

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people's representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.



Prime Minister U Nyo Saw addresses the Union government meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Government ministries to aid general election efforts

The Union government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held its meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, with an address by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw.

The meeting was attended by Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials.

The current government is the Union government formed by the National Defence and Security Council. The government has to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes: non-disinte-

gration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. Likewise, it is necessary to adhere to and implement the four objectives set forth by the National Defence and Security Council.

At present, Myanmar needs to move forward peacefully along the path of multiparty democ-

racy without political, ethnic, or religious diversity. All citizens must avoid actions that could divert the country from this democratic path and abide by the existing laws in accord with the Constitution. As elections are a cornerstone of the democratic process that the people aspire to, the Head of State has already announced to the public that a

general election will be held in December of this year. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that all eligible citizens are able to cast their votes. For those who may be unable to vote on election day due to various reasons, arrangements must be made as per the prescribed rules and procedures to allow them to vote in advance. **SEE PAGE 3**

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NATIONAL

NCA signed to end armed conflicts and restore durable peace

❖ The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) has been signed to end armed conflicts, and efforts are ongoing to achieve a durable peace.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February 2025)

Amendment to Protection of Personal Privacy and Personal Security of Citizens Law 2025 enacted

THE National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar yesterday enacted the Amendment to the Protection of Personal Privacy and Personal Security of Citizens Law 2025 as the National Defence and Security Council Law No 1/2025 in accord with Section 427 of the

Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. With reference to Section 382 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the provisions contained in Sections 5, 7, and 8 of the Protection of Personal Privacy and Personal Security of Citizens Law are hereby suspended.

Moreover, it was stated that this law shall be deemed to apply only during the period in which the National Defence and Security Council exercises legislative, executive, and judicial powers following Section 427 of the Constitution, before the formation of the Hluttaws under the Constitution. — GNLM/TTA

- Let us encourage production for prosperity of the Nation.
- Let us ensure education sector for the development of the Nation.
- Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Friday 1 August 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 2 August 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Chin and northern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Chin and Rakhine States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about 6-8 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 August 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, fairly widespread in Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region. — DMH

MTB, RCCY sign MoU to jointly carry out charitable activities



The MTB Bank and Rotary Club of Central Yangon (RCCY) are seen at the signing of the MoU.

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Tourism Bank, the MTB and the Rotary Club of Central Yangon (RCCY) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly implement social

welfare projects. The MTB and the RCCY signed the MoU with the aim of improving the lives of Myanmar's communities, promoting sustainable development, and

strengthening businesses. The event was organized at Grand Ballroom (Level 2) of Melia Hotel on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon Region, the MTB stated. Through this partnership, both parties will be able to work together for social welfare and community development activities such as education, health, and humanitarian operations in natural disasters.

At the signing ceremony, the MoU was signed by MTB's Executive Director Daw Theingi Lin, and RCCY's President Daw May Myat Mon Win, and witnessed by U Win Lwin, CEO of the MTB, and U Than Htut, Club Secretary of the RCCY. — MT/ZN

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 7:30 pm MST on 1 August 2025)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Toungoo has exceeded by more than 2 feet above its danger level. It may fall about two feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about five feet above its danger level. It may fall about three inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Shwegyin River at

Shwegyin has exceeded by more than one foot above its danger level. It may fall about two feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by more than six feet above its danger level. It may rise about two inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Toungoo, Shwegyin, Hpa-an Townships and Madauk, to stay away from the flood-prone areas. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Government ministries to aid general election efforts

FROM PAGE 1

The State will uphold and implement a genuine, disciplined multiparty democratic system. In terms of governance, efforts will be made to establish a Union system based on a multiparty democracy and a federal system. To successfully hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, all relevant ministries must actively participate and carry out their responsibilities in their respective sectors.

Let us encourage production for the prosperity of the Nation

Myanmar is a country with an economy primarily based on agriculture and livestock. Since the majority of the rural population is engaged in farming and livestock breeding, it is essential to develop these sectors in order to improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities and reduce poverty. Only through this path can national economic development be achieved. All stakeholders must prioritize efforts to enhance agricultural and livestock production. It is necessary not only to utilize farmland systematically but also to strive for higher per-acre yield and improved crop productivity. Doing so will ensure domestic food sufficiency and also enable exports to foreign markets. The State is also making arrangements to ensure an adequate and timely supply of fertilizers, which are crucial inputs for agricultural activities.

Similarly, efforts must be made across the regions and states to improve the cultivation and production of oil crops, which are another important agricultural product. Regarding oil sufficiency, since these oil crops can produce the necessary edible oils for the country, it is essential to develop domestic production to substitute imported oils. Although measures have been taken since before to ensure domestic oil sufficiency and efficient consumption, full achievement has yet to be realized. It has been observed that the production of oil crops has not yet sufficiently progressed across regions and states. Therefore, priority should be given

to cultivating oil crops in suitable areas as a key sector, aiming to achieve better yields and to expand sunflower cultivation and production, exceeding sown acreage.

In accord with the motto: “**Let us encourage production for the prosperity of the Nation**”, in practical terms, efforts must be made to promote rural economic development and support agricultural and livestock activities. There are vast tracts of arable land along basins of the Ayeyawady River and the Chindwin River, and it is necessary to utilize these cultivable lands efficiently. To ensure food security, livestock such as chickens, pigs, goats, cattle, and fish should also be raised according to the respective regional conditions.

The government allocates funds to the relevant Union ministries by sector to carry out national development activities. It is necessary to use the annual national budget allocations assigned to regions and states efficiently and effectively, and to ensure that the projects are completed successfully within the designated timeframes.

Let us ensure the education sector for the development of the Nation

It is necessary to encourage the education of citizens to develop the country. In accord with the motto “**Let’s ensure education sector for the development of the Nation**”, it is necessary to improve the education sector in the entire nation. The technique is based on school education, so it is necessary to support the improvement of learning education without fail. Emphasis must be placed on attending to all school-age children and increasing student grades in learning. To prevent a decline in student transition rates between grade levels, it is necessary for the Ministry of Education to conduct research, analysis, and studies in order to implement effective remedial measures. Moreover, the current government needs to pave the way for the forthcoming government to continue encouraging to development of the education sector of the nation.

In the health sector, public healthcare activities are being carried out with a focus on preventive measures to avoid the outbreak of diseases, and policies and plans must be implemented to ensure the effective delivery of quality medical treatment when diseases do occur. There are still weaknesses in the delivery of healthcare services due to terrorist acts and conflicts in some areas. Therefore, not only health care workers but also all those involved in the health sector are required to work together in a coordinated manner. When assigning healthcare personnel to various regions and states, they are truly deployed to the respective designated areas of responsibility, and their assignments are made for a clearly defined period of service.

In line with the policies set by the Head of State – “Only with good health can one pursue education; only with good health can one work”, “Nothing is more important than human life,” and “Every hospital must have a doctor” – the State is actively implementing measures to provide the necessary healthcare personnel and medical support equipment for regions and states across the country.

Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation

It is now evident that the increasing occurrences of flooding, earthquakes, cyclones, and river overflows around the world are the result of environmental degradation. Therefore, in order to promote nationwide greening and sustainable agriculture, it is necessary for us to actively preserve forests and the natural environment. While forest coverage in our country once exceeded 50 per cent, it has now declined to just 42.19 per cent. To restore forest coverage and ensure a greener environment, it is essential to expand the planting of long-term trees. In line with the motto “Let’s protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation”, efforts must be made to increase the cultivation of perennial, shade trees and windbreaks in forested areas.

As the Union government must all

work together and make collective efforts to carry out the necessary tasks for the nation at this time. In particular, collaborative efforts must be made in the preparatory work to successfully hold the upcoming election scheduled for December. Only then will the free and fair multiparty democratic general election that all the people aspire to be held successfully. **Union ministers attending the meeting discussed their sectors.**

In his response to the discussions, the Prime Minister noted that in the earthquake-affected areas, where it is currently the rainy season, there are certain needs for reconstruction efforts, and that the government is doing its utmost to assist accordingly. Relevant ministries and regional/state authorities were also urged to monitor and regulate market prices to ensure reasonable and fair pricing. Moreover, it is important to expedite the completion of support and relief operations related to the damage and losses caused by the earthquake. Efforts must also be made to collectively prevent illegal trade activities. Furthermore, it is necessary to ensure the timely provision of essential fertilizers for agricultural activities.

In his concluding remarks, the Prime Minister said that Myanmar is currently developing its national economy based on an agriculture and livestock-oriented economic model. Therefore, only by advancing agricultural and livestock production industries can the country generate increased foreign income. At the same time, farmers’ household incomes will improve, contributing to national economic growth. To ensure full cultivation coverage during this monsoon season and to achieve higher yield targets, the relevant ministries and regional/state governments must ensure that fertilizers reach farmers in a timely manner. The nation has been able to overcome recent challenges and make progress. Union Ministers were urged to collectively strive, during their terms of service, to realize national causes and the four objectives set by the State. And the meeting came to an end. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

20-MW solar project set for Myeik Township

THE Taninthayi Region government has announced that a 20-megawatt solar power generation project will be implemented in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region.

