

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

MCHT Pushes Back  
Deadline for Tourism  
Video Contest

THE Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has extended the deadline for its ‘Tourism and Culture’ short video competition till 3 pm on 8 September, moving it from the original 21 August to allow more entries.

This competition is to mark World Tourism Day that falls on 27 September, according to the Video Competition Subcommittee.

Prize amounts have also been revised as K1.6 million for first prize, K1.3 million for second prize, K1.1 million for third prize and K300,000 each for five consolation prizes.

Furthermore, the ministry is also holding an essay competition under the theme “Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism. Entries must be submitted by 8 September in accordance with the guidelines.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through the ministry’s website at [www.tourism.gov.mm](http://www.tourism.gov.mm) (English and Myanmar versions available) or by dialling 067 3406104 during office hours, according to the essay competition organizing committee. — NN/KK

Yangon Eyes Night Market  
Expansion to Boost Tourism

Applications have been submitted to expand night markets in Yangon Region to promote tourism, according to U Nay Min Tun, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of the Yangon Region government.

Speaking at the Yangon Region Hluttaw on 25 August, the minister said the Myanmar Tourism Marketing Association (MTM) had proposed establishing pilot night markets during public holidays in the open season at tourist areas in future financial years.

Preparations are under way to coordinate with relevant Yangon City Development Committee departments in line with Yangon



This photo captures a general view of the 19<sup>th</sup> Street food zone, one of Yangon’s night markets.

Region Government guidelines and requirements. Previously, night markets were established along Maha Bandoola, Bank and Pansodan roads in Kyauktada Township and Aung Yadana Road in Lanmadaw Township to promote tourism, ease traffic congestion, and improve cleanliness and security. — TWA/KZL

Myanmar steps up maize  
exports to Thailand via  
Tachilek



This image displays Myanmar maize being piled up for export.

MYANMAR is stepping up maize exports to Thailand via the Tachilek trade post, the Commerce Ministry said. Corn from southern and eastern Shan State is shipped duty free under Form D certificates, with volumes climbing steadily since February.

Thailand extended its duty free maize import period to two months on 26 June 2026. Nonetheless, demand has been sluggish recently as some animal feed mills on the Thai side have temporarily suspended operations and warehouses are re-

portedly full.

Maize export volume via the Tachilek border trade post were registered at 92,653 tonnes in the 2022-2023 financial year, 157,644 tonnes in the 2023-2024 financial year, 327,004 tonnes in the 2024-2025 financial year, 77,909 tonnes in the 2025-2026 financial year and 104,168 tonnes as of 10 July in the current season.

The tax free export period is set to end at the end of August. While traders are racing to ship corn before the deadline, high transport costs driven by fuel prices and difficult road conditions during the rainy season have prompted exporters and farmers to weigh profit margins, as per maize market sources. — ASH/KK

| NATIONAL | PAGE 2                                                    | BUSINESS | PAGE 7                                           |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------|
|          | NUCA (Mandalay) invites DipADA applications for 2026-2027 |          | DICA: 200 companies fail to file AR in July 2026 |

YU to Host China-Myanmar Youth,  
Media Dialogue

THE China-Myanmar Youth Dialogue and Media Meeting, organized by the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, will be held on 3 September at the Centre for Research and Innovation at the University of Yangon, according to the embassy’s Information and Public Relations Department.

The meeting will be attended by Minister-Counsellor Dr Zheng Zhihong, young diplomats from the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, teachers and students from the University of Yangon, representatives



A glimpse of Adipadi Road leading to the Convocation Hall.

of Chinese and Myanmar media organizations, scholars and research groups. Discussions will focus on ways to exchange views on friendly relation between Myanmar and China and cordial relations between the young people of the two countries.

The meeting will take place from 9 am to 11 am. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/MKKS



# NATIONAL

## Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

Order 118/2026

14<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Wagoung 1388 ME  
27 August 2026

### Enactment Date Announcement for Construction Development Law

UNDER Section 2 of the Construction Sector Development Law (National Defence and Security Council Law 5/2026), it is hereby prescribed that the law shall come into force on 27 August 2026.

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

## Objectives of 27<sup>th</sup> 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

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### Myanmar Gazette

## Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed; Head of Service Organization appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Daw Moe Moe Kyi, Director-General of the Financial Institutions Regulation and Supervision Department of the Central Bank of Myanmar, on the expiry of a one-year probationary period.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Dr Soe Moe Tun, Pro-Rector of Technological University (Hinthada) of the Department of Advanced Science and Technology under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as Rector of Mandalay Technological University of the same organization from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## NUCA (Mandalay) invites DipADA applications for 2026-2027



The National University of Culture and Arts (Mandalay).

THE National University of Culture and Arts (Mandalay) is inviting applications for its Diploma in Applied Digital Arts (DipADA) programme for the 2026-2027 academic year under its

Human Resource Development Programme.

The nine-month programme will provide theoretical and practical training in software and hardware, illustration and

graphic design, video editing and colour grading, special effects and animation, photography and cinematography, audio production, directing and scriptwriting.

Applicants must hold a university degree, have passed the matriculation examination or have completed Grade 9. They must also be in good health, able to participate in artistic activities and demonstrate creativity and artistic ability. Those who complete the programme and hold a university degree or have passed the matriculation

examination will receive a Diploma in Applied Digital Arts, while Grade 9 completers will receive a Completion Certificate.

Application forms are available from the Academic Affairs Department and must be submitted by 30 October. Applicants must provide proof of educational qualifications, a copy of their Citizenship Scrutiny Card and five passport-size photographs. Interviews will be held at the university at 1 pm on 31 October, with admission results announced on 5 November. — ASH/KZL

## Heavy Rainfall Warning No 58

Issued at 8 am MST on 27 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds 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 regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Chin, Rakhine and eastern Shan states from this morning to 31 August 2026.

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

### Advisory

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

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday, 27 August 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South the Bay of Bengal and moderate over elsewhere the Bay of Bengal. Weather has a few clouds to partly cloudy over Southwest Bay of Bengal and is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and over elsewhere the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 29 August 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago and Lower Sagaing Regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin,

Mon, Rakhine and Shan States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. **THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan states. In areas along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced 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 SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine, Shan States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August 2026:** One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28 August 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH



NATIONAL

Military leaders must possess both physical strength and mental resilience

MILITARY leaders must be capable of making correct decisions with sound judgement, courage and composure, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo at the meeting with instructors and cadets as well as post-graduate trainees from the Defence Services Academy and the Defence Services Technological Academy and Tatmadaw members from the military station at the convocation hall of DSA yesterday afternoon.

In giving instructions, the General underlined that as discipline is the backbone of the Tatmadaw, maintaining good discipline will make a good serviceman, and when good servicemen come together, they will form a

disciplined Tatmadaw.

He noted that leadership skills are extremely important. Only those who have first become good followers, possessing obedience to orders and strong military discipline, can become capable and effective leaders when they assume leadership positions.

In terms of administration, the General outlined that personnel must be commanded and managed fairly and impartially, without discrimination or favouritism, and administration must not be carried out inconsistently or selectively. As far as possible, the right person should be assigned to the right position, and administrative and logistical support matters must be handled accurately and



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo addresses the meeting with DSA and DSTA instructors and cadets, postgraduate trainees, as well as Tatmadaw personnel from the PyinOoLwin Station.



promptly.

He stated that military leaders must be capable of making correct decisions with sound judgement, courage and composure. Military leaders need to possess physical and mental capabilities, as well as the ability to think, make sound decisions and formulate strategies.

The General underscored that instructors must be fully competent, and it is important to recognize that the quality of trainees will depend on the capabilities of their instructors. Just as officers must be provided with a sound academic education to develop their intellectual and mental capabilities, they must also be trained in military skills to a level at which they can perform the duties of a platoon commander. Regardless of the unit in which they serve, they must be prepared on their own side to be capable of combat operations like infantry units.

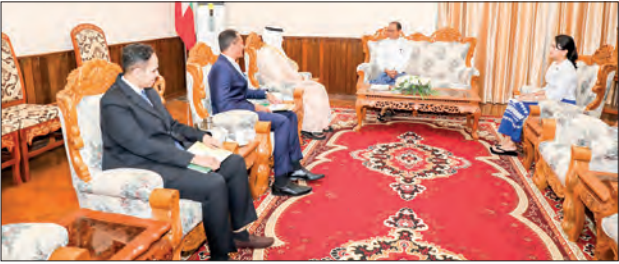
The General recognized and praised Tatmadaw members from various units in the PyinOoLwin Station who have performed their operations and security duties with dedication and courage during times of security emergencies, fulfilling their responsibilities in the true spirit of military service without distinction based on their assigned duties.

After the meeting, the General and his wife and party cordially greeted the instructors, cadets, post-graduate trainees, and other Tatmadaw members.

Also present at the meeting were Daw Nilar, the wife of the General, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Central Command, commandants and officials. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Union Minister receives Saudi Arabian Ambassador



The Saudi Arabian ambassador calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received Mr Maziad Mohammed Maziad Al-

howishan, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 August 2026.

