bago Region, on 30 July 2026.

Myanmar Red Cross Society

“NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES”

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmar/ Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons.
2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmar/ Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are intimated to come and clear their outstanding monthly fees.

General Manager
City Golf Resort

India lifts 4-year-long ban on wheat exports

INDIA has lifted a four-year-long ban on exports of wheat and wheat products in a bid to boost farmers’ incomes, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade

(DGFT) announced in an official notification. The ban was imposed in May 2022. The export policy of wheat was revised from prohibited to free with im-

mediate effect, the DGFT’s notification said. The lifting of the ban was significant, as the federal government claimed there were enough stocks of the commodity in

the country and that it was a step towards encouraging the farming community to increase wheat production in the coming years. — Xinhua

Second auto show in a month opens in Nepal, with strong Chinese brand presence

NEPAL’S 18th NADA Auto Show kicked off here on Tuesday, bringing together more than 50 vehicle brands. This is the second large-scale international auto show held in Nepal

this month.

Organized by the NADA Automobiles Association of Nepal, the five-day exhibition features around 200 stalls displaying four-wheelers,

two-wheelers, auto parts and related services. The show features 23 light passenger vehicle brands, 17 light commercial vehicle brands and 13 two-wheeler brands. Chinese au-

tomobile brands have a strong presence at the exhibition, with brands including BYD, Geely, Aion, Great Wall Motors, and Foton showcasing their products. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (007W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (007W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-8-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Median rents surpass half of average income in all Australian capital cities: report

RENTING a unit in every Australian capital city now costs more than half the national average income, according to a report released on Monday.

The report released by housing advocacy group Everybody's Home found that Australians earning 70,000 Australian dollars (US\$50,158) per year would need to spend 56 per cent of their income to pay the national median rent for a unit.

For someone earning 40,000 Australian dollars a year, the median rent for a unit would account for 89 per cent of their income,



A man looks at a property rental advertisement in Canberra, Australia, 25 August 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

and renters would still be spending 41 per cent of their income on housing at a yearly salary of 100,000 Australian dollars, the report said. It found that av-

erage-earning employees in all eight of Australia's capital cities would have to spend at least 51 per cent of their income to afford the median rent for a unit.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the median annual salary for Australian employees was 74,100 Australian dollars as of August 2025.

Maiy Azize from the advocacy group said in a media release that Australia is in a rental crisis because of governments walking away from public and community housing.

"The federal government needs to build public and community homes at scale. Australia needs nearly 1 million of these homes within the next 15 years," Azize said. — Xinhua

Japan to deploy fighter jets to India for 1st time for joint exercise

JAPAN plans to deploy its fighter jets to India for the first time as the two countries will hold a joint air exercise next month, Japan's Air Self-Defence Force said Tuesday.

The ASDF's three F-2A aircraft will join the Indian Air Force in the Veer Guardian 26 exercise, scheduled from 9 to 21 September, around an airbase at Jodhpur in the northwestern state of Rajasthan.

"It will be a great opportunity to further deepen mutual understanding and relationship of trust," Takehiro Morita, chief of staff of the ASDF, said at a press conference.

About 110 personnel of the 8th Air Wing stationed at Tsuiki Air Base in Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, will take part in the joint exercise.

Earlier in the month, Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi visited India and held talks with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh on security concerns in the Indo-Pacific region. The two ministers agreed to deepen cooperation through joint exercises.

The two Asian countries held a joint air exercise in January 2023 in Japan, in which fighter jets of the two countries participated. — Kyodo

World must rein in autonomous weapons: UN, Red Cross chiefs

THE United Nations and Red Cross warned Tuesday the world is "dangerously close" to a future where autonomous weapons — so-called "killer robots" — could target humans, and issued an urgent appeal for international regulations.

The warning follows a call in 2023 from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Mirjana Spoljaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, for countries to establish specific bans and restrictions on the rapidly de-

veloping technology by this year.

