

President of Republic of Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing to make State Visit to Kingdom of Cambodia

AT the invitation of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing will pay a State Visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia in the near future.

During the visit, the President of Myanmar will meet with the President of the Senate (Acting Head of State) of Cambodia and hold bilateral talks, and meet with the Prime Minister of Cambodia and the President of the National Assembly of Cambodia. Furthermore, the itinerary includes visits to prominent sites and ancient pagodas.

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

Kayah, Mon, Eastern Shan States see remarkable success in literacy campaign

The Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) and Non-Formal Middle Education (NFME) programmes provide a second chance for children who have dropped out of school.

BASIC education teachers, who devoted their personal time with wholehearted support and voluntary assistance, in addition to their regular duties, help residents become literate, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 2026 International Literacy Day.

The President attended the commemorative ceremony at the convocation hall of the Naypyitaw State Academy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech, the President said the 2014 population and household census indicated that there were 3.55 million illiterate individuals out of 33.93 million people aged 15 and above in Myanmar.

SEE PAGE 3



President U Min Aung Hlaing presents awards to the winners of the higher-education-level essay contest to commemorate International Literacy Day 2026.

Myeik University and Third Institute of Oceanography, China sign MoU

THE signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Myeik University and the Third Institute of Oceanography (TIO) of the People's Republic of China was held on 7 September at Myeik University in Taninthayi Region.

SEE PAGE 4

48 Myanmar companies ship over 148,000 tonnes of rice in Aug

MYANMAR exported 148,548 tonnes of rice and broken rice in August 2026, and 48 companies handled shipments, according to data released by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

SEE PAGE 4



Export rice and broken rice bags are being loaded onto overseas-going merchant vessels.

OPINION

Uphold the theme
“Clean Air for
Climate Action”

PAGE 8

NATIONAL **PAGE 4**

1st day of 23rd
South-East Asia
RCRC Leaders
Meeting held

NATIONAL **PAGE 6**

KNU, KNLA,
PDF lose
Kamamoung-
Papun route as
roads, bridges
restored

NATIONAL

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



A donation event held jointly by the Konbaung family and friends.

Konbaung family to hold Waso robe donation ceremony

THE Waso robe donation ceremony organised by the relatives of the Konbaung Dynasty will be held at 9 am on Sunday, 27 September, at Shwegyin Monastery in Bahan Township, Yangon. The ceremony is funded by Htake Tin Sithu Hein and Sao Khun Mong Mong Naung, together with members of the families. — TWA/MKKS

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 70

Issued at 8 pm MST on 8-September-2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the moderate to strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the strong development of the convective clouds such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, and Mon States from 9 to 12 September 2026.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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

Press Release: Myanmar's position on so-called IIMM

DURING the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 7 September to 9 October 2026, an enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the report of the so-called Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) took place on 7 September.

Myanmar has never recognized the so-called IIMM since its inception. It has been found that this mechanism itself has numerous weaknesses on legal grounds (legal shortcomings) and was established with a politically motivated objective of exerting political pressure on a sovereign state.

The IIMM originated from the so-called Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (FFM), which was established in 2018. The FFM was created through a unilateral decision by the OHCHR without the country's consent. Subsequently, based on the FFM findings and under the pretext that a more robust mechanism was needed to preserve evidence, the so-called IIMM was established in 2018 pursuant to the Human Rights Council Resolution 39/2.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations established by United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/60/251). The HRC mandate is limited to submitting a report to the General Assembly consolidating resolutions adopted within a specified period, as well as recommendations for the further development of international law in the field of human rights. It has not been vested with the legal mandate/authority to establish any legal, judicial, or investigative mechanism against a country. Therefore, HRC Resolution 39/2 establishing the IIMM is a blatant violation of both the UN Charter and General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/251, which

established the HRC.

The IIMM is merely a consequence of targeted, one-sided, and politically motivated resolutions adopted by the HRC. The IIMM is being used as a political tool by a particular country or a group of countries or regions.

On the other hand, it is observed that there are no clear provisions regarding the duration of the IIMM's mandate. Furthermore, its Terms of Reference (ToR) state that the IIMM may, at its own discretion, accept funding from UN resources and donor countries. Such a provision could potentially lead to the misuse of funds and a lack of transparency in financial management.

Additionally, IIMM's annual report (A/HRC/63/19) is found, as in previous years, to be based on one-sided allegations against the Myanmar Tatmadaw, unverified and inaccurate information from opposition organizations and individuals, and inflated statistics and figures. Such misguided characterization of the situation in Myanmar could not only contribute to violence and instability but also hinder the Government's efforts to maintain peace and stability in the country.

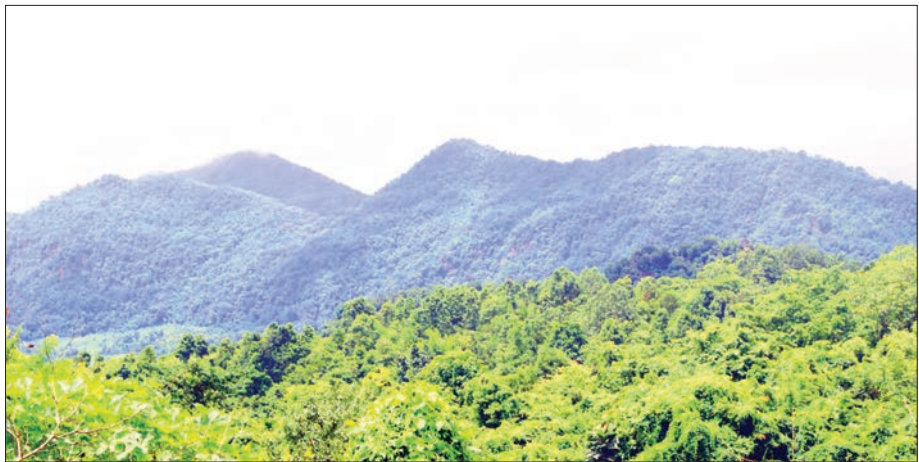
Regarding the alleged airstrikes and operations, counter-terrorism operations are conducted solely against military targets in accordance with Rules of Engagement (RoE). These operations respond to violent seizures of certain towns and villages by insurgents and terrorist groups to defend the State and protect public safety. The Tatmadaw exercises maximum restraint to avoid civilian harm.

Therefore, Myanmar reaffirms its strong objection to the mandate of the so-called IIMM and categorically rejects all of its publications and statements, including its Eighth Annual Report submitted to the Human Rights Council. — MoFA

MNREC designates Kali-1 protected public forest

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has announced that 42,030 acres in Kunhing Township, Namhsan District, Shan State, were designated as the Kali-1 Protected Public Forest on 1 September 2026 under the powers conferred by subsection (e) of Section 6 of the 2018 Forest Law.

The ministry designates protected public forests and forest reserves to ensure the sustainability of mountain ecosystems, strengthen environmental management, maintain biodiversity, conserve water resources and prevent the improper extraction of timber, poles, felspar



An aerial view of the Kali-1 Protected Public Forest, Kunhing Township, Shan State.

and firewood by residents.

The Kali-1 Protected Public Forest will conserve various tree species, including Sal tree, Scholar tree, Cutch tree, Burmese lacquer tree, Jujube, Champak, Black

Siris, Rosewood, Indian Beech, Plane tree, as well as bamboo species such as Wahbo, male and *Bambusa tulda*. It will also protect rare wildlife species, including bears, rabbits, wild boar, deer, jungle cats, parrots and

egrets. Moreover, the designation will help improve the ecosystem, support the socioeconomic development of local communities and mitigate climate change. — MN-REC/MKKS

NATIONAL

Kayah, Mon, Eastern Shan States see remarkable ...

FROM PAGE 1

The 2019 interim population showed that about 4.1 million were illiterate out of 37.26 million people aged 15 and above, resulting in a literacy rate of 89.1 per cent and a numeracy rate of 89.5 per cent, he added.

He revealed that the government has been emphasizing the literacy campaign for all the people residing in rural areas as well as remote ones. As such, the literacy rate of Myanmar increased to 92.1 per cent, while the numeracy rate has risen to 92.3 per cent, according to the 2024 census.

The President highlighted that the Ministry of Education is implementing non-formal education for those who missed the chance to learn due to various reasons, in addition to



President U Min Aung Hlaing and State dignitaries watch a music performance presented by students at yesterday's Literacy Day ceremony.

formal education.

He underlined that the Non-Formal Primary Education-NFPE is operated with the implementation of the Non-Formal Middle Education-NFME which is purposed for the children and youths who missed the chances to continue learning of the

middle school education despite completion of the primary education.

The President noted that successful results have been achieved through collaborative efforts to carry out basic literacy programmes in designated townships in Kayah State, Mon State

and eastern Shan State in 2026. This success was made possible by the wholehearted support and voluntary assistance provided by basic education teachers, who devoted their personal time, in addition to their regular duties, to helping local residents become literate.

