

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

President U Min Aung Hlaing Visits Key Cultural and Historical Sites in Kyzyl, Tuva

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing, who was on an official visit to Kyzyl, Tuva Republic of the Russian Federation, visited several prominent cultural and historical sites in the city yesterday morning together with Union ministers and members of the Myanmar delegation, Head of Tuva Republic Mr Vladislav Khovalyg, Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Mr Kara-ool Sholban and other officials.

The delegation visited the Centre of Asia monument on the banks of the Yenisei River, located at the confluence of the Great Yenisei and Little Yenisei rivers. Officials briefed the President on the landmark, which commemorates the geographical centre of Asia. President U Min Aung Hlaing asked questions and discussed matters of interest before posing for a group photograph at the site.

The delegation then visited the V Kok-ool National Music and Drama Theatre, located at Arat Square in central Kyzyl. Established in 1936 and named after renowned Tuvan actor, writer and playwright Viktor Shogzhapovich Kok-ool, the theatre hosted a cultural performance featuring traditional Tuvan throat singing and traditional musical instruments. The President and his delegation also toured the theatre's historical exhibition.

SEE PAGE 3



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing observes a display at the National Museum of Tuva in Kyzyl, Tuva Republic of the Russian Federation, yesterday.

Mon State govt plans to resume Thaton tyre factory

THE Mon State government is planning to revive the No 21 Heavy Industry (Thaton Tyre Factory) to produce tyres domestically using raw rubber sourced from Mon State.

Investments, including Public-Private Partnership (PPP), are welcome to boost the domestic manufacturing sector, transform locally produced raw rubber materials into value-added products, and restart operations at the factory.

The factory is located near Kyapann village on the Thaton-Hpa-an Road



The No 21 Heavy Industry (Thaton Tyre Factory).

in Thaton Township. Built with Czech technology, it began operations in 1985, producing bias tyres. Nonetheless, production was suspended around 2015-2016 due to electricity shortages, technological constraints, and machinery issues. — ASH/KK

MSMEs Urged to Expand Operations to Boost Exports, GDP and Local Employment

DEPUTY Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Aung Zeya, who is also Chairman of the MSME Development Agency, has urged MSMEs to expand their operations to increase foreign exchange earnings from exports, raise gross domestic product (GDP), boost exports of value-added products and create more employment opportunities for local youth.

The deputy minister made the remarks while inspecting MSME factories, including businesses producing One Region One Product (OROP) items, at the Dakhkhina Micro and Medium Industrial Zone yesterday.

SEE PAGE 3

Yangon Hotels and Cafés Embrace Eco-Friendly Interior Décor Using Natural Waste Materials

HOTELS and cafés in Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital, are increasingly turning to eco-friendly and cost-effective interior decoration made from natural waste materials, including banana fibre and Giant bulrush, as demand grows for designs that complement the city's urban aesthetic.



Photo shows a café bar decorated with Giant bulrush grass, a value-added product made from waste materials. **PHOTO: GBM**

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Kalaw Astro Youth Camp 2026 draws loads of applications

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Minbu (Sagu) targets 40,000+ acres of monsoon paddy

NATIONAL

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 23 August 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal has reached over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Gengetic West Bengal-North Odisha, India Still persists. It is likely to move North-westwards and across North Odisha and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal during next 24 hours. The monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bangel. The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bangel.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, the tropical storm “Narra” over the Gulf of Tokin is likely to remain almost stationary.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 24 AUGUST 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kachin, Chin and Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: The occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 11-13 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and eastern Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 AUGUST 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 AUGUST 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 AUGUST 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 23 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal and adjoining off West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts, India has reached over the Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. It is likely to move North-Westwards and across North Odisha and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal during next 24 hours. — DMH

JLPT individual registration period extended

FOR the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) December 2026, the online registration period for individuals has been extended until 25 August, said the JLPT organizing committee, the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

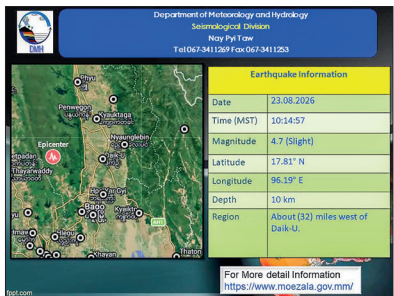
MAJA accepted individual submissions between 9 am and 4:30 pm from 1 to 7 August and this extension is aimed for those who were unable to do during the prescribed

period. The extended period is between 10:30 am and 4:30 pm from 21 to 25 August, it said.

No one is allowed to apply for sitting the test if they are unable to get registered during the extended period and registration failures may happen for last-minute submissions on the deadline. Step-by-step guides for JLPT registration have been provided at MAJA official Facebook page. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA) logo.



This photo depicts seismological information on the earthquake centred approximately 32 miles west of DaikU, Bago Region, on the morning of 23 August.

Magnitude 4.7 earthquake strikes west of DaikU in Bago Region

A magnitude 4.7 earthquake struck at 10:14:57 am Myanmar Standard Time on 23 August, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The earthquake was centred at a depth of 10 kilometres at 17.81° north latitude and 96.19° east longitude, approximately 32 miles west

of DaikU and about 38 miles northwest of the Bago Seismological Station.

Although the earthquake is not expected to cause significant damage, aftershocks may occur. The public has therefore been advised to remain alert and take necessary precautions. — TWA/KN

Yangon Hotels and Cafés Embrace Eco-Friendly ...

FROM PAGE 1

Interior décor is commonly refurbished every three years, and businesses are now using value-added products made from natural waste materials as affordable alternatives to conventional furnishings and decorative items.

Banana fibre is being used to make wall coverings, lampshades, baskets, tables, counters, chairs, furniture and room partitions. Dried Giant bulrush is being used for roof and ceiling decorations and lamps, while fresh grass is

placed in pots near reception counters, tables, windows, ponds and waterfalls to create a cool, green and tranquil atmosphere.

“Giant bulrush is actually a type of reed and is known as Myet Mon Nyin. Each stalk can grow up to six feet long. A café near Inya Lake ordered six-foot-wide mats made from dried Giant bulrush. About 220 stalks are needed for one six-foot section, while around 15,000 stalks are estimated to be required for one large grass mat. More than 600 six-foot sections are being woven

for the project, while other teams will carry out the final decoration,” said U Myint Thein, founder of Green Banana Myanmar.

Hotels are also using the material around swimming pools and recreational areas, as well as in cafés. Similar natural-material decoration has become popular in neighbouring countries, particularly Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam, and is now gaining popularity in Yangon.

Before being used for decoration, Giant bulrush is initially dried for three

days, processed by machine and woven before undergoing treatment to prevent mould growth.

The growing use of waste and natural materials as decorative products is helping reduce waste, support urban aesthetics, create employment opportunities and promote handicraft industries. It also provides businesses with more affordable alternatives to expensive conventional decorative materials while creating attractive and relaxing interior spaces. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ST

Flood Warning

(Issued at 4 pm MST on 23 August 2026)

ACCORDING to the 3:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Thaungyin River at Myawady is observed as about 11 inches below its danger level. It

may reach its danger level during the next one day.

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

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing arrives back from official visits to Russian Federation, Belarus

At the invitation of President Mr Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, and President Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, President U Min Aung Hlaing of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar paid official visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, respectively. Upon departing Kyzyl International Airport in the Tuva Republic of the Russian Federation at 11:30 am local standard time yesterday, the President of Myanmar was warmly seen off at the airport by the Head of the Tuva Republic Mr Vladislav Kholvaly, Deputy Chair of the State Duma Mr Kara-ool Sholban, officials from the regional government, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation U Myo Moe Aung, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Myanmar, and other dignitaries.

The President was accompanied by Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe, Dr

Chaw Chaw Sein, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Ko Ko Lwin and Dr Charlie Than, Chief Executive Officer of Myanmar Space Agency Dr Soe Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Zaw Naing Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and officials.

The President and party arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. They were welcomed back by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, officials from the Russian Embassy and the Military Attaché Office.

During the official visits to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, the President of Myanmar held separate bilateral meetings with President Mr Vladimir

Putin of the Russian Federation and President Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus. Discussions focused on enhancing friendship and cooperation between the governments and peoples of the respective nations, accelerating comprehensive strategic partnership cooperation, and further promoting collaboration across various sectors, including space science and technology, industry, agriculture and livestock breeding, trade and investment, education, health, culture, electric power and energy, and tourism.

Furthermore, sectoral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed and exchanged, and business forums were successfully convened to promote economic engagement with the respective nations. The trip proved highly beneficial to national development efforts, successfully advancing Myanmar's strategic partnership ties with both the Russian Federation and Belarus. — MNA/TTA



President U Min Aung Hlaing being welcomed back by State dignitaries and officials from the Russian Embassy in Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 August 2026.

President U Min Aung Hlaing Visits Key ...

FROM PAGE 1

The delegation subsequently visited the National Museum of Tuva, where they were welcomed by the museum head and officials. They viewed exhibitions featuring Buddhist statues from the period of the Tuvan People's Republic, traditional household items, jewellery, hunting tools and weapons, ancient cultural artefacts, traditional Tuvan clothing and displays depicting the traditional way of life of the Tuvan people.

President U Min Aung Hlaing asked questions and discussed matters of interest before posing for a group photo.

