

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar HE U Min Aung Hlaing and spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to make Official Visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

AT the invitation of the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, His Excellency Mr To Lam, and spouse, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing and spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla will pay an Official Visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the near future.

During the visit, the President of Myanmar will meet and hold bilateral talks with the President of Viet Nam, meet with the Prime Minister of Viet Nam and the President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam. Additionally, the President will receive representatives from economic organizations.

Furthermore, the President will attend the Myanmar-Viet Nam Business Forum 2026, and the itinerary includes visits to digital and electronic technology industries. During the visit, the President will hold cordial discussions and exchange views on further consolidation of the existing friendly relations, promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two governments, parliaments and peoples, as well as cooperation across economic, cultural, and various other sectors.

The President and spouse will be accompanied by Union Ministers and officials during the visit. — MNA

Youth Urged to Strive for Excellence, Become Exemplary Citizens

People should pursue occupations suited to their age, skills and abilities, performing their duties through right livelihood.



President U Min Aung Hlaing attends the ceremony to honour the students who passed the matriculation and industrial, agricultural, and livestock examinations for 2026 with outstanding results.

Youth working abroad results in the loss of significant national resources, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to honour the students who passed the matriculation and industrial, agricultural, and livestock examinations for 2026 with outstanding results.

The ceremony took place at the convocation hall of Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. **SEE PAGE 3**

MRCS Mobile Clinic Brings Healthcare to 477 Haka Residents

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society has opened a mobile clinic in Haka, Chin State, providing healthcare to 477 residents, the society said.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society launched the a healthcare programme with the support of the Norwegian Red Cross Society. The mobile clinic was set up to provide primary healthcare to residents.

The clinic operated from 24 to 28 August at Bethel Baptist Church and Emmanuel Church in Haka. During this period, 477 residents received primary healthcare, while seven patients requiring further treatment were referred to hospitals.

In addition, under the supervision of the Chin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee, Red Cross staff and volunteers provided health education to local communities. — ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases a mobile clinic being opened to provide primary healthcare to residents in Haka, Chin State.

61 container vessels slated to dock at Yangon Port in Sept

YANGON Port will handle 61 container vessels in September 2026, the Myanma Port Authority announced.

Twelve container vessels each run by M/S Cosco Shipping Line, M/S SITC Shipping Line, six each by M/S One Line and M/S Maersk A/S Line, five by M/S CMA CGM Line, four by M/S MSC Line, **SEE PAGE 6**

NATIONAL PAGE 6



PyinOoLwin-Gokteik train services to resume next Saturday

NATIONAL PAGE 11



Barcode and QR code scanning system available across over 1,800 fuel stations

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Announcement 4/2026
3rd Waning of Wagoung, 1388 ME
31 August 2026

Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to Convene Third Regular Session

UNDER Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law, and Subrule (b) of Rule 8 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is summoned to convene in Nay Pyi Taw commencing at 10 am on Tuesday, the 3rd Waning of Tawthalin, 1388 ME (29 September 2026).

Sd/Aung Lin Dwe
Speaker

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Amyotha Hluttaw

Announcement 2/2026
3rd Waning of Wagoung, 1388 ME
31 August 2026

Third Amyotha Hluttaw to Convene Third Regular Session

UNDER Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Law (2012), and Subrule (b) of Rule 3 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Rules (2015), it is hereby announced that the Third Regular Session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is summoned to convene in Nay Pyi Taw commencing at 10 am on Tuesday, the 11th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1388 ME (22 September 2026).

Sd/Aung Lin Dwe
Speaker

Objectives of 27th Traditional Myanmar Cultural Performing Arts Competition 2026

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

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

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

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Pyithu Hluttaw

Announcement 3/2026
3rd Waning of Wagaung, 1388 ME
31 August 2026

Third Pyithu Hluttaw to Convene Third Regular Session

UNDER with the provisions of Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 35 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Law (2012), and Sub-rule (b) of Rule 3 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rules (2013), it is hereby announced that the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is summoned to convene in Nay Pyi Taw commencing at 10 am on Monday, the 10th Waxing of Tawthalin, 1388 ME (21 September 2026).

Sd/Khin Yi
Speaker

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Artworks of Sayagyi U Hlaing Bwa, promising artists at Ministers' Office await art lovers

RENOWNED and emerging artists showcase their works at Yangon's historic Secretariat Building (former Ministers' Office) on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township, offering visitors a serene space to appreciate art.

Inside the gallery, the paintings are arranged and displayed with lighting and shading appropriate to the artistic works. Two adjoining galleries are being presented- one dedicated exclusively to paintings by the great artist, U Hlaing Bwa, and the other featuring works by promising painters.

"Through the book 'A Life in Impression,' we

have brought together artworks created based on U Hlaing Bwa's use of colour, light and emotions. Each work presents the artist's own perspective, use of colour and way of seeing and experiencing things differently," said an in-charge person of Shwe Yun Thar Art Gallery.

The paintings by Sayagyi U Hlaing Bwa displayed at the gallery are mainly viewed and appreciated by middle-aged and older art enthusiasts, while young people study the works of young painters and take photographs of the artworks.

Sayagyi U Hlaing Bwa painted not only human

figures but also scenes of Bagan pagodas and landscapes. Before painting, he would calculate the tone key and colour key, and even the brushwork, and would consider the requirements of the completed painting. He was known for being particular about his work and would only be satisfied when he had completed a painting to his liking. His paintings are currently priced at between K30 million and more than K50 million per work.

"If you look at Degas, his paintings are not overly washed out. The way he handled the closed and open areas was very good. There was also a lot of

subtlety. Even the way he arranged the colours was excellent. When you look at Degas' paintings, his nude works are also very good. The way he systematically arranged the colours and tone keys is impressive. Those are the elements that stimulate the senses," said U Hlaing Bwa in his book.

Sixty paintings by U Hlaing Bwa are being displayed in the gallery, while another 60 paintings by other artists are being exhibited in the adjoining gallery. Works by a renowned painter are featured for one month at a time. Some of the paintings are not for sale but are displayed ex-



Images show the exhibits on display and art enthusiasts.

clusively so that they may remain in the minds of visitors as lasting impressions.

Some of the paintings on display are older works collected and purchased from well-known Myanmar artists. The gallery owner, who has a strong appreciation for Myanmar culture, is making efforts to showcase Myanmar and Chinese paintings not only in China but also at international art exhibitions. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

Youth Urged to Strive for Excellence, Become Exemplary ...

FROM PAGE 1

At the ceremony, the President pointed out that a total of 307 students who achieved the highest marks nationwide in the Matriculation Examination and the Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock Matriculation Examinations will be appropriately honoured with one-tical gold coins as a gesture of recording their achievements.

For teaching industrial, agricultural, and livestock subjects, the President recalled that the State has opened Basic Education and Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock High Schools since the 2023-2024 academic year to produce well-qualified, skilled workers to promote the development of the industrial, handicraft and manufacturing sectors. To date, 92 such schools have been opened, and students who have completed their studies at these schools have already emerged. In addition, vocational subjects are now being incorporated into the curriculum at the basic education middle-school level starting from the current academic year.

The President underlined that as today's era is an age of technology, digital businesses and AI-based services are gaining momentum rapidly. Youth should stay abreast of developments around the world and engage more actively in science-



President U Min Aung Hlaing and dignitaries watch the music performance presented by students at yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

and technology-based entrepreneurship. They also need to use social media and the Internet properly and effectively to access and explore modern knowledge and skills.

The President urged that everyone should work for the nation's development, and people should engage in suitable occupations according to their age, skills and abilities, performing their duties through right livelihood and maintaining a proper balance between self-interest and the interests of others.

He noted that youth working abroad is highly detrimental to the country and results in the loss of significant national resources. Therefore, young people are urged to make full use of the knowledge and skills they have been taught in their own country to contribute fully to the development of their country and people and, in turn, give back to their nation.

The President ad-

vised the students to continue striving to become outstanding and exemplary individuals who lead meaningful lives in accordance with the ethics and dignity expected of citizens; to faithfully and wholeheartedly serve the interests of the country and its people with patriotism and national spirit; to strive for success in life to become good pioneers who can shape and build the nation's future through education; and to actively and responsibly contribute in their respective capacities to the building of a modern, developed nation.

At the ceremony, the President awarded the students who scored the highest marks in the science combination of the 2026 matriculation examination.

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye presented awards to 11 students who scored the highest marks in the arts and science combination of the 2026 matriculation examination, Pyithu Hluttaw

Speaker U Khin Yi, 10 students in the arts combination, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, five students in the industrial, agricultural and livestock matriculation exam and five students in the matriculation exam and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, 10 students in the matriculation exam, respectively.

Union ministers, Union-level dignitaries, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command presented prizes to the students who achieved the highest

marks in the 2026 matric exam.

