

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This photo showcases the conveyance ceremony of Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images in the previous year.

PhaungdawU Buddha Images to Grace 21 Venues Across Inlay in Oct

A ceremony to convey the Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images to 21 venues in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South), will be held from 12 to 29 October, according to Inntha Ethnic Affairs Minister Daw Tin Tin Yi.

The ceremony, one of the region's major Buddhist festivals, will begin at PhaungdawU Monastery, with the images being conveyed to significant locations, including Kyappawkhon Monastery in Intein, where they will stay overnight for public obeisance.

The festival will feature traditional Inntha leg-rowing boat races and cultural performances along the route. Pilgrims and travelers from across the country are expected to attend the annual festival. — ASH/MKKS

Rafting on Alawan Lake gains popularity on social media

RAFTING on Alawan Lake in Hpa-an, Kayin State, has recently become widely popular among travel enthusiasts on social media, according to Tourism Hpa-an.

The serene environment allows visitors to relax while enjoying the stunning scenery of Rathepyan Cave and capturing memorable photos during their rafting experience. Photos and videos of the rafting adventures on Alawan Lake have been extensively shared on social media, attracting significant public attention.

Each raft can accommodate up to seven people and is available daily starting at 6 am. The cost is K35,000 for an ordinary raft and K45,000 for a roofed raft.

Hpa-an, known for its natural beauty, has garnered increased attention, with Alawan Lake and Rathepyan Cave emerging as popular recreational destinations. — MT/ZN



Images depict visitors enjoying their rafting experience on Alawan Lake.

Tender invited for 2027 Hajj pilgrimage services

THE 2027 Hajj Pilgrimage Evaluation Committee has invited tour companies to submit a tender to arrange pilgrimage services for Myanmar's allocated quota of 350 pilgrims.

Eligible bidders must be travel companies that are legally incorporated under Myanmar Companies Law and registered as approved service providers (holding a valid Mussafah card) with the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Myanmar. **SEE PAGE 2**

'Bright Futures' scholarship for 10 outstanding students launched

ATOM has introduced the "Bright Futures" scholarships for outstanding students who are facing financial difficulties in continuing their university education. Under this programme, 10 recipients will be provided with monthly allowances and educational expenses, according to reports.

It aims to support outstanding students who passed the 2025-2026 academic year matriculation examination. Applications will be accepted from 14 August to 30 September. Eligible students can apply using the official ATOM "Bright Futures" Scholarship Programme application form available via ATOM's Facebook, Website, and LinkedIn. Ten recipients will receive scholarships that will include a monthly



This image features an announcement poster for ATOM's 'Bright Futures' Scholarship Programme.

allowance of K300,000 plus an annual allowance of K500,000.

"Every youth deserves the opportunity to fulfil their dreams, regardless of financial challenges," said Mr Ahmad Abdallah, Chief Executive Officer of ATOM.

Selection will be made through a transparent screening process based on proof of financial need, academic excellence, and required qualification documents. The recipients will be announced in November, and ATOM will cover travel expenses to attend the ceremony at the Yangon head office.

U Thein Hoke, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, also stated: "ATOM's 'Bright Futures' scholarships reflect our long-standing commitment to standing alongside Myanmar youth who will take on leadership roles in the future." — MT/ZN

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10,000 daily pilgrims visit Botahtaung Pagoda on religious occasions

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Emergency measures taken to protect ancient pagoda from riverbank erosion

NATIONAL **PAGE 7**



Amended Cottage Industries Bill submitted to expand loan access

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

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 8 pm MST on 24 August 2026

ACCORDING to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about two feet and 11 inches above its danger level. It may rise about three inches during the next day and may remain above its danger level.

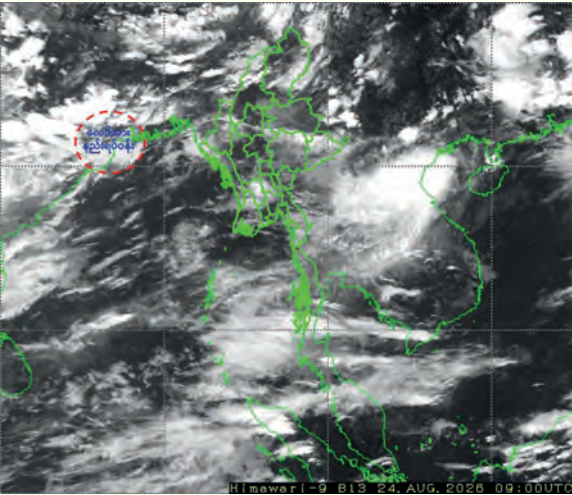
According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Thaungyin River at Myawady has exceeded its danger level by about two inches. It may rise about one foot during the next day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially advised to people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Myawady Township and Madauk, to take precautionary measures. — DMH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 24 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the West Bengal and adjoining areas of North Odisha, Jharkhand, India, and the Northwest Bay of Bengal has crossed over the West Bengal and adjoining areas of Jharkhand, North Odisha, India. It is likely to move northwards and across Jharkhand and North Odisha, India, during the next 24 hours. — DMH



Treatises donated to Rector Sayadaw

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin paid homage to Rector Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nandamala Bhivamsa, who is residing at the Dhamma Sahaya Sasana Centre in Aungchantha Village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday morning.

During the visit, the Union minister offered the new edition of the Dhammacakka Mahatika, Buddhavasosin Alinka and computer-typeset editions of Atthakatha texts rearranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The books were donated by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, and family. He also reported on religious affairs.

The Rector Sayadaw said that Atthakatha and Tika texts had not been reprinted for many years and stressed that the Pali Canon should be studied together with their commentaries to ensure correct interpretation. He warned that translating the Pali texts without reference to the Atthakatha and Nika could lead to interpretation problems. He also



emphasized the importance of preserving Pali, Atthakatha and Tika literature without alteration or loss.

He emphasized that preserving the Pali, Atthakatha and Tika literature from loss or deterioration is a primary and most important responsibility of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. He said that reprinting the Atthakatha and Tika texts in computer-typeset form, without making alterations, ad-

ditions or deletions to the Sixth Buddhist Council versions and retaining all indexes, different versions and footnotes, is a comprehensive and highly commendable undertaking. The loss of literature could lead to the loss of a race. In terms of Theravada Buddhism, Myanmar is a country that can be relied upon to preserve the Pali, Atthakatha and Tika literature in accordance with the Theravada. — MNA/KTZH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 55

Issued at 8 pm MST on 24 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the remnants of cloud the tropical storm “Narra” over the Gulf of Tonkin and over the North Coastal Odisha and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal and the Northwest Bay of Bengal such as rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood

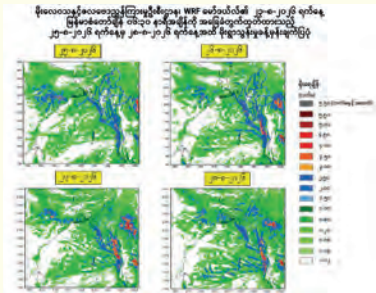
of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States from this morning to 28 August 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-13 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal,

the remnants of cloud the tropical storm “Narra” over the Gulf of Tonkin and over the North Coastal Odisha and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal and the Northwest Bay of Bengal 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



Tender invited for ...

FROM PAGE 1

Tender forms and regulations are available from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm from 25 to 30 August at the Religious Affairs Office, Yangon Region, located on Kaba Aye Pa-

goda Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon via 09 2038563, and the Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Myanmar, located at 184, 3rd Floor, Bo Sun Pat Road, Pabedan Township, Yangon via 01 388146.

Completed tender documents must be sealed and submitted to the Religious Affairs Department (Head Office) located at Office 31 in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, by noon on 31 August. Bids will be opened on the same day at 2 pm at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in the presence of bidders.

The committee’s selection is final. Late submissions or those in non-compliance with tender regulations will not be considered. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Ordinance 5/2026
11th Waxing of Wagoung, 1388 ME
24 August 2026
THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has renamed the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture as the Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism, pursuant to Subsection (a) of Section 202, and Subsections (a) and (b) of Section 212, of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Sd/Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

10,000 daily pilgrims visit Botahtaung Pagoda on religious occasions



This image illustrates pilgrims visiting the Botahtaung Kyauk Dae Att Pagoda. PHOTO: MAY THET

DESPITE various weather conditions, thousands of pilgrims visit the historic Botahtaung Kyauk Dae Att Pagoda in Yangon daily. According to the pagoda's office, the number of pilgrims averages around 5,000 on regular days and reaches up to 10,000 on major religious holidays.

While pilgrimage visits tend to be higher on days with favourable weather, thousands continue to arrive daily even during the monsoon season. Elderly pilgrims also frequent the pagoda as it is convenient and offers easy access for travellers, according to reports.

