

Ministries Urged to Prioritize Waterway Maintenance, Flow Surveys

In Ayeyawady Region, erosion of the embankment caused by river-bank erosion along the Toe River, a tributary of the Ayeyawady River, occurred from the morning of 25 August at a location between mileposts 11/6 and 11/7 of the Nyaungdonkyun Embankment near Ganchaung Village in Nyaungdon Township. The affected section of the embankment is approximately 300 feet long and 45 feet wide.

SEE PAGE 3

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the efforts for prevention of bank erosion at the Nyaungdonkyun embankment yesterday.

Tatmadaw and police members, firefighters, social rescue and relief teams and residents join efforts in response to the erosion of the Nyaungdonkyun Embankment.



Traditional Kayin white-thread-tying ceremony held in Taninthayi



A ceremony for traditional Kayin white-thread-tying festival in progress yesterday in Taninthayi Region.

THE traditional Kayin white-thread-tying ceremony, held during the month of Wagoung, is a cultural heritage handed down from generation to generation by Kayin ancestors. It is held annually from the first waxing day of Wagoung until the

SEE PAGE 4

21 rice export zones established across over 10,000 acres

THE Myanmar Agribusiness Public Company (MAPCO), in line with government and Myanmar Rice Federation

guidance, is conducting 21 Rice Export Zones (REZ) covering more than 10,000 acres.

SEE PAGE 4

Yangon-Toegyaungkalay-Dagon University train service to begin on 1 Sept

TO ensure comfortable travel for the public and students of Dagon University, Myanma Railways will launch extended train services on the Yangon-Toegyaungkalay-Dagon University route starting 1 September.

The service will feature a battery-powered locomotive with six ordinary-class carriages, each capable of accommodating 62 passengers. A total of 12 round trips will be made daily.

For students commuting to school, the train will depart from Yangon Railway Station at 6:15 am, arriving at Dagon University

Station by 7:30 am. The return journey will leave Dagon University Station at 3:15 pm and arrive back at Yangon Railway Station at 4:35 pm.

The train will stop at

all stations along the route, with a ticket price of just K500 for all destinations.

There are also plans to offer additional train journeys based on demand. — TWA/ZS



A train operating on the Yangon-Toegyaungkalay-Dagon University railway.

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NATIONAL

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 29 August 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal - North Odisha coasts, India, persists. It is likely to become more marked and move west-northwestwards across North Odisha - Gangetic West Bengal, India, during the next 48 hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 30 August 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and lower Sagaing regions, fairly widespread in Magway Region and Chin and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

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 11-13 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30 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 30 August 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 29 August 2026

ACCORDING to observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal - North Odisha coasts, India, persists. It is likely to become more marked and move west-northwestwards across North Odisha - Gangetic West Bengal, India, during the next 48 hours. — DMH

Announcement on Digital Smart Meters Installation

- Those who wish to use electricity but do not yet have electricity meters may apply through the website to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy's head office for new Digital Smart Meters for residential, commercial and industrial use starting from 15 August 2026. The online application system is intended to enable applicants to obtain meters more quickly, avoid the involvement of intermediaries and staff, and save time and expenses. For applications that meet the Department's requirements, the applicable charges, including supervision, wiring and connection fees, remain unchanged and must be paid at the prescribed rates, as previously announced through Myanma Radio and Television and state-owned newspapers.
- Following the announcement, 9,686 applications for new Digital Smart Meters were submitted through the website between 15 and 28 August 2026. Of these, 2,482 applications were returned to applicants because the required information or supporting documents were incomplete or

did not meet the prescribed requirements. The Department is processing the remaining 7,204 complete applications, and 1,331 meters have been installed to date. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy will continue reviewing the applications and install the new Digital Smart Meters as soon as possible. The online application system has enabled faster service, with the first meter installed within 27 hours of application.

- People who encounter difficulties when applying may contact the following telephone numbers for timely assistance. A User Guide is also available on the Ministry's website, www.moee.gov.mm.
 - Ministry of Electricity and Energy (Head Office): 067 3410460
 - YESC: 1717
 - MESC:1616, Hotlines: 02 4039330, 02 4073666, 02 4072618
 - Other regions and states :067 3410407, 09 682232600, 09 665432575

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

MPT staff join yoga activity to boost well-being



MPT staff in action in the eighth "TeamFit: Unite and Move" yoga activity. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

MPT staff participated in a yoga and wellness activity at MPT offices across Yangon Region and other

regions and states yesterday morning, according to the MPT head office in Yangon.

The eighth "TeamFit: Unite & Move" yoga and wellness activity was organized to promote a healthy lifestyle, mental well-being and a positive workplace culture. More than 230 employees from Yangon Region and other regions and states took part both in person and online.

Mr Hiroyuki Okai from MPTJO's Operations Department expressed appreciation to employees for their active par-

ticipation in the TeamFit programmes, saying that physical and mental well-being provides a strong foundation for personal development and success in the workplace.

The yoga activity aims to help employees reduce stress, improve their physical fitness and refresh their minds, thereby promoting a healthy balance between their daily lives and work through better physical and mental well-being. — Oktha/KZL

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 60

Issued at 8 am MST on 29 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, the strong development of the convective clouds and the unstable air condition over the Northeast Bay of Bengal such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Mon and Rakhine states and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin and (southern and eastern) Shan states from

this morning to 2 September 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, the strong development of the convective clouds and the unstable air conditions over the Northwest Bay of Bengal, such as 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

NATIONAL

President inspects livestock breeding activities in Twantay

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Union ministers, the chief minister of Yangon Region, the commander of the Yangon Command and other officials, inspected the ongoing livestock breeding activities in Twantay Township, Yangon Region, yesterday afternoon.

On arrival at the briefing hall, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu reported on the formation of zone-level committees, phased implementation of livestock breeding zones, breeding of various animals, production and sale of meat, fish and eggs, and measures

to provide adequate water, electricity, roads, shade trees and animal feed, and the implementation of the President's previous instructions.

After hearing the report, the President said that agricultural and livestock breeding zones are being implemented to sufficiently meet the daily demand for meat, fish, eggs and vegetables of more than seven million, nearly eight million people living in Yangon Region, and to enable the public to purchase and consume these products adequately at affordable prices. He emphasized that accurate and comprehensive ground-level data are essential when making plans for the development of a

region or a country. Such data must be used as the basis for calculations and the formulation of plans, which should then be systematically implemented to achieve the intended results. The officials of the relevant region and state governments need to make systematic calculations and plans to ensure that the public can purchase and consume sufficient quantities of meat, fish and eggs at affordable prices. He also called for systematic supervision to ensure that land allocated for agricultural and livestock breeding activities is not used for other purposes.

He continued that there are three main livestock breeding systems:



President U Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tour of livestock breeding activities in Twantay Township, Yangon Region.

raising animals in confinement, raising them in open or semi-confined facilities, and raising them through grazing. He stressed that each system must be implemented systematically and in accordance with appropriate techniques. Under

the confinement system, animals must be provided with sufficient food and water. In both agriculture and livestock breeding, four essential factors – species, land, water and technology – are indispensable. Good-quality species

appropriate to each type of livestock are essential for increasing productivity. Just as fertilizers are applied to improve soil in agricultural production, sufficient animal feed must be provided for livestock

SEE PAGE 4

HLUTTAW

Myanmar delegates arrive back after ISC 2



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung participates in the second Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference.

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung and MP Dr Kyaw Tun of Shan State Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 6 returned to Yangon on the evening of 28 August after attending the second Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC 2) held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

During the visit, the Myanmar delegation held talks with Cambodian Senate Vice-President Mr Ouch Borith and officials on 26 August. On 27 August, the Deputy Speaker attended the opening ceremony of ISC 2 and delivered a speech.

The Myanmar delegation left Cambodia on 28 August and arrived back in Yangon on the same evening. — MNA/KTZH

Ministries Urged to Prioritize ...

FROM PAGE 1

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing went to the Nyaungdonkyun embankment along the Yangon-Maubin route and inspected the efforts for prevention of bank erosion at the embankment yesterday morning.

At the venue, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw and officials reported to the President on yearly landslides due to erosion at the bends of the Toe River, the direction of current to Mayu/Chaungphya, Chaunggyi, Ganchaung and Htonwa villages to cause landslides yearly, collapses of some 150-265 feet long banks in erosion near Ganchaung Village, loss of more than 1,000 acres of land areas including arable lands within 40 years from 1980 to date, emergence of the 850 acres of alluvial land

on the opposition site of the river, construction of 12 embankments to prevent danger of flooding from 2000-21 to this financial year, filling sand bags at the foot of embankments, building the 2nd Bund Slope, laying geotextile sheets, and long-term plans to prevent landslides in villages of Pantanaw and Maubin township as part of improving the watercourse in Ayeyawady River.