On behalf of the winners, Ma Hnin Wint Hte from Patheingyi Basic Education High School spoke words of thanks.

The President and State dignitaries posed for documentary photos together with the outstanding students.

After the ceremony, the President had lunch together with the prize-winning students.

This year's pass rate for the Matriculation Examination was 52.37 per cent, showing an improvement year on year. In addition, the pass rate for the Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock Matriculation Examination

tion, held for the first time this year, reached 49.7 per cent, which is a source of satisfaction and pride for the country's education sector.

A total of 674 students achieved distinctions in all subjects in the Matriculation Examination, while 32 students secured the highest marks nationwide in their respective subject combinations. Meanwhile, in the Industrial, Agricultural and Livestock Matriculation Examination, three students achieved distinctions in all subjects, and 50 students obtained the highest marks nationwide in their respective subject combinations. — MNA/TTA

Key points from the speech delivered by the President in honouring the students

- 1. Students should continue striving to become outstanding and exemplary individuals who lead meaningful lives in accordance with the ethics and dignity expected of citizens.
- 2. Students must faithfully and wholeheartedly serve the interests of the country and its people with patriotism and national spirit.
- 3. Students should strive for success in life to become good pioneers who can shape and build the nation's future through education.



Vice-President U Nyo Saw is seen prior to departing for the Russian Federation.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw leaves for 11th Far Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw, accompanied by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Min Zeya Hlaing and

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, left Yangon by air yesterday morning to attend the 11th Far Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, the Russian Federation.

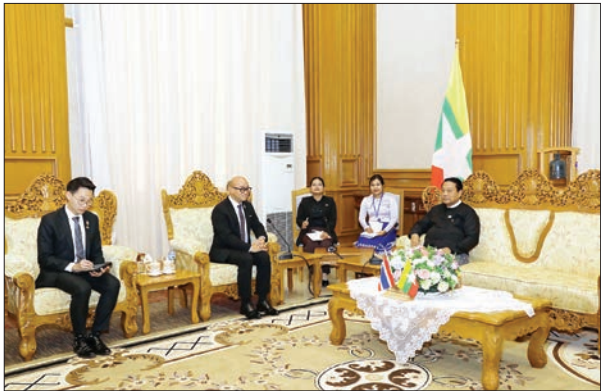
The Myanmar delegation, led by the Vice-President, was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, Yangon

Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, the Yangon Command commander, regional ministers and officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Myanmar. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Thailand Discuss Stronger Parliamentary Cooperation



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi receives the Thai ambassador.

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tor Saralamba in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to discuss bilateral relations and parliamentary cooperation. U Khin Yi highlighted the 78-year diplomatic relations between Myanmar

and Thailand and called for closer cooperation in combatting transnational crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking and online scams, while also promoting bilateral trade and investment.

He also called for greater cooperation between the two countries' parliaments, including through committees, youth and women's representatives, and urged support for the legal rights of Myanmar workers in Thailand.

The Thai ambassa-

dor expressed support for closer parliamentary ties and invited U Khin Yi to visit Thailand. He also pledged continued assistance for Myanmar workers and cooperation through the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and Hluttaw office officials. — MNA/ST

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Thailand to Promote Parliamentary Cooperation



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe receives the Thai ambassador.

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe received a delegation led by Mr Tor Saralamba, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting room of the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They had a friendly discussion on the bilateral parliamentary friendship, exchange of experiences in international relations and legislation, and further strengthening cooperation between the two parliaments.

The meeting was attended by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker along with Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office, and officials from the Thai Embassy. — MNA/MKKS

HLUTTAW

Notice issued for Representatives to report for attendance at Third Pyithu Hluttaw's Third Regular Session

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has announced that the Third Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw will commence at 10 am on Monday, 21 September 2026, at the Pyithu Hluttaw Meeting Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, and invitation letters have been dispatched to Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to attend the session.

To enable necessary preparations for the session, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives are requested to report in person during office hours to Affair Hall 1 (I-1), Pyithu Hluttaw Office, Nay Pyi Taw, regardless of whether they have received the invitation letter, no earlier than Friday, 18 September 2026, and no later than Saturday, 19 September 2026, and to bring their Hluttaw representative scrutiny identity cards. — MNA/ST

HLUTTAW

Notice issued for Representatives to attend Third Regular Session of Third Amyotha Hluttaw

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has summoned the Third Regular Session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw to commence at 10 am on Tuesday, 22 September 2026, at the Amyotha Hluttaw Meeting Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, and invitation letters have been dispatched to Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to attend the session.

To enable necessary preparations for the session, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives are requested to report in person during office hours to Affair Hall 19 (I-19), Amyotha Hluttaw Office, Nay Pyi Taw, regardless of whether they have received the invitation letter, no earlier than Saturday, 19 September 2026, and no later than Sunday, 20 September 2026, and to bring their Hluttaw representative scrutiny identity cards. — MNA/ST

Daily newspapers available online

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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

DIPLOMACY

MNPIFER Union Minister receives President of Russia-Myanmar Association

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received a delegation led by Mr Bulochnikov Anatoly Mikhailovich, President of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation, yesterday at Office 1 of the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw.

The two sides openly exchanged views and discussed matters concerning the status of the Memorandum of Cooperation on Business and Investment Cooperation between My-

anmar and Russia, the priority sectors and areas to be promoted to increase investment, the status of exemptions and relief measures issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), and matters related to facilitating and providing protection for investment activities.

Senior officials from the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and members of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation also attended the meeting. — MNPIFER



Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe holds a meeting with the Russian delegation.

DIPLOMACY

MoFR Union Minister receives President of Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation

UNION Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Bulochnikov Anatoly Mikhailovich, President of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation, at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Building 26 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They cordially dis-

cussed cooperation between Myanmar and Russia in the areas of banking, investment, trade and payments, taxation, and ICT.

Also present at the meeting were deputy ministers, the permanent secretary and heads of departments under the ministry. — MoFR



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw holds talks with the Russian delegation led by the president of the Russian-Myanmar Association.

5 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 4 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of Chief Justice of the Union U Tha Htay and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Thaung Naing, U Thein Ko Ko,

Daw Thin Thin Nwet and U Win Myint was convened Monday at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw and passed judgements for five special civil ap-

peal cases – No 10/2026 (Mandalay), 12/2026 (Yangon), 13/2026 (Mandalay), 20/2026 (Ayeawady) and 24/2026 (Mon).

In addition, a total

of four special civil appeal cases: No 23/2026 (Mandalay), 25/2026 (Mon), 26/2026 (Shan) and 30/2026 (Yangon) were heard. — MNA

DIPLOMACY

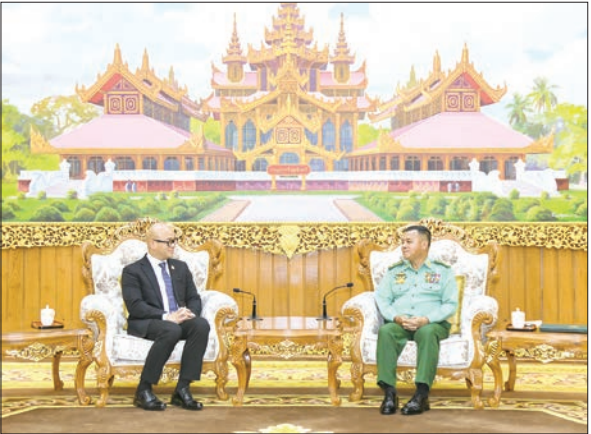
Defence Services C-in-C receives Thai Ambassador to discuss border security

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo met Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tor Saralamba and his delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The two sides discussed strengthening diplomatic ties and military cooperation, as well as maintaining peace and stability along the Myanmar-Thai border.

They also exchanged views on enforcing the rule of law, combatting terrorism, tackling online scams and illegal gambling, and preventing the illicit trafficking of arms, ammunition, narcotics and controlled chemicals.

The meeting concluded with an exchange of gifts between General Ye Win Oo and the Thai ambassador. — MNA/ST



The Thai ambassador calls on Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo.

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Union Minister receives President of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association

U Tin Maung Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Bulochnikov Anatoly Mikhailovich, President of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on matters related to further strengthening the friendship and economic

cooperation between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

Also present at the meeting were officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vice-President of the Russia-Myanmar Association for Friendship and Cooperation and Chairman and representatives of the Myanmar-Russia Economic Development Association. — MoFA

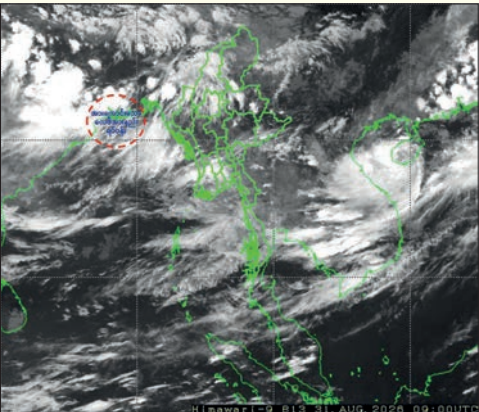


President Mr Balochnikov Anatoly Mikhail of the Russia-Myanmar Friendship Association calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe.

Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 31 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area over Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha coasts, India, and Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards across North Odisha - Gangetic West Bengal, India, during the next 24 hours. — DMH



NATIONAL

PyinOoLwin-Gokteik train services to resume next Saturday



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo inspects the repairs to the Nawngkhio-Gokteik railway.

TRAIN services between PyinOoLwin and Gokteik will resume regularly from next Saturday after repairs to the Nawngkhio-Gokteik railway sec-

tion were completed following flooding caused by heavy rain in Nawngkhio Township.

Union Minister for Transport and for Digital Development and Communications U Mya Tun Oo inspected the section by travelling by RBE train from PyinOoLwin to Gokteik station. He instructed officials to clear grass, weeds and bushes along the railway, improve drainage in mountainous areas and take measures to prevent floodwater from overflowing onto the tracks near Bridge No 232 between Nawngkhio and Gokteik stations.

At Gokteik station, he also instructed officials to improve the station and staff quarters. He further inspected Gokteik Viaduct and called for proper maintenance of its structure, paintwork and surrounding fencing. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar delegation attends 20th Ho Chi Minh International Travel Expo



The 20th Ho Chi Minh International Travel Expo is underway yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Maung Myint.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Culture, Hotels and Tourism U Maung Myint attended the 20th Ho Chi Minh International Travel Expo and related meetings in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from 25 to 28 August.

The delegation attended the expo's welcome dinner and Vietnam Night on 26 August, followed by the expo's opening ceremony at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre (SECC) on 27 August, where it visited Myanmar's tourism pavilion and exhibition booths from other countries and tourism-related businesses.

The delegation also participated in the MICE Tourism Forum and the Seventh ACMECS Tourism Ministers' Meeting, where the Myanmar Union Minister served as chair. The Eighth Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Tourism Ministers' Meeting and a press conference were also held.

Representatives from 40 countries, including Myanmar, attended the tourism expo, while tourism ministers and officials from ACMECS and CLMV member countries took part in the ministerial meetings. — MNA/ST

61 container vessels slated to dock at...

FROM PAGE 1

three each by M/S Evergreen Asia Line, M/S RCL Line, M/S Samudra Shipping Line and M/S Ti2 Container Line and two by M/S BLPL Shipping Line and one each by M/S Land And Sea and M/S BAY Line are scheduled to enter the Yangon Port in September.

Myanma Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, to bolster exports, and to improve port capacity for significant arrivals of ships. Myanma Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules promptly upon an extended schedule. Yangon Port handled 55

container vessels each in August, July and June, 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 each in February and 63 in January 2026.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June 2024, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled. — NN/KK

Public Notice

1. Due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, global fuel prices have increased, affecting transportation costs for essential goods distributed by diesel-powered vehicles. To help stabilize prices of basic commodities, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue had previously announced a tax exemption on imported High-Speed Diesel (HSD 500 ppm), including customs duty, special commodity tax, commercial tax, and a two per cent advance income tax, effective from 1 April 2026 to 31 August 2026, as published in state-owned newspapers. This tax exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 30 September 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 30 September 2026 and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of HSD (500 ppm).

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. To ensure continuous development of the agricultural sector, which is a key foundation of the State economy, and to reduce production costs for farmers, a two per cent advance income tax on imported fertilizers will be exempted from 1 April to 31 August 2026, and announced in the state-run newspapers. This exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 30 September 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 30 September 2026 and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of fertilizers.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. Due to rising global fuel prices caused by conflicts in the Middle East, the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has also increased. To support power generation and reduce electricity costs, customs duty, commercial tax, and advance income tax on imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be exempted from 1 April to 31 August 2026. Such information has already announced in state-owned newspapers, and this exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 30 September 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 30 September 2026 and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

NATIONAL

Applications open for Kaigo full scholarship for Apr 2027 intake

THE Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) has announced that applications are open for the Kaigo Full Scholarship Programme for the April 2027 intake.

Under this programme, recipients will receive a two-year free course with a 100 per cent full scholarship at the Kaigo College. Additionally, as a special arrangement, flight tickets to Japan will be provided. Upon completion of the course, graduates will have opportunities to legally reside and work in Japan long-term, as well as to take the path to obtain an officially recognized Japanese Caregiver License.

Parents don't need to show a guarantor/sponsor, and affordable service fees are arranged. Applicants must be between 18 and 27 years old, have completed

high school (Old System Grade 10, New System Grade 12, or GED), and have passed at least the JLPT N4 Japanese language proficiency level. Furthermore, candidates must be in good health, have a genuine interest in eldercare work, and be committed to a long-term career in the field.

The study location is Hokkaido, and interested applicants can apply by accurately filling out the information via the Google Form Link. Following a screening and selection process, detailed information will be individually communicated via the Gmail address given when filling out the form.

For further details, enquiries can be made to the MAJA Education Centre in Yangon, or by dialling 09 770987222 and 09 428613848. — MT/ZN



Successful students for the 2026 April Intake Japan & Kaigo Scholarship.

2 Myanmar films to shine at Chiang Mai International Film Festival

THE Second Chiang Mai International Film Festival 2026, held at Central Chiang Mai Airport Plaza in Chiang Mai, Thailand, featured two Myanmar films.

The festival selected I Wanna Be Your Lobster and Kan Kaung for screening.

The opening ceremony was held on 28 August at the invitation of Mr Adisorn Suddee, President of the Thai (Northern) Film and Digital Media Association, and U Min Kyaw Lin, Consul-General of Myanmar in Chiang Mai.

The festival ran for three days, from 28 to 30 August. I Wanna Be Your Lobster was screened at Central Chiang Mai Airport Plaza on 28 August.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar film was also screened at the ASEAN Film Festival, organized by the Hong Kong-ASEAN Foundation Limited and held at the Hong Kong Palace Museum from 20 August to 27 September. It was screened at The Sky (House 3) Cinema in Olympian City 2, Hong Kong, on 21 August. — TWA/MKKS

30 information staff join News and News Article Writing Training

THE News and News Article Writing Training Course was opened yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw with the objectives of enhancing public awareness of government policies and activities, sharing experiences in news and news article writing developing the ability to assess news values, providing practical training in modern digital news presentation technologies, promoting discussions in line with media ethics, strengthening the role of media in serving the community, and enhancing cooperation with international media organizations.

Ambassador of India

to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur said the course would provide new insights for media professionals as it covers news and news article writing, fact-checking and analysis of rebuttal-related news, media monitoring, digital communications, and crisis communications.

Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint said trainees would gain the necessary knowledge, experience and skills in news writing, learn international journalistic ethics, enabling them to provide the public with accurate and reliable information. He expressed hope that the training would contribute to the development of media activities under



The launch of the News and News Article Writing Training in progress yesterday.

the Ministry of Information, and said cooperation in the media sector would further strengthen the friendship between Myanmar and India.

The course is jointly organized by the Media Development Department under the Ministry of Information and India's Ministry of

External Affairs under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. The training will run from 31 August to 11 September, with 30 trainees from the Ministry of Information. Two media experts from India will serve as instructors for the course. — MNA/KTZH

Yangon-Pyay railway track-lifting works set for early Sept completion

UPGRADING works of the Yangon-Pyay railway serving DEMU trains are accelerating to improve commuter convenience, train schedule optimization, and train speeds, according to the Ministry of Transport.

Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing recently inspected the progress on site. Of the 161 mile railway line, 121 miles have been lifted and packed using four Automatic Levelling, Lining & Tamping Machines (ALLTM). The remain-

ing 40 miles are slated for 100 per cent completion by 3 September.

Additionally, laying continuous welded rail is also underway to strengthen the track and provide a safer ride. The section spanning 37 miles from Danyingon to Phalon and 43 miles from Pyay to Zeegon were completed, totaling 80 miles. The remaining 68.5 miles, from Phalon to Zeegon, are targeted for completion in the 2026 2027 financial year.

At present, upgrad-



Lifting and packing railway track with the use of ALLTM machine.

ing works continue on sections including Nat-talin-Paungde, Thae-gon-Sinmeeswe, Sin-

meeswe-Hmawza, and Hmawza Junction-Pyay station. — TWA/KK

Gold Market Rate as of 31 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.

Combat illegal trade activities nationwide

All import and export activities should be conducted sincerely. Relevant officials need to closely inspect imported and exported goods to ensure that they meet the required quality standards, and care must be taken to prevent dishonest practices from tarnishing the image of the country.