The President underscored that literacy is not only a fundamental human right inherent to every person but also an essential driving force for the development of human resources.

In line with the principle of "Education for All," the President outlined that vigorous efforts must be made to implement basic

literacy campaign, continuing education programmes, and non-formal primary and middle education programmes for out-of-school children, so that everyone, including those living in rural and remote areas, can become literate.

The President presented awards to the winners of the higher-education-level essay contest to mark International Literacy Day 2026.

Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye and Union Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein awarded the winners in the poem and essay contests at the higher and basic education levels.

The President and

State dignitaries watched a documentary video clip on efforts in the literacy campaign and viewed the exhibition to mark International Literacy Day 2026.

Also present at the ceremony were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union-level dignitaries and Union ministers.

As a result of vigorous nationwide efforts carried out as a mass movement, Myanmar received UNESCO's "Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Prize" in 1971 and the "Noma Prize" in 1983.

— MNA/TTA

Key points from the speech delivered by the President at the Literacy Day ceremony

1. The Ministry of Education is implementing non-formal education for those who missed the chance to learn due to various reasons, in addition to formal education.
2. The 2019 interim population showed about 4.1 million were illiterate of the 37.26 million people aged 15 and above, resulting in a literacy rate of 89.1 per cent and a numeracy rate of 89.5 per cent.
3. The literacy rate of Myanmar increased to 92.1 per cent, while the numeracy rate has risen to 92.3 per cent, according to the 2024 census.

127,000 Insured Workers Get Healthcare in Mandalay Region

A total of 127,276 insured workers in Mandalay Region are receiving healthcare services through 18 hospitals and clinics, including the Workers' Hospital (Mandalay).

The Workers' Hospital (Mandalay), six township social welfare clinics, five departmental clinics and six contract clinics are providing healthcare services directly to factories and workshops through Mobile Medical Units (MMUs). These units provide medical treatment, laboratory



Workers' Hospital (Mandalay)

tests and ECG examinations to insured workers.

In addition, K105.337 million was provided for insured workers' medical expenses during the five months from April to Au-

gust 2026. A new diagnostic ultrasound machine has also been installed at the Workers' Hospital (Mandalay) to further enhance healthcare services. — TWA/MKKS

Construction materials provided in Tiddim

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin said that those wishing to undertake businesses in the now-stable Chin State can apply for government loans through the relevant departments, at the meeting with departmental officials, town elders and locals in Tonzang township on Monday.

The government is providing corrugated iron sheets, roofing nails and bags of cement to partially

and completely damaged homes in Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang townships of Chin State as part of its rehabilitation and recon-

struction efforts following incidents of violence.

During the meeting, the deputy minister and

SEE PAGE 5



Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zin Lwin and officials are pictured during their inspection tour in Tiddim, Chin State.

NATIONAL

1st day of 23rd South-East Asia RCRC Leaders Meeting held

THE first day session of the 23rd South-East Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders Meeting, hosted by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), was held yesterday morning at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon under the theme "Unity in Humanitarian Action: Building a Better Tomorrow".

Myanmar Red Cross Society President Dr Myo Nyunt delivered a speech at the meeting, and attendees discussed cooperation among Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in South-East Asia, humanitarian activities and future areas of work.

The meeting also discussed progress in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IFRC and ASEAN, progress in



The first-day session of the 23rd South-East Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders Meeting is underway.

implementing the Kuala Lumpur Statement, the Myanmar Red Cross Society's experience in search and rescue operations, and the South-East Asia First Aid Network and Network Mapping (First Aid Accreditation Roadmap).

It also exchanged views on building healthy communities across South-East Asia, mental

health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), disease prevention, disaster preparedness and response capacity, mutual assistance among National Societies, the safety and Duty of Care of Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel, building climate-resilient communities, and activities carried out under climate and environmental

commitments.

The participants also discussed ensuring accountability in the response and recovery efforts following the Mandalay earthquake, financial sustainability of national societies, strengthening domestic revenue generation, and diversifying fundraising sources. — MNA/KTZH

Myeik University and Third Institute of Oceanography, ...

FROM PAGE 1

Myeik University's Rector Dr Win Win Ei and TIO's Director-General Dr Zhang Haifeng delivered speeches during the event. Introduction video about TIO's marine research was shown.

The signing was performed by two officials, and gift exchanges followed.

Under the MoU, a marine water quality monitoring system will be set up west of Pahtaw Island near Myeik. The MoU is aimed at marine resource sustainability, facilitating regional socioeconomic development and providing comprehensive information about global climate change. — TWA/ZS



The MoU signing ceremony between the two universities. PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (IPRD)

MSY Village Project activities inspected in Nyaungshwe

OFFICIALS of Rural Development Department, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, officials conducted a field inspection of the activities implemented under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Linkin Village, Nyaungshwe Township, yesterday.

Kalaw District Rural Development Department Head U Aung Zaw Lin, Nyaungshwe Township Rural Development Department Head Daw Yu Yu and project staff inspected the



Officials oversee an agricultural project in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State.

agricultural activities implemented in Linkin Village with a budget of K41.4 million under the Mya Sein Yaung Village

Project. The status of livestock and trading activities and the completion of the monthly report forms were checked

and the necessary coordination was made by U Aung Zaw Lin, District Head of the Kalaw District Rural Development Department.

In Linkin Village, 173 agricultural workers, one livestock worker, 25 traders and one vocational school worker, a total of 200 borrowers, were given loans worth K41.4 million, according to U Aung Zaw Lin, District Head of the Kalaw District Rural Development Department. — Hein Htet Soe (Mahl-aing)

48 Myanmar companies ship over 148,000 tonnes ...

FROM PAGE 1

Myanmar shipped 121,058 metric tonnes of highgrade white rice, 4,773 metric tonnes of parboiled rice: 4,846 metric tonnes of broken rice, 17,872 metric tonnes of broken rice (B grade). Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports reached 848,278 metric tonnes in the first-five months of the current 2026-2027 financial year, generating US\$291 million in export revenue.

The Philippines was the top buyer, importing 106,512 tonnes in August. Rice is also exported to

China, Belgium, Poland, Bulgaria, Spain, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the United States, Lithuania, and 11 other countries.

Myanmar's rice export volume was down by 41,000 tonnes compared to that of the corresponding period last year, as rice exports exceeded 190,000 tonnes (worth US\$65 million) in August 2025. Nevertheless, cumulative exports for the April-August period this financial year are higher than the same period last year, according to MRF figures. — ASH/KK

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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

Yangon expands poultry farming

CHICKEN and egg production, which contributes to food security in the Yangon Region, is mainly carried out in Hmawby and Hlegu townships. To ensure self-sufficiency in meat and meet the remaining demand for eggs in the region, poultry farming is being expanded, according to the Yangon Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

As the urban population continues to grow due to urban development, the Yangon Region government has been promoting the livestock sector to ensure adequate food supplies. Livestock breeding zones have been established in Nyaunghnapin, Taikkyi, Twantay and Ka-

whmu townships. Among them, the Nyaunghnapin Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Zone, located in Hmawby and Hlegu townships, is the main source of chicken and eggs supplied to consumers in Yangon.

In Hmawby Township, where a large number of poultry farms are concentrated, Crystal Diamond's broiler and layer farms in Chawgon and Phugyi villages employ more than 400 workers. The farms raise more than 200,000 layer chickens and around 700,000 broiler chickens, producing more than 180,000 eggs and over 20,000 viss of chicken meat daily for distribution to consumer markets. Similarly, chicken eggs and

meat are produced and distributed daily from 14 townships across the Yangon Region.

"Chicken and eggs are being produced in the Yangon Region in accordance with consumer demand. We have also urged poultry farmers to pay close attention to feeding practices to ensure that their products are safe and healthy for consumption. Farms that produce their own feed have also been encouraged to use locally produced raw materials. Good feed leads to healthy animals, and healthy animals result in better production, ultimately contributing to the health of consumers. Although the Yangon Region is currently self-suffi-



Workers bustle to distribute eggs at the workplace.

cient in daily chicken meat consumption, there is still a shortage in egg production. Therefore, discussions and measures are underway to expand layer chicken farming," said Dr Aung Myint Han of the department.

The department is conducting field inspections of poultry farms to ensure that consumers

have access to safe and healthy food. Farmers have also been urged to pay special attention to biosecurity measures during the transition from the rainy season to the cold season, when migratory birds may arrive. They have been advised to spray disinfectants around poultry farms at least once a week.

More than 2.9 million layer chickens, over 6.6 million broiler chickens and more than 2.3 million local chickens are currently being raised in the Yangon Region, bringing the total poultry population to more than 11.8 million. Eggs and chicken are being supplied to consumer markets daily. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Htantabin hands over MSY village project funds

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Htantabin Township, held a ceremony to hand over K60 million in Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project funds to project villages yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thein Yi and Region Hluttaw Representative U Taing Ya delivered opening remarks. Htantabin Township Department of the Rural Development Head Daw Cho Mie Aye explained the objectives of the fund handover ceremony, project activities and procedures to be followed by the project villages.

