

The **Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR**



This image displays eco-friendly consumer goods created by extracting fibre from banana waste.

Myanmar Expands Banana-Waste Goods Exports to ROK, China

Eco-friendly consumer goods from banana waste, such as mats, bags, hats, scarves, fabrics, and other products, have been trial-exported to China, and preparations are underway to export them to the Korean market as well. According to U Myint Thein, Founder of Green Banana Myanmar, fibres are extracted from banana pseudo-stems and recycled into consumer goods, turning waste into a viable business. A wide variety of garments and consumer goods are being manufactured using these banana fibres. **SEE PAGE 3**

Co-op Model to Unite Mulberry Farmers

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development plans to organize mulberry farmers into a cooperative framework to boost production and create value-added products. Under the initiative, the cooperative sector will provide seeds and agricultural inputs. The Small-Scale Industries Department will provide technical support for producing value-added goods, such as silk, mulberry leaves, and mulberry-based products. Mulberry cultivation and silkworm farming are primarily found in Mandalay Region (including PyinOoLwin) and Shan State, contributing to local silk and yarn production. Mulberries are also grown on a smallscale basis in PyinOoLwin and Myitkyina, Kachin State. **SEE PAGE 4**



This image illustrates mulberry plants and fresh mulberries.

Yangon-Chongqing Direct Flights Rise to Four Weekly

DIRECT flights between Yangon, Myanmar, and Chongqing, China, will increase to four times a week from 25 October. The flights, which have been operating since 8 December 2025, will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The latest expansion will further improve connectivity between the two cities. The additional flights will be run between Myanmar and China and strengthen economic and trade relations. — ASH/MKKS

Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute opens new intakes

THE Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) has been recruiting new trainees for two subject areas: Hospitality and Tourism and Engineering and Technology, according to the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training.

The courses are designed to produce those equipped with strong practical skills who are ready to enter the workforce upon completion. Applicants must be in good health and have the ability to perform



This photo shows Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute in Yangon.

practical tasks, and must have completed matriculation (new-curriculum Grade 12, GTHS, or equivalent agricultural/industrial high school). They must be at least 17 years of age. The course will offer both theoretical and practical approaches using laboratory equipment. The completion certificate will

be handed over upon completion of this six-month programme. Courses for Engineering & Technology (16th Batch) will include Electrical Technology, Electronics (Computer & Networking), Residential Air-Conditioning, Mechatronics (Basic Servicing) and General Welding. The course for Hospitality & Tourism (17th Batch) will offer Front Office Operations, Housekeeping Operations and Restaurant Operations. **SEE PAGE 4**

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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

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following individuals after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Thaung Htaik	Rector Yangon University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Min Min Yi	Rector Mandalay University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

MNREC designates Thuwunnashan Protected Public Forest in Mongpyin

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has designated the area of 61,008 acres in Mongpyin Township of Kengtung District of Shan State as “Thuwunnashan Protected Public Forest” as of 1 September 2026 by exercising the authority conferred under Sub-section (c) of Section (6) of the Forest Law promulgated in 2018.

The Ministry has designated the forest area as a protected public forest, aiming to generate numerous benefits for local communities. By establishing conservation areas and providing legal protection for forest areas, the Ministry can further strengthen forest protection and conservation efforts, thereby improving local ecosystems, ensuring the long-term sustain-



This photo depicts Thuwunnashan protected public forest in Mongpyin Township.

ability of water-source areas, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and providing significant support for local farmers and agricultural activities.

The Thuwunnashan Protected Public Forest can help conserve forest species such as teak, pine, pyinkado, chestnut, oak, Thitya (Laukya) and mountain tamarind. It will also help protect wildlife species, including monkeys, wild boars, deer, barking deer, hares, junglefowl, partridges

and quails, alongside the forests and trees. The designation is also expected to enhance the ecosystem, support the socioeconomic development of local communities and create favourable climatic conditions for farming, agriculture and orchard cultivation. In addition, village water sources and springs are expected to improve and remain sustainable in the long term, providing a range of benefits to local communities. — MNREC/KTZH

Union Election Commission resolves election objection appeal No 1/2026

THE plenary session consisting of Union Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe along with Union Election Commission members U Aung Moe Myint, U Aung Lwin Oo, U Myint Oo, U Khin Maung Oo, U Myint Thein, U Ko Ko Lwin, U Than Aung Kyaw, U Khin Zaw, U Than Htut Thein, U Aung Myint Lwin, U Khin Maung Gyi, U Myo Maung, U Kyi Thein, and Daw Khin Thin Wai held its session at the Union Election Commission Office, Office 22, and made a decision (order) on Election Objection Appeal No 1/2026 yesterday. — MNA/ MKKS

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 54/2026

10th Waning of Wagoung, 1388 ME
7 September 2026

Announcement of UEC Decision under Section 75 (b) of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law

- Regarding the election of U Khaing Oo, Representative 1, elected for the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw (First-Past-The-Post system), Myeik Township Constituency, an election petition was submitted by U Win Kyu, a rival candidate in the same constituency. Consequently, the Union Election Commission examined, heard, and made decisions through an Election Tribunal in accordance with Section 69, and through an election petition appeal case under Section 75 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law.
- In the decision on Election Petition Appeal Case 1/2026 dated 7 September 2026, the Union Election Commission decided under Section 75 (a) of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law that the election of U Khaing Oo as Representative 1 for the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw (First-Past-The-Post system), Myeik Township Constituency, is null and void under the law, and that the person duly elected as Region Hluttaw Representative 1 of the said constituency under the law is U Win Kyu.
- Therefore, under Section 75 (b) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Law, it is hereby declared that U Khaing Oo [6/Ma-Ah-Ya(C) 098174] from the People’s Party no longer has the right to stand as a Hluttaw representative starting from the date of this announcement, and that U Win Kyu [6/Ta-Tha-Ya(C) 012267] from the Union Solidarity and Development Party is designated as Hluttaw Representative 1 for the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw (First-Past-The-Post system), Myeik Township Constituency.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 55/2026

10th Waning of Wagoung, 1388 ME
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Announcement of Substitution and Designation of Elected Representative for Taninthayi Region Hluttaw (Proportional Representation System) Constituency 1

In compliance with Notification 54/2026 issued by the Union Election Commission on 7 September 2026, and pursuant to Section 81-A of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law, the vote results obtained by Representative 1 U Khaing Oo from the Myeik Township Constituency were deducted, and the remaining valid votes were recalculated as prescribed. Upon recalculation, U Tin Soe [6/Ba-Pa-Na(C) 013104] of the People’s Party, who was Representative 2 for Launglon Township, no longer has the right to stand as a Hluttaw representative starting from the date of this announcement. Furthermore, in line with the priority list of candidates submitted by political parties under Rule 18 (d) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Rules, it is hereby designated and announced that Daw Mya Mya Sein (6/HtaWaNa(C)070910) is Representative 2 from the Launglon Township Constituency 1 of the Taninthayi Region Hluttaw (Proportional Representation System).

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts 23rd RCRC South-East Asia Leaders Meeting



The 23rd RCRC South-East Asia Leaders Meeting in progress in Yangon.

THE opening ceremony of the 23rd Red Cross Red Crescent South-East Asia Leaders Meeting took place at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society hosted the South-East Asia Red Cross Red Crescent Leaders Meeting in 2012 and is hosting it for the second time in 2026.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Health

Dr Thet Khaing Win said the theme of the meeting, “Unity in Humanitarian Action: Building a Better Tomorrow,” highlights the importance of unity and cooperation in addressing humanitarian challenges facing the world today.

He said the Myanmar Red Cross Society plays an important role as a reserve force of the State in disaster preparedness and emergency response nationwide. He also not-

ed that the government is continuously cooperating to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those in need.

Myanmar Red Cross Society President Dr Myo Nyunt, Deputy Regional Director of the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office Ms Juja Kim, and ICRC Director of International Law, Movement and Partnership Dr Cordula Droge also delivered opening remarks. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar attends 16th International Exhibition of Safety and Security Equipment and Technologies in Russia

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win attended the 16th International Exhibition of Safety and Security Equipment and Technologies, held in Kazan, Russian Federation, from 3 to 5 September.

During the visit, the Union minister held a bilateral meeting with Mr Alexander Kurenkov, Minister of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM) of the Russian Federation, at the Bilateral Meeting Room of the Kazan Expo Building, where the exhibition was held.

They discussed public safety and natural disaster-related issues currently being addressed in the Russian Federation, capacity-building and training programmes for personnel at different levels who are involved in responding to natural



Union Minister Dr Soe Win holds talks with the Russian Minister of EMERCOM.

and man-made disasters, the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two ministries on disaster management and possible assistance and support for enhancing capacity in various areas of disaster management.