To ensure the rapid and smooth flow of goods, unnecessary checkpoints along trade routes should be reduced, while strict measures must be taken to prevent illegal trade. Illegal trade can cause losses to the State by depriving it of the taxes and duties it is entitled to collect. It can also harm the public, as people may have to

The import of illegal goods without paying taxes and without meeting required standards and quality specifications can strengthen the black market for foreign currency. At the same time, the illegal transport and sale of such goods can allow traders in partner countries to manipulate prices at their discretion. The expansion of illegal business activities can also adversely affect price stability in the domestic market.

eliminate illegal trade.

The import of illegal goods without paying taxes and without meeting required standards and quality specifications can strengthen the black market for foreign currency. At the same time, the illegal transport and sale of such goods can allow traders in partner countries to manipulate prices at their discretion. The expansion of illegal business activities can also adversely affect price stability in the domestic market.

Personnel assigned to combat illegal trade must perform their duties honestly and faithfully in the interests of the country. Supervising officers must lead by example and maintain personal integrity, while also continuously monitoring, assessing and supervising the conduct and performance of the personnel under their command.

Only when the government, business community, and all departmental personnel involved in combatting illegal trade work together in unity, with the interests of the country in mind, will the fight against illegal trade provide strong support for the development of the national economy and contribute to the growth and development of legitimate trade.

purchase and use substandard goods at high prices. Therefore, relevant officials must pay special attention to and take strict measures to ensure that trade is conducted rapidly, safely and smoothly, and that illegal trade is prevented.

Illegal trade must be firmly prevented to ensure that it does not undermine the production capacity and market competitiveness of local ethnic entrepreneurs engaged in domestic manufacturing, weaken their ability to compete, or cause a decline in their competitiveness.

Detailed discussions and instructions were given on systematically conducting inspections at border checkpoints; preventing, inspecting and taking legal action against the transportation of illegal goods; ensuring the safe and smooth flow of goods along trade routes; and extending the currently used E-Lock system for cargo containers to all trade routes. It was also emphasized that efforts to combat illegal trade must be carried out as a national responsibility in order to reduce and ultimately

Running Low on Basic Necessities of Life

By U AC

Water, water everywhere

Once the first round of heavy rains started to fall onto the flatlands of Hlinethaya, the flooding began. Lack of sufficient and proper rubbish disposal facilities has caused blocked drains, and the rainwater simply has no way out other than seeping underground via a few grass-covered areas. With

a population density of 9,700 people per square kilometre, Hlinethaya is more densely populated than Singapore or Tokyo; flash floods now happen more frequently than local drainage systems can handle, turning

streets into rivers in minutes. The township would suddenly get calf-height inundation if the incessant rains continue for more than a couple of hours. A shoutout to the successive local governments for successfully turning our streets into premium, eco-friendly waterparks.

Yet in the middle of the Yangon region, where the poor can have an unprompted indoor swimming pool, and developers can advertise their flats as ‘beachfront’ properties (without having to go to Chaungtha or Ngwehsaung), there is certainly no clean water availability on tap. The centralized water supply, aka Joe Phyu water, only reaches the Nawaday estate in Ward 6 of the township. The rest have to rely on underground water full of excessive minerals of the dangerous kinds such as iron, mercury and salt. But

the would-be Bill Gates and Elon Musk are capitalizing on this misery and profiting from the despair by setting up clean water stations and selling supposedly purified water to the underprivileged at around K2,000 per five-gallon plastic containers. No government department or organizations is verifying the actual quality of the water being sold. Just a perfect environment for vulture entrepreneurs to benefit from disaster capitalism.

But for the families caught in a cycle of immediate survival, having no budget to buy clean water on some days for their children can be devastating for the health of the children. For day-to-day earners, who are already living hand-to-mouth and cannot afford to lose a single day of work, they may, on some days, end up asking or having to ask their children to drink the polluted water. What would have been the impact on the child’s mental and physical

development? How much would it contribute to the lower life expectancy of future generations? No one knows. The impact of subsistence living at its worst!

Barking up the wrong tree

Since 2010, at the start of the democratic system of government for Myanmar, every MP, politician and government official has come around Hline-thaya and toured the neighbourhood and given a normal government response, built on a strict ratio of 20 per cent press release and 80 per cent disappearing act. Even Daw Suu Kyi joined with Angelina Jolie to visit squatters in Hlinethaya, to do exactly that!

And instead of addressing the basic issue of human decency, they focus on roads, bridges, creating optics on superficial cleanups, conveniently forgetting the issue of clean water access. Our leaders are treating the clean water crisis like an unread email: if they ignore it long enough, maybe it’ll just go away.

Regular electricity is not expected in the near future; With 52 out of 250 transformers in the

township in usage overload, and the government budget only allocating five in this financial year, the demand cannot be met in the foreseeable future. Road laying and street building are admirable, but without accompanying drainage cleanup, the high roads will only lead to more flood water pooling around the houses and sheds.

Yet, the most critical of all, availability of clean drinking water is completely passed over. Joe Phyu’s access will not be forthcoming in the next decade. Hence, we need water filtration systems and clean water access stations in the township. Access to this public good cannot be left to private enterprises (currently without any supervision).

Maybe the people in Hline-thaya are all waiting. Waiting for a Hero (Just like in Mariah Carey’s song) to come along, with the strength to carry on - the herculean task of providing clean water for the whole neighbourhood. He, with a few other good men, has to make this happen, to set an example for the whole nation, while accumulating merits for their next lives at the same time.

“ Road laying and street building are admirable, but without accompanying drainage cleanup, the high roads will only lead to more flood water pooling around the houses and sheds. ”

Myanmar Zat Pwe: Where Traditional Dances Beneath the Moon

By Moon Cherry K

Under the gentle radiance of a Myanmar moon, village families spread handwoven mats across the dusty grounds of a temple. As the evening deepens, music rises, colourful costumes shimmer, laughter travels through the crowd, and a peculiar magic unfolds. This is Myanmar Zat Pwe – not simply a night of entertainment, but a living theatre where music, dance, storytelling, humour and tradition meet beneath the open sky.

What Is Zat Pwe?

Zat Pwe is a traditional Myanmar all-night variety show, often staged during pagoda festivals and community celebrations. Beginning in the evening and continuing until dawn, it is open-air musical theatre that brings performers and audiences together.

A performance may begin with Nat Chin, a traditional opening ritual in which performers pay

homage to guardian spirits and seek their blessings. This may be followed by the graceful candlelight dance and a series of traditional performances, including Myanmar classical dance-drama, often based on one of the Jataka tales – the 550 stories of the Buddha’s previous lives. Other popular performances may include puppet theatre, traditional opera, comedy, choral dance, and duet dance. As the evening unfolds, the performances gradually build in energy and excitement, culminating in a lively and vibrant finale that leaves the audience entertained and inspired.

At the heart of the show are the leading actor, or Zat Minthar, and leading actress, the Zat Minthamee. Their dancing, singing and acting are complemented by comedians who keep the audience laughing with jokes and humorous scenes. Behind them, the Hsaing Waing, Myanmar’s tra-

ditional ensemble of drums, gongs and other instruments, provides the powerful musical energy that drives the performance.

Zat Pwe draws inspiration from Buddhist Jataka stories, royal history and everyday life. At the same time, modern performances can incorporate contemporary songs, humour and popular cultural elements. This blend of old and new helps Zat Pwe remain relevant.

From Ritual to Theatre

Myanmar performing arts have deep roots in early expressive movement, ritual and community traditions. During the Konbaung Dynasty, particularly in the eighteenth century, the arts developed into sophisticated forms of royal drama, outdoor circular theatre known as Mye-Waing, and marionette puppetry. These traditions united literature, music, dance, storytelling and craftsmanship.

By the late nineteenth century, Myanmar theatre was increasingly influenced by modern stage arrangements and gradually moved towards proscenium-style performances. Yet their essential character remained: stories were told through words, music, movement, costumes and visual spectacle. Zat Pwe became an important part of this cultural heritage, preserving traditional artistic expressions while allowing performers to create new forms.

Artists Who Kept the Stage Alive

Throughout Myanmar’s theatrical history, many gifted artists have contributed to the development of Zat Pwe and traditional drama. Among the respected performers of earlier generations were U Bo Kone, Saya Mhone, Daw Htway Lay and Daw Sein Net, while U Pho Sein became one of the most renowned figures in

traditional Zat theatre. Earlier Zat Thabin also brought remarkable performers such as Alinga Kyaw Swa Shwe Man Tin Maung and Mya Chay Gyin Ma Ngwe Myaing into the limelight. Later generations also produced celebrated artists, including Chan Thar, Mann Win, Han Zar Moe Win, Pho Chit, Aung Zabu and San Yay Moe.

These artistes were not merely performers; they were creators. They experimented with choreography, costumes, backdrops, props and new operas to make their performances more compelling. Their creativity shows that preserving tradition does not mean repeating the past. A tradition survives when each generation respects its roots while finding fresh ways to express them.

