

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

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

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

Systematic effort urged to save heritage sites

Emphasis must be placed on constructing a quality railway and a new station in line with proper procedures and set standards to ensure long-term durability.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Joint Executive Chief General Ye Win Oo of the National Defence and Security Council and officials, yesterday inspected the maintenance and preservation of ancient cultural heritage sites in ancient Ketumati City, Toungoo, Bago Region.

The Senior General looked into agricultural activities and living conditions on his way along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway from Nay Pyi Taw to Toungoo.

Arriving in Toungoo, the Senior General inspected Yodaya Gate in the



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the maintenance and preservation of ancient cultural heritage sites in ancient Ketumati City, Toungoo, Bago Region, yesterday.

eastern wall, the excavation and maintenance of the part of the western wall, the water moat, and the outer circular way of the wall in ancient Ketumati city.

After hearing the reports submitted by Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, the

Senior General gave guidance that strenuous efforts must be made to successfully conduct excavation of the ancient wall

SEE PAGE 3



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NATIONAL

The door to peace is always open to resolve political issues politically

❖ The door to peace is always open and welcomes to resolution of political issues through political means.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, to the ceremony to mark the 78th Anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February 2025)

Road Safety drive aims to halve traffic deaths by 2030

YANGON Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC) held a road safety campaign, aiming to reduce casualties from traffic accidents by 50 per cent in 2030 compared to those in 2020.

Under the Yangon Region government's directive, YRTC has carried out in accordance with the Myanmar Organiza-

tion for Road Safety (MORS)'s plan, to implement the National Road Safety Council (NRSC)'s objective to reduce road accidents 2030 by half of 2020.

The campaign was held at the No 4 Basic Education High School in Tamway Township on 31 July, as a part of the plan to

educate the public about road safety, covering from Yangon to all around the country.

Led by YRTC joint secretary U Lyan Cing Mang, the event took place with officials from the Road Transport Administration Department, traffic police and teachers and students, totalling 300. — MT/ZS



The road safety campaign is in progress at the No 4 Basic Education High School in Tamway Township, Yangon Region, on 31 July.

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

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Saturday 2 August 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 3 August 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Kachin and southern Shan states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about six to eight feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 August 2025: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 August 2025: One or two times rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 7:30 am MST on 2 August 2025)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Toungoo has exceeded by about 0.5 foot above its danger level. It may fall 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 more than 4.5 feet above its danger level. It may fall about 0.5 foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

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

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded by about six feet above its danger level. It may fall about 0.5 foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

It is noticeably advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Toungoo Township. It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Shwegyin and Hpa-an townships and Madauk, to stay away from the flood-prone areas. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

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

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

Systematic effort urged to save heritage sites

FROM PAGE 1

and the moat of ancient Ketumati city of Toungoo established by King Mingyi Nyo (AD 1485-1531). It is necessary to explore the bridge leading to the ancient city and the bridge designs, and build these structures in appropriate sites. Moreover, the Senior General stressed the need to move the necessary ministerial buildings. And, cultural heritage sites set under the law must be preserved systematically, and necessary instructions.

At Toungoo railway station, the Senior General heard reports by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Mya Tun Oo on facts about the axis of railway and the railroads related to construction of the Toungoo detour railway, a plan to build new Toungoo railway station, setting the railway area and the motor road area leading to the railway station, soil-filling works and progress of the projects.

In his response, the Senior General gave guidance that emphasis must be placed on the construction of the quality railway and the new railway station in relevant procedures, meeting the set standards for long-term existence and left necessary instructions.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and his entourage rode the 8-down Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon DEMU passenger express train, which left Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station, together with passengers from Toungoo railway station to Yangon railway station. On the way, the Senior General viewed maintenance works for strengthening of railway sections, situations on the riding of passengers in carriages, services of Myanmar Railways for the people to conveniently make relevant trips, agricultural activities along both sides of the railway, and development of urban and rural areas. In giving guidance over the reports by officials, the Senior General stressed the need to continuously carry out strengthening and systematic operations of railways. Proper landscape and drainage activities must be arranged along both sides of the railways. It is necessary to reclaim systematic farmlands along both sides of the railways. Emphasis



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greets passengers on the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon DEMU passenger express train yesterday.