Both sides cordially discussed matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation in various sectors between Myanmar and Saudi Arabia. — MNA

DIPLOMACY

MoFA UM receives Chargé d’Affaires of Embassy of State of Qatar

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received Mr Abdulaziz Yousuf AJ Al-Ali, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of the State of Qatar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 2:30 pm on 27 August 2026.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged



The Qatari chargé d’affaires ad interim calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe.

views on further strengthening the existing bilateral relations and cooperation between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the State of Qatar. — MNA

Myanmar, Laos discuss labour cooperation at ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Meeting

THE opening ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Meeting was held at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday morning.

Thai Prime Minister Mr Anutin Charnvirakul delivered the opening address, with labour ministers and senior officials from ASEAN member states and representatives of international organizations attending.

In the afternoon, Union Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Zaw Zaw Soe and a delegation. The meeting will discuss the implementation of the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme for 2026-2030 and other labour-related matters for consideration and approval by ASEAN labour ministers.

In the afternoon, U Khin Maung Soe met Lao Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr Phongsaysack Inthath to discuss issuing Certificates of Identity (CI) to undocumented Myanmar workers in Laos, facilitating legal remittances, enabling Myanmar workers to work legally through designated border points, issuing identity documents and enhancing bilateral labour cooperation. — MNA/KZL



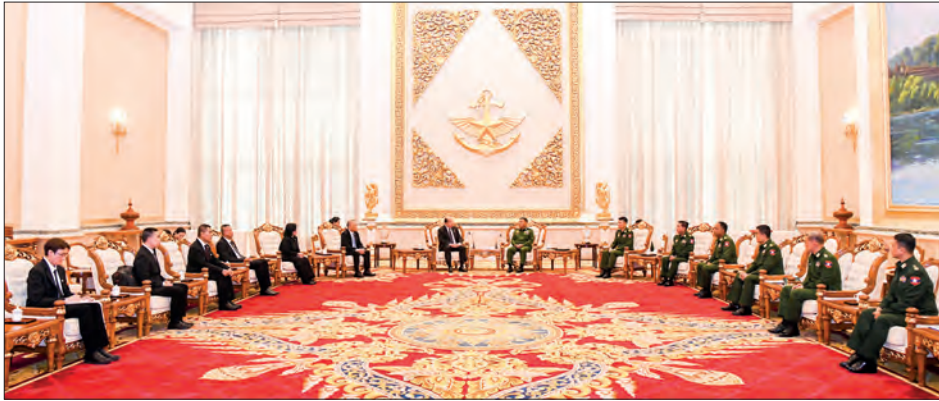
A commemorative group photo session of the 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Meeting in Bangkok, attended by Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe.



# NATIONAL

## DIPLOMACY

### Myanmar, Thailand to deepen military cooperation



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo receives Mr Chatchai Bangchud, Secretary-General of the National Security Council of Thailand.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo received Mr Chatchai Bangchud, Secretary-General of the National Security Council of Thailand, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the successful holding of

the 9<sup>th</sup> High Level Committee (9<sup>th</sup> HLC) meeting between the Myanmar and Thai armed forces in Thailand, measures to enhance cooperation between the two Tatmadaws in successfully promoting stability and peace, the rule of law, development and counter-terrorism

efforts in border areas, border trade, the effective measures being undertaken by the State as a national task to prevent and suppress online scams and gambling, further cooperation between the two governments and Tatmadaws as more than 99 per cent of those involved in

online scams are illegal cross-border entrants.

The meeting also covered measures to prevent and control the illegal transport, sale and trafficking of arms and ammunition, narcotic drugs and controlled chemical substances, full cooperation on security matters to ensure that people living in the border areas of both countries can live in stability and peace, the timely exchange of information, and continued efforts to further strengthen the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two armed forces.

After the meeting, the General and the Secretary-General exchanged gifts and posed for a documentary. — MNA/KTZH

### Yangon Police intensify area-based crime prevention operations

POLICE personnel from Yangon Region, in cooperation with traffic police and local administrative authorities, conducted area-based operations yesterday to strengthen the rule of law and prevent crime.

As part of the operations, police officers from Hlinethaya (East) and Hlinethaya (West) townships, together with members of the Bahan Township Traffic Police

Unit, conducted door-to-door public awareness activities on crime prevention and road safety, including encouraging people to use pedestrian crossings.

The previous evening, police officers in Kayan, Kamayut, Mingala Taungnyunt and Thakayta townships checked household guest registration records, inspected bars, conducted vehicle checks and patrolled wards. — Aung Thu/MKKS



Inspection of household guest registration is underway in Kayan Township. **PHOTO: REGION POLICE FORCE.**

### No obligation to pay 2% fee or obtain landowner consent in apartment sales



This photo features Dr May Than Nwe, Yangon Region Minister for Planning, Economics and Finance.

TAX laws do not require the payment of two per cent of sales proceeds to landowners during apartment transfers, nor do they require a landowner's signature for a sales contract to be valid, clarified Dr May

Than Nwe, Yangon Region Minister for Planning, Economics and Finance.

The Minister made the clarification on 26 August, during the ninth day of the third regular session of the Third Yangon Region

Hluttaw, in response to a question raised by U Aung Pyae Phy, Hluttaw Representative for Mayangon Township Constituency 2.

According to U Aung Pyae Phy, during some apartment sales in Yangon, landowners have been demanding two per cent of the transaction value as a signature fee, creating difficulties for both buyers and sellers when the fee is not paid. He also highlighted a persistent misconception among the public that a contract is legally valid only if it bears the landowner's signature.

Addressing these concerns, Minister Dr May

Than Nwe clarified that tax laws contain no provisions requiring a two per cent payment to landowners or stipulating that a contract is valid only if it bears the landowner's signature.

She further noted that income tax and stamp duty on apartment transfers are currently assessed and collected in accordance with the law, based on tax declarations submitted by taxpayers and official information obtained from relevant departments, including the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD). — TWA/TH

### KBZ denies system breach

KBZ Bank has announced that its banking security systems have not been breached or hacked, following its latest investigation.

In its statement, KBZ said it has always focused on security measures to protect its customers' privacy. It has also urged customers and the public to follow the following security tips to protect their bank accounts and personal information.

They are: don't click suspicious links or unexpected links, protect your

account with advanced security measures such as 2FA verification or biometric systems, use antivirus software on your laptop or computer, don't share secret information, and never type your login password and OTP in unknown links delivered via email, SMS or social media. When you feel uncertain whether you might be prompted to enter your bank account data via a phishing link, you can contact the KBZ hotline at 09 951018555 or customer-service@kbz-bank.com. — TWA/ZS

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.



NATIONAL

Frontline Tatmadaw members receive warm welcome home

A ceremony to warmly welcome back the triumphant frontline Tatmadaw members who courageously served their duties was held at the local battalion in Twantay Township of Yangon Region yesterday.

Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Tin Min Latt, departmental officials, Myanmar Police Force members, war veterans' association members, students and locals wel-



Triumphant Tatmadaw troops are pictured being warmly welcomed at the Yangon Command Headquarters.

comed 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. Then the commander presented cash rewards to the victorious soldiers. — MNA/KTZH

Pindaya's MSY village project introduced; committee formed



An orientation and committee formation ceremony is underway in Pindaya Township.

ing funds.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday to explain the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project and form a village project committee in Kantha Village, Pindaya Township. Pindaya Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Win Zaw delivered opening remarks. Pindaya Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw explained that K30 million in revolving funds under the MSY Village Project would be provided at a low interest rate to create employment opportunities and increase family incomes for rural residents, as well as to implement village development activities with the increased revolving funds.

Project staff detailed project procedures, rules and regulations to be followed, policies in the project manual, and election guidelines for forming the project management committee. Kantha Village in Pindaya Township will implement family income-generating activities using K30 million from the MSY Village Project for the 2026-2027 financial year.

During the meeting, village elders and local communities transparently elected seven committee members for the MSY Village Project Working Group through a voting system and consensus to manage and operate the project funds systematically. — Poe Thakhin (DRD)

Lewe inspects completed village concrete road

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of a village concrete road construction project in Thayagon Village, Lewe Township.

Lewe District Department of Rural Development Head U Myo Tint, Lewe Township Head U San Yu Hlaing and engineering staff, together with members of the village committee, inspected the completed concrete road measuring 195 feet in length, 10 feet

in width and seven inches in thickness. They met village elders and residents, urging them to form a village road committee to maintain and protect the road for long-term sustainability while providing necessary coordination for requests submitted by the villagers.

The concrete road was constructed during the 2026-2027 financial year using K15 million in support funds aided by the Village Development Project (VDP) along with K1.7378 million contributed by residents, who jointly implemented the



This photo illustrates the completed village concrete road in Lewe Township.

project under the technical assistance and close supervision of township department staff. Upon completion, the project

enables rural residents of Thayagon Village to travel conveniently throughout the year in all seasons. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

YR uncovers 11 online gambling cases; action taken against 29 people

ONLINE gambling activities are being investigated and action taken against those involved in Yangon Region, with 11 cases uncovered between January and July 2026, according to Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Win Tin.