Why Zat Pwe Matters Today

Zat Pwe offers more than en-

tertainment. First, it preserves Myanmar’s intangible cultural heritage by passing traditional music, dance, stories and performance techniques from one generation to another. Second, it strengthens community bonds because people of different ages can gather together and share a common cultural experience. Third, it provides opportunities for artists, musicians, dancers, comedians and technicians to develop their skills and earn a living. It also has educational value. Through stories drawn from Jataka tales, history and social life, audiences can encounter moral lessons, cultural values and traditional knowledge in an enjoyable form. For international audiences, it offers a window into Myanmar’s identity.

However, there are challenges. Traditional Zat Pwe perfor-

mances require considerable time, money, space and large groups of performers. Changing entertainment habits, the popularity of digital media and the fast pace of modern life have contributed to fewer opportunities for long overnight performances. If younger generations lose interest, traditional skills could disappear.

Preserving the Spirit, Not Just the Show

Today, Zat Pwe performances can still be presented at cultural events, theatres such as the National Theatre, festivals and fundraising programmes. Groups such as the newly established Mandalay Arts Foundation can help encourage public interest and support artists.

Preservation should not mean placing tradition behind glass. We should encourage young people to learn Myanmar dance, music, theatre and storytelling

while giving them freedom to experiment with modern ideas. Schools, cultural organisations, artists and communities can work together to create workshops, youth performances and cultural programmes that make Zat Pwe accessible to a new generation. Digital platforms can introduce its music, costumes and stories worldwide.

As the moon moves across the Myanmar sky and the last echoes of the Hsaing Waing fade towards dawn, a Zat Pwe leaves behind more than memories of laughter and spectacle. It leaves stories, melodies, movements and values that connect generations. Myanmar Zat Pwe is not merely an old form of entertainment. It is a cultural heartbeat – one that carries the imagination of the past while making room for the creativity of the future. If we preserve its essence, support its artists and inspire young people to love and reinvent it, the stage will not fall silent. Beneath the Myanmar moon, the music can rise again, and the story of Myanmar can continue to dance.

NATIONAL

Efforts Intensify to Seal Ngawun Embankment Breach in Laymyethna



Accelerated repairs seal breach in Ngawun River embankment, Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region.

EFFORTS are being intensified to block the breach in the Ngawun River embankment in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, as quickly as possible, according to the region's Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

Repair work includes placing geotextile bags (geobags) filled with sand and installing steel sheet piles from opposite sides of the breach. Around 80 feet of work using geobags has been completed on one side, while more than 70 feet of steel sheet piling has been completed on the other.

Officials said preparations are also underway to ensure that machinery, seeds and other agricultural inputs are available so that farmers can resume cultivation as soon as water levels recede. — ASH/KNN

National-level training on hygiene promotion in emergencies organized in Nyaungshwe

A national-level training on hygiene promotion in emergencies (HPiE) was conducted in southern Shan State, Nyaungshwe Township, for four days.

Jointly organized by the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the German Red Cross Society, the training was conducted from 27 to 31 August, aiming to help the community adopt good hygiene practices and gain knowledge of effective hygiene promotion in emergencies.

Dr Myint Thein, vice chair of the state Red Cross Supervisory Committee and MRCS's officials from the Wash Unit and trainees attended the opening ceremony.

The training covered personal hygiene promotion, water and environmental cleanliness, personal hygiene awareness, community involvement and communication, as well as hygiene knowledge and skills that can help effective hygiene promotion in emergencies.

Regional or state Red Cross volunteers and 28 Red Cross employees joined the training. As practical work, hygiene promotion and data collection were carried out in a field investigation in villages. — MT/ZS

Crew member still missing in tugboat fire



A tugboat caught fire near Sankin jetty. Region's Danubyu Township on the night of 29 August.

gust, and a crew member has been missing, according to the township fire services department.

The tugboat heading from Yangon to Pyay with a barge carrying gravel caught fire while refueling when it stopped for an overnight stay near Sankin jetty.

The fire was put out by firefighters from the township fire station after 10 pm. Eleven crew members were on board, but one crew member has been missing, and the remaining 10 were reportedly unhurt.

The diesel reservoir was also destroyed in the fire; the total loss is about K4.5 million. Danubyu Myoma police station has proceeded with prosecution against the fleet. — TWA/ZS



HPiE training being conducted in Nyaungshwe.

MSY Village Project activities inspected in TadaU

TADAU Township Rural Development Department, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection of income-generating businesses in Nyaungchin Village yesterday, aiming at enabling rural residents to operate their own small businesses and to obtain low-interest financing.

U Hla Win Kyaw, Head of the Rural Development Department of TadaU Township, and the staff in charge of the township project met members of the Mya Sein Yang (MSY) Village Project and reviewed the agricultural activities, checked the success of the livestock and trading activities and whether the monthly financial statements were complete or not, and coordinated the necessary arrangements.

In the village, 58 farmers were given K16.65 million, 45 farmers were given K11.85 million, and eight traders were given K2.7 million, totalling 111 members and associates, according to U Hla Win Kyaw, Township Head of the TadaU Township Rural Development Department. — Aung Ye Kyaw

12 civilians slain in brutal PDF attack

TWELVE civilians, including 10 men and two women, were killed after 25 armed PDF terrorist members allegedly entered Htamagyi Village in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region, and opened fire on residents with small arms yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as village administrator U Soe Lin Htike, 44, U Maung Thein, 43, U Chit San Maung, 44, U Bo Thet Lin, 40, U Than Htay Aung, 39, U Wai Yan Soe, 32, U Zaw Khet, 45, U Hein Wunna Zaw, 22, U Win Naing, 44, U Ohn Maung, 63, Daw Khin Mu, 44, and Daw Lae Lae Win, 44.

The armed group arrived in three vehicles and motorcycles, opened fire on the civilians and then left the village by the same route.

Security personnel subsequently inspected the village and found the bodies of the 12 victims. The bodies were transported to Myaing Township Hospital, while security operations were continued in the area.

Such inhumane shooting and killing of innocent civilians is considered a war crime under the Geneva Conventions



This image reveals the location map where 12 innocent civilians were killed in a brutal PDF attack in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region.

and international law. The locals have strongly condemned the alleged lawless and violent acts of the PDF terrorists, while security personnel, in cooperation with residents, are continuing necessary security operations to identify, arrest and take action against these offenders. — MNA/KTZH

Barcode and QR code scanning system available across over 1,800 fuel stations



A fuel station selling oil by using Barcode, QR code scanning system.

MORE than 1,800 fuel stations across the country are now using barcode and QR code scanning for fuel sales, with the remaining out-

lets to be progressively integrated depending on internet connectivity, Director U Than Htwe of the Supervisory Committee on the Import,

Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil said.

The system was first introduced on 12 March, 2026, in Yangon, Mandalay Nay Pyi Taw, and Taunggyi townships to make fuel more accessible to the public and reduce vehicle queuing. The rollout was later expanded to Bago Region and stations along the Yangon-Mandalay Road on 28 March 2026, Ayeyawady and Magway regions on 4 April 2026, Mon State on 22 April 2026, Kayin State and Taninthayi Region

on 23 April 2026, and Sagaing Region (Monywa, Sagaing, Shwebo) on 16 May 2026, he added.

Out of a total of 2,648 fuel stations nationwide, 1,837 stations are now equipped with the scanning system, accounting for approximately 70 per cent.

Authorities are monitoring compliance and have warned that stations failing to follow the scanning requirements will face legal action, according to the committee. — ASH/KK

Thanlyin University of Cooperative and Management to conduct CABM

THE University of Cooperative and Management (Thanlyin), under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, will offer the six-month online Certificate Course in Agribusiness Management (CABM) Batch 2 starting on 1 September, according to the university's Human Resource Development Committee.

The online course is open to applicants who have completed the ma-

triculation exam (Grade 12 or equivalent). Classes will be held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The course fee is K150,000.

Applications are being accepted by 20 September. Interested candidates can register online via the university's website at www.ucmt.edu.mm. Interested individuals can enquire about details via 09 961530668 or 09 455058911. — NN/KK

No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) bids for procurement of materials

THE Ministry of Industry and MSME Development called for an open tender for the procurement of materials to be utilized at No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) under the No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise.

The tender covers ten items, including a Fluid Control Unit and 1,000 tonnes of Steel Scrap (HMS-1). Tender forms are

available at the Administrative Department of the No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise at Office 30 in Nay Pyi Taw. The submission deadline is 4 pm on 14 September.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through the Administrative Department at 067 405158 during office hours. — NN/KK

Highways Dept invites tenders for road, bridge materials

THE Highways Department has invited open tenders for the supply of construction materials for road and bridge projects in the Twantay Township for the 2026-2027 financial year, under the regional budget.