In response, the President said that relevant ministries must conduct surveys on the flow of rivers and creeks nationwide and implement the maintenance of watercourses in rivers under the plans yearly.

He underlined that it is necessary to systematically calculate dredging of alluvial lands in the watercourses with the use of solar-powered excavators not to face difficulties in the use of fuel.

The President stressed the need to implement the short-term plans to reduce flooding across the nation

while systematically making preparations for the flood preventive measures under the long-term plans.

He noted that it is necessary to draw lessons from the recent flooding in Nepal and, taking into consideration possible incidents that may arise from the impacts of climate change, systematically plan and implement disaster prevention measures with a long-term perspective for sustainable benefits.

The President urged officials to systematically conduct surveys on the effects of flooding on residences, agriculture and the socioeconomic life of the people. Moreover, relevant officials and departments need to provide relief supplies to the affected people in time for their convenience in daily life.

On his inspection tour, the President looked into the ongoing temporary protection measures being carried out in response to the

erosion of the Nyaungdonkyun Embankment, including the efforts for driving stakes and filling sandbags at the foot of the embankment, reinforcing the embankment with sandbags, supporting the toe of the original embankment's 2nd Bund Slope with sandbags, constructing a temporary spur embankment, constructing a riverside bund slope, and laying geotextile sheets to protect the eastern slope of the temporary spur embankment against erosion.

The President instructed officials to systematically repair the embankment to have resilience against the situation of higher-level water from the river.

The President presented cash awards to Tatmadaw members, police members, firefighters, social rescue teams and residents who participated in the embankment repair work and flood preventive measures. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

President inspects livestock breeding activities ...

FROM PAGE 3

breeding. Therefore, efforts must be made to produce adequate quantities of animal feed. Similarly, just as sufficient irrigation and rainwater are essential for agricultural activities, livestock must also have access to an adequate supply of clean water.

He also stressed the need for systematic livestock breeding plans to improve productivity, including adequate space for the number of animals being raised, sufficient water and feed, proper animal healthcare, and continuous breeding and



President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge, Yangon River upkeep, and key urban development projects.



production.

The President urged officials of the Yangon Region government to make greater efforts to develop

livestock breeding activities in the breeding zones of Twantay Township and to systematically implement plans so that people

living in the region can purchase and consume meat, fish and eggs at affordable prices.

The President ob-

served the breeding zone and made appropriate instructions.

He also inspected the Yangon-Twantay Road, My-

anmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge, Yangon River maintenance activities and urban development measures. — MNA/KTZH

Traditional Kayin white-thread-tying ceremony held in Taninthayi

FROM PAGE 1

full-moon day, to dispel misfortune and bring blessings and good fortune.

The traditional Kayin Wagoung white-thread-tying ceremony was held yesterday morning at the Pale Ayekari Hall in Taninthayi Region. Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs U Than Maung, Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Speaker U Myat Ko and Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Nang Oo officially opened the ceremony.

The Union minister said that the main purpose of the white-thread-tying ceremony was to bring families together in unity, strengthen friendship and solidarity, and preserve traditional culture and customs. He expressed his hope that Kayin elders would continue to pass down and



Union Minister U Than Maung joins the traditional Kayin Wagoung white-thread-tying ceremony.

preserve this tradition for younger generations.

The chief minister also delivered an address. A Kayin representative explained the history of the traditional Wagoung white-thread-tying ceremony, followed by performances of traditional Kayin don dances and other ethnic cultural dances. A representative of the Taninthayi Region Kayin Litera-

ture and Culture Committee delivered a vote of thanks.

Kayin elders then tied white threads around the wrists of the Union minister, the Regional Hluttaw Speaker, the chief minister, regional ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials and other attendees as part of the traditional ceremony. — MNA/KNN

21 rice export zones established across over 10,000 acres

FROM PAGE 1

There are five zones in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, nine zones in Ayeyawady Region, and seven zones in Yangon Region, totalling 21 zones on 10,504 acres under cultivation for export-oriented paddy production.

On 15 August, MAPCO officially designated five zones in Nay Pyi Taw and hosted a ceremony at its Nay Pyi Taw rice mill and bran oil factory, providing K200,000 per acre to 549 farmers in those zones. Each farmer also received one seeder per 100 acres.

The ceremony was attended by the Union minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Union minister for Industry and MSME Development, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers from the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, council members, departmental officials, representatives from the Myanmar Rice Federation, MAPCO Group officials, and farmers. — NN/KK

MRTV to broadcast AFC U20 qualifiers live

MRTV will broadcast live coverage of Group K matches in the 2027 AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers from Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar will host Group K qualifiers from 31 August to 6 September. The

Myanmar-Sri Lanka match will kick off at 4 pm on 31 August, with live coverage beginning at 3:45 pm on MRTV HD, MRTV Sports and MRTV Entertainment.

— MNA/KZL

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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

Market Analysis training for MSMEs launched

THE Market Analysis Training for MSMEs was held yesterday morning at the office of the District Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region.

During the training, Union Minister for Industry and for MSME Development Dr Charlie Than said that there would no longer be “market seekers” but rather “market producers” if entrepreneurs systematically conduct market research before starting production. He stressed that entrepreneurs should consider profitability and analyze market conditions before



This photo captures Union Minister for Industry and for MSME Development Dr Charlie Than speaking at the opening ceremony of the Market Analysis Training for MSMEs.

producing goods when starting a business, while relevant officials should provide entrepreneurs with access to technology, train them in its use, improve product quality and standards, and help them enter and sell in domestic and international markets to achieve sustainable development. Afterwards, he presented souvenirs to the training instructors.

After the opening ceremony, the Union minister met with staff members of the Research Division (PyinOoLwin) and inspected the quality testing of MSME products at the division. — MNA/MKKS

MoL Union Minister discusses family remittance system

REMITTING family remittances by migrant workers working abroad through official channels can help improve the socioeconomic well-being of their families, while also contributing to increased foreign exchange earnings for the country and supporting national development. Therefore, licensed overseas employment agencies are urged to cooperate with a sense of responsibility and accountability to ensure that workers remit their earnings through official channels, Union Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe said during a meeting with managing directors of licensed overseas employment agencies that are sending workers to foreign countries.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe meets officials of licensed overseas employment agencies in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting took place at the Myawady Media Centre in Yangon yesterday morning. During the meeting, the Union minister said that, since 2023, agreements have been signed between agencies and workers to ensure that 25 per cent of each worker’s salary, sent as family remittances, is remitted through official channels to their family members in Myanmar. He urged the agencies to cooperate responsibly and conscientiously in ensuring that workers send their family remittances through official channels, and coordinated and addressed the matters raised by the attendees.

Moreover, meetings have been held with state-owned banks holding Authorized Dealer (AD) licences. The Ministry of Labour has been coordinating with the Central Bank of Myanmar to obtain accurate data on remittances sent by workers abroad and to establish an easy and convenient remittance system. He also stated that the Ministry of Labour, the Central Bank of Myanmar, relevant banks and licensed overseas employment agencies must cooperate to successfully implement the Family Remittance Management System (FRMS). The Union minister also coordinated and addressed the matters raised at the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

CMA first annual general meeting held



The College of Myanmar Arbitrators (CMA)’s first annual general meeting is underway in Yangon, 29 August 2026.

THE College of Myanmar Arbitrators (CMA)’s first annual general meeting was held on 29 August at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Yangon Region.

CMA was formed as an independent institution under the UMFCCI, aiming to act as a mediator to settle disputes among Myanmar’s businesspersons and investors through legal solutions.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung and Deputy Speaker U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, CMA chair Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr Maung Maung Thein and members attended the meeting.

The CMA chair conferred the title of CMA patron to the regional Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung.

In Myanmar, the procedures for settling disputes through arbitration have been set out in the Arbitration Law 2016. — MT/ZS

Troops, residents clear Falam hospital debris

TROOPS and local communities have collaboratively cleared debris from Falam People’s Hospital after several facilities were damaged during violent incidents.

The cleanup covers damaged wards, the X-ray and laboratory departments, the oxygen plant, the old surgical and maternity wards, the old orthopaedics ward, and medical storage rooms.

Officials also inspected the cleanup and reconstruction efforts in Falam. Similar community-led cleaning activities were carried out in Tiddim and Tonzang, involving departmental staff, security personnel and residents. — MNA/KZL



Residents with heavy machine are clearing debris at Falam People’s Hospital.

The people are urged to receive vaccination of Covid-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of Covid-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

NATIONAL

Weekly
Roundup

23 August

Myanmar President meets Head of Tuva

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing met Head of the Republic of Tuva Mr Vladislav Khovalyg at the Government House of the Republic of Tuva in Kyzyl.