A total of 29 people – 22 men and seven women – have been prosecuted in connection with these cases.

Authorities are monitoring online gambling activities in Yangon Region and also working with

ward and village administrators to gather information, conduct daily monitoring and take action on the ground.

Nationwide, regional and state governments are coordinating to investigate and take action against online fraud and gambling offences as a national responsibility. — ASH/MKKS

This image shows seized items related to online gambling offences.



Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise





# NATIONAL



Flood recovery and repair works are underway in Ayeyawady Region.

ON the night of 30 July, heavy rainfall and riverbank erosion caused water to breach through the underlying sand vein of an oxbow lake beneath the Ngawun River embankment in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Re-

gion, initiating floodwaters to flow into local wards and villages. Due to this inundation, flooding has affected five urban wards and several villages in Laymyethna, as well as 17 wards and villages across Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathaing-

## Ngawun floodwaters recede in Ayeyawady; Cleanup, embankment repairs underway

gyoung, Kyonpyaw, and Kyaunggon Townships to date.

Amid the ongoing situation, the Ngawun River floodwaters in Laymyethna Township, which reached a peak of around 7 feet 9 inches on 14 August, have receded by about 2 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 2 inches today. In Yekyi Township, water levels peaked at approximately 11 feet 2 inches on 24 August and have

dropped by about 1 foot 2 inches to 9 feet 8 inches today. Similarly, in Ngathaingchaung, floodwaters peaked at about 10 feet 9 inches on 23 August and decreased by roughly 10 inches to 9 feet 11 inches yesterday.

To restore smooth transportation for the public and vehicles, local military personnel, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, social rescue

and charity organizations, and residents are collaborating to clear mud and debris deposited along the Laymyethna-Hinthada road and other affected areas where waters have receded.

Furthermore, to control and prevent water infiltration at the Ngawun embankment, reinforcement works on low-lying embankment sections are being actively accel-

erated using heavy machinery and manpower. These measures include laying large geobags, filling sandbags within pole/stake barriers, and driving steel sheet piles.

Officials from the South-West Command have visited the sites to inspect the relief operations and flood-prevention efforts, coordinating and providing necessary assistance. — MNA/ST

## Erosion prevention, flood protection continue on Ngawun damage

EROSION prevention and flood protection works continue at the damaged section of the Ngawun River embankment in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Yesterday, Deputy Minister U Bo Bo Kyaw inspected the progress of the works. Nylon ropes and sandbags are being used to reinforce the right bank of the waterway, while large geobags measuring four metres long, two metres wide and 0.5 metre thick are being placed by the Dagon Samari vessel as the Ngawun River water level falls. As the river remains about 28 feet deep, geotex-



Deputy Minister U Bo Bo Kyaw and officials are pictured during their inspection tour in Laymyethna Township.

tile bags (geobags) measuring 10 metres, eight metres and two metres long, two metres wide and 0.5 metre thick are being laid in the deep central channel, while steel sheet piles are being driven along the left bank.

The deputy minister also coordinated with officials, technical experts and skilled workers from

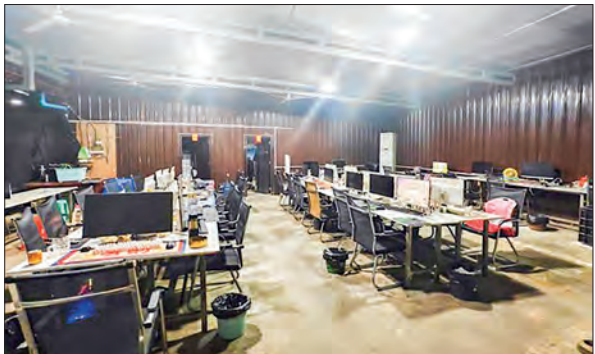
the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department, Bridges Department and Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department on measures to prevent further erosion and obstructions to water flow in cooperation with the Ayeyawady Region Government. — MNA/MKKS

## 31 suspects arrested in Muse for telecom fraud, online gambling

ACTING on tip-offs, authorities searched a house on the bypass road in the Hona area of Kaunghmudon Ward, Muse Township, at around 10:15 am yesterday.

During the raid, security forces apprehended 31 individuals engaged in online fraud and gambling, including 18 Chinese male nationals, five Myanmar male nationals, and eight Myanmar female nationals.

Officials seized 422 smartphones of various models, 18 all-in-one computers, 20 desktop computers and related



This photo captures a seized online scam hub.

accessories, two Starlink satellite internet devices, two Wi-Fi routers, 24,500 Chinese yuan, one Lexus motor vehicle, two Crown motor vehicles, and three motorcycles of various models. Necessary investigations are

currently underway, and strict legal action will be taken against the suspects in accordance with existing laws, while the seized operational equipment will be processed in accordance with official procedures. — MNA/TH

## PDFs brutally kill Senior Monk of Shwetheindaw Monastery in Sagaing

DUE to incitement and instigation by NUG and CRPH terrorist groups aimed at disrupting the stability and peace of the State, delaying regional development and triggering armed clashes in towns and villages, PDF terrorists have been unlawfully arresting, torturing and killing administrative

officials, civil servants and some peaceful residents in certain areas under various pretexts. Moreover, they are brutally arresting, torturing and killing monks who are peacefully engaged in meditation and religious practices without any regard for reason or humanity.

On the night of 18 August, 30 armed PDF terrorists arrived at Shwetheindaw Monastery in Shwedakya Village, Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Region, located along the Monywa-Yezagyo road, and arrested Senior Sayadaw Ashin Indacara and seven locals to Mahti-

tha Village. On the morning of 19 August, two of the seven detainees, U Myo Htun Aung and U Thet Htwe, were released. On the evening of 24 August, they arrested another three locals, and one monk and seven civilians were detained.

After the arrests, the terrorists brutally tortured the Sayadaw, such as beating him with sticks, burning him with fire and cutting his fingers and other parts of

his body with a knife. As a result of the inhumane torture, the Sayadaw passed away.

On the morning of 25 August, the terrorists informed residents to come and collect the Sayadaw's body near Mahtitha Village. The residents subsequently went there in a social welfare organization's vehicle, transported the body back and cremated it in Shwedakya Village.

In an attempt to con-

ceal and cover up the Sayadaw's death resulting from the terrorist group's arrest and torture, the perpetrators have been fabricating medical records with the assistance of a doctor involved in DCS and spreading false information and propaganda. The seven innocent residents are also still being detained.

The security forces have accelerated security measures to eradicate terrorism. — MNA/KTZH



# Auto parts sector tops FX buying on online trading platform

THE automobile and motorcycle spareparts sector accounted for the largest share of foreign-currency purchases on the Central Bank's FX Online Trading Platform on 26 August.

The sector's share stood at 47 per cent of total foreign exchange buying, followed by other goods and nontrade transactions at 29 per cent, medicines and pharmaceutical raw materials at nine per cent, industrial raw materials, fertilizers and electronic goods at three per cent each, fuel oil at two per cent, consumer goods, construction materials, agricultural inputs, and animal feed and supplies at one per cent each.

The market exchange rates on that day were K3,658 per US dollar, K557 for Chinese yuan, K125.3 for Thai baht and K43.6 for Indian rupee.

The central bank also noted that proceeds from the CMP sector were channelled back to the CMP sector through the platform.

The strong demand for foreign currency in the autoparts sector is



This image features automotive spare parts on display.

linked to the growing popularity of electric vehicles (EVs) such as BYD, Geely, and Toyota

bz4X, driving demand for EV spare parts and battery accessories. — TWA/KK

# Pharmacies Face Licence Loss Over Expired Drugs

PHARMACIES selling expired, unregistered or substandard medicines are being subject to action, including permanent revocation of their licences, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Bo Htay said.

He was responding to a question raised by U Aung Pyae Phyo, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative for Mayangon Township Constituency 2, at the third regular session of the third Yangon Region Hluttaw on 25 August. The question concerned whether surprise inspections were being conducted to check the validity of expiry dates on medicines sold at pharmacies in Yangon and whether expiry dates had been reprinted.

The Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducts monthly inspections of pharmacies. If a pharmacy is found selling expired, unregistered or substandard medicines for the first time, its medicine sales licence is suspended for three months. A second offence results in a six-month suspension, while a third offence leads to permanent revocation of the licence and prosecution.

If medicines are found to be counterfeit, legal action is taken under the National Drug Law based on a decision by the Yangon Region Food and Drug Supervisory Committee. — TWA/KNN

# DICA: 200 companies fail to file AR in July 2026

TWO hundred companies were struck off the register in July 2026 for failing to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The DICA stated that 200 companies each in January and February, zero companies in March, 400 companies in April, 200 in May and no companies in June 2026 failed to submit AR, respectively.

The DICA notified those companies which failed to file their AR on MyCO were struck off the register from the date of the directive, under 430



The facade of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) office.