Founded in 1929 and relocated to its present premises in 2008, the National Museum of Tuva preserves and displays the historical and cultural heritage of the Tuvan

people. The museum has 24 exhibition halls covering rare artefacts and documents from the Tuvan People's Republic era, ethnic heritage, shamanism, Buddhism and Orthodox Christianity, as well as the participation of Tuvan people in the Great Patriotic War.

Kyzyl, the capital of Tuva, is located in southern Siberia and is surrounded by the Sayan and Altai mountain ranges. The landlocked region features extensive valleys and plains, while the Yenisei River flows through the area and supports agriculture and livestock farming. Horse breeding is also an important part of Tuvan traditional heritage.

Tuva is known for its distinctive cultural traditions, which combine influences from Central Asia and Siberia. Tibetan Bud-

dhism, Orthodox Christianity and shamanic beliefs coexist in the region. Kyzyl is also home to one of Russia's largest Buddhist temples and a Buddhist university, while the city recently hosted the Fourth International Buddhist Forum, attended by Buddhist monks and prominent figures from political, administrative and social fields from various countries.

Tuvan throat singing, in which a single performer produces sounds resembling the flow of a river, wind and horses, is another distinctive feature of the region's traditional culture. With its dramatic climate, rich cultural heritage, natural landscapes and history, Tuva is regarded as one of the Russian Federation's distinctive and scenic regions. — MNA/ST

MSMEs Urged to Expand ...

FROM PAGE 1

He inspected the use of raw materials and production activities at Maple Win Garment Factory, the production of canned food in accordance with ISO and international quality standards and preparations to export frozen and dried meat products at Dakkhina Meat Export Factory.

At New Life Plastic Factory, he also inspected the production of plastic pellets from waste plastic materials, which are used to manufacture agricultural water-spraying pipes, pipe fittings and related products. He also observed the use of a solar power system to meet the factory's electricity requirements.

The deputy minister instructed MSME entrepreneurs to share knowledge about the benefits gained from installing

and using solar power systems.

Meanwhile, Dr Aung Zeya met with MSME entrepreneurs and private industrialists at the office of the Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department in Nay Pyi Taw the previous morning.

The meeting discussed measures to enable factories and workshops operated by MSME entrepreneurs to run at full capacity, the completion of surveys and solutions for MSME loan requirements, shortages of raw materials and spare parts, and difficulties related to business expansion and factory upgrading.

The deputy minister responded to the entrepreneurs' questions and coordinated with relevant authorities to address their needs. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

Hpa-an holds Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival

THE 47th Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival was held at 9 am yesterday at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an.

The event was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Myanmar Parliamentary Union member U Maung Maung Ohn, Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo, the Speaker of the State Hluttaw, the Chief Justice of the State High Court, state ministers, Hluttaw Representatives and local residents.

During the ceremony, the chairperson explained the significance of the Wagoun white thread-tying festival. Kayin State Chief Minister U Saw Myint Oo delivered well-wishes,



The 47th Kayin traditional white thread-tying festival in progress at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an yesterday.

after which Kayin youth representatives presented the history and origins of the tradition in Pwo Kayin, S'gaw Kayin and Myanmar.

The chief minister then presented K30 million to the patron of the event organizing committee. In turn, the organiz-

ing committee presented certificates of honour to donors who contributed to the successful organization of the 47th ceremony.

Following the formal programme, the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and officials joined Kayin community elders and

local residents in receiving blessings through the traditional white-thread-tying festival conducted by elders.

The ritual involves seven symbolic items: bananas, sticky rice packets, rice balls, Willow-leaved justicia flower, white thread, pure water and sugarcane pieces. Each item carries a specific symbolic meaning emphasizing unity and solidarity among the Kayin people. The festival preserves cherished cultural traditions and is widely observed throughout the month of Wagaung in various regions, allowing people from all ethnic communities in Myanmar to participate in the celebrations. — MNA/TH

Second day of Traditional Myanmar Food Competition and Exhibition held in Mandalay

THE Myanmar Restaurant Association's Traditional Myanmar Food Competition and Exhibition 2026 (Mandalay), under the theme "Taste of the Golden Land 2026 (Mandalay)", was held at the Mandalay Convention Centre in Mandalay for two days on 22 and 23 August.

Activities on the second day included presentations of traditional Myanmar dishes in an international-standard fine-dining style, discus-



Officials visit exhibition booths displayed at the Traditional Myanmar Food Competition and Exhibition 2026 (Mandalay) yesterday.

sions by officials from Myanmar's tea and coffee associations on their

respective sectors, a panel discussion entitled "From Regional Flavours to

World-Class Excellence", and demonstrations of cocktails made using traditional Myanmar products.

Deputy Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Phyo Zaw Soe, together with officials, attended the second day of the competition and exhibition and delivered remarks.

A total of 11 teams competed in the competition, while 141 exhibition booths were set up to display and sell products. — MNA/KN

Kalaw Astro Youth Camp 2026 draws loads of applications

ATTENTION from youth has mounted to the Kalaw Astro Youth Camp 2026 where they can explore in person stars and planets in the night sky of Kalaw, away from the city light, pollution, said the Myanmar Astronomy and Science Enthusiasts Society (MASES).

The programme is designed for youths to have astronomy and STEM knowledge and opportunity to have hands-on experiences in studying the universe, said MASES. For astronomy and STEM enthusiasts aged between 18 and 35, the programme, which is organized by MASES, will be conducted in Yangon and Kalaw in two phases.

As the first phase, the Yangon workshop will take place on 5 and 6 September and basic concepts on the astronomy, STEM



Kalaw Astro Youth Camp 2026 is being promoted.

knowledge and city light pollution will be discussed. In second phase, Kalaw practical workshop will be conducted in mid-December, in which exploring of stars and planets from telescopes, basic astrology, photography knowledge and practical works in the night sky will be carried out.

The applicant number is higher than expected, leading to the application period to close before the initial deadline 28 August, said MASES. — MT/ZS

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 8 am MST on 23 August 2026)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about four inches above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next one day.

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about two feet and 11 inches above its danger level. It may fall about six inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

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

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

NATIONAL

Emergency reinforcement underway to secure Ngawun embankment as river levels drop

AUTHORITIES, technical experts, and the Ayeyawady Region Government are accelerating riverbed stabilization and erosion control operations as the Ngawun River drops below 30 feet. Engineering teams are using split barges and dredgers to deposit large geo-bags, sandbags, and gabion rock mattresses into deep-water channels to raise the riverbed, while driving steel sheet piles and stand pipes to resist underwater scouring. Sand pumping, geotextile laying, and geo-tube place-

ment are also underway to redirect water flow away from vulnerable areas. During an on-site inspection and a subsequent coordination meeting in Hinthada with regional leaders, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw instructed teams to capitalize on the receding water levels and slower currents to rapidly block dangerous inflows, reinforce the subsiding embankment, and prevent further erosion. — MNA/ST



Officials inspect preparations to block water inflow in Hinthada Township.

Writer and poet Maung Thin Nwe (Myay Pyant) dies at 64

WRITER and poet Maung Thin Nwe (Myay Pyant), also known as U Than Lwin, a member of the Thakayta Township Writers Association, died at his mother's home in Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, at 5:30 pm on 22 August 2026. He was 64. Maung Thin Nwe was formerly a distribution staff member of the Working People's Daily (WPD). He also served on the editorial team of Kyun Mya Thar magazine, published by the Thakayta Township Writers Association, for Issue No 9 in 2025. Members of the literary and arts community, colleagues and friends expressed their condolences and paid tribute to his dedicated contributions to literary activities and his kind and respected character, wishing him a peaceful journey to the afterlife, according to social media posts. —TWA/KZL



Writer and poet Maung Thin Nwe (Myay Pyant).

Flood relief efforts underway in Kyonpyaw District

SEARCH, rescue and rehabilitation efforts are underway for flood-affected residents in Kyonpyaw District, Ayeyawady Region, following flooding caused by a breach in an embankment in Laymyethna Township. Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw met district officials to review the flooding situation, evacuation centres, crop damage, relief supplies and transport routes. He visited flood shelters in Kyonpyaw and Yekyi townships, where he encouraged residents and provided rice, cooking oil, drinking water and other food supplies. He inspected flooded bridges and roads, rice stockpiles and a water purification machine installed to provide clean water to flood-affected residents, according to the report. — IPRD/KZL



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw inspects the water purifier to provide clean water to flood-affected residents in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Efforts underway to promote agricultural and livestock-based industries in Pyay

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win inspected livestock breeding and industrial production activities aimed at promoting agricultural and livestock-based industries in Pyay Township on 22 August. During his visit to the Pyay Livestock Zone, the chief minister observed local goat and broiler farming practices, instructed relevant officials to facilitate the cultivation of feed crops and promote the production and sale of organic fertilizer made of animal waste, and inspected the site of a planned earth-filled embankment dam intended to ensure an adequate supply of drink-



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win observes the water tanks in the Nawaday Industrial Zone.

ing water for the zone. The chief minister also visited industrial facilities in the Nawaday Industrial Zone, including the workshop of entrepreneur U Kyin Oo, which manufactures SOGO water tanks and ice chests, and the Chinthaymin rice mill owned by U Tin Hla, where discarded rice husks are recycled into fuel pellets. At the Pyay Industrial Zone Management Committee Office, the chief minister instructed zone

officials to ensure smooth access to the zone, maintain a stable electricity supply, and systematically record the products manufactured in the zone for both domestic consumption and export. Finally, he visited the facility of entrepreneur Daw Htay Htay Maw, which produces locally made chicken feed using domestic raw materials to replace imported feed and operates a flock of 10,000 layers. To support business expansion, the chief minister coordinated with relevant officials to assist in expanding the operation to include meat and broiler chicken production. —Regional IPRD/TH

Yaksawk's model village conducts agricultural training

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a graduation ceremony for an agricultural technology training course at the IT Centre hall of Kyauktaw Model Village in Yaksawk Township yesterday. Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Khin

Maung Myint delivered closing remarks. Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win explained that efforts would be made to connect outstanding trainees with employment opportunities, adding that trainees wishing to establish their own businesses could receive capital through

department-implemented projects. Officials presented completion certificates to the trainees. The 10-day training course was attended by 20 local residents from Kyauktaw Village during the 2026-2027 financial year to promote scientific farming knowledge and modern agricultural techniques. Experienced

instructors provided free theoretical and practical training on preparing Effective Microorganism (EM) solutions, rice and sunflower seed production, natural fertilizer and pesticide preparation, modern farming techniques, crop yield enhancement and good agricultural practices. —Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

NATIONAL

Lawkananda Pagoda holds annual Buddha Pujaniya festival, rowing competition

THE annual Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the historic Lawkananda Tooth Relic Pagoda, located on the bank of the Ayeyawady River, will be celebrated on a grand scale throughout the month of Wagoung, beginning in the early days of the waxing period.