A 20-megawatt solar power generation project will be implemented in Sandawut Village, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Taninthayi

Region government and Southern Green Power Co Ltd to conduct a feasibility study.

The Taninthayi Region government is implementing a regional programme to provide electricity to villages without access to the power grid, and the current project is part of that initiative.

Similarly, the Dawei Deep-water Project is reportedly developing a 660-megawatt solar

power plant.

In addition, the regional government will work to establish a power grid network in Taninthayi Region areas that lack access to the main grid, ensuring electricity is distributed where necessary. — ASH/TH

This photo showcases a solar power generation project.



4th respect-paying event for elderly theatrical performers to be held nationwide in Aug



Aged theatrical performers are seen at the previous respect-paying event.

THE fourth respect-paying ceremony for elderly theatrical performers is scheduled to take place in August. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 artistes aged 75 and above who have contributed to various forms of performing arts across Myanmar.

“Many of these senior performers come from diverse fields of dramatic arts, including Anyeint, Myanmar traditional orchestra, drama, Ramayana, marionette, circus, and magic shows. Nationwide, there are over 1,000 individuals aged 75 and above. We are not just focusing on Yangon and Mandalay; we are organizing the festival on a national scale. The new office of the Association is under construction at the corner of Insein Station Road and Mindhamma Road, and the ceremony will be held there. We will not reduce the annual donation for participating artistes. Instead, each will receive K100,000,” said U Nay Win, Secretary of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

The Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) was unable to hold the ceremony in 2024, but the fourth edition will take place in 2025. A temporary theatre will be set up at the corner of Insein Station Road and Lanthit Road in Insein Township, Yangon Region, where the Association’s new office is being constructed. — ASH/MKKS

struction at the corner of Insein Station Road and Mindhamma Road, and the ceremony will be held there. We will not reduce the annual donation for participating artistes. Instead, each will receive K100,000,” said U Nay Win, Secretary of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

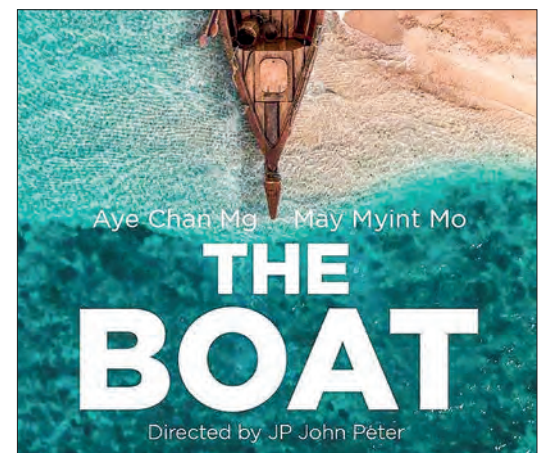
Myanmar film ‘The Boat’ to screen in Aug

THE Myanmar movie ‘The Boat’ is set to be screened in cinemas nationwide in August.

The novel is written by Academy Aye Chan Maung, written by Moe Hein John, and directed by John Peter JP for JP & Sun Film Production.

“We created this film with great effort. It is a film that is worth the time and money for fans. This film is a romantic drama that will appeal to youths. In this film, we created a new way of filming. It was mainly filmed in Inlay Lake,” said director John Peter JP.

Academy Aye Chan Maung, Academy May Myint Mo, Naythit Aye Aung, Robert Htun, U Ba Gyan, May Honey and many others star in the movie. — ASH/MKKS



This image displays a poster for the movie ‘The Boat’.

Kachin singer to release MV album



This photo showcases a new face singer, Zawng Sae, along with his colleagues.

KACHIN singer Zawng Sae will release the music video (MV) for his song “Tenth Century Love”, according to the artiste himself.

The MV was composed by Badda, directed by Thein Soe Lin, and features performances by Zawng Sae and the All-Black Dancer group.

“This song is mainly about having a crush on someone. It’s a fun, cute song. Guys these days are so lazy – if you love someone, just say it. I sang the song with my own emotion and care,” said Zawng Sae.

The “Tenth Century Love” music video will be released on Poe Di Entertainment’s Facebook page and YouTube channel in the second week of August. — ASH/MKKS

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

NATIONAL

Yangon gold shop operators required to take AML/CFT course

ALL gold shop operators in Yangon Region are required to attend an awareness course on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT course), according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association (YGEA)

YGEA is making efforts to open the AML/CFT course monthly. The AML/CFT course (Batch 24) was opened on 1 August 2025.

“Gold shop operators are compulsory to attend the course so as not to have fraudulent transactions. Only 250 trainees out of 400 applications were ac-



The AML/CFT course (Batch 23) opening is in progress with participants.



cepted in the previous batch of the AML/CFT course. YGEA will offer an awareness course on AML/CFT monthly for the remaining,” said an official of

YGEA.

YGEA also conducts gold training for free. The respective experts disseminate education and knowledge about gold min-

ing, gold refining, gold trading, basic calculations to run a gold shop, goldsmith, gold mortgage, gold rate calculation, gold/silver coins and jewellery.

Those gold shop owners, merchants, traders, gold refinery owners and those interested in gold are attending gold training. — ASH/KK



People are pictured in line to register for the Sitagu Eye Hospital's free eyesight donation.

511 surgical patients set for re-exam at Sitagu Cakku Dana Hospital

FOR 511 patients who underwent surgery and laser treatment in the 13th time of the eyesight donation, the Sitagu Eye Hospital in Yangon will do a re-examination on 3 August.

The 13th time of the eyesight donation launched from 2 to 8 July covered 1,332 patients, of whom the hospital helped a total of 511, restoring their eyesight by surgical procedure for 453 and laser treatment for 58.

Eye specialists will do a

re-examination for them after 1 month. Through the Sitagu eyesight donation project, including the latest round, 16,147 patients were given medical examination and a total of 5,263 were provided surgery and laser treatment.

Registration for the 13th time exceeded more than 1,200 in a single day, which is why the remaining people are requested to register for the 14th time, said the hospital. — MT/ZS

Embassy shifts return airfare payment to bank transfer for Myanmar-Korea marriages

THE deposit for the return air ticket fee paid to the embassy in cash before has now been switched to direct payment to the embassy's bank account, said the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul.

Myanmar women who married Korean nationals have to pay 570,000 Korean won as deposits for their return air ticket fee in order not to be inconvenienced on the return journey when they go back to Myanmar for some reason, and the embassy gives back the payment receipt.

Now, instead of cash payment, it will be switched to direct payment to the embassy's bank account, taking effect from 18 August 2025, it said.



A glimpse of the Incheon International Airport.

As of the effective date, the deposit for the return air ticket fee shall be paid directly to the embassy's bank account in Korean won: 17489 0000 91501, Hana Bank and the payment receipt can be taken out at the embassy in person.

When the person requests the withdrawal of the deposit after three years from the day the deposit was paid, along with the original payment receipt, the embassy gives it back after verifying. — MT/ZS

Japan to hire up to 1,300 Myanmar workers

THREE hundred and eighty Japanese companies would employ up to 1,300 Myanmar workers, the Myanmar Embassy in Japan announced on 31 July.

The embassy has carried out timely verifications of demand letters received from the Ministry of Labour via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it said.

It verifies whether labour

supervisory companies and factories or companies which offer jobs in Japan are officially established or not, and resubmits its findings and remarks to the Ministry of Labour through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is about 380 demand letters that the embassy submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after verification until 29 April 2025. According to it,

more than 280 Myanmar male workers and more than 1,000 Myanmar female workers, totalling more than 1,300, would be employed.

The statement issued on 15 July said over 370 Japanese companies would employ over 300 Myanmar male workers, up to 1,000 Myanmar female workers, totalling more than 1,300. — MT/ZS

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar Port Authority: 60 ships set for Yangon in Aug

A total of 60 container vessels are scheduled to call at the Yangon Port in August 2025, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Eleven container vessels run by Cosco Shipping Line, nine each by SITC Shipping Line, eight each by CMA CGM Line and Samudera Shipping Line, six by Maersk A/S Line, four by MSC Line, three each by ONE Line and R.C.L Line, and two each by Ti2 Container Line, Evergreen Line, and BLPL Shipping Line and Land and Sea are scheduled to enter the Yangon Port next month.

Myanmar Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, to bolster exports, and to improve port capacity for significant arrivals of ships. Myanmar Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules



A container vessel is seen cruising along the Yangon River.

promptly upon extending the schedule. A total of 62 container vessels in January 2025, 53 in February, 58 in March, 62 in April, 65 in May, 62 in June and 60 in July arrived at Yangon

Port.

Yangon Port handled 633 container vessels in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port

for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon

River had been found, the draft extension work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 metres Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port has handled.