"Today, we renew this call with even greater urgency," they said in a joint statement, adding that while their "fundamental concerns remain unchanged... the risks have intensified". — AFP

Pakistan-Iran talks make progress on restoring Islamabad MoU: Pakistani minister

PAKISTANI Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Tuesday that significant progress was made in talks between the Pakistani and Iranian leaderships towards restoring the Islamabad MoU, expressing hope that the momentum would help pave the way for lasting peace in the region.

Naqvi made the re-

marks following his meeting, alongside Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir, with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian during a one-day visit to Iran.

"We remain hopeful that this momentum will help pave the way for further progress and lasting peace in the region," he added.

"Our discussion fo-

cused on the Iran-US conflict, tensions in the Middle East and the way forward, as well as the steps needed by both sides for restoration of the Islamabad MoU, thereby leading to a comprehensive settlement of the conflict," Naqvi said.

He said the two sides held a "very constructive exchange" on the issues involved. — Xinhua

Rainstorms, typhoons hit multiple Chinese regions, trigger flood responses

PERSISTENT rainstorms and typhoon activity have lashed many parts of China, swelling rivers beyond warning levels, triggering floods in the south, and prompting emergency responses across multiple provinces.

In east China's Fujian Province, four rivers exceeded alert and safety levels due to heavy rain-

fall from Typhoon Gaenari, the 20th typhoon this year, according to the provincial hydrology centre. The province maintained its Level III flood control emergency response as forecasters warned of continued downpours, with some areas bracing for up to 300 millimetres of rain in 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Typhoon

Saudel, this year's 18th typhoon, was moving towards East China's coastal regions. Zhejiang Province upgraded its maritime typhoon emergency response to Level IV, with coastal areas expecting strong gales. Forecasters warned of torrential rain across southern Zhejiang till Friday. — Xinhua



An aerial drone photo taken on 24 August 2026 shows a powered pontoon bridge sailing in the flooded area in Beijiang Township, Ningming County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. PHOTO: XINHUA

SPORTS

Federer looks forward to brief return to Arthur Ashe stadium

ROGER Federer said Monday he is looking forward to this week's celebratory return to Arthur Ashe Stadium to play for the first time since his final US Open in 2019.

The exhibition Tuesday night during "fan week" ahead of Sunday's start of the tournament features doubles with former rivals Andy Roddick and Andre Agassi, along with John McEnroe, another giant of the sport.

The group collectively has won a dozen men's singles titles at the US Open.

"It really gives me a true opportunity to say thank you," Federer said at a news conference Monday previewing the match and his upcoming induction to the International Tennis Hall of Fame later this week in Newport.

New York fans of Federer were deprived of a true sendoff for the 20-time Grand Slam champion as marked by Agassi, Serena Williams and some other champions.

When Federer lost in the 2019 quarterfinals to Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria, he had planned to keep playing. And while he did continue to compete, injuries prevented participation in the US Open in either 2020 or 2021 ahead of his last match at the Laver Cup in September 2022. — AFP



Roger Federer is recognized during the Women's Singles Quarterfinal match between Zheng Qinwen of China and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus on Day Nine of the 2024 US Open at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre on 3 September 2024 in the Flushing neighbourhood of the Queens borough of New York City. PHOTO: JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

'Special' Chelsea forwards inspire Alonso's winning start

XABI Alonso hailed Chelsea's "special" forwards after Morgan Rogers, Cole Palmer and Joao Pedro combined to inspire a 3-2 win at Fulham on Monday in his first game as Blues boss.

Alonso enjoyed the perfect start to his reign thanks to his decision to give Rogers, Palmer and Pedro the freedom to tear into Fulham's defence.

Pedro took just 31 seconds to open the scoring with a composed finish from Palmer's pass.

Rogers showed he can justify the eye-watering £117 million (\$159 million) fee that Chelsea paid to Aston Villa to make him the most expensive British player in history.

The England star bagged Chelsea's second goal, firing home with aplomb after Fulham had punished a mistake from Blues goalkeeper Robert Sanchez to equalize through Josh King.

And Palmer joined the party after half-time, scoring from an acute angle to put Chelsea 3-1 up.