The exhibition was organized under the leadership of the Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters of the Russian Federation. Companies engaged in the manufacture, distribution and sale of firefighting and security vehicles, machinery

and related equipment, as well as training institutions, participated in the exhibition and showcased their products and services.

During the exhibition, the Union minister observed equipment and machinery used in natural disaster response and other security-related disaster management activities. He also visited training schools and universities that provide capacity-building programmes for personnel involved in disaster management operations and observed their training activities.

SEE PAGE 5

Myanmar Expands Banana ...

FROM PAGE 1

Currently, these products are gaining popularity and seeing increased demand in the domestic market, and the first trial shipment has been exported to China. Furthermore, sample products were sent to the Republic of Korea to negotiate market requirements and product quality standards.

They had to overcome technical difficulties for about five years, and efforts are underway to transition from the handicraft level to the industrial level, he added.

The prices range

from K10,000 to K100,000 depending on the type of item. As the items are handcrafted, their prices reflect the considerable time and labour required for production. For instance, a single scarf can take three to five days to make.

Purchasing these goods directly supports local agricultural communities by generating supplementary income for farmers. Furthermore, it advances environmental sustainability by transforming agricultural waste into high-value, recycled products. — MT/ZN

Police beefs up security in Yangon Region

THE police from township police stations across Yangon Region are working together with traffic police and relevant administrative authorities to reduce crime and prevent criminal activities in the region.

Yesterday, the police teams from Insein, Hlinethaya (East), Hline-thaya (West), North Okkalapa, Ahlon and Thanlyin townships, to-



Traffic police members distribute pamphlets to people.

gether with traffic police personnel from Kamayut Township, conducted public crime-prevention

awareness activities, distributed pamphlets, carried out daytime bicycle patrols, conducted traffic

checks and educated pedestrians on using zebra crossings.

Similarly, on 6 September, police from Ahlon, Kamayut, Pabedan, Dagon Myothit (North), Hlinethaya (West), Hmawby and Sangyoung townships also conducted patrols, traffic checks, inspections of KTV businesses, bicycle patrols for area security and guest-list checks. — Aung Thu/KTZH



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NATIONAL

Communication devices for Tonzang arrive in Tiddim

COMMUNICATION equipment being sent to Tonzang has arrived in Tiddim and arrangements are underway to transport the equipment onward to Tonzang.

On 6 September morning, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, accompanied by Chin State Minister for Natural Resources



Deputy Minister Dr Thant Zaw Lwin presents cash assistant to people in Tiddim. and Environmental Conservation U Win Zaw Oo and members of Chin State Rehabilitation and Re-

construction Committee inspected the processes. They toured Tiddim by vehicle to inspect areas damaged by violent incidents. They later visited Hsaung Saung Sanpya Village, where they met and encouraged residents, observed traditional Chin houses, clothing and household items, and made a donation. — MNA/MKKS

195 PDFs rejoin society



An official accepts arms from PDF returnee.

A total of 195 individuals, including 177 men and 18 women — who accepted the peace processes of the State and the Tatmadaw, reentered the legal fold

yesterday with firearms and ammunition. They were warmly welcomed at Yan Aung Myin Hall of the Central Command Headquar-

ters, with Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung, Commander Brig-Gen Aung Htay, other relevant officials and parents of the returnees in attendance. The returnees handed over seven rifles, one homemade gun, 12 magazines, 459 rounds of various ammunition, 25 grenades and one walkie-talkie. The chief minister presented cash rewards totaling K11.7 million for the weapons and equipment, while 184 persons who returned with-

out weapons received K100,000 each. The returnees signed pledges and were subsequently handed over to their parents and guardians. There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

Co-op Model to Unite Mulberry Farmers

FROM PAGE 1
The fruit is widely consumed in European countries for its health benefits, earning nicknames such as “Queen

of Health” and “Blood Queen”. Mulberries are rich in vitamins C, K, and E, as well as iron, potassium, phosphorus, and cal-

cium. They are believed to improve blood circulation, boost immunity, and help the body cope with cold weather. Mulberry wine, in particular,

is traditionally consumed to enhance blood flow, relieve joint discomfort, and promote a sense of lightness and wellbeing. — ASH/KK

Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training ...

FROM PAGE 1
Application forms, along with a copy of the citizenship scrutiny card, health certificate, academic qualifications, residence certificate, po-

lice clearance, and three passportsized photos, must be submitted by 2 October. Classes will run from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, from 2 November 2026 to

2 February 2027, from Monday to Friday, at the SMVTI campus, No 123, Natmauk Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. A total of 320 trainees will be accepted across the

eight courses. Individuals can enquire about details by dialling the department at 09 781002572 during office hours. — NN/EM

Dr Aung Min, prominent doctor, writer and filmmaker, dies at 62

DR AUNG MIN (MBBS-YGN, 1990, UM-1), aged 62, a prominent doctor, writer, film scriptwriter and art therapist in Myanmar’s literary and film circles, passed away on 6 September.

Born in Yangon in 1964, Dr Aung Min graduated from the University of Medicine 1, Yangon, in 1990. After graduation, he worked as a doctor in Ayeyawady Region and Yangon until 2018. He subsequently co-founded the Aung Mental Health Initiative (Aung MHI) with his wife, senior psychiatrist Dr San San Oo, and carried out work providing art therapy for people with mental health difficulties.

Dr Aung Min was also deeply passionate about writing, even more so than medicine. He wrote numerous short stories and essays for magazines, incorporating reflections on death, a central theme of human existence, into his literary works. His published books included *Makaungthaw Nya* (A Bad Night, 1999), *Tawun Aya Di Myolay Ko Kyuntaw Yauk Kheh Thi* (I Came to This Little Town Out of Duty, 2003) and *Myanmar’s Contemporary Art, Part 1* (2010).

In the film industry, he attended film courses run by FAMU and the Yangon Film School (YFS) around 2006-2007. He later wrote the screenplay for *The Monk* (2014), directed by internationally acclaimed filmmaker The Maw Naing. As the leader of the Ten Men film collective, he continued to create film-related works, including *Man With The Beard* (2022).

In addition, *The Clinic*, a documentary made by Myanmar-born Chinese director Midi Z about Dr Aung Min’s small clinic



on the outskirts of the city, won the Grand Prize at the International Documentary Festival of Taiwan Province of China. Speaking at the festival 2024 discussion, Dr Aung Min said: “Whenever young people come to me to discuss making films, I usually tell them, ‘Making films is not the main thing. The main thing is to take good care of yourselves, especially your mental health.’ “Because emotional healing is so important, making a film is actually the easiest part. Living life with resilience is much more difficult.” At the Festival, the Ten Men film collective and the Japan Foundation (Yangon) have issued statements expressing their deep sorrow over Dr Aung Min’s death. The festival paid tribute to him as an important pioneer of Myanmar’s independent film industry, while the Ten Men collective described him as a guiding star for the group. Dr Aung Min’s body will be cremated at Yayway Cemetery at 5 pm on Tuesday, 8 September. A ceremony to mark the seventh day after his death will be held at his home in Dagon Myothit (North) Township at 7 am on Saturday, 12 September. He is survived by his wife, Dr San San Oo, and his sons, Maung Nyan Lin and Maung Thet Saung Aye. — TWA/KNN

NATIONAL

Bago Region expands trial cultivation of high-quality paddy varieties



Quality paddy varieties are thriving in trial cultivation farm in Pyu Township. PHOTO - KANU

BAGO Region, where agricultural and livestock production is being expanded, is now lush with monsoon paddy fields. The Cooperative Department in Pyu Town-

ship, Bago Region, said that Yezin Pawsan-2 paddy has been planted on a trial basis for the first time this year on 20 acres of the 522-acre Lunge Armarn Farm, located at

milepost 123 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. During this year's monsoon season, Thai Hnankauk and Yezin Pawsan-2 paddy varieties have been cultivated across the 522-acre farm, with Thai Hnankauk accounting for the majority. The department is conducting a trial of Yezin Pawsan-2 on 20 acres, while the farm's association is also testing Ayamin paddy on 50 acres. "We are conducting the trial in line with instructions to test

high-quality paddy varieties. We grow seasonal crops in the summer, monsoon and winter. After harvesting the 522 acres of monsoon paddy, we will continue with winter crops," said Daw Htay Htay Myint, a staff officer from the Pyu Township Cooperative Department. After the monsoon paddy season, winter crops such as black gram, mung beans and groundnuts will also be cultivated. — Nyein Thu(MNA)/MKKS

YU conducts earthquake preparedness and response rehearsal

ON 2 September, the University of Yangon held its first rehearsal for earthquake preparedness and response, organized by the Myanmar Earthquake Committee (MEC) in collaboration with the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies (Fed MES) and the University itself. During the event, students and staff received training on safe evacuation procedures during emergencies, as well as how to perform first aid and conduct

timely rescue operations. Following the rehearsal, university officials, MEC representatives, and students participated in a review session to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the exercise they had just completed. Additionally, a discussion took place, focusing on the necessary preparations and responses needed to ensure effectiveness in future emergencies, such as earthquakes. — MT/ZS



Earthquake preparedness and response rehearsal underway at the University of Yangon.