Afterwards, the Hluttaw representatives, the Township Administration and Management Committee chairman and members, the township head and officials handed over



A fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Htantabin Township.

K30 million each to the project implementation groups of Lamu Village and Maepali and Tayokesu villages, totalling K60 million.

The township department will disburse loans from the project funds to rural residents to obtain necessary capital for expanding small-scale family income-generating agricultural, livestock breeding and trading activities, as well as to carry out village development activities using interest earnings generated from the project. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

MSY Village Project implementation inspected in Papun

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on the morning of 7 September to monitor the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Pazunmyaung+Noehta Village, organized by the Papun District Department of Rural Development, Kayin State.

Officials inspected the implementation of project activities, verified whether financial forms were systematically filled out, and checked compliance with

the directives outlined in the project manual, providing necessary guidance and instructions.

A total loan of K56.2 million has been disbursed at an interest rate of 0.5 per cent to 54 members in Pazunmyaung+Noehta Village – comprising 26 members in agriculture, 17 in livestock breeding, and 11 in trading – under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project executed by the Papun Township Department of Rural Development. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural Development)



Officials inspect an Emerald Green village project in Papun Township, Kayin State.

Construction materials provided in Tiddim

FROM PAGE 3

the State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation provided roofing sheets, roofing nails and bags of cement for dam-

aged homes in Tiddim.

Officials also briefed the meeting on regional development and rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, while the deputy minister coordinated

responses to the difficulties and needs raised by locals.

After the meeting, the deputy minister inspected the renovation of government office build-

ings damaged by terrorist attacks in Tonzang and instructed officials to ensure quality construction and completion within the designated timeframe. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

GNU, KNLA, PDF lose Kamamoung-Papun route as roads, bridges restored

TATMADAW columns have been carrying out security and area-control operations along the Kamamoung-Papun road, where the authorities say combined forces of the GNU, KNLA and PDF terrorist groups had previously maintained temporary control.

According to the authorities, the groups carried out attacks and planted mines along the route, damaging roads and bridges and disrupting the movement of goods and people. The authorities said the disruption affected local supplies, prices, healthcare, education and livelihoods.



This map shows Tatmadaw columns restoring roads and bridges on the Kamamoung-Papun route, now opened.

Military columns began operations to reopen the route from Kamamoung on 5 May, 2026. They subsequently regained control of a number of villages along the road, most recently Hpalongyi village on 7

September, according to the authorities.

The authorities said 56 clashes occurred during the operations. They also reported the seizure of 11 temporary bases, 15 firearms, 24 FPV drones, 243 mines and other am-

munition and equipment.

Meanwhile, military engineering units, working with relevant government departments, have repaired bridges damaged in the conflict. The Yebu Bridge and Mile-40 Bridge were completed on 23 and 24 June, respectively, while the Kanyindon Bridge was reopened on 24 August.

The authorities said vehicles and travellers can now use the repaired sections normally. Efforts will continue, with local participation, to reopen and restore control over the remaining Hpalongyi-Papun section of the route. — MNA/ST

Myanmar deports 12 undocumented entrants

MYANMAR deported four Ethiopians, three Kenyans, three Ugandans and two Rwandans, totalling 12 individuals, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authorities

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

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



Immigration officials processing the repatriation of undocumented immigrants.

Old analogue meters to be replaced with smart digital ones in Hline



The YESC chair is pictured visiting Hline Township.

OLD analogue meters in Hline Township, located in Yangon Region and known for having the highest cases of electricity theft, will be replaced with smart digital meters.

Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) Chair U Aung Kyaw Oo, under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, led a field investigation in Hlaing on 5 September. Accompanied by officials, they examined the meter readings for August, discussed efforts to reduce power theft, and reviewed the power supply and distribution arrangements in the township.

During the investigation, the YESC chair emphasized the need to replace analogue meters, eliminate illegal electricity use, and decrease unpaid electricity bills.

Additionally, the YESC chair visited the 66/33/11-6.6kV RIR substation to inspect the power distribution system, which included an evaluation of feeders, electricity wastage, meter readings, and the overall condition of the facility.

As of 7 September, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) reported a total electricity generation of 71,884.3 megawatt-hours. — TWA/ZS

Laterite road construction underway for Aunglan-Pyay Highway-Ngapyinn Village

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection on the morning of 7 September to examine the progress of the laterite road construction project connecting the Aunglan-Pyay Highway to Ngapyinn Village, implemented by the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Road Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Magway Region, using the Region (Capital) budget for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Assistant Director (Civil) U Thet Aung Thant of the Thayet District De-

partment of Rural Road Development, along with officials from the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Road Development, inspected the progress of the laterite-paving operations connecting the

Aunglan-Pyay Highway to Ngapyinn Village. The assistant director (Civil) instructed those in charge to prioritize completing the tasks on time in line with the specified standards.

The project involves



Officials inspect the ongoing road construction in Aunglan Township, Magway Region.

paving a one-mile-long, 18-foot-wide, and eight-inch-thick laterite road, funded with K144 million from the Region (Capital) budget for the 2026-2027 financial year. Construction was initiated by the Township Department of Rural Road Development in the second week of August this year. Once fully completed, it will significantly improve transport for local communities compared to before and enhance their socioeconomic lives. — Naw Lu (DRD)

Kungyangon's VRFP funds disbursed

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

The Kungyangon

Township Department of Rural Development head explained the objectives, implementation and benefits of the Village Revolving Fund Project. Officials briefed participants on project activities, loan conditions, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed. The Kung-

yangon Township Department head handed over K48.8 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation committee.

Taikkyi Village is implementing systematic agricultural and livelihood activities using K48.8 million from the Village Revolving Fund Project.

Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project committee disbursed the seventh round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 75 beneficiaries from the village, including 37 people engaged in agriculture, 34 in livestock breeding and four in trading activities. — Thaw Zin Htoo (Rural)

Tourism professionals
invited for ASEAN
National Trainer Course

UNION of Myanmar Travel Association's Human Resource Development Committee, with approval from the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, is now accepting applications for the ASEAN National Trainer Course.

The training will be conducted by veteran ASEAN Master Trainer and Assessor U Kyaw Swa. The course runs from 9:30 am to 4 pm from 12 to 16 October at the Centre for Tourism Development (CTD) in Pabedan Township, Yangon.

The course fee is K150,000, and only 25 participants will be accepted.

The application deadline is 1 October. Interested candidates can register through the Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/P1k-To1XF4YyqkJyY8>. Individuals can contact UMTA HRD for further details by dialling 09 5007444, 09 5170456, and 09 2005648.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents in PDF format via the course Viber group, including a citizenship scrutiny card, an education or tourism certificate and proof of service length in the tourism industry, or a letter of recommendation from an employer. — NN/KK

MGMA to conduct supervisor-level
industrial engineering training course

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer the Supervisor-Level Industrial Engineering (IE) training course (Batch 90) from 14 to 25 September at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Centre (MGHRDC).

The programme will cover current trends in the global garment industry, the importance of line balancing, the role of supervisors, production design, garment process analysis, operational efficiency, and fabric-related knowledge



A general view of a CMP (Cut, Make, and Pack) garment factory in Yangon Region.

by experienced instructors, including practical field visits.

Interested candi-

dates can register at the MGHRDC, located at 400/B, Lower Mingaladon Road, Sintngu Ward,

Insein Township, Yangon, or contact 09 940858350 or 09 450723262 for further details. — NN/KK

No 1 HIE bids to
procure materials

THE No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development has invited open tenders for the procurement of various materials required for the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The required materials include Refractories (50 types), Castable mortar (10 types), Consumables (four types), Scrap raw material HMS-1 (2,000 tonnes) and Scrap raw material HMS-2 (1,495

tonnes). All procurements will be conducted in kyat and delivered to the factory site.

Tender forms are available from 3 September during office hours at the Production Department of the No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise (Head Office) at Office 30, Nay Pyi Taw. Bids must be submitted to the same address by 4 pm on 2 October. Interested individuals can enquire for further details via 067 405056 or 09 972510620. — NN/KK



Vehicles are refuelling at a petrol station in Yangon.

THE regulated fuel price caps are stable at K3,710 for Octane 92 and K3,815 for Octane 95, K4,240 for diesel and K5,140 for premium diesel for the second consecutive week ending 10 September.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influ-

ences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee governs the market to ensure stable prices and secure supply. Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory

Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging above the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the

market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in
the Market on 8 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,663.50~3,670.00	558.20~558.70	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	6,316,142.80	30,677,604.95	28,219,962.59	-

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:
09 454237515, 09 255597511

Gold Market Rate as of
8 September 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.