Chelsea's entertaining display was a stark contrast to their moribund efforts under Enzo Maresca and then Liam Rosenior last season.

"We were a threat. The three strikers were combining well and creating chances," Alonso said.

"Overall, the squad is balanced. The special players need to have the freedom but as well they need to have the responsibility to help the team.

"We know they have the talent to create many chances. It is a good start. But it is not to rely only on them. We need to have control, quality and toughness." — AFP

Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw Championships continue

THE 2026 Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw Championships are being held at Gymnasium A of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw from 24 August to 2 September.

The final group-stage matches and quarterfinals of the men's and women's doubles events were held on 25 August.

In the men's event, Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi, Kayin, Sagaing, Mon, Magway and Yangon won their respective final group-stage matches. In the quarterfinals, Nay Pyi Taw defeated Mandalay 2-1, Sagaing beat Bago 2-1, Mon overcame Shan



Players from opposing sides battle intensely at the Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw Championships.

2-1, and Rakhine defeated Yangon 2-1.

In the women's event, Nay Pyi Taw, Mon, Rakhine, Magway and Taninthayi secured wins in their final group-stage matches.

In the quarterfinals, Mon defeated Yangon 2-0, Ayeyawady beat Kayin 2-0, Magway overcame Mandalay 2-0, and Rakhine defeated Taninthayi 2-1.

The semifinals, third-place play-offs and finals of the men's and women's events will be held on 26 August. Sports fans are welcome to attend the matches free of charge. — MNA/KZL

Espi in spotlight as Mourinho returns to Bernabeu

JOSE Mourinho returns to the Santiago Bernabeu as Real Madrid coach on Wednesday when his side hosts Real Sociedad in a delayed La Liga opening-round match.

The game could also see Marc Cucurella, Bernardo Silva, Yan Diomande and Denzel Dumfries make their home debuts, but much of the attention at the Bernabeu could fall on Carlos Espi.

The young striker has quickly won over supporters since his arrival, scoring in preseason before netting the winner in Real Madrid's 2-1 victory over Espanyol.

"I've slept very little," Espi admitted during his official presentation. "When I scored the goal, everyone was there in the corner. It was incredible that they were all with me and so happy for me."

"The truth is these have been incredible days, but I'm already thinking about Wednesday and experiencing the atmosphere at the Bernabeu, which is amazing, and I can't wait to step onto the pitch," he added.

Real Sociedad began its season with a 1-0 defeat at Real Betis.

Coach Pellegrino Matarazzo will be without wingers Ander Barrenetxea, Goncalo Guedes and midfielder Jon Gorrotxategi because of injury. — Xinhua

Yangon to host Club Lethwei Championships

THE Yangon Region Government Men's and Women's Club Boxing Championships will be held from 25 to 28 August at the Padetha Lethwei Training Hall, according to the Yangon Region Boxing Subcommittee.

The bouts will begin at 1 pm each day during the four-day competition. A medical and eligibility check for participating athletes, as well as a meeting for competition officials, was held at the Padetha Lethwei Training Hall from 7 am to noon on 24 August. However, the match-ups for the men's and women's



This photo features fighters and officials at the Padetha Lethwei Training Hall.

events have not yet been announced.

The Yangon Region Traditional Lethwei Subcommittee regularly organizes competitions to promote the development of traditional Myanmar boxing in the region and provide young boxers with opportunities to gain competitive experience. — TWA/KZL

Median rents surpass half of average income in all Australian capital cities: report

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WORLD

Qatar says contacts ongoing to revive US-Iran talks

QATAR said Tuesday that contacts with the United States and Iran are continuing in an effort to bring the two sides back to negotiations. “Our officials are on the phone on a daily basis trying to workshop ideas, workshop ways of getting back to the negotiations,” Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said at a weekly media briefing.

On the Strait of Hormuz, Al Ansari urged dialogue and diplomacy, saying the priority is “to go back to the freedom of navigation and to the opening of the Strait of Hormuz the way it was before the war”.