Tanai's MSY village project loans disbursed



Departmental official explains MSY village loans. THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yangung (MSY) Village Project in Lamun Village, Tanai Township, Kachin State, yesterday. Tanai Township Department of Rural Development Head U Zaw Myo 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 K55.5 million in revolving funds was transferred to members of the Mya Sein Yangung Village Project Implementation Committees. Lamun Village is

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 ninth-round concessional revolving loans totalling K55.5 million at low interest rates to 31 project members from the village, including seven people engaged in systematic agricultural activities receiving K16.5 million and 24 in livestock breeding receiving K39 million. —Karan (Rural)

Cute baby donkey born at Yangon Zoo



The cute baby donkey born at the Yangon Zoo, seen together with its mother.

AS welcome news for animal lovers, the Yangon Zoo has announced the birth of a cute baby donkey at the Yangon Zoological Gardens at 6:30 am on 5 September. The birth of this baby is a joyous outcome of systematically caring for the animals within the zoo and implementing planned breeding and conservation projects. To ensure the successful birth of the baby, animal caretakers provided daily care and fed them systematically. Additionally, veterinarians closely

monitored their health conditions and provided necessary medical care. Currently, the newborn baby donkey and its mother are being provided with nutritious food, a suitable living environment, and proper healthcare to ensure they grow up healthy and strong. This is not only delightful news, but it also signifies a positive achievement in the long-term conservation of animals and the systematic implementation of breeding and conservation efforts. — MT/ZN

Myanmar attends 16th International Exhibition ...

FROM PAGE 3 He inspected the completion of a training school in Kazan for search and rescue and emergency management, plans for its opening and training programmes, and also observed the operations of the flood search and rescue unit in Kazan. He attended and delivered remarks at a briefing on disaster and security-related activities given by Mr Alexander Kurenkov, Minister of EMERCOM of the Russian Federation, and the Mayor of Kazan. He also attended a welcome dinner hosted in conjunction with the programme. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

Motorists, passengers urged to stop littering on YGN-MDY Expressway

THE Yangon-Mandalay Expressway maintenance staff have reported that large quantities of rubbish are being cleared from the expressway and its verges every day because some motorists and passengers dispose of waste indiscriminately.

Some people throw rubbish from moving vehicles or leave it behind when stopping temporarily. Others eat by the roadside and abandon their food packaging and other waste instead of taking it with them. This



Maintenance staff collect the trash on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

occurs despite designated bins being provided at toll gates, security checkpoints and rest camps.

The litter not only

makes the expressway unsightly but can also pose a safety risk when stray dogs drag rubbish onto the road. Maintenance

engineers and workers also have to spend additional time clearing the waste, adding to their workload.

Expressway users are therefore urged to take their rubbish with them or dispose of it properly in designated areas, helping to keep the expressway clean and safe.

The Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, a major Union highway, stretches about 365 miles and three furlongs from Yangon to Mandalay. — TWA/MKKS

MGMA to offer 277th basic motor sewing machine course

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will hold Basic Motor Sewing Machine Course Batch 277 from 21 September to 9 October at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Centre (MGHRDC).

The three-week programme combines theory and hands-on training, covering single-needle machines and five special machine types. Upon completion, trainees will receive a K15,000 allowance and will

be connected with garment factories in seeking jobs.

The course also covers essential sewing techniques, step-by-step practical instruction, and labour law awareness. The training aims to create job opportunities for participants.

Interested individuals can contact MGHRDC at 400/B, Lower Mingaladon Road, Sintngu Ward, Insein Township, Yangon, or by dialling 09 940858350 or 09 450723262 for registration and further details. — NN/KK

Pyinmana's RBF project introduced, committee formed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an introductory briefing on the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project and formed a project committee in Thayasu Village, Pyinmana Township, yesterday.

Pyinmana Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nay Chi Zar Wai met res-

idents and explained the objectives, benefits, project procedures and rules and regulations stipulated in the project manual. Project officials explained in detail the rules for selecting and forming the committee, the duties and responsibilities of members, and implementation procedures.

The township head and officials, in accordance with the consensus



Officials explain rural business fund project to residents in Pyinmana Township.

of the villagers, formed a five-member Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project Committee to effectively

carry out project activities in the village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Tenders called for container truck hire for port-to-plant transport

MYANMA Pharmaceutical Industrial Enterprise has invited open tenders for the hire of container trucks to transport raw materials, packaging materials, machinery, and spare parts from Yangon ports to the pharmaceutical factories (Insein, Ywathagyi and Inyaung) for the

2026-2027 Financial Year. Tender forms are available from 7 September, with bids due by 4 pm on 6 October.

Individuals can enquire about tender documents and detailed terms and conditions through the MPIE (Head Office), at Office 37, Nay Pyi Taw, at 067 3408276. — NN/KK

Monghsat's RBF income-generating activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of systematic family

income-generating agricultural activities being carried out with funds from the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project in Maenin Village, Monghsat Township.

Monghsat Township

Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Htay and officials visited the village to inspect the condition of Shwenaungbo monsoon paddy being cultivated through a group-based sys-

tem. He also examined the monthly financial records of the project for accuracy and completeness, urged RBF members to make concerted efforts for project success, and advised them

to systematically cultivate crops by monitoring potential diseases and applying preventive measures.

The RBF Project aims to provide necessary capital to agricultural and livestock producers and small and medium-sized business operators, enabling them to

carry out livelihood activities through a group-based system. In Maenin Village, four groups – Yadana Htun, Mya Yadana, Sein Yadana and Shwemoe Ngemoe – are successfully implementing monsoon paddy cultivation using K30 million in RBF project funds. — Sein Lwin

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WORLD

King Charles classes Harry and Meghan as 'private citizens'

KING Charles III on Monday said his son Harry and the prince's wife Meghan are not to be considered "working members of the royal family" after they moved back to Britain from the United States.

The couple left Britain and quit royal duties in 2020 amid a royal family feud.

But in a surprise move last month Harry, 41, and Meghan, 45, returned to live in the UK with their two young children Archie, seven, and Lilibet, five.

In the letter Charles makes clear that the couple's position is "akin to



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex waves as he departs the Royal Courts of Justice, Britain's High Court, in central London, on 9 April 2025 following the second day of his appeal hearing to over the downgrading of his personal security during visits in Britain. PHOTO: AFP

private citizens" and that they should not be addressed as his and her royal highness.

So-called "working

royals" are members of the royal family who carry out official duties on behalf of the monarch. They receive administrative and

other support from the Royal Household to do so.

A letter issued by the Lord Chamberlain, the most senior official in the Royal Household, said that following the couple's relocation there had been "a number of requests for guidance".

The letter was issued "to help avoid doubt or confusion".

"It is well known that in January 2020 the Duke and Duchess stepped down from undertaking representative duties on behalf of the sovereign, and are no longer working members of the royal family," it said. — AFP

Thailand's stock investor confidence turns "very bullish" in Aug: survey

THAILAND'S stock investor confidence improved for a second successive month in August, primarily driven by fund inflows, alongside listed company earnings and government economic stimulus measures, a survey showed on Monday.

The investor confidence index, which predicts market conditions over the next three months, stood at 165.89 last month, up from 146.72 in the July survey, and entered the "very bullish" zone, according to the Federation of Thai Capital Market Organizations (FETCO).

Investor morale was mixed across categories, with retail investors down 1.4 per cent and proprietary investors down 6.7 per cent on a monthly basis, offset by a 4.2 per cent increase in domestic institutional investors and a 20 per cent surge in foreign investors, the FETCO said in a statement. — Xinhua

Lula says he will defend Brazil's Pix payment system amid US tariff dispute

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Saturday he would defend Brazil's Pix payment system in talks with US President Donald Trump, as Washington has cited the platform in its tariff dispute with Brazil.

Speaking at a political event in Sao Jose do Rio Preto, in the southeastern state of Sao Paulo, Lula said he would raise the issue during a possible meeting with Trump in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

"I will meet Trump at the UN and tell him to use Pix and see how good it is," Lula said.

Pix was launched by Brazil's central bank in November 2020 and allows instant payments and transfers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It has become one of Brazil's main payment methods.

Lula's remarks came amid a trade dispute between Brazil and the United States, including additional tariffs of up to 25 per cent on certain Brazilian products and US criticism of Brazil's digital payment system. — Xinhua

China's major river-to-sea canal to open to navigation

PINGLU Canal in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region will become operational on 16 September, according to a Monday press conference on the canal's opening.

The 134.2-kilometre canal links the Xijiang River shipping route in the north with the Beibu Gulf in the south. It is China's first major river-to-sea canal project that has been planned and coordinated at the national level since 1949.