From May 2021, the arrival of the ships at terminals in Yangon has increased again. Three new container vessels by Maersk Line Myanmar (SeaLand Maersk) started to run to fulfil the seaborne trade requirements in 2021. Earlier, the larger ships had draft problems, preventing sailing on the Yangon River. With the draft being extended up to 10 metres, the larger ocean liners can enter the Thilawa Port. — NN/KK

Myanmar-India trade surpasses US\$2.1B in FY 2024-25; Pharma imports rise 5%

MYANMAR-INDIA bilateral trade amounted to US\$2.1 billion in the 2024-2025 financial year, and Myanmar's pharmaceutical imports from India showed a five per cent increase, according to the Embassy of India in Myanmar.

Of them, Myanmar's pulses and other commodities exports generated over \$1 billion.

Myanmar's main export items are various pulses, fish and clothes and pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, electricity and construction materials are imported.

Following growing pharmaceutical imports, Myanmar



This image showcases pharmaceuticals made in India.

and India also had a series of discussions on India's investment in Myanmar's pharma industry. Myanmar's Ministry of Health also invited Indian investors to make investments in the pharmaceutical manu-

facturing sector.

India is ranked 11th in the list of top countries with foreign direct investments. It is recorded as the largest trade partner with Myanmar as well. — ASH/KK

MCB, MRF discuss banking operation for MSMEs, exports

MYANMAR Citizens Bank (MCB) and Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) jointly held a discussion on export financing promotion and banking services at Mingala Hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce

and Industry on 30 July, MRF stated.

The discussion highlighted export promotion procedures, banking loans to finance export businesses, banking operations for MSMEs and SMEs and value chain financ-

ing for new MSME members. Officials from the Ministry of Commerce, MRF chair and management committee members, MCB chair, exporters and those engaged in MSME attended the event. — NN/KK

Pineapple exports to top 40,000 tonnes, says Myanmar

IN this financial year of 2025-2026, more than 40,000 tonnes of Myanmar pineapples are expected to be exported, according to the Myanmar Pineapple Growers and Exporters Association.

Pineapple can be grown in the country in all areas, and the fruit production was previously considered for domestic consumption only, but later, it has been grown as an export product.

"We expect to export up to 40,000 tonnes of pineapples this season. High-quality pineapples like Thibaw pineapples are exported to the overseas market, and the major destination is China," said an official from the association.

Currently, there are more

than 20,000 acres of pineapple plantations in Myanmar, mainly located in Shan State and Kachin State. Pineapples grown in Shan State are of high quality and are being exported to China.

Of local pineapple plantation acres, farms in northern Shan State produce from 80,000 to nearly 100,000 tonnes a year on average.

In Myanmar, there are two types of pineapple farms- local GAP farms and organic farms, and they grow pineapples by practising foreign techniques from China, Thailand and Sri Lanka, intending to produce high-quality pineapples to penetrate the overseas market. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS



This image showcases harvested pineapples in Myanmar.

MAPCO, farmers collaborate on contract farming

MYANMAR Agribusiness Public Company (MAPCO) has been conducting contract farming on 19,992 acres, in cooperation with farmers. Furthermore, MAPCO also supported agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizer for monsoon paddy growers in 2025.

MAPCO shipped over 7,302 tonnes of rice and broken rice to five foreign countries in the first quarter of the current financial year 2025-2026, beginning 1 April, bagging US\$2.4 million.

MAPCO's rice export went to China (3,976 tonnes), followed by Indonesia (2,080 tonnes), Mozambique (780 tonnes), the Czech Republic (416 tonnes) and Estonia (50 tonnes).

MAPCO has completed a small-scale oil mill with cooking oil (peanut, sesame oil and sunflower oil) production capacity of 100 viss per hour, which is an initial trial of the rice bran oil being developed in Nay Pyi Taw, aiming for an oil production capacity of 200 tonnes per day. At present, sunflower oil produced by that oil mill is distributed in the market, labelled by the Hnitthak brand.

MAPCO, under the guidance of MRF, has been preparing the project since 2014. Myanmar Rice Bran Oil Co Ltd (MRBO) was set up to operate a rice bran oil project in Mezaligon village-tract, Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

MRBO is constructing a crude rice bran oil mill (200 tonnes) and a refined oil mill (50 tonnes). Crude oil extracted from this will be reused in refined oil production factories. Defatted bran, a by-product of the crude bran oil production, will be supplied to feed processing factories as a valuable raw material.

Quality bran oil, sunflower oil, and soybean oil produced from the refinery will be distributed in the market, contributing to domestic consumption needs. Upon the government's approval, they will be placed in the international markets as well.

MRBO received company registration from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) on 9 March 2022, an import licence on 1 June 2023 and a permit from the Myanmar Investment Commission 261/2024 according to a decision of the MIC meeting dated 5 January 2024.

Value-added rice bran oil will be produced with the by-product of the surrounding rice mills and parboiled rice mills owned by MAPCO. Under the guidance of MRF, MRBO held the groundbreaking ceremony of the construction project at the MAPCO rice mill complex located in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on 7 February.

That plant is aimed at producing 9,000 tonnes of crude bran oil and 6,300 tonnes of cooking oil per year. It will become the first-ever refinery for cooking oil. The federation will accelerate rice bran oil and cooking oil production plans. — NN/KK

CBM injects \$1.2M to edible oil-importing companies



The front view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Yangon.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.247 million to edible oil importing companies and \$230,000 to fuel oil importing companies on 31 July, in addition to an injection of 771,953 baht on 31 July.

CBM sold over \$123,900 and 600,000 yuan on 30 July. Additionally, CBM also sold \$700,000 to edible oil importing companies and \$380,270 to fuel oil importing companies.

CBM pumped \$413,223 and 222,411 baht into the financial market on 29 July. Furthermore, CBM sold over 4965,200 to edible oil importing companies and \$200,000 to fuel oil importing companies on 29 July.

CBM announced on 28

July that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil business-people.

CBM sold over \$354,900 to fuel oil importing companies in addition to an injection of 1.184 million yuan on 28 July.

CBM sold over \$1.29 million to edible oil importing companies and \$485,266 to fuel oil importing companies on 25 July again.

CBM sold over \$1.345 million, which were purchased from companies working on a Cut-Make and Pack basis, to edible oil importing companies on 24 July.

CBM sold over \$2.36 million to edible oil importing companies and \$320,700 to fuel oil importing compa-

nies on 23 July 2025.

CBM announced on 22 July that it would sell \$27 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry and 130 million baht to importers. CBM injected \$660,000 and 474,900 yuan on 22 July into the financial market after sales of over \$3 million to edible oil importing companies

CBM sold over \$1.75 million each into edible oil importing companies on 21 July again, after injection of over 9.36 million baht to construction companies and over 337,800 yuan and 500,000 rupees to the financial market on that day.

CBM pumped over \$3 million and 700,000 yuan into

the financial market on 18 July after selling \$1.1 million to edible oil importing companies.

CBM sold over \$1.5 million to edible oil importing companies on 17 July, in addition to an injection of over 756,260 yuan and 2,000 baht into the financial market.

CBM sold \$1.2 million, which were purchased from companies working on a Cut-, Make and Pack basis to edible oil companies on 16 July.

CBM announced on 15 July that it would pump US\$33 million into the fuel oil industry. In addition to injecting over 324,360 yuan into the financial market, CBM sold over \$771,290 million to the edible oil importing companies on that day.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Palm oil subsidy scheme offers door-to-door service

PALM oil subsidy scheme offers door-to-door service for the consumers in 44 townships of Yangon Region, allowing two viss and 50 ticals of palm oil per household starting from 4 August, according to the Yangon Region Palm Oil Door-to-Door Distribution Committee.

Each household in 44 townships is entitled to buy two viss and 50 tical of palm oil packed in a

five-litre bottle every month through a door-to-door delivery service by dialling the Call Centre (9 am to 4 pm) every working day. Earlier, the palm oil subsidy scheme set a quota of two viss and 75 ticals of palm oil per household.

Therefore, residents in Taikkyi, Hlegu, Hmawby, Mingaladon, Insein, Thanlyin, Twantay and Mayangon districts can call up 01 47055660 (extension 15),



09 940171222 (extension 15 lines), and those in Kyauktada, Ahlon, Thingangyun, Botahtaung, Dagon and Kamayut districts can dial 09 771002722 (extension 10 lines), 014706722 (extension 10 lines). The wholesale reference

price is issued in newspapers every Monday, and the door-to-door sales will add only some cost. Buyers need to bear delivery fees. On delivery system is available. Consumers can receive the order in three days, the committee stated. — NN/KK

OPINION

ARTICLE POEM

Properly manage children's use of Internet

AS EVERYONE is now in the Internet era, both adults and children have easy access to the Internet. With rapid technological advancements, young people are increasingly using various electronic devices to connect to the internet and access social media platforms. In Myanmar, the number of children using the Internet has also been rising steadily year by year.

