

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

Yangon Circular Railway Upgrade Project: Station renovations, new trains, and increased passenger capacity



DEMU trains are ready to be operated along Yangon Circular Railway to provide rail transport to people daily.

According to Myanma Railways, the stations included in the Yangon Circular Railway upgrading project have now been fully upgraded and came into use earlier this year.

Construction of some new railway stations under the Yangon Circular Railway upgrading project began in early 2022.

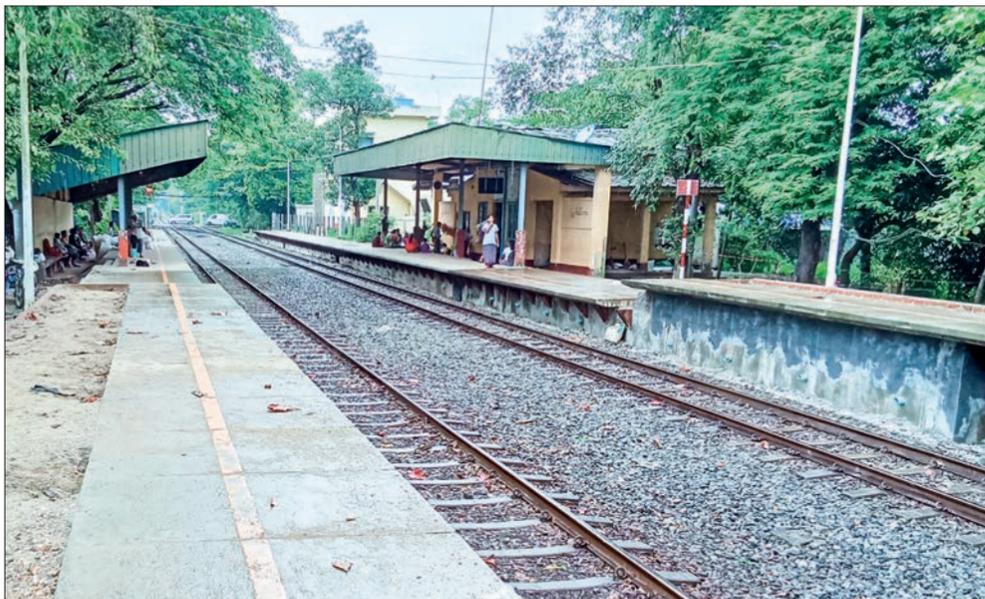
In 2023, Myanma Railways called for tenders to begin the construction of new stations

at Aung San, Kamayut, Okkyin, Phawgan, Thamine and Tamway, all of which are part of the upgrading project. Similarly, tenders were also invited to construct new stations at Hanthawady and Tadagalay in 2024.

The newly built and upgraded stations include ticket booths, electronic control rooms, cashier offices and toilets.

At present, on the left circular route, there are seven trips in each direction daily. Only two new high-standard DEMU trains made from Spain operate in the morning and another two in the afternoon, while passengers on the old Japanese RBE trains pay K400 each as fare, compared with K1,000 each on DEMU trains.

Myanma Railways has divided the Yangon Circular Railway upgrading project into eastern and western sections. Upon completion, trains will run every 10 to 12 minutes, reducing the total time for a full circuit of the city. It is also reported that when the projects are completed, MR will be able to transport about 240,000 passengers per day. — ASH/KNN



Paywetseikkon railway station in North Okkalapa Township. PHOTO: BT

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By Ms Monn

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NATIONAL

Economic sector must align with the New World Order

- ❖ In expanding relationships with our partners, it is necessary to establish sustainable development plans.
- ❖ Economically, in terms of security, and technologically, relationships must be enhanced appropriately across these different sectors.
- ❖ Especially in the economic sector, all of us must make adjustments and reforms to align with the changing global framework known as the New World Order.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the opening of the Forum on Myanmar Beyond 2025: Challenges and Opportunities in a Multipolar World held on 21 March 2025)

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

Flood Warning

(Issued at 2 pm MST on 10 August 2025)

ACCORDING to the 1:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Nanyin Stream at Mogaung is observed as about 0.5 foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

According to the 1:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Nankaung Stream at Mogaung is observed as about one foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

It especially alerts the people who settle near the stream banks and low-lying areas in Mogaung Township, to take precaution measure and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 7:30 am MST on 10 August 2025)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Toungoo has exceeded by about 0.5 foot above its danger level. It may fall about two inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by more than 2.5 feet above its danger level. It may fall about two inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about 1.5 feet above its danger level. It may rise about two inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

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

Weather

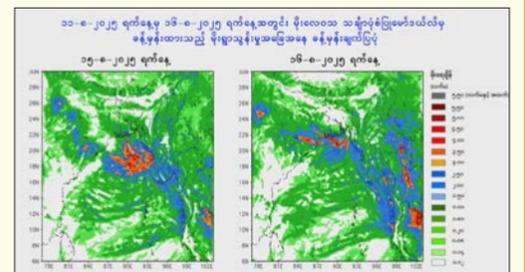
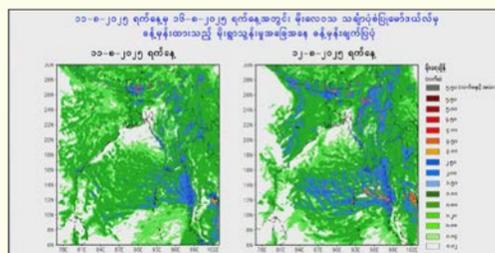
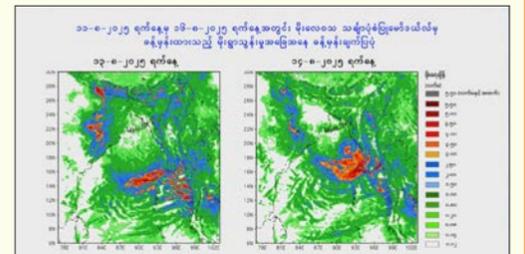
Special Weather News

Issued at 7 pm MST on 10 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the unstable air condition over the Bay of Bengal, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah and Chin states and fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with regionally and isolated heavy falls from 11 August 2025 to 16 August 2025. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hail, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH



Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 10 August 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 1:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over Northwest Bay and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal on 13 August 2025. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 1:15 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.6 Richter Scale with its epicentre Myanmar Sea (about 41 miles west-northwest of CoCo Islands), latitude 14.31°N, longitude 92.78°E, depth 15 kilometres, about 283 miles southwest of Kaba-Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at 13 hour 02 minute 40 second MST on 10 August 2025. — 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.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Authorities, farmers urged to implement contract farming in booming vineyards

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung inspected vineyards in Ywatan Village-tract, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region yesterday, and met with local farmers.

During the meeting, the Union minister said that in order to ensure national food security and stabilize commodity prices, the cultivation of paddy and major crops must be maintained without disruption in accordance with existing laws, rules, and procedures for land use. He added that along with paddy and other major crops, farmers who wish to grow income-generating crops such as grapes should be encouraged to cultivate them by making use of

vacant, fallow, and virgin lands under the permitted rights and conditions.

The Union minister underlined that grape cultivation should not be limited to table grapes but should also include wine grapes for commercial production. He encouraged linking grape farmers with wine producers so that both sides could benefit through the contract farming system, which would contribute to the economic development of both farmers and entrepreneurs, thereby supporting the country's economic growth. He also urged capable farmers to take the lead in implementing grape cultivation and production.

The Union minister further



Union Minister U Min Naung observes vineyards in Ywatan Village-tract, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region yesterday.

discussed the need to fully meet the designated annual acreage for cotton cultivation in the Yamethin area and to achieve the target yield per acre, urging local authorities, relevant departments, and farmers to cooperate in this effort.

Afterwards, relevant directors-general discussed sec-

tor-wise technical requirements that needed to be followed, while the Union minister and officials coordinated to address the matters raised by local farmers.

The Union minister and party then proceeded to the Laephyu Dam in Yamethin Township to inspect the silt deposits caused by Typhoon Yagi. They discussed re-

pairing the dam with the Mandalay Region Government's budget and the possibility of constructing a new dam in a more suitable location to reduce costs. They also observed water inflow to Kyeeni Lake and inspected the water distribution for drinking water and irrigation purposes in the surrounding areas.—MNA/KZL



Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aye Kyaw visits a power station in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday.