Tender forms will be available starting from 1 September, with submis-

sions closing at 4 pm on 8 September. Bids will be opened at 10 am on 10 September at the office of the Assistant Director (Urban) of the Highways Department in Twantay.

Interested individuals can enquire for further details through the office by dialling 09 254026457. — NN/KK

MSY Village Project activities inspected in Thazi

THAZI Township Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection of the activities implemented under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Natmyaung Village yesterday morning, aiming at increasing employment opportunities and family income for rural residents and reducing poverty.

Thazi Township

Rural Development Department Head Daw Mya Thet Win, and the project staff inspected the conditions of the agricultural and livestock activities implemented with the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project fund of K57 million in Natmyaung Village and the completeness of the monthly accounting forms to be filled in.

The Head of the Rural Development Department of Thazi Township,



Officials inspect the progress of an agricultural activity in Thazi Township.

Daw Mya Thet Win, coordinated the necessary arrangements.

In Natmyaung Village, nine agricultural workers received K3.55 million in loans and 77 livestock workers received K53.45 million

in loans, totalling 86 borrowers and K57 million in loans, according to Daw Mya Thet Win, Township Head of the Rural Development Department of Thazi Township. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahlaing)

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 31 August 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,662.70~3668.00	557.80~558.70	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	10,906, 939.89	4,404,008.10	61,997,252.71	-

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.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan to buy back 210,000 tonnes of emergency rice to prevent price collapse

THE government is considering buying back 210,000 tonnes of the emergency rice it released last year, sources close to the matter said Monday, in an attempt to prevent a price collapse due to an increase in supply of the Japanese staple.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is planning on placing bids through negotiated contracts on 18 September, in what would be the government's first buyback of released stockpiled rice.

The ministry had initially earmarked allocations in its financial 2026 budget to buy back 150,000



File photo shows stockpiled rice being moved out from a warehouse in Saitama Prefecture, near Tokyo, in March 2025. PHOTO: KYODO

tonnes but raised the tonnage after private-sector inventories of rice hit a record high. It is expected to finalize the decision based on this year's harvest forecast.

The government re-

leased a total of 590,000 tonnes of stockpiled rice in 2025 to help bring down surging prices amid shortages.

Stockpiles now stand at 320,000 tonnes. Even when rice to be secured

from the 2026 harvest is included, the total would only reach 740,000 tonnes, about half the appropriate level of 1 million tonnes.

Farm minister Norikazu Suzuki had sought a buyback announcement by late July, but Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi took a cautious stance, saying it would run counter to measures to curb inflation.

The average retail price of the crop at supermarkets across the country has fallen to around 3,000 yen (\$19) per five kilogrammes, compared to about 4,000 yen at the height of the crisis. — Kyodo

Mexico's trade ties with US pose biggest challenge of century: economy minister

MEXICO'S new trade relationship with the United States represents the country's "biggest challenge" so far this century, Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said Sunday.

"We have never faced a challenge of this scale and complexity with the United States," Ebrard said during a meeting of the ruling National Regeneration Movement party, or Morena, in the Chamber of Deputies.

He said the global economy is undergoing a major shift from a free trade-based system to one increasingly shaped by protectionist principles aimed at bringing some manufac-

turing back to the United States.

Under the new changes, Ebrard said, where a product is made is increasingly important, whereas price and quality, particularly price, used to matter more.

In this context, Mexico has sought to preserve access to the US market and maintain one of the world's lowest effective tariff rates, he added. Ebrard said Mexican exports of electronics, computing equipment and products linked to the artificial intelligence boom in the United States rose sharply between 2025 and 2026. — Xinhua

TAP Air Portugal flies into red before privatization

TAP Air Portugal suffered a second-quarter loss due to high fuel prices, the airline said Monday, with the airline's privatization to Air France-KLM or Lufthansa expected to be wrapped up soon.

The company recorded a net loss of 59.3 million euros (\$68.8 million) in the three months to the end of June, compared to a profit of 38.3 million euros in the same period last year.

While TAP carried a record 8.2 million passen-

gers and took in record revenue of just over two billion euros over the first half of the year, higher fuel costs due to the war in the Middle East had a negative impact of 99.2 million euros, the company said.

Thanks to the "solidity of demand across our entire network", the airline was "able to mitigate the significant impact of the sharp increase in fuel prices", chief executive Luis Rodrigues said in a statement. — AFP

Sri Lanka inflation hits 38-month high



A man walks past paintings for sale on the roadside in Colombo on 3 July 2026. PHOTO: AFP

SRI Lanka's inflation hit a 38-month high of 8.0 per cent as prices of food and other essentials rose across the board, the government's statistics office

said on Monday.

The annual inflation rate in August compared with 7.3 per cent last month and 1.2 per cent a year ago, according to

the Department of Census and Statistics.

"This month's inflation was mainly driven by increases in the price index for transport, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels," the department said.

Sri Lanka has hiked fuel prices by about half since the Middle East war triggered a surge in global energy prices in the import-dependent nation.

The island recorded deflation of 0.3 per cent in July 2025, and prices have risen steadily since then.

Sri Lanka has warned that any prolonged conflict in the Middle East could threaten its fragile economic recovery from the meltdown of 2022, when the country ran out of foreign exchange to finance essential imports.

The government told the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which approved a \$2.9 billion bailout for Colombo in March 2023, that sustained high energy prices could undermine efforts to recover from the country's worst economic crisis. — AFP

German inflation rises further to 2.9% in Aug

GERMANY'S inflation rate rose further to 2.9 per cent in August, returning to its highest level this year as sharply higher energy prices continued to drive up consumer costs, the Federal Statistical Office said Monday.

Energy prices jumped 10.5 per cent year-on-year in August, accelerating from

an 8.3-per-cent rise in July and 3.4 per cent in June, the data showed.

Inflation in Europe's largest economy had hovered around two per cent for several months from late last year before renewed tensions in the Middle East pushed up energy costs, lifting the headline rate from March onward. The feder-

al government temporarily cut fuel taxes on petrol and diesel in May and June to cushion higher costs, helping slow inflation. Once the measure expired, however, inflation rebounded to 2.8 per cent in July. The Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, warned in its latest monthly report that inflation could rise further in

the coming months, with the outlook still largely dependent on developments in the Middle East. Carsten Brzeski, global head of macro for ING Research, said in an analysis on Monday that persistently high oil prices could push German inflation above three per cent and keep it there at least through year-end. — Xinhua



People walk past a clothing store in Berlin, capital of Germany, 30 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Chinese, Thai experts eye deeper digital economy cooperation

CHINESE and Thai experts have gathered in China's Guizhou Province to explore ways to deepen comprehensive cooperation in the digital industry and artificial intelligence (AI) between the two countries.

The experts were attending the "China-Thailand Digital Economy Cooperation" exchange event, a bilateral forum held on the sidelines of the 2026 China International Big Data Industry Expo, which ran from Friday to Sunday in Guiyang, the capital city of Guizhou in southwest China.

According to experts at the event, digital industry cooperation between China and Thailand has entered a new stage characterized by full-chain empowerment, diversified business models, deep localization, and systematic upgrading. Digital economy and AI technology cooperation between the two countries has evolved from

isolated pilot projects to a more systematic phase.

During the event, a report on China-Thailand digital economy cooperation was released. According to the report, in 2025, the digital economy became Thailand's top investment sector, attracting about US\$23.95 billion in investment across 151 projects and securing the leading position among the country's high-tech industries.

Chinese digital investment projects in Thailand surged 42 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2026, with mega-projects rolling out in quick succession, it said.

According to the report, in 2025, bilateral digital trade volume exceeded 110 billion yuan (about US\$16.35 billion), growing 22.3 per cent year on year — far outpacing traditional goods trade and becoming the primary driver of China-Thailand economic and trade growth. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 28 August 2026 shows a view outside the venue of the 2026 China International Big Data Industry Expo in Guiyang, southwest China's Guizhou Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

Fresh banana exports to China lift incomes in NW Cambodia's border province

LAK Sineth, a 29-year-old single mother in Cambodia's northwestern Oddar Meanchey province, has seen her livelihood transformed since she began working at a local banana plantation in 2022.

The plantation, operated by Longfruiter Anlong Veng Oddar Meanchey Agriculture Park Co Ltd, is close to the border with Thailand. The company currently cultivates the yellow Cavendish banana variety across roughly 530 hectares in the Anlong Veng district, providing steady employment for more than 800 residents.

Now a banana packing team leader, Sineth recalls starting with next to nothing. Her steady income has since allowed her to secure a baseline of financial stability and invest in her future.

"After coming to work



Workers wash fresh bananas at the packing factory of a Chinese-invested banana farm in Oddar Meanchey province, Cambodia, on 30 August 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

at this banana plantation, I could afford my own land and other valuable possessions," Sineth told Xinhua on Sunday. "My life has been much better than before."