As part of the religious ceremonies, continuous recitation of the Maha Pathana treaties will commence on the 3rd Waxing Day of Wagoung. On the evening of the 7th Waxing Day, local youths will lead a lively procession accompanied by traditional music as part of a grand food-offering ceremony. On the morning of the 8th Waxing Day, alms-bowl donation ceremonies featuring local



This photo features an alms-bowl donation ceremony held at the Lawkananda Pagoda Festival on 21 August.
PHOTO: NAING TUN WIN-BAGAN

produce such as beans, sesame and onions will be held for members of the Sangha in NyaungU Township.

A major highlight of the festival is the traditional rowing competition held

on the Ayeyawady River. On the 7th Waxing Day, farmers from the opposite bank will arrive in traditional rowboats to pay homage in accordance with ancient customs. Throughout the

festival, rowing enthusiasts from various regions will participate in organized races, with cash prizes awarded to the winning teams by the event organizers.

The festival programme will also feature anyeint performances, theatrical shows (zat-pwe) and traditional sports competitions. In addition, the pagoda hosts various annual religious observances, including ceremonial washings of Buddha statues on New Year's Day, banyan tree-watering ceremonies on the Full Moon Day of Kason, and the floating of 1,000 oil lanterns and flowers on the Ayeyawady River on the Full Moon Night of Thadingyut. — TWA/TH

20 arrested in Muse online scam raid

SECURITY forces arrested 20 people allegedly involved in online scams and illegal gambling activities at a house in Kaunghmution Ward, Kaungmulwe area, Muse, Shan State (North), yesterday.

The group comprised one Chinese national and 19 Myanmar nationals—17 men and two women. Authorities also seized 77 mobile phones, three all-in-one computers, one laptop and other equipment believed to be related to the online operations.

The arrests followed investigations aimed at

preventing online scam and illegal gambling groups from establishing operations in the area. Authorities said the suspects would face legal action under existing laws after the investigations were completed, while the seized equipment would be dealt with in accordance with established procedures.

The government is continuing its efforts, in cooperation with neighbouring and regional countries, to prevent online scams and illegal online gambling operations from being established in Myanmar. — MNA/KZL



One Chinese national and 19 Myanmar nationals together with scam related materials arrested for online gambling scams and gambling in Muse.

Kunhing's rural infrastructure projects handed over to tender winners

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Kunhing Township General Administration Department to hand over rural development projects for the 2026-2027 financial year to tender-winning companies.

Kunhing Township Management and Administration Committee Chairman U Win Naing and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Sai Kyaw Hla delivered opening remarks. Kunhing Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw Hein explained the rural production road, bridge and water supply projects to be implemented in the township, introduced the tender-winning

companies to the relevant village-tract administrators, and formally handed over the projects.

Four projects, comprising two rural production road and bridge projects and two water supply projects, will be implemented in Wamhein, Kengli, Panmong and Sengkhaung (North) villages with K266.787 million in Union and State budget funds. Taunggyi Star Company, Lin Hein Dhana Company, Htein Aung Lin Company and Myint Myat Chel Company will undertake the construction. Upon completion, the projects will benefit 1,659 residents across 374 households in the four villages by improving the transport of agricultural produce and providing year-round access to clean drinking water. — Karan (Rural)

1M baht insurance coverage transferred to family of deceased migrant



The insurance compensation 1 million baht was transferred to the deceased worker's father.

FOR a Myanmar migrant worker who died in a traffic accident in Thailand, Myanmar Labour Attaché Office helped the worker's family to obtain access to the insurance compensation 1 million baht from a private insurer.

The worker, Maung Pyar died in November 2025 during a traffic accident in Nakhon Ratchasima. The Labour Attaché Office transferred the money to the worker's father U Khun Kyaw Zaw on 17 August at the office.

Myanmar migrant

workers are advised to contact the telephone numbers of the Labour Offices during office hours if their rights are violated. More information can be obtained from its call centre: 020030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 0618108454, Labour Officer (Bangkok): 0626890119 and 0652206952, Labour Attaché (Maesot): 0652206953. Labour Officer (Chang Mai): 0945866607 and Labour Officer (Ranong): 0634818121. — MT/ZS

Drugs worth K15.5B seized in Kalay

SECURITY forces seized 6.2 million stimulant tablets worth K15.5 billion from a house in Sanmyo Ward, Kalay, on 15 August, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

At about 7:30 pm, a combined team arrested Myo Myint Naing, also known as Ko Myo, Tun Tun Naing, aka Van Lyan Mona, San Del Batal and Ba Din, and seized the drugs.

Further investigation revealed that the tablets had been transported from Sagaing to Kalay at the request of Kyaw Myint, aka Tha Shay Kaw, who

remains at large. Three people — Lal Ro Ding Nga, also known as Ding Thae, Maung Than and Inh Swem Pum — were identified as the intended buyers and have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Authorities are continuing their investigation to identify other members of the drug-trafficking network. Action is also being taken under the Anti-Money Laundering Law to confiscate profits and assets obtained through drug trafficking as public property. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Cleanliness at destinations key to tourism development

AS part of efforts to facilitate the state tourism development and attract increasing numbers of local and foreign tourists, tourist destinations need to be kept clean all year, said Kayin State Chief Minister and State Tourism Committee Chair U Saw Myint Oo during the committee meeting held on 20 August.

He said the committee will need to make efforts to attract more tourists and explore more new tourist destinations. Residents, religious leaders



Image depicts popular tourist destination in Kayin State. PHOTO: KSRTC

and relevant officials are also needed to cooperate in promoting the state's popular tourist destinations to accommodate multiple visits of local and foreign tourists.

Cleanliness is vital for tourism development, and fan groups for Zwegabin, Kyainn Hill and Taungwine Hill have been formed. They have also been cooperating in en-

suring tourist attraction sites are clean, he said.

A boat ride is available at Saddan Cave, and a field investigation has already been carried out at Alawan Lake to provide rafting in monsoon and summer as well.

He pointed out that the state's tourist destinations need to be kept clean throughout the year, ensuring no interruption in tourist arrivals and urged all stakeholders to cooperate in efforts to see further increases in tourist arrivals. — MT/ZS

Efforts underway to ensure crop insurance for farmers



An official explains functions of crop insurance.

A meeting between Global World Insurance Company and the Farmers' Livelihood Improvement Association was held at the Global World Insurance meeting hall on Wahdan Street in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region on 21 August, to discuss crop insurance, challenges faced by farmers in agricultural production, and ways to expand insurance coverage.

First, Global World Insurance Managing Director U Soe Win Thant explained the status of crop insurance operations conducted previously, shared experiences in providing insurance coverage, and outlined plans.

Then, Farmers' Livelihood Improvement Association Chairman U Thet Zaw discussed two major challenges faced by farmers: the lack of crop insurance coverage during the growing season and the lack of crop price insurance coverage during crop production.

The discussions focused on providing more effective protection

through insurance to address these challenges. In addition, participants discussed providing insurance coverage for crop losses caused by unforeseen natural disasters and floods, developing suitable crop insurance products for farmers, and making insurance services more accessible.

Following the discussions, the Farmers' Livelihood Improvement Association and Global World Insurance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop suitable crop insurance systems for farmers and strengthen long-term cooperation.

Under the MoU, the two organizations will continue exploring opportunities to develop crop insurance programmes that meet farmers' needs, expand insurance coverage to reduce the risks associated with crop production and prices, provide protection against losses caused by natural disasters, and improve the socioeconomic stability of farmers. — Bala/MKKS

Minbu (Sagu) targets 40,000+ acres of monsoon paddy



Farmers transplant rice seedlings in the fields in Minbu, Magway Region. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)

THE Minbu (Sagu) Township Agriculture Department is planning to cultivate more than 40,000 acres of monsoon paddy in Minbu (Sagu) Township, Magway Region, this year to ensure domestic rice security, according to the department.

More than 40,000 acres of monsoon paddy will be cultivated in the township using six water

sources, including dams, electric water pumps, groundwater, small dams and rainwater harvesting systems. Local farmers are cultivating short-duration, high-yielding varieties such as Aung Naing Toe and Sar Pho Tha, as well as marketable varieties including Ayeyamin, Manawthukha, Sinthukha and Yadana Toe 90-day.