This photo shows the Ketumati ancient city being excavated.

must be placed on keeping station yards and station buildings neat and tidy. Small forests must be established in the railway areas to be green and beautified. Efforts must be made to give services to convenience of train passengers, attract internal and international travellers and secure reliance of people over the rail transport as the public transportation.

The Senior General, his wife and party arrived at Yangon railway station, where they cordially greeted staff members of Myanmar Railways.

Operation of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw and Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon DEMU passenger express trains started on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw railway section on 28 February 2025. The trains take some five and a half hours on the trip. Running these new trains helps passengers along their routes reach relevant destinations in a short time, conveniently and cost-effectively. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers a speech at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families at the Southern Command Headquarters in Toungoo yesterday.

Tatmadaw strives for lasting nationwide peace

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing unveils that Tatmadaw continues to make ongoing efforts to ensure that the nation can firmly and steadily proceed along the path of multi-party democracy.

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, yesterday morning, inspected local security measures in the area of the Southern Command and met families of the station.

At the Southern Command Headquarters, Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Kyi Thaik reported to the Senior General on taking local security measures and implementing peace and security activities in the Southern Command area, formation of people's security squads to ensure peace and stability, and undertaking of welfare measures for Tatmadaw members and families.

In his response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance on effective operations for local security, peace and stability works in the Southern Command area, systematic supervision to prevent illegal extraction of forest resources, sys-

Ongoing armed conflicts have led to weaknesses in the economy, education, and health sectors.

tematic undertaking of military-owned agriculture and livestock breeding farms for the welfare of Tatmadaw families, and carrying out tasks effectively and efficiently.

The Senior General held a meeting with Tatmadaw members and families from the station at Aye Chan Phyto Hall.

Also, present at the ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the Senior General, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Tatmadaw members and families of the station.

Speaking at the meeting, the Senior General recounted that at the time when the country gained independence, political and ethnic differences in views led to the outbreak of internal armed conflicts, which affected the country's sovereignty. In response, Tatmadaw made firm and

vigorous efforts to protect and defend it. Throughout successive eras and governments, Tatmadaw has consistently prioritized the perpetuation of national sovereignty.

He retold that Tatmadaw has made efforts to enable progress along the multiparty democratic path desired by the people. It drafted the 2008 Constitution, obtained public approval through a referendum, and initiated the move toward a multiparty democracy in 2010. Tatmadaw continues to make ongoing efforts to ensure that the nation can firmly and steadily proceed along the path of multiparty democracy.

The Senior General underscored that a free and fair multiparty democratic general election will be held, and that all members of Tatmadaw are required to make collective efforts from their respective positions for the development of the country.

He explained that efforts were made

Salient points from the speech delivered by the Senior General at the meeting with Tatmadaw members and families

1. Tatmadaw is working to ensure national peace and stability, and that emphasis is being placed on the reduction of political and ethnic differences in opinions.
2. It is necessary to improve relations with neighbouring countries and international relations in a stable and constructive manner.
3. Encouragement is being given to promote economic activities that serve the public interest, rather than benefiting only individuals.

during the term of the first democratic government in 2010 to bring all armed groups onto the path of peace, resulting in the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). However, some ethnic armed organizations have not joined the peace process due to external instigation. Ongoing armed conflicts have led to weaknesses in sectors such as education, healthcare, and the economy. Therefore, Tatmadaw is striving to achieve a durable peace across the entire country.

The Senior General noted that Tatmadaw is working to ensure national peace and stability, and that emphasis is being placed on the reduction of political and ethnic differences in opinions.

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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

Tatmadaw strives for lasting nationwide peace

FROM PAGE 4

The Senior General stressed the need to improve relations with neighbouring countries and international relations stably and constructively.

He emphasized that, since the market economy must benefit both the people and the country, encouragement is being given to promote economic activities that serve the public interest, rather than benefiting only individuals.

He underlined that the country’s development efforts can advance further only when knowledgeable and skilful individuals are abundant within the nation. Moreover, if more young people with high levels of education, critical thinking, and vision emerge, they can also contribute to national peace and stability.

The Senior General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families of the station to the commander, while the wife of the Senior General gave cash awards for the station’s maternal and child welfare association to the wife of the commander.

