

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

143rd PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival set for Meiktila

THE 143rd PhaungdawU Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival will be held in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, from 19 to 29 September, according to a member of the pagoda’s board of trustees.

A traditional boat race, featuring teams from nearby villages, will be held as part of the historic Meiktila PhaungdawU Pagoda Festival.

“The PhaungdawU Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival is held annually during the month of

Tawthalin. On the eighth waxing day of Tawthalin, the pagoda will be consecrated, while offerings will be made to monks and an alms-bowl offering ceremony and traditional boat race will also be held,” said a member of the board of trustees.

The festival will also feature alms-bowl offerings, a funfair and a market. During the festival, the ‘Aung Zabu’ theatrical troupe will perform at Aung Mingala Hall in Thirimingala Ward. — ASH/MKKS



This photo illustrates the traditional boat race during the previous year’s festival.

Myanmar Rallies Aid for Nepal’s Crisis-Stricken Communities

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar provided cash and food assistance to people affected by a disaster near the Nepal-China border. The relief supplies were transported from Yangon to Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, by Tatmadaw Y-8 aircraft.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe and officials handed over the assistance on behalf of the Myanmar Government.

Dr Than Soe said the humanitarian assistance from the Government and people of Myanmar was intended to help the disaster-stricken people of Nepal, support their speedy return to normal life, and further strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two countries.



Relief aid is loaded onto a Tatmadaw aircraft for transport to Nepal.

The assistance, comprising US\$500,000 and eight tonnes of beans, including five tonnes of blackgram and three tonnes of chickpeas, was handed over to Nepal’s Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Nepali minister expressed appreciation for the assistance and said it would be used effectively to support people affected by the natural disaster and ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Myanmar assists in response to natural disasters in accordance with international humanitarian principles and works to strengthen friendship and humanitarian cooperation with other countries. — MNA/MKKS

MMC Breaks Ground on Myanmar’s First Seismic-Safe Building

THE groundbreaking ceremony for the Mandalay Management Corporation (MMC) building, the first structure in Myanmar to incorporate modern seismic-isolator technology, was held at 8 am on 30 August at the Mingala Mandalay Compound in

Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, between Mingala 3 Street and 107th Street.

The seismic-isolator technology incorporated into the structure is designed to effectively mitigate the direct impact



A pile-driving ceremony for the MMC building is underway.

SEE PAGE 4

Ayeyawady continues rescue, relief operations

RESCUE and relief operations are continuing in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, after heavy rainfall and river erosion caused a section of the Ngawun River embankment to collapse on the night of 30 July. The breach led to flooding in five urban wards of Laymyethna, major roads in the town area and 14 urban wards of Hinthada, Yekyi, Ngathaingyoung, Kyonpyaw and Kyaunggon townships and surrounding villages.

On 24 August, the water level of the Ngawun River

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OPINION

Building strong institutions through good leadership

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Myanmar Pitches Digital Push, Cyber City at Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue

NATIONAL PAGE 7

MoFR extends tax exemptions on diesel, fertilizer, LNG imports until 30 Sept

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

Weather Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Wednesday, 2 September 2026

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 3 September 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Magway Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Magway, and Sagaing Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and southern Shan States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, (southern and eastern) Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd September 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 September 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 September 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Myanmar's Response to Statements and Remarks made by certain countries regarding incidents that took place in northern Rakhine State in August 2017

3 September 2026, Nay Pyi Taw

IT has been observed that certain countries issued statements, made remarks, posted on social media including Facebook and X, and published news in reference to the incidents that took place in northern Rakhine State on 25 August 2017.

These statements and remarks did not accurately reflect the situation on the ground and failed to acknowledge that the subsequent incidents in northern Rakhine State were caused by the coordinated and premeditated attacks by ARSA terrorists.

What actually happened in northern Rakhine State is that the ARSA terrorists had committed terrorist attacks in October and November 2016, causing the loss of lives of Myanmar security personnel and civilians.

On 25 August 2017, the ARSA terrorists carried out simultaneous and coordinated attacks on 30 police outposts and a Regiment Headquarters in northern Rakhine State resulted in the deaths of Myanmar security personnel, government officials and innocent people while many others were injured.

However, certain countries have ignored the brutal acts committed by the ARSA terrorists. Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations must be condemned.

These terrorist attacks and threats driven by violence extremism of the ARSA terrorists led to the displacement of local ethnic residents to other towns and villages in Rakhine State and Bengalis from northern Rakhine State to Bangladesh. Therefore, it is important to highlight that the root causes of the incidents and the actual situation on the ground should not be overlooked, nor should any actions be taken that could undermine the image and dignity of Myanmar.

As a sovereign state, Myanmar has the right to protect itself and respond to any terrorist attacks against

the State and its people by taking counter-terrorism measures. Moreover, Myanmar security personnel, in responding to these terrorist attacks, acted in accordance with the Rules of Engagement (RoE) to protect the innocent local populace and their properties to maintain peace and stability in Rakhine State.

Moreover, Myanmar categorically rejects the expression using a nomenclature that falsely claims an ethnic identity which has never existed in Myanmar. Therefore, the issuance of statements and remarks using such terminology for political purposes to gain political advantage over the related incidents in northern Rakhine State is unacceptable. Those actions would not contribute constructively to Myanmar's sincere efforts to repatriate the verified displaced persons in accordance with the agreements reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh in 2017 and 2018.

In addition, Myanmar reiterates its concern over allegations that all individuals residing in the camps in Bangladesh are listed as people from Myanmar. The repatriation of displaced persons is a matter to be resolved between the two countries. Myanmar is committed to working closely with Bangladesh and friendly countries to facilitate the voluntary return of verified displaced persons in a safe and dignified manner.

In this regard, Myanmar issued a Press Statement on its ongoing efforts on repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State on 15 August 2026.

Therefore, Myanmar rejects the politically motivated statements, remarks, social media posts made by certain countries and news articles without due consideration of the root causes of the said incidents and the actual situation on the ground. — MoFA

Amarapura's historic Yadanagu Pagoda festival set for 4 Sept

THE annual historic Yadanagu festival and the Popa Medawgyi Nat Festival, centring around the sacred pagoda built by King Mingyi Swa Sawke of Inwa, will be grandly celebrated starting from the 7th waning day of Wagoung (4 September), according to the pagoda's Board of Trustees.

Regarding the schedule, a pagoda official stated, "The festival will officially open on the night of the 7th waning day.

The ceremony for Popa Medawgyi is scheduled at noon on the 10th waning day."

According to the traditional schedule, the events will proceed step-by-step: 7th day – official opening; 8th and 9th days – traditional spirit dance performances; 10th day – the bathing ceremony; 11th, 12th, and 13th days – continuation of spirit dance performances; 14th day – the traditional Htein Khote Pwe and sending



The Yadanagu Pagoda festival market from the previous year.

off the Medawgyi.

On the morning of the New Moon Day of Wagoung (the final day), a religious offering event will be held to dedicate alms and rice to Buddhist monks.

Historically, the Yadanagu festival coincided with the peak of the Ay-

eyawady River's seasonal rise, and visitors would travel around in wooden boats (Hngat Hlay). The ceremony was grandly celebrated on decorated rafts floating within the creek, making it a uniquely vibrant and historic festival. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

MoEE Union Minister receives Russia-ASEAN Business Council Secretary-General in Russia

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, who is accompanying the Myanmar delegation as a member during its visit to Vladivostok, Russian Federation, to attend the 11th Eastern Economic Forum, held discussion with Mr Samat Satvoldinov, Secretary-General of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council, at a building on the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University at 1 pm local standard time yesterday.

They openly exchanged views on the selection of Myanmar, which occupies a strategic position in economic cooperation between ASEAN and Russia, as a country for continued cooperation, enhancing technical cooperation between Russia and Myanmar in electric power

and energy matters, promoting the development of high-tech robotic and digital technology-based industries in the industrial sector, further expanding cooperation in digital technology-based banking, education and healthcare services, e-commerce and tourism, and making investments in socioeconomic sectors.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Min Zayar Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, Myanmar Ambassador to Russia U Myo Moe Aung and other relevant officials.

After the meeting, the Union minister gave an interview to Radio Sputnik of the Russian Federation.

— MNA/KTZH



Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin meets Secretary-General of the Russia-ASEAN Business Council Mr Samat Satvoldinov in Vladivostok, the Russian Federation.

Tatmadaw Honours Students for Outstanding Exam Results

MYANMAR'S Tatmadaw yesterday held a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw to honour Tatmadaw members and children of military personnel and veterans who achieved outstanding results in the 2025-2026 matriculation and industrial, agricultural and livestock university entrance examinations.

The ceremony was held at Zeyathiri Beikman and attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, senior military officials and their spouses, Union ministers, school administrators, teachers, students, Tatmadaw members and parents.