In Myanmar, children tend to imitate and learn from their parents' internet usage. Therefore, it is clear that parents' proper behaviour plays a vital role in shaping their children's future. Parents should use the internet primarily to support their children's intellectual development and strive to guide them away from harmful paths. It is also important to help children understand that while they benefit from the advancements of modern science, they must not become consumed by it, but instead grow into thoughtful and knowledgeable individuals.

Proper and systematic use of the internet benefits everyone. However, misuse, excessive use, or abuse of it can lead to negative consequences for individuals, their families, and society. Therefore, parents and guardians should carefully manage their children's internet usage by setting daily limits and educating them to distinguish between educational content and entertainment. By doing so, children will gradually learn to use the internet effectively for their personal development.

Moreover, relevant authorities should create a safe and supportive environment for children by raising awareness about the advantages and disadvantages of social media. Teachers, in particular, who are close to their students, should provide guidance on the proper use of social media by sharing the dos and don'ts. They should help children learn how to identify beneficial content and use social media as a tool to support their learning and personal growth.

In Myanmar, children tend to imitate and learn from their parents' internet usage. Therefore, it is clear that parents' proper behaviour plays a vital role in shaping their children's future. Parents should use the internet primarily to support their children's intellectual development and strive to guide them away from harmful paths. It is also important to help children understand that while they benefit from the advancements of modern science, they must not become consumed by it, but instead grow into thoughtful and knowledgeable individuals.

A child-friendly internet environment is generally influenced by factors such as smartphone usage within families, the spread of online education services, the appeal of social media platforms like YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, and Messenger Kids, and advancements in internet technology. Smartphones and other internet-enabled devices can support children's development. However, excessive internet use may lead to undisciplined behaviour and internet addiction among children.

Moreover, exposure to inappropriate content on social media can have negative mental impacts on children. Prolonged internet use and extended periods of sitting can lead to health issues and pose risks to personal safety. In addition, children may be exposed to rude language and aggressive behaviour on social media, which can affect their own behaviour. As a result, they may struggle to maintain proper social relationships with others.

A Gentle "No" Can Change Everything

By Laura Htet (UDE)

A QUIET question slipped into my mind one day and refused to leave. Have I become someone who's too considerate? Too kind-hearted? The kind of person who worries endlessly about hurting others' feelings, says "yes" far too often, and tucks away her own emotions just to make sure everyone else is okay?

I sat with that question for a long time. It didn't accuse me or speak with anger, but it unsettled me because deep down, I already knew the answer: Yes. I had become that person. The one who says, "It's fine," even when it's not. The one who bends over backwards to make sure everyone else is comfortable, even if it means quietly carrying her own pain. The kind of person who smiles while quietly swallowing her own needs, hoping that being agreeable will earn her peace, love or at least a sense of belonging.

And the truth? I didn't become that person overnight. I was raised on politeness and apology, taught to be nice, to not rock the boat, and to always consider how others might feel. Somewhere along the way, I came to believe: My needs don't matter as much as theirs. My discomfort is less important than their happiness. Be good. Be quiet. Be liked. So, I became that girl.

I apologized even when things weren't my fault. I said "yes" when I wanted to scream "no". I ignored the tightness in my chest and the lump in my throat. I told myself I was strong because I could endure. I told myself I was kind because I could give, give, and give some more.

But what I didn't realize was that I was slowly disappearing. Piece by piece, I traded my authenticity for approval. I thought being easy to get along with would keep people close, but instead, it only pushed me further away from myself.

I used to think I was doing the right thing - being generous, being helpful, being the person everyone could count on. But then I started noticing something that broke my heart a little: the more I said yes, the more people expected me to say yes. The more I gave, the less they asked if I even wanted to. The more I sacrificed, the less they saw me.

People stopped asking how I felt. They stopped checking in. They assumed I was okay because I never complained. They



assumed I didn't mind because I never objected. In their eyes, I became safe, soft, and unthreatening like a harmless pet snake. Predictable. Non-confrontational. Easy.

And then the real test came - the first time I said no.

It wasn't even a loud no. It was a gentle one. A no with context, with kindness, with honesty. But the reaction I got was like I had betrayed them. Suddenly, I wasn't the easy, agreeable girl they knew. Suddenly, I was selfish, difficult, "not the same anymore."

I started asking myself, How did I get here? How did I become the person who feels guilty for simply being honest? And most importantly, why do I feel like I owe everyone so much of myself?

The answer wasn't easy to accept: I was afraid. I was afraid of being disliked. Afraid of disappointing people. Afraid that if I stopped giving so much, I'd be left behind. I confused love with approval. I confused self-worth with how useful I could be to others.

But here's the truth: love that asks us to abandon ourselves isn't love. Approval

that disappears the moment we say no isn't worth chasing. And being useful is not the same as being valued. So, I made a decision - not a loud, dramatic one, but a quiet, steady choice. I decided to stop being overly kind at the expense of my own peace.

I started listening to my emotions. I gave myself permission to say, "This doesn't feel right." I allowed myself to leave uncomfortable situations without guilt. I stopped overexplaining every "no" as if I had to defend myself in a courtroom. I reminded myself that boundaries are not walls - they are bridges to healthy connection. And slowly, something amazing happened.

The people who only loved the agreeable version of me began to fade away. And yes, that hurt at first. But in their place, something better came - people who didn't flinch when I said no. People who respected my time and didn't see my silence as an invitation to take advantage. People who stayed, even when I wasn't bending.

My relationships didn't break - they grew stronger. My communication didn't

grow cold - it became clearer. And the biggest change? I finally began to feel whole. Not perfect. Not endlessly selfless. Just whole. And that was what I had been missing all along.

I realized that someone who truly cares for us won't be angry every time we say no. They won't punish us with distance. They won't call us selfish. They won't use guilt as a leash. Instead, they'll listen. They'll ask questions. They'll make space for us to be human, to feel tired, to choose differently.

And if they don't? That's not our fault. That's not our burden to carry. Their disappointment does not mean we did something wrong. It simply means they weren't ready to meet us at our worth.

We're not here to make everyone happy. That's an impossible task. It's exhausting, it's endless, and worst of all - it's a losing game. No matter how much we give, it will never be enough for the wrong people. And for the right ones? We don't have to perform. We just have to show up, honestly.

I used to apologize for setting boundaries. Now, I simply state them. I used to feel guilty for choosing rest. Now, I protect my energy like a sacred resource. I used to think self-respect meant being distant or unkind. But it doesn't. Self-respect is choosing honesty over comfort, clarity over avoidance, and truth over approval. Now, I'm not afraid to say, "I can't." Or "I don't want to." Or simply, "No." Not with anger. Not with resentment. But with calm, firm self-trust.

And the beauty of it all? The right people stay. The wrong ones make space for better ones. And I no longer feel like I have to lose myself just to be accepted. I'm not here to be a people pleaser. I'm not here to be soft enough for others to shape. I'm not here to dim my light so others can feel more comfortable in the dark. I am here to be fully myself - honest, kind, and imperfect. Because the people who truly see me? They love me for the "no" just as much as the "yes".

And most importantly, I love myself enough to know that my worth isn't defined by how easy I am to love, but by how deeply I'm willing to love myself, even when that makes others uncomfortable.

So, here's the message I want to leave: A gentle "no" is not a rejection - it's a revelation. It tells the world, "I see myself. I value myself. I choose myself." It doesn't burn bridges; it builds better ones - with stronger foundations, with mutual respect, and with truth at the core. Saying "no" doesn't make us difficult - it makes us honest. And honesty is a gift, not just to others, but to ourselves.

Because, at the end of the day, the softest kind of courage is this: choosing our peace over pleasing, our truth over tolerance, and our souls over silence. Everything changes gently, but powerfully. Just like us.

Chinese scientists synthesize meteorite diamond harder than Earth diamond

The innovative method involves transforming graphite into hexagonal diamond through controlled high-temperature and high-pressure conditions, paving the way for advancements in superhard materials.

CHINESE researchers have succeeded in synthesizing the hundred-micron-scale hexagonal diamond, a material primarily found in meteorites, which is harder than the ordinary diamond found on Earth.

The study, published on Wednesday in the journal Nature, promises to redefine the limits of superhard materials, according to the researchers. The Earth diamond owes its reputation as the king of hardness to its carbon atoms arranged in a tetrahedral lattice, making it extremely hard and wear-resistant.

However, this structure has a weakness - certain planes can easily slip and shift when force

is applied, thereby limiting its strength. As a consequence, scientists have turned their attention to another type of super diamond with a more exquisite structure and superior properties, namely the hexagonal diamond. Chinese researchers involved in the published study innovatively proposed a method for transforming graphite into a hexagonal diamond. Under controllable high-temperature, high-pressure and quasi-hydrostatic conditions, they compressed and heated graphite single crystals to ultimately obtain a high-purity hexagonal diamond.

Previous attempts to synthesize a hexagonal diamond were largely unsuccessful due

to extremely stringent formation requirements. Under high-temperature and high-pressure conditions, the end result tends to be the formation of a cubic diamond and not a hexagonal diamond.