Uphold the theme “Clean Air for Climate Action”

The Earth is composed of vast layers of the natural environment, including the lithosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. These layers of the natural environment are indispensable resources for all living beings, including humans. All living beings, including humans, breathe air and survive by inhaling it. At present, the air that people breathe every day contains not only oxygen but also various other gases. Gases such as greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide cause air pollution. Therefore, everyone should make efforts to prevent air pollution.

Air pollution and climate change are closely interconnected. In particular, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released from extensive burning and use of fossil fuels contribute to the rise in global temperatures. The rise in global temperatures and changes in climate patterns can lead to more frequent and severe heatwaves, droughts, flash floods and other natural disasters. To reduce air pollution and mitigate climate change, it is important to change energy consumption patterns. It is necessary to reduce excessive reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas and to increase the use of solar, wind and other renewable energy sources.

To ensure good air quality in every country around the world and promote efforts to address air pollution, the 74th United Nations General Assembly held in 2019 designated 7 September as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. The theme of this year's International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is “Clean Air for Climate Action”.

Myanmar is monitoring and measuring environmental air quality across the country and is carrying out information dissemination and public awareness activities to keep the public informed.

To ensure good air quality in every country around the world and promote efforts to address air pollution, the 74th United Nations General Assembly held in 2019 designated 7 September as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. The theme of this year's International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is “Clean Air for Climate Action”.

As such, special attention should be paid to addressing air pollution problems so that all people around the world, as well as other living beings, can live long, healthy lives. In addition, to ensure clean air, everyone should make efforts, starting with each individual, to plant and conserve trees and reduce habits and practices that cause air pollution. Through such concerted efforts, everyone needs to contribute to creating a clean and healthy atmosphere for their own interests.

Autism, also known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is a developmental condition that affects how a person communicates, interacts with others, learns, and experiences the world. Autism is called a “spectrum” because it affects people in different ways and to different degrees. Some autistic people may need significant support in daily life, while others may live independently and have fewer support needs.

Autism spectrum disorders are neurodevelopmental disorders, meaning they are caused by abnormalities in the way the brain develops and works. People with autism spectrum disorders have problems with social behaviour and communicating with others; they tend to engage in solitary interests and activities which they do repetitively.

One of the main characteristics of autism is differences in communication and social interaction.

Some autistic people may find it difficult to understand facial expressions, gestures, or social rules. Others may have difficulty starting or maintaining conversations. Some may communicate in different ways, such as through gestures, writing, or communication devices. However, these differences do not mean that autistic people cannot form friendships or have meaningful relationships.

Another characteristic of autism is repetitive behaviors or strong interests. An autistic person may repeat certain movements, sounds, or activities. They may also develop deep interests in particular subjects and enjoy learning a great deal about them. Many autistic people also experience sensory differences. For example, they may be especially sensitive to bright lights, loud sounds, certain textures, or strong smells.

The causes of autism are

Key Notes on Autism

Research suggests that both genetic and environmental factors can play a role in brain development. Autism is not caused by poor parenting, and vaccines do not cause autism. Autism usually begins in early childhood, although some people are not diagnosed until they are older.

In most cases, autism spectrum disorders become apparent during the first 5 years of a person's life. They begin in childhood and tend to persist into adolescence and adulthood. Globally, 1 in 160 children has an autism spectrum disorder, and they are more commonly diagnosed in boys than girls. People with autism spectrum disorders often also have other conditions, including epilepsy, depression,

anxiety and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Early identification and appropriate support can help autistic people develop their abilities and participate fully in school, work, and community life. Support may include speech and language services, educational assistance, occupational therapy, social support, and accommodation at school or work. The needs of each autistic person are different, so support should be individualized. The following are some key facts on Autism;

- UNICEF reports that an estimated 70 million people worldwide live with autism.
- UNICEF estimates that 19 million children worldwide have autism and lack access to education.

- A 2023 report by UNESCO found that only 20 per cent of children with autism globally attend inclusive schools, compared to 90 per cent of neurotypical children.
- A 2022 meta-analysis in ‘The Lancet’ found a global ASD prevalence of 1.1 per cent.
- The Global Burden of Disease Study (2020) found that autism is more common in urban areas (1.5 per cent) than rural areas (0.8 per cent).
- Boys are affected by autism at a ratio of 4:1 compared to girls, as reported by the CDC (2021).
- A 2022 study on ASD found that autism prevalence is higher in first-born children (1.7 per cent) compared to

By Dr Than Lwin Tun

- later-born children (1.3 per cent).
- The average age of autism diagnosis is four to five years, with 30 per cent diagnosed before age 3, as reported by the CDC (2021).
- A 2022 study in JAMA Paediatrics’ found that only 10 per cent of children with autism are diagnosed by age 3, as many symptoms appear later.
- The World Health Organization (2021) recommends screening for autism at 18 and 24 months, but only 25 per cent of children globally undergo such screening.
- The World Health Organization (2021) reports that 30-50 per cent of individuals with autism experience seizures,

with a higher risk in those with intellectual disability.

- A 2022 study in ‘Sleep Medicine Reviews’ found that 60-70 per cent of people with autism have sleep disorders, including insomnia and hypersomnia.
- The Global Alliance for Autism (2023) states that 70 per cent of adults with autism are unemployed, with only 10 per cent working full-time.
- The Journal of Autism and Development Disorders (2020) reports that 40-60 per cent of individuals with autism have gastrointestinal symptoms such as constipation and diarrhoea.

It is also important to promote understanding and acceptance of autism. Autistic people have their own strengths, talents, interests, and personalities. Some may have exceptional abilities in areas such as mathematics, music, art, memory,

technology, or problem-solving. Society should focus not only on the challenges associated with autism but also on creating environments in which autistic people can succeed.

In addition, autism is a natural form of human developmental difference that affects people in diverse ways. Greater awareness, acceptance, and appropriate support can improve the quality of life of autistic people and their families. By treating autistic people with respect and recognizing their individual strengths and needs, we can build a more inclusive and understanding society.

- References**
- <https://applications.emro.who.int>
 - <https://worldmetrics.org/autism-global-statistics>

Astronomer, physicist and religious sceptic Victor J Stenger (29 January 1935-27 August 2014) passed away 12 years ago, on 27 August 2014. He wrote many books for the general public, and two of his books have ‘God’ in the titles (see below). Your truly has read both of them. This article, in part, commemorates the 12th anniversary of Professor Stenger’s passing.

The very first book I read with ‘God’ in its title was excerpts from a book reproduced in a newspaper.

In early April 1979, *The Australian* newspaper published excerpts from the book *God and the Astronomers* (first published in 1978) by the late astronomer Robert Jastrow (7 September 1925-8 February 2008). Most of the contents, and definitely the conclusion of the book, have a theistic (if not Christian) slant or orientation. I read the excerpts in the reading room at Howitt Hall (students’ residence) of Monash University in Australia. The technology of the second decade of the 21st century facilitates a reproduction, through a quick search of the Web, of the following sentence, which was the last sentence in the excerpt of Jastrow’s book in *The Australian*.

“The details differ, but the essential elements in the astro-

nomical and biblical accounts of Genesis are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy ... For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountain of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” (From pages 106 to 107 of the 1992 edition of *God and the Astronomers*)

I especially recall the phrase ‘... he [the astronomer] is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.’

I recall being amused and provoked at what I then considered and still consider to be ‘special pleading’ and ‘stretched analogy’ of Robert Jastrow.

Jastrow did write ‘the details differ.’ One is reminded of the saying ‘The devil (Devil?) is in the details’. Would modern cosmology of the year 1978 (when Jastrow first published the book) also ‘incorporate’ the Biblical details of, say, ‘Lucifer’, ‘Eve’, and the ‘Apple’, so to speak, as part of its (human) ‘creation’ story? (See below).

Women astronomers’ contri-

butions

Secondly, though I did not notice it in 1979, the use of the word ‘he’ as a pronoun for ‘astronomer’, in fact, scientist can be commented on. Perhaps the majority of astronomers, like the Army, Navy and Air Force Chiefs in an overwhelming majority of countries around the world, would have been and still would be males. One should add, though, that worldwide there would probably be more women astronomers than women military Chiefs.

The God Delusion and its Dis-

contents

Fast forward from 1979 and 1997 to the year 2007. I saw one of the more famous books of contemporary times with the word ‘God’ in its title: *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins (born 26 March 1941) in a bookshop in Malacca, Malaysia.

The Malay saleswoman at the shop informed me that until recently the book was banned in Malaysia. This information about the previously ‘forbidden

God and the Astronomers linkage with ‘Immortality a CONDITIONAL gift’

Fast forward from early April 1979 to December 1997. While passing on a bus by a Church in Perth, Australia, I read a signboard in front of a Church: ‘Immortality: A CONDITIONAL Gift’ (Emphasis added).

I was amused to read that signboard. I mention this briefly since the reading of Jastrow’s assertion and the display of religious dogma in a church signboard, at least in varying degrees 18 years apart, ‘amused’ me and I cannot help but make the connection.