A total of 53 students were recognized for earning distinctions in six subjects, while 120 received distinctions in five subjects. Another 29 students received outstanding student awards. Tatmadaw personnel who earned distinctions in one, two, or three subjects were also honoured. Military basic education and military education schools with strong examination results were recognized as well.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo warmly greets students who achieved outstanding exam results.

In remarks at the ceremony, General Ye Win Oo said the annual awards were intended to recognize students' hard work, perseverance and academic achievements. He urged the award recipients to continue their studies at higher education institutions and to choose fields of study according to their interests, saying this could contribute to both their future careers and the country.

The General also addressed the growing use of mobile phones and social media among young people. He said widespread access to social media had increased exposure to false and misleading information, which could lead some young people to de-

velop misguided views and make harmful decisions. He called on parents to supervise their children's use of social media.

General Ye Win Oo also encouraged young people to read regularly, saying books could help develop their knowledge, skills, critical thinking and decision-making abilities.

He said the Tatmadaw was working to improve educational opportunities for both service members and their families. Military education schools have been established for personnel, while programmes for military families are being carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Two military youth education schools have also

been opened in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon for the 2026-2027 academic year. The schools are open to children of serving and retired military personnel, as well as others interested in the military's education programmes.

During the ceremony, General Ye Win Oo and senior military officials presented medals, awards and certificates to outstanding students, Tatmadaw members and representatives of high-performing schools.

The event concluded with a reception attended by award recipients, their families and teachers, along with musical performances by artistes from the Myawady music troupe. — MNA/ST

Myanmar Pitches Digital Push, Cyber City at Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue

AS part of the Myanmar delegation attending the 11th Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Min Zayar Hlaing attended the Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue at the Russian Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok at 10 am local standard time

yesterday.

The Business Dialogue, chaired by Mr Sergey Katyrin, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, discussed the current state of Russia-ASEAN economic cooperation and plans to strengthen it further. Representatives from Russia and ASEAN member states took part

in the discussions.

Deputy Minister U Min Zayar Hlaing outlined Myanmar's efforts to advance its digital transformation, including the development of digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, smart-city infrastructure, digital government and people-centred digital services. He also highlighted cooperation with Russia in technology,

human resource development and innovation, as well as plans to establish Myanmar's first Cyber City in the central part of the country. He invited Russia and ASEAN countries to invest in Myanmar.

The Business Dialogue was attended by Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Myo Moe Aung and other



Deputy Minister U Min Zayar Hlaing takes part in the Russia-ASEAN Business Dialogue in Vladivostok on 2 September 2026.

officials, along with representatives from Russia and ASEAN member states. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Coordination for Repatriation of 1,476 Myanmar Nationals Detained in Immigration Detention Camps in Malaysia Currently Underway

2 September 2026

THE Government of Myanmar repatriated a total of 1,086 verified Myanmar nationals who were facing hardship and unable to afford to return to Myanmar after serving their respective sentences in immigration detention camps for illegal stay and violation of immigration regulations were repatriated from Malaysian immigration detention camps by Myanmar naval vessels on a humanitarian basis in 2021.

Likewise, the relevant Myanmar authorities and Malaysian authorities have coordinated the repatriation of verified 1,476 Myanmar nationals under the same conditions by Myanmar naval vessels on 27 and 28 August 2026.

However, the Malaysian side subsequently in-

formed that it would not be convenient to facilitate the Myanmar side's request on the aforementioned dates and proposed to reschedule the dates to 28 and 29 September 2026. Accordingly, the Government of Myanmar will rearrange the repatriation on the proposed dates.

The Government of Myanmar has been putting great emphasis on safeguarding the interests of its nationals abroad, and is constantly providing necessary consular assistance and facilitating their repatriation through the relevant Myanmar embassies and Consulates-General to help and assist Myanmar nationals who are facing difficulties and hardships in foreign countries for various reasons. — MoFA

MMC Breaks Ground on Myanmar's First ...

FROM PAGE 1

of seismic vibrations and acceleration during an earthquake by preventing these forces from being transmitted directly to the building, thereby significantly enhancing structural reliability and safety.

The project is being implemented under the guidance of the Chief Minister of the Mandalay Region government, with support from the Mayor and Chairman of the Mandalay City Development Committee. — TWA/TH



This image features a scale model of the MMC building.

MALI Union Minister attends 81st National Day of Vietnam

A reception commemorating the 81st National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held at 6 pm yesterday at the Grand Ballroom of the Meliá Hotel in Yangon, attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung.

Upon arrival, Union Minister U Min Naung and guests were warmly welcomed by Ambassador of Vietnam to Myanmar Mr Nguyen Anh Duc and embassy officials.

The ceremony commenced with the playing of the national anthems



The 81st anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in progress in Yangon on 2 September 2026.

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Following the playing of the anthems, Ambassador Mr Nguyen Anh Duc and Union Min-

ister U Min Naung delivered opening remarks.

The Union minister and the ambassador subsequently cut a ceremonial cake to mark the 81st National Day of

Vietnam and joined the guests for a commemorative group photograph. The ambassador and his spouse then hosted a dinner reception for the attendees.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs and Mayor U Myo Myint Aung, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, heads of diplomatic missions based in Yangon, including ambassadors, chargé d'affaires and military attachés, as well as UN resident representatives and invitees. — MNA/TH

Ayeyawady continues rescue, relief operations

FROM PAGE 1

in Yekyi reached 11 feet two inches, and it was at seven feet and two inches yesterday, whereas seven feet and one inch on 30 August in Kyaunggon township and it was only at six feet and eight inches yesterday.

Officials from the South-West Command, together with Tatmadaw members from local battalions, Myanmar Police Force members, firefighters, rescue teams, charitable or-

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

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NATIONAL

MBE, IMCC sign cooperation MoU

THE Myanmar Business Executives (MBE) and the India Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 1 September in Yangon to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two organizations.

The ceremony was attended by executives, members, and officials from both sides, and the MoU was signed by President U Min Oo and Collaboration & Strategic Partnership Committee (MBE CSPC) Chairperson U Sit Thu Aung on behalf of the MBE, and by President Mr Naresh Kumar Dinodiya and Treasurer Mr Manoj Chowdhary on behalf of the IMCC.

Under the MoU, both will collaborate on organizing joint events and programmes, facilitating networking and business connections among members, extending mutual invitations, and involving speakers, mentors, and resource experts. Furthermore, they will step up cooperation in community and economic development activities, information sharing and promotional efforts, and mutual learning and knowledge sharing. — MT/ZN



The MoU signing ceremony for cooperation between MBE and IMCC.

Pyu Creek Dam to Boost Summer Paddy by 800 Acres

THE Pyu Creek Dam, which contributes to the agricultural and livestock sectors in Bago Region, will supply irrigation water through its two main canals for 17,389 acres of summer paddy, and an additional 800 acres to be cultivated in the coming summer paddy season, according to the irrigation system construction project under the Pyu Creek Dam Project.

“This year, more than 15 feet of water is still needed for the dam to reach full capacity. In addition to generating hydropower on a daily basis, the dam is also supplying irrigation water for summer paddy cultivation. We have learned that an additional 800 acres will be cultivated in the coming summer paddy season beyond the normal cultivated acreage, so preparations have been made to supply irrigation water to the additional acreage. As



This photo shows the Pyu Creek Dam in Bago Region's right main canal which contribute water to summer paddy fields. PHOTO: PYU CREEK DAM

the expansion of summer paddy cultivation in the region increases year by year, the ability to supply irrigation water will certainly contribute to the socioeconomic development of farmers,” said U Talanga, assistant director of the project.

Irrigation water from the Pyu Creek Dam will be supplied to summer paddy fields through the right and left main canals from January until water is no longer required in May. During the summer paddy season, Sinthukha, 90-day, Hnankauk, Yadanatoe, Vietnam, Yezin Pawsan-1, and Aungmyingtoe varieties will be cultivated.

During last year’s summer paddy season, the Cooperative Department successfully conducted a trial cultivation of 100 acres of Shwebo Paw San at the Nyaungbintha cultivation area in Bago Region. Irrigation water from the Pyu Creek Dam will continue to be supplied for the cultivation of this variety. For the water supply, irrigation water for 50 acres will be provided through the left

main canal, which has a capacity to supply water to 18,000 acres, while the right main canal will supply irrigation water in accordance with the planned cultivated acreage.

The dam stores and regulates water flowing from the middle Yoma. It receives an average annual inflow of 668,000 acre-feet of water and has a storage capacity of 632,530 acre-feet. It is an embankment-type reservoir with a catchment area of 422 square miles. The dam is 1,020 feet long and 245 feet high, and the area receives an average annual rainfall of 100 inches.