The successful synthesis of a high-purity hexagonal diamond by the Chinese research team is attributed to their choice of high-purity natural graphite single crystals, as well as their use of high-pressure in-situ X-ray observation to monitor changes in samples, said Yang Liuxiang, one of the authors of the paper and a researcher at the Beijing-based Centre for High-Pressure Science & Technology Advanced Research.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Craftsman

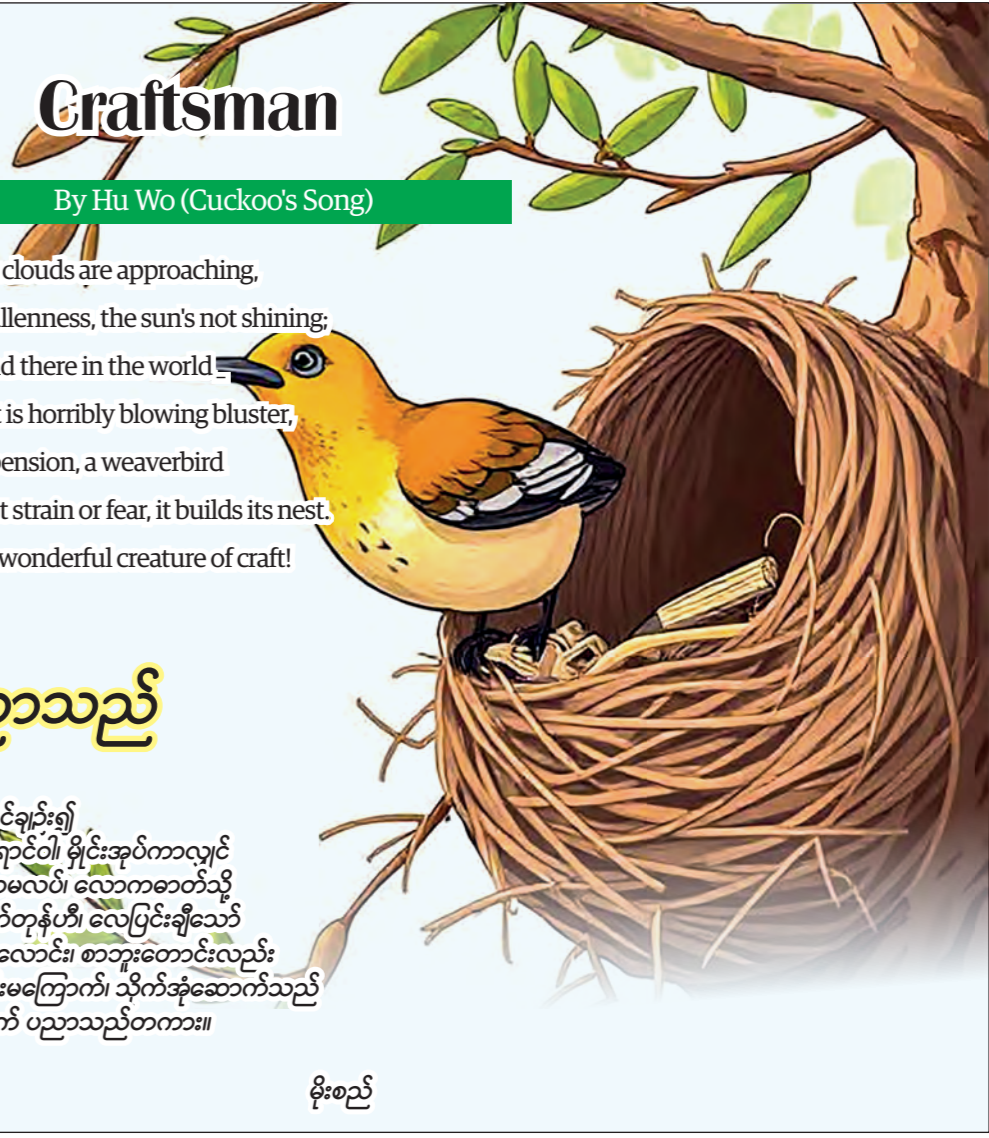
By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

As dark clouds are approaching,
With sullenness, the sun's not shining;
Here and there in the world,
While it is horribly blowing bluster,
By suspension, a weaverbird
Without strain or fear, it builds its nest.
What a wonderful creature of craft!

ပညာသည်

တိမ်မှောင်ချမ်း၍
မလင်းရောင်ဝါ၊ မြင်းအုပ်ကာလျှင်
ဘယ်သာမလပ်၊ လောကဓာတ်သို့
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မိုးစည်



SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

Gas workers uncover 1,000-year-old mummy in Peru



Lima, a city with over 10 million inhabitants, is home to more than 500 archaeological sites. **PHOTO: AFP**

A crew of workers accidentally discovered a mummy more than 1,000 years old while installing gas pipes in Peru's capital Lima, their employer and archaeologists said Thursday.

The mummy was found last week in a tomb underneath a street north of Lima, said ar-

chaeologist Jesus Bahamonde. The mummy was covered in a shroud in a seated position, arms and legs bent. Pottery was also found in the tomb which was dated to the pre-Inca Chancay civilization that lived around the Lima region between the 11th and 15th centuries.

It was believed to be part of a large, ancient cemetery.

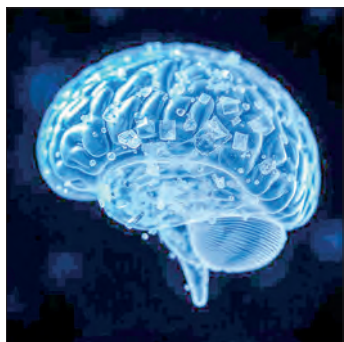
Lima, a city with over 10 million inhabitants, also houses more than 500 archaeological sites. Gas company Calidda has reported more than 2,200 chance archaeological discoveries since 2004. — AFP

What are all these microplastics doing to our brains?

MICROPLASTICS, tiny plastic particles, have been found accumulating in human brains, raising concerns about their potential health effects, although evidence of harm remains inconclusive.

These particles are pervasive, detected in various environments, including mountains, oceans, and human bodies, affecting organs such as lungs and hearts. A significant study published in *Nature Medicine* revealed microplastics in brain tissue samples from deceased individuals, suggesting an increase over time.

The lead researcher, Matthew Campen, estimated that



Microplastics are everywhere, but data is still lacking about how they could be affecting our brains. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

a human brain could contain around 10 grammes of microplastics, comparable to an unused crayon. However, experts urge caution, emphasizing

that the study's findings should be independently verified. Toxicologist Theodore Henry noted that speculation about health impacts exceeds the current evidence, while chemist Oliver Jones highlighted the lack of data to draw firm conclusions.

Observational studies have linked microplastics to health risks, such as increased heart attack and stroke risk, but definitive cause-and-effect relationships remain unestablished.

Despite insufficient evidence, health experts advocate for proactive measures to limit exposure to microplastics, citing the precautionary principle. — AFP

Physicists still divided about quantum world, 100 years on

QUANTUM mechanics, proposed a century ago, has revolutionized technology and daily life, yet its underlying principles remain enigmatic.

A recent survey published in *Nature* highlights the deep divisions among physicists regarding the interpretation of quantum theory.

While equations derived from quantum mechanics accurately describe the behaviour of subatomic particles, the physical reality behind these mathematical models is still unclear.

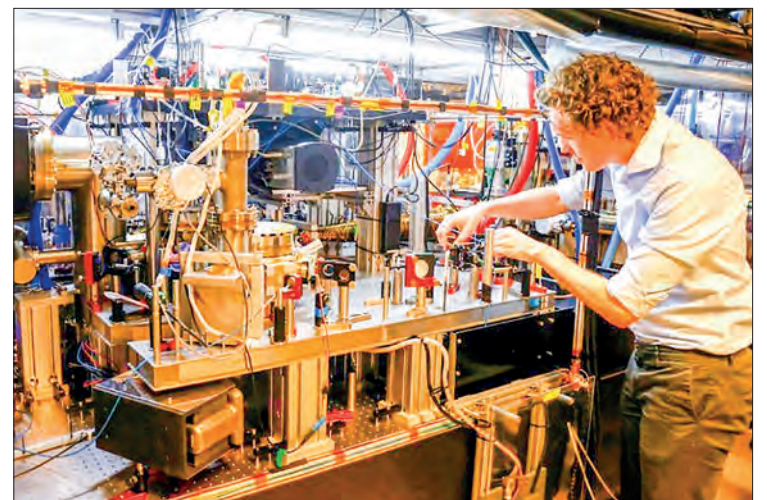
The confusion began in the early 20th century when classical physics failed to explain atomic behaviour. Quantum entities like photons and electrons exhibit

dual characteristics of particles and waves, existing in multiple states simultaneously.