Regarding the latest US economic sanctions against Iran, Al Ansari called them unilateral and reiterated that Qatar prioritizes a diplomatic settlement. “We are urging the parties to engage fully in the talks and the mediation that is led by Qatar and Pakistan and the other regional players and we find that to be the only way out of this crisis,” he said. — Xinhua

Thailand detects new meth-sedative mix in vape pods

THAILAND’S Department of Medical Sciences on Tuesday issued a warning to e-cigarette users after finding methamphetamine and the anesthetic etomidate mixed together in seized vape liquid, the first such detection by the department.

The department’s Bureau of Drug and Narcotic received seized pod cartridges containing a clear orange liquid in June. Analysis found methamphetamine hydrochloride at 3.56 per cent purity alongside etomidate, a Category 2 psychotropic substance under Thai law, already being illicitly added to vape liquids sold as “K-Pods” or “zombie vapes”.

In a statement, Sarawut Boonsuk, director-general of the department, warned that inhaling the two drugs together can be rapidly fatal. — Xinhua

Malaysia air quality continues to drop, 32 areas record unhealthy readings

AIR quality continued to deteriorate in Malaysia on Tuesday, with 32 areas recording unhealthy readings, according to data from the Malaysian Air Pollutant Index Management System (APIMS). The northern Borneo state of Sarawak continued to be the worst hit, with the town of Serian recording an Air Pollutant Index (API) of 181, while Sri Aman recorded 166, the state capital Kuching (165), Samarahan (159), Sarikei (152) and Mukah (101).

Other areas include the states of Selangor, Kedah, Penang, Negeri Sembilan, Malacca, Johor and the Federal territories, which include the national capital Kuala Lumpur (153) and the administrative capital Putrajaya (155). — Xinhua

Russia’s Roscosmos Chief Says Humanity Will Colonize Mars

Russian state space corporation Roscosmos Director-General Dmitry Bakanov said he believes that humanity will establish colonies on Mars in the future.

“One hundred per cent. First on the Moon, and then on Mars,” Bakanov told Life journalist Alexander Yunashchev in an interview out on Tuesday when asked whether he believed that humanity will have colonies on Mars.

A large number of telescopes, both Russian and foreign, are currently studying deep space and trying to find other planets that humanity could use, he added. Bakanov said he discussed the challenges of manned missions



The stand of the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) at ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Centre before the opening of the 20th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

to the Moon and Mars with NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman during his visit to Baikonur Cosmodrome in late July. The heads of the space agencies concluded that all modern technological achievements do not provide even one per cent of the necessary knowledge about humans to safely organize a mission to another planet.

All life support technologies will be tested on the Moon, after which flights to other planets will become possible, he added. — SPUTNIK

US threatens “economic D-Day” sanctions on Iran

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday threatened Iran with “an economic D-Day”, announcing a wave of new sanctions aimed at further isolating the country.

“We are launching an economic onslaught against Iran’s financial connections around the globe,” said Bessent at a press conference. “Our objective is to sever every economic lifeline” that sustains the country, he said. The US Treasury Department said in a press release that the new sectoral sanctions determinations target five critical sectors — digital assets, technology, gold, aviation and shipping — that the US says Iran has relied on to prop up its economy. The measures marked the beginning of “a sustained and systematic campaign to close every financial resource” that supports Iran, the department said. It added that “any entity that facilitates money laundering or sanctions evasion on behalf of Iran risks being cut off from the US financial system”.

The department is expanding the categories of “Iran-related conduct” that the United States might sanction in the future, and said “every country will be given a defined timeline to shut down the Iran-related activity” the United States has identified. Bessent disclosed that US President Donald Trump has been calling world leaders with specific requests to cease their interactions with Iran.

Simultaneously, the department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned nearly 60 entities, individuals, and vessels in multiple jurisdictions that enable Iran’s activities, including illicit nuclear and missile technology procurement, cyber operations, and oil-revenue generation networks. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 24 August 2026 shows the US Department of the Treasury in Washington, DC, the United States, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday threatened Iran with “an economic D-Day”, announcing a wave of new sanctions aimed at further isolating the country. **PHOTO: XINHUA**