The God Delusion and its Dis-

contents

Fast forward from 1979 and 1997 to the year 2007. I saw one of the more famous books of contemporary times with the word ‘God’ in its title: *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins (born 26 March 1941) in a bookshop in Malacca, Malaysia.

The Malay saleswoman at the shop informed me that until recently the book was banned in Malaysia. This information about the previously ‘forbidden

By Myint Zan

fruit’ (pun intended; see statement above of ‘Lucifer’, ‘Eve’ and the ‘Apple’: fruit, not computer) clinched my decision to buy and read the book. *The God Delusion* (first published 2006) is more well-known and better sold than *God and the Astronomers*, but in my opinion (dare I say) it is an over-rated book, notwithstanding that in the past 20 years, according to online sources, it has sold about three million copies! As one with a strong degree of inclination towards atheism (though not the kind of militant atheism), some of Dawkins’s anti-theist (not ‘antithesis’) ‘anti-God’ tone and tenour at times seems (almost) shrill to me.

Dawkins and Stengers’ presentations of atheism

As mentioned above, another astrophysicist was the late Victor Stenger (29 January 1935-25 August 2014). Victor Stenger has published a few books based on his non-theistic stance, two of which I have read in their entirety. *God and the Folly of Faith* was pub-

lished in 2012, and I bought and read it the same year. Just a few weeks after Professor Stenger’s death, his *God and the Multiverse* was published in September 2014. I read it in September 2021. Though both Richard Dawkins and Victor Stenger expound atheistic standpoints and argue from atheistic premises, my preference (in terms of tone and content) is for Stenger’s presentations in the above two books rather than those of Dawkins’ *The God Delusion*.

The Case for God & God and the Astronomers

Karen Armstrong (born 14 November 1944), a comparative religious scholar, has published a few books with the word ‘God’ in their titles. One of them, which I had read in its entirety, is *The Case for God*, first published in 2009, about three years after Dawkins’ *The God Delusion*. It is not quite a response to Dawkins as such, though in parts of one Chapter she does indeed critique the ‘New Atheists’ including Dawkins.

Reverting to *God and the Astronomers*, there is a one-sentence mention in *The Case for God*, somewhat dismissively of Robert Jastrow’s tract. Armstrong wrote (on page 265 and in a footnote on page 364, Anchor Books, September 2010): ‘big bang [sic for Big Bang] theory was thought to substantiate the Genesis account’ according to Jastrow.

When Jastrow published *God and the Astronomers*, the ‘Multiverse’ – shall we say, postulate – was it a scientific hypothesis yet? – was not that much in vogue cosmologically speaking as it has been since the early 21st century. In his posthumously published book *God and the Multiverse*, Victor Stenger stated his strong preference for and endorsement of the Multiverse postulate. To summarize simplistically without –one hopes- distorting Stenger’s message, Stenger argues that the cosmological Multiverse make or makes (if ‘Multiverse’ can be considered as a collective singular) the God construct redundant.

One supposes that the majority or the plurality view approaching consensus among as-

tronomers, astrophysicists and cosmologists is that at least for THIS Universe the ‘Big Bang’ is a fairly strong scientific hypothesis. Still, even taking only the Big Bang hypothesis into account not only Victor Stenger but among others the late Carl Sagan (9 November 1934-20 December 1996) had in their writings (especially in Sagan’s introduction to one of the editions of the late Stephen Hawking’s *A Brief History of Time*) written about the non-necessity, the redundancy -and dare I say it paraphrasing them- the falsity of the God ‘construct’.

Back briefly to Karen Armstrong’s one-sentence dismissal of *God and the Astronomers*. Karen Armstrong is not a card-carrying member of any atheist society. Still, she deems it fit to dismiss Jastrow’s book, which *The Australian* reproduced in about 3 broadsheet pages in 1979. I am sure *The Australian* would not carry excerpts of Victor Stenger’s books, far less *The God Delusion* of Richard Dawkins, when they were first published. (Caveat: Yours truly does not have access to *The Australian*’s archives and will stand corrected if anyone can provide evidence that it has published excerpts of either Richard Dawkins and Victor Stenger’s books with ‘God’ in the titles.)

SEE PAGE 10

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Humanitarian assistance forum focuses on strengthening cooperation

A humanitarian assistance forum was held on 7 September at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

The forum was part of the 23rd South-East Asia Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders Meeting, hosted by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS).

During the forum’s first session, a panel discussion was held under the theme “Partnership for Collective Impact.” Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation among Red Cross societies in the region, enhancing the role of national societies in hu-



This photo features the humanitarian assistance forum in progress.

manitarian responses, and fostering greater connectivity and collaboration between the AHA Centre and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

During the second session, group discussions were held under

the theme “Innovations in Humanitarian Action,” covering topics such as the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in disaster management, the role of digital transformation in streamlining humanitarian operations,

strategic approaches to countering misinformation, and maintaining information integrity during emergencies.

MRCS leaders, representatives of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies from South-East Asian countries, as well as officials from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), partner Red Cross societies, and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) were present on the occasion. — ASH/TH

Five Books with ‘God’ in Their Titles

FROM PAGE 9

A brief glimpse of religiosity in Australian politics

A few years ago, the online magazine *Rationale* (previously *The Australian Rationalist*) published a summary of a report dealing with ‘religiosity’ in Australia. It states and comments on the ‘controlling’ and conservative politics in segments of the religious and political elites, and (segments of) the general public in Australia.

One realizes that

excerpts from Robert Jastrow’s stretched, anomalous and groundless comparison of the cosmological ‘Big Bang’ to Biblical Genesis in a book published in 1978 were reproduced in *The Australian* newspaper a few decades ago. Still, *The Australian’s* political and religious leanings, not only in the past but also contemporaneously, are perhaps another indication of the political religiosity (or is it religion-orientated politics?) of one influential media outlet in Australia.

MSY Village Project activities inspected in Nagmon

THE Nagmon Township Rural Development Department, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to check the success of income-generating businesses funded by the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Lan Sa Village, Chalkan Village and Kawtle Village.

Township Head U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin of the Naungmon Township Rural Development Department and the staff of the township project met members of the MSY Village Project and inspected the success of the livestock

and trading activities implemented with the MSY Village Project Fund of K21.4 million and whether the monthly accounting forms were complete or not. Six livestock operators in the three villages were awarded K5.1 million. U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Township Head of the Nagmon Township Rural Development Department, said that the project has been successfully operated by lending K21.4 million to eight traders and K9.1 million to nine traders, a total of 23 members and associates. — Aung Ye Kyaw (DRD)



Officials oversee an MSY village project in Naungmon Township, PutaO District, Kachin State.

ASEAN Tourism Investment Outlook 2030 takes shape with investment data talks

A roundtable discussion with Myanmar tourism entrepreneurs and investors was held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Yangon to incorporate Myanmar’s investment-related information into the ASEAN Sustainable and Resilient Tourism Investment Outlook

2030.

According to the Union of Myanmar Travel Association (UMTA), the drafting session, led by the Philippines, was attended by UMTA Chair U Kyaw Zeya, General Secretary U Kyaw Win Htun, and Executive Committee Member and

International Relations Committee Chair U Tun Oo.

This discussion is part of the Investment Outlook drafting process, which is one of the Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) during the Philippines’ ASEAN Chairmanship.

The Outlook is set to be adopted and issued by ASEAN leaders at the ASEAN Summit scheduled for the end of 2026. It was held with the objective of ensuring that Myanmar’s investment-related information is included and featured in the Outlook. — MT/ZN

Myanmar to Host First-Ever National Startup World Cup Round

THE YEN-D Myanmar Association has announced that it will host the first-ever Myanmar national round of the Startup World Cup.

The winner of this competition will have the chance to advance and compete in the global Startup World Cup held in the United States. A press conference regarding the competition was held on 7 September at the Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon.

This international startup competition organizes over 100 regional events annually across more than 60 countries worldwide, with regionally selected contestants competing in the final global competition.

Ko Nyi Nyi Naing, co-founder of the association and leader of the Startup World Cup Programme, stated that the Myanmar round will be led by them and will welcome startups from

various sectors, not just technology. This includes businesses in food and beverage, services, and manufacturing.

Applications are open to startups at all stages, from conceptual ideas to established businesses. Applications are currently being accepted and will remain open until 25 September.

Approximately 10 qualified startups will be selected to advance to the final round, which

will take place in the third week of October. The winner of the Myanmar round will have the opportunity to pitch their business and ideas to international investors and business leaders at the global competition in the United States.

At the global competition, winners stand to gain up to \$1 million in prize money and the chance to network with prospective connections. — MT/ZN

WORLD

Japanese students rank among top in 2025 OECD test despite score declines

JAPANESE students were among the top scorers in reading, science and math in an international learning assessment conducted in 2025, despite their average scores falling in all three categories, a global survey showed Wednesday.