MoEP Deputy Minister inspects operations of power stations in Mandalay Region

DEPUTY Minister for Electric Power U Aye Kyaw inspected the 33-megawatt Kyuntapin power station, the 132-megawatt Anisakan power station, and the 132-megawatt Yadanabon power station in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region yesterday. The inspection focused on power transmission and distribution, as well as electricity generation at the Yeywa Hydropower Plant.

He met with officials at the control room of the 33MW Kyuntapin power station, gave foodstuffs to the employees, and inspected the plantation of fruit and other trees within the power station yard.

Subsequently, the deputy minister examined power transmission and distribution operations at both the 132MW Anisakan power station and

the 132MW Yadanabon power station, including power control activities inside the control rooms.

In the afternoon, he viewed round the dam of Yeywa Hydropower Plant, observing the water inflow and dam maintenance. He instructed staff to carry out repair and restoration works to address damage caused by the recent Mandalay earthquake. He also emphasized supply of spare parts for machinery. He looked into the switch yard, control room and embankments at the power plant.

Afterward, he visited the 230kW Shwesayan power station, where he held discussions with officials. He also inspected power transmission and distribution activities within the control room and the switch yard. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Completion ceremony held for micro-solar power and water supply project

A ceremony to mark completion of the Kanseik Village Socio-Economic Development Micro-Solar Power System and Water Supply Project, implemented under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2023), was held yesterday morning at the Dedaye Township General Administration Department, attended by Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Tin Maung Win, Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia, and officials.

Showing a video of the electrification project's implementation, Union Minister U Hla Moe stated that the solar mini-grid and water supply project was realized through combined contributions from the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund (2023), the Union Fund, company investment, and village residents, marking the third mini-grid project under this fund and a successful example of government-public-private cooperation.

The Kansaik Village project, built by Sandisoar Renewable



Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Hla Moe, officials and Chinese Ambassador Ms Ma Jia visit the project's documentary photo galleries displayed at the yesterday event in Dedaye Township.

Energy Development International Company Limited at a cost of over US\$0.78 million, includes a 99KW solar power system with a 120KW backup diesel engine and a water supply system with a water meter, benefiting some 750 residents from 150 households by providing electrici-

ty and clean water to support small-scale manufacturing and businesses, thereby increasing family incomes and contributing significantly to the village's socio-economic development.

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar discussed the status of Chi-

na-Myanmar cooperation in the Mekong-Lancang project, while the Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region spoke about ongoing regional development projects and future plans for the area.

Next, the Managing Director of Sandisoar Renewable Energy Development International

Company provided an update on the project, followed by a local resident expressing gratitude.

The Union minister, the Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region and officials, the Chinese Ambassador, and representatives then toured the project's documentary photo galleries.

After the ceremony, the Union minister met with villagers from Kanseik, Nayyoungka, Phayachaung, Tanyangon, Kontankalay, and Chaukeainsu in Dedaye Township, delivering a speech and coordinating the farmers' submissions.

After arriving at Thakkekin Village, Dala Township, Yangon Region, the Union Minister emphasized the importance of securing raw materials following the construction of modern rice mills, urging cooperation with local rice mill owners and farmer cooperative societies to supply quality varieties and inputs, purchase raw materials at market prices, and expedite efforts to ensure solid income opportunities for over 43,000 farmer families through guaranteed pricing. — MNA/TH

Real estate rents increase in Yangon despite Buddhist lent period

DESPITE the Buddhist Lent, property rents have increased in Yangon without stop.

Along with rising migrant population, of them most are tenants, Yangon's property rent market has now been active and no decline has been seen even during this Buddhist Lent.

"The rent market has been active without stop. Because there are so many displaced people and young people who come

to Yangon for training classes. Some who can afford buy house or apartment but most are tenants. Rents have been happening in most townships. People do house moving if they need, even it is the Buddhist Lent," said an estate agent.

Rent market has been thriving and at the same time, prices have now elevated. Among tenants, some families or company employees or non-Yangon

residents live together by sharing a rent room. Lately, apartments are being rented by six-month contracts or long-term leases only, and three-month contract rooms are difficult to find, said tenants.

Rather than selling and buying activities, rents have been more active in Yangon property market and estate agents said the property market is expected to be better in dry season. — MT/ZS



An aerial view of high-rise buildings in downtown Yangon.

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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NATIONAL

Hlegu, Taikkyi and Hmawby leverage up agriculture and livestock activities

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein visited Hlegu, Taikkyi, and Hmawby townships to inspect the state of agriculture and livestock activities on 9 August.

First, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein inspected 11.71 acres of farmland belonging to farmer U Aung Lwin in Thanapyin Village-tract, Hlegu Township, where natural and pearl fertilizers were being applied, irrigation was powered by solar powered a six-inch diameter water pump, and fish amino acid foliar fertilizer and EM Bokashi compost were displayed.

He observed the combined use of natural and chemical fertilizers on a 20-acre farmland of farmer U Kyaw Win Aung in Gyobyu Village-tract, Taikkyi Township, distributed seeds for

cash crop production, inspected new rice varieties including Aung Naing Toe, Yezin Pawsan (1), Pawsan (2), Pawsanyin, as well as older varieties like Yekyi Pawsan and Pyapon Baykya displayed by the Department of Agriculture.

Afterwards, he also visited U Myo Naing's duck farm in Yanlonnaing Village, Taikkyi Township, to look into the commercial layer duck raising operation, which includes 5,000 adult ducks and 6,000 ducklings, as well as the 15,000 layer ducks raised at the farm of Supreme Development Co Ltd. Water supply process was inspected at Thanatchaung Dam near the livestock zone in Taikkyi Township, including functions of water storage and capacity, the use of machinery to maintain a



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein inspects duck farm in Yanlonnaing Village, Taikkyi Township on 9 August.

clean and attractive dam environment, and the construction of fish ponds and duck farms nearby; necessary measures were then coordinated with the officials.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister visited the 10-acre paddy farm of Daw Aye Aye Paing in Nyaungkon Village, Hmawby Township, where weeds were

being removed to cultivate rain-fed paddy and fertilizer was being applied. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/TH

Three-day illegal trade crackdown seizes goods worth K1.9B

UNDER the supervision of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, efforts to combat the illicit trade are continued effectively by the law.

On 7 and 8 August, the combined teams impounded industrial materials valued at K121.92 million without official documents from a container at the Thilawa Port, industrial materials valued at K10.29 million without official documents at the warehouse of Yangon International Airport, a Scania bus and a Dongfeng tractor head with a trailer (approximately K127 million), heading to Monywa from Yangon and to Mandalay from Kyinsankyawt border, carrying industrial materials and consumer goods without official documents at the Myitnge checkpoint. The action was conducted as per Customs procedures.

On 8 August, the combined on-duty teams seized a Hino truck (approximately K15 million) carrying consumer goods and foodstuffs worth K30.544 million without official documents in Mawlamyine Township, a Nissan UD truck (approximately K50 million), travelling from Chinshwehaw to Lashio,



Confiscated illegal materials at the warehouse of Yangon International Airport.

carrying industrial materials worth K49.339 million without official documents at the Yebu junction combined checkpoint in Lashio Township. The action was conducted under Customs procedures and the related laws.

On 7 August, under the management of the Kayin State Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a combined inspection team seized consumer goods worth K139.74 million without official documents, carried on two Nissan Diesel trucks worth K70 million, near Thayakon Village in Hpa-an Township, totalling K209.74 million. Action is being taken under the Customs procedures.

On 8 August, under the management of the Mandalay Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a combined team seized consumer goods worth K5.96 million without documents, carried on a Toyota Hiace minibus worth K38 million at the Yadanabon Bridge (Mandalay) checkpoint, totalling K43.96 million. Action is being taken under the Customs procedures.

Similarly, on 8 and 9 August, under the management of the Sagaing Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, combined teams impounded 19 iron pipes and 73 related items worth K608.27 million used for illegal gold mining, under the

Myanmar Mines Law; consumer goods worth K4.12 million without documents, under the Export and Import Law; and one circular saw worth K2 million used in illegal logging, under the Forest Law — all at Yadanabon Bridge combined checkpoint in Sagaing and in Ahlon Ward, Monywa, totalling K614.39 million.