The Copenhagen interpretation, developed by physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg, posits that a quantum object's properties are undefined until measured, famously illustrated by Schrödinger's cat, which is both alive and dead until observed.

Despite 36 per cent of survey respondents favoring the Copenhagen interpretation, many physicists support alternative theories, such as the

"many worlds" interpretation, which suggests that all possible outcomes exist in parallel universes. — AFP



Quantum mechanics have led to the development of vast amounts of tech, such as lasers or transistors used phones. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

EU urged to act on forests' faltering absorption of carbon

RECENT research indicates a significant decline in the carbon dioxide absorption capacity of European forests, jeopardizing the EU's climate targets. Covering 40 per cent of the EU's territory, forests are vital for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

However, pressures from logging, extreme weather, and insect infestations have led to a rapid decrease in their ability to sequester CO₂.

According to a study by the

European Commission's Joint Research Centre, carbon absorption by European forests fell by approximately one-third from 2020 to 2022 compared to 2010 to 2014, with projections for 2025 suggesting an even steeper decline. The authors stress the urgency of reversing this trend through bold, science-based actions, including reducing carbon emissions and enhancing forest management to improve resilience. — AFP

Google must open Android to rival app stores: US court

A US federal court ruled Thursday that Google must open its Android operating system to rival app stores, after the internet giant lost an appeal in an antitrust case filed by Fortnite maker Epic Games. The ruling clears the way for the Epic Games shop to operate within the Google Play Store despite the latter's requirement that apps use Google's payment system, which collects commissions on transactions.

US Ninth Circuit Court Judge Margaret McKeown said in an opinion that a panel of justices decided to uphold the original verdict because the initial ruling's parameters were "supported by the record and the nature of the market". Epic chief executive

Tim Sweeney fired off a post on X declaring: "Total victory in the Epic v Google appeal!"

Google will continue its appeal of the December 2023 verdict, with the next venue being the US Supreme Court, according to the company's global head of regulatory affairs Lee-Anne Mulholland. "This decision will significantly harm user safety, limit choice, and undermine the innovation that has always been central to the Android ecosystem," Mulholland said in response to an AFP inquiry.

"Our top priority remains protecting our users, developers and partners, and maintaining a secure platform as we continue our appeal." — AFP



The online shop managed by Epic Games could be heading for Google's Play Store after a US appeals court sided with the Fortnite maker. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Record 40% of men with infants in Japan took paternity leave in 2024

A record 40.5 per cent of fathers with infants in Japan took paternity leave in 2024, climbing for the 12th straight year and jumping by 10.4 percentage points from the previous year, a government survey showed Wednesday. The surge in the one-year survey period through 1 October 2024, is partly due to Japan's paternity leave programme introduced in 2022 which endeavours to make it easier for fathers to take time off than it is under the preexisting paternity leave.

If it continues at this pace, the government may reach its goal of having 50 per cent of fathers with infants taking paternity leave by 2025, although significant differences in take-up rates remain depending on company size and industry.

The rate of mothers with infants taking maternity leave from their employment was 86.6 per cent, more than double the rate for men, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. — Kyodo



Nursery teachers walk with children in the city of Osaka on 14 February 2020. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

Michael Jackson's dirty sock sells for over \$8,000 in France

A single glittery sock that late pop superstar Michael Jackson wore during a concert in France in the 1990s sold for more than \$8,000 on Wednesday, a French auctioneer said.

A technician found the used sock discarded near Jackson's dressing room after the concert in the southern city of Nimes in July 1997, auctioneer Aurore Illy told AFP. The self-styled "King of Pop" wore white athletic socks adorned with rhinestones during his "HIStory World Tour" in 1997, according to specialist



Different socks worn by the pop star on show at the Fashion Museum in Santiago, Chile in 2009. PHOTO: AFP

website interencheres.com. Jackson can be seen wearing them in clips of him performing his hit "Billie Jean". Decades later, the off-white item of clothing is covered in stains, and the rhinestones adorning it have yellowed with age, in a picture posted on the website.

"It really is an exceptional object — even a cult one for Michael Jackson fans," Illy said. The sock, initially valued at 3,000 to 4,000 euros (\$3,400-4,500), sold for 7,688 euros (\$8,822) at the Nimes auction house. — AFP

Moscow Zoo celebrates birthdays of panda couple with cultural extravaganza

THE Moscow Zoo celebrated the sixth birthday of giant pandas Ding Ding and Ru Yi with vibrant festivities, including cheerful Mandarin choruses of "shengri kuaile!" and a lively dragon dance procession.

The celebrations featured elaborate ice cakes made of bamboo and fruits, symbolizing the pandas' ages, with special

treats hidden inside toys to enrich their experience.

Visitors, many adorned in panda-themed attire, enjoyed watching the playful antics of the pandas, which included a new sailboat for Ru Yi and a paper robot for Ding Ding. Zoo director Svetlana Akulova praised Ding Ding's parenting skills, highlighting the recent birth of

their daughter, Katyusha, who has captured the hearts of many. The zoo's efforts to enhance the pandas' lives include regular communication with Chinese partners for breeding advice. The birthday events, running from 28 July to 3 August, aim to foster interest in Chinese culture and wildlife among Russian visitors. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Swiss to try to negotiate way out of stiff US tariffs

This tariff, part of a broader set of new tariffs affecting nearly 70 countries, is set to take effect on 7 August and exceeds previous threats of a 31 per cent rate.



Pharmaceuticals accounted for more than half of Swiss goods imported into the United States last year and now face a stiff 39 per cent tariff rate. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THE Swiss government said Friday it would negotiate with the United States to try to avoid the 39 per cent punitive US tariff rate that would ravage its key pharmaceutical industry.

As part of a slew of new tariffs unveiled late Thursday on nearly 70 countries, Washington said it planned to charge a 39 per cent tariff rate on Swiss goods, higher than the 31 per cent rate that it had been threatening to implement.

The new rate is set to go into effect on 7 August, and would also prove painful for Switzerland's manufacturing and watchmaking industries.

The Swiss government said it remains in contact with US authorities and "still hopes to find a negotiated solution..." in a statement on X. "The Federal

Council notes with great regret the intention of the US to unilaterally burden Swiss imports with considerable import duties despite the progress made in bilateral talks and Switzerland's very constructive position," it added.

Senior Swiss officials had held numerous discussions with their US counterparts in an attempt to reach a deal with the administration of US President Donald Trump, like Britain and the European Union have.

President Karin Keller-Sutter, who is also finance minister, spoke with Trump on Thursday.

"The trade deficit remains the centre" of Trump's preoccupation and they could not reach an agreement on a framework trade deal, she said on X. — AFP

Stand-alone homes drive annual growth in New Zealand's housing approvals

NEW ZEALAND'S new home consents rose one per cent to 33,979 in the year to June 2025, marking a modest rebound, according to the statistics department Stats NZ on Friday. The growth, the first annual rise in two years, was fueled by a 6.3 per cent increase in stand-alone house approvals to 15,858 units, Stats NZ said. In contrast, approvals for multi-unit dwellings fell 3.2 per cent to 18,121, with townhouses, flats and units down 5.3 per cent to 14,361, apartments up 12 per cent to 2,178, and retirement village units slightly down 1.1 per cent to 1,582, it said.

Auckland, the country's largest city, led housing activity with 14,295 new home approvals, up 3.2 per cent and reversing a decline since early 2023. — Xinhua

Heathrow unveils £49 bln expansion plan for third runway

EUROPE'S busiest airport is set for a dramatic transformation, as Heathrow announced a £49-billion expansion plan that includes a third runway and aims to nearly double annual passenger traffic.

London's Heathrow Airport on Friday unveiled a £49-billion (\$65 billion) expansion plan, including the costs of building a long-awaited third runway, approved by the UK

government after years of legal wrangling.

The runway would cost £21 billion, with flights expected to take off within a decade, while the rest of the privately-funded investment will go towards expanding and modernizing the airport.

Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport by passenger numbers, said the expansion would provide at least 30 new daily

routes, more domestic connections and improved flight times.

The increased capacity would almost double the number of annual passengers from 84 million currently to up to 150 million passengers annually.

"It has never been more important or urgent to expand Heathrow," said chief executive Thomas Woldbye.

"We are effectively operating at capacity to the detriment of trade and connectivity," he added.

Despite fierce opposition from environmentalists and local residents, the London mayor Sadiq Khan and some Labour MPs, the Labour government backed the new runway in January in a bid to boost UK economic growth.

It would be a rare expansion in Europe, where countries are split between efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the needs of a strategic sector that has seen demand grow. — AFP



An aerial photograph taken on 21 March 2025 shows planes parked on the tarmac of Heathrow Airport, which has submitted a \$49 billion to expand the site and build a third runway. **PHOTO: AFP**

S Korea's online shopping rises 1.8% in June



Shopping in cyberspace gained 1.8 per cent to 21.90 trillion won (US\$15.6 billion) in June compared to the same month of last year.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

SOUTH Korea's online shopping rose in single digits in June due to solid demand for food and food delivery service, statistical office data showed Friday. Shopping in cyberspace gained 1.8 per cent to 21.90 trillion won (US\$15.6 billion) in June compared to the same month of last year, according to Statistics Korea.