(F) of the Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

A total of 7,300 companies in 2025 and 19,000 in 2024 also failed to submit the AR.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies

Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

The DICA has no-

tified that any company which fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for the AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totalling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

# Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 27 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 | 26,763, 079.21   | 36,784,447.94 | 28,589,012.70 | -            |

## Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# MFVP showcases value-added products at Agri Tech Cambodia 2026

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) is participating in Agri Tech Cambodia 2026, an international agriculture and technology exhibition being held in Phnom Penh from 26 to 28 August.

MFVP Chairman U Kyaw Thu and Secretary U Pyay Tha San are attending the event, where the association has set up a booth featuring value-added products

from its members. The exhibition provides a platform to introduce these products to international entrepreneurs and buyers.

The association is actively engaged in international trade fairs to open new market channels for farmers and members, facilitate direct connections with foreign companies, provide access to technology and market intelligence, and enhance brand recognition for members' products. — NN/KK



OPINION

Emphasize to achieve more comprehensive land use system

Land and resources need to be managed and utilized systematically, equitably, and sustainably, and must be managed and utilized in a sustainable manner. At present, effective land management is vital for the nation's development, and it is necessary to draft and enact a National Land Law that is modern and capable of harmonizing provisions among existing laws.

The National Land Use Policy was approved and promulgated on 28 January 2016. Land resources are not only a fundamental resource for the country's economic development and livelihoods, but also a resource closely linked to the traditional customs and cultural heritage of ethnic nationalities.

Because political, economic, environmental, and social conflicts are linked to the utilization of land resources, it is necessary to achieve a more comprehensive and better land use system. Therefore, efforts are underway to enact the National Land Law as an umbrella law to effectively implement the National Land Use Policy and reconcile discrepancies among sectoral land management laws.

Therefore, land resources are vital assets for national development and the stability of the socioeconomic lives of the people. To manage and utilize the nation's land resources systematically, it is essential to collaborate with a focus on the interests of the State and its citizens - effectively implementing tasks, establishing short- and long-term strategies, tactics, and action plans, and drafting and enacting a National Land Law.

Land use refers to the systematic allocation and utilization of land for national development, socioeconomic, agricultural, forest conservation, and environmental purposes. Types of land use include agricultural land used for farmlands, garden/orchard lands, and cultivation; forest land comprising reserved forests, protected public forests, and environmental conservation areas; and residential and commercial land comprising urban development, residential housing, industrial zones, and commercial-use land.

The National Land Use Policy aims to protect farmers' rights and target food security and sustainable development. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Forest Department are systematically managing lists/records and maps according to land category. For urban, residential, and economic development, the Ministry of Construction and municipal departments are taking responsibility and carrying out operations.

Therefore, land resources are vital assets for national development and the stability of the socioeconomic lives of the people. To manage and utilize the nation's land resources systematically, it is essential to collaborate with a focus on the interests of the State and its citizens - effectively implementing tasks, establishing short- and long-term strategies, tactics, and action plans, and drafting and enacting a National Land Law.

The success and development of a workplace do not depend solely on modern technologies, investments and resources. They also greatly depend on each employee's proper sense of responsibility and accountability, discipline, work ethic, mutual respect and cooperation, as well as the proper assignment of duties to employees by those in positions of authority.

By faithfully fulfilling one's duties, an employee can contribute not only to their own success but also to the overall development of the organization. Conversely, negligence of duties, shirking work, procrastination, taking unnecessary leave frequently, currying favour with superiors for personal gain, and unfairly oppressing subordinates can undermine discipline and trust in the workplace and may also amount to exploiting the labour and time of others.

Exploitation of Labour

The term "exploitation of labour" does not refer solely to an employer's unfair use of a worker's labour. In a broader sense, relying on and taking advantage of the labour of others without fulfilling one's own duties in the workplace, obtaining more benefits than one is entitled to, and using one's authority and responsibilities to infringe upon the rights of other employees are also forms of labour exploitation.

Shirking work is one of the most common problems that can be found in the workplace. A person who shirks their duties may avoid making an effort to work, expecting others to perform their responsibilities, shift assigned tasks to other people, or act as though there is no work

Labour exploitation undermines workplace unity and cohesion

By April Son



This image shows a happy workplace of employees. PHOTO: UNPLASH

to do even when they have duties to perform. Such behaviour not only reduces the individual's work performance but also places an additional workload on colleagues and negatively affects other employees' concentration, commitment and willingness to perform their duties conscientiously.

For example, if one member of a five-person team consistently shirks the duties, the other four employees may have to perform not only their own responsibilities but also that person's work. Such a situation amounts to the

unfair use of the time and labour of hardworking employees. Over time, it can lead to frustration, dissatisfaction and a loss of trust in the organization among those who work diligently, ultimately undermining unity and cohesion in the workplace.

Procrastinating at work

Similarly, procrastinating at work is another behaviour that can negatively affect workplace productivity. Deliberately delaying a task despite being able to complete it within the time-frame, unnecessarily dragging

out work, prioritizing personal matters over assigned duties, and allowing emotions to influence the performance of one's responsibilities instead of carrying them out properly and objectively, thereby creating avoidable situations, are not effective uses of working time. Moreover, delays in completing an assigned task can affect the schedule for subsequent work. Therefore, one person's procrastination can become not merely an individual problem but a problem for the entire team.

The important role of work-

ing time

Working time is an important resource in the workplace. Like financial and material resources, time must also be used systematically and efficiently to avoid waste. Procrastinating during working hours without taking one's responsibilities seriously is not merely a waste of one's own time; it is also an irresponsible use of the working time and labour entrusted by the organization.

Regarding frequent leave in some forms, it should be understood that taking leave is not wrong. Employees may need to unavoidably take leave due to health issues, family matters or other genuinely necessary circumstances. In such cases, taking leave in accordance with established rules and regulations is natural and is also an employee's right. However, deliberately taking frequent leave to avoid work responsibilities, taking leave whenever the workload is heavy, and repeatedly creating situations in which others have to perform one's duties in one's absence can create an unfair situation in the workplace.

Currying favour with superiors

Moreover, currying favour with superiors to gain personal benefits is another behaviour that can undermine fairness in the workplace. Instead of earning

deserved opportunities based on one's abilities, efforts and work performance, complying with the wishes of superiors or unnecessarily flattering them in an attempt to gain advantages undermines merit- and performance-based fairness within the organization.

The situation becomes even more serious when a person who enjoys favour with superior abuses that privileged position to oppress subordinates. Unnecessarily assigning excessive workloads to subordinates, humiliating or threatening them, forcing them to take on tasks that one does not want to do oneself, and shifting one's own mistakes onto subordinates are not examples of good leadership. Holding a position of authority does not give anyone the right to unfairly exploit the labour or rights of others. Rather, it is a limited supervisory authority entrusted to a person for the purpose of ensuring that their assigned duties and responsibilities are properly carried out.

Fair management of superiors

A superior should also treat all subordinates fairly. Rather than basing decisions on who is close to them or who flatters them, they should make decisions based on who faithfully fulfils their responsibilities and who contributes to the organization. Favouritism, personal relationships and

factionalism can place greater pressure on vulnerable employees within the organization and undermine unity and solidarity in the workplace.

Taking more than one's fair share of benefits or privileges also undermines fairness in the workplace. While it is right to receive the benefits and opportunities one is entitled to based on one's duties, position or authority, using one's position, connections or favour from superiors to gain unfair advantages over others is an unjust practice.

Under such circumstances, hardworking and less diligent employees may end up receiving the same benefits, while those who do not perform their duties may receive greater privileges. Hardworking employees may also be required to take on heavier workloads without receiving due recognition. When this happens, employees may become demoralized and begin to think, "There is no point in working hard if it makes no difference." In the long run, this can seriously undermine the performance and productivity of the workplace.

Moreover, an employee's value should not be measured by their closeness to or ability to curry favour with superiors, but solely by their abilities, skills, integrity, sense of responsibility and contribution to the organization. Superiors should also evaluate employees based on actual work results and performance rather than placing their trust only in those who flatter them.

At the same time, it should not be hastily assumed that "everyone who does not work hard is exploiting labour." There may be underlying reasons for

failure to fulfil work responsibilities, such as health issues, family difficulties, unclear job responsibilities, inadequate training or poor management. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the root causes of a problem and address them appropriately. However, constantly accepting irresponsible behaviour under the guise of excuses can also result in unfairness to others.

Work is not something people do merely to earn an income; it is also a place where a person's sense of responsibility, discipline, social ethics and individual human values are reflected. Therefore, employees should honestly contribute their labour and time in return for the salary and benefits they receive. Relying on the labour of others instead of doing one's own work amounts to taking advantage of other people's time, while unfairly exploiting the labour of subordinates by abusing one's position also infringes upon their rights.

Therefore, to build a good workplace, it is necessary to strike a balance between "asserting one's rights" and "faithfully fulfilling one's responsibilities". Just as superiors must demonstrate fair and responsible leadership, subordinates must also work with discipline, honesty and a strong sense of responsibility. Only by building a workplace culture in which no one unfairly exploits the labour of others, everyone takes responsibility for their own duties, and employees respect one another's rights can the long-term development of the organization and the interests of its workers be protected and promoted simultaneously.