Designed to accommodate vessels of up to 5,000 tonnes, the canal stretches along the country's New International



An aerial drone photo taken on 12 August 2026 shows a trial vessel driving past a bridge for animals over the Pinglu Canal in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. PHOTO: XINHUA

Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a strategic route linking China's inland regions with ASEAN and other global markets.

It is expected to shorten the shipping

distance between China's southwestern hinterland and ASEAN by 560 km and reduce logistics costs by 18 to 30 per cent, said Lu Xinning, vice chairperson of the regional

government, in another press conference held in early September.

"The canal not only overcomes Guangxi's longstanding constraints on river-to-sea connectivity, but will also reshape the economic geography between China and ASEAN," said Lu.

Trade between the two sides has seen robust growth in recent years. Data from General Administration of Customs show that bilateral trade between China and ASEAN reached 4.34 trillion yuan (about US\$640 billion) in the first half of 2026, up 18.2 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

Jordan sends humanitarian aid convoy to Gaza

THE Jordanian Red Crescent said Monday it has sent a humanitarian aid convoy to the Gaza Strip.

The convoy departed from Amman and is heading to Gaza via Egyptian

ports and crossings, the Jordanian Red Crescent said in a statement.

Mohammad Hadid, president of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, said the convoy reflects

Jordan's continued support for the Palestinian people and its commitment to delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza.

He also commended the Jordanian govern-

ment for facilitating the convoy's procedures, and the Egyptian authorities and Red Crescent for their cooperation in delivering aid to Gaza. — Xinhua

US average diesel price hits new high

THE US national average price for diesel rose to a record US\$5.9015 per gallon on Monday, surpassing the record \$5.85 set on Friday, according to the American Automobile Association.

The previous record was \$5.82 per gallon in June 2022, in the early months of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

US media attributed rising gas and diesel costs to the ongoing conflicts in Iran and Ukraine, which have disrupted international energy markets and driven up global fuel prices.

High diesel prices are adding to the Republican Party's midterm election challenges, as rising costs translate into higher transportation expenses for many everyday goods. Some businesses have already passed those costs on to consumers in the form of additional fees. — Xinhua

Building a prosperous society through literacy

Everyone can learn about new technologies and expand their knowledge only through literacy. Literacy enables people to access sources of information for their personal development, think clearly and make sound decisions for their future.

Literacy is a fundamental human right for all. It opens the door to the enjoyment of other human rights, greater freedoms, and global citizenship. Literacy is a foundation for people to acquire broader knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and behaviours to foster a culture of lasting peace based on respect for equality and non-discrimination, the rule of law, solidarity, justice, diversity, and tolerance, and to build harmonious relations with oneself, other people and the planet.

Efforts to eradicate illiteracy were implemented as a national responsibility. As literacy is the foundation of basic education, people's education courses and "Three Rs" literacy courses were implemented under four-year plans. In reviewing the education sector, the literacy rate among the population aged 15 and above was 92.1 per cent in 2024, while the numeracy rate was 92.3 per cent.

Efforts are being made to reduce the number of illiterate people aged 15 and above in Myanmar each year by incorporating literacy programmes into special national education projects and implementing systematic plans. Only when every citizen is literate can national development be successfully promoted.

For a Myanmar citizen, being literate is not only a personal responsibility but also a responsibility toward one's family, village or town, country and future generations. Literacy is not merely a means of self-improvement; it is also a fundamental foundation for rebuilding the nation.

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An illiterate person is like a blind person, while one who does not read is like a person who is deprived of knowledge. Such people cannot move forward in life on an equal footing with others. Therefore, everyone must support and work together to eradicate illiteracy from society. In 2026, the 60th anniversary year of International Literacy Day, everyone should make concerted efforts to eliminate illiteracy and promote global prosperity in line with the theme, "Literacy for People, the Planet and Prosperity."

Firm Political Trust and Expanding Myanmar–Vietnam Economic and Technology Corridors

The recent official visit of U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam represents a significant milestone and the opening of a new chapter in Myanmar-Vietnam relations. Building on a long-standing tradition of friendship, the visit may be viewed as a strategic step towards strengthening political trust while broadening economic and technological corridors for the future.

A Historic Friendship and Firm Political Trust

Myanmar and Vietnam share similar historical experiences in their struggles for independence, and both countries have endured numerous challenges in the course of their national development.

In 1954, Myanmar Prime Minister U Nu visited Vietnam. In February 1958, Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh visited Myanmar; during which the University of Yangon conferred upon him an honorary doctorate in law. Such exchanges reflected the strong foundations of friendship that had already been established between the two countries.

Today, diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Vietnam have reached their 50th anniversary, while the Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership, established in 2017, will mark its tenth anniversary in 2027.

Statements made by the leaders during the latest visit further underscored the growing political trust between the two countries.

Vietnamese President Mr To Lam stated: "The President's visit will contribute to further strengthening the friendship, comprehensive cooperation and partnership between our two countries, while generating practical outcomes that will help deepen, consolidate and enhance the effectiveness of Vietnam-Myanmar relations in the years ahead."

Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Le Minh Hung likewise expressed confidence that the visit would further promote and strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

For his part, the President of Myanmar stated that he greatly respected and admired successive generations of Vietnamese leaders for their achievement in building Vietnam into a country that has made comprehensive progress despite having endured decades of war and international sanctions and restrictions.

Such remarks demonstrate a relationship founded not merely on diplomatic courtesy, but on mutual recognition of each other's historical struggles, resilience and achievements — the hallmarks of firm political trust.



President U Min Aung Hlaing and his entourage hold a bilateral talk with President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr To Lam and party in Hanoi, Vietnam.

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Building on this political trust, economic and technological cooperation between Myanmar and Vietnam has continued to broaden.

Myanmar has also requested Vietnam to share the experience gained from nearly four decades of implementing its Doi Moi economic reform programme. Such

knowledge-sharing could represent an important strategic step for Myanmar as it seeks to advance its own economic reform and development process. There are also promising prospects for cooperation in technology and industry.

Mytel, which began operations in 2018, has become an important example of bilateral investment and technological cooperation. The name "Mytel" itself was selected by the President of Myanmar. Myanmar has invited Viettel to invest in technology special zones, including Yadanarpon Cyber City, with a view to manufacturing digital and technological products in Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation also visited VinFast's electric vehicle manufacturing plant, which covers more than 500,000 square metres and was reportedly completed within 21 months. The visit highlights the potential for future cooperation in electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing and related industrial sectors.

In addition, the 'India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway' is being implemented. Once connected with wider regional transport networks, it could provide Vietnam with greater access to South Asian markets through Myanmar, while enabling Myanmar to gain easier access to East Asian markets through Laos and Vietnam. Such connectivity would give

Myanmar Narrative Think Tank

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By building upon firm political trust and expanding cooperation in digital technology, advanced industries and regional connectivity — while linking the East-West and Southern Economic Corridors — Myanmar and Vietnam have the potential to create a broader and more promising future for their bilateral partnership

Governments can support digital literacy by investing in technological infrastructure and expanding internet access, particularly in rural communities. Public and private organizations can organize training programs to improve digital skills among different age groups. Equal access to technology can help reduce educational and economic inequalities.

Individuals must also take responsibility for developing their digital skills. Continuous learning is necessary because technology continues to evolve. Reading educational materials, participating

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Linking Strategic Economic Corridors

In the areas of trade and infrastructure connectivity, Myanmar and Vietnam are placing increasing emphasis on utilizing regional economic corridors.

Myanmar's 'Thilawa Special Economic Zone' can be connected with the East-West Economic Corridor, linking Myanmar through Myawaddy with Thailand, Laos and Da Nang in Vietnam.

'The Dawei Deep-Sea Port' could also be linked to the Southern Economic Corridor, connecting Dawei in Myanmar with Bangkok, Luang Prabang and Da Nang in Vietnam.

In addition, the 'India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway' is being implemented. Once connected with wider regional transport networks, it could provide Vietnam with greater access to South Asian markets through Myanmar, while enabling Myanmar to gain easier access to East Asian markets through Laos and Vietnam.

Such connectivity would give Myanmar and Vietnam a strategic role as bridges between South-East Asia, South Asia and the wider East Asian economic space.

Conclusion In conclusion, Myanmar-Vietnam relations are evolving from a historically rooted friendship into an increasingly practical and strategic partnership.

As the President of Myanmar remarked at the business forum: "If we go alone, we may go fast, but only by working together can we go far." At a time of growing uncertainty in the global economy, stronger cooperation between Myanmar and Vietnam has become increasingly important.

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By building upon firm political trust and expanding cooperation in digital technology, advanced industries and regional connectivity — while linking the East-West and Southern Economic Corridors — Myanmar and Vietnam have the potential to create a broader and more promising future for their bilateral partnership.