Cheat Chumpou, a 24-year-old banana washer, shared a similar perspective. Ever since she joined the factory, her financial situation has improved significantly thanks to the stable wages and

supportive environment.

Before securing this job, Chumpou lived with her parents, who are farmers. She recalled that their livelihood was incredibly difficult, and they frequently lived hand-to-mouth.

"I want to thank the Chinese investors for investing in Cambodia," she said. "It has created many jobs and made life much better for Cambodian people."

Oeun Samkeary, the factory's 30-year-old production manager, noted that this yellow banana is a unique variety in Cambodia, standing out for its superior quality and taste compared to local options.

Samkeary added that the company's export volumes to China have grown steadily. Shipments rose from 24,000 tonnes in 2024 to more than 34,000 tonnes in 2025. So far in 2026, the company has already exported 22,000 tonnes to the Chinese market.

"Looking ahead for the rest of 2026, I think exports will keep rising due to growing demand and our newly expanded cultivation area in Cambodia," he said. "The cultivation of this yellow banana and its direct export to China have generated income for local people through job creation." — Xinhua

Honda, Nissan to standardize control units for next-generation vehicles

HONDA Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co said Monday they would standardize electronic control units and use a common operating system for next-generation software-defined vehicles to accelerate development and compete with leading automakers in the United States and China.

The companies plan to incorporate the control units and OS software into their respective models from fiscal 2029 onward.

"Nissan and Honda aim to leverage their combined engineering expertise and development resources to improve efficiency, accelerate innovation, and enhance

competitiveness through reduced development costs and greater economies of scale," they said in a statement.

Electronic control units manage vehicle systems based on instructions from the operating system.

Next-generation software-defined vehicles are characterized by their

ability to receive software updates over the internet, enabling features such as autonomous driving capabilities to be added.

The shared system will be based on Nissan's OS, while the middleware needed to operate the OS will largely be developed by Honda, a source said. — Kyodo

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Changing Trade Name for Registered Pesticide

Trade name of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from current trade name into new trade name. Any objection regarding to this change can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Original Name	New Name	Active Ingredient	Reg No.
1.	Pro Cyper 440 EC	Fenfos Plus 440 EC	Cypermethrin 40g/l + Profenofos 400 g/l EC	P2024-6278

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Announcement

A & A International Company Limited hereby announces its intention to give notice of an extraordinary general meeting to approve a reduction of its capital in accordance with the notice and documents filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Some 590 foreign nationals still missing after Nepal mudslide: foreign ministry

ABOUT 590 foreign nationals from 39 countries and regions are still missing after the deadly mudslide in Nepal as per the available data, the Nepali Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

During a press briefing on the mudslide, Lok Bahadur Poudel Chhetri, spokesperson for Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that so far, 903 bodies have been recovered from the mudslide-hit areas, with over 4,200 people still unaccounted for.

Nepal's diplomatic

missions are also constantly sharing and updating verified information and facilitating communication with families and extending any necessary assistance, identification and repatriation procedures, he said.

He also said over 10,000 people have been rescued from the regions, including at least 323 foreign nationals.

In this hour of difficulty, Chhetri said, the Nepali government continues close communication and coordination with its immediate neighbours and



This screenshot from a video clip taken on 30 August 2026 shows Chinese and Nepalese rescuers conducting joint search and rescue operations in a tunnel near Bidur, Nuwakot, Nepal, 30 August 2026. **PHOTO: CHINA SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

the international community, adding that Nepal has received generous rescue support from China, India, Japan, the United States,

among other countries and partners.

According to the spokesperson, a preliminary assessment of the

needs is underway, and a detailed Post-Disaster Needs Assessment will be carried out for the actual figures for rehabilitation and reconstruction of critical infrastructure, like houses, road networks, bridges and hydropower facilities that have been damaged. "We anticipate requiring international assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction," Chhetri said, adding that Nepal would communicate specific requirements later as the assessment progresses. — Xinhua

Indonesia temporarily closes hiking trails in 9 national parks amid wildfire risk

INDONESIA has temporarily closed hiking trails in nine national parks deemed at high risk of forest and land fires, Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni said Monday.

"The policy aims to protect hikers while allowing the government to concentrate firefighting resources in priority provinces," Raja said.

The closures cover Bromo Tengger Semeru, Kerinci Seblat, Mount Ciremai, Tambora, Manusela, Bukit Baka Bukit Raya, Mount Gede Pangrango and Mount Leuser national parks, as well as several routes in Lorentz National Park.

The measure is also intended to prevent hikers from becoming trapped in fire-affected areas, after around 170 hikers were previously stranded in the Bromo Tengger Semeru area.

Meanwhile, hiking remains open on a limited basis at Mount Rinjani, Mount Merbabu, Argopuro in the Dataran Tinggi Hyang Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mount Halimun Salak, with strict supervision and access restricted to areas considered safe. — Xinhua

Iran retaliates after US strikes rocket launchers

IRAN said Monday that it had attacked US military targets in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, and shot down a US drone over the Strait of Hormuz, after US strikes on Iranian rocket launchers, the first such US attack on Iran in a month.

US Central Command spokesperson Tim Hawkins said the strikes targeted two launchers on Larak Island, off the coast of Bandar Abbas and south of Hormuz Island.

Hawkins said in a statement that Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) forces had been



This photo taken with a mobile phone shows merchant vessels stranded in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz, near Khasab, a small town in northern Oman, 29 May 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

observed preparing to launch rockets and sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's IRGC said the

United States and Israel attacked Larak Island on Sunday night, killing and wounding military personnel and civilians.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said at least two people were killed and two others injured in the "drone attack by the United States" on the island.

The IRGC said Monday that its aerospace forces had carried out retaliatory drone and ballistic missile strikes against US targets at two air bases in Jordan.

It identified the targeted air bases as King Hussein and Al-Azraq, saying that the strikes hit technical and maintenance infrastructure as well as fighter aircraft

hangars belonging to the United States, causing heavy damage.

Describing the attack as a "punishment for the aggressor", the IRGC said, "Aggression and crime will not solve the enemy's desperation to weaken Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz." It added that every military action by the enemy would be met with more "devastating" responses and that it has launched dozens of drones at Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates, targeting areas where US helicopters and personnel were stationed. — Xinhua

Large fire spreads in central Japan shopping district near Ise Jingu shrine

A large fire broke out Monday afternoon and spread to multiple buildings in a shopping district near Ise Jingu shrine in Ise, central Japan, local police said.

The affected district is in central Ise, Mie Prefecture, near the outer shrine of Ise Jingu. The complex is one of Japan's

most sacred Shinto sites, with its inner shrine dedicated to the sun goddess Amaterasu.

At around 3:15 pm, a witness called emergency services to report a fire in a shopping street near the outer shrine. No injuries had been reported so far, and local firefighters were

working to extinguish the blaze.

According to the police, the blaze was brought under control about four and a half hours later. Mie Prefecture and the city of Ise set up disaster response headquarters, while evacuation orders were issued for more than

500 residents in around 250 nearby households.

A photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter showed that the fire was nearing Ujiyamada Station, a major rail gateway to Ise Jingu shrine that is widely used by both domestic and overseas visitors. — Kyodo



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows a shopping street in Ise, Mie Prefecture, where a fire broke out on 31 August 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SPORTS

YR Chief Minister watches
Myanmar vs Sri Lanka in AFC U20
Asian Cup China 2027 (Qualifiers)

AS part of the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 qualifiers, the Myanmar U20 national team faced Sri Lanka U20 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday evening.

The match was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional ministers, officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, AFC Senior Vice-President



The match between Myanmar and Sri Lanka is pictured. and Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw, other officials and football fans. Myan-

mar defeated Sri Lanka 4-0.

Myanmar are in Group K of the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 qualifiers alongside Sri Lanka, Brunei and the Maldives. They have three points from one match and will face Brunei on 3 September and the Maldives on 6 September. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/MKKS



Argentina's forward (10) Lionel Messi (C) holding the World Cup Trophy, celebrates with teammates and relatives at the end of the Qatar 2022 World Cup final football match between Argentina and France at Lusail Stadium in Lusail, north of Doha on 18 December 2022. PHOTO: AFP

It 'hurts' says Messi
as he retires from
international football

LIONEL Messi said on Monday he was retiring from international football after leading Argentina to a second successive World Cup final in July.

The 39-year-old forward who won the World Cup in 2022 and dragged his nation to the final in the United States only to lose to Spain, said the decision had been painful.

"It was a decision that hurt and still hurts deep in my soul but I understand that it is the right time," Messi wrote on Instagram.

"I swear I always gave everything, not just in the last few years when we won everything but before that too, and I always fought and gave my all for this shirt," he added.