"On average, the number of daily pilgrims is estimated to be around 5,000. On religious days, it reaches about 7,500 to

10,000. When the weather is pleasant, more people visit. For elderly people, they come to Botahtaung Pagoda because it is convenient to travel around," U Sein Than, the rotating chairman of the pagoda, told The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

To ensure that pilgrims can visit regardless of the hot weather or rain during the monsoon season, movable roofs have been installed inside the pagoda premises through donations from well-wishers. According to visitor records, 217,357 domestic pilgrims visited to pay homage in July.

To facilitate convenient visits for pilgrims, the Botahtaung Kyauk Dae Att Pagoda is open daily from 5 am to 9 pm. — MT/ZN

HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker meets YR Hluttaw Office staff



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung presents foodstuffs to Yangon Region Hluttaw Office staff.

ON behalf of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU) Chairman and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Jeng Phang Naw Taung met staff of the Yangon Region Hluttaw Office

yesterday morning and provided them with basic food supplies.

The Deputy Speaker urged the staff, as civil servants, to abide by the six civil service pledges and the 30 civil service ethics rules, and to work in the interests of the State and the people in accordance with parliamentary laws, rules and procedures. On behalf of the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, he also provided rice and cooking oil to the Yangon Region Hluttaw Office staff. — MNA/MKKS

CID Batch 9 for newly recruited junior officers opens

THE opening ceremony of the Course in Diplomacy (CID) Batch No 9 for the newly recruited junior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held yesterday at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. At the ceremony, U Tin Maung Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered the opening remarks.

The ceremony was attended by deputy ministers, the permanent

secretary, directors-general and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and trainees.

The 11-week training course, combining theoretical lectures and practical exercises, is designed for 29 newly recruited junior officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2026. The course will cover subjects including the functions and responsibilities of the departments under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as



The launch of the Course in Diplomacy (CID) Batch No 9 is underway in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

diplomacy, international relations, cooperation with regional and international organizations, ASEAN affairs, consular affairs, international law, and professional skills development. — MoFA

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Dy Minister receives UNOPS Country Director & Representative ai



DEPUTY Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw received Mr Peter John Cross, Country Director and Representative ad interim of UNOPS Myanmar, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters related to the existing and further cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and UNOPS. — MoFA

The UNOPS Country Director and Representative ad interim to Myanmar calls on Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw.

NATIONAL

Road repairs, reconstruction underway in Falam

THE Falam District Department of Highways under the Ministry of Construction is clearing landslides and debris, using heavy machinery along the Kalewa-Falam-Haka Road between kilometres 127 and 128. Repair work is also underway on damaged sections between kilometres 182 and 197, while landslide debris between kilometres 147 and 151 has been cleared and the road repaired.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo, together



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo and officials inspect road repairs and reconstruction efforts in Chin State.

with Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Khin Maung Htwe and members of the Chin State and Falam reconstruction committees, inspected the road repair and reconstruction

work in Falam yesterday morning.

They also inspected the repair of telecommunications facilities, a Myanma Radio and Television relay station, the district road department office and dormitories at the Ethnic Youth Development Training School.

In Tiddim and Tonzang, local reconstruction committees also inspected the progress of repairs to government facilities, schools, staff housing, a fire-water tank and a youth training school dormitory. — MNA/MKKS

Mawkmai inspects rural road upgrading works

THE Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the ongoing asphalt paving work on inter-village roads in Santwin and Santsai village-tracts, Mawkmai Township, aiming to ensure convenient, all-weather transportation for rural communities.

District Department of Rural Road Development Assistant Director (Civil) Daw Swe Swe Win and quality control officials inspected the asphalt paving works on a two-fur-

long section of the Mawkmai-Ywathit inter-village road in Sant Village-tract and a two-furlong section of the Mawkmai-Nathe inter-village road in Santsai Village-tract, both featuring a 12-foot width and a nine-inch thickness. They met with responsible personnel, emphasizing timely completion in accordance with prescribed quality standards and coordinating necessary requests submitted by local villagers.

The road upgrading projects are being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with



Officials oversee the ongoing asphalt paving work on inter-village roads in Mawkmai Township.

K142.265 million in original State budget funds under the field supervision and technical assistance of township departmental staff. Upon completion, the upgraded roads will

benefit 1,624 residents across 310 households in five villages and facilitate transport for 3,600 acres of agricultural land. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

DIPLOMACY

MNPIFER Dy Minister receives UNOPS Country Director & Representative ai



Deputy Minister U Thant Sin Lwin meets Mr Peter John Cross, UNOPS Country Director and Representative ad interim to Myanmar.

DEPUTY Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thant Sin Lwin received Mr Peter John Cross, Country Director and Representative ad interim of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UNOPS team at the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Both sides exchanged views on the projects being implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Myanmar and future cooperation plans. Senior officials from the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and representatives of UNOPS were also present at the meeting. — MNPIFER

Crime prevention measures stepped up across Yangon Region

POLICE units across Yangon Region are working with traffic police and local administrative authorities to reduce crime and prevent criminal activities.

Yesterday, police teams from Botahtaung, Hlinethaya (East), Hlinethaya (West), Latha and Kamayut townships conducted crime prevention awareness activities, distributed crime prevention pamphlets and encouraged pedestrians to use zebra crossings when crossing roads.

On the night of 23 August, police teams from Dagon Myothit (South), Thakayta, Dala and Sangyoung townships conducted vehicle checks, inspected household guest registration records and carried out late-night bicycle patrols as part of crime prevention measures. — Aung Thu/MKKS



A late-night bicycle patrol of the Yangon Region police force. **REGION POLICE FORCE**

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

NATIONAL

Emergency measures taken to protect ancient pagoda from riverbank erosion



Relevant organizations and fire brigades are carrying out emergency protection and maintenance work to prevent the collapse of the retaining wall.

ANCIENT Pagoda No 499, located on the bank of the Dokhtawady River in TadaU Township, Mandalay Region, was at risk of collapse due to water seepage and erosion of the riverbank. Relevant organizations and firefighters carried out emergency conservation and protection work at the site on the morning of 22 August.

The pagoda, situated close to the riverbank, was threatened with damage and possible destruction as water seepage and riverbank erosion affected the ground on which it stands.

In response, firefighters from the TadaU Township Fire Station and relevant organizations worked together to prevent the pagoda from collapsing. They promptly carried out riverbank protection measures, including driving stakes into the ground and placing sandbags. — ASH/MKKS

Kungyangon's MSY village project introduced; committee formed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introductory briefing on the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project and formed a village project working group in Dayaelu Village, Kungyangon Township, yesterday.

Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Su Thidar Lin explained that K30 million in revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project would be provided at a low interest rate to create employment opportunities, increase family incomes, expand household-based businesses and implement village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Project officials detailed the rules and regulations to be followed in forming the project working group, policies in the project manual and implementation procedures by sector.

Villagers and village elders then elected and formed a seven-member Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Working Group through a voting system and consensus to effectively lead and carry out project activities in Dayaelu Village. — Karan (Rural)

India donates medical teaching aids for DSMA

THE Government of India, through the Embassy of India in Myanmar, donated medical teaching equipment to the Defence Services Medical Academy to support undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. The handover ceremony was held in meeting hall 1 of the academy's Main Academic Building yesterday morning.

At the event, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Pyae Sone Lin made an opening speech. Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur explained the donation, handed over the donation-related documents to the Director of Medical Services, and received the certificate of honour in return.

The Rector of the De-



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur hands over donated medical teaching aids to Lt-Gen Pyae Sone Lin, Chief of the Armed Forces Training.

fence Services Medical Academy delivered words of thanks. The attendees inspected the donated equipment and observed its use in medical teaching activities.

The donated equipment includes a set of computer displays and laparoscopic surgical equipment, an advanced dental modelling system, a genetic testing machine, a digital slide scanner for pathology laboratories, an advanced audio and video system for medical education, large-format computer displays and high-quality projectors.

Such donation is expected to significantly support medical education, research and healthcare services, while further strengthening the long-standing friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and India. — MNA/KTZH

MSY village project introduced in Thongwa; committee formed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday to explain the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project and form village project committee in Bonlon Village, Thongwa Township.

Thongwa Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Khin Hnin Cho explained that K30 million in revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project would be provided at a low interest rate to create employment op-



An orientation and committee formation ceremony for the Emerald Green village project is underway in Thongwa Township.

portunities and increase family incomes for rural residents, as well as to implement village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Staff Officer Daw

Hnin Nu Wai and project staff explained project procedures, rules and regulations to be followed, and election guidelines for forming the project management committee.