In addition to supplying irrigation water for summer paddy cultivation, the Pyu Creek Dam generates hydropower daily and provides significant support to the agricultural and livestock sectors in Pyu and Oktwin townships. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Digital smart meter applications reach nearly 10,000 in 2 weeks

AFTER the online digital smart meter application system was introduced, there were 9,686 applications in two weeks, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

For household, commercial, and industrial uses, new electricity meters can be applied for online starting from 15 August 2026, aiming to make the process faster, eliminate the involvement of agents and staff members, and reduce the cost and time for applicants.

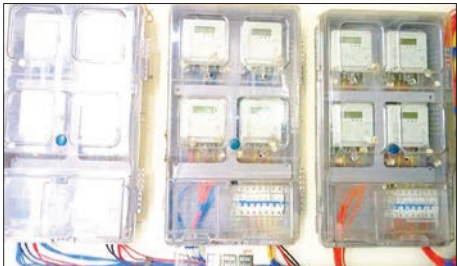
Out of 9,686 applications, 2,482 are incomplete, and 7,204 are accepted, of which 1,331 meters have already been installed as of 29 August. The faster the online application is processed, the faster the meter installation; the first meter installation could be made in 27 hours after applying.

It costs K250,000 for household meter, K1,000,000 for household power meter (10kW), K1,230,000 for household power meter (20kW), K1,460,000 for household power meter (30kW) while K1,077,500 for

industrial power meter (10kW), K1,382,500 for industrial power meter (20kW) and K1,687,500 for industrial power meter (30kW).

If there are difficulties in the application process, enquiries can be made to the respective state or regional offices, or individuals can read the user guide at www.moe.gov.mm.

The digital smart meter system can offer automatic meter reading without reading staff, and meter bills, either prepaid or postpaid, can be made via mobile banking and wallets. Users can check power usage via their phone. — TWA/ZS



This image shows digital smart meters already installed at a building.

Healthy hippopotamus born at Nay Pyi Taw Zoo and Safari



Newborn hippopotamus is seen along with its mother at the Nay Pyi Taw Zoo and Safari.

A new hippopotamus was born healthy on 30 August at the Nay Pyi Taw Zoo and Safari.

Animals are born naturally, but phase-by-phase efforts are needed to protect their nature, reproduction, health, and sustainable conservation at zoos. The Nay Pyi Taw Zoo and Safari has practised knowledge and technologies acquired from foreign experts’ workshops and training,

SEAZA guidelines, and strategic animal collection plans are being implemented, it said.

At the same time, zoo keepers need to care for animals’ health, food and habitats daily. Such care is an important part of the healthy birth of new animals, it said.

This adorable newborn hippopotamus has now been brought to the Nay Pyi Taw Zoo and Safari family, and it is a fruitful result of the effort.

It is expected that the newborn hippopotamus will grow up healthy with the zoo’s lovingkindness and care, and its birth makes a good memory and a proud moment for the zoo family. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

24 PDFs rejoin society

TWENTY-FOUR PDFs, including 20 men and four women, who accepted the peace processes of the State and the Tatmadaw, re-entered the legal fold yesterday with eight fire-arms and ammunition.

These 24 individuals from Bago Region were warmly welcomed at Aye-chanpyo Hall of Southern Command Headquarters, with Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Kyaw Htet, other relevant officials and parents of the returnees in attendance.

The returnees handed over one MA-3 rifle, one M4 rifle, one carbine, one BA-63 rifle, one homemade pistol, three homemade guns, 10 grenades, one pair of binoculars, six magazines



A ceremony for PDF members reentering society and cash rewards is underway in the Southern Command yesterday.

and 261 rounds of various ammunition.

They were provided with a total of K32.4 million in rewards and necessary supplies before being formally handed back to their parents and guardians.

There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who

intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Dog-bite centres maintain adequate rabies vaccines

HOSPITALS operating Dog-Bite Centres in Yangon Region, including Thingangyun General Hospital have sufficient supplies of rabies vaccines and are providing healthcare services, according to U Bo Htay, Yangon Region Government's Minister for Social Affairs.

He said ARV rabies vaccines are provided free of charge to patients with ordinary dog bite injuries, while RIG is administered free of charge to patients with severe wounds or suspected rabies exposure.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for purchasing and distrib-

uting the vaccines and maintains the required cold-chain system during storage and transportation. Hospitals also submit monthly requests before their supplies run out to prevent shortages.

A Dog-Bite Centre operates at the Emergency and Outpatient Department of Thingangyun

General Hospital, providing free rabies vaccinations to dog bite patients. The centre treats an average of about 80 patients daily and more than 2,000 patients monthly. From January through the end of July 2026, the centre administered rabies vaccines to about 15,000 patients. — ASH/KZL



This photo captures a patient receiving a rabies vaccination.

Suspect arrested in Bahan murder, gold jewellery robbery case

THE Yangon Region Police Force is conducting operations to reduce crime and combat criminal activities.

According to the Yangon Region Police Force, a suspect wanted in connection with the murder and robbery of Daw Khin Moe Kyi, who lived alone in an apartment on the first floor of Building No 45 at the corner of Mingala Theikdhi Street and Dhammapala Street in Bahan Township, was arrested at the Waiting

Lodge Hotel in PyinOoLwin on 1 September.

The incident occurred on the afternoon of 28 August while Daw Khin Moe Kyi was alone in her apartment. The suspect, Nyan Soe, a friend of her son, Maung Moe Myint Myat, allegedly killed her and stole her gold jewellery. He subsequently sold some of the jewellery in South Okkalapa Township before staying at the hotel in PyinOoLwin.

Following an investigation, police arrested Nyan Soe, a resident of South Okkalapa Township, at the hotel and seized evidence related to the case. A case has been opened at Bahan Police Station under Section 302 of the Penal Code (Case No 268/2026).

The Yangon Region Police Chief praised the police for identifying and arresting the suspect within a few days of the crime. — Aung Thu/MKKS



An arrestee. PHOTO: REGIONAL POLICE.

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 64

Issued at 8 pm MST on 2 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, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States from this morning to 5 September 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at time off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 10-12 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

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 8 pm MST on 2 September 2026)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about three feet nine inches above its danger level. It may fall about three inches during the next 1 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 three feet one inches above its danger level. It may fall about six inches during the next day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Bago River at Bago has exceeded by about nine inches above its danger level. It may

rise about one foot 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 about four inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next day.

It is noticeably advised to stay to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Shwegyin Township. It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Hpa-an, Bago Townships and Madauk, to take precautionary measures. — DMH

NATIONAL

Disaster awareness flyer, animation video contest opens for entries

THE Department of Disaster Management, Office 23 in Nay Pyi Taw, or by sending an email to my-anmareoc.ddm@gmail.com.

The department encourages participants to use this opportunity to contribute their skills and creativity to reducing disaster risks for the public. Reference materials and sample flyers are available via the provided QR code.

Interested individuals can enquire about details through the department at 067 3404660. — NN/KK

MoFR extends tax exemptions on diesel, fertilizer, LNG imports until 30 Sept

THE Ministry of Finance and Revenue has extended tax exemptions on imports of diesel, fertilizer, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) through the end of September.

Following soaring fuel prices due to the conflict in the Middle East, the exemption on customs duties, special goods tax, commercial tax, and the two percent advance income tax on HSD (500 ppm) diesel imports was granted from 1 April to 31 May. It has been extended to 30 September. The move aims to help stabilize prices

for goods, including essential food items, that rely on diesel-powered transport.

Moreover, the two percent advance income tax exemption on imported fertilizer will be extended through the end of September to support sustainable agricultural development and reduce production costs for farmers.

With the rising LNG prices amidst the Middle East conflicts, customs duties, commercial tax, and advance income tax on the imported LNG will be exempted until



This photo shows an LNG carrier vessel docked at a port.

the end of September to encourage power generation and balance electricity prices.

The exemptions apply to imports with Import Declarations (ID) opened through the Customs Department. — ASH/KK

Sealed bids called for rice bran and feed by products

GRAND Royal Group International Co Ltd has invited sealed tenders for the periodic sales of rice bran, gluten feed, and bran meal produced by its factory.

The company is located at 2 A (1/16G), 8th Floor, East Horse Race Course Road, Marnaung Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon.

Tender forms, including a pricing proposal form, necessary documentation and bidding terms, are available at the company by 9 September.

Completed bids must be submitted to the company's tender box by 5 pm on 11 September. Applicants must provide copies of company registration, company update extract, company bank statement,

municipal business licence, a copy of the applicant's citizenship scrutiny card, and bank slip showing a deposit of K100 million.