In today's digital world, technology has greatly changed many areas of human life, especially education. In the past, education mainly depended on traditional classroom teaching in schools, colleges, and universities. However, the development of the Internet and digital technologies has created new opportunities for students to learn anytime and anywhere. As a result, online education has become an important part of modern education systems. Although online learning provides many benefits, it also has

some limitations. Therefore, online education should be considered a supportive method that works together with traditional classroom education rather than replacing it completely.

One of the main advantages of online education is flexibility. Students can learn at their own speed and choose study times that fit their personal schedules. This is especially helpful for working people, adult learners, and students who have other responsibilities. As a result, more people can continue their education while managing their

Online Education as a Supportive Part of the Education System

By Than Zaw (Homalin)

daily activities.

Another important benefit of online education is that it increases access to learning opportunities. Students who live in rural or remote areas can access educational materials

and courses that may not be available in their local communities. Through online platforms, learners can study courses from universities and educational institutions around the world without being limited by geographical

location.

Online education can also reduce the cost of learning. Students do not need to spend much money on transport, accommodation, and other expenses related to attending physical classes.



Therefore, online learning can provide more affordable educational opportunities for people from different economic backgrounds.

Moreover, online education helps students improve their digital skills. By using online learning tools such as video conferencing platforms, virtual classrooms, and Learning Management Systems (LMS), students become more familiar with technology. These digital skills are valuable in both academic and professional environments.

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ARTICLE/SCI/TECH  
WORLD

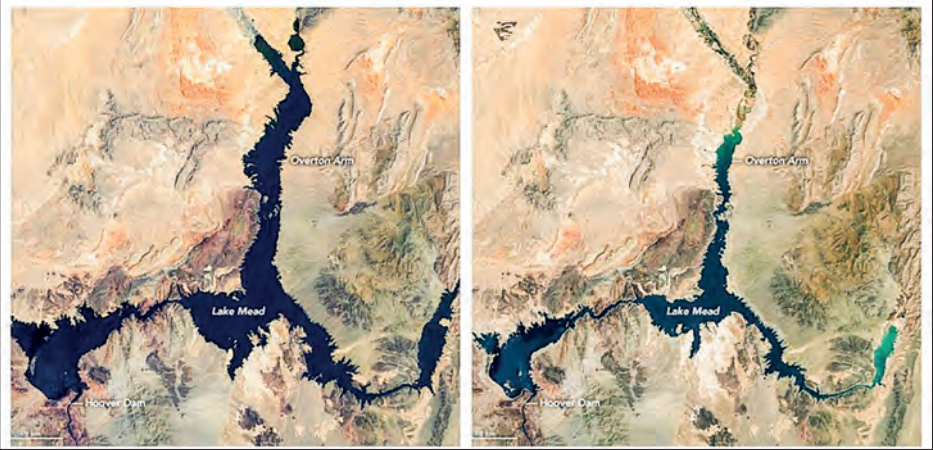
# Climate change leaves its mark on America’s largest reservoir

*The bathtub ring, which now hovers 186 feet (57 metres) above the surface of the water is a vivid illustration of the reality of a changing climate.*

FROM high in the hills around Las Vegas, tourist Choune Osterero gazes down at the line of chalky mineral deposits left on the rocks around Lake Mead as the level of America’s largest reservoir has dropped over the last quarter of a century of drought.

The bathtub ring, which now hovers 186 feet (57 metres) above the surface of the water is a vivid illustration of the reality of a changing climate.

The river supplies water to more than 40 million Americans across seven states. Along the way it is stoppered by the two



Combo photo taken by NASA satellites shows the water level change between 6 July 2000 (L) and 3 July 2022 in Lake Mead, Nevada, the United States. **PHOTO: NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY**

massive dams 300 miles (480 kilometres) apart that created Lake Mead and Lake Powell, which store the snowmelt-fed river water for year-round

distribution, and whose huge turbines generate electricity for hundreds of thousands of households.

Lake Mead is now just a quarter full, while Lake

Powell hit an all-time low in August. Both lakes are dangerously close to the threshold where electricity generation would be affected. — AFP

## US military builds small nuclear power reactors

THE US Army announced Wednesday it has awarded a combined \$2.2 billion to vendors to build and operate small nuclear reactors at five military bases in the United States.

The Army aims to get the first one up and running

by September 2028, a target set by President Donald Trump in a May 2025 executive order aimed at accelerating development of next-generation civil nuclear power.

“We now know that our domestic electric grid is po-

tentially at risk,” Jeff Waksman, a senior Army official in charge of facilities and energy, told a press conference. “In a conflict, we also know that we will not necessarily be able to move fossil fuels easily wherever we need them to go,” he

added.

Five companies, including startups Antares Nuclear and Radiant Industries and long-standing nuclear industry players Westinghouse and General Atomics, have been selected to do the work. — AFP

## Citizens help researchers map Shanghai’s hidden wildlife, preserve biodiversity

AMID the skyscrapers of Shanghai, residents armed with acoustic sensors are teaming up with researchers to track the city’s hidden bat population. Zhou Xinran and her eight-year-old daughter are among them. Using a matchbox-sized ultrasound detector linked to Zhou’s smartphone, they search for bats in their neighborhood, recording their calls, locations and video footage of sightings.

“At first we thought bats were mysterious,” Zhou told Xinhua. “But after joining the programme, we learned they are an important part of the ecosystem.

Their presence shows the city’s environment is improving.”

Zhou and her daughter are among more than 300 volunteers taking part in the “City Bat Hunt”, a citizen-science program led by the Shanghai Natural History Museum and several research institutions across the Yangtze River Delta.

Volunteers submit their observations through a program on the social media platform WeChat, contributing to a growing biodiversity database that researchers at Shanghai’s Fudan University can use for further analysis. — Xinhua



Shanghai residents use mobile acoustic sensors to track local bat populations. **PHOTO: UNSPLASH**

## Online Education as a Supportive Part of the Education System

FROM PAGE 9

In addition, online learning encourages independent learning. Students need to manage their own schedules, complete assignments, and take responsibility for their progress. These activities help develop important skills such as self-discipline, time management, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Despite its advantages, online education also has several challenges.

One major problem is the requirement for reliable Internet access and suitable technology. In some developing areas, poor Internet connections, power shortages, and limited access to computers or mobile devices can make online learning difficult.

Another challenge is the lack of direct interaction between teachers and students. Some subjects require practical activities, detailed explanations, and immediate feedback

from teachers. Without face-to-face communication, some students may find it difficult to fully understand lessons or remain engaged.

Furthermore, online learning requires students to have strong self-discipline and motivation. Without proper time management, learners may delay their work, lose focus, or fail to complete their courses successfully.

Online learning can also create distractions.

Social media, entertainment websites, online games, and activities at home may affect students’ concentration and reduce their learning effectiveness. Therefore, students need to create a suitable study environment and develop good learning habits.

Another issue is maintaining academic honesty. Since many online assessments are completed remotely, preventing cheating and plagiarism can be

more challenging. Educational institutions need to use effective assessment methods and technology to ensure fairness and maintain academic quality.

In conclusion, online education plays an important supporting role in modern education systems. It provides flexibility, wider access to learning, lower costs, improved digital skills, and opportunities for independent learning. However, challenges such as limited technology

access, reduced personal interaction, lack of self-discipline, distractions, and academic integrity issues must also be considered.

Therefore, online education should not completely replace traditional classroom learning. Instead, combining online education with face-to-face teaching through a blended learning approach can create a more effective, flexible, and inclusive education system for future generations.



# Chinese-style designs win favour at Central European fashion fair

Major Central European fashion event gathers professionals from thirty-five international regions.

ON an otherwise simple blouse, a traditional Chinese knot stood out as a small but distinctive detail. The piece was part of a collection presented by Chinese fashion brand OMYTONE at the three-day Trends Expo near Lodz, central Poland, which opened on Tuesday. A major apparel trade event in Central Europe, the fair has brought together fashion industry professionals from 35 countries and regions for business talks, trend-spotting and showcases of new



Traditional Chinese cultural elements attract European fashion buyers at trade expo. PHOTO: XINHUA

collections. Across OMYTONE's collection, traditional Chinese elements, including pankou (knot buttons), hand embroidery and auspicious-cloud motifs, were woven into contemporary styles, impressing clients from Germany, Ireland, Romania and Hungary. Chinese-inspired de-

signs could also be seen among exhibitors. At a booth run by a Kyrgyz company, a Qipao-style shirt was on display. Manager Akylai Kudaiberdieva said the company began introducing Chinese elements after noticing their growing popularity in the market, and seeing such styles adopted by international fashion brands. "Our European clients have shown strong interest in these designs, and they have been selling well," she added. — Xinhua

## S Africa sees 12.5% rise in tourist arrivals in July



International tourist arrivals to South Africa increase significantly in July month. PHOTO: FOKKEBOK / ISTOCK