Furthermore, under the management of the Customs Department, combined teams seized 153 bracelets and seven kinds of consumer goods worth K119.74 million without documents from two Myanmar nationals at Yangon International Airport on 8 August; and

on 9 August at Asia World Port, one kind of industrial materials worth K288.96 million without documents from eight containers, totalling K408.70 million. Action is being taken under the Customs procedures.

On 9 August, under the management of the Bago Region Illegal Trade Eradication Task Force, a combined team seized industrial materials and consumer goods worth K15.87 million without documents, carried on a Hino Dutro light truck worth K35 million at the Nyaungkhashay permanent checkpoint under the Customs procedures, and illegal teak weighing 0.859 tonne and other illegal timbers weighing 3.122 tonnes worth K1.23 million in Bago, Toungoo and Pyay districts under the Forest Law, totalling K52.11 million.

On the same day, according to the records of the Myanmar Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs, 17 unregistered vehicles and 60 unregistered motorcycles were seized and action is being taken under the relevant laws.

From 7 to 9 August, a total of 36 cases with an estimated value of K1,909.90 million were seized. — MNA/MKKS/KZL

NATIONAL

Conveyance of Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha Images scheduled for October

A ceremony to convey Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images to 21 venues as traditions will take place in Nyaungshwe Township of Shan State (South) in coming October, said U Sai Tun Yi, a member of the pagoda board of trustees.

Aimed at ensuring meritorious activities of residents from Nyaungshwe area of Shan State, the Buddha images will be conveyed as its traditions. The auspicious ceremony to launch conveyance of the images will be held at PhaungdawU monastery, and these images will be carried to Kyaypawkhon Monastery in Intein to spend a night for public obeisance. Like this activity, the Buddha images will be conveyed to 21 significant venues.

“The ceremony will take place under the traditions of ethnics. The festival will include Inntha traditional boat race. The conveyance date has not been set yet. We coordinate with the Shan State



Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images are being conveyed by boat to relevant venues last year.

government to do so,” said U Sai Tun Yi.

Pilgrims and travellers from four corners of the country flock to the ceremony to convey Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images. It is the greatest Buddha Pujaniya festival in Inlay region. Along the route

to 21 significant venues, these Buddha images will be conveyed for public obeisance with song and dance performances. Moreover, traditional boat race of Inntha ethnic by leg rowing which can be seen in Myanmar only will be held at the conveyance festival. — ASH/TTA

MRTV-4 to air new drama series “Love Without Doubt” from 18 August

ACCORDING to actress Khine Thazin Ngu Wah, who plays the lead role, MRTV-4 television channel will begin broadcasting a Myanmar drama series from 18 August, airing every Monday to Friday.

The series, titled “Love Without Doubt”, is based on a story written by Haymar San, with the script penned by Haymar San, Aye Chan Mon, and Aye Myat Cho. The drama is directed by Kyaw Min Thein.

“This is the first series in which I have had the opportunity to play the main character,” said Khine Thazin Ngu Wah. “In this drama, I portray an ordinary young woman who cares deeply for her partner. It’s good to be without doubt — because when doubt exists, it causes unease. I also want to send the message that everyone has an instinct, so if your partner does something wrong, you can sense it. In the story, there are three male leads, and all three are interested in my character. Viewers will find out what kind of personalities



Poster of the drama series “Love Without Doubt”

they have and with whom my character gets along when the series airs”.

The cast includes Aung Paing, Khine Thazin Ngu Wah, Moe Thura, Nyi Nanda, Nayni Nway Htwe, Min Thu, Lucas, Nyein Chan, Kaung Myat, Thet Oo Ko, Kyaw Moe Paing, Hsu Lubh, Htoo Pyae Aung, Zun Lay Phyu, and many other artistes.

“Love Without Doubt” will be broadcast on MRTV-4 from 18 August, at 7:00 pm every Monday to Friday. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar hosts third annual Mic Up! English Speaking Competition 2025

FOR the third year in Myanmar, the Mic Up! English Speaking Competition 2025 took place from 9 am to 5 pm on 9 and 10 August at the promotion area on the Ground Floor of Junction Square in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region.

The Mic Up! English Speaking Competition 2025 was held in collaboration with the Belt and Road Youth English-Speaking Competition, marking the third year the Mic Up! English Speaking Competition has been held in Myanmar. Introduced by the RVi Group in Myanmar and Thailand three years ago, the competition aims to help young people build confidence in their speaking abilities, enhance their public speaking skills, and gain international experience.

There are two routes to enter the national competition: Mini Mic competitions are held



This photo features the third annual Mic Up! English Speaking Competition 2025 underway in Myanmar.

in government schools and universities, from which the best contestants in the Junior and Youth categories are selected to compete in the Mic Up! National Myanmar Round. Contestants in the Preliminary Round

must submit videos and written scripts, and those who meet the criteria are evaluated by VDO English, selected as Gold Winners, and invited to compete in the National Round.

The Mic Up! competition

features two age categories: Juniors (10–16) give a 300-word scripted presentation in up to three minutes, while Youths (16–27) give a 500-word scripted presentation in up to four minutes. This year, 42 Juniors and 24

Youths will compete, with six and three Gold Plus Winners from each category respectively, each receiving K300,000, a medal, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Regional Finals in Bangkok, Thailand.

In the competition, they will face Gold Plus Winners from Thailand and other ASEAN countries, with the Regional Finals champions advancing to the Global Finals in China as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. This year, unlike previous years, the Learning Journey programme for Myanmar’s Gold Plus Winners will be held in Thailand, featuring training courses, company visits, and cultural exchange activities, with participants required to document and videotape their experiences and submit them to the Mic Up Myanmar Committee. — MT/TH

NATIONAL

YGH extends hepatitis C treatment hours to 2-4 pm

THE hepatitis C screening and treatment services at the special outpatient department will be extended to another schedule from 2 pm to 4 pm, according to the Yangon General Hospital.

Hepatitis C outpatient treatment has been available since 1 July 2025.

The YGH provides health-care services to the public on various diseases, including general illness, surgery, diabetes, heart disease, neurology and neurosurgery, gastrointestinal tract, maxillofacial treatment, dental services, orthopaedics and mental health.

Under this new schedule,

any patient with hepatitis C may visit the hospital for treatment, which the YGH has invited.

The special outpatient physical medicine and rehabilitation section of the hospital has been relocated to the new four-storey building since 10 April 2025.

Medical services for outpatients are available from 8 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 4 pm every weekday on the ground floor of the new four-storey building. Rehabilitation exercises and treatment by devices would be provided on weekdays regularly, the YGH had previously announced. — MT/ZN



This photo shows the new four-storey building of the Yangon General Hospital.

Applications open for 2025 NIYE Junior Programme

THOSE who are interested in learning Japan's culture and new things can apply 2025 NIYE Junior Programme (National Institution for Youth Education), said the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

Through practical activities, this is an opportunity to take part in a five-day excursion (from 10 to 15 December 2025) to Tokyo and the surroundings, aiming to help youths from Japan and ASEAN countries grow their critical thinking skill and knowledge to get involved in international communities. It is organized by NIYE.

Interested students can register at <https://forms.gle/YHixcZbbKx1F2KHw7> until 17 August and submit their application to the MAJA office in person by 4 pm between 18 and 22 August.



This image depicts six Brunei students selected for the NIYE Junior Programme 2024.

Applicants must be born between 2 April 2010 and 1 April 2013, must have good command of English writing and speaking skills and must be enthusiastic about learning Japanese culture and new things (such as food).

They must be healthy and flexible in group activities, able to exchange the culture of their own country with students from other countries, able to follow the rules set by MAJA and NIYE and must

hold a PV Myanmar passport and be able to participate until the end of the journey.

Six students will be selected based on the results of the English and general knowledge written test and interview, and selected students will have to incur the flight ticket fee and accommodation cost of 50,000 yen. For more information or enquiries, individuals can contact 09 428612151 or 09 262602121 during office hours, MAJA said. — MT/ZS

MMPO to grant filming and censor approvals to members only, starting 1 October

STARTING from 1 October 2025, Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization will grant permission for filming and censor approval for movies on theatre, movie series, movie videos, music videos, documentary films and short films feature MMPO members or film artistes who are under seeking MMPO membership, MMPO announced it on 8 August.

Under 1996 Myanmar Mo-

tion Pictures Law, MMPO is responsible for giving permission for filming for public entertainment to music videos, documentary films and short films, as well as the issuance of censor approval, when there are motion picture and related business license applications. MMPO shall manage in accordance with existing laws and MMPO constitution. — MT/ZS



Filming is being made at the shooting scene.