Transaction of food and beverage in cyberspace spiked 11.0 per cent, and that for agricultural, livestock and fishery products

expanded 13.5 per cent.

Online demand for food delivery service and cosmetics advanced in double digits, while online purchase of clothing, daily necessities and car accessories increased in single figures. Online transaction of e-coupon service dived 52.2 per cent on weaker trend to provide gifts such as coffee and cake through e-coupons, while demand for computers and culture and leisure service dipped in double digits. — Xinhua

JR East gets OK to raise fares for Yamanote, other lines in March

EAST Japan Railway Co said Friday it has received government approval to raise fares by an average 7.1 per cent from March, the company's first blanket hike since 1987 when it was created from the privatization of the national railway company.

The fare hike comes as the operator of Tokyo's busy Yamanote loop line and other train routes seek to secure funds for maintaining its railway services amid a falling population and rising prices. — Kyodo



People wait on a platform as a train arrives at Shibuya Station in Tokyo on 25 October 2021. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

Bayer sets aside more cash to deal with weedkiller woes

GERMAN pharmaceutical and agricultural chemicals giant Bayer said it had put aside an extra 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) to deal with long-running US legal woes linked to a weedkiller.

Previously, Bayer had estimated its provisions for litigation related to the glyphosate-based Roundup weedkiller at 5.7 billion euros.

In a statement late Thursday, the German group also said it had achieved a "major settlement" with a law firm "reducing the total number of unresolved glyphosate claims to 61,000".

A total of 131,000



Bayer has been dogged by lawsuits linked to the weedkiller Roundup. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

claims had so far either been settled or deemed not eligible, it said.

The flood of legal cases in the United States relates to claims that the weedkiller causes blood cancer. Bayer says scientific studies and regula-

tory approvals show that the weedkiller is safe.

The Leverkusen-based group has already spent over \$10 billion to settle cases.

Despite the extra provision for the legal cases, Bayer hiked its

forecasts for 2025 due to a better-than-expected performance in its pharmaceuticals division.

The maker of Aspirin now expects sales of 46 to 48 billion euros this year up from a previous forecast of 45 to 47 billion.

It also predicted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation — a key measure of profitability — of 9.7 to 10.2 billion euros up from a previous forecast of 9.5 to 10 billion. Its shares were up two percent on the blue-chip DAX index in Frankfurt Friday, while the broader index slipped 1.8 per cent. — AFP

UK top court to rule on multi-billion pound car loan scandal

BRITAIN'S highest court will Friday determine whether controversial car loans were unlawful, which could pave the way for millions of motorists to claim billions of pounds in compensation from banks.

The loans, made available for 14 years from 2007, incentivized car dealers to offer higher interest rates in return for a bigger commission

from banks.

The Supreme Court will determine whether to uphold a judgment by the Court of Appeal last year that ruled it was unlawful for car dealers to receive a commission on loans without sufficiently informing borrowers.

It is estimated that millions of drivers would be eligible for compensation should the Supreme

Court side with borrowers, following its three-day hearing in April.

One case involves Marcus Johnson — who in 2017 bought a Suzuki Swift from a car dealer in Cardiff for £6,500 (\$8,560 today) including loan costs — unaware that interest paid on the loan amount would fund commission of more than £1,600. — AFP

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Advance Agriculture Solution Joint Stock Co.,Ltd** have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**Avance Agriculture Solution Co.,Ltd**" to new distributor name "**Seven Tigers Trading Co.,Ltd**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.

Avance Agriculture Solution Co.,Ltd .Ph -09254209235

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Deco 80 WP	2,4-D 80% w/w WP	F 2019-1908
2.	Deco 720 SL	2,4-D 720g/ 1 SL	F 2019-1905
3.	Deco Arazin 80 WP	Atrazine 80% w/w WP	F 2019-1896
4.	Deco Duron 80 WP	Diuron 80% w/w WP	F 2019-1909
5.	Lambast 600 EC	Butachlor 600g/1 EC	F 2020-2543
6.	Myfuzi15 EC	Fluazifop-p-butyl 15% w/w EC	F 2020-2544
7.	Lypho Deco 48 SL	Glyphosate IPA 480g/1 SL	F 2019-1907
8.	AA Fomefen 250 SL	Fomesafen 25% w/w SL	F 2021-3184
9.	Deco 600 SL	2,4-D 600g/ 1 SL	F 2019-1906
10.	AA Quizafop 5 EC	Quizalofop- P- ethyl 5% w/v EC	F 2021-3185
11.	Deco Alpha 5 EC	Alpha-Cypermethin 50g/1EC	F 2019-1900
12.	Deco Cyper 10 EC	Cypermethrin 10% EC	F 2019-1897
13.	Deco Cyper 25 EC	Cypermethrin 25% EC	F 2019-1899
14.	Deco Cyper 50 EC	Cypermethrin 50% EC	F 2019-1898
15.	Emay 5 WG	Emamectin benzoate 5% w/w WG	F 2020-2546
16.	Bazan 4 GR	Cartap 4% w/w GR	F 2020-2547
17.	Bazan 95 SP	Cartap 95% w/w SP	F 2020-2545
18.	Deco Hexa 5 SC	Hexaconazole 50g/ 1 SC	F 2019-1903
19.	Deco Laxyl 72 WP	Mancozeb 64% + Metalaxyl 8% WP	F 2019-1904
20.	Deco Vali 5 SL	Validamycin A 5% w/w SL	F 2019-1901
21.	Mytrizole 75 WP	Tricyclazole 75% w/w WP	F 2020-2542

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NEWSUN BLUE VOY.NO. (0725)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEWSUN BLUE VOY.NO. (0725)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIPL** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S UNI SPRING LOGISITCS HOLDINGS PTE LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



Thailand welcomes 19% US tariff as 'major success'

The United States' goods trade deficit with Thailand reached \$45.6 billion in 2024, reflecting an 11.7 per cent increase from the previous year, according to data from the US Trade Representative.



In this file photo, a long-tail water taxi zips across Bangkok's industrial and commercial port.

PHOTO: STHEPHEN SHAVER/AFP/FILE

THAILAND welcomed on Friday the 19 per cent trade tariff imposed by US President Donald Trump as a "major success", a government spokesman said, averting a threatened levy of 36 per cent.

Trump ordered stiff tariffs on dozens of trading partners in an effort to reshape global trade in favour of the US economy.

Thailand has been negotiating with Washington for weeks, seeking a reduction in the 36 per cent levy on key exports threatened under Trump's "Liberation Day" measures.

"This finalized deal, setting US import tariffs at 19 per cent, marks a major success for Thailand," Thai government

spokesman Jirayu Huangsab said in a statement.

"It represents a win-win approach aimed at preserving Thailand's export base and long-term economic stability."

The United States' goods trade deficit with Thailand hit \$45.6 billion in 2024, up 11.7 per cent from the year before, according to US Trade Representative data.

Thailand has struggled to reignite its economy since the Covid-19 pandemic, when travel restrictions hammered the key tourism sector.

The Thai government in May cut its 2025 economic growth forecast to 2.3-3.3 per cent, from 3.2-4.2 per cent, citing uncertainty over tariffs. Growth in 2024 was 2.5 per cent. — AFP

Thousands of Afghans scramble for chance to work in Qatar

MOHAMMAD Hanif, among thousands of Afghans, eagerly applied for job opportunities in Qatar as the Taliban announced a deal to recruit 3,100 workers to combat the country's severe unemployment crisis.

With over 8,500 applicants registered within days, the Taliban aims to alleviate poverty in Afghanistan, where nearly half the population lives in poverty and the unemployment rate exceeds 13 per cent.

Many hopefuls, like Hanif, possess skills in various trades and are competing for limited positions, including bus drivers, mechanics, and cleaners.

Qatar, maintaining diplomatic ties with the Taliban, is one of the few countries engaging in such recruitment efforts, with discussions ongoing with other nations to establish similar agreements.

The Taliban has yet to clarify

criticisms regarding migrant labour treatment, recent reforms have improved worker safety.

Many Afghans, like Mohammad Qasim, who have struggled to find work in their home country, view these opportunities in Qatar as a vital chance to earn a living amidst dire economic conditions.

The influx of returning Afghans from neighbouring countries further exacerbates the unemployment crisis, highlighting the urgent need for job creation. — AFP

housing and working conditions for the recruits, but they promise to protect their rights. Despite Qatar's past



Qatar has implemented recent reforms to improve worker safety. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Japan PM Ishiba seeks summit with S Korea leader Lee soon

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Friday expressed his desire to hold a summit quickly with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, as Tokyo seeks to capitalize on warming bilateral ties with a visit.

Ishiba was quoted by Akihisa Nagashima, an adviser to the premier, as saying, "I want to meet the president at the earliest possible time."