24 August

President visits key cultural and historical sites

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing visited several prominent cultural and historical sites in the city together with Union ministers and members of the Myanmar delegation, Head of Tuva Republic Mr Vladislav Khovalyg, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Kara-ool Sholban and other officials.

25 August

Ministry title renamed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has renamed the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture as the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, pursuant to Section 202 (a) and Section 212 (a) and (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

26 August

Union government meeting held

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the Union government meeting at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

27 August

President receives Vietnamese Foreign Minister

A delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Hoai Trung paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

28 August

Construction Development Law comes into force

Under Section 2 of the Construction Sector Development Law (State Administration Council Law 5/2026), it is hereby prescribed that the law shall come into force on 27 August 2026.

29 August

Thai Ambassador presents Letter of Credence to President

Mr Tor Saralamba, who has been agreed to be appointed as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Agreements, MoUs Cement Myanmar-Thailand Partnership

A Thai delegation led by Ambassador Mr Tor Saralamba paid a courtesy call on Vice-President U Nyo Saw at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw. — GNLM/TTA

Foreign Minister

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Vietnamese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Le Hoai Trung at the Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

PTTEP donates over K90M via MRCS to flood-hit residents



This photo captures PTTEP International Limited presenting a donation of K90.275 million through the Myanmar Red Cross Society to support flood-affected residents in Laymyethna Township.

PTTEP International Limited has donated K90.275 million through the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) to assist flood-stricken residents in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region.

The donation ceremony was held on 28 August at the MRCS's Yangon Branch Office. Dr Myo Nyunt, President of the MRCS, accepted the donation and expressed heart-

felt gratitude to the donors. The ceremony was attended by MRCS Executive Committee members Dr Mya Thu and Dr Marlar Win, Director of the Resource Mobilization Department Daw May Sandar Myo and other officials. PTTEP International Limited was represented by General Manager Mr Suppakarn Thanatit and company officials, who personally presented the donation. — TWA/TH

Rescue, relief operations ongoing in flood-hit areas in Ayeyawady

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

The breach led to flooding in five urban wards of Laymyethna, major roads in the urban area and 15 urban wards of Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathainggyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships and surrounding villages.

On 14 August, the water level of the Ngawun River in Laymyethna township reached seven feet nine inches, and it was at four feet and nine inches yesterday, whereas



This picture features ongoing rescue and relief efforts in Ayeyawady Region.

11 feet two inches in Yekyi township on 24 August and only nine feet and two inches four inches yesterday. Moreover, the water level of the Ngawun River in Ngathainggyoung township was 10 feet nine inches on 23 August, and it was only nine feet four inches yesterday.

Cleanup work is being carried out at Nyaungbinwae Basic Education Middle School in Laymyethna Township, where floodwaters have receded, to clear the silt and debris left behind in classrooms, buildings, desks and walkways within the school compound.

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

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

Gold Market Rate as of 29 August 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,150,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

ARTICLE

It has come to my attention that Yuyun Wah-yuningrum, a Senior Researcher at the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, based in Australia, recently published an article on The Interpreter, an online publication of the Lowy Institute, entitled “Starvation as a Weapon: The ICJ Myanmar Case Could Redefine Genocide”. The article was published towards the end of July.

The article appeared at a time when the proceedings in the case between Myanmar and The Gambia before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) had reached their final stage, following the conclusion of the oral hearings, and while the parties are awaiting the Court’s judgment.

At first sight, the article may appear to be an analysis of international law. However, given the apparent underlying purposes and implications of the arguments advanced, it is necessary to present the views of a Myanmar legal scholar in response to the article.

The author attempts to interpret Article II(c) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide according to her own understanding.

Article II of the Convention defines the acts that may constitute genocide, while Article II (c) concerns the “deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part,” with the requisite intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

Yet the author, writing from Australia – more than 4,000 miles away from Myanmar – appears to make allegations against Myanmar on the basis of one-sided narratives and information detached from the actual situation on the ground, much as The Gambia, situated more than 7,000 miles away from Myanmar, has done.

The author alleges that, long before the 2017 conflict, which escalated following the mass attacks by the ARSA terrorist group against border securi-

Responding to a Misguided and Speculative Article on the ICJ Case

By a Legal Scholar

ty forces in northern Rakhine State, the Myanmar Government deliberately enacted the 1982 Citizenship Law to render the Bengali population in the area – referred to by the author as “Rohingya” – stateless. She further claims that the Government intentionally restricted their freedom of movement and access to property and livelihoods, thereby preventing them from working and earning a living and deliberately subjecting them to starvation. The author further alleges that, following the 2017 events, when some members of the Bengali population left for a neighbouring country, the Myanmar Government confiscated their agricultural land, seized the crops that had been planted, and redistributed the land to others.

A closer examination of these allegations, however, reveals a number of unsupported assertions and inconsistencies. Although the author describes herself as a senior researcher, the information presented suggests that the relevant facts have not been systematically collected, examined and analyzed before these allegations were advanced.

For example, the 1982 Citizenship Law was not enacted specifically for the purpose of rendering Bengali communities in Rakhine State stateless. Rather, it was enacted as a nationwide legal framework governing citizenship and the procedures for determining citizenship status throughout Myanmar. Persons who meet the requirements prescribed by law may acquire citizenship under the relevant categories, including associate citizenship and naturalized citizenship. There are, in fact, many people of Bengali origin who hold citizenship certificates or other forms of documentation issued under the applicable legal framework. There are also many individuals whose applications for citizenship status remain

under consideration. These are realities that cannot simply be ignored. At the same time, persons who entered Myanmar unlawfully after independence are treated as illegal migrants, regardless of their ethnicity, and are subject to the applicable laws and procedures. This is not unique to Myanmar. Countries around the world enforce their own immigration laws in dealing with persons who enter their territories unlawfully. Australia is no exception. Australia maintains strict immigration controls and operates detention facilities for persons subject to immigration proceedings, including seven facilities within Australia as well as arrangements involving facilities outside the country, including on Nauru. One might therefore reasonably ask the author whether persons held under such arrangements are free to leave those facilities, move wherever they wish, or engage freely in agricultural activities.

In Myanmar, by contrast, members of the Bengali community in areas including Buthidaung and Maungdaw have engaged in agriculture and fish and shrimp farming. Some have also become prominent businesspeople in major cities. These are facts known to Myanmar citizens.

In addition to relying on questionable factual premises, the author’s understanding of the applicable legal standards also appears to fall considerably short of established international legal principles. In relation to crimes as grave as genocide, the evidentiary requirements are exceptionally stringent. International judicial practice recognizes the need for compelling evidence capable of establishing the allegations to the requisite standard of proof that must be beyond a reasonable doubt. In criminal law, it is necessary to establish both the requisite mens rea, or criminal intent, and the

corresponding actus reus, or prohibited act, through sufficiently reliable evidence.

Against this legal framework, the author’s assertion that the enactment of the 1982 Citizenship Law constituted a deliberate act intended to cause starvation is far removed from the applicable legal standards. To claim that the enactment of a citizenship law was itself evidence of an intention to starve a particular group, without establishing the necessary causal and intentional elements, is not a serious application of the law. It amounts to little more than an unsupported accusation.

Nor should the role of the International Court of Justice be misunderstood. The ICJ is the highest international judicial body, and there is no basis for assuming that an individual writing externally to the proceedings can, through personal assertions or speculation, redefine or reinterpret an international convention according to her own preferred understanding.

Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice sets out the sources of law to be applied by the Court, including international conventions, international custom, general principles of law, and judicial decisions and the teachings of highly qualified publicists as subsidiary means for determining rules of law. The personal opinion expressed in an article such as this does not, in itself, constitute an authoritative reinterpretation of the Genocide Convention. Furthermore, under Article 60 of the Statute of the Court, the judgment of the Court is final. Where a dispute arises concerning the meaning or scope of a judgment, the parties to the case may request an interpretation from the Court. The authority to seek such an interpretation therefore rests with the States participating in the proceedings, not with an out-

side commentator.

Against this background, the author’s intervention in this case – without a sufficiently careful examination of the relevant legal principles or the actual facts on the ground – appears to amount to little more than speculation and unfounded allegations presented as legal analysis.

The situation on the ground also tells a considerably more complicated story than the article suggests. In Rakhine State, persons displaced from their homes and residing in camps administered by the Government have received assistance and support from international organizations. Subject to the applicable laws and security conditions, they have access to livelihood opportunities, education, healthcare and religious practice. International diplomats and journalists have also been invited to visit and observe the situation firsthand. Moreover, persons temporarily displaced by armed clashes have been provided with protection and humanitarian assistance without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity or religion.