'Songs from the Joyful Singing Heyday' hit Yangon stage

THE 'Sopyaw Khit Ga Thichin Mya' (Songs from the Joyful Singing Heyday) concert, fea-

Singers who will perform at the 'Songs from the Joyful Singing Heyday' concert.

turing singers Nwet Yin Win, Thiri Ko Ko, Chaw Su Khin and other popular vocalists from the joyful singing era, was held at The Heart of Rangoon - THOR in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, from 6:30 pm to 9 pm on 10 August.

Along with Nwet Yin Win, Thiri Ko Ko and Chaw Su Khin, audiences enjoyed performances by former stars of the MRTV 'Let's Sing & Let's Enjoy' (Sokya Mel Pyor Kya Mel) programme such as Soe Aung (Kaung Kin Pya), Ank Maw Oo, Arkar Hein,

Kyi Tha Hein, Min Zaw, Win Thawta and Ange Lay. In fact, it was an unforgettable evening for song lovers.

The concert was accompanied by Alarm Band, providing full musical backing for all performances. — ASH/KZL

OPINION

Efficiently apply robotic technology in human society

XINHUA News Agency on 9 August 2025 stated a news story with the headline: 2025 World Robot Conference kicks off in Beijing. It mentioned that the 2025 World Robot Conference (WRC), which kicked off on Friday in Beijing, unveiled future development trends of embodied intelligent robots, focusing on fields such as cognition, decision-making and safety.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the event, with a record number of participating companies and international supporting institutions. The conference has become a key barometer for the global robotics industry. Under the theme “Making Robots Smarter, Embodied Agents More Intelligent,” the 2025 WRC showcases more than 1,500 cutting-edge products from about 200 domestic and international robotics companies, the agency stated.

Scientists should develop robotic technologies without prioritizing the interests of any one group or nation, but rather for the benefit of all humanity. Robots that assist daily life and various activities should be invented and produced to make life more convenient and smooth for everyone. Building on existing technologies, more advanced innovations should be created with the help of robots. Only then can humanity worldwide experience peaceful, prosperous, and positive outcomes.

Efforts in this event showcased the advancement of innovative skills and the creativity of humans in the science arena. Advancement of science and technology in the robotics sector indicates a crucial role of robots in the daily routine of different communities, as the capacity of robots is reliable day by day. No one can deny that the usefulness of robots has rapidly developed and expanded, whether they are used for the benefit of human society or in less favourable contexts.

As the saying “Robots are tools” goes, no matter how advanced and useful robots become, their influence and excessive reliance on them should be avoided. Although AI technologies will continue to develop remarkably in the use of robots, the role of humans, the creators and inventors of these robots, should never be forgotten. Due to the advancement of technology, while using robots, humans must always retain the ability to control them and keep that power firmly in their own hands.

Robots were originally invented to be tools that serve human society. If robots are used to cause harm, danger, or suffering, or bring no benefit to others, the human world will not be peaceful. The original purpose will only be fulfilled when robots are used effectively for the benefit of all humanity. Everyone should participate in using robots beneficially in various sectors to create advanced and prosperous human communities that serve the interests of all people.

Scientists should develop robotic technologies without prioritizing the interests of any one group or nation, but rather for the benefit of all humanity. Robots that assist daily life and various activities should be invented and produced to make life more convenient and smooth for everyone. Building on existing technologies, more advanced innovations should be created with the help of robots. Only then can humanity worldwide experience peaceful, prosperous, and positive outcomes.

Conquering the Universal Fear of Public Speaking

By Ms Monn

PUBLIC speaking is widely recognized as one of the most common and intense fears experienced by people across the globe. Numerous surveys show that it ranks even higher than fears of spiders, heights, or death itself. For many, the mere thought of standing in front of an audience, whether large or small, triggers a rush of nervous energy: trembling hands, a racing heart, a dry mouth, and a deep sense of dread. This anxiety often begins early in life, stemming from moments of embarrassment in front of peers, a fear of social rejection, or media portrayals of public speaking disasters where people freeze or falter under pressure.

But while understanding the origins of this fear can be helpful, what truly matters is learning how to overcome it. Fortunately, public speaking is not a talent reserved for a select few; it is a skill that can be learned, improved, and even mastered over time. With consistent effort and the right strategies, anyone can transform stage fright into stage presence. Three powerful tools: visualization, deep breathing, and thorough preparation, form the foundation for building confidence and controlling anxiety.

The Power of Visualization

One of the most effective methods for reducing public speaking anxiety is visualization. The human brain has difficulty distinguishing between a vividly imagined event and a real one. This means we can “trick” our minds into believing we’ve already succeeded on stage by mentally rehearsing a positive experience.

Instead of simply hoping that your speech will go well, take time each day to imagine it in great detail. Find a quiet place, close your eyes, and picture yourself walking confidently onto the stage or into a meeting room. Visualize the setting: the lights, the sound of people settling into their seats, the temperature of the room, even the texture of the floor under your feet. Imagine yourself standing tall, smiling, and looking calm.

Now, imagine the delivery. Hear your voice — clear, steady, and expressive — as you begin speaking. Picture the audience

nodding in agreement, smiling, or laughing at the right moments. Visualize handling small mishaps with ease: if your mouth gets dry, you calmly take a sip of water; if you forget a point, you glance at your notes and continue without panic. Play this mental movie daily for 10 to 15 minutes in the days leading up to your speech.

This kind of mental rehearsal helps your brain form new, positive neural pathways associated with public speaking. Over time, the imagined scenario begins to feel more familiar, reducing the sense of threat. The fear of the unknown fades, replaced by a sense of control and readiness.

Mastering Your Breath

The next essential tool is deep breathing, which helps manage the body’s physical response to fear. When we’re anxious, we often breathe rapidly and shallowly from our chest. This is part of the “fight-or-flight” response — our body’s way of preparing for danger. However, this kind of breathing increases anxiety by reducing the amount of oxygen to the brain and making us feel even more panicked.

To break this cycle, practice diaphragmatic breathing, which activates the parasympathetic nervous system — the part responsible for relaxation and calm.

Here’s a simple technique known as the 4-7-8 method:

- Inhale slowly through your nose for four seconds, letting your stomach expand.
- Hold your breath for seven seconds.
- Exhale slowly through your mouth for eight seconds, letting your body relax.

Repeat this cycle for one to two minutes. It might feel awkward at first, but with practice, it becomes a natural stress response. The goal is to train your body to respond calmly, even when your mind is anxious.

Start by practising in everyday low-pressure situations — before phone calls, meetings, or even while waiting in line. Then, on the day of your speech, use deep breathing right before going on stage or even during your talk if needed. A few deep breaths can reduce nervous symptoms and help you refocus your thoughts.

The Confidence of Preparedness

Nothing replaces the value of thorough preparation. It is the most concrete way to build real, lasting confidence. Many people

think that memorizing a speech word-for-word will help, but in reality, understanding your content is far more important. When you know your material deeply, you can adapt if something unexpected happens, such as losing your place or forgetting a sentence.

Start by writing out your main points clearly and organizing them logically. Then practice speaking out loud, not just reading silently. Rehearse multiple times, working on pacing, clarity, and emphasis. Incorporate body language: stand up, move naturally, use hand gestures, and make eye contact. If possible, record yourself to identify issues such as filler words (“um,” “like”), monotone delivery, or awkward pauses. Watching yourself may feel uncomfortable, but it provides invaluable insight.

Next, simulate the real environment as much as possible. If you’re going to present in a classroom, stand at the front of a room; if it’s a Zoom presentation, rehearse with your webcam on. Practice using your slides or visuals, and rehearse transitions between topics.

Finally, prepare for interruptions and challenges. What will you say if someone asks a tough

question? How will you respond if you lose your place? Anticipating these issues and rehearsing your responses will make you feel more in control. Something as simple as having a recovery phrase ready (“Let me just gather my thoughts” or “As I was saying...”) can help you recover smoothly.

Building Momentum Through Small Wins

Overcoming the fear of public speaking doesn’t happen overnight. It’s a gradual process, and progress comes through consistent practice and small victories. Start by applying these techniques to low-stakes situations: introduce yourself confidently in a group, speak up in meetings, or give a short toast among friends. Use each opportunity to practice visualization, breathing, and preparation.