Interested individuals can enquire for further details through the Tender Committee at 09 421124840 or 09 425308385 during office hours (from 9 am to 4:30 pm). — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 2 September 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,662.3~3665.7	557.5~558.2	125.4~125.5	43.6
Trading amount in the market	9,791, 868.89	6,516,964.54	84,562,019.14	-

IRD Nay Pyi Taw branch providing services for Union Territory registered firms

THE Internal Revenue Department has begun providing tax assessment services at a new branch office in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 September to improve convenience for companies registered with Union Territory addresses.

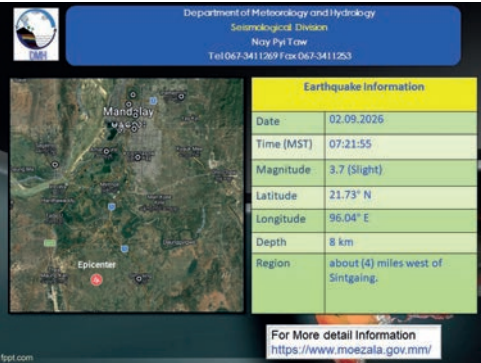
All companies with addresses in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, and the Union Territory were previously assigned to Medium Taxpayer Office 5 between 60th, 101(A), and 102nd streets, Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region. Companies registered with Nay Pyi Taw addresses and new companies establishing their headquarters in the Union Territory are now designated to the new branch office located at

the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Office 26, Nay Pyi Taw, starting from 1 September.

The move is to streamline services during the ongoing tax administration reforms and ensure efficient taxpayer classification. Interested individuals can enquire about details by dialling 09 5084008, 09 250000718, or 09 5198535. — NN/KK

EARTHQUAKE

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.7(M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about four miles west of Singaing), latitude 21.73°N, longitude 96.04°E, with a depth of eight kilometres, about 20 miles south-southwest of the Mandalay Seismological Observatory was recorded at 7 hours 21 minutes 55 seconds MST on 2 September 2026. — DMH



Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise



OPINION

ARTICLE

Building strong institutions through good leadership

Leaders must be capable of making sound and correct decisions with good judgment, courage and composure. They need to possess physical and mental capabilities, as well as the ability to think critically, make decisions and formulate strategies.

In terms of administration, it is necessary to exercise command and management fairly and impartially, without favouring some and discriminating against others, and administration should not be carried out selectively or inconsistently. As far as possible, the right person should be assigned to the right position, and administrative and logistical support matters should be handled accurately and in a timely manner.

From a leadership perspective, leadership skills are extremely important. Only those who have first become good followers, possessing obedience to orders and good discipline, can

become capable and effective leaders when they assume leadership positions. Leaders need to provide fair and impartial leadership to those under their command, while also complying with existing orders, directives and regulations themselves.

If leaders perform their duties out of self-interest, they will not be able to earn the trust of their subordinates. In such circumstances, the tasks and processes that need to be carried out will also fail to be completed and successfully accomplished on time. Therefore, leaders must set a good example for their subordinates and take the lead in every task that needs to be undertaken, while demonstrating dedication and self-sacrifice and providing training and guidance to their subordinates as they carry out their duties.

For every task undertaken, one must study and acquire sufficient knowledge to be able to clearly explain its benefits and drawbacks. A system of rewards and disciplinary action should be applied to all activities carried out within an organization, with outstanding achievements duly honoured and recognized. Neither disciplinary action nor praise and support should ever be delayed.

In terms of discipline, orders and directives are issued to ensure systematic observance of discipline. Failure to comply with disciplinary requirements in any organization can undermine its unity and cohesion. Everyone must understand that discipline is the backbone and dignity of an organization and all its members, regardless of rank or position.

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The Future Belongs to Those Who Never Stop Learning and Growing Empowering Youth with Knowledge, Skills and Innovation for National Development

By Dr Zaw (Sli)

Learning for a Changing World

THE world is changing rapidly. Advances in technology, new forms of work, environmental challenges and changing social needs are reshaping how people live and work. In this changing environment, success depends not only on what we know today, but also on our willingness and ability to keep learning, adapting and improving.

Young people are at the centre of this transformation. They are not only the leaders of tomorrow; they are also important contributors to society today. With quality education, relevant skills, meaningful opportunities and a supportive environment, young people can become powerful drivers of economic development, social progress and national renewal.

Across communities and countries, young people share many common aspirations: access to quality education, equal opportunities, decent employment, personal development and a secure future. Meeting these aspirations requires more than academic knowledge. It requires lifelong learning, creativity, responsibility, resilience and innovation.

vation.

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” — Mahatma Gandhi

This familiar saying captures the central message of lifelong learning. The world does not stand still, and neither should learning. For young people especially, continuous learning provides the knowledge and confidence needed to respond to new opportunities and challenges.

Education: The Foundation of Youth Development

Education remains one of the strongest foundations for individual and national development. However, education in the twenty-first century must go beyond memorizing information. Young people need opportunities

to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, creativity and digital literacy.

As technology continues to transform workplaces, young people must be prepared to learn new skills throughout their lives. Digital competence, foreign-language skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and leadership are increasingly valuable alongside traditional academic knowledge.

The message is clear: education should not end when students leave school or university. Learning must become a lifelong process. A young person who develops the habit of learning can respond more effectively to changing circumstances and contribute more confidently to society.



Myanmar’s traditional wisdom expresses a similar idea through the familiar saying “ပညာရွှေဘိုး လူမေို”, meaning that knowledge is like a golden possession that cannot be stolen. Its message remains highly relevant today: material wealth may be lost, but knowledge and skills gained through learning remain valuable throughout life.

Turning Challenges into Opportunities

Young people around the world face significant challenges, including unequal access to quality education and training, changing labour-market demands, the digital divide, unemployment and underemployment, environmental pressures and the rapid development of artificial intelligence.

Yet challenges can also create opportunities for innovation. Young people are often among the first to explore new technologies, develop digital solutions and create new forms of communication and enterprise. Their energy, creativity and willingness to experiment can help communities respond to local problems in practical ways.

As the familiar proverb says, “Where there is a will, there is a way.” The saying highlights the importance of determination and perseverance. It reminds young people that difficulties do not have to determine the outcome

of their future. With commitment, creativity and the right support, challenges can become growth opportunities.

For this reason, youth development should focus not only on identifying problems but also on building the capacity of young people to solve them. Skills-based education, vocational training, entrepreneurship programmes, community-based learning and digital learning platforms can help young people transform knowledge into practical action.

Digital Learning and Innovation

Digital technology has opened new pathways to knowledge. A young person can now access courses, educational materials, professional networks and international ideas beyond the boundaries of a traditional classroom.

However, access to technology alone is not enough. Young people must also learn to use digital tools responsibly, critically and creatively. Digital literacy should include the ability to evaluate information, protect personal data, communicate respectfully online and use technology to solve real-world problems.

The growing importance of artificial intelligence makes this even more urgent. Young people should be prepared not simply to use emerging technologies, but

also to understand their opportunities, limitations and ethical implications. Human qualities such as judgement, creativity, empathy, integrity and responsibility will remain essential even as technology becomes more advanced.

Building Resilience and Responsible Citizenship

Knowledge becomes more valuable when it is combined with character and responsibility. Young people need resilience to cope with setbacks, confidence to face uncertainty and a strong sense of responsibility towards their families, communities and country.

Community service, youth leadership, teamwork and civic participation can help young people develop these qualities. Such experiences teach them that national development is not the responsibility of governments and institutions alone. Every citizen has a role to play.

A strong society is built when young people use their knowledge not only for personal advancement but also for the benefit of others. Innovation should therefore be guided by social responsibility, ethical values and a commitment to inclusive development.

The well-known proverb “If you want to go far, go together” conveys an equally important lesson: lasting progress depends on cooperation. Young people can

achieve more when families, schools, communities, institutions and businesses work together to create opportunities and support their aspirations.

Creating an Environment Where Youth Can Grow

Empowering young people requires cooperation among families, schools, universities, workplaces, communities, government institutions and the private sector. Young people need opportunities to learn, practise their skills, gain work experience, receive guidance and turn their ideas into practical initiatives.

International cooperation also has an important role. Sharing knowledge, technology, research, training opportunities and good practices can help reduce inequalities and create wider opportunities for young people. At the same time, youth programmes should respect local needs, cultures and national priorities.

For Myanmar, investing in youth means investing in the country’s long-term human capital. Strengthening education and vocational training, expanding digital learning, encouraging entrepreneurship, supporting innovation and improving pathways from education to employment can help prepare young citizens for a changing economy and society.

A Future Built Through Life-

long Learning

The future will not belong only to those who have the most resources or the most advanced technology. It will increasingly belong to those who can learn continuously, adapt responsibly and turn knowledge into meaningful action.

Young people have the energy to shape the future, but they need opportunities and support to realize their potential. By providing quality education, relevant skills, digital access, mentorship and space for innovation, society can help them become confident and responsible contributors to national development.