SOUTH Africa received nearly one million foreign tourists in July, up 12.5 per cent from a year earlier, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) said Wednesday. The number of overnight visitors, or tourists, reached 991,696 in July, compared with 881,393 in the same month last year, according to Stats SA's latest International Tourism report. A total of 3.15 million travelers, including arrivals, departures and transit passengers, passed through South Africa's ports of entry and exit during the month. Of them, about 2.31 million were foreign travelers and 844,503 were South African residents. Among 1.27 million foreign arrivals, 1.24 million were classified as visitors, including 251,049 same-day visitors and 991,696 overnight tourists. Tourists from countries in the Southern African Development Community continued to account for the largest share, totaling 785,469 in July. Another 193,637 tourists came from overseas markets, while 11,751 came from other African countries. — Xinhua

## Guide to measuring video game success metrics

THE video game industry is notoriously tight-lipped about its numbers, filled with members-only metrics like wishlists, pre-orders and player numbers, so it can be hard to know which games have actually proven popular and turned a profit. Industry associations such as France's SELL periodically release sales figures based on data taken from game publishers. Private research firms also make their own estimates, based for example on publisher or public data as well as their own user panels and rankings. But publishers and studios often highlight indicators that are most favourable to their messaging, which vary depending on the type of game, experts told AFP ahead of the Gamescom trade show now underway in Cologne, Germany. Online stores operated by console makers as well as gaming platforms like Steam or Epic open "wishlists" for players to register their interest before a game is available to play. — AFP



For free-to-play games like 'Fortnite', experts say the metric to watch is playing time. PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Pilgrims missing in border floods

SCORES of pilgrims from across the world are among the hundreds missing after deadly floods swept through the Nepal-Tibet border region, popular Indian spiritual leader Sadhguru said Thursday. The Hindu guru, whose real name is Jagdish Vasudev, posted an emotional video message from Tibet on his social media accounts, with several million followers. Some 77 pilgrims were at the Nepal-China border immigration office when the flood hit on Wednesday, he said in a post alongside a terrifying clip of a surveillance video from the Chinese side of the frontier, when a wall of mud and debris crashed over the border building. The pilgrims were part of several Hindu groups organized by Isha Foundation of Sadhguru, who had been visiting the snow-capped Mount Kailash in Tibet, sacred also to Tibetan Buddhists. — AFP

#### Actor Tim Curry dies at eighty years

TIM Curry, the English actor best known for his star turn as Dr Frank-N-Furter in the cult classic musical film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show", has died at the age of 80, US media reported Wednesday. Curry, who had struggled with his health for more than a decade after a debilitating stroke, died at his home in Los Angeles, TMZ said, citing unnamed sources. The actor, who launched his career in London's West End theater district, first played the gender-bending mad scientist in "Rocky Horror" before reprising the role in the 1975 film, which is still a staple of midnight cinema showings more than 50 years later. His other credits include the sinister clown Pennywise in a 1990 television miniseries version of Stephen King's "It" and films that included "Annie", "Charlie's Angels" and "Muppet Treasure Island". — AFP

#### Transgender woman granted legal gender change

A Lebanese judge told AFP on Wednesday that he has allowed a transgender woman to update her personal status record and change her gender, a rare move in a country where LGBTQ issues remain highly taboo. Lebanon has never been a safe haven for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer people, but the community has long been visible and outspoken, defying crackdowns on its bars, nightclubs and community centres. Lebanese law stipulates that official documents may be changed by a judge to represent a person's reality. Judge Wassim Zahreddine said he based his ruling on a decision by Beirut's court of appeals in 2016 that said a transgender man had the right to change his name and gender on his legal records. "I acted out of conviction, I applied the law, and out of my own humanity," judge Wassim Zahreddine told AFP by phone. His ruling to approve the change may still be appealed. It was filed in April, six years after the woman filed her request, but fear of a backlash led to it only being published in a Lebanese judicial magazine in July with her approval. — AFP



# ECONOMY

## WORLD

### Russia's LNG and total gas production rebound in Jan-July 2026

*Strong performance rebounds after previous year liquefied natural gas production downturn.*

RUSSIA posted year-on-year growth in both liquefied natural gas (LNG) and total gas production in January-July 2026, according to national statistics agency Rosstat on Wednesday.

The country's LNG output rose 12 per cent to 20.6 million tonnes in the first seven months of the year.

The strong performance follows a downturn in 2025, when Russia's full-year LNG output fell 3.6 per cent to 32.9 million tonnes.



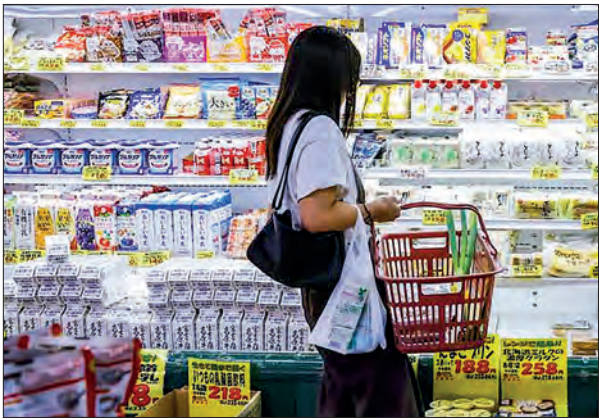
Russian natural gas and LNG output record significant growth this year. **PHOTO: YEGOR ALEYEV / TASS**

Meanwhile, Russia's combined production of natural gas and associated petroleum gas increased by 3.7 per cent year-on-year to 397 billion cubic metres in January-July 2026. — Xinhua

### Japan keeps view on economy for Aug, cautions about quake, rain impact

THE Japanese government retained the view Thursday that the economy is recovering at a moderate pace in its monthly assessment for August but called for caution over the impact of the recent massive earthquake in southwestern Japan and torrential rain near Tokyo.

"Attention should be given to the impact of the situation in the Middle East and natural disasters," the Cabinet Office said in the monthly economic report, in the wake of a magnitude 7.1



Japan maintains moderate economic recovery view despite recent natural disaster impacts. **PHOTO: KYODO**

earthquake that struck southwestern Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture and heavy rain that hit Chiba Prefecture.

With areas hit by the 28 July earthquake hosting numerous automotive

and semiconductor-related factories, disruptions in output could impact supply chains including for production by major automakers, the Cabinet Office said.

The torrential rain in Chiba in mid-August damaged facilities related to agriculture and fisheries, it said.

By category, the government raised the assessment for corporate profits to "improving", and for housing construction to generally "flat". — Kyodo

### UK energy price cap to rise 4% from Oct: Ofgem

BRITISH household energy price cap will rise four per cent in the fourth quarter of 2026, the country's energy regulator Ofgem said on Wednesday.

From 1 October to 31 December, the price cap will rise by 60 pounds (about US\$82) per year to 1,723 pounds (about \$2,343) for the average household using both electricity and gas, according to Ofgem.

The energy price cap protects around 22 million households on default tariffs by limiting the maximum rates and standing charges that energy suppliers can charge. It is updated every three months to reflect changes in the underlying costs of supplying energy.

The rise from October is pushing household bills to their highest per-unit level in three years, and the price cap will further rise in January next year, according to energy consultancy Cornwall Insight.

Mixed signals over the next stages of the Middle East conflict have seen gas prices spike over recent weeks, it said, adding that this combined with a summer heatwave across Europe, supply disruption in Norway and strong demand from Asia have led to low winter gas stock levels. — Xinhua



British regulator raises energy price cap ahead of approaching winter season. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE**

### Argentine lawmakers pass central bank reform bill

THE lower house of Argentina's National Congress on Wednesday approved a bill limiting the central bank's ability to print money, a reform boosted by President Javier Milei as a way to rein in inflation.

The Argentine Chamber of Deputies passed the measure 144-109, with nine abstentions, and now moves to the Senate.

"Many thanks to the National Deputies for supporting this measure to reform the BCRA (Central Bank of Argentina)," Milei wrote in a post on X. "A fundamental step to eradicating inflation from the lives of decent Argentines...!!!"

The bill proposes to limit the financing of Argentina's Treasury with printing money, which can put upward pressure on prices.

If it passes the Senate, the measure will also limit the Central Bank's authority to issue credit to specific sectors of the economy. — AFP

### US inflation remains elevated in July

THE US Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge came in slightly above expectations, with the annual inflation rate holding steady at 3.7 per cent, data released by the Commerce Department

showed on Wednesday.

The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index increased by a seasonally adjusted 0.2 per cent for the month, slightly exceeding expectations, while core PCE inflation,

which excludes volatile food and energy prices, matched forecasts with a 0.2 per cent monthly increase and a 3.3 per cent year-over-year rise.