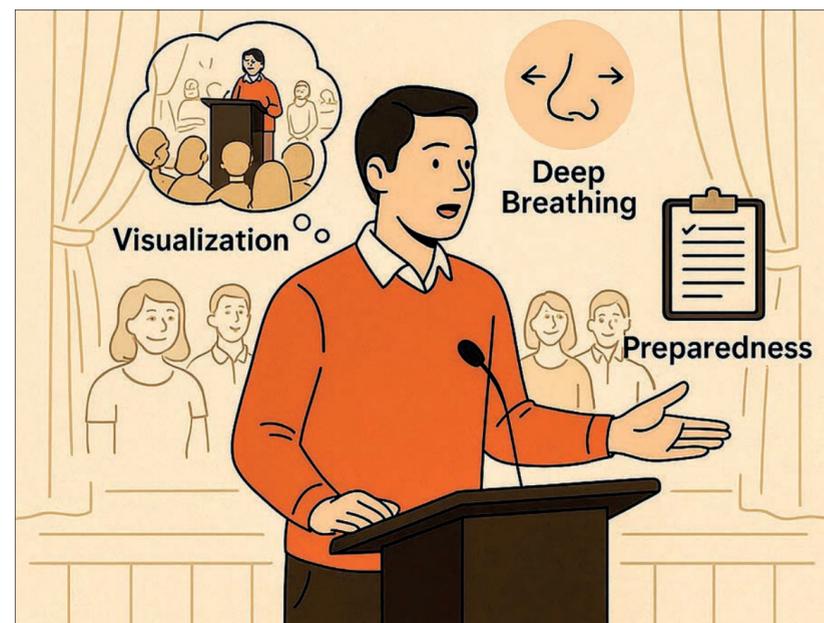
As you grow more comfortable, take on slightly larger challenges. Speak for a few minutes in a team meeting, lead a classroom discussion, or volunteer to give a short presentation. Each successful experience chips away at your fear and builds your sense of capability.

It’s important to accept that some nervousness is normal — even seasoned public speakers feel it. But the key is not to eliminate nerves; it’s to manage them and prevent them from controlling you. Nervous energy, when channelled properly, can even enhance your performance by keeping you alert and energized.

From Fear to Connection

Ultimately, the goal of public speaking is not perfection — it’s connection. Audiences are not looking for flawless delivery; they want to feel engaged, informed, or inspired. By focusing on your message and your audience rather than your fear, you shift the spotlight away from yourself and toward the value you’re offering.

With the combined power of visualization, deep breathing, and thoughtful preparation, the spotlight transforms from a threatening glare into a welcoming beacon. Public speaking becomes not a terrifying test, but a powerful tool for connection and influence — a skill that anyone, with enough effort, can master.



Manner of a Student Who Will Certainly Pass the Exam

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

I have seen as well as taught many kinds of students who will certainly pass the exam. But sometimes, I am under the illusion that some students cannot overcome the barrier called the exam with their eyes shut. Strangely enough, some students not only do well in their exams but also with flying colours. On the other hand, some students are expected to pass the exam with distinctions, yet their exam results may not go as well as expected in one way or the other. This may be said to be ‘exam luck’. Of course, there can be noticed a world of difference between students who will do badly in the exam and those who will not.

It is little wonder that a student fails the exam for the simple reason that there are only two possibilities when taking an exam: passed or failed. To say it candidly, failing the exam is not the end of the world. In other words, exams are not the life of a student. If a student is unable to sit an exam, he can try it again and again, humorous to say, as long as he is alive. However, students who wish to pass the exam tend to fear failing the exam to death, except that some have self-confidence in doing well on the exam for sure, even with distinctions. In the main, students who want to pass the exam like to be firmly determined to succeed in the exam in just the only one academic year. Hence, almost all students who have passed an exam have dogged determination to be successful in the exam only in one year.

And many students who actually would like to pass the exam prefer to have a sound understanding of their studies rather than memorizing them by heart. They have known that such an understanding will only make them learn the studies in their long-term memory. Thus, clever students are given to studying their subject matter within the space of 24 hours after the lecture without fail. The reason why they have to study during this time is that their ability to understand may lessen bit by bit as long as their learning time takes. For a proper understanding of school lessons, they are inclined to practice insight learning, in which a student is able to study school subjects in depth. Therefore, some students are never hesitant to go and ask their teachers, classmates or even senior students the facts and figures of something that they have not yet understood well or at all.

The fact that students pass the exam with their eyes closed needs regular study, but together with frequent practice and continuous repetition of school lessons as much as they can, particularly for the matriculation examination. Quite frankly, simply regular study will be inadequate for intelligent students who hope to do well in the exams with remarkable achievements. Most of all, regular study can only give rise to a better understanding of school lessons than average. Students’ practice and repetition of school studies are more likely to depend on their learning rate.



However, the learning rate is, students who are perfectly willing to pass the exam often revise all of their school subjects, namely, daily, weekly or sometimes monthly, just knowing that memory and forgetting always go hand in hand. School lessons are certain to come and go easily due to proactive or retroactive inhibition. Therefore, students do as much practice and repetition of school studies as needed for their exams. Needless to say, practice makes perfect.

It is natural that, as human beings, students cannot stay away from a variety of physical, mental and emotional states. Most high school students, especially those who will sit the matriculation examination, are off colour too often, especially due to stress from studies. At that time, what they should know is that physical health enables learning readiness to study subjects, join group discussions or carry out school activities heart and soul at all times. Academic high-flyers, therefore, take good care of their health so as not to postpone or inhibit their daily learning routines. Like physical health, intelligent students know how to keep their mental and emotional well-being pretty well. The commonest mental or emotional state occurring in students’ minds is nothing but test anxiety or exam nerves, which means that they are frightened of taking exams. Nevertheless, some students are apt to prepare for the exam by studying hard and enough, having little anxiety or no intense anxiety over exam results. For them, several emotional states due to family or friendship cases can be neglected very quickly.

After all, students who will pass the exam beyond doubt usually have a lifelong ambition; it may be a doctor, an engineer, a teacher or something else. This ambition will prepare the ground for the future step with which they desire to walk through their whole life. It is an undeniable fact that too many studies can make most students exhausted or sometimes depressed to the extent that they do not want to go to school anymore. Despite this, their life ambition enables them to keep hard work and diligence, stamina in particular, which is the physical or mental strength to do something difficult for a long period, in their school studies. As to preparation for the exam, many students do not have the stamina to conduct studies throughout the entire school year. Still, bright students always take a lot of stamina for an academic year on end to arrive at their learning target. Last but not least, students who will do well in the exam without a doubt have a positive attitude towards exams, mainly ‘This too will pass’.

SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

Four astronauts home from space station after splashdown

Parachutes were deployed to slow the capsule's descent from 17,500 miles per hour to just 16 miles per hour.



NASA astronaut Anne McClain gives a thumbs up after returning from a tour on the International Space Station. **PHOTO: NASA/AFP**

AN international crew of four astronauts is back home on Earth Saturday after nearly five months aboard the International Space Station, returning safely in a SpaceX capsule.

The spacecraft carrying US astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan's Takuya Onishi and Russian cosmonaut Kirill Peskov splashed down off California's coast at 8:44 am local time (1534 GMT).

Their return marks the end

of the 10th crew rotation mission to the space station under NASA's Commercial Crew Program, which was created to succeed the Space Shuttle era by partnering with private industry.

The SpaceX Dragon capsule, owned by billionaire Elon Musk, successfully detached from the International Space Station (ISS) at 2215 GMT on Friday.

During reentry, the capsule reaches temperatures of 3,500

degrees Fahrenheit (1,925 Celsius) before deploying parachutes to slow its descent from 17,500 miles per hour to just 16 miles per hour.

After splashing down, the astronauts were recovered and could finally breathe Earth's air after months in space. They conducted various scientific experiments, including studies on plant growth and microgravity's effects on human eyes.

NASA's acting Administrator Sean Duffy praised the mission's significance for future exploration. Astronaut Christina McClain described her farewell as "bittersweet," highlighting the global collaboration behind such missions. Meanwhile, NASA faces a 20 percent workforce reduction due to federal budget cuts, while President Trump prioritizes crewed missions to the Moon and Mars. Recently, astronauts Zena Cardman, Mike Fincke, Kimiya Yui, and Oleg Platonov began a six-month ISS mission. — AFP

Nigerian scientists await return of Egusi seeds sent to space

TEMIDAYO Oniosun, founder of the Lagos-based firm Space in Africa, believes that if humans are to colonize Mars, they must consider food diversity, starting with Egusi soup, a Nigerian staple.