At the local Tatmadaw hospital in the station, the Senior General cordially comforted Tatmadaw members receiving medical treatments for their injuries sustained in serving defence and security duties of the State and asked them about their injuries and healing process.



State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts a patient at the Tatmadaw hospital in Toungoo yesterday.

The Senior General fulfilled the needs of those patients. He also provided the requirements of the hospital.

The wife of the Senior General warmly met families of Tatmadaw members receiving medical treatment at the hospital, asked after the progress of their health conditions and presented foodstuffs. — MNA/TTA

W E E K L Y R O U N D U P

27 July
2025 matric exam results released with pass rate at 48.06%

The results of the March 2025 matriculation examination in the entire nation and the June 2025 retake examination for earthquake-affected states and regions were announced simultaneously across the country. A total of 207,898 students sat for the exam, of whom 99,924 passed, resulting in a pass rate of 48.06 per cent.

29 July
Post-Earthquake Technical Forum held

A ceremony to commence the Post-Earthquake Technical Forum under the title of technically reviewing post-earthquake construction and renovation process and preparing potential technical challenges in the future took place at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, with an address by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

SAC issues second amendment to Political Parties Registration Law

The State Administration Council issued the second amendment to the Political Parties Registration Law as the SAC Law No 43/3035 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Military Secrets Protection Law enacted

The State Administration Council enacted the Military Secrets Protection Law as the SAC Law No 44/2025 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of

the Union of Myanmar.

30 July
Sixth Amendment to Region and State Hluttaw Election Law enacted

The State Administration Council enacted the Sixth Amendment to the Region and State Hluttaw Election Law as the SAC Law No 47/2025 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

SAC enacts law to protect multiparty democratic general elections from obstruction, disruption, and destruction

The State Administration Council enacted the Law on the Protection of Multiparty Democratic General Elections from Obstruction, Disruption, and Destruction as the SAC Law No 48/2025 under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

31 July
SAC confirms electoral period

A ceremony to hold an honorary meeting of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw, with an address by State Administration Council Chairman, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

Government steps up crackdown on illegal trade

The Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee held the 3/2025 meeting at the Ministry of Commerce

in Nay Pyi Taw, with an address by Chairman of the Steering Committee, Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council, Deputy Prime Minister, Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Date set for Cyber Security Law to come into force

The Cyber Security Law enacted with the State Administration Council Law No 1/2025 shall come into force effective 30 July 2025 under Section 2 of that law.

1 August
NDSC holds meeting 3/2025

The National Defence and Security Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held its 3/2025 meeting at the office of the State Administration Council Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw.

Orders and ordinances released

The National Defence and Security Council issued five orders and two ordinances, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, two Martial Law orders, and the National Defence and Security Council Office, 16 orders.

2 August
Government ministries to aid general election efforts

The Union government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held its meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister, with an address by Prime Minister U Nyo Saw. — GNLM/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Statement 9/ 2025

1. The National Defence and Security Council issued Order 11/2025 on 31 July 2025, reappointing the Chairperson and Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) to continue their duties.

2. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was initially established on 5 September 2011, under Notification 34/2011 of the Union Government, to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. To ensure that the Commission aligns with international human rights institutions' standards and possesses a strong and sustainable foundation, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law was enacted on 28 March 2014, as the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 21. In accordance with this law, the Commission was subsequently reconstituted.

3. The core responsibilities of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission include raising public awareness and disseminating knowledge on human rights, protecting against human rights violations, making recommendations to align national legislation with international human rights treaties, advising the Government on human rights treaties that the country should be a party, and engaging with government agencies, civil society organizations, and both international and regional human rights institutions. These responsibilities are implemented
- in accordance with the Commission's Framework of Action Plan and its annual Operational Plan.

4. From January to July 2025, the Commission conducted four public awareness talks on human rights, attended by 610 participants from various community organizations. Additionally, the Commission delivered 35 human rights training sessions to 2,868 civil service trainees as part of training programmes organized by the Union Civil Service Board and various ministries.