In the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's test taken by more than 760,000 15-year-olds in 91 countries and economies, Japan ranked top among the 38 OECD members, whose average scores for the three subjects declined.

Japan slipped to fifth place in science, down from second in the previous test in 2022. The country dropped from third to fourth in reading and remained fifth in mathematics.

Among all participating economies, China — represented by students in Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang — had the top scores in science and mathematics, while Singapore ranked first in reading.

The OECD test called Programme for International Student Assessment also showed a widening gap between high- and low-scoring Japanese students, while the average reading score declined.

The average reading score among students in Japan slipped 13 points to 503. While the score for understanding longer texts was mostly unchanged from the previous assessment, reading fluency for shorter texts, or the ability to read them quickly and accurately, declined. — Kyodo

Finland's largest Viking Age silver coin hoard discovered

FINLAND'S largest known Viking Age silver coin hoard has been discovered in the municipality of Sysma, southern Finland, Lahti City Museums said in a press release on Monday.

The hoard dates to the Viking Age, commonly considered to have lasted from 793 to 1066 in European history. It was discovered near the centre of Sysma on 3 September by metal-detecting enthusiast Kalle Lappinen, according to the press release.

The site was inspected the following day, and the hoard was recovered under the direction of Esko Tikkala, an archaeologist with Lahti City Museums.

The museum has confirmed it was the



This photo shows Viking Age silver coins and other treasures from a hoard discovered on 3 September in the municipality of Sysma, southern Finland. PHOTO: LAHTI CITY MUSEUMS/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

largest Viking Age coin hoard discovered in Finland to date.

In addition to silver coins, the hoard contains a fragment of silver used as payment, a

silver bracelet, a silver fitting and a silver bead.

The coins and other objects had been placed in two birch-bark containers and buried about 45 centimetres under-

ground between stones. The two containers were about 12 metres apart.

The coins weigh a total of approximately 4.5 kilogrammes. As they have yet to be cleaned, separated or counted, their exact weight and number, as well as their more precise dating, will be determined through further research. The museum said the hoard contains thousands of coins.

Previously, Finland's largest known Viking Age coin hoard was one discovered in the municipality of Nousiainen, southwestern Finland, in 1895. It contains about 1,700 coins and other objects weighing a total of approximately 2.2 kilogrammes, according to Lahti City Museums. — Xinhua

US embargo causes Cuba record economic losses of over US\$8 bln

WASHINGTON'S stepped-up trade embargo against Cuba caused the island a record economic loss of US\$8.083 billion from March 2025 to February 2026, seven per cent higher than the previous year's figure, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said Monday, denouncing the embargo's devastating impact on all aspects of Cuban life.

Cuba has been under a US trade embargo for more than six decades. The government said the cumulative economic damage has exceeded \$178.7 billion at current prices, up 4.7 per cent from the previous period.

The administration of US President Donald Trump has stepped up the embargo by effectively banning fuel supplies



People chat on the street during a nationwide blackout in Havana, capital of Cuba, 14 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

to Cuba through executive orders that threaten sanctions against companies operating tankers or shipping lines, leading to an acute energy crisis.

"The embargo does not punish a government; it punishes the daily lives of a people in every aspect," Rodriguez said. "It is an act of collective punishment that manifests itself in the long months

of living with only two or three hours of electricity a day, or less. It has damaged the entire fabric of family life."

A ship carrying 100,000 metric tonnes of crude oil could drastically reduce power outages for about two weeks, he said, noting that sanctions also blocked parts for thermoelectric power plants, as well as the solar panels

and batteries needed for photovoltaic parks that could be installed in 45 days.

The energy crisis is also affecting water supplies, as power outages disrupted water sources, pumping stations and pipeline pumps, while fuel shortages due to the US sanctions made it difficult to run generators, Rodriguez said.

The power shortages have also affected hospitals and other health care facilities, including those providing essential care for newborns, he noted, adding that surgeons have at times been forced to operate by the light of rechargeable lamps or cellphones, while fuel shortages have also hindered ambulances and access to medications. — Xinhua

Candidates to succeed Suica smartcard penguin mascot unveiled

EAST Japan Railway Co on Tuesday unveiled three character designs as candidates to succeed the beloved penguin mascot of Suica, the smartcard used for public transport and cashless payments in Japan.

The new mascot will be chosen from three characters — a squirrel, a rabbit and an orange creature carrying a crossbody bag

with a mole on it — via online voting from Tuesday to 23 September.

The penguin is set to retire at the end of fiscal 2026 in March 2027.

The voting results will be announced on Nov. 18 to coincide with the 25th anniversary of Suica's launch. JR East will then begin accepting suggestions for the new mascot's nickname. — Kyodo



This photo taken in Tokyo on 8 September 2026 shows three character designs as candidates to succeed Suica's beloved penguin mascot. PHOTO: KYODO

GMO to launch “ambulance” for humanoid robot repairs in Tokyo

GMO AI & Robotics Corp said Tuesday it will launch a specially equipped vehicle dedicated to respond to maintenance needs for humanoid robots in the event of a breakdown or malfunction, in Tokyo later this month.

The GMO Humanoid Ambulance, which was unveiled to the press the same day, is equipped with key parts for a humanoid and repair tools, and an engineer will be on board to repair the humanoids introduced by GMO.



GMO AI & Robotics Corp. President Tomohiro Uchida (far L) and others pose with a GMO Humanoid Ambulance, a maintenance vehicle dedicated to repairing humanoid robots, in Tokyo on 8 September 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Describing the vehicle as the first of its kind in Japan specializing in humanoid repairs, President Tomohiro Uchida

said, “We aim to devote our efforts to initiatives that support the social implementation and operation of humanoids.”

To build the neces-

sary infrastructure for the social rollout of humanoid robots, the company has also introduced two services: one that uses data gathered in

the field to continuously improve the robots’ performance, and another that supports the safe operation of the robots by, for example, monitoring network communications for unauthorized access.

Regarding the social implementation of humanoids in Japan, GMO Internet Group Inc, GMO AI & Robotics’ parent company, and Japan Airlines Co started in May a demonstration experiment using such robots to transport passengers’ luggage at Tokyo’s Haneda airport, to verify their potential for achieving labour efficiency for ground handling operations. — Kyodo

Mongolia’s foreign tourist arrivals up nearly 18% in first 8 months

MONGOLIA welcomed 705,098 foreign tourists in the first eight months of 2026, an increase of 17.9 per cent from the same

period a year earlier, the country’s ministry of culture, sports, tourism and youth said Tuesday.

According to the

ministry, Russia, China, South Korea, Japan and Kazakhstan were the top source markets for inbound tourists during

the period.

The Mongolian government views tourism as a key sector for diversifying the country’s economy, which has traditionally relied heavily on mining exports. — Xinhua

AI to take centre stage at 5th global digital expo

THE 5th Global Digital Trade Expo, an event dedicated to promoting digital trade and industrial co-operation, will take place from 23 to 27 September in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, with artificial intelligence (AI) as its main theme, an official said on Monday.

More than one-third of the exhibitors will focus on AI, alongside the collective debut of AI application pilot bases, presenting a full-chain innovation ecosystem spanning foundational models, industry applications and smart de-

vices, China’s Vice-Minister of Commerce Yan Dong noted.

A number of AI competitions will be held on the sidelines of the expo, covering areas such as open-source development, embodied intelligence and brain-computer interface technology.

The expo will feature 170,000 square metres of exhibition space, with international exhibitors accounting for over 20 per cent of the total. The number of overseas pavilions has already exceeded the combined total of all previous editions. — Xinhua



People visit the 4th Global Digital Trade Expo in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province, 25 September 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Iran war adds US\$100 bln to US consumers’ energy costs

THE Iran war has cost US consumers an estimated additional US\$100 billion in energy costs, a figure that is rising by roughly 1 million every two minutes, according to a real-time estimate from Brown University as of Monday.

The Iran War Energy Cost Tracker from Brown’s Watson School says higher gasoline and diesel prices have cost the average US household more than \$760 since the war began on 28 February.



A worker refuels a car for a customer at a gas station in New York, the United States, 8 May 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

The US national average price for diesel rose to a record \$5.90 per gallon on Monday, surpassing the record \$5.85 set on Friday, according to the American Automobile Association. Texas has borne the biggest share of the cost increase, with consumers paying around \$11 billion in extra gas and diesel costs since the war began.

It is followed by California and Florida, at about \$8 billion and \$5 billion, respectively. — Xinhua

Tokyo stocks end lower on stronger yen

TOKYO stocks ended lower Tuesday, as the rapid appreciation of the Japanese yen prompted concern about the earnings of exporters.

The benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, ended down 1,130.51 points, or 1.70 per cent, from Monday at 65,269.33.

The broader Topix index, meanwhile, finished 75.47 points, or 1.83 per cent, lower at 4,050.33.