Bonlon Village in Thongwa Township will implement family income-generating activities using K30 million from the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project for the 2026-2027 financial year. During the meeting, village elders and local communities transparently elected seven committee members for the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee through a voting system and consensus to manage and operate the project funds systematically. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

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NATIONAL

Flood-hit audit office staff in Laymyethna receive relief supplies



The Ayeyawady Region auditor-general presents foodstuffs to flood-stricken staff in Hinthada and Laymyethna townships.

THE Ayeyawady Region auditor-general provided basic food and household supplies yesterday morning to staff of the Laymyethna Township Audit Office in Hinthada District who were affected by flooding, according to the Ayeyawady Region Auditor-General's Office.

ditior-General Daw Nyein Nyein Win met flood-affected staff from the Hinthada and Laymyethna Township Audit Offices. She discussed arrangements for the timely payment of salaries, staff food and accommodation, the establishment of a temporary office at the district audit office, and measures to ensure the effective implementation of audit work. She also provided the necessary assistance and distributed basic food and household supplies to the affected staff. — Oktha/MKKS

Hopong's VRFP funds disbursed

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

Hopong Township Department of Rural Development Head U Soe Lwin Myint explained the objectives, implementation and benefits of the Village Revolving Fund Project. Officials briefed participants on project activities, loan conditions, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed. Hopong Township



A handover ceremony of VRFP funds in progress yesterday in Hopong Township, southern Shan State.

Department Head U Soe Lwin Myint handed over K46.7 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation committee.

Helon Village is implementing systematic agricultural activities using K46.7 million from the Village Revolving

Fund Project. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project committee disbursed the seventh round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 45 beneficiaries from the village to undertake agricultural activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Online Session on Perspective of Marine Ecotourism set for Myanmar



The Zoom meeting on marine ecotourism knowledge sharing.

THE Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) is organizing a Zoom meeting to promote the protection of

Myanmar's sea and coastal resources and to facilitate the development of marine ecotourism.

This will be the fourth such session. Titled "The Perspective of Marine Ecotourism in Myanmar", the online session will be led by U Hla Aye, Managing Director of Shan Yoma Travel & Tours Co Ltd.

This session aims to share knowledge about the significance of marine ecotourism development. It will discuss how this sector can contribute to socioeconomic development, create job opportunities for local communities, and support the long-term conservation of coastal ecosystems and biodiversity.

The meeting is scheduled for 29 August, from 7 pm to 9 pm. The Zoom ID is 732 586 5920, and the passcode is 13111983. — MT/ZS

Machanbaw's irrigation pipeline construction inspected



Officials inspect the construction of the irrigation pipeline in Machanbaw Township.

OFFICIALS from the Machanbaw Township Rural Development Department, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to check the progress of the irrigation pipeline construction in Inbubaw village in the 2026-2027 financial year.

U Kyaw Naing Min, Head of the

Machanbaw Township Rural Development Department, the township engineer in charge, and the company officials inspected the progress of the irrigation pipeline construction in the village, and Township Head U Kyaw Naing Min urged the company to complete the project on time within the specified financial year.

Ultimate Concept Construction Co Ltd, which won the tender to construct a one-mile-and-two-inch PVC water pipeline for irrigation in Inbubaw village, began work in the second week of August with a state grant of K44.705 million for this financial year. Now, 50 per cent of the work has been completed. When the work is completed, the rural residents of Inbubaw village will have sufficient water for irrigation, said U Kyaw Naing Min, Head of the Machanbaw Township Rural Development Department. — Aung Ye Kyaw

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Monday,
24 August 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal and North Odisha, India, now lies over West Bengal and adjoining areas of North Odisha, Jharkhand, India, and the Northwest Bay of Bengal persists.

It is likely to move northwestwards and across West Bengal and adjoining areas of North Odisha and Jharkhand, India, during the next 24 hours. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Special Features: According to observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the tropical storm "Narra" over the Gulf of Tokin is likely to remain almost stationary.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 25 August 2026: Rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Chin and (northern and eastern) Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (northern and eastern) Shan states. In areas along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur, and therefore it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena in advance. — DMH

NATIONAL

How to Start Tourism
Business training set from
12 Sept to 4 Oct

HUMAN Resource Development Committee of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association has planned to open the “How to Start Tourism Business” training between 12 September and 4 October at the UMTA Office. Classes will be held on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 pm to 4 pm, on 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27 September and 3 and 4 October. The course fee is K200,000, with only 20 participants accepted. Those interested are encouraged to register early by scanning the QR code or completing the Google Form at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS-coaRa7tOuTspyqPSgpu-GlqA8vDn77SLwuBKyX-hoQ5No1s32A/viewform>. Course objectives include understanding licensing and registration procedures, legal requirements, and business structure; mastering itinerary planning, costing and pricing, and supplier negotiation (hotels, transport, guides); applying social media marketing to reach target customers and sales-closing strategies; and handling emergencies while maintaining high customer service standards to meet customer satisfaction. The course is ideal for those planning to start a tour agency or travel company, entrepreneurs entering the tourism industry, freelance guides looking to become agency owners, and anyone seeking systematic training in tourism business management. — NN/KK

Amended Cottage Industries Bill
submitted to expand loan access



Workers seen at several cottage-industry and small-scale manufacturing workplaces.

A bill amending the existing Promotion of Cottage Industries Law to enable all cottage and micro enterprises to access loans has been submitted to the Yangon Region Hluttaw, according to U Min Thein Tun, the regional representative for Mayangon constituency. The proposed amendment was presented during the third regular

session of the third-term Yangon Region Hluttaw held on 17 August. The primary objective of the amendment is to expand loan eligibility by revising the current machinery-power cap, which previously excluded many household-level manufacturing operations, U Min Thein Tun said. Under the existing law, cottage

industries are defined as operations using machinery with power ratings between 0.25 and five horsepower. The new bill seeks to extend coverage to businesses using machinery with up to 10 horsepower. “We’ve lowered the threshold. It was previously 0.25 to five horsepower. It’s now under 10 horsepower. That includes shoe-making, garment sewing, and bag stitching businesses,” U Min Thein Tun said. The change is expected to bring family-run sewing businesses and small-scale labour-intensive workshops into the fold, allowing them to apply for loans from the State Economic Development Fund at an interest rate of 10 per cent. Furthermore, cottage industries run under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, while other small and medium industrial enterprises are overseen by the Ministry of Industry. — ASH/KK

Kanma’s VRFP project
implementation inspected

RESPONSIBLE officials conducted an on-site inspection yesterday to review the progress of implementation under the Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) in Zitaw Village, Kamma Township, Magway Region, executed by the Kanma Township Department of Rural Development. During the inspection, U Min Ko Naing, Head of the Kanma Township Department of Rural Development, and project officers examined the status of agricultural and livestock breeding activities carried out with VRFP funds in Zitaw Village, and checked whether the monthly accounting forms were filled out. The Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) was initiated in Zitaw Village during the 2019-2020 financial year. Currently, a total VRFP fund of K34 million has been disbursed to 53 members — comprising K27.55 million to 38 agricultural workers and K6.45 million to 15 livestock breeders — and operations are currently running, according to the head of the Kanma Township Department of Rural Development. — Set Lu (DRD)



Officials oversee the project implementation in Kanma Township, Magway Region.

Loilem’s MSY village project
loans disbursed



A village representative receives the fund at yesterday’s disbursement ceremony in Loilem Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project in Hwaymi Village, Loilem Township, yesterday. Loilem Township Department of Rural Development Head

Daw Tin Min Htike explained the project objectives: the project aims to increase family incomes, allowing residents to expand small-scale agricultural, livestock breeding and livelihood activities, and will carry out village development activities using increased revolving funds. Project staff detailed applicable interest rates, loan periods,

and rules and regulations to be followed, and K41 million in revolving funds was transferred to members of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project Implementation Committees. Hwaymi and Hwaymonnge villages are implementing local income-generating activities with support from the project funds. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the village project implementation committees disbursed concessional revolving loans totaling K41 million at low interest rates to 20 project members from the two villages, all of whom will undertake systematic agricultural activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Swiss Challenge
invited for bids
for Hline land and
building lease

THE Ministry of Culture, Hotels and Tourism has invited investors to submit Swiss Challenge tender proposals for the lease of land and a building on Insein Main Road, Hline Township, Yangon Region. The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism is offering a five acre plot with an existing building, along with an additional 4.274 acres under a BOT arrangement, for a lease term of 30+5+5 years. Tender forms will be available until 8 September. The submission deadline is 10 am on 9 September, and bids are scheduled to be opened at 10:30 am the same day. Proposals must be submitted to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism at Office 33, Nay Pyi Taw. Interested individuals can enquire about details through the tender committee at 067 3406242 or 067 3406461. — NN/KK

Grow trees to mitigate climate change

The existence of trees and forests can be regarded as a legacy of the past, a benefit for the present, and a foundation for future development. Therefore, in line with the policy of “Let us protect our environment for the prosperity of the Nation,” we must collectively conserve, protect and develop forests, trees and forest ecosystems as a national responsibility, given their vital importance for sustainable national development, food security, climate change mitigation and natural disaster prevention.