In addition, the Town-

ship Agriculture Department is working with local farmers to cultivate 74 acres of medium-duration model paddy plots, experimental paddy fields for competitive varieties and demonstration plots under the department's support programme for the 2026-2027 financial year.

The Township Department is providing rice varieties and necessary agricultural inputs to farmers participating in the model and experimental paddy fields as part of its field-support programme. In addition, under the supervision of the regional government, urea fertilizer is being distributed to farmers participating in the model and experimental paddy fields at affordable prices during this year's monsoon paddy

planting season.

Similarly, staff members from the department are providing farming techniques and conducting farmer-awareness programmes to increase paddy yields per acre, achieve target yields and expand cultivation beyond the targeted acreage, according to the head of the Township Agriculture Department.

In Minbu (Sagu) Township, the department plans to cultivate 41,307 acres of monsoon paddy during the 2026-2027 planting season, of which more than 32,000 acres have been cultivated to date. The department is working with local farmers to improve paddy yields and exceed the targeted acreage. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/MKKS

DUHD warns of scams targeting applicants for Kyansitmin, Yuzana housing

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development issued a public warning about fraudulent cases targeting individuals who

have applied to purchase units in the Kyansitmin and Yuzana (Phase 3) housing.

Scammers are ap-

proaching applicants and falsely claiming they can secure units. The department clarified that successful applicants will

be contacted only via the official contact number 067 3407527 during office hours.

Thus, the public is

urged to be vigilant and not to fall for anyone offering to help secure an application or guarantee a unit. — NN/KK

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OPINION

Strengthen sustainable investment and development between Myanmar and Belarus

ALTHOUGH Myanmar and Belarus are geographically distant, they are true friendly nations with strong bonds of goodwill, mutual understanding, and trust. As the two countries established diplomatic relations in September 1999, marking 26 years of formal ties, bilateral relations have been progressing significantly.

Bilateral relations have reached the “closest” and “highest” levels, with the upgrading of the Myanmar Consulate-General in Minsk to an Embassy serving as a notable milestone. Even amid the heightened geopolitical and geo-economic challenges of the contemporary world, Myanmar–Belarus relations have been strengthened with mutual trust. Myanmar remains firmly committed to advancing and elevating this relationship even further in the future.

Foreign direct investment is a key driving force in promoting a nation's economic growth. To foster national economic development, the Myanmar government encourages and invites not only domestic investments but also foreign investments in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law and the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law. Furthermore, to enhance economic cooperation and investment with strategic partner countries, bilateral economic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements are actively being signed and implemented.

In doing so, the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus was signed on 2 December 2011. Currently, critical initiatives are being prioritized to bolster bilateral economic cooperation and protect investments. In particular, to enhance investment promotion and mutual cooperation, the Memorandum of Understanding on Investment Promotion between Myanmar and Belarus was signed on 28 November 2025. Furthermore, efforts are underway to conclude the Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments between the two countries as soon as possible.

To support bilateral economic cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus, agreements and memoranda of understanding covering trade, economy, science and technology, and culture have already been signed, including MoUs on science and technology cooperation, MoUs on customs cooperation, and export credit framework agreements.

The goal is to combine Belarus’s strong industrial and technological capabilities with Myanmar’s natural and human resources to pursue mutually beneficial economic cooperation. The government will provide the utmost necessary support to ensure that Belarusian entrepreneurs can successfully initiate investments and operate smoothly in Myanmar. By investing in Myanmar, Belarusian businesses will be able to connect to ASEAN and wider Asian markets; in return, products manufactured in Myanmar will gain access to the vast markets of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states through Belarus, creating a true win-win outcome.

A Crossroads of Cultures: How Foreign Roots Shaped Burma (Myanmar)

By Khin Maung Myint

FOR centuries, the riverine capitals along the Ayeyawady – Inwa, Amarapura, Sagaing, and Mandalay – served as dynamic centres of trade, diplomacy, and artistic exchange. Beneath the glittering pagodas grew a rich mosaic of communities: resettled artisans, scholar- advisers, fearless sea captains, and ambitious merchant families. Together, they helped forge the culture, flavour, and identity of modern Myanmar.

The Builders of Art and Ceremony

Following the fall of Ayutthaya in 1767, tens of thousands of Siamese artists and performers – known as the Yodaya – profoundly shaped classical Burmese court culture. Central to this cultural transmission was the celebrated Konbaung statesman, warrior,

poet, and composer Myawady Mingyi U Sa. Appointed to a royal commission, U Sa worked directly with captured Siamese master artists to translate and adapt the Yama Zatdaw (Burma’s beloved Ramayana dance-drama) and Enaung Zatdaw.

He composed dialogue, stage directions, and new Yodaya-style musical scores, while also expanding the traditional Saunggauk (Myanmar harp) from seven to 13 strings to accommodate the complex grace notes and refined tuning of Siamese court music.

The Siamese also pioneered the intricate, undulating Zinmei (Chiang Mai) silk-weaving patterns still worn for grand celebrations today, alongside the Bangkok Paso (sarong), which became popular attire among college students of the past. Though often

overlooked, Siamese influence also popularized Shwe Gyi Do (golden tapestry embroidery decorated with sequins and metallic thread), Kanote floral woodcarvings on ancient palaces and monasteries, and the craft of making Eaindawya bamboo-stem umbrellas. In Mandalay and Amarapura, culinary traditions like Khanonhtoke – steamed meat and vegetables wrapped in banana leaves – persist today; the word Khanon itself derives from the Thai term for wrapped snacks and delicacies.

Meanwhile, Mon scholars and artisans laid foundational elements of Theravada Buddhist architecture and script during earlier eras, while also giving birth to Mohinga, the savoury catfish-and-lemongrass noodle soup now celebrated as the national dish.

In the capital cities, Indian Brahmins (Ponna) directed coronation rites and set traditional astronomical calendars. Beside them, Arab and Indian Muslim traders formed long-standing communities, gifting the region its famous festive Danbawk (biryani) and a vibrant tea-house culture centred around rich milk tea (Laphet Yay Acho).

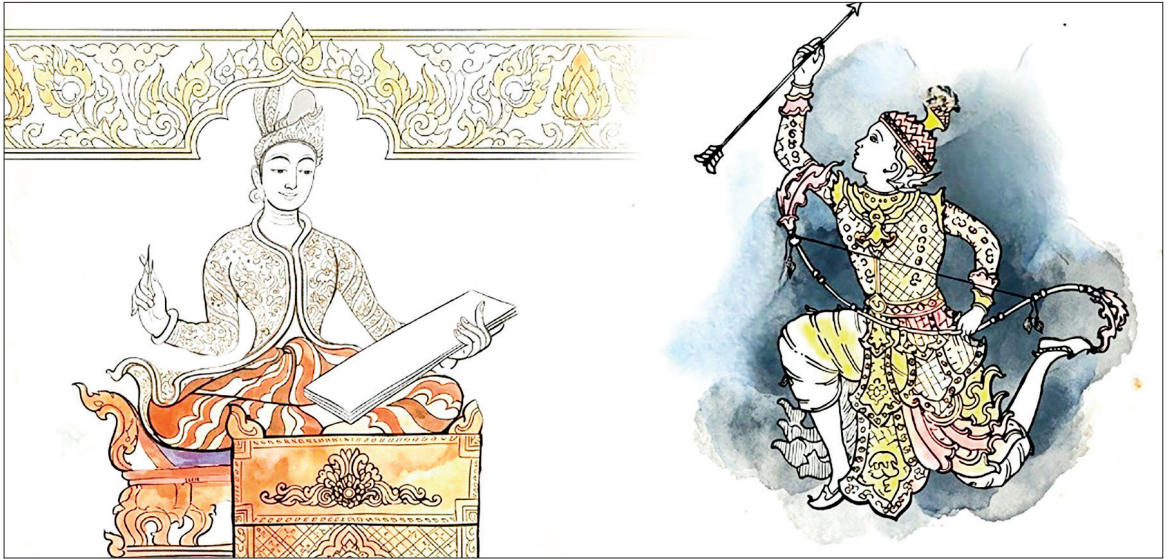
Assamese and Manipuri communities were equally celebrated for their weaving talents. They played a major role in introducing the Longyi (Sarong), as evidenced by the shared Indian term Lungi. Older generations often referred to patterned cloth as Palaycat, a name derived from Pulicat, a historic textile trading port in South India.

European and West Asian influences were equally profound:

The Portuguese (Bayingyi): Descendants of 17th-century mercenaries, these artillerymen settled in the Mu Valley, enriching the local language with words like Baungbi (trousers) and introducing New World staples – most notably, chilli peppers.

The Armenians: Revered for their diplomacy and maritime skill, Armenian sea captains commanded merchant fleets and served as port directors (Akaukwoon), building trade networks that connected the Bay of Bengal to local royal courts.

The Greeks: Though small in number, Greek nationals occupied unique, confidential roles in Kon-



baung court life. During the Ava (former name of Inwa) period, a trusted Greek translator handled the delicate task of vetting foreign guests and diplomats before their royal audiences. Later in the Mandalay period, a Greek-Myanmar lady-in-waiting at the palace famously operated as a covert intelligence asset for the British in the tense period preceding the Third Anglo-Myanmar War.