His company is expecting Egusi melon seeds to return to Earth after a trip to the International Space Station (ISS), marking the first food native to West Africa sent to space. Oniosun emphasized that space exploration is a global mission, not limited to American or European efforts, and future African astronauts might enjoy familiar tastes.

Experiments on growing food in space are crucial for long-duration missions, where

resupply is impractical. Researchers at the University of Florida and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria will study the seeds' exposure to space and zero gravity, monitoring their germination and performance post-return.

The inclusion of Egusi seeds has sparked excitement in Nigeria, highlighting the cultural significance of the food. Oniosun noted that sending beloved foods into space generates public interest in the space industry.

He believes that the future of humanity in space should reflect Earth's rich diversity, raising the question of whether other traditional dishes, like pounded yam, will also reach the stars. — AFP



Egusi soup with pounded yam is a Nigerian staple. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Ancient oracle bone inscriptions in Europe digitally preserved by Chinese team

A university team in central China's Henan Province has successfully completed the high-definition digitization of 542 oracle bone inscriptions housed in European institutions, marking significant progress in preserving these cultural treasures in their ancestral home.

The inscriptions were digitized by the oracle bone script information processing laboratory at Anyang Normal University in the city of Anyang, which is known as the home of oracle bones.

Of the inscriptions that have been digitized, 485 are housed in the Ethnological Museum in Berlin, Germany, and the remainder are housed in different institutions in France.

Liu Yongge, the lab's direc-

tor, said the team is currently processing the data to create detailed digital models, which will be shared globally via an AI research platform.

The lab is also negotiating with institutions in Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands and Belgium to digitally preserve further oracle bone inscriptions, he noted. Oracle bone script, or Jiaguwen, is an ancient Chinese writing system. Inscriptions were carved on tortoise shells or animal bones. Jiaguwen is the earliest known form of Chinese writing, composed of the oldest fully developed characters found in China. More than 160,000 inscriptions have been excavated from the Yinxu ruins in Anyang and are now in collections scattered at home and abroad. — Xinhua

New York declares total war on prolific rat population

NEW York City is intensifying its efforts to combat the pervasive rat problem that affects its streets and subways, causing residents to fear for their safety.

Officials have moved beyond traditional methods, such

as gassing burrows, to incorporate high-tech mapping tools aimed at sterilizing the rat population.

Public education campaigns are also underway to discourage food waste, which

sustains the rodents.

Caroline Bragdon, director of neighborhood interventions for the city's Pest Control Services, noted that reducing food availability can lead to fewer rats and less breeding.

The city is testing various strategies in Harlem to find effective solutions. With 8.5 million residents, New York offers abundant food sources for rats, from overflowing trash bins to discarded food.

The city has introduced sealed trash containers to mitigate this issue, leading to positive feedback from residents. Inspectors utilize a rat tracker app to monitor rodent activity and educate the public on cleanliness. — AFP



New York City is testing out an arsenal of different tools in Harlem, in the northern part of the city, to try and find new products and methods to tackle the rats. **PHOTO: AFP**

U can't pay this: MC Hammer sued over delinquent car loan

JPMorgan Chase claims it loaned \$114,000 to Hammer and his company to purchase the vehicle in 2023.

BAGGY pants-wearing rapper MC Hammer is being sued in a US court for allegedly failing to pay off a car loan.

The man behind the 1990 megahit "U Can't Touch This" is facing a lawsuit from JPMorgan Chase claiming he has stopped making payments on a luxury Land Rover.

The suit, filed in a California court last week, names MC Hammer and U Can't Touch This LLC as defendants in the case, claiming the bank loaned

them \$114,000 to buy the vehicle in 2023.

But after allegedly missing a number of monthly payments, the rapper and his company still owe more than \$76,000.

Hammer, whose real name is Stanley Burrell, broke onto the rap scene in the 1980s, but became a global figure with "U Can't Touch This."

The rapper's signature "Hammer Pants," coupled with his rapidly moving elastic legs, made for a dance move that was



MC Hammer (L), seen here with South Korean singer PSY (R) in 2012, is being sued in California over an allegedly unpaid car loan. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

copied all over the world.

Despite a tie-up Mattel figu-

rine and the "Hammerman" cartoon, his stardom waned and by

the mid-1990s, Hammer was going through bankruptcy. — AFP

Antonio Banderas rules out retirement as he turns 65

SPANISH film star Antonio Banderas said in an interview published Sunday for his birthday that he has no plans to slow down now that he has reached 65.

"When I was 20, I thought that 65-year-olds walked with a cane," said Banderas, known for roles in films such as "The Mask of Zorro", "Desperado" and "Philadelphia", in an interview with the Spanish daily El País.

"Back then, at 65 you retired. Not anymore — now it's later."

"Maybe I'm doing things I shouldn't be doing," added Banderas, who suffered a heart attack in 2017. "But the doctors



Antonio Banderas, pictured with Salma Hayek in 2023, is 65 but says he has no plans to stop working. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

don't say anything to me. They say I'm fine, that I should do whatever I want."

The actor said he has recently started music theory

classes and bought himself a piano. "I think I'd be one of those people who die if they stop. And I work at what I love; it's been the luck of my life," he said. — AFP

Sri Lanka launches online ticketing for national parks to reduce queues

VISITORS to Sri Lankan national parks can purchase tickets online from Sunday, the Department of Wildlife Conservation announced.

The department said the measure was introduced af-

ter tourists experienced long delays due to queues at various parks. Tickets can be purchased through the official website of the department.

Sri Lankan national parks are popular among

both local and foreign tourists. Official data showed that national parks earned a revenue of 3.08 billion rupees (about US\$10 million) in the first half of 2025. — Xinhua

Disney settles Trump-supporting 'Star Wars' actor lawsuit

GINA Carano, a former "Star Wars" actor, has reached a settlement with Disney after suing the company for wrongful termination due to her controversial social media posts.

Carano, known for her role in the Disney+ series "The Mandalorian," was fired in 2021 for posts deemed "abhorrent and unacceptable," including comparisons between being a conservative in the US and being Jewish in Nazi Germany.

She also faced backlash for mocking COVID-19 mask-wearers and for her comments on transgender issues. Carano's lawsuit, supported by billionaire Elon Musk, claimed that Disney damaged her reputation

and career prospects after she expressed her political views, which led to harassment from an "extreme progressive" online mob. The lawsuit was funded by Musk's X platform, which Carano had publicly engaged with regarding free speech.

Disney announced the settlement on Thursday, expressing a desire to explore future collaboration with Carano.

While the terms of the agreement were not disclosed, Carano hinted at the resolution on social media, stating, "...and the truth shall set you free." The case highlights the ongoing culture wars in the US and Disney's involvement in these contentious debates. — AFP



Gina Carano, who had a major role in the wildly popular Disney+ series "The Mandalorian" until 2021, had claimed wrongful termination. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

ECON: WORLD

Report sheds light on global value of China's green push

CHINA has contributed its wisdom, solutions and strength to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity and the advancement of sustainable development for mankind, according to a think tank report released on Sunday.

Titled "Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains for Beautiful China and World: China's Ecological Civilization Concept and Practice, and How They Inspire the World," the report was jointly released by Xinhua Institute, a think tank affiliated with Xinhua News Agency, and the Research Centre for Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization.

According to the report,

The country is actively involved in building a green Belt and Road initiative.



In this undated file photo, technicians install photovoltaic panels at a solar power farm in Dongshan county, Fujian province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China has demonstrated the global value of the concept that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" by solidifying global green consensus, stimulating the vitality of green transition, leading global environmental governance and jointly building a green Belt and Road.

In advancing the global green energy transition, China's accelerated development of the new energy sector has enriched global supply and alleviated global inflationary pressures. For ten years in a row, contributing more than 45 per cent of the growth in global non-fossil energy consumption, the report noted. — Xinhua

Maldives sees record 108 foreign investments in 1 year: minister

THE Maldivian government has attracted 108 foreign investments in about one year, a marked improvement from previous years, state-run PSM News reported on Saturday, quoting a senior minister.

Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed said that between 2013 and 2018, which was previously considered the best period

for investments, there were on average 81 foreign investments per year. However, since President Mohamed Muizzu took office, there have been 108 foreign investments in around one year, he said.

He said the current government has hosted business forums in half a dozen countries. These forums have directly contributed to an uptick of invest-

ment queries and registered investments in the Maldives, he said.

Saeed said the government puts a lot of effort into creating an investor-friendly environment.

The Foreign Investment Act has been revised after 45 years, putting the investment frameworks in line with international norms. — Xinhua

Brunei boosts rice production to achieve self-sufficiency

BRUNEI is intensifying efforts to achieve 100 per cent self-sufficiency in rice production as part of its food security strategy, a government minister said on Saturday.

The country is introducing a new padi variety capable of yielding five to seven metric tons per hectare per season, said Haji Abdul Manaf Metussin, minister of primary resources and tourism, at the legislative council.

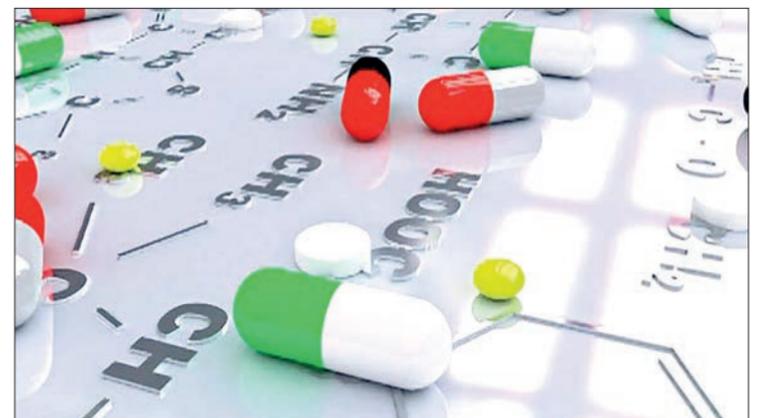
Measures include improving soil fertility through organic fertilizers, enhancing irrigation systems, upgrading post-harvest methods, and supplying farmers with modern equipment. The ministry

is also strengthening farmers' skills through the Rice Farmer School programme. In addition, Brunei is exploring new investment opportunities and

securing rice supply sources, particularly within the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) — Xinhua



Brunei is exploring new investment opportunities and securing rice supply sources. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**



upcoming tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals could reach 250 per cent. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

Trump says incoming pharma tariff may go as high as 250%

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that upcoming tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals could reach 250 per cent, after starting at a lower level, while adding he plans to also unveil fresh duties on foreign semiconductors.

"We'll be putting (an) initially small tariff on pharmaceuticals, but in one year, one-and-a-half years, maximum, it's going to go to 150 per cent," Trump said in an interview on CNBC.

"And then it's going to go to 250 per cent because we want pharmaceuticals made in our country," he added.

In the same interview, Trump said he expects to raise the US tariff on Indian imports "very substantially over the next 24 hours" due to the country's

purchases of Russian oil.

While Trump has taken aim at products from different countries with varying tariff rates after imposing a 10-per-cent levy on almost all trading partners in April, these have excluded certain products he planned to target separately.

These sector-specific tariffs have generally come after government investigations that look into the national security concerns surrounding certain imports.

After earlier embarking on probes on imported semiconductors and pharmaceuticals, the Trump administration has signalled plans to wrap up these studies which could lead to new tariffs. — AFP

Large-scale carbon capture, utilization, storage site established in north China

THE carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) project of the Bayan Oilfield, located in Bayannur in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, has injected over 70,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) into oil reservoirs.

This marks the establishment of a large-scale CO2 utilization and storage base in Inner Mongolia, according to the Bayannur municipal government.

The Bayan Oilfield has over 300 production wells with deep crude oil deposits. It has long utilized a water-flooding

method for oil recovery — injecting water into oil reservoirs to push oil toward production wells. Its recovery rate using this method is about 20 per cent. To conserve water and reduce carbon emissions, the oilfield began exploring the use of CO2 for oil recovery in 2020. Through its CCUS project, the company has increased its oil recovery rate to approximately 45 per cent, according to Yang Xuesong, the chief geologist of the Bayan Exploration and Development Branch of PetroChina Huabei Oilfield Company. — Xinhua

Bullet train services in western Japan cancelled due to heavy rain

SOME bullet train services in western and southwestern Japan were cancelled all day Sunday due to heavy rain, operator JR West said.

Services were cancelled on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line between Hiroshima and Hakata stations after they were halted at 1:30 pm, the operator said. Trains between Shin-Osaka and Hiroshima were also delayed as bullet trains needed to return from Hiroshima or Okayama to Shin-Osaka.

Certain sections of the Tokaido Shinkansen Line, which runs between Tokyo and Osaka, were suspended for 25 minutes in the afternoon before resuming,

operator JR Central said. Heavy rain continued in southwestern Fukuoka

Prefecture, in the northern Kyushu region, and in western Yamaguchi Prefecture

as the weather agency warned of landslides and flooding. — Kyodo



JR Hakata Station in Fukuoka Prefecture is crowded on 10 August 2025, as bullet train services in western and southwestern Japan were cancelled all day due to heavy rain. PHOTO: KYODO

Afghanistan adopts new measures to regulate mining and promote economic growth

THE Ministry of Mines and Petroleum of Afghanistan has announced new programmes aimed at standardizing the management of the country's mines and preventing illegal extraction, according to TOLO News.

These initiatives are designed to create job opportunities, attract investment, boost industry, and promote economic self-sufficiency.

Homayoun Afghan, the ministry's spokesperson, emphasized the commitment to proper mine management to foster economic growth and self-reliance.

He stated, "We will not allow illegal extraction and will curb smuggling to ensure all mining operations are conducted legally."

The ministry is also focused on preventing



The bidding process for mining contracts is progressing, with contracts awarded only to companies with proven technical capacity and financial resources.

PHOTO: AHMAD SAHEL ARMAN / AFP/FILE

the smuggling of mineral resources and ensuring that raw materials are processed within Afghanistan.

The bidding process for mining contracts is progressing, with contracts awarded only to compa-

nies with proven technical capacity and financial resources.

Economic expert Shams Rahman Ahmadzai highlighted the importance of foreign investors also investing in the pro-

cessing sector to create jobs for the unemployed youth. While some major mines are still being explored, those in production have already generated public benefits and revenue. — ANI

Tesla to launch new Experience Centre in Delhi's Aerocity tomorrow

TESLA is set to open its new Experience Centre on 11 August in New Delhi, marking a significant development in the India chapter of the US automobile major.

The Delhi centre of Tesla is located at Worldmark 3 in the Aerocity area of the national capital. It will offer visitors an opportunity to explore Tesla's latest elec-

tric vehicles introduced in India. In a post on social media platform X, Tesla wrote, "Tesla Experience Centre, Aerocity — opening tomorrow, 11 August, at 2 pm. Delhi, Worldmark 3."

This centre will be the second showroom of Tesla after its first centre in Mumbai, located at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). — ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (232N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (232N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Brunei's Muara Port expansion project to be completed by 2027

Upon completion, the project will extend existing terminal facilities by over 300 metres, allowing Muara Port to accommodate 50,000-tonne container vessels.



This photo taken on 8 August 2025 shows the construction site of the expansion project of Muara Port container terminal in Brunei. **PHOTO: LIMENG/XINHUA**

THE expansion project of Brunei's Muara Port container terminal is progressing steadily, and is expected to be completed as scheduled by the end of 2027, the Muara Port Company (MPC) told Xinhua on Friday.

According to the MPC, a China-Brunei joint venture established in 2017, the land reclamation and foundation work for the new terminal have progressed smoothly since its launch in August 2024.

Muara Port, Brunei's only public deep-water port currently managed and operated by the MPC, is one of the flagship projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) between the two countries.

At the construction site on Friday, the emerging new coastline in the reclamation area is clearly visible, with various heavy machinery operating in orderly fashion.

According to the MPC, the project will extend existing terminal facilities by over 300 metres, enabling Muara Port to accommodate 50,000-tonne container vessels upon completion.

The MPC told Xinhua that the project will expand container berths and upgrade existing container and multipurpose terminals, which will significantly enhance the port's handling capacity and better serve Brunei's economic development and bilateral cooperation under the BRI.