The forest coverage of the country is increasing, and tree-planting ceremonies are being actively organized across various regions and states throughout the country under the leadership of the State, with the participation of the public, with the noble objectives of creating a green, pleasant and beautiful environment, preventing and protecting against natural disasters, and mitigating climate change.

Therefore, all relevant departments and the public must work together, as the State is placing special emphasis on systematically implementing measures to mitigate climate change across various sectors. To reduce and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, tree planting, forest conservation and environmental protection activities should be carried out collectively under the leadership of the Government, as these are among the simplest, easiest and most cost-effective measures that everyone can undertake everywhere while yielding numerous benefits.

plemented successfully in accordance with their respective objectives. These activities aim to conserve the natural environment so as to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters as a long-term plan for the nation.

Therefore, all relevant departments and the public must work together, as the State is placing special emphasis on systematically implementing measures to mitigate climate change across various sectors. To reduce and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, tree planting, forest conservation and environmental protection activities should be carried out collectively under the leadership of the Government, as these are among the simplest, easiest and most cost-effective measures that everyone can undertake everywhere while yielding numerous benefits.

The State has been systematically promoting annual tree planting as a national responsibility, with the goal of achieving 50 per cent forest coverage nationwide. During this year’s monsoon season, a total of 2.137 million trees have already been planted and established across the country, including in State-owned forest plantations.

The prosperity and development of the nation and the conservation and protection of the natural environment are mutually dependent. At present, the greatest global challenges related to the natural environment are “Climate Change” and “Global Warming.” Around the world, people are experiencing natural disasters such as rising temperatures, water shortages during periods of low rainfall, floods caused by unusually heavy rainfall, and the impact of severe storms.

Forest conservation projects, including the Forest Restoration Project being implemented to increase forest coverage nationwide, the Greening Project for 13 districts in the Dry Zone, and the Integrated Management of Coastal Mangroves Project, must also

be given due attention and implemented successfully in accordance with their respective objectives. These activities aim to conserve the natural environment so as to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters as a long-term plan for the nation.

Competition Matters: Youth and Fair Markets

President U Min Aung Hlaing has repeatedly emphasized the importance of youth development among the country’s priorities. That priority is commonly discussed through education, skills, health, employment and participation in nation-building. It should also include the conditions under which young people can enter business, introduce new ideas and compete.

In conversations with young people, I have encountered a particular assumption more than once. They do not see entrepreneurship as something they can attempt now. They imagine that they must first go abroad, work for several years, accumulate sufficient savings and only then return with enough capital to start a business.

Working abroad can bring valuable experience, discipline and capital. There is nothing wrong with that pathway. The problem arises when it appears to be the only believable route into enterprise. A young person may then spend some of the most energetic and creative years of life merely accumulating the admission price for an opportunity to try.

The cost is not borne by the individual alone. The economy loses years of experimentation, innovation and learning. A busi-

ness that might have been tested at 24 may be postponed until 34, or never attempted at all. Talent and time are wasted together.

Opportunity should not be exclusive

Why does business entry appear so distant? Usually there is no single answer. Young people may need capital for equipment, premises and working expenses. They must survive until customers begin to pay. They need information, permissions, distribution, marketing and credibility. They may also believe that the right connections are indispensable.

Competition policy cannot remove every one of these difficulties. The Myanmar Competition Commission is not a youth financing agency, nor can it guarantee that every good idea will become a successful business. Its role is narrower, but still important: helping to protect the conditions under which a capable newcomer can receive a fair chance.

Connections themselves are not wrong. Business depends upon trust, reputation and relationships. Experienced people can introduce a young entrepreneur to customers, advisers and investors. The problem begins when connections become a private licence to enter the market

- when belonging to the right circle matters more than offering a better product or service.

This is one reason cartels and other agreements that restrain competition matter. A cartel does more than increase prices. Its members may divide markets, coordinate tenders, restrict supply or collectively preserve an arrangement that benefits those already inside. A young entrant can then be excluded before customers have an opportunity to decide whether the new product is better.

Fighting cartels is therefore also about keeping opportunity from becoming exclusive. A fair market is not one in which every young business survives. It is one in which established businesses cannot privately decide that a newcomer will never receive a genuine test.

The Commission is not on the side of one competitor against another. It is on the side of fair opportunity and the competitive process. Where young people possess competence and innovative ideas but encounter artificial barriers, protecting that process also protects their opportunity.

Youth possess real market advantages

Young people should not be discussed only as inexperienced people who require assistance.

They can possess genuine advantages in the marketplace. Many are more conversant with technology, quicker to understand new digital platforms and closer to the preferences of their own demographic. They may notice a change in consumer behaviour before an established business does. They may also understand how their peers communicate, purchase, learn and entertain themselves.

These are commercially valuable forms of knowledge. Innovation does not always mean inventing advanced technology. It may mean applying available technology better, finding a more convenient way to deliver a familiar service or recognising an unmet need among a new group of customers.

However, technological fluency and enthusiasm are not enough. Noise is not innovation. An attractive social-media launch cannot compensate for a weak product, uncontrolled costs or unreliable delivery. Fair competition gives an entrant an opportunity to be tested; it does not protect an unprepared business from the consequences of poor performance.

Young people must therefore convert their natural advantages into genuine competence. They must understand customers, manage cash carefully, improve

their product, honour commitments and keep learning when the original idea does not work. Confidence is valuable, but confidence supported by capability is much more powerful.

Mentorship without patronage

Maturity also includes knowing when to seek advice. Young people may understand technologies and emerging consumers that older generations do not fully see. Experienced businesspeople understand institutions, cash flow, risk and consequences that enthusiasm may overlook. Innovation becomes stronger when these two forms of knowledge meet.

This is intergenerational complementarity, not a contest between youth and experience. A good mentor transfers knowledge and strengthens a young person’s ability to act independently. Patronage is different: it makes continuing access dependent upon remaining inside someone’s circle. A fair competition ecosystem should encourage mentorship while ensuring that patronage does not become the only route to commercial opportunity.

Senior businesspeople, professionals, universities and chambers can all contribute. Their most useful role is not to

By Dr Thuta Aung

applaud every youthful idea, but to ask difficult questions early enough for the young entrepreneur to improve. What problem does the business solve? Who will pay? What does it cost to deliver? Can quality be maintained? What happens when the first plan fails?

Serious advice may occasionally reduce enthusiasm. It can also prevent a much more expensive failure.

A forward-looking regulator must listen

The markets of the future are already being experienced by young people. They are among the earliest users of new platforms, digital payment methods, online services and changing forms of work. They can also be among the first to encounter new forms of dependency, misleading practices or exclusion.

A regulator cannot claim to understand the future of markets without engaging the generation already living in that future. MMCC must therefore make competition principles more accessible to young people and listen to their experiences of entering and participating in markets. Young people can also help explain fair competition to their peers through the language and media that their generation

actually uses.

This is why Competition Matters: Youth and Fair Markets should be more than the title of a television discussion. It can become a continuing theme for competition advocacy. Universities can help develop economic and legal literacy. Young content creators can translate technical principles into understandable examples. Entrepreneurs can describe the barriers they actually encounter. Experienced professionals can help distinguish a genuine competition concern from an ordinary commercial difficulty.

The objective is not to make promises that a regulator cannot fulfil. It is to ensure that young people know their frustration is seen, that competition law is relevant to their economic future and that public institutions want capable new entrants to have a fair chance.

Start anyway - but start with competence

My message to young people is therefore neither “wait” nor “success is guaranteed”. It is: start anyway, but start with competence.

Begin at a scale you can manage. Understand the customer before spending heavily. Use

your technological knowledge and your closeness to emerging markets. Seek experienced advisers without surrendering your independence. Learn the rules. Keep your promises. Test whether the idea creates real value rather than merely attracting attention.

Not every young business will succeed, and business failure is not automatically evidence of unfairness. Some enterprises will close. Others will change direction. A smaller number will become employers, innovators and established firms of the future. What matters is that their fate should be determined as far as possible by competence, effort and value - not by a closed agreement among those who arrived earlier.

Youth development and fair competition therefore belong in the same conversation. Regulators must help keep the route into enterprise open. Young people must be ready to walk through it with capability, innovation and disciplined courage.

A country’s future cannot depend only upon young people postponing enterprise until they have spent years elsewhere. It must also be built by young people who believe they can begin here - and by institutions determined to ensure that economic opportunity does not become exclusive.

(The author is Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Competition Commission. The views expressed are his own).