Messi led Argentina to World Cup glory four years ago by winning the final against France in a penalty shootout in Doha, but his side were defeated 1-0 by a superior Spain side in the 2026 final in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Following the death of his father Jorge in August, Messi had said he had "serious doubts" about continuing to play football of any sort for "much longer".

"I don't know what I'll do without you, I don't know how to go on. I just have serious doubts about continuing to do so for much longer," he said then.

Messi's contract with Major League Soccer club Inter Miami runs until the end of the 2028 season.

He has played 207 times for Argentina and is also Argentina's leading scorer, with 125 goals.

Messi also won two Copa Americas during his 21-year international career.

In this year's finals, Messi had inspired Argentina to another final by scoring eight goals and also providing two assists in the dramatic late comeback against England in the semi-finals.

But the dream of lifting the trophy again proved one match too far as the South Americans were defeated by Spain in the MetLife Stadium in a match that ended in ugly scenes.

Midfielder Leandro Paredes and several of his Argentina teammates have received bans and fines for their part in clashes with Spain players after the final, Paredes for grabbing Eric Garcia by the throat and wrestling Gavi to the ground.

Messi, meanwhile, was pictured in tears after receiving his loser's medal. He said afterwards that the pain of defeat was "immense" and that it would "take a long time for this wound to heal". — AFP

Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw
Championships continue

THE 2026 Inter-State/Region Sepak Takraw Championships, jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, began at 9 am yesterday at Gymnasium A of the Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the final round-robin matches of the men's quadrant team event, Kachin State defeated Kayah State 2-0, Yangon Region beat Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory 2-0, Shan State defeated Bago Region 2-0, Taninthayi Region beat Magway Region 2-1, Chin State defeated Ayeyawady Region 2-0,

Mon State beat Rakhine State 2-0, Sagaing Region defeated Mandalay Region 2-0, Kachin State beat Rakhine State 2-0, Mandalay Region defeated Shan State 2-1, Yangon Region beat Mon State 2-0, and Bago Region defeated Sagaing Region 2-1.

In the women's quadrant team event, Bago Region defeated Shan State 2-0, Sagaing Region beat Magway Region 2-0, and Mon State defeated Yangon Region 2-0 in the final round-robin matches. In the quarterfinals, Yangon Region defeated Bago Region 2-0, Ayeyawady Region beat Mandalay Region 2-0, Mon State defeated Shan State 2-0,



Players from both sides in action in the Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw Championships Tourney.

and Sagaing Region beat Kayin State 2-1.

The semifinals of the men's quadrant team event will be held on 1 September, with Kachin State facing Mandalay Region and Yangon Region taking on Bago Region. The third-place match will follow the semifinals.

In the women's semifinals, Yangon Region will face Ayeyawady Region, while Mon State will meet Sagaing Region. The third-place match will also follow. — MNA/MKKS

Fernandes hat-trick powers Man Utd's comeback
win over Ipswich

BRUNO Fernandes scored a hat-trick as Manchester United came from behind to beat Ipswich Town 5-2 at Old Trafford.

Michael Carrick's side came into the game off the back of last weekend's surprise defeat to Hull City, and alarm bells were ringing when Leif Davis put Ipswich ahead

in 24 minutes.

Fernandes levelled the score five minutes before halftime, and United went ahead when Harry Maguire's header went in off Ipswich defender Jacob Greaves 10 minutes after the break.

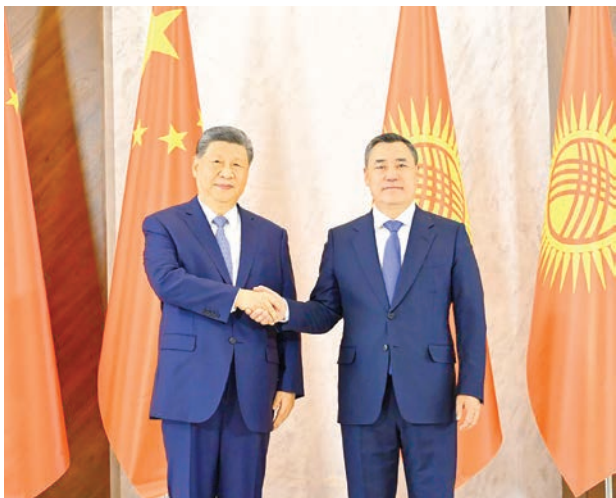
Fernandes added his second from the penalty spot soon after-

wards and completed his hat-trick in 68 minutes. Bryan Mbeumo scored United's fifth eight minutes from time before Chuba Akpom grabbed Ipswich's second in stoppage time.

Chelsea claimed its second win of the season with a 4-3 victory at home to Brighton. — Xinhua



Xi says China ready to work with Kyrgyzstan to enhance alignment of development strategies



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 31 August 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Chinese President Xi Jinping said Monday that China stands ready to work with Kyrgyzstan to better align development strategies, deepen exchanges of experience in governance, deliver more tangible and accessible outcomes of practical cooperation, and make substantive progress in building a China-Kyrgyzstan community with a shared future.

Xi said in his opening remarks when meeting with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov that under

their guidance, bilateral relations have made a leap forward, with cooperation flourishing across all areas in recent years.

Major cooperation projects with Kyrgyzstan, including the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, have progressed steadily in recent years, providing effective support for the development of both countries, benefiting their people and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region, Xi said. — Xinhua

China’s space-based computing cloud starts regular in-orbit services

A China-built space computing cloud has recently started offering regular in-orbit experimental services, according to its developer.

Led by Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), the orbital computing power facility automates end-to-end operations across satellite platforms, space servers, ground stations and data centres, giving worldwide users a full life-cycle service from task submission, deployment, execution, monitoring to results delivery.

by BUPT in 2021. As the world’s first space computing constellation, it has deployed 16 low-Earth-orbit satellites and seven ground stations, supported more than 60 institutions in orbital tests and drawn researchers from more than 50 countries and regions to its ecosystem.

It offers several key technological capabilities, such as building reusable platform-based services, supporting long-term reliable operation of onboard software, and laying a foundation for real-time in-orbit processing of space data and autonomous satellite decision-making.

Space computing refers to an emerging computing paradigm that deploys data processing, storage, intelligent analysis and decision-making capabilities on orbital platforms, such as satellites and space stations.

The Chinese computing cloud platform operates on the Tiansuan Constellation, launched

Since entering service, the platform has supported multiple tasks, including in-orbit big-data computing and 6G communications. More than 100 users have accessed the energy-efficient service, the university said on Sunday. — Xinhua



A Long March-2D carrier rocket carrying a space computing satellite constellation blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China on 14 May 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

India growth beats forecasts, defying Mideast turmoil

INDIA’S economy grew at a faster pace than expected in the April to June quarter, official data showed on Monday, quelling fears that the Iran war would derail growth in Asia’s third-largest economy.

Gross domestic product rose 7.8 per cent in the three months through June from the same period a year earlier, helped by a robust services sector, according to data from the statistics ministry.

While this was down from a revised 8.6 per cent recorded in the previous quarter, it was still above



A vendor weighs sugar for a customer at a grocery shop in Amritsar on 26 August 2026. PHOTO: AFP

market expectations of 7.3 per cent growth.

“Growth was led by services, but a key upside surprise came from manufacturing, which grew 9.2 per cent,” Teresa John of Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities told AFP.

Prime Minister Nar-

endra Modi called the figures a “herculean feat”, noting that it came despite “oil price shocks and supply chain issues”.

“Doomsayers were doomed and India bloomed... yet again!” the premier said in a post on X.

Monday’s reading cements India as the world’s fastest growing major economy, and is a shot in the arm for Modi’s government, which has been grappling with political setbacks and a series of delicate policy challenges.

— AFP

Indonesia approves 25 new specialist doctor training programmes

INDONESIA on Monday approved operating permits for 25 new specialist medical training programmes as part of efforts to address a shortage of specialist doctors.

Presidential Chief of Staff Dudung Abdurachman said the programmes are expected to help train nearly 56,000 specialist doctors for deployment across 481 districts and cities in eastern Indonesia and other underserved regions.

“We have just concluded a ministerial-level meeting marking the approval of 25 new specialist medical education programmes,” Dudung told reporters alongside Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin. — Xinhua

DR Congo records over 6,000 confirmed Ebola cases

CONFIRMED Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have surpassed 6,000, with nearly 3,000 deaths, according to the latest figures released Monday.

Local authorities reported that as of Saturday, the DRC had recorded 6,041

confirmed cases across six provinces, including 2,911 deaths, bringing the overall case fatality rate to 48.2 per cent. A total of 1,366 patients have recovered.

The outbreak has now affected 60 health zones in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Ue-

le, Bas-Uele and Tshopo.

The current outbreak, declared in May, has since become the country’s largest and deadliest Ebola epidemic on record and the second-largest globally, behind the 2014-2016 epidemic in West Africa. — Xinhua