The Commerce Department report also revealed that personal

income rose by 0.4 per cent, while consumer spending increased by a modest 0.2 per cent. Upward pressure on prices was notably visible in the services sector, where prices rose 0.3 per cent. — Xinhua



## Jordan signs major gas supply deal

JORDAN on Wednesday signed contracts worth US\$70 million with the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) to supply natural gas to two industrial cities, as part of the kingdom's program under its Economic Modernization Vision, according to a statement from Jordan's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. The contract for Al-Muwaqar Industrial City was awarded to a consortium of Petrojet and Ahmad Yousef Al-Tarawneh and Partners, while the contract for Rawdah Industrial City went to TAQA Arabia Group, the ministry said. The projects are

financed by the ADFD under a memorandum of understanding with the Jordanian government. Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Saleh Kharabshah said the projects aim to reduce energy costs for the industrial sector, boost the competitiveness of local products, expand production, and help attract investment and create jobs. Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi, director general of the ADFD, noted the fund's relationship with Jordan dates back to 1974, with total financial support reaching 9.4 billion dirhams (about \$2.56 billion). — Xinhua

## Vietnamese PM vows to safeguard development interests of Chinese enterprises

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Le Minh Hung said Wednesday that the Vietnamese government will effectively safeguard the development rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and work to create a model of mutually beneficial and win-win co-operation. Hung made the remarks while chairing a meeting in the capital Hanoi with Chinese enterprises operating in Vietnam. He also spoke highly of the investment achievements of Chinese



Chinese enterprises operating in Vietnam attend a meeting chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Le Minh Hung in Hanoi, Vietnam, 26 August 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

along with Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam He Wei and representatives from the China Chamber of Commerce and Chinese enterprises in infrastructure, energy, high-end manufacturing, telecommunications and finance. The Chinese ambassador expressed hope that the Vietnamese government will continue to improve the business environment and provide support for Chinese enterprises to take root and grow in the country. — Xinhua

## US distillate fuel oil inventories fall as prices surge

US inventories of distillate fuel oil fell last week as retail diesel prices rose to their highest level in more than four years, government data showed Wednesday. Distillate stocks fell by 2.2 million barrels in the week ending 21 August to 103.4 million barrels, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) said. The level was about 14 per



A biodiesel price is displayed at a gas station in Monrovia, Los Angeles County, California, the United States, 31 March 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

cent below the five-year average for this time of year and 9.5 per cent below a year earlier. — Xinhua

### EDUSMITH YANGON LIMITED (the “Company”) (under Members’ Voluntary Winding Up)

Notice under Section 147, 152 (a) of the Insolvency Law and Rule 9 and 15 of the Insolvency Rules As per special resolution duly passed in writing on 24 August 2026 by all of the members of the company:

- The process of members’ voluntary winding up will proceed and take effect from 24 August 2026.
- Daw Cho Thandar Soe (CPA No. 498 and MAIP Membership No.00225) shall be and is hereby appointed as liquidator of the Company for the purpose of such members’ voluntary winding up and is authorized to carry out the Company’s affairs in respect of such winding up; and
- All of the creditors (if any) of the Company are required to contact the liquidator before 27 September 2026 with detailed particulars of their claim attached with complete supporting documents. The Company shall not take any responsibility for or settle any debts that are claimed and submitted after such date.

**Daw Cho Thandar Soe**  
**B.Com CPA (CPA No.498 and MAIP No. 00225), Liquidator**  
No. 271, 13 Street, 3 Block, South Okkapala Township, Yangon.  
Tel: 09-5113498 Date: 28 August 2026

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Limin Chemical Co.,Ltd., are transferring from Limin Chemical (Myanmar) Co.,Ltd. to Golden Bee International Trading Company Limited. So, any objection regarding to this transfer can notify to this address: Co-Secretary,Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein. for the following Pesticide within (14) days from this announcement.

| Sr. No. | Trade Name        | A.I Name                                        | Reg Type          | Reg No     |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 1       | Doublezole 300 EC | Difenoconazole 150g/l + Propiconazole 150g/l EC | Full Registration | F2025-4022 |
| 2       | Farmerfose 80 WP  | Fosetyl-aluminium 80% WP                        | Full Registration | F2022-4028 |
| 3       | Farmround 41 SL   | Glyphosate 41% SL                               | Full Registration | F2022-4029 |
| 4       | Supercol 70 WP    | Propineb 70% WP                                 | Full Registration | F2022-4034 |
| 5       | Farmercynil 25 WP | Cymoxanil 25% WP                                | Full Registration | F2022-4026 |
| 6       | Farmertai 25 WP   | Metalaxyl 25% WP                                | Full Registration | F2022-4033 |
| 7       | Mancynil 72 WP    | Cymoxanil 8% + Mancozeb 64% WP                  | Full Registration | F2022-4027 |
| 8       | Superadi 325 SC   | Azoxystrobin 200g/l + Difenoconazole 125g/l SC  | Full Registration | F2022-4023 |

Address: Golden Bee International Trading Company Limited

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0407N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0407N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-8-2026** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.**

Advertise with us Hotline: 09 255597511



# ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

## Russia may use digital currency for settlements with friendly countries

Moscow explores alternative digital payment systems to reduce US dollar dependence.

RUSSIA is not ruling out the possibility of using digital currency for cooperation 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 geopolitical weapon. Exces-



Photo taken on 24 March 2022 shows roble banknotes and coins in Moscow, capital of Russia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

sive dependence on the US dollar has come to be perceived as a vulnerability, prompting many coun-

tries 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. “Efforts are needed to create channels of interaction across a wide range of industries that would provide an alternative to the system built by the West and be free from its control. — SPUTNIK

## Japan to launch travel subsidy programme for Kyushu to aid quake recovery

THE Japanese government on Thursday decided on support measures for areas hit by the earthquake in Kumamoto Prefecture last month, including a travel subsidy across the country’s southwestern main island of Kyushu.

The plan, decided at an emergency disaster response headquarters meeting, will subsidize accommodation and tour costs across all seven prefectures of Kyushu, with the Japan Tourism Agency set to flesh out the details.

The government is eyeing a maximum discount rate of 60 per cent for accommodation facilities in Kumamoto and Kagoshima prefectures, with the other five prefectures



Government approves multi-billion yen support package to revive Kyushu tourism sector. **PHOTO: JAPAN NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION**

to be capped at 50 per cent, according to government sources. The Cabinet is set

to approve on Friday the release of 147.8 billion yen (\$927 million) in reserve

funds from the fiscal 2026 budget to fund the package. — Kyodo

## US plans maritime prize court revival

THE US Justice Department is preparing to revive long-dormant maritime “prize courts” to speed up the military capture of Iranian oil tankers and cargo as US property, Bloomberg

reported.

The plan would allow the US to seize oil and other cargo from enemy or even neutral vessels, sell it, and transfer the proceeds to the US Treasury.

Aaron Reitz, a US attorney involved in the initiative, confirmed that the Justice Department is “now reviving” what he called an “ancient body of maritime law”. The move

is expected to face legal challenges, as prize courts have gone largely unused since the Spanish-American War of 1898 and have been dormant since World War II. — SPUTNIK

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### French Alps cable car accident

A cable car hit a crane in the French resort of Alpe d’Huez leaving 23 injured, three critically, officials said Thursday.

There were about 50 people in the cabin of the cable car when the accident happened Wednesday morning at altitude of 2,300 metres (7,500 feet), Alpe d’Huez mayor Jean-Yves Noyrey told AFP.

“There are mainly people in shock and cases of concussion,” Noyrey said, adding that he believed most of the injured had left hospital.

Cable cars are designed to stabilize themselves if they brake suddenly, but “on hitting the crane, the car tilted, and the people inside slid”, the mayor said. “They thought they were going to die,” he added, “but the operator reacted well by reversing to level the cabin”. — AFP

#### Brazil sues Discord for \$100M in child safety case

THE Brazilian government on Wednesday said it was suing the Discord messaging platform for nearly \$100 million in damages over its alleged failure to protect children from harmful content and demanded it adopt stronger safeguards.

Brazil’s National Data Protection Agency (ANPD) ordered Discord to suspend livestreams earlier this month after a 13-year-old girl was goaded into killing herself during a livestream.

A government statement said the lawsuit filed Tuesday in the capital, Brasilia, was brought after failed negotiations with Discord, whose proposals were “deemed insufficient to eliminate the identified risks”. — AFP

#### US strategic oil reserves fall to 44-year low

THE US Strategic Petroleum Reserve has dropped to 289.7 million barrels, its lowest level since 1982, according to Energy Department data.

The main factor has been the large-scale release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to stabilize global markets, prompted by the conflict with Iran.

US and Israeli military actions against Iran, which began in late February 2026, disrupted oil flows, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, creating a significant global supply shortage. — SPUTNIK

#### Germany records severe heat deaths

GERMANY has registered a record 15,800 heat-related deaths this summer as Europe struggles through a series of punishing heatwaves, the national public health institute said Thursday. The worst affected group were people over 75, and around 9,600 deaths were recorded in one week in late June when Germany baked in temperatures over 40C, said the Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

Another 4,000 heat-related deaths were recorded between late July and mid-August, said the institute in its latest update.

Heat and drought have battered much of Europe this summer, fuelling a spike in heat-related mortality, wildfires, devastating many crops and dropping water levels in major rivers. France, Britain and Spain have all reported thousands of excess summer deaths. — AFP



SPORTS

M-League opens on 28 Aug with major changes, new look

THE 2026-2027 M-League season, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar League with Grand Royal, AYA Bank and AYA Pay as key sponsors, will kick off on 28 August. Defending champions Shan United will face Yangon City, who have made extensive pre-season preparations.