These realities are not consistent with the simplistic portrayal presented in the article. Far from being subjected to a policy aimed at the physical destruction of a population, the factual situation includes continued provision of humanitarian assistance, access to basic services and livelihood activities, and engagement with international organizations. Nevertheless, the author appears to have used the considerable influence of international media to promote a particular narrative about Myanmar while disregarding facts that do not fit that narrative. The result is liable to mislead international audiences and to create a distorted and diminished perception of Myanmar and its people. When false or misleading assertions are left unanswered, there is always a risk that repetition will eventually cause them to be accepted as truth. It is therefore necessary to correct errors when they arise and to respond when allegations are presented without adequate factual or legal foundation.

OPINION

Shaping Myanmar into a global granary

AROUND 15 million acres of monsoon paddy and about two million acres of summer paddy, totalling roughly 17 million acres, are cultivated annually in Myanmar. This includes around 50 rice varieties favoured by the domestic market and over 20 varieties preferred by foreign markets. Approximately 80 per cent of the annual paddy output is consumed domestically, while only about 20 per cent is exported abroad.

In line with the vision to revitalize Myanmar’s Pawsan rice, plans are currently underway to expand the cultivation and production of high-quality paddy varieties that meet market demand in order to export three million metric tonnes of rice annually in the first phase, along with measures to expand cultivation areas by an additional 350,000 acres for specific rice varieties. In the second phase, efforts are aimed at exporting up to five million metric tonnes of rice annually.

Around the 1930s, Myanmar was the world’s leading rice exporter, exporting up to 3.5 million metric tonnes of rice. Export volumes subsequently declined; however, more than 80 years later; in the 2017-2018 financial year, the country rebounded to export 3.6 million metric tonnes of rice. As such, the government is making efforts to revive and boost the country’s rice exports.

Careful efforts must be made from the time of cultivation through the production of paddy and milled rice to prevent any drop in quality, thereby securing a strong reputation and premium prices in the international market. Therefore, by expanding the cultivation of high-quality paddy varieties that offer top-tier eating quality and boosting exports to foreign rice markets, Myanmar will be able to establish its standing as the world granary” capable of supporting global food security.

the grains expand to nearly double their original length, remain soft and tender, emit a fragrant aroma, and are richer in protein than other varieties. Recently, Yezin Pawsan-1 and Yezin Pawsan-2 have been developed, and farmers need to cultivate these superior varieties on a broader scale.

Careful efforts must be made from the time of cultivation through the production of paddy and milled rice to prevent any drop in quality, thereby securing a strong reputation and premium prices in the international market. Therefore, by expanding the cultivation of high-quality paddy varieties that offer top-tier eating quality and boosting exports to foreign rice markets, Myanmar will be able to establish its standing as the world granary” capable of supporting global food security.

	Book Title	-	True Wisdom... and Short Pieces I Wish You Would Read
	Author	-	Dr Soe Than, PhD (English Studies), University of Nottingham, UK
	Publishing House	-	Seik Kuu Cho Cho
	Publication Date	-	August 2026 (1 st Edition)
	Price	-	K18,000

True Wisdom... and Short Pieces I Wish You Would Read

I like to introduce readers to a new book carrying the message, “Live and let others live too.”

This new release from Seik Kuu Cho Publishing for its anniversary is titled “True Wisdom and Short Pieces I Wish You Would Read,” written and compiled by Dr Soe Than, PhD (English Studies) from the University of Nottingham, UK. It is a compilation of readable, memorable mini-essays in both English and Myanmar originally shared on the author’s social media. Following the popularity of the first volume, Literature with a small ‘L’ (Volume I), this second volume has now been published.

In the preface, the author notes: “Readers often share feedback that aside from gaining thoughtful, inspiring ideas, they appreciate how the concise bilingual texts encourage fast reading and deep reflection.”

He further adds: “I believe wisdom is not something that sits on a bookshelf;

rather, it is born out of small daily decisions, interpersonal relationships, and struggles...”

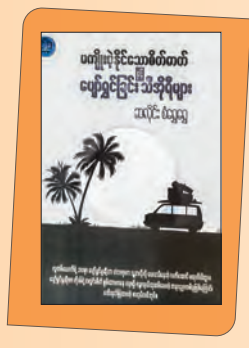
This book is a worthwhile read not only for young readers but also for English language learners and enthusiasts, as the essays are presented bilingually in Myanmar and English.

In the essay titled “On Reading”, the author writes: “When teaching children to read, once they memorize the alphabet, we teach them pronunciation and the meaning of words. The same applies to teaching foreign languages. Once the meanings and sounds are understood, we guide them to comprehend short sentences and develop basic reading ability. That belongs to the fundamental stage. However, at the university level when advanced academic texts are required, I often observe during teaching that some students remain stuck at the basic reading level, clinging only to the surface meaning of a sentence or paragraph. They struggle

to look beyond the literal words and grasp deeper meanings.”

In the essay titled “Act with Good Intentions”, he writes: “Whether it is teaching, writing, doing charity work, helping others, offering advice, selling goods, or running a business – approach everything with genuine goodwill. That goodwill, genuine good intention, is the most crucial element. Over time, you will notice that lasting, growing goodness stems entirely from actions done with sincere intent. I understand ‘goodwill’ as the genuine desire to help make things better for others in some way. I am always mindful to keep my intentions pure. Only when goodwill is pure does writing become refined; only with good intentions does work turn out well.”

In summary, this book by Dr Soe Than is recommended for anyone who wishes to reflect genuinely on life and who appreciates heartfelt, non-academic literature.

	Book Title	-	Unconquerable Willpower and Theories of Happiness
	Author	-	Salai San Shwe Shwe
	Publishing House	-	Book Village
	Publication Date	-	August 2026 (1 st Edition)
	Price	-	K7,000

Unconquerable Willpower and Theories of Happiness

THIS week’s pick will reveal a profound and empowering perspective to readers that true fulfilment in a person’s life is not a gift bestowed by fate, but an art crafted through one’s mental resilience.

This book, titled Unconquerable Willpower and Theories of Happiness, is written by the author Salai San Shwe Shwe.

It is a motivational book that makes one feel like a warm and understanding friend, dedicated to those who are facing depression, anxiety, and loneliness on life’s journey. The author points out people’s misconceptions about happiness in a simple way, clarifying that happiness is neither a distant finish line nor dependent on material possessions. It can be found in every present moment we are passing through. Readers will find discussions on valuable life theories and practical thoughts, such as self-compassion, forgiveness, unleashing the power of the inner self, and cultivating an unbreakable spirit.

In his preface, the author writes that

“I dedicate this book, ‘Unconquerable Willpower and Theories of Happiness,’ to you who keep asking yourself ‘Why am I not truly happy?’ when everything seems to be going fine. And it is strongly devoted to you who have forgotten that you also deserve to be happy. This book is not a magic wand that will remove all your problems. It cannot promise you a life without tears or pain. But the book can be a good friend sitting beside you, softly whispering that you are not alone. It can be a mirror to help you rediscover your inner strength. It will be a handbook guiding you on how to tend your mind’s garden, and how to gather your shattered pieces and mend them with gold dust.”

In the piece of work titled “The Great Misconception, what comes to mind when you and I hear the word ‘happiness’? I know. What most of us picture is like a perfect painting. The false belief that reaching a future milestone will bring a permanent happiness: ‘Once I get this degree, I’ll be

happy’, ‘If I just get this well-paying job, life will be smooth,’ ‘If I can live with the one, I truly love, I won’t need anything else to be happy,’ ‘Once I own a house and a car, I’ll be the happiest person on earth’.

These thoughts may seem to give us energy, my friend, but in truth, they deceive us. It’s like glimpsing a lake in the distance while walking through a scorching desert. We muster our strength and head toward it, only to find nothing but an empty stretch of sand. What do we do then? We look for another lake. We hope for the next one. And so, life keeps spinning in an endless cycle of expectations and disappointments. Today, let us break down those grand misconceptions together.”

This is a book that cultivates the reader’s inner mind, heals the broken fragments of life, and guides them to build genuine daily peace, mindfulness and emotional resilience.

Grace of Myanmar

By Min Min Zan



A gentle smile, so warm and bright,
In Myanmar grace, she shines with light.
Her flowers bloom beside her hair,
A timeless beauty, pure and fair.
With golden Thanaka, proud and free,
She wears the soul of Myanmar's beauty.

အင်မလီ ဒစ်ကင်ဆင် ကဗျာ အမှတ် ၃၄၇



Emily Dickinson: 347

Translated by Myint Zan

When night is almost done,
And sunrise grows so near
That we can touch the Spaces,
It's time to smooth the Hair
And get the Dimples ready,
And wonder we could care
For that old-faded Midnight
That frightened - but an Hour.