5. Regarding the protection of human rights, the Commission received 159 complaints between January and July 2025. To investigate these complaints, 29 internal meetings were held by the Complaint Screening Team. The Commission conducted inspection visits to five prisons, one jail, seven labour camps, four police lock-ups, one court detention centre, two youth training schools, and four homes for the aged. These visits were conducted to inspect the treatment of detainees under national and international human rights laws. Based on these inspections, 179 recommendations were submitted to the relevant authorities.

6. In the area of legal affairs, the Commission, during January to July 2025, provided human rights-based opinions on two draft laws submitted by Union ministries, help assisted the preparation of Myanmar's national reports on the implementation of international human rights treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
- Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Furthermore, the Commission translated and published the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

7. From January to July 2025, the Commission participated in one meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, two technical working group meetings of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum, and one high-level meeting. The Commission also attended six workshops and events organized by international and regional human rights bodies.

8. As part of its mandate to report on its activities and publish them as appropriate, the Commission disseminates information about its work through national television, newspapers, its official website, and the Myanmar National Portal. Statements related to human rights matters are also issued in due course.

9. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission remains committed to carrying out its mandates and responsibilities for the promotion and protection of the human rights of the citizens under the provisions set forth in the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law.
- Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date: 1 August 2025

Fire Services Dept to form
Urban SAR Team



This photo showcases firefighters participating in an advanced search and rescue training course.

THE Department of Fire Services stated that an Urban Search and Rescue Team will be formed under the Myanmar Fire Brigade as per the standards and specifications of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group.

A three-month training course was conducted for members of the Urban Search and Rescue Team to enhance their advanced search and rescue techniques, aligning them with those used by international fire brigades.

The training was conducted to enhance search and rescue

cue capabilities in response to natural disasters, including fires and other sudden emergencies, as well as to improve firefighting and rescue operations.

In addition, the training included instruction on the proper handling and use of modern, advanced search and rescue equipment used internationally.

A total of 60 Myanmar firefighter trainees attended the training, which took place from 12 May to 1 August, and received both theoretical and practical instruction in advanced international search and rescue techniques. — ASH/TH

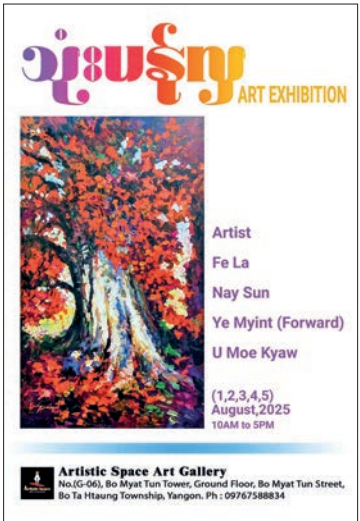
Yangon hosts
‘Thone Pan Hla’
group art exhibition

THE Thone Pan Hla (Three Beautiful Strokes) group art exhibition is being held at the Artistic Space Art Gallery in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, from 1 to 5 August, according to the gallery's curator.

The exhibition features over 70 paintings by artists Fe La, Nay Sun, Ye Myint (Forward), and U Moe Kyaw, showcasing a variety of themes and techniques, including watercolour, oil, and acrylic works.

“We are proud to present the Three Beautiful Strokes group exhibition at Artistic Space Art Gallery,” said the gallery curator. “This exhibition highlights the diverse styles and techniques of four talented painters and will be open daily from 10 am to 5 pm until 5 August. We warmly invite art enthusiasts to visit and enjoy the display.”

The artworks on display vary in size, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches and 18 by 18 inches, offering a rich visual experience for visitors. — ASH/KZL



This image reveals an invite poster for the exhibition.

CBM injects over US\$1M to edible oil-importing companies



File photo: a vessel is seen carrying palm oil to Thilawa port.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.04 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$434,400 to fuel oil-importing companies on 1 August.

CBM sold over \$1.247 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$230,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 31 July, in addition to an injection of 771,953 baht on 31 July.

CBM sold over \$123,900 and 600,000 yuan on 30 July. Additionally, CBM also sold \$700,000 to edible oil-importing companies and \$380,270 to fuel oil-importing companies.

CBM pumped \$413,223 and 222,411 baht into the financial market on 29 July. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$965,200 to edible oil-importing companies and \$200,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 29 July.

CBM announced on 28 July that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil businesspeople.

CBM sold over \$354,900 to fuel oil-importing companies in addition to an injection of 1.184 million yuan on 28 July.