Electric Vehicles: A Cleaner Road for Our Environment and Country

By Maung Lumaw Oo

air pollution can help protect vegetation, waterways, and wildlife from harmful pollutants. In addition, electric vehicles are generally quieter than conventional cars, which can reduce noise pollution in urban areas and communities.

Electric vehicles can also benefit a country’s economy. Reducing dependence on imported

petrol and diesel can improve energy security and reduce the amount of money spent on fossil fuel imports. Countries can instead invest in domestic renewable energy and charging infrastructure. The growth of the EV industry can also create new jobs in manufacturing, engineering, software development, battery

technology, maintenance, and renewable energy.

Another advantage is energy efficiency. Electric motors convert a larger share of electrical energy into movement than petrol engines convert fuel into motion. This means EVs can use energy more efficiently. Their simpler mechanical systems can also reduce certain maintenance requirements, potentially lowering

costs for vehicle owners.

However, electric vehicles still face challenges. Battery production requires minerals and energy, and mining can cause environmental damage if it is not properly managed. Charging infrastructure is also limited in some areas. Governments and manufacturers must therefore invest in responsible mining, battery recycling, renewable electricity, and reliable charging networks.

The transition to electric vehicles should be part of a broader environmental strategy. Public transport, walking, cycling, renewable energy, and better urban planning are also important. EVs should complement these solutions rather than be considered

the only answer to transportation pollution.

Electric vehicles are more than a new type of car; they are an opportunity to rethink how transport affects our environment and economy. With responsible policies, cleaner electricity, improved battery technology, and effective recycling systems, EVs can reduce pollution, strengthen energy security, support new industries, and protect ecosystems.

The road towards a cleaner future requires cooperation between governments, businesses, communities, and individuals. By investing in sustainable transport today, countries can build healthier cities, stronger economies, and a cleaner environment for generations to come.

ENVIRON/TECH
WORLD

Thousands march in Stockholm
for stronger climate action
ahead of election



This photo taken on 9 February 2026 shows a view of Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. PHOTO: XINHUA

MORE than 50,000 people marched through central Stockholm, the Swedish capital, on Sunday to demand stronger action on climate change, organizers said, three weeks before Sweden holds national elections.

Some 280 organizations took part in the demonstration, including environmental and human rights groups, trade unions, religious organizations, researchers and

cultural groups, according to Swedish media reports.

Beatrice Rindevall, chairperson of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and one of the main organizers, told Swedish media that policymakers needed to take the climate crisis seriously.

The demonstration comes as climate change has moved higher on voters' agendas ahead of the national election next month, while attitudes to-

wards the issue have become increasingly divided along political lines.

Around 65 per cent of people who identify with the political left said they were very concerned about climate change, compared with fewer than 30 per cent of those on the right, according to the latest national survey by the SOM Institute, an independent research organization, at the University of Gothenburg.

A separate survey by Swedish polling firm Novus in June ranked climate sixth among voters' most important political issues, up from ninth in January.

Martin Hultman, a professor of sociology at the University of Gothenburg, told Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter that Sweden could be seeing a new wave of climate engagement.

He said the previous wave had lost momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic amid fossil-fuel industry lobbying, disinformation and electoral gains by right-wing nationalist forces. The renewed engagement could partly reflect people experiencing the effects of climate change more directly in their daily lives, he said.

Sweden will hold elections to the Riksdag, the country's parliament, as well as regional and municipal councils on 13 September. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian PM wants to ban data centres near schools

AUSTRALIA'S Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will seek to ban large data centres being built near schools, homes and farms when he meets with state leaders this week, according to plans seen by AFP on Monday.

Albanese's government has pledged to rush through a national artificial intelligence law, likening its response to the data centre boom to Australia's world-first teen social media ban.

The national AI law will also set rules for AI training, from copyright to security and safety, AFP was told ahead of Albanese's meeting with state leaders on Wednesday to agree on the nationwide legislation.

Australia's largest state of New South Wales has said it is assessing 26 new data centre projects worth AU\$100 billion (\$71.7 billion). — AFP

Antarctic ice sheet sees temporary mass gain: study

A new international study shows that Antarctica's ice sheet gained 695 billion metric tonnes of mass between 2021 and 2023, slowing down its long-term ice loss against the backdrop of climate warming.

Researchers from China, the United States, Hungary and Japan found that the ice gain was the largest recorded in nearly two decades of satellite observations. They believe an atmospheric phenomenon thousands of kilometres away drove the gain, with warm tropical oceans promoting heavy snowfall on the world's southernmost continent and counterbalancing ice lost to melting.

The Antarctic ice sheet is one of the main sources of uncertainty for global sea level rise. Between 2003 and 2024, the continent lost about 140.5 billion metric tonnes of ice per year on average. — Xinhua

Indonesian president
orders tougher action
against land burning

INDONESIAN President Prabowo Subianto on Monday ordered stronger measures to prevent forest and land fires, calling for tougher action against illegal burning and companies suspected of involvement.

Speaking at a meeting in Pekanbaru, Riau province, Prabowo reiterated that land clearing by burning is strictly prohibited and urged officials to educate communities about the risks. Residents who need to clear land should report to local authorities so the government can assist them, he said.

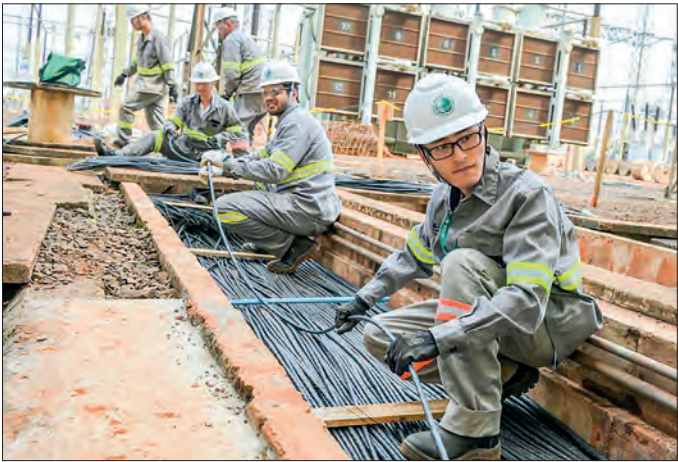
Prabowo also instructed police, prosecutors and intelligence authorities to investigate companies suspected of involvement in land burning, warning that their business permits could be revoked. Indonesia's police authorities said Sunday that 72 individuals had been named suspects in 89 forest and land fire cases handled across nine provincial police jurisdictions from 1 January to 21 August. — Xinhua

Chinese green technology powers Brazil's
sustainable development

AS China and Brazil deepen green cooperation, Chinese companies are bringing cutting-edge technologies to the South American country, helping diversify its energy supply and accelerate its push for sustainable development, according to industry insiders.

"China and Brazil share a high degree of consensus on building an ecological civilization," Zhou Zhiwei, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told Xinhua. Zhou cited Brazil's "New Industry" policy as an example, saying it is highly compatible with China's green development approach.

The industrial policy initiative, launched by the



Staff members work at the site of a direct current (DC) transmission project of the Itaipu hydroelectric plant contracted by a subsidiary of the State Grid Corporation of China in the city of Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, 4 October 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

Brazilian government for the 2024-2026 period, aims to re-industrialize the country by boosting productivity, sustain-

ability and innovation. Energy transition is one of the policy's key priorities.

The focus is similar to

China's own development approach. China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) prioritizes accelerating the comprehensive green transition of economic and social development, calling for faster progress in shaping green modes of production and day-to-day life.

The two countries' strategic priorities, including green development, energy transition and re-industrialization, are highly consistent, Zhou said, adding that as they deepen green cooperation, China's experience in areas ranging from infrastructure development to industrial modernization and technological innovation can offer a "valuable benchmark". — Xinhua

LIFE & SOCIAL
WORLD

1,000 help tow 400-tonne
castle keep closer to
original position

ABOUT 1,000 people towed the roughly 400-tonne keep of a traditional castle in northeastern Japan's Aomori Prefecture on Sunday, moving it 109 centimetres closer to its original position after it was relocated 11 years ago.

The keep of Hirosaki Castle, a national historical treasure in the city of the same name, was moved in 2015 to repair the stone walls that supported it. By the end of this year, it will be moved about 78 metres to where it was.

About 1,000 people chosen by lottery were divided into groups, pulling a cart carrying the keep with ropes during an event. A total of 4,000 people are scheduled to participate in similar events between Saturday and next Sunday, with the aim of moving the keep about five metres in total.

"I pulled it 11 years ago (from the original place for repairs). I feel emotional being able to take part again," Mei Umetsu, a 16-year-old high school student said. — Kyodo

People help pull the keep of Hirosaki Castle with ropes in Aomori Prefecture on 23 August 2026. PHOTO: KYODO



China, Kuwait hold tea culture
exchange event

MORE than 150 people gathered Sunday evening at the China Cultural Centre in Kuwait for the Chinese & Kuwaiti Tea Art and Treats Tasting event, where they savoured teas and sweets and learned about tea-making traditions in both countries.