The foundations have already been laid. The next phase will depend on how effectively political goodwill can be translated into trade, investment, technology transfer, industrial cooperation and tangible regional connectivity. (This article reflects the views and opinions of MNTT.)

Digital Literacy: An Essential Skill for the 21st Century

By Lumaw Oo

In today's rapidly changing world, digital technology has become an important part of everyday life. People use smartphones, computers, and the internet for communication, education, business, and entertainment. As technology continues to develop, digital literacy has become an essential skill for individuals of all ages. Understanding how to use technology effectively and responsibly is no longer optional but necessary.

Digital literacy refers to the ability to access, evaluate, create, and communicate information using digital technologies. It involves more than simply knowing how to use a computer or a mobile phone. It also includes critical thinking, online safety, information management, and responsible digital behaviour.

One of the greatest benefits of digital literacy is improved access to education. Students can use online resources to conduct research, attend virtual classes, and develop new skills. Educational platforms provide opportunities for learners to access information from anywhere in the world. As a result, technology has reduced barriers to education and expanded learning opportunities.

Digital literacy also contributes to economic growth. Many modern jobs require employees to possess technological skills. Businesses increasingly depend on digital tools for communication, marketing, data analysis, and financial management. Workers who understand digital technology are often more competitive in the job market and have greater career opportunities.

However, the rapid growth of technology has also created several challenges. The spread of misinformation on social media has made it difficult for people to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources. Cybercrime, online fraud, and data theft have become significant concerns. Without proper digital literacy, individuals may become vulnerable to these threats.

For this reason, schools should integrate digital literacy into their educational programs. Students should learn how to identify trustworthy information, protect their personal data, and communicate responsibly online. Teachers and parents also have an important role in guiding young people toward safe and ethical technology use.

Governments can support digital literacy by investing in technological infrastructure and expanding internet access, particularly in rural communities. Public and private organizations can organize training programs to improve digital skills among different age groups. Equal access to technology can help reduce educational and economic inequalities.

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SCI/TECH WORLD

Panama Canal says not ruling out new transit restrictions due to El Nino

THE Panama Canal is not ruling out new restrictions on ship traffic due to a drought exacerbated by the El Nino weather phenomenon, the critical waterway's new administrator told AFP on Monday.

The interoceanic canal — through which five per cent of global maritime trade passes — has already gradually reduced the maximum number of ships allowed daily from 36 to 32.

But Ilya Espino de Marotta, who took over as administrator on Monday, said in an interview that further measures may be implemented if the drought does not subside.

"We do not rule out



Ilya Espino de Marotta, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal, speaks during an interview with AFP at the Panama Canal Administration Building in Panama City on 4 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

the possibility that in February or March we may have to lower the limit — probably not to 24 slots per day, but it could be reduced to 29 or something similar," Espino de Marotta told AFP.

The Panama Canal, which opened to commercial traffic in 1914, operates using rainwater stored in two reservoirs. Their water levels have dropped due to the drought caused by El

Nino, which is shaping up to be the most intense on record and has prompted a nationwide alert.

In 2023, El Nino forced a reduction in daily transits from 38 to 22 due to the dramatic reduction in reservoir levels. Espino de Marotta, the first woman ever to head the US-built canal, stated, however, that she does not expect restrictions to reach the levels seen that year. Last Friday, 34 vessels were allowed through. This number will drop to 32 beginning 15 September, officials said, with the maximum draft also gradually reduced from 15.2 metres to 14.6 metres (50 feet to 48 feet). — AFP

Huawei unveils high-performance Kirin 9050 Pro chip

CHINESE tech giant Huawei on Monday launched the Mate XT 2 tri-fold smartphone powered by the new Kirin 9050 Pro chip, the first high-performance processor to use logic folding technology.

The Kirin 9050 Pro stacks logic units in layers within a single chip, shortening signal transmission paths, reducing latency and boosting overall performance, according to a launch event in Guangzhou.

The last time Huawei introduced a new Kirin chip at a flagship launch was at the global release of the Mate 40 smartphone six years ago. The company has continued to innovate and break new ground in recent years.

The company's research and development (R&D) spending accelerated sharply to reach 121.38 billion yuan (US\$17.9 bil-

lion) in the first half of 2026, marking a record high for the period and accounting for more than a quarter of revenue.

Huawei is advancing rapidly across multiple technology-intensive fields, including artificial intelligence, chips, operating systems and smart vehicles, with its sustained R&D intensity laying the groundwork for long-term technological capability.

The strategy appears to be paying off in the market. According to IDC data, Huawei's smartphone shipments grew 19.4 per cent year on year in the second quarter of 2026, pushing its market share to 22.6 per cent — the top position in China. At a time when the broader industry is under pressure, Huawei stands out as one of the few major vendors posting significant growth, analysts said. — Xinhua



An audience member takes a selfie with Huawei's Mate XT 2 tri-fold smartphone powered by the new Kirin 9050 Pro chip after a launch event in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, 7 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Wildfires, heatwaves endanger air quality, health: UN



Colombian firefighters battle a wildfire in Coello, Tolima department, Colombia on 25 August 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

WILDFIRES and heatwaves, which generate microscopic airborne pollutants, risk undermining international ef-

forts to improve air quality, protect human health and safeguard nature, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on

Monday.

The United Nations' weather and climate agency underlined the links between air pollution and climate change, which scientists say is leading to more frequent and more intense heatwaves and wildfires.

"Extreme wildfires are increasing, leading to big health consequences because of the high toxicity of smoke," the WMO said in a statement accompanying its latest annual Air Quality and Climate Bulletin.

"Whilst regulations in

Europe and North America have reduced industrial and transport PM2.5 emissions, exposure to fire-related PM2.5 has increased." Particulate matter PM2.5 is composed of microscopic particles and droplets of less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter, which is a health hazard because it can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream. It is emitted by fossil fuel-driven industrial activities, farming, domestic heating and transport, as well as by wildfires and dust storms. — AFP

Scientists propose surveys of entire Antarctic coast to improve sea-level predictions

ANTARCTIC scientists in Australia are part of an international plan to conduct geophysical surveys of the entire Antarctic coastal region in a bid to improve predictions of future sea-level rise.

Scientists would run three continent-wide sur-

vey rings around Antarctica, tracking inland ice flow, grounding zones and ocean-facing ice shelves to capture the critical processes driving ice loss, according to a statement released Monday by Australia's University of Tasmania (UTAS).

The study, published in the American Geophysical Union's Reviews of Geophysics, synthesizes current understanding of how ice, ocean, atmosphere and the solid Earth interact in Antarctica's coastal zone, and highlights key knowledge

gaps and the need for improved observations at a pan-Antarctic scale.

"This ambitious, globally coordinated campaign would resolve the biggest uncertainties in predicting Antarctic sea-level rise, with huge implications for coastal

planning and efforts to support low-lying nations, including Australia's Pacific neighbours," said study co-lead author Felicity McCormack from Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future based at Australia's Monash University.

Study co-author Zhao Chen from the UTAS Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies said

the plan could help reveal how far and how fast Antarctic ice loss could reshape coastlines around the world.

The review was written by 80 scientists worldwide through the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research's RINGS Action Group, which coordinates international efforts to survey Antarctica's coastal zone. — Xinhua

WORLD

Japanese artist Okazaki wins Emmy for “Star Wars” animation

JAPANESE manga artist and illustrator Takashi Okazaki won an Emmy Award on Sunday for his work on a “Star Wars” animated series.

Okazaki, 52, received the award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Animation for character design on “Star Wars: Visions Volume 3”. He worked on one of the nine episodes in the Disney+ anthology series, which features shorts produced by several Japanese studios.

An excited Okazaki told reporters after the ceremony in Los Angeles that he has always tried

to do something new and that he was delighted to receive such an honour for a project tied to “Star Wars”, which he has long loved.

Okazaki had previously earned an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Animated Programme for his work on the 2009 animated film “Afro Samurai: Resurrection”.

Winners of some of the Emmy Awards’ most high-profile categories, including outstanding drama and comedy series, are due to be announced 14 September. — Kyodo



Japanese manga artist and illustrator Takashi Okazaki poses with his Emmy trophy in Los Angeles on 6 September 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Osaka comedy club shows visitors Japan beyond guidebooks

British comedian Edd founded the comedy group after arriving in 2011.

IN a small basement theater in Osaka’s bustling Minami district, comedians from Japan and overseas are giving foreign visitors an irreverent glimpse of a side of the country rarely found in travel guides.

Located beneath L&L Bar&Restaurant in Shin-saibashi, the independently operated Osaka Comedy Club stages stand-up shows in English almost every day. Most audience members are overseas tourists, with weekend performances regularly selling out the roughly 20-seat venue.