အိမ်အပြန်

ဗျာနီလွန်း

ဦးလမင်းက လှဝင်းရွှန်းဖြူ ဆင်းရောင်ဝါနှင့် ငွေလှသလင်း၊ လမ်းမြောင်ကျဉ်းကို ဖြောင့်စင်းဖွေးဖွေး၊ လမ်းပြလေး၏။

ညငှက်လေးက ချိုအေးကြည့်မြ၊ တေးတစ်စနှင့် ဖြူလှသလမ်း၊ စိမ့်အေးစမ်းကို လမ်းပြမှုဖြစ် ရှေ့ဆောင်၏။

အလုပ်သမားကြီး ဝမ်းမနည်းချေ၊ ချွေးသီးယိုပေါက် နေပူအောက်မှာ၊ လွှတ်မြောက်ရုန်းကန် ညဇွှန်းယံ၏၊ အိမ်ပြန်ရာလမ်း မမှောင်သန်းလည်း၊ စန်းငွေဝန်းမြ ဆင်းရောင်လှန့်ငှ၊ ညငှက်ကလေး ချိုမြတေးသည်၊ အေးချမ်းပေစွ ဖော်ဘဝဓို့ ညတိုင်း လသာစေချင်သည်။ ညတိုင်း ငှက်တေးဆိုချင်သည်။

On the Return Home

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

By the moon lovely With its soft light, A sandy lane silvery Is illuminated straight in white.	With a charming piece of music In a cool mountain spring along the whitish sandy path Is blazing a trail.
A little night bird	The great worker In no sorrow but sweaty Under the hot sun, struggles for deliverance; Nightfall on his way home Is darkening, but the silvery moon With the beautiful light; the night bird Is singing sweetly and peacefully In the company of his life - He wants the moon to shine every night. He wants to sing the bird's song every night.



NATIONAL

Entertainment

Actress yearns for mother after new film release

ACTRESS Khin Zar Chi Kyaw said she wishes her mother could watch the drama series 'Hma Taba Achar Mashi Pyi'.

The series, which will be broadcast on MRTV-4 from 1 September, Monday to Friday at 7 pm, features Khin Zar Chi Kyaw as Daw Mya Aye, a mother who endures the hardships caused by her five children. She said the role brought back memories of her own mother and often made her tearful while filming.

"I am also a mother in real life, so I know how much a mother loves her sons and daughters. In the series, the character Daw Mya Aye has to endure all the misbehaviour and wrongdoing of her five children. While filming, the tears just came naturally, and I cried more than I have in other films. It also made me miss my mother. I loved, feared and respected my mother. From the time I was born until her final breath, she never made any trouble for me." – TWA/KTZH



Shelter screened nationwide

THE SHELTER, which has attracted considerable attention in Myanmar's film community, began screening nationwide on 28 August.

The film is the directorial debut of Pyay Thit Naing and also marks Academy Phway Phway's 20th anniversary in the entertainment industry. Phway Phway plays a pregnant woman in the horror film, saying she welcomed the role as a new challenge for herself.

Screenwriter Moe Ni Lwin, who attended the premiere, praised the veteran cast for their distinctive performances and said the film offers a fresh style of locally made Myanmar horror that could appeal even to horror fans who do not usually watch Myanmar films. – Htun Htun/KTZH



Academy superstar's new film set for release

THE film 'Lun' featuring Academy Myint Myat in a leading role will be screened in September.

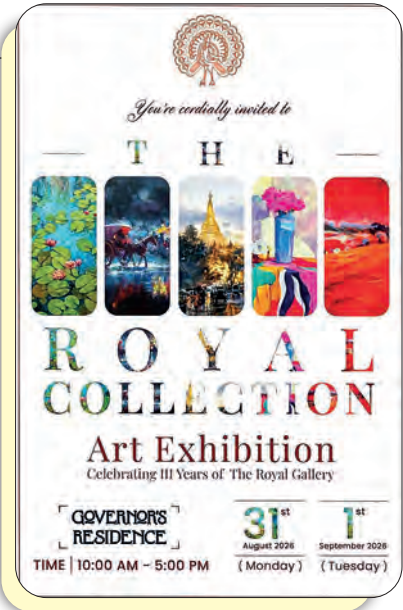
Myint Myat plays 'Kat Kyae' (aka 'Dat Buu', a character who remains cheerful with his friends despite facing hardships in life. Directed by Nay Paing, the film also stars Academy Ye Aung, Wint Yamone Naing, Than Thar Moe Theint and guest actor Tyron, along with numerous supporting actors. – TWA/KTZH



'The Royal Collection' art exhibition held

'THE ROYAL COLLECTION' art exhibition, marking the third anniversary of The Royal Gallery, will be held for the first time at the Governor's Residence in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, from 10 am to 5 pm from 31 August to 1 September.

The exhibition will feature selected works by prominent Myanmar artists, offering art lovers and collectors an opportunity to view and purchase paintings of artistic and cultural value. – ASH/KTZH



Singer actor duo aid flood victims in Ngathainggyoung

SINGER Phyo Myat Aung and actor Nay Min have been providing daily assistance to flood-affected residents in Ngathainggyoung Township and nearby villages in Ayeyawady Region.

On 27 August, they donated K3.75 million and 80 bags of rice to 75 households in Kyoneta Village, along with K250,000 to the presiding monk of the village monastery. They also donated K1.83 million to 61 households in Daunggyi Tawaw Village, K50,000 for medicines, 33 bags of rice and K1 million to the Dhamma Wepula flood relief camp, and K1 million to the Hinthada Brothers Philanthropic Association.

Phyo Myat Aung expressed his appreciation to all donors and those who helped them along the way, saying that the merit from the donations would be shared with parents, teachers and all beings. – Htun Htun/KTZH



Theatrical star delighted to join Poe Htike Mahi ad

MYANMAR traditional male dancer San Yay Moe said he was proud and delighted to participate in a creative production by Poe Htike Mahi, which promotes Myanmar traditional culture, customs and traditional attire.

The production was recently completed with the performance of San Yay Moe and actress Shwe Tha Mee. Sam Ye Moe said he was particularly happy to work alongside veteran actress Shwe Shwe and expressed his commitment to continuing to value and promote the arts. – TWA/KTZH



U9 to launch lucky draw at theatrical star's MDY live

U9, a Diamond Sponsor of dance and performing artist San Yay Moe's upcoming "Live in Mandalay" show at MCC Hall in Mandalay, will give away five VVIP tickets, worth K300,000 each, and five GA tickets through a lucky draw.

From 25 August to 8 September, U9 customers nationwide can participate by purchasing a U9 SIM card and providing their name, address and phone number at designated U9 sales outlets. The winners will be announced on 9 September.

Caption: This image features a U9 advertisement as Diamond Sponsor of Sam Ye Moe's "Live in Mandalay" show. – TWA/KTZH



NATIONAL

3 Chinese nationals arrested over online scams

AUTHORITIES apprehended three Chinese nationals allegedly involved in online fraud and gambling activities who had illegally entered areas around Myawady in Kayin State through neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and detained them pending investigation and deportation.

From 30 January 2025 to 29 August 2026, a total of 14,767 foreign nationals who had illegally entered Myanmar were investigated, identified and detained. Of these, 13,860 individuals have been systematically repatriated to their respective countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures. Of the remaining 907 individuals awaiting repatriation, 689 have been charged under Section 3(1)/13(1) of the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, while 218 remain in detention pending repatriation.

The Government continues to work closely with relevant countries to ensure that foreign nationals involved in online fraud, online gambling or other criminal activities are promptly investigated, identified and systematically repatriated in compliance with established legal procedures. — MNA/MKKS



Myanmar Immigration and officials processing the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

Goods inspection station opens in Waingmaw



Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan reviews trade procedures in Waingmaw, Kachin State.

A goods inspection station has opened in Mongna Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, to facilitate the smooth and speedy flow of goods, increase state tax revenue and prevent illegal trade.

The station will inspect agricultural exports, including tissue-culture bananas, watermelons, chillies and rubber, as well as authorized imports from China.

Kachin State Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan attended the opening ceremony and inspected the inspection and trade procedures carried out by the relevant departments.

During a temporary trade operation launched in March 2026, a total of 3,624 import and export vehicles handled trade worth US\$32.547 million, according to the Department of Trade. — MNA/KZL

Collaborative efforts underway to reduce crime in Yangon Region

POLICE units across Yangon Region, together with traffic police, local administrative authorities and joint teams, are conducting vehicle inspections, guest-list checks, crime-prevention awareness activities and campaigns encouraging pedestrians to use designated crossings.