The opening fixtures will see Chinland face Yadanabon at YUSC Stadium and Thitsa Arman take on Myawady at Thanlyin Thihadipa Stadium on 28 August. On 29 August, Dagon Star United will meet Hanthawady United at Thanlyin Thihadipa



Shan United and Yangon United players competing during the pre-season MFF Charity Shield. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

Stadium, while Ayeyawady United will face the Sports and Physical Education Institute at Patheingyi Stadium. On 30 August, Yangon City will host Shan United at Padetha Stadium in South Okkalapa, while Yangon United will face Sagaing

United at YUSC Stadium. The first round will run from 28 August to 21 December at venues in Yangon, Taunggyi, Patheingyi and Bago. Yadanabon will play its home matches at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay from the second round onwards.

The league enters the season with a new identity, including a new name and logo, increased club subsidies and higher prize money. The AYA Pay Player of the Match award, for example, will rise from K300,000 to K1 million.

First held in 2009, the M-League will enter its 17th season. Shan United have won seven titles, Yangon United five and Yadanabon four in the previous 16 seasons. With most clubs strengthening their squads during the pre-season, competition is expected to be stronger this season. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Bouaddi needs time at Man City despite 100m euro fee, says Maresca

AYYOUB Bouaddi is "ready to go" for his Manchester City debut at Crystal Palace on Friday, but Enzo Maresca called for patience with the most expensive teenager in Premier League history.

A star of Morocco's run to the World Cup quarterfinals, the 18-year-old joined City on Wednesday for an initial 100 million euros (£85.6 million, \$117 million) from Lille.

City moved for Bouaddi after selling a trio of midfielders in Spain's World Cup-winning captain

Rodri, Tijjani Reijnders and Nico Gonzalez in recent weeks.

"We will see how long it is in terms of adaptation but for sure he is ready to go," Maresca told his pre-match press conference on Thursday.

"He doesn't look 18 — he looks older which is important but in this case we need to go slowly because he is young, came from a different country.

"No rush for him. For sure he will help us now and in the future. But he is just 18.



Manchester City manager Enzo Maresca discusses young signing during team press conference. PHOTO: AFP

"It is my job and it's the club's job to manage him in the best way, don't put pressure on him, he is young and he needs time." — AFP

Czech pair win US Open

THE Czech team of Karolina Muchova and Jakub Mensik won the US Open mixed doubles Wednesday, saving two match points in a nervy semifinal and then pulling through in a tight final.

The pair survived a second-set pummeling in the championship decider in New York to edge Belinda Bencic of Switzerland and Flavio Cobolli of Italy, 6-3, 1-6, 10-6.

Mensik, a singles



Czech duo celebrate historic Grand Slam mixed doubles championship in New York. PHOTO: AFP

semifinalist at this year's French Open, sealed the triumph with a searing ace to the backhand corner.

Another Mensik ace saved one of two match points earlier in the evening when the Czech pair edged the Russians Mirra Andreieva and Andrey Rublev, 5-4, 3-5, 11-9.

The back-to-back wins secured the first Grand Slam title for both Mensik and Muchova, who lost a heartbreaking Wimbledon singles final in July in three sets to fellow Czech, Linda Noskova. — AFP

2026 Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw tourney continues



Players clash in a tackle during the 2026 Inter-State & Region Sepak Takraw Tournament.

THE round-robin matches in the men's and women's regu team events of the 2026 Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw Tournament continued at Gymnasium A of the Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on yesterday.

The tournament is jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation to develop new generations

of athletes and raise the standard of the sport.

In the men's event, Kachin, Yangon, Shan, Bago, Kayin, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing secured victories, while the women's event saw wins for Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Mon, Chin, Mandalay, Rakhine, Yangon and Bago.

The final round-robin matches and quarterfinals in both events will be held on 28 August. Sports fans can attend free of charge. — MNA/KZL

Barca sign Croatia goalkeeper Livakovic

BARCELONA have signed Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic from Fenerbahce, the Catalan giants said on Thursday.

The 31-year-old stopper moved for a fee which could rise to four million euros (\$4.7m) according to Spanish reports.

"The Croatian goalkeeper signs for four seasons up to 30 June 2030,"

said Barca in a statement.

Livakovic, who was loaned to Girona last season by Fenerbahce but did not play, made penalty shoot-out saves against Japan and Brazil in the 2022 World Cup, helping Croatia reach the semifinals.

Livakovic, who also played for Croatia at this summer's World Cup, joins veteran Pole Wojciech Szczesny as back-up to Barca's number one, Joan Garcia. — AFP



Croatia's goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic joined Barcelona from Fenerbahce on Thursday as back-up for Joan Garcia. PHOTO: AFP





# WORLD

## Jordan signs climate smart farming project pact

JORDAN'S Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Wednesday signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen farmers' capacity to adapt to climate change through training programmes and water-efficient agricultural technologies. According to a ministry statement, the agreement was signed by Jordanian Minister of Agriculture Saeb Abdel Haleem Mufleh Khreisat and FAO Acting Representative in Jordan Paul Opio.

The agreement is part of the "Building Resilience to Cope with Climate

Change in Jordan through Improving Water Use Efficiency in the Agriculture Sector (BRCCJ)" project, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by the FAO in partnership with Jordanian ministries and the UN Development Programme.

Under the agreement, 44 farmer field schools and 44 field days will be organized in the governorates of Madaba, Karak, Tafilah and Ma'an, south of Amman. The activities are expected to benefit 880 farmers with practical knowledge on climate-smart agriculture and water-use efficiency. — Xinhua



Hydroponic vertical farming grows plants in stacked vertical layers using a nutrient-rich water solution instead of soil. **PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

## Norway's King Harald in hospital

THE health of Norway's 89-year-old King Harald, hospitalized with a blood disease, has deteriorated and he is in an "extremely serious" condition, the palace said Thursday. Queen Sonja and Crown Prince Haakon, who is acting as regent during his father's illness, have cancelled all royal engagements, said a palace statement. Norwegian media said they were at the king's bedside.

Europe's oldest reigning monarch has been in

hospital in Oslo since 17 August suffering from haemolytic anaemia, a condition caused by an abnormally rapid destruction of red blood cells which leads to fatigue and shortness of breath. "His Majesty the King's health condition is extremely serious," it said, providing no other details.

The queen, Haakon and his wife Mette-Marit were all at the king's bedside, with media showing them arriving at the hospital. — AFP

## India officially announces hosting BRICS Summit next month

India on Thursday officially announced the hosting of the 18<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12-13 September, bringing together BRICS member and partner countries, as well as the outreach invitees.

The theme of the forthcoming BRICS Summit would be "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability".

At the summit, the leaders will exchange views on strengthening intra-BRICS cooperation on common priorities and share perspectives on global and regional matters of mutual importance, said India's Ministry of External Affairs in an official state-

*Leaders exchange views on strengthening regional cooperation and mutual global priorities.*



India officially prepares to host the eighteenth annual BRICS New Delhi Summit. **PHOTO: GLOBAL TIMES**

ment. It added that a total of 350 meetings and high-level engagements in over 25 cities across the country. — Xinhua

## Trump declares emergency to protect power grid

US President Donald Trump has signed an order to declare a national emergency to protect the power system from foreign threats, including attempted sabotage and cyberattacks, the White House said in a statement.

"The Order declares a national emergency under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and the National Emergencies Act with respect to the unusual and extraordinary foreign threat to the United States involving bulk-power systems produced abroad that may present national security

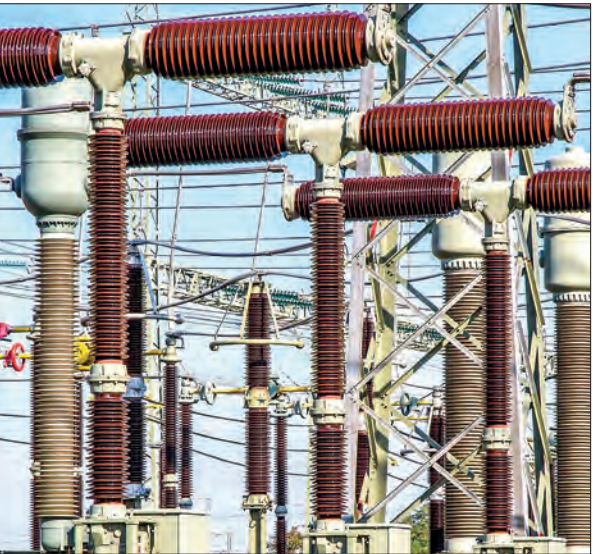
vulnerabilities," the statement reads.

The document prohibits the acquisition, imports, transfer or installation of foreign electrical equipment, as well as critical software and digital components, if transactions involving them pose a risk of unauthorized access to or disruption of the stability of the US power grid.

In his order, Trump also directs US Energy Secretary Chris Wright, together with the heads of other relevant agencies, to develop regulations for implementing the restrictions, identify foreign sup-

pliers subject to the ban, and establish rules for the continued operation of im-

ported equipment already in use, according to the fact sheet. — SPUTNIK



United States declares emergency over cyber threats against critical electrical grids. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**