CBM sold over \$1.29 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$485,266 to fuel oil-importing companies on 25 July again.

CBM sold over \$1.345 million, which were purchased from companies working on a Cut-Make and Pack basis, to

edible oil-importing companies on 24 July.

CBM sold over \$2.36 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$320,700 to fuel oil-importing companies on 23 July 2025.

CBM announced on 22 July that it would sell \$27 million to those engaged in the fuel oil industry and 130 million baht to importers. CBM injected \$660,000 and 474,900 yuan on 22 July into the financial market after sales of over \$3 million to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM injected \$14.9 million purchased from companies working on a Cut-, Make and Pack basis into the financial market in June, in addition to sales of over \$8.4 million, over 13.9 million baht and over 5.2 million yuan.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Octane 92 & 95 prices dip

OCTANE prices indicated a small decrease in the domestic fuel oil market for the week ending 7 August compared to those of the previous week.

The prices declined to K2,880 per litre of Octane 92 and K2,935 for Octane 95, while diesel prices were up a bit at K2,715 for diesel and K3,360 for premium diesel this week ending 7 August. The set prices for a week ending 31 July were K2,935 for Octane 92 and K2,990 for Octane 95, K2,710 for diesel and K3,355 for premium diesel.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in South-east Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

Under the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found to be overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss

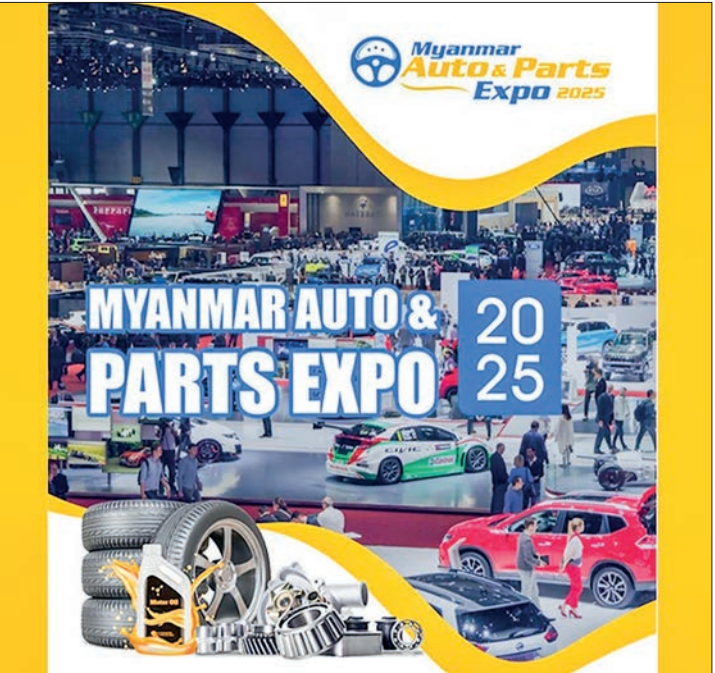
experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to that of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country has different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK



Vehicles are seen refuelling at the petrol station in Yangon.

Myanmar Auto & Parts Expo 2025 to spotlight diverse EV brands



The poster of Myanmar Auto & Parts Expo 2025.

A three-day Myanmar Auto & Parts Expo 2025 will take place at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) between 9 am to 5 pm

on 12-14 September, showcasing a wide array of EV brands and ICE cars.

The latest EV models, bus-

es, and trucks will be displayed in one place during pre-Thadingyut sales. Tyre, battery, engine oil, auto parts, car audio, VDO and GPS and camera installation will be featured as well.

Furthermore, the expo will offer car loans, insurance policies, car rentals and instalment sales. Car workshop equipment, computer boxes and car lifts will also be put on sale.

Those stakeholders engaged in the auto industry are invited to join the expo.

Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers & Distributors Association (MAMDA) and Silver Sea Event Management jointly organized this event. Individuals can enquire about expo details through contact numbers at 09 5414336, 09 409400077, 09 409400066, and 09 409400055. — NN/KK

Stage breastfeeding campaign as the best nurturing for babies

BREASTFEEDING is one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival, and yet, currently, fewer than half of infants under 6 months old are exclusively breastfed. Moreover, breast milk is the best medicine and therapy as well as nutritious food to reduce health disparities.