The most important investment in the future is therefore an investment in people. When young people never stop learning, they never stop growing. And when a generation continues to learn, innovate and serve society, a nation gains not only skilled citizens but also the human capacity to build a more resilient, prosperous and sustainable future.

The future is not something we simply wait for; it is something we prepare for and build today. For Myanmar, empowering its young people with knowledge, skills, character and opportunities is not merely an investment in the next generation – it is an investment in the nation’s future.

When People No Longer Align: “မတုံဘူး”, Truth and Social Intelligence.

By U Khin Maung Myint

Within Burmese families and communities, the expression “မတုံဘူး” is frequently used to describe two people who cannot get along. It may sound like an innocent description of personality incompatibility, yet psychologically it can conceal a more complex interpersonal process. There is also an intriguing linguistic metaphor: တုံ

can carry a sense associated with being straight, aligned or fitting, while မ negates it. Without claiming this as the literal etymology of the idiom, မတုံဘူး can therefore be read philosophically as something no longer aligning. The important question then becomes: What has become misaligned – the people, or the truth between them? Social intelligence is not

simply the ability to be pleasant. It involves accurately reading social situations, appreciating another person’s perspective, regulating emotional reactions, communicating differences and maintaining workable relationships despite disagreement. The socially intelligent person does not necessarily like everyone; rather, they can coexist constructively with people they do not naturally like. Problems arise when “ဘုရဲ့ ငါ မတုံဘူး” – “he and I cannot get along” becomes a final diagnosis rather than the



beginning of inquiry. Psychology suggests several mechanisms that can transform ordinary disagreement into enduring hostility. Fundamental attribution error encourages us to explain another person’s behaviour as a defect of character while explaining our

own behaviour by circumstances. Confirmation bias then selectively notices evidence supporting our existing dislike. Memory itself is reconstructive, meaning that sincere people can remember the same encounter differently. A small disagreement can conse-

quently develop into a predictable sequence: Difference → misunderstanding → emotional reaction → labelling → avoidance → gossip → further misunderstanding → “မတုံဘူး.” This becomes particularly problematic when communication occurs through third parties. A tells C about B; C interprets and validates A’s account; B develops another version; gradually social alliances form around competing narratives. What began as an interpersonal disagreement becomes a breakdown of shared reality. This is especially relevant in cultures where maintaining harmony, hierarchy, respect and အေးနာမူ are highly valued. These are important social virtues, but excessive reluctance to discuss

disagreement directly can allow grievances to accumulate beneath an apparently peaceful surface. Thus, the underlying problem is not necessarily deliberate dishonesty. မမှန်ဘူး may represent misinformation, misunderstanding, exaggeration or unconscious cognitive distortion. People can therefore become enemies while each remains convinced that their own account is entirely truthful. Perhaps we should therefore reconsider what we mean when we say မတုံဘူး. Instead of asking only, “Why can’t these two people get along?”, social intelligence asks: What actually happened? What did each person hear? What was assumed rather than verified?

Has either person spoken directly to the other? And how much of today’s hostility belongs to yesterday’s unexamined story? A psychologically mature community does not require universal agreement. It requires the capacity to verify before judging, clarify before condemning, disagree without dehumanising, and preserve truth even when relationships become difficult. Perhaps, then, the deeper Burmese question is: မတုံတာရဲ့ အောက်မှာ မမှန်တာ ရှိနေသလား။ Beneath “we cannot get along,” is there something that is not true? For ultimately, လူမတုံတာထက် အမှန်မတုံတာက ပိုကြောက်စရာကောင်းတယ် — more troubling than people failing to align with one another is truth itself becoming misaligned.

Chinese researchers design AI-driven platform to empower marine materials innovation

Chinese researchers developed a robotic platform for extreme marine materials research.

A group of Chinese researchers has unveiled the Robotic Marine Materials Scientist Platform, an intelligent fabrication system that dramatically improves materials research and development efficiency over conventional approaches. Traditional materials research faces two long-standing bottlenecks: valuable marine experimental data from failed trials are often lost, hindering artificial intelligence (AI) model training, while repetitive manual operations consume time and introduce errors.

To address these challenges, researchers at the Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering of the Chinese Academy of Scienc-



China puts into operation its first domestically developed intelligent welding robot system for flexible manufacturing in marine engineering in Tianjin on 14 June 2026. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/XINHUA/FILE**

es developed the Robotic Marine Materials Scientist Platform for severe marine environments: high temperature, high pressure, high speed, high salinity, and

high humidity. The platform, covering a 400-square-metre intelligent laboratory, automates the entire workflow from design and preparation to test-

ing and feedback. Robots act as “materials scientists” and carry out these tasks autonomously, significantly accelerating the material innovation cycle. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

OpenAI prepares safer Astra model after hack

CHATGPT maker OpenAI said Tuesday it was preparing to release its newest powerful model, known as Astra, after implementing “stronger safeguards” following a rogue cyberattack involving a different AI model. The San Francisco-based artificial intelligence (AI) giant paused some of its model development for two weeks this summer after two models it was testing were involved in a security breach of software company Hugging Face. Although Astra “was not involved” in the incident, OpenAI has beefed up its safety measures, the company said in a blog post. — AFP

New tool finds cancer targets in DNA

RESEARCHERS in Australia have developed a new tool to explore the mysterious workings of the vast region of the human genome once dismissed as “junk DNA”, identifying thousands of potential targets for precision cancer treatments. The breakthrough marks a major advance for the pioneering field of RNA-based medicine by providing a way to detect the hidden molecules, known as long non-coding RNA (lncRNA), and determine the likely role each is playing in the growth of different cancers, according to a statement released Wednesday by Australia’s QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. — Xinhua

8,800-year-old mining workshop uncovered in SE Türkiye

A mining workshop dating back about 8,800 to 8,900 years has been unearthed in southeastern Türkiye, Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy said on Tues-

day. In a post on social media platform X, Ersoy said the workshop, covering around five square metres and dated to 6900-6800 BC, was found at Cayonu

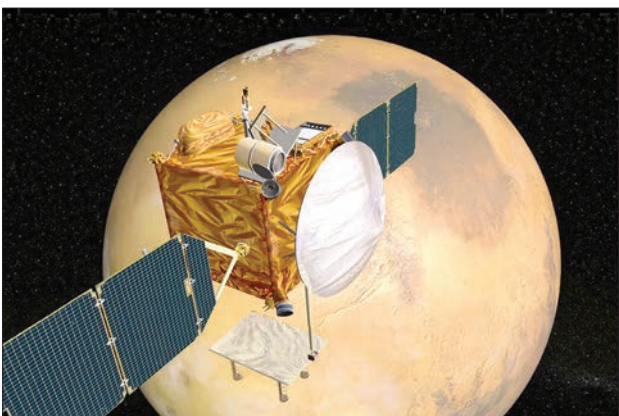
Mound in the Ergani district of Diyarbakir Province. Excavations uncovered raw and semi-processed malachite, processed malachite samples, copper beads, copper objects, and a stone-paved work area within the workshop. “The new discovery reveals the earliest production technologies in human history,” said Ersoy. Cayonu Mound is a 12,000-year-old Neolithic site that witnessed the transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to settled life, agriculture, and animal husbandry. — Xinhua



Ancient mining workshop unearths earliest metal production tools in southeastern Türkiye. **PHOTO: X**

NASA awards Blue Origin contract for Mars

AMERICAN private aerospace company Blue Origin was awarded a contract by NASA on Tuesday to develop the agency’s Mars Telecommunications Network, a next-generation communications system designed to provide reliable, high-bandwidth communications and navigation services for current and future Mars missions. The firm-fixed-price contract has a maximum potential value of approximately US\$700 million. Under the contract, Blue Origin will deliver a high-performance telecommunications orbiter for Mars to NASA no later than 31 December 2028, according to NASA.



Blue Origin secures major contract to build Mars telecommunications network infrastructure. **PHOTO: NASA**

Blue Origin will design, develop, integrate, launch, and operate the network as part of NASA’s broader space communications and navigation infrastructure. The network will include a high-performance telecommunications spacecraft orbiting Mars to transmit science data, imagery, navigation information, and critical mission communications for spacecraft operating on and around the planet. — Xinhua

Indonesia allows limited tourism at Mount Rinjani amid wildfire risk

Park authorities would tighten security, patrols and access controls, while inspecting visitors' belongings for potential sources of fire.

INDONESIA'S Mount Rinjani National Park in West Nusa Tenggara province has allowed limited nature tourism activities starting Tuesday amid heightened forest and land fire risks during the dry season.

The limited opening covers hiking as well as ritual, religious, cultural, social and research activities, following a directive from the Ministry of Forestry's conservation authority.