Photo taken on 10 August 2026, shows the entrance to the Osaka Comedy Club (R) in Osaka. PHOTO: KYODO

On a Friday night in late July, the first performer was Edd, 43, a British comedian who founded the club’s predecessor as part of a six-member comedy

group after coming to Japan in 2011.

Edd tries to incorporate observations about Japan into his routines, offering visitors a humor-

ous take on local customs and cultural differences. Spotting an audience member with a tattoo, he turned Japan’s restrictions on tattooed customers at some hot springs into a joke about the patches people may use to cover them. Edd first performed comedy in London and later took to the stage in China and elsewhere before coming to Japan. He believes foreign visitors are drawn to the venue partly because English-language entertainment remains relatively scarce in Japan. — Kyodo

Dry weather affects Sri Lanka severely

MORE than 115,000 people in seven districts of Sri Lanka have been affected by prevailing dry weather conditions linked to the El Nino weather pattern, the National Disaster Relief Services Centre said Saturday.

The center said 115,534 people have been affected, while authorities are supplying drinking water to 113,354 people from 34,608

families.

Monaragala is the worst-affected district, with 41,360 people from 12,732 families. Authorities are also supplying drinking water to 33,394 people in Batticaloa, 20,418 in Badulla and 11,995 in Ampara. Disaster management authorities said relief operations and drinking water distribution would continue in affected areas. — Xinhua



In this file photo dated 23 April 2022, a farmer works on a paddy field in Tissamaharama, Hambantota district, Sri Lanka. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Trump again seeks to remove protections for wolves

PRESIDENT Donald Trump’s administration on Friday pushed to drop endangered species protections for wolves, outraging conservationists who said the move would jeopardize the iconic predators’ recovery from the brink of extinction.

In an executive order aimed at helping cattle ranchers combat livestock losses, the president gave his Interior Secretary Doug Burgum 90 days to “make a determination as to whether the gray wolf

and the Mexican wolf have met the recovery criteria for delisting or downlisting under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)”.

If the recovery criteria are found to have been met, the secretary is asked to begin the process of delisting. Upon such a determination, the secretary and other officials are to meet with state authorities and encourage them to pass similar measures and loosen standards for killing wolves.

Speaking with ranch-



Donald Trump moves forward to end endangered species wolf protection order. PHOTO: PIXABAY

ers at an Oval Office event, Trump appeared confused about what the order did, asking, “But you can shoot them as of today?” He was correct-

ed by Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins who laughed and joked: “Secretary Burgum has to do a little magic.” — AFP

“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” tops North American box office for 6th straight weekend

SONY and Marvel’s superhero film “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” maintained its reign at the North American box office, adding US\$18 million during its sixth weekend of release for a domestic tally of \$917.76 million through Sunday, according to data released by measurement firm Rentrak.

“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” is the first film since 2022’s “Avatar: The Way of Water” to top the North American box office for six

consecutive weekends. The film, based on the Marvel Comics character Spider-Man and starring Tom Holland in the titular role, has grossed \$2.4 billion worldwide.

Universal Pictures’ epic action film “The Odyssey” has likewise demonstrated its staying power at the box office. The film came in second in its eighth weekend, grossing \$13 million and bringing its cumulative North American total to \$584.8 million. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

China improves investment mechanism to advance rural revitalization

CHINA has unveiled a plan to improve its investment mechanism for rural revitalization as part of broader efforts to boost agricultural and rural development, the country's agriculture ministry said Monday.

Jointly issued by multiple government bodies, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission and the People's Bank of China, the plan calls for stronger fiscal and financial support and increased social capital participation. The goal is to steadily boost investment in rural revitalization and further optimize the investment structure for agriculture, rural areas and farmers.

By 2030, the country aims to have basically

established a rural revitalization investment mechanism aligned with agricultural and rural development conditions, featuring a well-balanced structure, sound approaches and an emphasis on both efficiency and effectiveness, according to the plan.

Emphasizing the leading role of government funding, the plan outlines measures to fully leverage bonds, loans and insurance to support agricultural and rural development, while calling for coordinated efforts by governments, financial institutions and social capital.

Favourable pricing and subsidy policies will also be rolled out in a more coordinated and effective manner, according to the plan.



An aerial drone photo taken on 29 July 2026 shows an agricultural plane carrying out aerial crop protection operations over a farmland of Beidahuang Group in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

PHOTO: XINHUA

Addressing issues concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers remains a top priority on China's development agenda, with advancing rural revitalization across the board serving as a key task. To this end, the outline of China's 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) stresses improving the effectiveness of policies

aimed at strengthening agriculture, benefiting farmers and enriching rural areas. It calls for improving related mechanisms and policy frameworks, facilitating the two-way flow of resources between urban and rural areas, and injecting greater vitality into agricultural and rural development. — Xinhua

Jaguar Land Rover to cut 4,000 jobs as European car sector hits skids

JAGUAR Land Rover said Monday that it would cut "around 4,000 roles over the next two years", or about ten per cent of its global workforce, in a further blow to Europe's automobile industry.

The company revealed its voluntary redundancy scheme just days after the German car giant Volkswagen announced 50,000 new job cuts.

It follows months of turmoil caused by a cyberattack on the British luxury carmaker and US President Donald Trump's sector-wide tariffs.

The world's biggest carmakers across Europe, the United States and Japan are also facing strong competition from Chinese manufacturers, as well as the need to invest heav-

ily as the industry shifts towards electric vehicles.

"The automotive industry faces significant challenges, with technological change amidst intense competition and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty," JLR's chief executive PB Balaji said in the statement, which also said it would target cost savings of £1.7 billion (\$2.3 billion).

"Over the next 12 months, we will launch five new products, continue to leverage the strength of our brands and renew our focus on North America, amongst other markets, to help us deliver double digit revenue growth," Balaji added.

The vast majority of JLR employees — around 34,000 people — are based in the UK. — AFP



Jaguar Land Rover signage is seen on a dealership in Tonbridge, south-east of London on 29 September 2025.

PHOTO: AFP

Malaysia data centre industry faces power, water constraints

MALAYSIA'S fast-growing data centre industry is facing mounting power and water constraints as developers shift from announcing new projects to commissioning and operating facilities, with Johor at the centre of the expansion, according to

analysts.

BIMB Securities said in a recent report that the Malaysian market is entering a new phase after land acquisitions, investment announcements and construction activity drove its initial growth. The next stage

will increasingly depend on the successful commissioning, energization and utilization of completed facilities.

According to BIMB, Johor state remains central to Malaysia's data centre growth, supported by its proximity to

Singapore, availability of scalable land and expanding utility infrastructure. However, future growth is expected to depend less on new investment proposals and more on converting existing commitments into revenue-generating operations. — Xinhua

Scorching summer pushes French wine harvest to new historic low



A worker from Bulgaria harvests grape in the vineyards of the Antonin Guyon winery in Pernand-Vergeles, Burgundy on 2 September 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRENCH wine production this year is expected to fall six per cent from 2025 after a summer of unprecedented heatwaves and drought, the agriculture ministry said on Monday, predicting the most paltry harvest for some 70 years.

France, the world's second-largest wine producer after Italy, is expected to produce less than 34 million hectolitres in 2026,

according to estimates released by the agriculture ministry.

According to the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV), which tracks global wine production and consumption, the 2025 figure was already a historic low, marking the lowest production in France since 1957.

The decline expected in 2026, which is 17 per cent

below the average seen between 2021 and 2025, is due both to shrinking vineyards and lower yields caused by drought and summer heatwaves, according to the ministry's statistics service.

As of 1 September, production was estimated at nearly 33.9 million hectolitres, compared with 35.9 million hectolitres last year. A hectolitre is the equivalent of 100 litres.

The service noted, however, significant differences between regions.

In Champagne, output

is expected to be cut by half compared with both 2025 and the five-year average.

But in the southern region of Languedoc-Roussillon, the harvest is expected to rise five per cent from the 2025 weak crop thanks to improved yields, although it would still remain eight per cent below the 2021-2025 average.

France last week announced more than one billion euros in emergency support for farmers, but agricultural groups said the package fell short of needs. — AFP

German factory output falls 1.1% in July

GERMANY factory output fell more than expected in July, official data showed Monday, underscoring the economy's fragility as Chancellor Friedrich Merz comes under mounting pressure to boost growth.

Industrial production in Europe's biggest economy dropped 1.1 per cent, federal statistics agency Destatis said, steeper than the 0.5 per cent forecast in a poll of analysts by the financial platform FactSet.

A production pause at a car plant likely pushed the figure down, Destatis said, without identifying the company.

But BMW said in June that it would spend a little over five weeks overhauling its plant in

the eastern city of Leipzig.

Destatis also said industrial production in June stagnated, revising down a preliminary estimate of a 0.2 per cent rise.

The disappointing data comes after some brighter-than-expected indicators in recent weeks had boosted hopes the Germany economy was turning a corner after following years of stagnation.