Jointly organized by the China Cultural Centre in Kuwait and Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), the event was part of Kuwait's 18th Summer Cultural Festival. It aimed to introduce Chinese and Kuwaiti tea traditions and promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

Attendees sampled Chinese green, black, white and oolong teas, accompanied by Chinese sweets. A separate tasting area featured Kuwaiti and Arab beverages, including karak tea, loomi tea



People participate in the Chinese & Kuwaiti Tea Art and Treats Tasting event at the China Cultural Centre in Kuwait in Hawalli Governorate, Kuwait, 23 August 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

and Moroccan mint tea, along with local and Arab sweets.

In his speech, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Yang Xin noted that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and cultural

exchanges constitute "a bridge connecting the hearts of the two peoples."

Speaking to Xinhua at the end of the event, Yang said the occasion represented "a window into China's time-honoured culture and a means of promoting cultural exchanges and friendship

between China, Kuwait and the Arab world".

NCCAL Secretary-General Mohammad Al-Jassar noted that presenting Kuwaiti and Arab tea traditions alongside Chinese tea reflects the links between cultures and shared daily customs. — Xinhua

France readies high school phone ban
from new term

THE French government said Monday it would press ahead with a ban on mobile phones in high schools from the start of the new school year.

In July, France's parliament approved legislation banning both social media access for children under 15 and mobile phone use in high schools.

But earlier this month, the country's top court struck down the social media provision, dealing a blow to President Emmanuel Macron, who had championed the measure.

However, the Constitutional Council did not rule on the separate provision banning mobile phone use in high schools.

On Monday, government spokesperson Maud



This photo shows a suitcase containing students' mobile phones, set aside during classes at the Jean Mermoz vocational high school in Montsoult, in the northern suburbs of Paris, on 14 January 2026. The ban on mobile phones in high schools "could take effect as early as the start of the school year" next week, government spokesperson Maud Bregeon announced on 24 August 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Bregeon said Macron "has decided to promulgate the law" containing the ban on phones, despite the Constitutional Council striking down its flagship provision, a ban on social media for under-15s.

"As a result, the ban on mobile phones in high schools can take effect from the start of the new school year, with a stable, consolidated and statutory legal framework," she told reporters after a cabinet

meeting.

France has already banned children from using mobile phones in colleges, the schools attended between the ages of 11 and 15, and primary schools.

Macron's office has said the president has no plans to give up on his push to bar children from apps such as TikTok and the government would work on a new draft law.

Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu will work on a new version of the legislation at the president's request, Bregeon said.

"The president's objective is to have a stable legal framework in place by next spring to protect our children and young people," she added. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rare inscribed stone unearthed at
Türkiye's historic Ani site

A stone artefact inscribed with the name of Prophet Muhammad has been unearthed at the ancient archaeological site of Ani in eastern Türkiye, offering fresh insight into the region's history, authorities said Monday.

In a post on the social media platform X, Turkish Culture and Tourism Minister Mehmet Nuri Ersoy said the name appears six times in Kufic script on the stone, which is believed to have come from a Seljuk tomb tower.

Giving visual details of the artefact, Ersoy noted that three of the inscriptions are intricately carved into a decorative band encircling an eight-pointed star. — Xinhua

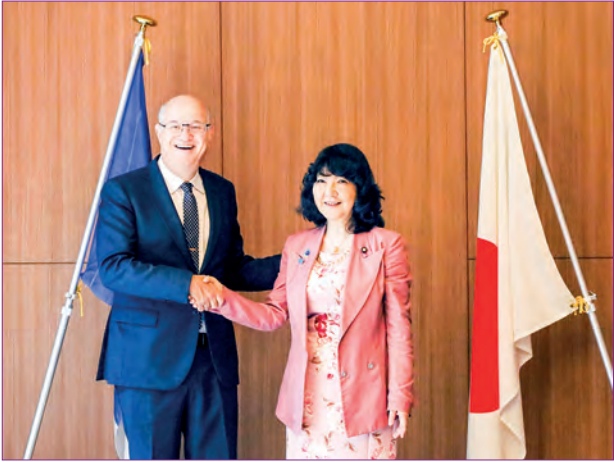
"Spider-Man: Brand New Day" tops North
American box office for 4th weekend

SONY and Marvel's superhero film "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" led North American box office charts for the fourth weekend in a row with an estimated US\$39 million, according to data released by measurement firm Rentrak on Sunday.

The film, based on the Marvel Comics character Spider-Man and starring Tom Holland as the titular hero, has grossed \$854.9 million in North America and \$2.22 billion worldwide. It currently stands as the world's sixth-highest-grossing film of all time. — Xinhua

ECONOMY
WORLD/AD

Japan vows \$10 mln to
development bank for
Latin America, Caribbean



Inter-American Development Bank President Ilan Goldfajn (L) and Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama shake hands in Tokyo on 24 August 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

JAPAN on Monday pledged an additional \$10 million to the Inter-American Development Bank, a key financing source for states in Latin America and the Caribbean, to fund steps in areas such as the development of critical minerals, to enhance economic security.

The pledge brings Tokyo's total commit-

ment to \$30 million under a programme it set up at the bank earlier this year called the Japan Resilience Initiative. The resource-poor country is looking to strengthen ties with a region that is home to global suppliers of critical minerals and food.

The initiative "is designed to serve as a strategic bridge connecting

Japan's knowledge and experience with the development needs of the Latin America-Caribbean region", Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama said in a speech at a business forum in Tokyo, held to mark the 50th anniversary of Tokyo's membership of the IDB.

She said that while the region plays a key role in ensuring a stable global supply of critical minerals, it also faces social challenges such as insufficient preparedness for natural disasters and a rapidly aging population where Japan can offer expertise.

Ilan Goldfajn, president of the Washington-based IDB, told the same forum that the cooperation with Japan comes as "companies are increasingly looking into more resilience...for more diversification." — Kyodo

S Korean banks' net income falls in
H1 amid lower non-interest income

SOUTH Korean banks' combined net income fell in the first half as securities-related losses offset record-high interest income, financial watchdog data showed Monday.

The net income of local banks stood at 13.8 trillion won (US\$10.0 billion) in the January-June period, down 6.4 per cent compared to the same period of last year, according to the Financial Supervisory Service.

Their interest income grew 8.3 per cent to hit the first-half high of 32.2 trillion won on the back of higher net interest margins (NIM) and larger interest-bearing assets.

The NIM gained 0.04 percentage points to 1.56 per cent in the first half



Pedestrians cross a road in front of the Bank of Korea headquarters in Seoul on 16 July 2026. PHOTO: AFP

on a yearly basis, while the interest-bearing assets swelled 6.4 per cent to 3,628.1 trillion won.

Non-interest income dipped 43.4 per cent to 2.9 trillion won as securities-related earnings swung into a deficit amid rising interest rates.

Amid lingering inflationary pressure, the

Bank of Korea lifted its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.75 per cent in July, marking the first monetary tightening in about three and a half years, since January 2023.

Loan-loss expenses rose 8.6 per cent to 3.5 trillion won in the cited period. — Xinhua

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar 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

SUMMONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES
(Code of Civil Procedure Order V, Rules 1 and 5)
In the Kamayut District Court
Civil Regular Suit No. 33 of 2026

PIYARELAL GLOBAL COMPANY LIMITED (PLG)
(Represented by Aung Myat Htut)
(Plaintiff) AND 1. Mr. Anil Vyas
2. Pwint Thu Htet
3. Yamin Tun
(Defendants)

To be known (1st) Defendant Mr. Anil Vyas, residing at No. (15), Thukhita Road, Yankin Township, Yangon Region.

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for the "Recovery of shipping charges taken by the Defendants amounting to US Dollars (220,980), equivalent to Myanmar Kyats (1,064,389,650), and compensation of (500,000,000), for a total claimed amount of Myanmar Kyats (1,564,389,650)", you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a representative or pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, on the 3rd day of September 2026 (the 6th Waning day of Wagaung, 1388 ME), at 10:00 AM before noon, to answer the claim of the above-named Plaintiff. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the issues will be settled in your absence. Furthermore, you are directed to bring with you (1) the documents which the Plaintiff desires to inspect, and the contracts or documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defense. Alternatively, you shall hand them over to your representative or pleader. If you desire to file a Written Statement, you must submit it four days before the hearing.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 20th day of August 2026.