Educational & Diplomatic Legacies

Cross-cultural exchanges also extended into education and

statecraft. In royal terminology, Thande referred to the diplomatic quarters or embassy area. During the Mandalay period, a missionary school established within this diplomatic sphere – frequently known as the Thande School – provided modern instruction to young princes and princesses, introducing the royal youth to Western languages, geography, and science alongside traditional palace tutelage.

A Legacy on the Plate

Overland trade routes from Yunnan and southern sea ports

brought Chinese merchants, popularizing wok-style stir-fries, steamed Pauksi (steamed buns), and noodle favourites like Khao Swe Gyaw.

From Siamese silk weavers, Mon scholars and artisans, Indian scholars, traders and weavers to Armenian sea captains, Chinese traders, Portuguese gunners, Greek court insiders, and foreign educators, these diverse peoples did not just pass through – they wove their stories, traditions, and tastes directly into the fabric of the nation.

Applied Research in Quantitative Approach and in Qualitative Approach

By Maung Maung Aye

APPLIED research is a systematic form of investigation conducted to solve practical problems and improve existing practices, products, services, or policies. Unlike basic research, which focuses on expanding theoretical knowledge, applied research seeks solutions to real-world issues encountered by individuals, organizations, communities, etc. Researchers need to understand different approaches to applied research so that they can select the most appropriate method for addressing a specific research problem. The two most common approaches are the quantitative approach and the qualitative approach.

The quantitative approach in applied research focuses on collecting and analyzing numerical data. It is based on the principles of objectivity, measurement, and statistical analysis. Researchers use quantitative methods to examine relationships among variables, test hypotheses, and make predictions. The primary

goal is to produce results that can be generalized to a larger population.

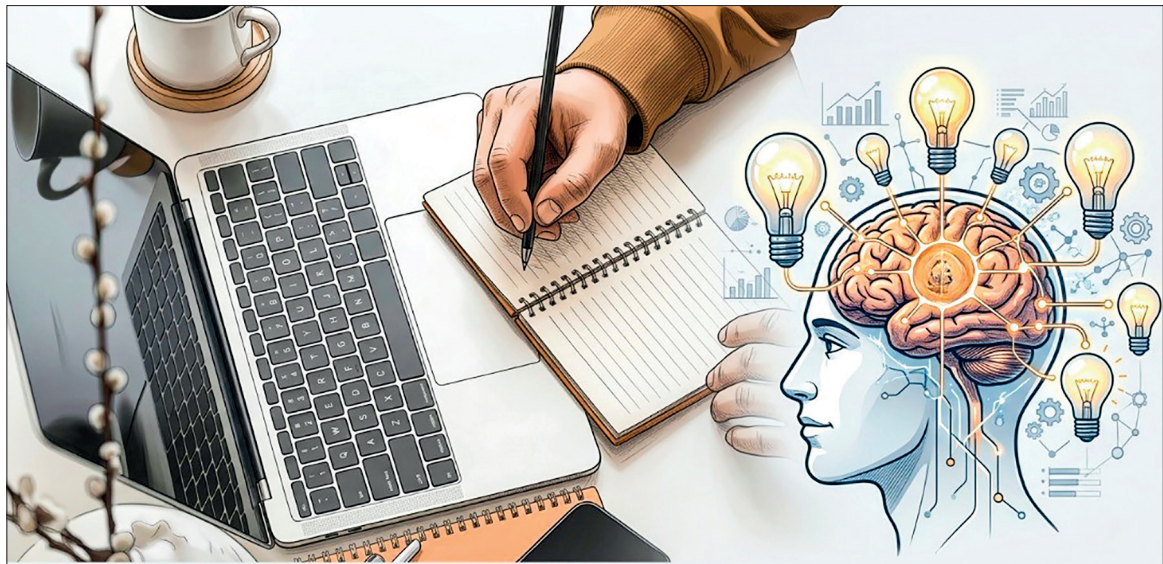
In quantitative applied research, data are collected through structured instruments such as surveys, questionnaires, tests, and experiments. Researchers often work with large samples so that findings can represent the target population accurately. Statistical techniques are then used to analyze the data and draw conclusions.

Quantitative applied research emphasizes measurement. Variables are defined clearly and measured using standardized procedures. Researchers often work with large samples and compare results across different groups and settings. For example, a company may conduct quantitative applied research to determine whether a new training program improves employee productivity. Data such as performance scores, attendance rates, and output levels can be measured and analyzed statistically.

Reliability is also key to applied quantitative research. Because quantitative methods use structured procedures, the study can often be reproduced by other researchers. Reproduction helps verify findings and increases confidence in the results. Moreover, quantitative research provides precise and objective data that can support evidence-based decision-making.

Applied quantitative research is widely used in fields such as education, healthcare, business, economics, and public administration. In education, researchers may evaluate the effectiveness of a teaching strategy by comparing students’ test scores before and after implementation. In healthcare, quantitative studies may examine the impact of a treatment by measuring patient recovery rates. In business, organizations use quantitative research to assess customer satisfaction, market trends, and financial performance. The quantitative approach may not

fully cover human experiences, emotional and social factors. Numerical data can explain what is happening but may not always show why it is happening. Thus, researchers sometimes require additional methods to gain a deeper understanding of complex issues.



The qualitative approach focuses on understanding human experiences, behaviours, perceptions, and social interactions. Descriptive and interpretive data are collected through interviews, observations, focus groups, case studies, and document analysis. This type of research seeks to

explore meanings, perspectives, and processes. It is particularly useful when researchers want to understand the reasons behind a problem. This approach recognizes that human behaviour is influenced by social, cultural, and environmental factors that may not be easily measured with numbers.

Qualitative research emphasizes a deep understanding. Researchers typically work with

smaller samples and gather detailed information from participants. They, through direct insights, gain insights into participants’ experiences and viewpoints. For example, a hospital may conduct qualitative applied research to understand why patients are dissatisfied with certain services. Through interviews and discussions, researchers can identify concerns, expectations, and emotional responses that may not appear in survey statistics.

Flexibility is another important feature of qualitative applied research. Researchers can adapt their questions and methods as new themes come out during data collection. Through this flexibility, they can explore issues in greater detail and discover unexpected findings.

Qualitative applied research is commonly used in fields such as social work, education, healthcare, community development, and organizational studies. In education, researchers may investi-

gate teachers’ experiences with a new curriculum. In healthcare, qualitative studies can explore patients’ perceptions of treatment and care. In community development, researchers may examine residents’ views on social programs and public services.

The qualitative approach is also able to provide rich and detailed information. It helps researchers understand complex situations and identify factors that influence behaviour and decision-making. The findings often offer practical insights that can guide policy development and program improvement. Researchers often work with smaller samples so that findings may not be easily generalized to larger populations. In addition, data interpretation may be influenced by the researcher’s perspectives and experiences. Maintaining objectivity and ensuring credibility therefore require careful planning and rigorous research procedures.

SEE PAGE 11

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Tamarind Leaf Salad

This week, I'd like to introduce a refreshing dish that brightens up any meal in the cool season – Tamarind Leaf Salad.

Tamarind Leaf Salad is a distinctive traditional food of Myanmar's central dry zone. Its sharp, tangy flavour from tender young tamarind leaves, combined with the nutty richness of ground beans and the aroma of garlic oil, makes it a truly appetizing dish.

If you travel to the dry zone – places like Bagan, NyaungU, Magway, or Mandalay – this is one local speciality you must try. In some areas, tamarind leaves are mixed with pungent fish paste sauce, while others blend them with green tomatoes and spring onions, creating unique regional variations.

For those tired of heavy curries, a salad made with fresh young tamarind leaves offers a delightful change of taste. So, let's see how it's prepared.

Key Ingredients

1. Tender tamarind leaves – about 5 sprigs (per serving)
2. Ground beans – a small amount
3. Sesame seeds – a small amount
4. Red onions – 2 large bulbs
5. Garlic – for making garlic oil
6. Green chillies – as desired
7. Dried prawn powder – a little
8. Salt – to taste
9. Seasoning powder – a little

Preparation Steps

- Remove tough fibres from the mango leaves, wash thoroughly, and drain. (If you don't want to eat them raw, briefly steam over hot water.)
- Slice the red onions thinly.
- Pound the roasted beans.
- Pound the green chillies.
- Lightly toast the sesame seeds and pound them.



- In a large bowl, combine mango leaves, onions, pounded chillies, beans, and dried prawn powder.
- Add garlic oil, salt, and seasoning powder. Mix gently so the leaves don't bruise.
- Finally, sprinkle with ground sesame seeds. Balance the sour, salty, and spicy flavours – and the salad is ready to serve.

How to Eat

Tamarind Leaf Salad pairs beautifully with hot rice, roasted dried fish or beef, and grilled onions. In the dry zone, it's also enjoyed at midday tea gatherings as a savoury snack.

Health Benefits

- Rich in Vitamin C, it boosts immunity, helps prevent colds and flu, and supports gum health.
- High in dietary fibre, aiding digestion, regulating

- bowel movements, and easing stomach discomfort.
- Contains anti-inflammatory compounds, reducing internal inflammation and helping regulate blood sugar.
- Beneficial for those with diabetes or pre-diabetes, thanks to natural compounds that support insulin function.
- Mango leaf extract applied to wounds can promote faster healing.
- Packed with antioxidants, it reduces premature ageing and brightens the skin – a benefit especially valued by women.