The yen surged to its strongest level against the US dollar since late February in Tokyo trading on Tuesday, temporarily rising into the upper 152-yen range amid speculation that the Bank of Japan will decide on a rate hike at its policy meeting next week.

The yen’s rally weighed on stock prices by hurting the overseas profits of major export-driven companies, analysts said. — Xinhua

Thailand's consumer confidence hits 6-month high in Aug

THAILAND'S consumer confidence rose for a third straight month in August, supported by easing concerns over the Middle East conflict, stabilizing fuel prices, and continued government stimulus measures, a survey showed on Tuesday.

According to a survey of 2,240 respondents conducted by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the consumer confidence index increased to 53.2 last month from 51.8 in July, reaching its highest level in six months, as all components of the index improved.

Higher prices for key

agricultural products, compared with a year earlier, also helped lift sentiment and strengthen household purchasing power, providing a positive psychological boost to the economic recovery, the university said in a statement.

While current consumer confidence levels remain below the pre-conflict baseline recorded in February, the steady recovery reflects easing public anxieties regarding global economic volatility and energy market fluctuations, said Thanavath Phonvichai, president of the university. — Xinhua

China's foreign trade gains momentum as overseas demand powers exports

CHINA'S foreign trade maintained swift growth in the first eight months of 2026, with both exports and imports posting solid gains, and import growth continuing to outpace exports, official data showed on Tuesday. The country's total goods imports and exports rose 17.6 per cent year on year to 34.78 trillion yuan (about US\$5.13 trillion) in the January-August period, according to the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

The growth rate was 0.3 percentage points faster than that recorded in the first seven months of the year. Exports increased 14.6 per cent

year on year to 20.17 trillion yuan, while imports expanded by 22 per cent to 14.61 trillion yuan, the data revealed.

In August alone, China's goods trade totalled 4.65 trillion yuan, up 19.8 per cent from a year ear-

lier and remaining above the 4-trillion-yuan mark for a sixth consecutive month.

Exports grew 18.6 per cent year on year in August, while imports rose by 21.7 per cent. Both exports and imports registered double-digit growth for a

fourth straight month, and import growth exceeded that of exports for a sixth successive month. The strength of China's exports has been underpinned by firm overseas demand, particularly for high-tech and artificial intelligence (AI)-related products.

In the first eight months of 2026, exports of mechanical and electrical products rose 21.9 per cent to 12.91 trillion yuan, while exports of integrated circuits surged 95.4 per cent year on year to 1.77 trillion yuan, GAC data showed. By contrast, exports of labour-intensive products edged down 0.6 per cent in this period. — Xinhua



A drone photo taken on 25 August 2026 shows container ships berthed at the Qianwan Container Terminal of Qingdao Port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Vietnam's electronics sector posts US\$262-bln trade turnover in 8 months

VIETNAM'S computer, electronic products, mobile phones and components sector recorded about US\$262 billion in total trade turnover in the first eight months of this year, local daily Voice of Vietnam reported Tuesday.

Of the total, exports reached about \$101 billion, up 51 per cent year on year, while imports stood at approximately \$161 billion, rising 68 per cent, according to data from the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Exports of phone components surged to nearly \$12 billion, reflecting Vietnam's gradual expansion into component manufacturing rather than focusing solely on assembly, the report said. — Xinhua

Japan's real wages in July rise 2.4% on year, up for 7th straight month

JAPAN'S real wages in July rose 2.4 per cent from a year earlier, increasing for the seventh straight month, due to higher summer bonuses, government data showed Tuesday.

Nominal wages per worker, including base

and overtime pay, were up 4.7 per cent at 436,401 yen (\$2,830), marking the sixth straight month of growth exceeding three per cent and the first such streak in more than 34 years, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare said. The in-

crease in real wages for the seventh consecutive month marked the longest positive streak since a seven-month run from February 2021.

"The effects of wage increases from the shunto labour-management nego-

tiations are reflected," a ministry official said. Wage growth was supported by a 6.3 per cent rise in special earnings to 134,819 yen, as this year's robust wage negotiations kept pressure on corporate managers to boost pay. — Kyodo

BRICS Membership to Boost Indonesia's Trade Reach and Tech Opportunities — Official



A view shows an installation set up at the venue of the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

"INDONESIA views BRICS as a multilateral platform for expanding our economic relations with other member states," head of the nation's Government Communications Agency (BAKOM) Muhammad Qodari tells Sputnik.

Indonesia advocates reforming global govern-

ance institutions and deepening cooperation among Global South countries, which will help strengthen the republic's strategic position on the world stage, he adds. Indonesia joined BRICS in January 2025, becoming the first South-East Asian nation to gain full membership. — SPUTNIK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B82ZS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B82ZS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

AUKUS poses nuclear proliferation threat — Lavrov

THE AUKUS nuclear submarine programme does not fully comply with standards established for all countries under the International Atomic Energy Agency, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok.

“The activities of this nuclear trio do not fully fit within the standards and norms established for all countries within the framework of the Inter-



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks during the 3rd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security in Minsk, Belarus. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

national Atomic Energy Agency,” Lavrov said.

He warned that failure to comply, or incomplete compliance, with IAEA norms “carries risks of the proliferation of nuclear technologies for military purposes”.

Lavrov also criticized the IAEA leadership for treating the issue too lightly, saying it was acting “clearly under the most severe pressure from the United States and Britain”. — SPUTNIK

China’s top diplomat holds talks with Qatari PM

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in Beijing on Tuesday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said that in recent years, under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, the China-Qatar strategic partnership has made considerable progress.

Noting that China firmly supports Qatar in safeguarding its national sovereignty, independence, security and stability, Wang expressed the belief that Qatar will continue to offer firm support on issues concerning China’s core interests. He added that China is the most reliable and long-term partner in Qatar’s development process, and is willing to maintain communication and cooperation with Qatar on international and regional affairs. — Xinhua

Malaysian PM says ASEAN haze mechanism in need of review

ASEAN needs to review and strengthen its mechanism for tackling transboundary haze, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Tuesday as poor air quality persists in the region.

The grouping must

take the recurring haze problem seriously because it directly affects public health and people’s lives and ensure that its existing mechanisms are translated into more effective action against the sources of transboundary

haze, Anwar told a press briefing.

“There is room for improvement. I think the ASEAN ministers must seriously look at it, because this is affecting lives, particularly of children and babies, and if

we have seen in Serian, it is really concerning,” he said, referring to a district in the northern Borneo state of Sarawak where an emergency had been declared after air quality hit hazardous levels. — Xinhua

Indonesia’s main airport resumes operations as volcanic ash disperses

INDONESIA’S main airport, Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, and four other airports in the country have resumed operations after volcanic ash from the eruption of Mount Anak Krakatau dispersed, the country’s transport ministry said Tuesday.

Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said that a change in wind direction dispersed volcanic ash around Soekarno-Hatta International Airport. A total of 178 aircraft remained at the airport during the closure and still needed to

undergo airworthiness inspections, meaning it may take some time for some flights to resume.

Indonesia’s Coordinating Ministry for Infrastructure and Regional Development said in a statement Monday that the airport closures caused at least 2,961 flights to be delayed, diverted or cancelled, affecting about 341,000 passengers. Eight airports across the country had been closed at one point due to the eruption. — Xinhua

Heavy rain hits central Japan, disrupts shinkansen train services

TORRENTIAL rain pounded central and other parts of Japan on Tuesday, suspending shinkansen bullet train services linking Tokyo and western Japan for several hours, while residents in some areas were urged to brace for flooding.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued its highest-level flood warning for the Shonai River, which flows through Gifu and Aichi prefectures. More than 100 millimetres of rain fell in an hour in Nagoya under the influence of an autumn rain front.

The Nagoya city



People push a stranded car in a flooded street in Nagoya on 8 September 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

government is calling on residents in parts of Chikusa, Moriyama and Meito wards to take immediate action to ensure their safety. All subway line services operated by the city have also been

suspended.

Tokyo-bound Tokaido Shinkansen Line bullet trains were temporarily halted between Okayama and Tokyo stations, while outbound trains between Tokyo and Nagoya were

also suspended, according to JR Central.

Trains on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line were also partially suspended due to the rain, according to JR West.

Both Tokaido and Sanyo shinkansen services resumed at around 5:15 pm, the operators said.

The weather agency said linear rainbands, which can bring heavy rain over the same area for several hours, formed in parts of Aichi and Gifu, calling on the public to be alert to the risk of landslides and flooding as heavy rain is expected from western to north-eastern Japan. — Kyodo



A stranded passenger looks at a flight information screen amid the closure of Soekarno-Hatta International Airport due to the eruption of the Mount Anak Krakatau, in Tangerang on 7 September 2026. Indonesia’s main airport and several other air travel hubs reopened early on 8 September after days of closure due to ash from a volcanic eruption, the Transport Ministry said. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Yangon United book AFC Challenge League group-stage spot

YANGON United defeated Laos club Ezra FC 2-1 in the AFC Challenge League 2026-27 Preliminary Stage qualifier at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon at 4 pm yesterday, securing a place in the East Asia Zone group stage and guaranteed prize money of about K400 million.