In this regard, police teams from Botahtaung, Kungyangon, Kamayut and Bahan townships conducted awareness sessions yesterday morning



A traffic police officer distributes pamphlets encouraging pedestrians to use zebra crossings in Bahan yesterday. PHOTO: YANGON POLICE FORCE

on the implementation of the community policing system, carried out door-to-door crime-prevention awareness activities, and distributed pamphlets en-

couraging pedestrians to use zebra crossings.

On the night of 27 August, police teams from Dagon Myothit (North), Kyimyindine, North Okkalapa, Thingangyun and Shwepyitha townships, along with police units from Phaunggyi, conducted vehicle checks, inspected patrol and checkpoint operations, and carried out inspections of entertainment venues and household guest-registration records. — Aung Thu /MKKS

Drugs worth K303.7M seized in Waingmaw; K92M worth of drugs seized in Amarapura, Singaing

DRUGS worth K303.7 million were seized in Waingmaw Township and drugs worth K92 million were seized in Amarapura and Singaing townships, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined team including members of the Drug Enforcement Division searched a vehicle driven by Gunsan near Mongna Village in Waingmaw Township at 7:30 pm on 27 August. The team confiscated 5.85 kilogrammes of heroin



This photo shows an offender alongside seized drugs and vehicle.

worth an estimated K128.7 million and 2.5 kilogrammes of Happy Water valued at K175 million.

Similarly, a combined team including members of the Drug Enforcement

Division searched a house belonging to Kyaw Soe and Ma Thanda Oo in Amarapura Township at 4:30 pm on 26 August. The authorities seized 20,000 stimulant tablets worth K40 million.

Afterwards, based on information obtained during the investigation, the combined team arrested Ma Nwe Nwe Tun, who had transported the stimulant tablets, at 6 pm on the same day. They seized 4,000 stimulant tablets worth K800,000 and a Canda motorcycle from her possession, as well as 22,000 stimulant tablets worth K44 million from her house in Singaing Township.

Legal action has been taken against the offenders in accordance with the law. — MNA/MKKS

Flood Warning

Issued at 2 pm MST on 29 August 2026

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Shwegyin River at Shwegyin is observed as about seven inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 36 hours.

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Bilin River at Bilin is observed as about 10 inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 36 hours.

According to the 1:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Thaungyin River at Myawady is observed as about one foot and four inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next day.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Shwegyin, Bilin and Myawady townships to take precautionary measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level rises. — DMH

ECONOMY
WORLD

Trump announces ‘biggest oil deal
in world history’ with Venezuela

Donald Trump confirmed securing majority control over Venezuelan proven oil reserves.

US President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) announced the “biggest oil deal in world history” with Venezuela.

The landmark agreement with Venezuela will give the US majority control over more than 65 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves.

“The United States of America has just entered into an Agreement with the Country of Venezuela on, THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY! At my direction, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and



Donald Trump announces historic crude oil reserve agreement with Venezuelan government. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, working closely with Highly Respected Interim President of Ven-

ezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, and, through a partnership with private business, have secured majority US con-

trol of more than 65 BILLION BARRELS of proven Oil Reserves in Venezuela, at no cost to the American Taxpayer,” he said.

According to the president, the agreement was secured “at no cost to the American Taxpayer” and will “more than double” total American oil reserves. The administration claims the massive influx to the US oil supply will drive down domestic gasoline prices long-term while putting Venezuela’s economy on a path toward economic recovery. — ANI

India, Argentina advance pharma, farm trade

INDIA and Argentina efforts to improve market access for Indian pharma-



India and Argentina expand bilateral pharmaceutical and agricultural trade market access. PHOTO: ANI

ceutical and agricultural products, with technical talks underway on farm exports and Argentina working to upgrade India’s status under its pharmaceutical regulatory framework, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The developments were discussed at the fourth India-Argentina Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting held in Buenos Aires on 24 Au-

gust. The Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, while the Argentine side was led by Ambassador Fernando Brun, Secretary for International Economic Relations.

Argentina has committed to work towards upgrading India from Annex II to Annex I under its pharmaceutical regulatory framework and reducing barriers to entry for Indian medicines. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nations sign strategic minerals declaration

MINING authorities from Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and Peru signed a joint declaration Friday to strengthen regional cooperation on strategic minerals amid growing global demand linked to energy transition and new technologies.

The declaration calls for responsible investment, stronger supply chains and expanded technical cooperation to tap the region’s potential in minerals such as copper and lithium, which are essential for high-tech equipment.

It was signed by Chilean Economy and Mining Minister Daniel Mas, Argentine Mining Secretary Luis Lucero, Bolivian Deputy Minister of Mining Policy, Regulation and Oversight Walter Landivar, and Peruvian Energy and Mines Minister Guillermo Shinno. — Xinhua

US imposes economic Iran sanctions

THE US Treasury Department’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network on Friday proposed a rule that would revoke Banque Misr UAE’s correspondent banking access to US financial institutions as part of a new sanctions campaign targeting Iran.

“Treasury promised to sever every economic lifeline Tehran has left and finally end the threat of the Iranian regime,” said US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, referring to the campaign dubbed “Operation Economic Outcast”. — Xinhua

Zimbabwe exits fragile economies list

ZIMBABWEAN Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion Mthuli Ncube has welcomed the country’s removal from the World Bank Group’s list of fragile and conflict-affected economies.

Under the World Bank’s revised classification framework for the 2027 financial year, Zimbabwe is no longer classified as a fragile and conflict-affected economy, effective 1 July 2026.

“The development signals international recognition of Zimbabwe’s improving institutional resilience and provides further impetus to the reforms underway,” Ncube said on Friday, adding that it aligns with the country’s goal of attaining an upper-middle-income economy by 2030. — Xinhua

Canada economy records strong growth

CANADA’S real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an annualized rate of 3.3 per cent in the second quarter of this year, Statistics Canada said Friday.

Meanwhile, the national statistical agency revised the first-quarter annualized real GDP growth from a previously reported 0.1 per cent con-

traction to a 0.3 per cent gain.

The revised figures show that the Canadian economy avoided a “technical recession”, defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction, and instead demonstrated a significant recovery.

The agency noted that second-quarter growth was mainly driven by a re-



Some dental equipment is displayed at the 2023 Pacific Dental Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 9 March 2023. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

bound in exports and business capital investments.

According to the agency, exports jumped 3.6 per cent quarter-on-quarter, recording their largest gain in over three years, with exports of passenger cars and light trucks bouncing back most notably.

In addition, household consumption and residen-

tial investment also made positive contributions to economic growth.

On a monthly basis, real GDP expanded 0.3 per cent in June, marking the third consecutive month of growth, with active performances across multiple sectors including services, wholesale and retail trade, and manufacturing. — Xinhua

Japan firm to set starting salary for new graduates at 1M yen per month

A Tokyo-based real estate developer will offer new hires joining in April next year a monthly salary of 1 million yen (\$6,259), in a bid to recruit talent with expertise in entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence.

The amount offered by Kasumigaseki Capital Co would be nearly four times the national average and among the highest starting salaries offered by a domestic company.

In Japan, the average starting salary for new university graduates was 262,300 yen in June 2025, up 16 per cent from

the 2020 level.

Some 1,300 people have applied for positions at Kasumigaseki Capital starting in spring 2027, with around 10 receiving job offers.

Applicants were asked to make a pitch on what they consider themselves best at. The company aims to introduce a recruitment system for new graduates under which starting salaries would be determined based on individual ability and market value.

Its employees currently earn an average annual salary of around 17 million yen. — Kyodo



LOGI FLAG TECH Nagoya Minato I is an automated frozen warehouse in Nagoya, developed by Kasumigaseki Capital and Daibiru Corporation.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ESTIE

Colombo port enters world top twenty

THE Port of Colombo has climbed six places to rank 20th among the world's busiest container ports, according to the latest rankings for the first half of 2026 released recently by global container shipping information platform Alphaliner.

The port handled 4.44 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) during the first six months of the year, up 11.9 per cent from the same period in 2025. Colombo processed

4,444,034 TEUs from January to June, compared with 3,972,053 TEUs a year earlier, an increase of 471,981 TEUs.

The latest performance follows a record year in 2025, when the port handled about 8.3 million TEUs.

The port authority said the higher ranking further strengthened Colombo's position as a major maritime and transshipment hub in the Indian Ocean. — Xinhua

India telecom subscriber base grows

INDIA'S total telephone subscriber base rose by 6.20 million in July 2026 to 1.35 billion, registering a monthly growth of 0.46 per cent, as both wireless and wireline connections expanded, according to data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday.

The wireless subscriber base grew 0.46 per cent to 1.31 billion, while wireline connections increased 0.39 per cent to 48.01 million.