So, as the saying goes, "Food is medicine, and medicine is food." Tamarind leaves can be stir-fried, cooked in soups, or enjoyed as a salad. Among these, Tamarind Leaf Salad makes a perfect seasonal dish – refreshing, nutritious, and delicious. — MOON



Weekly News Quiz

(for 23 August 2026)

THE following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Sunday's newspaper (23 August 2026).

National News Quiz

1. The 175-year-old U Bein Bridge in Amarapura Township, where an ancient urban heritage emblem plaque was recently installed, was originally constructed in 1851 using timber dismantled from which palaces?
A. Bagan and Inwa palaces
B. Inwa and Sagaing palaces
C. Mandalay and Amarapura palaces
D. Panya and Sagaing palaces
2. The Pyu Creek Dam in Bago Region is currently generating 600 megawatt-hours of electricity per day for the national power grid through which transmission line?
A. 230-kV Toungoo power line
B. 500-kV Meiktila power line

- C. 230-kV Thayagon power line
D. 132-kV Pyinmana power line

3. Renowned veteran singer-songwriter Kaiser (Nyi Nyi Win), who passed away at the age of 65, first entered the stereo music scene with which debut album?
A. Alwan
B. Inlay Hma Ywa Tae Moe
C. Akyee Tan Ei Ahtee Kyan Ahtokpatti
D. Chan Lel Chan Tal Lwan Lel Lwan Tal

Global News Quiz

4. Following New South Wales, which territory became the second jurisdiction in Australia to officially join the national gun buyback scheme?
A. Northern Territory
B. Australian Capital Territory
C. Western Australia
D. Queensland
5. Celebrated annually at Drepung Monastery and Norbulingka in Lhasa, what does the name of the traditional Tibetan "Shoton Festival" literally mean?
A. Butter lamp offering
B. Mountain blessing feast
C. Yoghurt banquet
D. Silk scarf celebration

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

ARTICLE/LIFE & SOCIAL: WORLD

Prince Harry: royal misfit making unlikely UK return

PRINCE Harry, who re-locates back to Britain shortly with his family, will open a new chapter in his ever-eventful life which once seemed improbable amid royal feuds, battles over security and lawsuits against UK tabloids.

The 41-year-old royal misfit has long struggled with the monarchy's strictures, shaking off the angry young man and "playboy prince" tags only to find himself at loggerheads with his closest relatives.

He and wife Meghan Markle — who together swapped Britain for California six years ago — return still estranged from Harry's heir-to-the-throne

brother William and wife Princess Catherine.

Whether their ties can be repaired — as appears to have occurred with Harry and his cancer-battling father, King Charles III — was just one of many questions swirling as their self-imposed United States exile ends.

"I think one of the motivating factors for this return ... is reconciliation with the king and with the wider family," royal historian Ed Owens told AFP. "If those wounds are not healed it can have a really detrimental impact, not only on the people concerned but also on the reputation of the institution." — AFP



Prince Harry returns to Britain seeking reconciliation with the royal family. **PHOTO: AFP**

What a record-breaking El Nino could mean for the world

Rising human-driven climate change previews severe heat expected by late 2030s.

THIS year's El Nino is on track to be the strongest on record, threatening to unleash extreme weather across the globe and make 2027 the hottest recorded year by far.

It is expected to be the most "intense" El Nino in more than a century, the head of long-range forecasting at the UK's Met Office warned on Friday.

Stacked on top of long-term human-caused climate change, the temporary jolt will offer a glimpse of the heat the world can expect by the late 2030s, experts say.

Here's what to know.

- What is El Nino?
- El Nino is the warming phase of a natural



The image shows an aerial view of a low-water reservoir, specifically highlighting exposed muddy banks and receding water levels during drought conditions. **PHOTO: WWF**

cycle in the tropical Pacific known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

It sets in when trade winds that blow from east to west temporarily ease up, allowing warm water

which normally piles up in the western Pacific Ocean to slide back east and rise to the surface.

When those warmer-than-average surface temperatures last for a few months, they cause

more storms and clouds over the region, "which cause ripple effects through the entire global atmosphere", explained Emily Becker, a climate scientist at the University of Miami. — AFP

Three South African universities ranked among world's top 500

THREE South African universities have been ranked among the world's top 500 higher education institutions in the 2026 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), local media reported on Saturday.

The University of Cape Town was ranked the country's top university, placed in the 201-300 range of the latest

ranking. The university's performance was driven largely by its strong output of published and highly cited research, particularly in scientific fields.

The University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, ranked second nationally in the 301-400 range, while Stellenbosch University was placed in the 401-500

range.

Several other South African universities were also included among the world's top 1,000 institutions.

The ARWU, a global indicator of university performance published annually by China-based ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, uses six objective indicators, including Nobel Prize and Fields

Medal winners among alumni and staff, highly cited researchers, papers published in the journals Nature and Science, publications indexed in major citation databases, and per capita academic performance.

The ranking covers more than 2,500 universities, with the top 1,000 published. — Xinhua

Applied Research in Quantitative Approach and ...

FROM PAGE 9

Although both approaches are used in applied research, they differ in some important ways. Quantitative research emphasizes numerical data, statistical analysis, and hypothesis testing but qualitative research emphasises descriptive data, interpretation, and

exploration of meanings. Quantitative studies generally use larger samples and structured methods, but qualitative studies often use smaller samples and flexible methods.

The choice between the two approaches depends on the research objectives. If a researcher wants to measure

the extent of a problem, identify patterns, or test relationships between variables, the quantitative approach is usually more appropriate. If the goal is to understand experiences, perceptions, motivations, or social processes, the qualitative approach is often the better choice.

In many cases, re-

searchers blend both approaches through mixed-methods research, resulting in the strengths of each approach. For example, a researcher evaluating a public health program may use surveys to measure outcomes quantitatively and interviews to explore participants' experiences qualitatively.

A blend of methods provides a deeper understanding of the problem and supports more effective solutions.

To conclude, applied research plays a vital role in solving practical problems and improving real-world practices. As mentioned above, both quantitative and qualita-

tive approaches are valuable methods used to achieve these goals. By means of using the appropriate method or blending both methods when necessary, researchers can provide deeper knowledge that contributes to informed decision-making and positive social change.

ECONOMY
WORLD

Sri Lanka fish harvest drops

Marine ecosystem changes significantly reduce fish availability across Sri Lankan waters.

SRI Lanka has recorded a gradual decline in fish harvests within its territorial waters since 2014, according to the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), local news outlet The Morning reported Saturday.

NARA Chairman Sanath Hettiarachchi said the agency had not identified a single cause for the decline. However, changes within the marine biological system are considered a major factor affecting fish availability



Sri Lanka reports declining territorial marine fish harvests due biological changes. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

and harvest levels.

The development has prompted attention to alternative sources

of fish production as Sri Lanka seeks to maintain supplies while reducing pressure on marine re-

sources.

NARA is Sri Lanka's principal national institution responsible for conducting and coordinating research, development and management activities relating to aquatic resources.

Marine fisheries continue to account for the majority of Sri Lanka's domestic fish production. Official data show that the country produced 410,760 metric tons of fish in 2024, of which 308,430 metric tonnes came from the marine sector. — Xinhua

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Military secures Hormuz oil shipments

MORE than 15 million barrels of oil and petroleum products were moved through the Strait of Hormuz with help from the US military on Tuesday, with total shipments leaving the region, including volumes transported through pipelines, approaching 20 million barrels, US Energy Secretary Chris Wright said on Saturday, highlighting Washington's efforts to keep energy supplies moving despite the continuing standoff with Iran.

In a post on X, Wright said the seven-day average of oil leaving the Strait had risen above eight million barrels a day, and credited the US Navy with maintaining the flow. "Make no mistake, thanks to the US Navy, oil is flowing through the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

The latest US claims come as diplomatic efforts to resolve the confrontation remain stalled. Washington and Tehran have been unable to reach a durable agreement on the conditions for restoring normal shipping and easing economic pressure on Iran. Tehran has maintained that it wants an agreement but has rejected terms it considers unacceptable, while the Trump administration has shifted towards increasing economic pressure, including the threat of tougher sanctions. — ANI

Austrian mountain town finds niche in AI boom



Around 2,200 people from more than 70 countries work at the AT&S site in Leoben. PHOTO: AFP

NESTLED in the wooded hills of Austria's Styria region, the town of Leoben

oozes tradition with its pastel-coloured buildings and quaint central square

boasting a 13th-Century church.

But on the edge of town, engineers peer through giant magnifying glasses while robotic arms manipulate sheets of copper to develop components used in some of the world's most advanced AI systems.

AT&S, an electronics company based in Leoben, makes integrated circuit (IC) substrates, the boards that connect chips to computer memory and power supplies — a crucial com-

ponent in the race to develop AI and high-speed data processing.

The company's shares have surged more than 450 per cent this year, making it one of the most striking beneficiaries in Europe of the AI boom. For chief executive Michael Mertin, this success shows that Europe can still "occupy important niches" in the AI race, even if it cannot compete with US rivals on chip innovation, or with Asian firms in terms of production scale. — AFP

Tanzanian president opens major hydro plant

TANZANIAN President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Saturday inaugurated the 2,115-megawatt Julius Nyerere Hydro-power Plant, a landmark project expected to strengthen electricity supply and accelerate industrial and economic development.