The victory also avenged Yangon United's penalty-shootout defeat by Ezra FC last season. The Yangon side secured a group-stage berth on home soil as well as substantial prize money.

"We watched last year's match. The coach and the players have changed this time. It will be a good match, and we will play to win," Yangon United head coach Marce-



Yangon United FC and Laos club Ezra FC compete in the AFC Challenge League 2026/27 Preliminary Stage qualifier at Thuwunna Stadium.

lo Cirilli said at the pre-match press conference. The first half ended goalless, but Yangon United improved after making substitutions following the interval. Mustafa headed home Maung Maung Lwin's delivery in 62 minutes before Than Paing doubled the lead in 70 minutes, finishing from

Mustafa's assist. Ezra FC pulled one back from the penalty spot in 81 minutes, but Yangon United held on for a 2-1 victory. A fan who watched the match at the stadium said Yangon United could have scored more had they avoided misplaced passes, communication errors and rushed finishing. He added that earlier substitutions for players struggling to link up with the team might have helped create more scoring opportunities.

With the victory, Yangon United have advanced to the group stage, where they are expected to face stronger opposition. The club also has the opportunity to earn more than K6 billion in prize money if it wins the competition.

— Htun Htun/KZL

4 teams book Futsal Cup semifinal spots

THE final group-stage matches of the International Futsal Cup 2026 were held on 8 September at the MFF Futsal Stadium in Thuwunna, Yangon, with Myanmar clubs MIU, YRG and YCDC Dream Team and Indonesia's Black Steel Papua advancing to the semifinals.

On the final group-stage day, Black Steel Papua defeated YCDC Dream Team 6-2 in Group A, while TG United beat Cambodia's Lucky 2-1. In Group B, YRG defeated Thailand's Black Pearl Academy 4-3, while MIU edged fellow Myanmar club M2K 3-2.

Lucky needed only a draw in its final match to advance but suffered a defeat, allowing YCDC Dream Team to secure an unexpected semi-final place. Black Steel Papua finished top of Group A with nine points, while YCDC Dream Team secured second place on goal difference after the three teams below the leaders each finished with three points.

In Group B, MIU finished top with nine points, followed by YRG with six. Black Pearl Academy and M2K, with three and no points respectively, were eliminated.

The semi-finals will be played on 10 September, with Black Steel Papua facing YRG and MIU taking on fellow Myanmar club YCDC Dream Team.

— Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw semifinals set for today

THE knockout and quarterfinal matches in the men's four-player team event at the 2026 Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw Championship were held at Gymnasium A of Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 September.

In the knockout stage, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation defeated the Ministry of Transport 2-0, while the Ministry of Religious Affairs beat the Central Bank of Myanmar 2-1. The Ministry of Construction defeated the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism 2-0, while the Ministry of Electricity and Energy beat the Ministry of Finance and Revenue 2-1. The Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development defeated the Ministry of Digital Devel-



Players are in action at yesterday's quarterfinal match.

opment and Communications 2-0, the Ministry of Border Affairs beat the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement 2-0, the Ministry of Home Affairs defeated the Ministry of Sports 2-1, and the Ministry of Defence beat the Ministry of Education 2-0.

In the quarterfinals, the Ministry of Religious Affairs defeated the Ministry of Agriculture, Live-

stock and Irrigation 2-0, the Ministry of Construction beat the Ministry of Electricity and Energy 2-0, the Ministry of Border Affairs defeated the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development 2-0, and the Ministry of Home Affairs beat the Ministry of Defence 2-0.

The semifinals will be held from 10 am on 9 September, with the Ministry of Religious Af-



Black Steel Papua and YCDC Dream Team players contest the match. PHOTO:MFF

Barcelona hosts Feyenoord, Atletico visits Liverpool in Champions League openers

BARCELONA and Atletico Madrid open their Champions League campaigns Wednesday, with Barcelona hosting Feyenoord and Atletico visiting Liverpool at Anfield.

Barcelona has started the season strongly, winning all four of its La Liga matches while scoring 17 goals and conceding just two. Hansi Flick's side continued that run with a 5-0 win over Valencia on Sunday.

With little recovery time and three more league matches scheduled over the next 12 days, Flick is expected to rotate his starting lineup.

New signing Gabriel Jesus could make an appearance, while young Belgian winger Jesse Bisiwu is also in contention for a debut from the bench. Flick may also look to manage Lamine Yamal's minutes during a demanding stretch of fixtures. Atletico returns to Anfield a year after losing a thrilling 3-2 encounter at the same stage of the competition, when Virgil van Dijk scored a late winner for Liverpool. — Xinhua



WORLD

Putin and Trump held phone call on Tuesday

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump held a fresh phone conversation on Tuesday, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said.

Key statements from Ushakov:

- The conversation focused on the settlement of the Ukraine conflict
- Putin and Trump exchanged views on the recent visits of Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Moscow and Kyiv
- The results of the visits were positively assessed by both leaders
- The call was constructive, frank and held in a positive atmosphere
- Putin stressed that Russia has no aggressive plans towards Europe
- Putin supported Trump's intention to build constructive Russia-US relations



US President Donald Trump (R) and Russian President Vladimir Putin attend a joint press conference after concluding their talks in Anchorage, Alaska, the United States, on 15 August 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

- The two leaders agreed to remain in contact and hold further calls when necessary
- US President Donald Trump is interested in achieving a breakthrough in the settlement of the Ukraine conflict during his presidency, Yuri Ushakov said. Trump talked about the need to end the

conflict in Ukraine, which would open up prospects for restoring relations with Russia, Ushakov added. The leaders agreed to stay in touch and to call each other as it becomes necessary, Ushakov added. Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump have agreed to continue working on humanitarian

issues, including prisoner exchanges, Yuri Ushakov said. Russian President Vladimir Putin, during a phone conversation with US President Donald Trump, noted First Lady Melania Trump's efforts to return Russian and Ukrainian children to their families, Yuri Ushakov said. — SPUTNIK

Nepal glacier saw exceptional heat before collapse caused deadly floods: researcher

THE mountain section whose collapse triggered fatal floods in Nepal and China on 26 August had experienced unprecedented heat for the time of year, meteorological data analyzed by a researcher shows.

Average temperatures on the mountain glacier at an altitude of 5,200 metres (17,060 feet) were estimated at around five degrees Celsius between 21 and 26 August.

This is exceptionally high.

They had not exceeded 4.0C over the same period in more than 55 years of data recording, although no direct link to the collapse has so far been established. This series of highly localized temperatures was reconstructed by Robert Rohde, chief scientist at the independent Berkeley Earth organization in California. — AFP



An aerial drone photo taken on 27 August 2026 shows a mudslide-hit area in Nepal. The mudslide caused significant casualties along the China-Nepal border **PHOTO: XINHUA**

WHO says needs 5,000 more health workers to tackle Ebola in DRC

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday it needed 5,000 extra health workers to help tackle the highly contagious Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The outbreak, officially detected in mid-May, has spread to six provinces in the country's conflict-plagued east and northeast.

Since 15 May, the virus has killed 3,175 people among the more than 6,600 confirmed infected, the WHO said, citing official Congolese figures.

Health services lack sufficient staff and re-



A health worker wearing a mask is seen at the general reference hospital in Rwampara in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo on 16 May 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

sources and have been overwhelmed by the surge in cases of Ebola, which is transmitted through contact with bodily fluids and can cause severe internal and ex-

ternal bleeding and organ failure.

The WHO said it hoped to create 3,000 beds for patients in Ebola treatment centres in the DRC. — AFP

Iran to continue resistance until making “aggressors” regretful: president

IRAN'S President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tuesday that the country will continue its resistance with strength until the “aggressors” are brought to complete regret.

In a post on social media platform X, he also highlighted Iran's opposi-

tion to war. “The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been opposed to war and considered the preservation of the people's interests and ensuring the (West Asia) region's security to lie in refraining from warmongering,” Pezeshkian said.

He added, “However,

just as it has courageously risen to defend against aggression up to this day, Iran will continue this resistance with strength until the aggressors are brought to complete regret, and will remain the guardian of the rights of the great Iranian people.”

— Xinhua

Trade between Russia, China increases by 28.4% from Jan to Aug – Chinese Customs

TRADE between China and Russia increased by 28.4 per cent in the first eight months of this year compared to the same period in 2025, reaching \$185.047 billion, the Chinese General Administration of Customs said on Tuesday.

China exported \$84.675 billion worth

of goods to Russia in the first eight months of this year, a 30.7 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2025. At the same time, shipments from Russia to China increased by 26.5 per cent, reaching \$100.372 billion, the agency said in a statement. — SPUTNIK