Sd/-xxx (20.8.2026)
(San Theingi)
Additional Township Judge (3)
Kamayut District Court

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Shandong Max Agro Co.,Ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Myanmar Max Agro Service Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Golden Rocket Co.,Ltd". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days.
Golden Rocket Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Max Ema One	Emamectin Benzoate 1.14% EC	P2025-6735
2.	Max Mega Kill	Pymetrozine 50% WG	P2025-6800

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, Hebei Ruibaode Bio-Chemical Co.,Ltd, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Friends Helper Co.,Ltd to Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	NX Strozole	Difenoconazole 10% + Pyraclostrobin 20% EC	Provisional	P2023-4681

Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd. Tel: 09-250406611

Vietnam tightens
regulation on overseas
jobs for contract workers

VIETNAM on Monday tightened its regulations on overseas jobs for contract workers as the National Assembly passed a revised law, local media Tuoi Tre reported.

The revised law prohibits Vietnamese workers from taking overseas jobs that violate national security, social order and safety, or social morality, or endanger the health of workers and the community, as well as jobs not permitted by the receiving country.

It bans organizing overseas employment or recruiting, preparing and sending Vietnamese workers to areas affected by armed conflict or areas that competent authorities have advised people not to visit or to limit travel to.

The law also bans Vietnamese workers under contract from taking massage jobs abroad and organizations from sending workers overseas for such work.

The revised law will take effect on 1 March 2027, the government portal reported. — Xinhua

SoftBank Group plans issuing record
1 tln yen in bonds for AI investment

SOFTBANK Group Corp said Monday it plans to issue 1 trillion yen (\$6.3 billion) in unsecured bonds, its largest-ever single bond offering, as it steps up investment in artificial intelligence.

The seven-year bonds, mainly for retail investors, will have a minimum denomination of 1 million yen, with its annual interest rate expected to fall between 4.30 per cent and 4.90 per cent.

The Japanese technology group said it will use the proceeds for AI-related investments and to redeem 400 billion yen in bonds issued in 2019, among other purposes.

The final interest rate will be set on 4 September, and subscriptions will run from 7 September through 16 September, it said.

Amid the global AI frenzy, SoftBank Group has been expanding its investment in the technology, including backing US firm OpenAI, known for ChatGPT, and investing in infrastructure such as data centres. — Kyodo

Thailand’s labour market expands 5.1% in Q2

THAILAND’S labour market continued to grow in the second quarter of 2026 due to increases in both agricultural and non-farm employment, led by the construction sector, official data showed on Monday.

The number of employed persons in the South-East Asian country rose 5.1 per cent year-on-year to 41.5 million in the April-June period, accelerating from a 4.6 per cent gain in the previous quarter, according to the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC).

Agricultural employment increased 6.5 per cent from a year earlier, supported by higher farm output and agricultural prices, even as delayed rainfall pushed up the seasonally inactive labour force, the state planning agency said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the non-farm sector expanded 4.5 per cent, benefiting from an 8.3 per cent pickup in construction jobs in line with stronger private investment and a 5.8 per cent increase in hotel and restaurant employment fuelled by growing domestic tourism, particularly during long-holiday periods.

However, the nation’s overall unemployment rate stood at 0.95 per cent in the second quarter, representing around 400,000 unemployed individuals, edging up from 0.91 per cent in the same period last year, said NESDC secretary-general Danucha Pichayanon.

The number of quasi-unemployed individuals working fewer than 24 hours per week climbed eight per cent year-on-year, driven by elevated underemployment, especially in the non-agricultural sector, Danucha told a news conference. Looking ahead, he identified employment risks in the farm sector owing to the El Nino weather pattern, which is expected to intensify towards the year’s end as lower rainfall and longer dry spells have already caused drought conditions in several areas, putting more pressure on agricultural production and rural labour. — Xinhua



Workers walk along the rooftop of a building in Bangkok on 25 May 2026. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0056N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0056N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2026** 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:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (292N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (292N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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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:

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M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (631W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ERASMUS ICON VOY.NO. (631W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** 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 MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Fast-growing wildfire near
US Nevada-California border
forces thousands to evacuate

THOUSANDS of people have been forced to evacuate as a fast-growing wildfire spread rapidly early Sunday towards Reno, a city in northwestern Nevada near the Nevada-California border.

The Hawk Fire, which began Saturday, has grown to more than 10,500 acres (about 42.5 square kilometres) by Sunday morning and remained completely uncontained, according to InciWeb, a US interagency all-risk incident information management system.

Officials said that extreme fire behaviour has been observed, with wind-driven fire making significant runs through light, flashy fuels.

Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo declared a state



Firefighters move to battle the wildfire in Ventura County, California, the United States, 7 August 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

of emergency for Washoe County on Saturday night.

“This is an active and rapidly evolving situation, and I urge everyone in the affected areas to remain vigilant and follow the direction of local officials,” Lombardo said in a state-

ment. “The state is fully engaged, and we are working alongside local authorities and first responders to deploy every available resource to protect lives, safeguard communities, and keep Nevadans out of harm’s way.”

The governor warned again Sunday morning on social media that the fire is still “a rapidly evolving situation”. “Stay vigilant and keep yourself informed if you are in the affected areas,” the governor said. — Xinhua

170,000 tonnes of Fukushima plant treated
water released in 3 years



File photo taken on 9 February 2026 shows tanks holding treated water at Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. PHOTO: KYODO

TOKYO Electric Power Company Holdings Inc on Monday completed its third year of releasing treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea, with 172,700 tonnes released in 22 rounds so far.

The amount stored in tanks has fallen 7.6 per

cent to around 1.24 million tonnes, with 17 out of around 1,000 storage tanks dismantled after being emptied. The operator aims to complete the discharge by 2051, in line with the decommissioning of the plant.

The International Atomic Energy Agency monitors the process

along with the Japanese government and TEPCO, and no abnormal tritium levels have been detected in nearby waters or seafood.

Japan decided in April 2021 to release the processed water in order to dismantle storage tanks and make room for a facility to remove melted fuel debris. TEPCO began the discharge on 24 August 2023, despite opposition from fisheries operators.

Following the 2011 nuclear crisis triggered by a massive earthquake and tsunami, around 60 tonnes of radioactive wastewater is produced each day at the plant after cooling melted reactor fuel.

After purification using an advanced liq-

uid processing system, the processed water is diluted with seawater to less than one-40th of the concentration permitted under Japanese safety standards before being released from a point one kilometre offshore.

The treated water is transferred from storage tanks to tanks used to measure and confirm concentrations, then released in batches of about 7,800 tonnes.

Four releases were carried out in financial 2023, and seven each in fiscal 2024 and 2025. After changing operations to allow nonstop transfers between tanks for release, TEPCO plans to carry out eight releases in financial 2026, four of which have already been completed. — Kyodo

Malaysia, Indonesia to cooperate
on El Nino, transboundary haze

MALAYSIA will cooperate with Indonesia to step up preventive and early firefighting measures to cope with the El Nino phenomenon, Malaysian Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Arthur Joseph Kurup said on Monday.

The issue of transboundary haze currently affecting the region is also a priority for both countries, Arthur said in a statement following a telephone call with Indonesia’s Environment Minister Mohammad Jumhur Hidayat.

“With the El Nino phenomenon expected to intensify towards October this

year, coinciding with the Southwest Monsoon, both our countries are committed to stepping up preventive measures and early firefighting efforts,” he said.

Arthur said that in the spirit of good neighbourliness and ASEAN solidarity, Malaysia is ready to assist Indonesia at any time should assistance be required, particularly in swiftly putting out fires.

Meanwhile, a total of 12 areas in Malaysia recorded unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings as of 2 pm local time on Monday, according to the Air Pollutant Index Management System. — Xinhua

Australian state pushing
to vaccinate thousands
of little penguins against
H5N1 bird flu



This handout photo taken on 19 August 2026 and released on 20 August by Phillip Island Nature Parks shows a Nature Parks ranger injecting a little penguin during the H5N1 vaccination programme at Phillip Island Nature Parks in Victoria. PHOTO: PHILLIP ISLAND NATURE PARKS / AFP

AUTHORITIES in the Australian state of Victoria have started vaccinating 5,000 little penguins at popular tourist sites against the H5N1 bird flu.

Workers at the Phillip Island Nature Parks reserve south of Melbourne on Sunday night administered the first of two H5N1 vaccine doses to their 1,000th little penguin under a programme launched earlier in August to protect the state’s populations of the species.

The state government said it plans to vaccinate 5,000 little penguins at Phillip Island and in the Mel-

bourne suburb of St Kilda amid a nationwide surge in cases of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain.