"This morning's industrial production data is a good reminder of how fragile the cyclical recovery of the German economy is," ING bank analyst Carsten Brzeski said.

"The German economy is not out of the woods yet," he added. — AFP



An employee loads a car for transport at the Zwickau Volkswagen Plant on 9 July 2026 at the Zwickau, eastern Germany. PHOTO: AFP

S Korea's new jobless claims fall for 2nd month in Aug

SOUTH Korea's new jobless claims fell for a second straight month due to weaker demand from the construction and manufacturing industries, government data showed Monday.

The number of new applicants for job-seeking benefits retreated 0.3 per cent from a year earlier to 81,000 in August, after contracting 2.2 per cent in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Employ-

ment and Labour.

While sectors such as retail and public administration saw an influx of new claims, a steep drop in claims from the construction and manufacturing industries dragged down the overall figure. The construction sector recorded the sharpest decline of 22.6 per cent in the cited month, while the manufacturing industry posted a double-digit reduction of 11.6 per cent. — Xinhua

China to issue 300 bln yuan in special treasury bonds to boost capital of financial firms

CHINA'S Ministry of Finance said on Monday that it will soon issue 300 billion yuan (about US\$44.25 billion) in special treasury bonds to support eight state-owned financial enterprises directly administered by the central government in replenishing their core Tier 1 capital.

This move is expected to further strengthen these institutions' operational capacity, resilience to risks and ability to serve the real economy, providing stronger support for the country's steady and sound economic growth, according to a circular issued by the ministry.

The eight institutions include two major state-owned commercial banks, namely Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Agricultural Bank of China (ABC); two policy financial institutions, namely the Export-Import Bank of China



This photo taken on 2 September 2024 shows the skyline of the central business district (CBD) at dusk in Beijing, capital of China. PHOTO: XINHUA

and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation; and four state-owned commercial insurers, which are the People's Insurance Company (Group) of China, China Life Insurance (Group) Company, China Taiping Insurance Group and China Reinsurance (Group) Corporation.

For listed enterprises, the capital replenishment is also expected to help

create greater value for investors and deliver stable long-term returns, the circular noted.

The eight institutions are currently operating steadily, with stable asset quality and major regulatory indicators remaining within safe and healthy ranges, it said, adding that the capital replenishment endeavour will be carried out prudently in accord-

ance with market-oriented and law-based principles.

Core Tier 1 capital is the highest-quality form of capital used to absorb losses and serves as a key buffer against financial risks. For banks, a stronger core Tier 1 capital position generally provides more room to expand lending while maintaining regulatory capital ratios. — Xinhua

Tech firms rally, with eyes on US inflation update

TECHNOLOGY firms rallied on stock markets Monday, with traders gearing up for key US inflation data this week that could lock in a September interest rate rise from the Federal Reserve.

The share price gains — led by chipmakers in Seoul and Tokyo — came even after a forecast-busting reading on US jobs Friday that ramped up bets that the Fed will tighten monetary policy on 16 Sep-

tember.

A fresh bout of tit-for-tat US-Iran strikes at the weekend pushed oil prices higher and added upward pressure to inflation expectations.

Average diesel pric-

es in the United States climbed to a new record Monday, the motorists' association AAA said, as damage to Gulf refineries during the war against Iran disrupted supplies. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0103N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0103N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-9-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (633W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NORDLEOPARD VOY.NO. (633W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-9-2026** 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

Heavy rain lashes Japan as weather agency warns of landslides, rainbands

HEAVY rainfall hit eastern Japan and elsewhere on Monday, with the weather agency urging maximum vigilance against landslides on Niijima, Oshima and Toshima islands, south of Tokyo, and a woman dying in Iwaki in the northeast after her car became submerged.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a special landslide warning for Oshima after more than 580 millimetres of rain fell there over 24 hours, the highest September figure since local records began.

Heavy rain also hit eastern Japan, including Tokyo, from the early hours of Monday, disrupting train services and forcing some school closures. The weather agen-



A convenience store parking lot is flooded amid heavy rain in Oamishirasato, Chiba Prefecture, on 7 September 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

cy issued a level 4 landslide alert on its 5-point scale for parts of Chiba and Saitama prefectures, neighbouring the capital.

Service suspensions affected more than 140,000 people in the Tokyo metropolitan area, railway operators said. Passengers were urged to check the latest service information.

Major lines in the

capital, including the Yamanote loop line, reduced services by around 20 to 30 per cent from normal levels in the early morning.

The weather agency also warned that rainbands capable of bringing localized torrential downpours over prolonged periods could develop in the northeastern Tohoku

region as a seasonal rain front moves north.

A woman in her 60s was declared dead after being found unresponsive in a submerged car at an underpass in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, according to the local fire department.

Two people suffered minor injuries after falling amid the heavy rain in Chiba, the prefectural government said.

The central government has set up a liaison headquarters at the prime minister's office to assess potential damage and streamline emergency responses.

The weather agency said warm, moist air flowed into a front extending near the southern coast of Honshu, Japan's main island. — Kyodo

Nepal holds day of mourning as families pray missing still alive

NEPAL held a national day of mourning on Monday for victims of devastating glacial floods, as families of missing hydropower workers feared trapped in tunnels prayed rescuers might yet find them alive.

The 26 August glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,398 people, with more than 5,500 missing, including around 800 foreigners.

Flags flew at half-mast, with candlelight vigils planned later in the day, as the nation marked the 13th day after death, following Hindu mourning rituals.

Hundreds of hydropower workers are among the missing, but the rescue of three of them from deep inside tunnels — two Nepalis on Friday and a Chinese man on Saturday — have buoyed hopes that more could still be alive.

Nepal Army spokesman Raja Ram Basnet said rescue efforts were continuing at “the same tempo” to make sure “that no one is still stranded”.

Entire communities have been swept away, with roads destroyed and homes demolished.

Hope

But families of some of the missing workers who gathered in the capital Kathmandu said the government must move faster.

“We have a lot of hope,” said Reena Amatya Shrestha, whose brother is among the missing.

“They say they are doing rescue. If the rescue is there, where's the result? We need the result.”

Australian tunnel rescue expert Arnold Dix, who is advising Nepali teams, said the operation presented an unprecedented challenge. — AFP



A police personnel conducts a search and rescue operation in the aftermath of flash floods at Trishuli in Nepal's Nuwakot district on 7 September 2026. PHOTO: AFP

7 Indonesian airports shut due to volcanic ash, affecting 270,000 travellers

SEVEN airports in Indonesia remained closed on Monday due to volcanic

ash from an eruption since late last week, affecting around 2,300 flights and

some 270,000 passengers, local authorities said.

Mount Anak Krakatau, which forms a volcanic island in the Sunda Strait between the main islands of Java and Sumatra, has erupted repeatedly since Friday night, spewing volcanic ash that has spread widely over parts of the islands.

Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said that the closures included Jakarta's main Soekarno-Hatta International Airport.

As of Monday, more than 950 international flights, including those to and from Japan, were cancelled or diverted.

The volcano emerged from the massive crater left by Krakatau's tsunami-triggering eruption in 1883, which killed more than 36,000 people. Anak Krakatau means “Child of Krakatau.”

In 2018, hundreds of people were killed after an eruption of the volcano triggered a tsunami. — Kyodo



Travelers wait in line at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Banten province, Indonesia, 6 September 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

India teams search for trapped after deadly Delhi building collapse

INDIAN rescue teams searched the rubble of a building collapse in New Delhi on Monday, a day after the five-storey block crashed down killing at least six people, officials said.

Emergency teams fear there are people still trapped in the rubble.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which treated victims from the collapse, said its trauma

centre received 10 people.

“Out of the 10 patients, five were brought dead, while one patient who was in critical condition later succumbed to his injuries,” AIIMS said

in a statement.

Disaster agency teams, as well as fire and police teams, are using heavy machinery as well as sniffer dogs to locate anyone who may be trapped. — AFP

Egyptian FM, UNRWA acting chief meet over humanitarian situation in Gaza, West Bank

EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on Monday met with UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Acting Commissioner-General Christian Saunders in Cairo to discuss the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank, according to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

During their meeting, Abdelatty condemned Israeli attacks on UNRWA facilities, including the 25 August storming and seizure of its Qalandia training centre in occupied East Jerusalem, and urged the protection of UN facilities and staff, the ministry said in a statement. — Xinhua

SPORTS

2026 Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw Tourney continues



Athletes are competing in 2026 Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw Tourney.