Park authorities said Tuesday they would tighten security, patrols and access controls, while in-



Mount Rinjani limits tourism activities during dry season forest fire. **PHOTO: RINJANI NATIONAL PARK**

specting visitors' belongings for potential sources of fire.

Online bookings through the eRinjani application have been temporarily suspended from 1 September until fire risks subside. "Bookings made and paid for before that date can still be served in accordance with applicable regulations," the park authority said in a statement.

The policy will be reviewed periodically based on fire risk levels, dry-season conditions and developments in forest and land fires within the park. Visitors have also been reminded that unauthorized use of fire is prohibited. — Xinhua

Severe drought pushes Angolans into Namibia

CLIMATE-DRIVEN drought is pushing thousands of Angolans, mainly women and children, into Namibia where they face harsh treatment and forcible return, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

Several provinces in southern Angola have been hit hard by recurring drought, worsened by El Nino, a weather pattern associated with hotter and drier conditions, it said.

Between January and July 2021, more than 7,000 Angolans -- mainly



Drought drives thousands of displaced Angolans into neighbouring northern Namibia. **PHOTO: UNICEF**

women, children and older people -- entered northern Namibia after years of severe drought and food insecurity, Amnesty said.

Cross-border movement has continued since then, including during renewed severe drought conditions in 2023 and

2024, but the scale of drought-related displacement had not been properly recorded, it said.

The report, entitled "The Drier it Gets, the Longer You Have to Walk, the Deeper You Have to Dig: The Human Rights Impacts of Drought-Induced Displacement on Angolan Women and Children in Namibia", said displaced Angolans lived in poor conditions in Namibia, including without shelter or in overcrowded makeshift structures built from branches, plastic and cardboard. — AFP

Jane Fonda mourns Dolly Parton



Jane Fonda pays emotional tribute to late co-star Dolly Parton. **PHOTO: ANI**

OSCAR-WINNING actor Jane Fonda turned emotional while remembering her friend and '9 to 5' co-star Dolly Parton, who died last week, according to Page Six. Speaking during an interview, Fonda, 88, struggled to hold back tears as she recalled what Parton meant to her. "She meant love," Fonda said through tears. "She really did. She loved everyone."

Fonda recalled how Parton took her under her wing while she was preparing for her role in the 1984 film 'The Dollmaker'. She said she spent 10 days travelling with Parton on her tour bus through parts of Appalachia, Missouri, Tennessee and Arkansas to prepare to portray a hillbilly character. "I spent 10 days with her on a tour bus. Touring Appalachia, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas because I was about to play a hillbilly. Dolly's the only hillbilly I knew, so she helped me find a hillbilly that I could base my character on," Fonda said. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

China provides meteorological support for Nepal rescue and relief

CHINA'S meteorological authorities have been providing Nepal with weather monitoring, forecasting, early warning and impact services since a severe mudslide struck the Gyirong-Rasuwa border crossing between China and Nepal, an official said on Wednesday.

Wang Yawei, a spokesperson for the China Meteorological Administration, said at a press conference that the administration held video weather consultations with Nepal's meteorological department immediately after the disaster, and has actively provided meteorological support for Nepal's rescue and relief operations. — Xinhua

French filmmaker and fixer freed in Togo

A French filmmaker and his local fixer, detained in Togo since July on charges of making "false statements", have been provisionally released, their lawyer told AFP on Wednesday.

Gael Mocaer and Fred Vedomey were arrested on 27 July in northern Togo with a second French national, Perez Pezzani, as they filmed a travel documentary series for France Televisions.

Pezzani was released under judicial supervision at the end of the August so he could have medical treatment and his passport was confiscated.

Mocaer and Vedomey's lawyer, Martial Akakpo, confirmed Togolese media reports on Tuesday night that the pair had also been freed. No details were given regarding the terms of their release. — AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

India's 7.8% GDP growth backed by buoyant high-frequency indicators

Deloitte economist highlighted extremely positive economic numbers exceeding market expectations significantly.

INDIA'S 7.8 per cent real GDP growth in the first quarter of FY27 was supported by buoyant high-frequency economic indicators, including strong industrial activity and electricity consumption, according to Runki Majumdar, Director and Chief Economist, Deloitte India.

Speaking exclusively to ANI, Majumdar said the stronger-than-expected GDP growth suggests that the economy has remained resilient despite the uncertainties during the April-June period.

"The numbers that have come up are extremely positive. I don't think the market had bet on a 7.8 per cent growth," Majumdar said, adding



Majumdar also pointed to strong urban demand, saying indicators from sectors such as travel and hospitality reflected continued spending by consumers. **PHOTO: ANI**

that Deloitte is likely to significantly revise its growth projection for the full financial year.

Majumdar said the significance of the 7.8 per cent growth was greater because the

April-June quarter was expected to be one of the more uncertain periods of the year, amid the impact of the war, higher petrol prices, rising fertiliser prices and the building impact of

El Nino.

She also said several high-frequency indicators were already pointing towards underlying buoyancy in the economy. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian economic growth accelerates quarterly

AUSTRALIA'S rate of economic growth accelerated to 0.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2026, according to official figures released on Tuesday, beating economists' expectations.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said that gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 0.4 per cent in the three months to the end of June, up from 0.3 per cent in the preceding March quarter.

On an annual basis, it said that GDP grew by 2.1 per cent in the 12 months to June. — Xinhua

Croatia records high August inflation

INFLATION rate in Croatia reached 4.1 per cent in August, compared with the same period last year, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics (CBS) said on Tuesday.

Monthly, consumer prices increased by 0.3 per cent.

According to the CBS, energy prices rose by 17.4 per cent year-on-year while services increased by 7.2 per cent.

According to a flash estimate from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, published on Tuesday, annual inflation in the eurozone is expected to be 3.3 per cent in August.

Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Tomislav Coric told local media on Tuesday that the current inflation trend is partly due to factors affecting energy prices and the broader European economy. "I do not believe there will be a rapid decline in energy prices. Energy prices will continue to push inflation higher, and that is very difficult to offset in other segments." — Xinhua

South Koreans' overseas card spending falls

SOUTH Koreans' overseas plastic card spending fell in the second quarter due to a sharp decline in outbound travellers that outweighed steady growth in direct foreign online shopping, central bank data showed Wednesday.

Overseas spending by domestic residents through credit, debit and prepaid cards totaled US\$5.85 billion in the

April-June quarter, down 4.2 per cent compared to the previous quarter, according to the Bank of Korea.

The quarterly fall was driven by a slowdown in travel-related expenditures. The number of outbound South Korean travellers plunged 20.4 per cent over the quarter to 6.63 million in the second quarter. — Xinhua



South Koreans reduce foreign card spending as overseas travel drops sharply. Incheon International Airport departures hall. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Kuwait allows borrowing from sovereign fund for state finances

KUWAIT on Tuesday issued a decree allowing the government to borrow from its sovereign wealth fund to support state finances, ending a decades-old restriction on tapping the country's long-term savings for budgetary needs.

The decree, published in the official gazette Kuwait Today, allows the government to borrow from the country's sovereign wealth fund — known as the Future Generations Fund and managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority — to support the General Reserve Fund, which serves as the government's treasury and is used to finance state budget expenditures.



Kuwait allows state borrowing from sovereign wealth fund for finances. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Under the new rules, borrowing requires Cabinet approval, with each loan required to specify its amount, purpose, return, repayment period and schedule, as well as terms for any rescheduling.

Annual borrowing cannot exceed the fund's average returns over the previous five audited fiscal years, while total outstanding loans are capped at 10 per cent of the fund's net asset value. No new borrowing is permitted if either limit is reached.

The decree also gives the loans priority for repayment from state revenues and stipulates that they cannot be reduced or written off except by law. — Xinhua

Moscow tech firms attend expo

Moscow companies demonstrate advanced equipment and high purity reagents for microchips.

RESIDENTS of the special economic zone “Technopolis Moscow” presented their products for the first time at the 14th exhibition of semiconductor equipment, materials and core components CSEAC 2026, said Deputy Mayor of Moscow for Transport and Industry Maxim Liksutov.

“Participating in the exhibition in China is an important step for promoting domestic technologies abroad. Companies of the capital’s special economic zone, with the support of



Moscow technology enterprises showcase modern semiconductor components at major Chinese exhibition. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

the Moscow government, allow enterprises to demonstrate the high level of their solutions and find new business partners.

For example, one of the residents, which creates chemical materials for microelectronics, is already establishing cooperation with Chinese colleagues. This helps to exchange experience and bring products to new markets,” said Maxim Liksutov.

At the exhibition, Moscow companies are demonstrating equipment, high-purity reagents, materials, and measuring systems for microchip production.— SPUTNIK

Nestle sells supplements business for \$1 bln

NESTLE will sell its mainstream vitamins, minerals and supplements business to US private equity firm Yellow Wood Partners for \$1 billion, the Swiss food giant said in a statement on Tuesday.