Phillip Island is home to the world’s largest colony of little penguins, which are native to Australia and New Zealand, with an estimated 40,000 birds. The island’s Penguin Parade, where visitors can watch little penguins walk from the ocean to their burrows at dusk, is one of Victoria’s most popular tourist attractions, drawing over 700,000 visitors in 2025, with China accounting for 17 per cent of total visitation. — Xinhua

SPORTS

MRTV to broadcast live 2nd leg of the ASEAN Hyundai Cup Championship

THE 2026 ASEAN Hyundai Cup Championship men's football tournament final (second leg) between Vietnam and Thailand will be played at My Dinh Stadium in Hanoi, Vietnam, at 7:30 pm on 26 August. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV Sports Channel and MRTV Entertainment Channel at 7:15 pm. — MNA

Fils tops Tiafoe to claim first ATP Masters title in Cincinnati

ARTHUR Fils surged past Frances Tiafoe 6-3, 1-6, 6-0 to win his first ATP Masters 1000 title in Cincinnati on Sunday.

The 22-year-old bagged his biggest career title and, with the US Open starting in one week, he is projected to jump from 21st in the world rankings to a career-high 11th.

Fils was on his phone to his parents only seconds after securing the victory, calling his father back home after becoming the first French player to win a Masters 1000 since Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in Toronto in 2014.

"That was my dad on the phone, now I need to call my mom," the delighted winner said at the trophy ceremony, lamenting only that his father missed one of his tournaments for the first time this year.

"Wow, that feels good, that feels good," Fils said. "It's a lot of training, a lot of things, a lot of sacrifice."

"Injury," added Fils, who missed much of 2025 with a back injury and months this year with a hip ailment. "To be able to win one title like this means a lot to me." — AFP

2026 Region/State Sepak Takraw Championships launched



Union Minister U Ye Myint Tun greets the competing teams (L), and one of the matches in action yesterday.

THE 2026 Region and State Sepak Takraw Championships, jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports and the Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation, were launched yesterday at Gymnasium A, Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

The championships, featuring men's and women's events, will be held from 24 August to 2 September. A total of 331 athletes from 15 men's teams and 13 women's teams are taking part.

Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun, who is also chairperson of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, delivered an opening speech at the opening ceremony and officially opened the championships.

The participating athletes then recited the four sports oaths. The Union minister, together with deputy ministers, greeted the participating teams and presented K300,000 in recognition to the band of the No 6 Basic Education High School of Zabuthiri Township for supporting the opening ceremony.

Yesterday, in the men's double regu event, Bago Region faced Yangon Region, while Mandalay Region competed against Shan State in the women's double regu event. Sports lovers can enjoy the matches free of charge. — MNA/KTZH

Ethiopia's Kejelcha regains men's half marathon world record

ETHIOPIA'S Yomif Kejelcha took 29 seconds off the men's half marathon world record at a World Athletics road race here on Sunday.

The 29-year-old Kejelcha clocked a winning time of 56 minutes and 51 seconds, beating the previous record of 57:20 set by Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo in Lisbon in March, pending ratification.

"I'm over the moon," said Kejelcha. "I'm super happy and right now I don't feel any tiredness."

The travel from Ethiopia was too long and I was tired the first days here, but later I felt better and today I was full of beans."

Kejelcha, who set a world record of 57:30 in Valencia in October 2024, has now regained the world record.

Kejelcha is also the second-fastest marathon runner in history, with a personal best of 1:59:41, just 11 seconds shy of the world record held by Kenya's Sabastian Sawe. — Xinhua

Liverpool must improve on 'unacceptable' season, says Van Dijk

VIRGIL van Dijk said Liverpool "need to show a reaction" from a bitterly disappointing season that cost Arne Slot his job as manager, but called for patience with new boss Andoni Iraola.

The Reds needed a 99th-minute equalizer from the penalty spot by Dominik Szoboszlai to rescue a 2-2 draw at Newcastle on the opening weekend of the Premier League season.

Slot guided Liverpool to glory and a 20th league title in his debut campaign in 2024/25, but paid the price for finishing fifth last season when he was dismissed in May.

Many of the same flaws were in evidence in Iraola's first outing at Saint James' Park as Newcastle sliced open the Liverpool defence on the counter-attack.

But they twice came from behind to avoid a losing start to the new season.

"It's absolutely normal in any type of profession, work, whatever you do, if you come in new and you have new plans and new ideas, then it takes a bit of time with new players," said



Liverpool players observe a minute's applause to honour their former player Kevin Keegan ahead of the English Premier League football match between Newcastle United and Liverpool at Saint James' Park in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, north east England on, 23 August 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Van Dijk. "It's down to us to do it as soon as we can, as soon as possible, because we want to improve, we want to win, we want to be better."

That's what we are going to try to do.

"We need to show a reaction from last year, that we are much better than last year, because this was very unacceptable."

Iraola has not been aided by a lack of new arrivals in the transfer market.

Despite the departure of club legend Mohamed Salah and a long-term injury to Hugo Ekitike, Liverpool have only added Spanish winger Victor Munoz in attacking areas as well as defenders Jeremy Jacquet and Ronald Araujo. — AFP

Fast-growing wildfire near US Nevada-California border forces thousands to evacuate

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WORLD

US racks up \$40 trillion in debt, raising concerns over economic crisis

THE US government has racked up \$40 trillion in debt, raising concerns that the mounting burden could trigger a major economic crisis if left unaddressed.

US government debt has surged from \$19.4 trillion a decade ago, nearly doubling after massive COVID-era spending and years of deficits.

In July, the most recent month for which figures are available, the US Treasury Department reported a monthly budget deficit of \$432.3 billion, the highest level since March 2021. Critics have voiced growing concern that, if left unchecked, the country's mounting debt could eventually trigger a major debt crisis.

US federal debt currently stands at about 123

per cent of GDP. However, the debt-to-GDP ratio that the US economy can sustain is about 210 per cent of GDP, according to a study released in June by the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School.

"Above this level, there is no feasible future additional tax on broad-based labour income that can finance the interest payments at the returns demanded by financial markets," the study said.

A national debt crisis would be "an event somewhere between the Great Recession of 2008-09 and the Great Depression of the 1930s", according to Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Centre for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland. — Xinhua



A screen displays the US national debt surpassing US\$40 trillion, in New York, the United States. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Xi calls on China, Jordan to further deepen alignment of development strategies



CHINA and Jordan should further deepen the alignment of development strategies, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday.

Both sides should enhance cooperation in traditional fields including economy and trade, infrastructure construction, transport and mining, expand new drivers of coopera-

tion in digital economy, artificial intelligence and green energy, and comprehensively deepen exchanges in education, culture, science and technology, tourism and other areas, Xi said when holding talks with King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein in Beijing. — Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, who is on a state visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 24 August 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Researchers develop purple fabric to beat heat

RESEARCHERS have developed a purple fabric that can stay more than four degrees Celsius cooler than conventional white cotton in direct sunlight, potentially opening the door to cooling clothing in a wider range of colours.

The high-tech fabric, developed by researchers from Zhengzhou University in China and Adelaide University in Australia, stayed up to 6.2 degrees Celsius cooler than commercially dyed purple cotton in outdoor

testing, according to a statement released Monday by Adelaide University.

Most passive cooling fabrics are white because they reflect sunlight away from the body, while darker colours absorb more solar energy. The researchers wanted to prove that effective cooling did not have to mean giving up colour.

"Our research shows that we can have both. We can make a fabric that looks purple, but at the same time reflects most of the sun's energy and

releases heat very efficiently," said Adelaide University Professor Ma Jun, a co-author of the study published in the journal Small. The fabric was made using microscopic fibres containing a purple metal-organic framework and zinc oxide nanoparticles. It reflected an average of 87.6 per cent of solar radiation while emitting 96.4 per cent of mid-infrared radiation, allowing heat to escape through the atmosphere towards outer space, the study showed. — Xinhua

Putin meets Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar in Kremlin

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin met Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at the Kremlin on Monday.

Russia and India continue to work in almost all areas, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

There is growth of trade between Russia and India in 2026, Putin added.

Russia is ready to increase fertilizer supplies to India in order to ensure the requirements for the country's agriculture, Vladimir

Putin said.

"We are doing everything to close this issue for Indian farmers and agriculture, we are increasing these supplies and we are ready to do this further," Putin said.

Putin noted that trade turnover between Russia and India continues to grow in 2026, while bilateral cooperation is expanding across nearly all areas.

The Russian leader also said he expects to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the

sidelines of the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

This was not the first time the Russian leader has hosted Jaishankar at the Kremlin. The previous meeting took place in November 2025. In addition, the Indian foreign minister participated in events related to Putin's state visit to India in December last year.

Jaishankar arrived in Russia for an official visit. He has already held talks with Russian First Depu-



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar shake hands during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

ty Prime Minister Denis Manturov and is scheduled to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey

Lavrov.

Earlier, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Indian media that Putin would "in any case personally participate" in the BRICS summit, which will be held in New Delhi on 12-13 September.

Speaking to journalists, Peskov noted that India is a special and privileged partner of Russia. He added that the agenda for bilateral contacts is "more than extensive". — SPUTNIK