Nagashima accompanied former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to meet Ishiba at the prime minister's office as a member of a bipartisan group promoting deeper ties between Tokyo and Seoul.

Suga held talks with Lee during a trip earlier this week to Seoul and delivered Ishiba's invitation.

After a chill in relations marred by disagreements stemming from wartime history and territory, bilateral ties began to improve under Lee's predecessor Yoon Suk Yeol. The two nations are now aiming to develop their ties in a "stable" manner.

In their first in-person summit in June, Ishiba and Lee agreed to visit each other's countries regularly to maintain high-level communication. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties. Ishiba told South Korea's new foreign policy chief Cho Hyun on Wednesday that he wants to maintain the "good" momentum towards improving bilateral ties. Cho was on his first visit to Japan as the foreign minister.

The Korean Peninsula was under Japan's colonial rule between 1910 and 1945. — Kyodo

Myanmar women's squad to join international tourneys this Aug

MYANMAR'S women's football teams will take part in a series of international competitions in August, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The Myanmar women's national team will compete in the ASEAN Women's Championship, with fixtures scheduled against Australia on 7 August, Timor-Leste on 10 August, and the Philippines on 13 August.

Similarly, the Myanmar U20 women's team will compete in the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup qualifiers from 6 to

10 August. Myanmar will host the group-stage qualifiers and face Turkmenistan, Indonesia and India.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar U16 women's team is set to take part in the ASEAN U16 Women's Championship from 18 to 29 August. They will face teams including Vietnam and Cambodia during the tournament.

Myanmar clubs Shan United, Yangon United, and the ISPE women's team will also participate in three AFC-sanctioned competitions in August. — ASH/KZL



The Myanmar women's national team trains in Zhangzhou, China, on 29 July in preparation for the ASEAN Women's Championship.

YRG extends victory streak in Women's Futsal League

MATCHDAY 10 of the Women's Futsal League took place on 1 August at the MFF Futsal Stadium within the Thuwunna Football Complex in Yangon, where the YRG team maintained its lead by securing another win.

In Matchday 10, Pacific Sun Far defeated Yangon City 3-2, Divine beat Mingaladon City 10-1, YRG overcame ISPE FC 2-1, and Thunder Tigresses claimed a 2-1 victory over Winner Generations.

With losses from both Yangon City and ISPE FC this week, Pacific Sun Far climbed to fourth place, while YRG continued to

dominate the standings with their win. Although Thunder Tigresses and Divine both secured victories, they still trail the leaders, YRG, by seven points.

After ten matchdays, YRG stands at the top with 26 points. Divine and Thunder Tigresses each hold 19 points, Pacific Sun Far follows with 16, while Yangon City and ISPE FC are level on 14 points. Winner Generations have collected five points, and Mingaladon City remains at the bottom of the table, having lost all their matches and yet to earn a point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Awards mark close of 41st Junior Golf Myanmar Championship



The commemorative group photo of the 41st Junior Golf Myanmar Championship. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

THE award ceremony for the 41st Junior Golf Myanmar Championship was held yesterday afternoon at Dagon Golf Club in Yangon, following three days of competition organized by Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM) with the support of the Myanmar Golf Federation.

This year's tournament, held from 30 July to 1 August, featured around 30 young golfers competing in boys' under-12, under-14, under-18, and girls' under-18 categories.

U Myint Aung, Joint Secretary of the Myanmar Golf Federation, stated, "JGM has organized 41 editions of this tournament since its founding in 2013. These competitions are held regularly to help young players improve their skills and gain experience. Some of them have even progressed to represent Myanmar in ASEAN invitational and international tournaments. JGM is committed to nurturing future national golfers."

On top of domestic tournaments, JGM players also partic-



Photos showcase MGF general secretaries present winning prizes to U14 and U12 junior winners.

ipate in regional events in Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, aiming to bring honour to Myanmar through golf and ensure a steady development of talented youth athletes.

JGM general secretary U Kyaw Min Min Lat added, "The goal of hosting such tournaments is to give young players match experience, which is crucial for skill development. By holding monthly events, players can steadily improve from under-12 to under-14 and under-18, eventually reaching elite levels capable of competing

internationally on behalf of the country."

At the awards ceremony, three winners each were recognized from the boys' under-12, under-14, and under-18 categories, as well as from the girls' under-18 category. Prizes were presented by officials from the Myanmar Golf Federation and JGM.

JGM currently has over 50 registered youth golfers and more than 80 active young players. It is also preparing to send a group to an invitational tournament to be held in Thailand this October. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

Myanmar team in training for 2025 Dragon Boat World Games



The Myanmar dragon boat team seen during a training session in preparation for the 2025 World Game.

THE Myanmar dragon boat team is undergoing intensive training in preparation for the 2025 World Games, which will take place in Chengdu, People's Republic of China, from 7 to 17 August.

According to the Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation, the national team earned qualification after securing a third-place finish at recent international competitions in China and the Philippines.

"Myanmar had to compete in

qualification tournaments in China and the Philippines to earn a place in the World Games. As the team secured a third-place finish in those events, we have now qualified for the 2025 World Games. Since this is our first-ever participation, the team is undergoing intensive training with high expectations of winning gold medals," said head coach U Thein Win.

The team comprises 12 athletes — six men and six women — who

will compete in men's and women's 10-paddler events at distances of 200 metres, 500 metres, and 2,000 metres, as well as in open 8-paddler races at the same distances.

The dragon boat event at the 2025 World Games is expected to feature participation from countries including China, Chinese Taipei, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Cambodia, Ukraine, Hungary, Spain, and the Czech Republic. — ASH/KZL



Tourists at Hekou Port in Hekou Yao autonomous county of Southwest China's Yunnan province in June 2025.
PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Cross-border trade driving China-Vietnam ties

This shopping frenzy is reshaping the border economy, as more foreign consumers turn to Chinese e-commerce platforms for products, reflecting the deepening ties between China and Vietnam.

AT DAWN, Vietnamese tourists lined up at Hekou Port, the largest land port along the Yunnan section of the China-Vietnam border, drawn by more than mere sightseeing.

Amid the lines, men carrying bulging sacks filled with household appliances, small consumer goods, and snacks are a common sight. This bustling scene is driven by Vietnam's cross-border shopping boom, propelling a wave of Chinese

goods southwards.

This shopping frenzy is reshaping the border economy as foreign consumers increasingly flock to Chinese e-commerce platforms for Made in China products.

These vibrant exchanges of goods and people are a microcosm of the ties between China and Vietnam, which have been continuously deepened by the engines of shopping, trade and tourism.

Nguyen Hong Nhu, known as "A Rou from Vietnam" on Douyin, is leveraging the booming trade between China and Vietnam by sourcing products from Yiwu for Vietnamese clients, shipping over a dozen containers monthly.

This trend is mirrored at the China-ASEAN Cross-border E-logistics Industrial Park, where Vietnamese streamers promote Chinese goods live, enhancing consumer interest. — Xinhua

AIRLINE SECURITY

New scanners to ease liquid restrictions in hand luggage

THE European Union has officially paved the way for relaxed liquid restrictions in airline hand luggage, approving advanced scanners that could eventually allow larger containers.

Air passengers in the EU will soon be permitted to carry larger quantities of liquids in hand luggage, thanks to advanced security scanners being introduced at airports. However, the transition may take years to complete, meaning current 100-Millilitre limits will remain in place at many checkpoints.

The European Commission has approved next-generation scanners capable of reliably detecting liquid explosives, theoretically allowing containers exceeding the current 100-Millilitre limit (packed in 1-litre plastic bags) to pass through security. A Commission spokesperson confirmed to the German Press Agency that implementation timelines will vary by airport.

While approximately 700 new scanners from UK manufacturer Smiths Detection are already operational or being installed across 21 EU countries, most airports cannot replace all equipment simultaneously. Passengers should note that until the rollout is complete, they may encounter both old and new systems - meaning the 100-Millilitre rule will still apply in many cases. — AFP

Suez Canal achieves US\$153.4 bln in revenue since 1956 nationalization

CHAIRMAN of the Suez Canal Authority Osama Rabie said on Thursday that the Suez Canal has generated US\$153.4 billion in revenues and facilitated the transit of approximately 1.1 million ships since the waterway's nationalization in 1956 to date.

"This achievement under-

scores Egypt's success in maintaining sovereignty over this crucial maritime passage," Rabie told Xinhua during celebrations marking the 69th anniversary of the Suez Canal's nationalization.

He noted that the Suez Canal has experienced unprecedented development since 1956,

a level of progress not seen since its inauguration in 1869.

The chairman noted that the canal's draft has been expanded from 10 metres to 22 metres. Additionally, he said, the length of dual-lane sections has increased from 27.7 kilometres to 99 kilometres. — Xinhua



A ship sails on the Suez Canal in Ismailia Governorate, Egypt, on 31 July 2025. PHOTO: AHMED GOMAA/XINHUA