THE 2026 Inter-Ministry Sepak Takraw Tournament began yesterday at Gymnasium A of the Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex in Nay Pyi Taw,

with the four-men’s team group-stage matches getting underway. The final round-robin matches of the men’s four-player team event were completed, with various ministries securing victories. The first-round knockout matches will begin at 10 am on 8 September, followed by the quarterfinals. People and sports enthusiasts are welcome to attend and watch the matches free of charge. — MNA/KTZH

Defending champs Alcaraz, Sabalenka move into US Open quarters

DEFENDING champion Carlos Alcaraz beat 20th-seeded Tommy Paul in straight sets to reach his fifth US Open quarterfinal, while top-seeded Aryna Sabalenka defeated American Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-3 to make the last eight for the sixth consecutive year on Sunday. Sabalenka and Townsend broke serve through the first five games. Two-time US Open champion Sabalenka led 5-2 before Townsend pulled two games back, and Sabalenka closed out the set with a fore-



Carlos Alcaraz hits a return during his men’s singles fourth round win against Tommy Paul at the 2026 US Open in New York, 6 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA** hand winner on serve. Townsend broke first in the second set and led 3-1 before Sabalenka won five straight games. Sabalenka, whose 99 consecutive weeks at No 1 rank sixth all time, said

maintaining her level demands more than some may realize. “Probably they don’t understand how hard it is mentally and physically to keep up the level,” she said. “Mentally, I stay disconnected from that, because the moment you start thinking about it, you lose it.” Sabalenka will next face sixth-seeded Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic, who outlasted 11th-seeded Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 to reach her first US Open quarterfinal. — Xinhua

Arsenal rallies past Chelsea as Everton snatches late draw at Man United

ARSENAL came from behind to beat Chelsea 2-1 in the Premier League on Sunday, while Everton scored a dramatic stoppage-time equalizer to draw 2-2 with Manchester United. Morgan Rogers put Chelsea ahead after two minutes with a volley from the edge of the penalty area. Riccardo Calafiori

had the ball in the Chelsea net 10 minutes later, but his effort was ruled out for offside. Kai Havertz then scored against his former club to make it 1-1 in the 25th minute. The German collected the ball wide on the right, cut inside and beat goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez with a curling shot. Pedro Neto nearly restored Chelsea’s lead

on the stroke of halftime when his effort struck the woodwork, before Martin Odegaard scored what proved to be the winner in the 50th minute, running onto a clever dummy from Havertz before finishing with his left foot. As Chelsea pressed for an equalizer in the closing stages, Arsenal had goalkeeper David Raya to thank for a flying

save to keep out Estevao’s goalbound effort. Everton, meanwhile, scored twice in the closing stages to frustrate Manchester United in a 2-2 draw. Bryan Mbeumo put United ahead in the 47th minute with an excellent individual goal, collecting the ball out wide before curling a left-footed shot into the far corner. — Xinhua



This image displays the opening ceremony for the Fire Dragon International Futsal Cup 2026.

Fire Dragon International Futsal Cup 2026 opens

THE opening ceremony of the Fire Dragon International Futsal Cup 2026 was held at the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal Stadium in Thimgangyun Township on 7 September. Myanmar Olympic Committee Chair and Union Minister U Ye Myint Tun, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung and Deputy Speaker U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, re-

gional Minister U Bo Htay for Social Affairs, regional minister U Myo Myint Aung for Municipal Affairs, MFF President U Zaw Zaw, Futsal Committee chair, Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee chair and vice chairs, teams’ managers, coaches and players and guests attended the event. After the opening, attendees watched the opening match, Black Pearl FC versus MIU FC. — TWA/ZS

Barcelona stays top of La Liga

BARCELONA maintained its perfect start to the La Liga season with a 5-0 rout of Valencia on Sunday. Lamine Yamal opened the scoring after six minutes with a clever flick from Fermin Lopez’s pass. After having another effort ruled out for offside, Yamal turned provider for Lopez to score the second with a

left-footed shot. Valencia goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski was helpless as Yamal and Lopez combined again to set up Raphinha for a tap-in early in the second half. Pedri made it 4-0 with a low shot before Yamal scored his second of the game with six minutes remaining.— Xinhua



Barcelona’s Lamine Yamal (L) and Fermin Lopez (C) celebrate a goal during the Spanish La Liga football match between Valencia CF and FC Barcelona in Valencia, Spain, 6 September 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Heavy rain lashes Japan as weather agency warns of landslides, rainbands
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WORLD

Iran says talks with Oman on Hormuz Strait reach final stage

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said Monday Iran-Oman negotiations on the designation of a temporary route for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz have reached their final stage.

The understanding between the two countries regarding the route's designation would likely be registered with the International Maritime Organization in the coming days, Baghaei said at a weekly press conference in Tehran.

The insecurity in the waterway is a consequence of the US-Israeli "military aggression" against Iran, he said, noting, "Vessels will not be able to travel this route with confidence and a sense of security by the time this situation continues."

Responding to a question about a Sunday visit by a Qatari delegation to Iran, Baghaei said it took place as part of

Qatar's efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region.

He said contacts between Iran and certain other regional countries that have long been trying to help reduce tensions "is an ongoing process".

In a joint statement late last month, Iran and Oman announced they had exchanged views on a proposed phased framework that includes establishing a temporary joint shipping corridor in the Strait of Hormuz and an agreement to implement a joint project to demine the waterway.

Technical talks between the two countries will continue to address the designation of a permanent shipping corridor, the future administration of the strait, and a mechanism for information exchange, traffic management, and security arrangements in the waterway, the statement added. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 20 June 2026 shows the Strait of Hormuz near Khasab, a small town in northern Oman.
PHOTO: XINHUA

China releases 5-year development plan for information, communications sector

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has issued a development plan for the information and communications industry during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030) to promote high-quality development of this sector.

By 2030, a new-generation communications network with comprehensive coverage and leading performance is expected to be fully established, according to the plan, while adding that efforts will be made to accelerate the development of a technologically advanced, secure and controllable information and communications industrial system.

Meanwhile, an agile and efficient governance system integrating technology and management is expected to be effectively established, and network



A modified Long March-6 carrier rocket carrying new communication technology test satellites blasts off from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi Province, 30 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

and data security capabilities featuring all-domain coordination and practical application will be significantly enhanced, the plan said.

The industry's empowerment level and degree of globalization will be further improved, laying a solid foundation for basically achieving modernization

of the information and communications sector by 2035, the plan added.

The plan also outlines 13 key indicators, including achieving information and communications industry revenue of 4.1 trillion yuan (about US\$604.8 billion) by 2030, cumulative investment of 3.8 trillion yuan in information infrastructure, and an average annual growth rate of seven per cent in total telecommunications business volume. By 2030, there will be 50 5G (including 5G-A) base stations per 10,000 people, intelligent computing power will reach 9,800 EFLOPS, and the 5G user penetration rate will reach 95 per cent, the ministry said. EFLOPS, or ExaFLOPS, is a unit of computing performance, with each unit representing 1 quintillion floating-point operations per second. — Xinhua

Malaysia cancels haze emergency, but warns problems remain

MALAYSIA called off a haze emergency in Sarawak state on Borneo island on Monday but said very unhealthy levels of air pollution remain as a result of forest fires in neighbouring Indonesia.

Kuala Lumpur on Friday activated the emergency after obtaining royal consent when pollution levels reached critical levels in Serian, about 65 kilometres (40 miles) south of the Sar-

awak capital, Kuching.

King Sultan Ibrahim "today approved the termination of the declaration of emergency", the prime minister's office said Monday.

"The haze situation in Sarawak has not yet fully recovered, and the API (Air Pollution Index) reading in several areas... is still at very unhealthy levels," it said in a statement.

API figures in Serian

passed the critical threshold of 500 on Friday, peaking at 519 with the town cloaked in a thick cloud of smoke. Under Malaysian guidelines, API levels above 300 are classified as hazardous, while readings beyond 500 constitute the threshold for declaring a local emergency. Rain in Serian on Friday night and Saturday morning — believed to have been the result of cloud seeding — brought some respite,

with API levels dropping to the low 200s on Monday, according to Sarawak's Natural Resources and Environment Board.

Toxic haze has shrouded parts of Indonesia and Malaysia for weeks as Jakarta struggles to contain fires that have scorched large tracts of Borneo and Sumatra, with the smoke drifting into neighbouring Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei. — AFP

EU chief says only Greenland and Denmark can decide Greenland's future

ONLY Denmark and Greenland should decide on the future of the Arctic territory, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Monday as she announced the bloc was pledging 200 million euros (\$232 million) for investments in the island.

Following a two-day visit to Nuuk, the capital of the Danish autonomous territory, von der Leyen stressed that "Greenland's future is for the people of Greenland and Denmark to decide, no one else".

US President Donald

Trump insisted earlier this year that Washington needed to control Greenland for national security reasons, though he ultimately ruled out annexing it by force. "Territorial integrity sovereignty, the inviolability of borders,

these are fundamental principles of international law," von der Leyen told a press conference alongside Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenlandic counterpart Jens-Frederik Nielsen. — AFP



A Greenlandic flag flutters in the wind in Nuuk, Greenland, on 20 January 2026. PHOTO: AFP