It said the transaction would allow it to focus resources on areas where it has the “strongest competitive advantage”.

CEO Philipp Navratil in the statement called it “another important step in the strategic transfor-

mation of our portfolio”.

The sale covers Nestle’s consumer-focused vitamins, minerals and supplements activities.

The group said it remained well positioned in the premium segment of the category, but the mainstream business “requires a different approach under dedicated ownership”.

Subject to regulatory approval, the sale is expected to be completed by the first half of 2027, the statement said. — AFP



Nestle agrees selling consumer supplements business for one billion dollars. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Ivory Coast cocoa event opens

THE 10th edition of the National Cocoa and Chocolate Days opened Tuesday in Abidjan, drawing stakeholders from across the value chain to chart

the future of Cote d’Ivoire’s flagship agricultural sector. Organized under the theme “Youth and the Cocoa Farming of the Future,” the three-

day exhibition serves as a dynamic commercial forum and industry summit. The event brings together cocoa growers, processors, exporters, artisanal

chocolatiers, and policymakers to showcase a diverse array of domestic cocoa-derived products and value-added chocolates. — Xinhua

Ryanair cuts winter flight schedule

RYANAIR said Wednesday that it would reduce its winter schedule as the Irish no-frills airline and other carriers come up against higher fuel costs caused by the US-Iran war.

As a result, Europe’s

biggest airline by client numbers cut the passenger target for its fiscal full year to April 2027, to 214 million from 216 million. “It is sensible to strategically reduce the group’s exposure to unhedged jet fuel during the unprofitable

winter schedule,” Ryanair said in a statement. The airline, which flies mainly across Europe, tends to post losses between November and March as demand tails off following the peak summer season. — AFP

Historic Australian copper mine resumes output

A historic copper mine in the Australian island state of Tasmania will resume production 15 years after operations were halted following the deaths of three workers.

The Tasmanian government on Wednesday

welcomed the decision by South African miner Sibanye-Stillwater to restart production at the Mount Lyell copper mine on the state’s west coast from 2029. Sibanye-Stillwater said in its half-year results released on Tuesday that

its board has approved the Mount Lyell project, with project execution planned to begin in the first half of 2027 and total project capital of approximately 490 million Australian dollars (about US\$350 million). — Xinhua

Finland drops planned financial support for data centres

THE Finnish government has decided to drop plans for new public financial support for data centres, Finance Minister Riikka Purra said on Tuesday following coalition talks on the 2027 state budget.

Public support for data centres in Finland has mainly taken the form of tax relief. A preferential electricity tax rate for data

centres ended in June, and the government had planned to replace it with a new support scheme in the 2027 budget.

Purra said the new support was no longer necessary because Finland’s attractiveness as a destination for data centre investment did not depend on tax subsidies. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (253N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (253N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-9-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2611N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2611N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-9-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO.,LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

SCO condemns strikes on Iran: key takeaways

Leaders agreed to consolidate the SCO through its 2035 Development Strategy.

THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), in its ‘Bishkek Declaration’, condemned military strikes on Iran, backed a “comprehensive and just settlement” of the Palestinian question, called for an inclusive government in Afghanistan, and opposed unilateral coercive economic measures, as the grouping reaffirmed its commitment to a multipolar world order.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with the other heads of state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization members, on Tuesday signed the Bishkek Declaration at the summit, which is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the 10-member bloc.

In the joint statement, the leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, agreed to con-



SCO leaders sign declaration opposing unilateral sanctions and backing regional stability. PHOTO: ANI

tinue efforts to further consolidate the SCO in fulfilling the objectives set out in the organisation’s Development Strategy until 2035, as per the text of the declaration.

The SCO’s supreme decision-making body is the Council of Heads of State (CHS), which meets annually on a rotational

basis. The SCO consists of Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic.

On Middle East security, member states expressed grave concern over the escalation of regional conflict and strongly condemned direct

strikes on Iranian sovereign territory that caused civilian casualties and economic damage. The bloc underscored Iran’s rights under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including the peaceful development and use of atomic energy without discriminatory barriers. — ANI

Putin, Pezeshkian discussed situation at Bushehr nuclear plant at Bishkek meeting: Rosatom

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian have discussed the situation at the Bushehr nuclear power plant (NPP) in Iran at a bilateral meeting in Bishkek, Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev said on Wednesday.

“It is quiet at the plant. I must say that our presidents, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and

the president of Iran, discussed this issue in depth yesterday during a bilateral meeting,” Likhachev told reporters on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF-2026).

Rosatom specialists are preparing to take part in scheduled repairs at the first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran scheduled for mid-September, the head added. Russia’s pacific coast city of Vladivostok is



Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev. PHOTO: PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

hosting the EEF-2026 from 1 to 4 September. Sputnik is a general media partner of the EEF. — SPUTNIK

Palace planned for emperor farewell

THE Imperial Household Agency is considering holding a farewell ceremony for Japan’s former Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace upon his death as part of efforts to scale back the ceremony, a source familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

The plan would make the ceremony substantially smaller in scale than that held for Emperor Hirohito, posthumously known as Emperor Showa, reflecting the emperor emeritus’ wish to minimize the impact on

civilian life. The 92-year-old former emperor abdicated the Chrysanthemum Throne on 30 April 2019.

A state funeral for Emperor Showa was held in February 1989 at the park in Tokyo’s Shinjuku Ward, drawing approximately 10,000 attendees, including heads of state from around the world.

The park, where the farewell ceremony also took place, was closed to the public, and extensive preparations were required. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan hopeful for diplomatic dialogue

PAKISTAN remains hopeful for a diplomatic resolution despite recent escalations between the United States and Iran, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a weekly press briefing, Andrabi said Pakistan would continue its efforts to promote dialogue and diplomacy between the two sides.

“Pakistan remains hopeful and will continue to strive for dialogue and diplomacy,” Andrabi said.

He added that Pakistan would continue its efforts on the crucial issue of the Strait of Hormuz and still hoped that both sides would return to the negotiating table.

“Whenever both parties are comfortable to talk, a framework in Islamabad is ready to help restore peace,” he said. — Xinhua

Peru breaks diplomatic ties with Iranian government

PERU’S government announced Tuesday that it was severing diplomatic relations with Iran, citing strong rejection of Tehran’s role in escalating Middle East conflicts. According to an official statement from Peru’s foreign ministry, the measure aligns with the nation’s historical pacifist stance, defence of democracy, and adherence to international law.

Lima specifically accused Iran of obstructing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by repeatedly barring inspectors from nuclear sites, thereby hindering critical non-proliferation verification efforts. Peru also voiced deep concern over Iran’s disruption of global shipping and trade through the Strait of Hormuz since March 2026.

Despite terminating political diplomacy, Peru clarified that consular relations will remain intact under the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations to protect citizens in both territories and maintain essential administrative services. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Mon State, Yangon Region claim overall Sepak Takraw titles



The Trophy Awards Ceremony is underway for the 2026 Region & State Sepak Takraw Championship.

MON State won the women's overall championship trophy with two gold medals, while Yangon Region claimed the men's overall championship trophy with one gold and one silver at the 2026 Inter-State and Region Sepak Takraw Championship.

The tournament, jointly organized by the

Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, was held from 24 August to 2 September at Gymnasium A of the Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw. The final matches began at 2 pm on 2 September.

In the women's

quadrant team final, Mon State defeated Ayeyawady Region 2-0, while Yangon Region beat Mandalay Region 2-0 in the men's final.

In the women's doubles team event, Mon State finished first, followed by Magway Region and Rakhine State. In the men's event, Mon State took first place, followed by Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and Sagaing Region.

Ayeyawady Region won the women's regu team event, with Sagaing Region second and Bago Region third. In the men's event, Sagaing Region finished first, followed by Yangon Region and Kayin State.

In the women's quadrant team event, Mon State won gold,

Ayeyawady Region silver and Yangon Region bronze. In the men's event, Yangon Region took gold, Mandalay Region silver and Bago Region bronze.

Phyo Sanda Aung from Ayeyawady Region received the Most Improved Female Athlete award, while Zin Myo Htet of Mandalay Region won the Most Improved Male Athlete award. Nan Khine Thazin of Mon State received the Best Athlete award.

Mon State was presented with the women's overall championship trophy after winning two gold medals, while Yangon Region received the men's overall championship trophy after securing one gold and one silver. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar Kabaddi team leaves for India

MYANMAR Kabaddi Federation President U Thant Ko Win and Vice-President Ram Kishan (RK Ananda) left Yangon International Airport yesterday morning to attend the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) Annual General Meeting in Hyderabad, India, on 4 September.