Brunei is a Southeast Asian country with rich oil and gas resources. In 2024, Muara Port handled over 1.9 million tonnes of container cargo. — Xinhua

Thousands protest in Israel over government plans to take control of Gaza

THOUSANDS of people protested in Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities against the backdrop of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to establish control over the entire Gaza Strip, the Times of Israel reported.

On Thursday, Netanyahu announced that Israel intended to establish control over the entire Gaza Strip in order to create a security perimeter and subsequently transfer it to the control of a new "civilian government." He added that at the same time, the State of Israel did not plan to maintain long-term control over the strip. On Saturday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that Israel's plan to expand the military operation in Palestinian territory would have negative consequences for the entire region and worsen the situation in the Gaza Strip.

Protesters gathered in Tel Aviv and cities across Israel on Saturday night to call for a hostage deal and a ceasefire before Israel begins its planned mission to take over Gaza. — SPUTNIK

Trump may use military against drug cartels: reports

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is moving to target Latin American drug cartels with the military, US media said Friday, after Washington designated several narcotics trafficking groups as "terrorist" organizations earlier this year.

The New York Times reported that Trump has directed the Pentagon to use military force against cartels deemed terrorist organizations.

The Wall Street Journal said the president ordered options to be prepared, with the use of special forces and the provision of intelligence support under discussion, and that any action would be coordinated with foreign partners.

White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly, while not confirming the reports, said in a statement that Trump's "top priority is protecting the homeland, which



Mexican police on patrol in Sinaloa state, which has been shaken by cartel infighting. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

is why he took the bold step to designate several cartels and gangs as foreign terrorist organizations." The United States designated Venezuela's Tren de

Aragua, Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel and six other drug trafficking groups with Latin American roots as terror groups in February. The US embassy in Mexico

released a statement later Friday, saying both countries would use "every tool at our disposal to protect our peoples" from drug trafficking groups. — AFP

Asia's plastic leakage to environment to rise 70% by 2050: OECD

PLASTIC waste leakage to the environment in Asian countries could increase by nearly 70 per cent by 2050 from 2022 levels without effective measures to reduce the pollution, according to an OECD report released recently.

Describing the region as a "hotspot for plastic pollution," the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in its report that mismanaged plastic waste remains a major concern, with 8.4 million tonnes leaking to the environment there in 2022.

Plastic waste is a major environmental issue, polluting rivers and oceans and posing health risks to wildlife and humans as microplastics enter the body. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Myanmar Dragon Boat Team misses podium at 2025 World Games in Chengdu

THE Myanmar dragon boat team fell short of the podium in the finals of the 2025 World Games Dragon Boat Race, held in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China, from 7 to 17 August.

On 10 August, Myanmar competed in the medal-deciding races, which included the Mixed 10-crew 200-metre, 500-metre, and 2,000-metre events, as well as the Open 8-crew 200-metre, 500-metre, and 2,000-metre events. Indonesia secured three gold medals, Ukraine won two, and Thailand took one. Myanmar placed fourth in four events, fifth in one, seventh in



Men's 8-crew 200-metre boat race in progress.

one, and ninth in another.

The Myanmar team, led by Myanmar Rowing and Canoeing Federation President U Thaung Htaik Min, comprised six male and six female athletes, along with officials.

The dragon boat competition saw participation from the host nation, China, as well as Chinese Taipei, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Cambodia, Ukraine, Hungary, Spain, the Czech Republic, and other countries.—Arkar Lin/KZL

Team Myanmar fails to advance in AFC U20 women's Asian cup qualifiers



Myanmar's attacking attempt is blocked by India's goalkeeper and defenders. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

THE Myanmar U20 women's national football team ended their campaign without advancing from Group D in the 2026 AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers after suffering a defeat to India in the final group match held at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon on 10 August.

Myanmar lost 0-1 to India, a result that dashed their hopes of progressing. To qualify, Myanmar needed either a win or a score draw,

but India secured victory with the only goal of the match scored by Pooja in the 27th minute.

Although Myanmar entered the match with better qualifying chances than India, early mistakes and a lack of attacking coordination hampered their performance. They struggled to penetrate India's strong defensive line and failed to create decisive scoring opportunities. After conceding the goal, Myanmar

pushed forward in search of an equalizer but were unable to find the net due to ineffective offensive play.

India topped the group with seven points from two wins and a draw, followed by Indonesia with five points, Myanmar with four points, and Turkmenistan, which lost all three matches finished bottom without any point. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Defending champs Sinner, Sabalenka make winning starts in Cincinnati

JANNIK Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka got their title defenses off to smooth starts as they powered into the third round of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Open on Saturday.

The men's and women's top seeds, each ranked number one in the world, were both competing for the first time since Wimbledon — where Sinner lifted the title and as Sabalenka bowed out in the women's semi-finals.

Sinner crushed Colombian Daniel Elahi Galan 6-1, 6-1 in steamy afternoon weather while Sabalenka beat 2023 Wimbledon

champion Marketa Vondrousova 7-5, 6-1 under the lights of the night session.

Sabalenka needed 54 minutes and a service break in the final game to clinch the opening set with a stinging winner.

The second set was more of a grind than the score suggested as she saved five break points for a 4-1 lead and recovered from 0-30 down in the final game before securing the win.

"It's always a tough match against her," Sabalenka said of the Czech opponent she has faced nine times. — AFP



Top-seeded Jannik Sinner of Italy cruises to victory over Daniel Elahi Galan of Colombia in his opening match at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Open. PHOTO: AFP



Russia to examine US statements at Armenia-Azerbaijan summit regarding regional transport links

Any reconciliation between Armenia and Azerbaijan must consider the regional context and respect the balance of interests among the involved parties.

MOSCOW will review the comments made by the US at the Armenia-Azerbaijan summit concerning the unblocking of regional transport routes, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

- Any Armenia-Azerbaijan reconciliation must align with the regional context and respect the balance of interests.
- Three-party agreements involving Russia remain relevant, and none of the parties have withdrawn from them.
- The ministry praised the summit, expressing hope that it would contribute to advancing the peace agenda in the region. — SPUTNIK



US President Donald Trump participates in a trilateral signing with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev (L) and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (R) in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, DC, 8 August 2025. PHOTO: AFP

Chinese scientists develop smart surveillance system to control mosquito-borne diseases

CHINESE scientists have achieved a breakthrough in preventing mosquito-borne diseases by developing an intelligent vector mosquito surveillance system that offers scientific guidance for disease control.

Developed by a team led by Chen

Xiaoguang, a professor at Southern Medical University, this monitoring technology has been deployed across multiple communities in south China's Guangdong Province.

Accurate surveillance proves vital since diseases like chikungunya primarily

spread through Aedes mosquito bites.

However, traditional methods for monitoring mosquitoes face limitations. "Mosquito traps and mosquito nets only monitor non-blood-fed mosquitoes, while mosquito oviposition traps target blood-fed egg-laying mosquitoes," Chen explained.

"Our innovation employs coordinated dual-device operation for real-time, high-efficiency monitoring," Chen said.

Automated monitors use human-mimicking attractants to capture non-blood-fed mosquitoes, while smart oviposition buckets utilize container-type miniature water pools to monitor blood-fed gravid Aedes albopictus mosquitoes, achieving four times the efficiency of conventional oviposition traps, he added. Field tests demonstrated remarkable effectiveness. During its first operational week, the system issued timely alerts for abnormal mosquito density surges across multiple zones and generated targeted intervention protocols. — Xinhua



Chinese scientists have developed an intelligent vector mosquito surveillance system aimed at preventing mosquito-borne diseases. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Safety Measures Implemented

Italy's Mount Vesuvius closed to tourists as wildfire rages

ITALIAN firefighters on Sunday tackled a wildfire on the flanks of Mount Vesuvius, with all hiking routes up the volcano near Naples closed to tourists.

The national fire service said it had 12 teams on the ground and six Canadair planes fighting the blaze, which has torn through the national park in southern Italy since Friday.

Reinforcement firefighters were on their way from other regions and the onsite teams were using drones to better monitor the spread of the fire, the service said on Telegram.

"For safety reasons and... to facilitate firefighting and cleanup operations in the affected areas, all activities along the Vesuvius National Park trail network are suspended until further notice," the park said in a statement Saturday. — AFP