Broadband subscriptions continued to expand,



Indian telecom and broadband subscriber numbers expand steadily across major networks. **PHOTO: IBEF**

rising from 1.09 billion at the end of June to 1.094 billion in July, a monthly

growth rate of 0.64 per cent.

Mobile wireless ac-

cess remained the largest contributor, with subscriptions increasing 0.59 per cent to 1.03 billion. Fixed wireless access (FWA) subscriptions grew faster, rising 2.60 per cent to 18.84 million, while fixed wired broadband subscriptions increased 0.90 per cent to 48.14 million.

The broadband market remained highly concentrated, with the top five service providers accounting for 98.59 per cent of the total broadband subscriber base. — ANI

China moves to improve commercial housing sales system

CHINA will steadily advance reforms to its commercial housing sales system and accelerate efforts to foster a new development model for the real estate sector, according to a recent circular jointly issued by three government departments.

The circular calls on local authorities to regulate presale conditions for commercial housing and strengthen supervision of presale funds to ensure the safety of such funds, effectively guard against housing delivery risks,

and protect the legitimate rights and interests of homebuyers.

For commercial housing projects offered for pre-sale, the main structure of each building should be topped out, according to the circular. For commercial housing projects that had obtained construction project planning permits before the circular took effect and are offered for pre-sale, existing policies and regulations will continue to apply to presale conditions and the supervision of presale funds. — Xinhua

Uzbekistan targets major economic expansion

UZBEKISTAN'S GDP is projected to reach US\$300 billion by 2030, with cumulative foreign investment inflows expected to total \$450 billion over the next decade, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said Friday.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the country's independence, Mirziyoyev said the target set three years ago to reach a GDP of \$160 billion by 2030 would be surpassed in 2026, bringing the nation into the upper-middle-income group.

The president noted that Uzbekistan has advanced 80 places in the Index of Economic Freedom, joining the ranks of countries with moderately free economies.

Outlining future economic plans, he announced a national programme aimed at transitioning the economy towards a high-tech, high-productivity model. The initiative aims to create two million high-paying jobs in the industrial sector, with a focus on startups, venture financing, and artificial intelligence. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB634A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB634A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2026** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2616S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC GUANGDONG VOY.NO. (2616S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-8-2026** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.LTD

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



This photo taken on 13 September 2023 shows the city view of Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AUGUST 29

PM Modi embarks on four-day visit to Central Asian nations

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi embarked on his two-nation visit to Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on Saturday, expressing confidence that the diplomatic engagement will reinforce India’s strategic partnerships across Central Asia.

Commencing the itinerary, the Prime Minister will first travel to Tashkent for a two-day bilateral visit at the invitation of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Outlining expectations for the bilateral engagement, PM Modi said in his departure statement, “In recent years, India-Uzbekistan Strategic Partnership has seen significant advancement. I look forward to my discussions with President Mirziyoyev on further deepening our cooperation in trade and investment, digital connectivity, defence, energy, and on advancing our shared visions of Viksit Bharat and Yangi Uzbekistan.”

Following the bilateral leg in Tashkent, PM Modi will proceed to Bishkek. — ANI

AUGUST 28

China issues AI imaging guidelines

CHINA has released ethical guidelines for artificial intelligence (AI) medical imaging research, aiming to regulate algorithm development, trial verification and clinical application of this technology, the Ministry of Science and Technology said on Friday.

AI medical imaging uses AI technology to analyze CT, Magnetic Resonance Imaging and ultrasound scans, assisting doctors in detecting lesions and improving diagnostic efficiency. However, the technology involves large amounts of sensitive health data and carries risks, such as privacy breaches, algorithmic bias and unclear accountability.

The guidelines, released by the medical ethics subcommittee of the national science and technology ethics committee, outline six core principles: enhancing human welfare, promoting fairness, respecting human autonomy, protecting privacy and data security, ensuring safety and controllability, and strengthening transparency. — Xinhua

AUGUST 27

Frugal EU states demand budget cuts

GERMANY and five other so-called “frugal” EU members demanded Thursday that the European Commission’s seven-year budget proposal of nearly two trillion euro (\$2.3 trillion) be slashed by “several hundred billion euros”.

Germany’s conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz hosted the leaders of Austria, Denmark and Finland for talks in Berlin, which their Dutch and Swedish counterparts joined via video link.

Their meeting aimed to send a joint message as the 27-member European Union braces for tough negotiations to agree on a budget for the bloc for 2028-34.

Merz has long demanded the European Commission dramatically cut its record budget proposal, calling the plan “unaffordable”. The proposal of nearly two trillion euros needs to be reduced by several hundred billion euros in a balanced manner. — AFP

AUGUST 26

ISRO shifts commercial rocket production policy

THE Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced a policy shift to cease direct manufacturing of commercial launch vehicles.

ISRO plans to transfer end-to-end rocket assembly and operational manufacturing to private industrial consortia. This move allows the agency to refocus internal resources on advanced space exploration research, technology development, and deep-space missions.

The operational transition transfers production lines for ISRO’s launch fleet — including the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3), and Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) — to domestic private aerospace contractors. These contractors will assume full responsibility for serial production, component sourcing, and launch vehicle integration.

Commercial operations and mission procurement will continue through NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), while regulatory authorisations remain managed by IN-SPaCe. — ANI

AUGUST 25

Chinese AI solves Arabic dialect puzzle

CHINESE researchers have unveiled an open-source text-to-speech artificial intelligence (AI) model that tackles the long-standing challenge of Arabic speech synthesis. The system covers more than 20 regional variants of the language under a unified technical framework.

The model, named Habibi, meaning “my dear friend” in Arabic, was developed by a team of Chinese research institutions, including Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and video-sharing platform Kuaishou.

Spoken by over 400 million people, Arabic has more than 30 regional variants with sharp pronunciation and vocabulary differences. Modern Standard Arabic is used almost exclusively as the official and literary form, while daily conversation relies on dialects from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and elsewhere, making unified modeling difficult. — Xinhua

AUGUST 24

US closes key money laundering channel

A MAJOR avenue for global money laundering and tax evasion has been closed off by a new law requiring disclosure of owners of US shell companies used to hide billions of dollars.

The Corporate Transparency Act was included in the US defence appropriations Bill passed into law by Congress late on Friday (1 January), overriding President Donald Trump’s veto. The law forces “beneficial owners” behind shell companies to report their identities to the US Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN.

Though ownership data remains private, advocates call the new law a major step against tax evaders and illicit money laundering. — AFP

AUGUST 23

Indian Coast Guard enhances maritime surveillance

THE Indian Coast Guard has intensified surveillance along the western sea board to safeguard critical maritime trade routes and ensure the security of merchant vessels.

According to defence officials, advanced offshore patrol vessels, fast interceptor boats, and maritime reconnaissance aircraft have been deployed across key shipping corridors. The heightened vigil aims to monitor commercial shipping lanes, prevent unauthorized maritime entry, and deter illicit activities in the Arabian Sea. The initiative involves coordinated coastal security exercises and round-the-clock radar monitoring from coastal stations. Authorities noted that enhanced surface and air patrols are vital to maintaining secure sea lines of communication, protecting international merchant traffic, and strengthening overall regional maritime security along India’s coastline. — ANI

SPORTS

Ayeyawady, Dagon Star win M League matches

THE second day of Matchday 1 of the 2026-2027 Grand Royal M-League, organized by the Myanmar National League with the support of Grand Royal, AYA Bank and AyaPay, was held on 29 August, with Ayeyawady United and Dagon Star United securing victories.

At Patheingyi Stadium, Ayeyawady United defeated Sport and Physical Education Institute 2-1. Sport and Physical Education Science took the lead through captain Khine Ye Win, who scored directly from a free kick in 11 minutes. Ayeyawady United equalized

through Lu Min Chit in 27 minutes before Maung Tauk scored the winning goal three minutes later. Neither side scored in the second half.

Maung Tauk, who scored the winning goal, received the AyaPay Player of the Match award, a commemorative prize and a cash award of K1 million.

At Thanlyin Thihadipa Stadium, Dagon Star United beat Hanthawady United 2-0, giving the team a strong start under new coach U Chit Naing. Thiha Zaw opened the scoring in 16 minutes, while Yan Kyaw Htwe added the second goal in 89 minutes.



Ayeyawady United and Sports and Physical Education Institute players vie for the ball. PHOTO: NYI NYI MIN

Dagon Star United captain Thiha Zaw was named AyaPay Player of the Match and received a commemorative prize and K1 million.

Matchday 1 will continue with the third day's

fixtures on 30 August, when Yangon City face defending champions Shan United at Padetha Stadium, while Yangon United meet Sagaing United at YUSC Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Myanmar-Laos U18 friendly set for 11 Sept

A Myanmar-Laos U18 friendly football match will be held at Tachilek Sports Ground in eastern Shan State on 11 September to strengthen friendship between the two countries.