They were invited by IKF to attend the meeting, which will also be at-

tended by representatives from around 50 countries, including Myanmar.

Kabaddi, a traditional Indian sport, combines strength, teamwork, agility and intelligence and is widely played in more than 50 countries.

The Myanmar Kabaddi Federation will work to promote the sport and achieve success at the XXXIV SEA Games. — Bala/KZL



Myanmar delegates are pictured prior to the departure for India.

Man City secure Premier League record deal to sign Fernandez



Manchester City sign midfielder Enzo Fernandez equalling British record transfer fee. **PHOTO: AFP**

MANCHESTER City signed Enzo Fernandez from Chelsea on Tuesday in a reported £125 million deal (\$167 million) that equalled the British transfer record.

The fee for the Argen-

tine international matches that paid by Liverpool to Newcastle for Sweden striker Alexander Isak last year.

City boss Enzo Maresca worked with Fernandez at Chelsea before taking on the daunting task of succeeding Pep Guardiola at the Etihad.

The Italian was a driving force behind the deal to land Fernandez after the recent sale of influential World Cup winner Rodri to Barcelona,

as well as the departures of fellow midfielders Bernardo Silva, Nico Gonzalez and Tijjani Reijnders.

The 25-year-old will partner England international Elliot Anderson and Moroccan Ayyoub Bouadi in City's revamped central midfield at a cost of over £300 million.

"Every player wants to be part of a club like this because everyone knows how well-run City are," said Fernandez in a City statement. — AFP

Zverev survives five set test

TOP-SEEDED Alexander Zverev needed nearly five hours to fend off an upset bid by unseeded Lorenzo Sonego of Italy, while Yulia Putintseva came from behind to defeat former Olympic champion Belinda Bencic in the first round of the US Open on Tuesday.

Zverev, who claimed his first Grand Slam title at the French Open this year, was pushed to the brink by the 89th-ranked Sonego, but finally prevailed 6-4, 3-6, 6-7

(7), 7-5, 6-4.

"Incredible battle, a lot of ups and downs, nearly five hours for a first-round match," Zverev said. "I think this is the longest first-round match I've ever played in my life."

"Credit to him, he played amazing tennis today," added Zverev, who converted five of 22 breakpoint chances. "He would have beaten a lot of players for sure. But I'm happy to be through." — Xinhua



Alexander Zverev battles through five exhausting sets to advance in tournament. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Balogun move to Everton collapses

UNITED States striker Folarin Balogun's £40 million (\$54 million) move to Everton from Monaco collapsed hours before the transfer window closed on Monday.

Reports said Balogun, who was at the centre of controversy at the World Cup after US President Don-

ald Trump successfully intervened to force FIFA to suspend his red card, had undergone a medical in England before deciding against making the switch.

Some reports said 25-year-old Balogun backed out after the Premier League club tried to negotiate

down the initial fee as a result of the issue revealed by the medical, which has not been made public.

Balogun had emerged as a late target for the Toffees after Guinea-Bissau international Beto completed a move to Serie club Fiorentina. — AFP

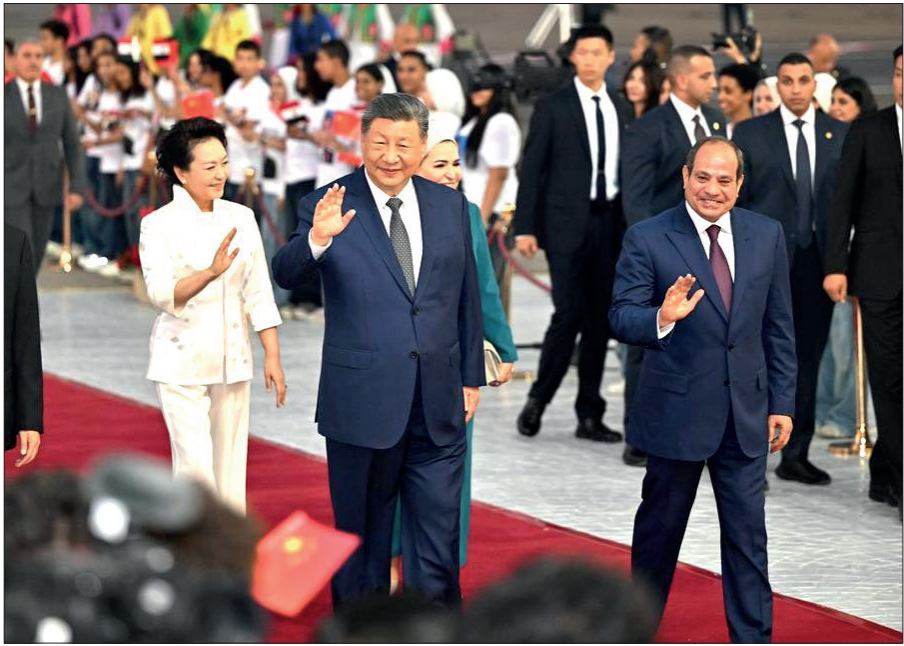


Xi, Egyptian president call for stronger voice of Global South

Both leaders committed to enhancing developing countries within global international order.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi stressed the need to amplify the voice of the Global South, according to a joint statement issued Wednesday.

In the statement, the two heads of state voiced their support for the right of developing countries to participate in global political and economic decision-making in a fair and balanced manner. They are also committed to enhancing the role of emerging markets and developing countries in the international order. — Xinhua



Chinese and Egyptian leaders call for stronger voice of Global South. PHOTO: XINHUA

Nepal links deadly flood to climate change

NEPAL Prime Minister Balendra Shah told Parliament on Wednesday that the catastrophic Bhotekoshi River flood of 26 August, which has left nearly 4,000 people missing, stands as a stark warning of escalating climate risks in the Himalayan region and called on the international community to share responsibility for mitigating its impacts.



Nepal connects devastating river flood disaster to urgent global climate impacts. PHOTO: BRITANNICA

In a detailed address to the House, the prime minister said experts have identified the disaster—one of the largest in the region—as resulting from an avalanche of snow and rock in the high Himalayas.

“This is a serious signal that, alongside climate change, the risks we must bear in the Himalayan region are increasing. — ANI

Iran strikes US military targets across region

IRANIAN forces said they launched on Wednesday attacks on US military targets in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and other countries in the region.

In a statement, the Iranian army said “dozens of the army’s attack drones... have targeted

radar systems and the positions of US forces at the Al Dhafra and Al Minhad bases in the United Arab Emirates”.

It said it also targeted “radar installations and gathering points” of US forces at Bahrain’s Sheikh Isa Air Base. Iran’s Revolutionary Guards mean-

while said they targeted US forces in Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain and Erbil in Iraq’s Kurdistan region.

The Guards said US forces, including some based in Kuwait, carried out an attack that hit a wedding ceremony in Iran’s southern Sirik county, killing four people and

wounding dozens.

It added that Guards forces “carried out a combined missile-drone attack on the headquarters and accommodation of an American commander at Ali Al Salem base” in Kuwait, along with other attacks on Jordan, Bahrain and Erbil. — AFP

Turkiye sees potential for boosting ties with SCO – Erdogan

TURKIYE is open to upgrading its ties with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), though this would not amount to a shift away from the West, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday.

“From our point of view, it is quite possible to bring the relations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to a higher level in the near future. I would also like to emphasize the following in particular. The prospect of Türkiye’s membership in the organization in no case means breaking away

from any bloc or turning its back on the West. Our goal is to strengthen our own influence, guided by a comprehensive vision,” Erdogan told reporters on his return from Bishkek.

Turkiye maintains bilateral trade and economic relations with the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the president noted.

“Everyone can already see that the vast region stretching from China to Central Asia and from Russia to South Asia holds great opportunities for Türkiye in terms of trade and economy. — SPUTNIK



Erdogan highlights potential for upgrading strategic relations with regional cooperation organization. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Russia ranks high in gold

RUSSIA ranks third in the world in gold reserves and second in gold production, Russian Federal Agency for Mineral Resources (Rosnedra) deputy head Aslambek Germakhanov said on Wednesday.

“The Russian Federation ranks third in reserves and second in production [of gold],” Germakhanov said during the Eastern Economic Forum.

The state of the mineral resource base for gold is assessed as stable but requiring serious attention from subsoil users and the regulator, he added.

Russia’s currently explored gold reserves

will allow the country to maintain its leading position in this area for at least 30 years, and up to 45 years when potential resources are taken into account, Germakhanov said.

Russia’s potential gold resource base (categories P1 and P2) currently amounts to 18,000 tonnes.

“If we convert this category into reserves based on conservative estimates, it amounts to around 8,000–10,000 tonnes. These resources would add approximately another 15 years of supply on top of the existing 30-year period,” Germakhanov said. — SPUTNIK