Hassan inaugurated the plant in Rufiji District in Coast Region, saying the new generation capacity should produce measurable gains in manufacturing, trade, mining, modern agriculture, public services, investment and employment. The nine-unit facility now accounts for nearly half of electricity dispatched to Tanzania's national grid, significantly improving reliability and security of supply, she said. "This project has demonstrated Tanzania's capabilities. We must now harness that capacity to advance other strategic projects and build a strong, self-reliant nation," Hassan said. — Xinhua

Gas crisis shuts major factories in Bangladesh

THE giant structures of Bangladesh's Ashuganj fertiliser factory have stood silent for more than a year, as a natural gas crisis shuts industries, triggers power cuts and sparks protests over fuel shortages.

Machinery once ran round the clock, using natural gas to produce urea that farmers depended on to grow crops for the coun-

try's 170 million people.

Now the state-owned factory, which once employed more than 1,200 people and produced more than 1,000 tonnes of fertilizer a day, is a rusting shell.

Ashuganj closed in March 2025, with the country battered by a gas shortage sparked by a plunge in production owing to underinvestment in

ageing fields and exploration, while the US-Iran war has choked imports from the Middle East.

"Only the skeleton of the factory remains," said Md Bazlur Rashid, 59, who spent his entire working life at Ashuganj, built near the eastern Titas gas field. "It has lost its life".

The factory is one of six major urea fertiliser plants that have been

forced to close down or restrict operations because of gas shortages. — AFP

Photo taken on 15 April 2023 shows a mega carbon dioxide stripper tower installed at Bangladesh's Ghorashal-Polash Urea Fertilizer Project under construction in Narsingdi, central Bangladesh. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA



Arctic shipping a daunting prospect in hotly contested region

WITH Gulf turmoil slashing Suez Canal traffic, shipping firms are tempted to try the Arctic for quicker trips between Europe and Asia — but commercial prospects are unlikely to match countries' strategic ambitions for the North Pole.

Container ships from China and South Korea aim to transit the Northern Sea Route in Russian territorial waters in the coming weeks, testing its viability as climate change keeps the passage free of ice longer each year.

Industry experts remain sceptical, saying that even if more vessels start going through, the bulk of global shipping will remain along established lines for the foreseeable future.

Houthi rebels in Oman have disrupted traffic through the Bab al-Mandab Strait by attacking vessels heading to and from the Suez Canal.

Many operators now avoid the passage and send ships instead around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope, vastly prolonging the journey between Asia and Europe and driving up fuel costs and emissions. — AFP



Shipping companies evaluate commercial viability of Arctic routes amidst southern disruptions. **PHOTO: AFP**

China's Inner Mongolia ramps up green computing, AI service exports



Participants visit an exhibition during the 2026 Green Computing Power (Artificial Intelligence) Conference in Hohhot, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, 22 August 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NORTH China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region is stepping up efforts to expand its green computing industry and explore new ways of taking AI services global, with fresh projects and initiatives unveiled Saturday.

A total of 12 projects with a planned investment of 186.46 billion yuan (about US\$27.49 billion) were signed at the 2026 Green Computing Power (Artificial Intelligence) Conference in Hohhot, capital of Inner Mongolia.

The projects involve leading companies including Volcano Engine — ByteDance's cloud service platform, Cambricon Technologies, and China Telecom, covering green intelligent computing centers, token factories, and computing-power and electricity equipment manufacturing.

Also at the conference, construction officially began on a comprehensive service platform for digital services going global in the Hohhot Area of the China (Inner Mongolia) Pilot Free Trade Zone. The platform will connect overseas developers with China's AI models and green computing resources while helping domestic AI companies expand overseas. It offers services including compliance assessment, computing-power scheduling, token measurement, cross-border settlement and developer support. — Xinhua

Hungarian nuclear plant restarts unit three turbine

HUNGARY'S Paks nuclear power plant restarted Turbine 6 of Unit 3 on Saturday as emergency construction measures and rising water levels in the Danube River improved cooling conditions, Prime Minister Peter Magyar said.

Turbine 6 of Unit 3 was taken offline earlier this month after record-low water levels in the Danube severely restricted the amount of cooling water that could be drawn from the river. Located about 100 kilometres south of Budapest, Paks has four VVER-440 reactor units with eight turbines in total, normally generating around half of Hungary's electricity. Its four reactors rely on water from the Danube for cooling.

At the end of July, falling water levels forced the plant to sharply reduce production, with only one turbine remaining in operation at the lowest point of the crisis. Improving conditions allowed a second turbine to resume production on 10 August. — Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2613N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2613N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XIN HUA YUAN VOY.NO. (0B82NS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XIN HUA YUAN VOY.NO. (0B82NS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3616S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3616S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Baltic states trying to sabotage overseas voting in State Duma elections - Russian MFA

Russian Foreign Ministry diplomat highlights serious concerns regarding Baltic states actions.

THE Baltic states are trying to pressure Russians to disrupt voting on State Duma election day, Maxim Raider, ambassador-at-large and deputy chairman of the Russian Foreign Ministry's election commission, tells Sputnik.

Despite their international human rights obligations and repeated declarations of commitment to democracy, some Western countries are nevertheless seeking to pressure Russians living there and prevent them from freely expressing their will, he



Russian Foreign Ministry raises security concerns regarding upcoming parliamentary overseas voting. The image shows the State Duma building (the lower house of the Russian Federal Assembly). **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

underscores.

"The Baltic states are particularly zealous in this," Raider adds.

According to the

Ambassador-at-Large at Russia's Foreign Ministry, the greatest concerns are posed by countries where "clinical Russophobia has

afflicted a large part of the ruling elites".

These include not only Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, but also Poland, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, in his opinion.

Against this backdrop, Raider did not rule out provocations on voting day at overseas polling stations.

Russian Foreign Ministry is preparing measures to protect the life and health of voters at overseas polling stations for the elections to the State Duma, Raider said. — SPUTNIK

American workers push energy to peak record



United States energy secretary highlights record high domestic oil gas production. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/USW.ORG**

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright on Saturday said American oil and gas workers have pushed production to an all-time high,

making the United States the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas.

"American oil and gas workers have driven pro-

duction to an all-time high, making the US the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas," Wright said in a post on X.

He credited US President Donald Trump's energy policies for strengthening domestic production and reducing costs.

"Thanks to @POTUS' agenda, we're building on that success — unleashing American energy, strengthening our economy, and lowering costs," Wright said. Wright's remarks came amid continued tensions over energy supplies

and the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route, where Washington has been working to maintain the flow of crude and petroleum products.

Earlier in the day, Wright said more than 15 million barrels of oil and petroleum products were moved through the Strait of Hormuz with assistance from the US military on Tuesday, while total shipments leaving the region, including volumes transported through pipelines, approached 20 million barrels. — ANI

Physical boarding pass stamping to end at Indian airports from 1 September

THE stamping of boarding passes for immigration clearance at Indian airports will be discontinued from 1 September, officials said on Saturday, in a move aimed at making the process more convenient for passengers travelling abroad.

Officials said both electronic and physical board-

ing passes will continue to be accepted at immigration counters.

"E-boarding passes will also be accepted at immigration counters in addition to physical boarding passes. The stamping of boarding passes has been done away with," an official said.

The Bureau of Immi-

gration (BOI), under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has communicated the decision to airport authorities, following concerns that the existing practice of physically stamping boarding passes was causing inconvenience to passengers.

Under the revised arrangement, international

travellers can present their e-boarding passes on smartphones during immigration clearance, while those carrying printed boarding passes will also be permitted to use them.

The move is expected to streamline the immigration process and reduce the reliance on physical stamping at airports. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

US casualties exceed seven hundred in war

THE number of US service members killed or wounded in the Iran war has risen to more than 770, according to casualty figures provided by the Pentagon, reported by The Washington Post on Friday, as the conflict enters its sixth month.

The Washington Post reported that the Pentagon's casualty reporting system showed 774 US service members killed or wounded, including 18 killed and 756 wounded in the conflict.

According to the Post, the Pentagon added scores of new troops to the wounded list in recent days, even as the United States and Iran have largely remained under a ceasefire in recent weeks.

It noted that some of the newly added figures could reflect a delay between an injury being recorded in the military's medical system and its appearance in the Pentagon's casualty database.

US President Donald Trump also did not extend the ceasefire with Iran, as per the 14-point Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in June, after it expired on Monday. — ANI

Kazakhstan holds new parliament election

VOTING started in Kazakhstan on Sunday for its new unicameral parliament, the Kurultai, with 545 candidates from seven political parties contesting the election.

According to Kazakhstan's Central Election Commission, voting began at 7 am local time (0200 GMT). A total of 10,423 polling stations have been set up for the election, with more than 12.6 million registered voters.

Kazakhstan's new Constitution, which took effect on 1 July, provides for the establishment of the 145-member unicameral parliament, with lawmakers serving five-year terms. Previously, Kazakhstan had a bicameral parliament consisting of the Mazhilis, or the lower house, and the Senate. — Xinhua

Iran threatens Strait of Hormuz

IRAN'S top security official Mohsen Rezaei warned Saturday that any country participating in the US economic war against Iran will be considered an "enemy" by Tehran.

Rezaei, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, made the remarks in an interview with state-run IRIB TV.