The third coordination meeting for the match was held in Tachilek on 27 Au-

gust, with officials discussing preparations and arrangements for the event.

Members of the two countries' friendship associations, ambassadors and embassy officials, departmental officials, and football fans are expected to attend. — ASH/KZL



The opening ceremony of the Township Sports Development Programme (TSDP) festival at Myoma Sports Ground in Tachilek.



Mourinho backs Kylian Mbappe to win the prestigious Ballon d'Or award. PHOTO: AFP

Mourinho says Mbappe worthy of Ballon d'Or

REAL Madrid coach Jose Mourinho said Kylian Mbappe deserves to win this year's Ballon d'Or, arguing the award should go to "the best player in the world" rather than be decided by World Cup or Champions League success.

"The best players in the world, there are two, three or four of them, and we know who they are: they're here," Mourinho told reporters Saturday ahead of Madrid's game against Malaga in La Liga.

"And for me there is one who, individually, made history this summer," Mourinho said, in reference

to Mbappe, who became the all-time leading scorer in World Cup history during the tournament.

The France captain is among the contenders for the Ballon d'Or after finishing last season as the top scorer in La Liga, the Champions League and the 2026 World Cup, despite failing to win a major trophy.

His rivals include England striker Harry Kane, Spain midfielder and World Cup winner Rodri, and Paris Saint-Germain's European champions Ousmane Dembele and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. — AFP

Liverpool held by Forest on Iraola's Anfield debut

ANDONI Iraola escaped defeat on his Anfield debut as Liverpool manager thanks to Victor Munoz's strike to salvage a 2-2 draw against Nottingham Forest.

Forest were set to win at Anfield for the third consecutive season as Dan Ndoye and Morgan Gibbs-White's penalty twice put the visitors in front.



Liverpool salvage dramatic home draw against Nottingham Forest under new manager. PHOTO: AFP

Alexander Isak briefly in the second half before Munoz's deflected effort rescued a late point for the second time in Iraola's two

matches in charge.

Liverpool will hope to have Bradley Barcola to unleash by the time they are next in action at Ipswich on Friday.

The French winger has been one of the Reds' top targets for months and a £106 million (\$144 million) deal with Paris Saint-Germain that could rise by a further £17 million is reportedly close to completion. — AFP

Slumping Sabalenka 'confident' ahead of US Open three-peat bid

ARYNA Sabalenka brushed off concerns about her slumping form on Friday as she prepared to launch her bid for a third straight US Open crown.

The world number one from Belarus arrives in New York following a disappointing run of recent results and has not won a tournament since her victory in the Miami Open in March.

However the four-time Grand Slam singles champion insists she

is ready to turn the page at Flushing Meadows over the next fortnight, a venue that has been a happy hunting ground for her in recent years with back-to-back wins in 2024 and 2025.

"Always confident," the 28-year-old told reporters about her mindset.

Sabalenka started the year in blistering form, with a win in Brisbane before reaching the final of the Australian Open, where she lost in three sets to Elena Rybakina.



Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka prepares for third consecutive US Open victory. PHOTO: PHOTO: AFP

She bounced back from that loss to complete the 'Sunshine Double' with wins at Indian Wells and Miami but has not challenged for a title since. — AFP

UK blocks export of 'national treasure' £71M Rembrandt painting

Britain blocks export of rare historical Rembrandt portrait valued seventy-one million.

THE British government has temporarily banned the export of a Rembrandt portrait valued at over £71 million (\$97 mn), in a bid to keep the "national treasure" in the country.

The UK culture minister can place a temporary export ban on any work of art designated a national treasure, giving a local museum or collector time to raise money to buy it. This painting is the most expensive object ever given this status. The government announced Thursday it has blocked the painting being permanently taken out of the country, at least until 26 December, "with the aim of keeping an important work in the UK and on public display". — AFP



This image shows the Portrait of Catrina Hooghsaet, a 1657 oil-on-canvas masterpiece by the Dutch Golden Age painter Rembrandt van Rijn. **PHOTO: AMSTERDAM MUSEUM**

Nex playground console bets on 'healthy' screen time

The Nex Playground cube uses an AI camera without any physical controllers.

AS concerns mount worldwide that children spend too much time on screens, David Lee, head of Nex Playground, tells AFP that his games console can be a hit in safety-conscious markets. "Not all screen time is the same," the Californian CEO and co-founder told AFP at Gamescom, Europe's largest gaming show.

"We want to create screen time that the family actually wants." Lee's company makes the Nex Playground, a blue-and-yellow plastic cube armed with an AI-powered camera and no controllers. — AFP



Japan investigates commercial animal cafes regarding animal welfare and hygiene standards. **PHOTO: AFP**

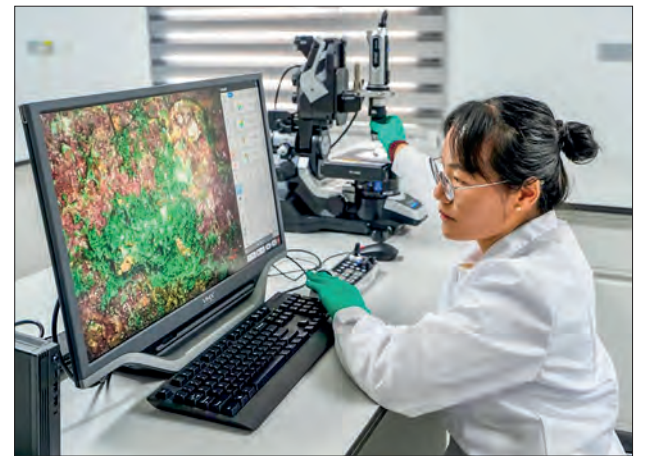
Modern tech gives voice to Chinese wine over 2,000 years old

The cemetery stands near the historic Great Wall built by Qin.

What did ancient people seal in a bronze pot 2,000 years ago? Chinese archaeologists and scientists have jointly confirmed the liquid residue as grain wine of millet and barley from the Warring States Period (475 BC-221 BC), uncovering the mystery quest via cutting-edge technologies.

A well-preserved bronze garlic-head-shaped pot with liquid preserved caught archaeologists' attention. It was unearthed from a tomb at the Shanjiabu cemetery of the Qin State of the Warring States Period in the city of Guyuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

The cemetery is located near the Great Wall built by the Qin State during the Warring States Period, with 183 tombs excavated as of 2024. Though it lacked a cap, the pot's interior was sealed with textile fabric, and its exterior was coated in a layer of mud blended with organic matter — an ancient double seal that somehow kept a large volume of liquid intact for more than two thousand years.



A researcher observes a bronze ware specimen via a microscope at the Ningxia Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, 10 August 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Using sterile scalpels and tweezers, archaeologists carefully peeled away these seals, collecting roughly 3,740 millilitres of clear, pale bluish-green, odorless liquid and a minor amount of sediment. — Xinhua

Kinshasa urban train resumes service

Stifling, packed carriages lack working air conditioning.

AT dawn, dozens of passengers crowded along dusty tracks to board the only urban rail link serving downtown Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo's congested capital. Recently brought back into service after nearly 15 years out of operation, the sky-blue train sporting the national colours makes the daily round trip between the outskirts of the airport and the centre of the megacity of nearly 17 million inhabitants. At Masina



Kinshasa's revived train carries dozens downtown at dawn daily. **PHOTO: AFP**

station, a suburb about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the city centre, people have to elbow their way through

to find a spot in the packed carriages.

Those who miss their stop — which last barely a few moments — have to jump on while the train is moving.

The basic one-way ticket costs 2,000 Congolese francs (around \$0.87), rising to 4,000 francs in second class and 5,000 in first class.

Carriages are packed to bursting and the heat inside quickly becomes stifling due to a lack of air conditioning. — AFP

Japan surveys animal cafes over welfare concerns

Japan launches animal cafe fact-finding survey next month.

JAPAN plans to probe popular animal cafes, where visitors can interact with anything from cats to capybaras, following concerns about hygiene and the creatures' welfare, authorities said Thursday.

Japan has hundreds of the cafes where campaigners say animals are sometimes kept in cramped spaces, and that

their popularity encourages the capture and illegal trade of rare wildlife.

A fact-finding survey will begin as early as next month, starting with obtaining basic facts such like the number of establishments and what ani-

mals they keep, an environment ministry official told AFP.

The ministry will examine whether they comply with relevant laws, including whether animals have enough space and how often cleaning

takes place, said the official, without wishing to be named. "We may then do on-site inspections if we find facilities that appear to be breaching rules" stipulated by the animal welfare law, he said. The decision to launch the survey followed recommendations by members of an expert panel about animal welfare. — AFP