He said Iran would first negotiate with such countries and ask them to stay out of the conflict, but warned that if they refuse, Tehran will strike their interests, and that if surrounding countries choose to join the US siege, Iran "will not let even a single drop of oil be exported from the Strait of Hormuz". He noted that Iran has learned how to bypass US sanctions and continue oil sales over the years. Rezaei also repeated that the Hormuz Strait will remain closed unless the United States fulfills its commitments under the Iran-US peace memorandum of understanding signed in June, adding that Washington must act first this time. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar youth badminton team wins 15 golds

MYANMAR'S youth badminton team won 15 gold, six silver and four bronze medals at the Badminton Asia South-East Asia Regional Championships 2026, held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 18 to 21 August.

Myanmar athletes won one gold medal each in the U16, U19 and U23 team events. In the individual and doubles events across the men's and women's U16, U19 and U23 categories, they secured a further 12 gold, six silver and four bronze medals.

The Myanmar sports team, led by Myanmar Badminton Federation President U Aung Paing

and accompanied by the federation's general secretary, coaches and athletes, returned to Yangon on the evening of 22 August.

Teams from Cam-

bodia, Myanmar, Brunei, Laos and Timor-Leste, comprising around 100 athletes in total, competed in the championships.

—Bala/KZL



Myanmar's youth badminton players are seen with their medals.

Yangon to host Fire Dragon International Futsal Cup

THE Fire Dragon International Futsal Cup 2026, offering more than US\$10,000 in cash awards, will be held at the MFF Futsal Court in Yangon in September.

Organized jointly by the Myanmar Football Federation and the Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee, with Fire Dragon Energy Drink as the main sponsor, the tournament will feature eight teams—five from Myanmar and three from overseas.

YCDC Dream Team, YRG FC, M2K, MIU FC and TG United FC will represent Myanmar. The foreign teams are Black Pearl United of Thailand, Black Steel FC Papua of Indonesia and Lucky FC



YRG FC players pose with the trophy after winning the 2025-2026 Glan Master Futsal League title.

of Cambodia.

The teams will be divided into two groups of four. Group A comprises YCDC Dream Team, Black Steel FC Papua, Lucky FC and TG United FC, while Group B consists of YRG FC, Black Pearl United,

MIU FC and M2K.

The tournament is expected to provide Myanmar's leading futsal clubs with valuable international experience against regional teams and contribute to the development of futsal in Myanmar. —TWA/KZL

Kane voted player of the year in Germany

BAYERN Munich striker Harry Kane was voted the 2026 player of the year in Germany by an association of sports journalists on Sunday, finishing ahead of teammate Michael Olise.

The England captain won the award after a stellar season, winning the Bundesliga and German Cup while Bayern also reached the Champions League semi-finals.

Kane scored 61 goals for the club last season in all competitions.

He then scored six goals as England reached

the World Cup semi-finals before losing to Argentina.

Bayern boss Vincent Kompany was named coach of the year, while their women's captain Giulia Gwinn won the award for best female player.

The 695 members of the German sports journalists association vote on the award, with Bundesliga players or German footballers playing abroad eligible for the honour. Kane, 33, is the first Englishman to win the award while Olise also finished second in 2025, behind Florian Wirtz. —AFP



Harry Kane receives German football player of year award following stellar season. PHOTO: AFP

Ayeyawady FC beat Hang Yuan 1-0



Players of Ayeyawady FC and Hang Yuan FC in action at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)

MYANMAR women's club Ayeyawady FC beat Hang Yuan FC of Taiwan Province of China 1-0 in the AFC Women's Champions League 2026-27 qualifying round at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Ayeyawady FC

topped Group F with nine points from three matches, ahead of Singapore's FC Jurong, Lebanon's No Limits and Hang Yuan, to qualify for the AFC Women's Champions League 2026-27 group stage. —Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL

Manchester City agrees deal for Lille star

MANCHESTER City have agreed to sign Morocco midfielder Ayyoub Bouaddi from Lille in a deal worth £86 million (\$117 million), according to reports on Sunday.

City moved for Bouaddi after selling Rodri to Barcelona and Tijjani Reijnders to Al-Qadsiah.

The 18-year-old rising star was one of the stand-out players at the recent World Cup, helping Morocco reach the quarter-finals before they were beaten by France.

City have been in talks with Lille for several weeks and have finally reached an agreement for Bouaddi, who will travel to England to complete a medical before finalising his switch to the Etihad Stadium.

Bouaddi will join England midfielder Elliot Anderson in City's revamped midfield.

Maresca made central midfield a key area for new signings after replacing Pep Guardiola as manager at the end of last season. —AFP

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10



Weekly News Quiz

Answer Key

- B. Inwa and Sagaing palaces (From the U Bein Bridge heritage plaque story on Page 1)
- A. 230-kV Toungoo power line (From the Pyu Creek Dam hydropower story on Page 5)
- C. Akyee Tan Ei Ahtee Kyan Ahtokpatti (From the veteran singer Kaiser obituary on Page 11)
- B. Australian Capital Territory (From the Australian gun buyback scheme story on Page 14)
- C. Yoghurt banquet (From the Shoton Festival feature on Page 16).



WORLD

PM Modi meets CEOs of space startups, urges to expand applications

Prime Minister encourages space startups to create technologies improving people's daily lives.

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged India's private space industry to explore wider applications of space technologies across sectors, saying the country can become a magnet for global talent, companies and investment in the space sector.

He made the remarks while interacting with CEOs and founders of 20 space startups at Seva Teerth today, as he called for a greater collaboration between space companies and sectors such as agriculture and environmental



Skyroot Aerospace's rocket being developed in their facility in the southern city of Hyderabad. **PHOTO: SKYROOT AEROSPACE**

protection.

The Prime Minister has encouraged space companies to look beyond their

existing applications and focus on how their technologies can improve people's lives. He suggested

that companies working on space debris could collaborate with environmental organisations, while those developing space technologies for agriculture could work with agricultural universities and departments to help farmers make better-informed decisions and improve output.

He also called for the creation of an ecosystem where, "when the world thinks of space, it looks towards India", saying the country's space sector can act as a magnet to attract global talent, companies and investment. — ANI

Trump administration's 75-country immigrant visa ban struck down by US judge



Federal judge overturns administration policy suspending immigrant visas from seventy-five nations. **PHOTO: ANI**

A US federal judge on struck down the Trump administration's policy suspending immigrant visa issuance for nationals of 75 countries, ruling that

the measure was "contrary to law" and exceeded the statutory authority of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, CNN reported.

According to CNN,

Judge Jeannette Vargas of the Federal District Court in Manhattan issued the ruling on Friday, in another setback to the Trump administration's immigration policies.

The US State Department had paused the issuance of immigrant visas from nearly 40 per cent of the world's countries in January, including Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Haiti, Somalia and Russia. The department had said the move was intended to prevent the entry of people who would "take welfare

and public benefits".

Vargas rejected the rationale behind the policy and ordered the reversal of visa denials that were based solely on the measure. According to CNN, under US law, an immigrant can be denied a visa as a potential "public charge" — meaning someone expected to depend on government assistance — only after a consular officer assesses the applicant's individual circumstances, including finances, age, health, skills and family situation. — ANI

Humanoid robot beats men's 100m world record in Beijing

A humanoid robot clocked 9.39 seconds to beat the men's 100 metres world record of 9.58 seconds during the opening ceremony of the second edition of the World Humanoid Robot Games at the National Speed Skating Oval in Bei-

jing on Saturday.

The men's 100 metres world record is 9.58 seconds, set by Usain Bolt in Berlin in 2009.

The record-breaking performance marked the start of competition among humanoid robots.

Featuring 51 events with a total of 1,301 competitions, the Games attracted 666 teams with 2,056 humanoid robots from around the world, with the number of teams up 138 per cent from the inaugural edition last year.

In addition to athletics and football events, the Games also introduced new events including weightlifting, tug-of-war and table tennis, putting the robots' physical structures and core components to the test. — Xinhua

Wind-powered ship carries Caribbean goods home

GLIDING into the port of Amsterdam under full sail with a booty of 40 tonnes of Caribbean rum, coffee and cocoa, the twin-masted Tres Hombres looks like something from the heyday of 17th-century piracy.

But this 32-metre (105-feet) brigantine has a much nobler mission than the pirates of old: sustainable goods transport using the energy from wind captured in its sails.

"We have almost no emissions because we sail without an engine," said Sabine Fox, the 51-year-old boss of Fairtransport, the firm that operates the Tres Hombres.

Every year the ship, whose name is inspired by the three men who founded Fairtransport in 2007, sails some 7,000 kilometres (4,300 miles) across the Atlantic, bringing goods from the Caribbean to Amsterdam.

"We choose products which are not produced in Europe because we didn't want to be in competition with local markets," Fox told AFP.

"How many things do we import from Chi-

na that we don't need?" she asked.

By offering a selective and clearly slower supply chain, Fairtransport aims to raise awareness about emissions from shipping.

According to the UN's International Maritime Organization, shipping accounts for around three percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The sustainably farmed products transported by the Tres Hombres are sold to high-end stores in northern Europe, which the vessel sails around every summer.

Aaron Smit, a deckhand, seems a bit disoriented by the industrial landscape of the port of Amsterdam after more than a month sailing from the Azores to the Dutch capital.

But his face lights up when he recounts his experiences aboard the Tres Hombres.

"If you go to the captain's chair, which is right above the water under the bowsprit, you can be really close to the dolphins and see them jumping all around you," the 20-year-old told AFP. — AFP



It has no engine and relies entirely on wind power to transport goods like rum, chocolate, and cocoa across the Atlantic Ocean. **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**