Although health staff and medical surgeons can help pregnant mothers give birth to their babies, those mothers are the very first medical practitioners to nurture and care for their babies. Moreover, those mothers contribute a great deal to human society with the capacity to ensure the existence of mankind. As such, those mothers can be dubbed as the benefactors of mankind as well as the world.

Breastfeeding is based on the breast milk of mothers. Such milk is transformed from the blood of those mothers. It can be said that mothers let their infants ensure a safe living with the pre-

vention of different dangers. That is why mothers should be honoured for their excellent performances in society.

In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution endorsed World Breastfeeding Week as an important health promotion strategy. With a different theme each year, it aims to promote the enabling environments that help women to breastfeed, including support in the community and the workplace, with adequate protections in government policies and laws, as well as sharing information on breastfeeding benefits and strategies.

The World Breastfeeding Week 2025 theme is “Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems”. This theme emphasizes the need to establish long-term, equitable support structures to empower breastfeeding mothers. It highlights the importance of collaborative support from various sectors to create a breastfeeding-friendly environment.

Breastfeeding is associated with a lower risk of conditions such as childhood obesity, type 2 diabetes, asthma, and some types of childhood leukaemia. These protective effects can extend into adolescence and adulthood. Moreover, breastfeeding promotes healthy growth and development, reduces infant mortality, and protects against infectious diseases, contributing to overall health and well-being.

Everyone has to join hands with health officials and staff members in launching the World Breastfeeding Week in the first week of August. Awareness campaign must be staged for people, especially women, to breastfeed their babies as a great chance given by nature to know dos and don'ts for nurturing their babies carefully. Thanks to such a campaign, their children will become physically and mentally developed people who will be reliable for the country to shape the future of the State.



Book Title - Udan Thit Hnint Yandaya Short Stories

Writer - Soe Bar Daing

Publishing House - Duwun

Publication Date - January 2025 (1st Edition)

Price - K9,000

Udan Thit Hnint Yandaya Short Stories

THIS week, we bring a short story book by Saya Soe Bar Daing for the readers. Saya Soe Bar Daing writes articles related to jade markets for Living Col- our business magazine for over three years and Mandalay-relat- ed news articles for Mahay Thi magazine for over three years. He also wrote about 400 fiction articles and over 200 news art- icles for journals and newspapers. He has other pen names like Ant Zar and Athar Naing for news, perspectives and book reviews. He is now living in Mandalay.

The book features 12 short stories, five published in Udan Thit Magazine and five which are not included in collective short stories from the Yandaya short story series, another one is his manuscript and the last one, “Asin Kwel Yandaya”, is a new one. In the preface of the book, the author mentions that since the COVID-19 period, magazines

have been declining due to dete- riorating health in the industry. All literary magazines came to a standstill. The author also states that magazines have reached a stage of decline. Although online sales have slightly increased as the bookstore market has de- clined, the overall market cover- age has significantly decreased.

He also states that during this time, book production also increased and leading to com- plaints from publishers. Although online book sales became a strong point in the market, there were more and more places where delivery was not possible. As a result, the connection between books and readers became weak. It makes me wonder if we are now approaching a stage where publishing itself is on the verge of collapse. With the rising pro- duction cost of books, book prices have also gone up, just like other goods. This makes us feel sorry

for our readers. But still, we have to face and endure these chal- lenges. If the literature falls apart, it will be a danger: I would like to thank each reader who continues to support and stand by literature during these difficult times.

Saya Ye Shan has made the following comments on some of the author's short stories.

Since Saya Soe Bar Daing was deeply familiar with the sea, his portrayals of seafaring life and the crew members on large ves- sels stand out vividly against the ocean backdrop. His characters feel alive and full of movement.

In the short story “Kyate Kaung Dwe”, the small clash between a young boy and an old man over their fighting cock's competition captures the minds of readers with their use of re- gional dialect and events. The two cocks fight whenever there is no one or whenever they are put in the basket, and the two men are

just like them. It is a short story that makes you think after reading it. I also want to talk about Apyit Lu's story. It is about the people who make charcoal on an island. The story tells of how a neighbouring country pays (not only with money but also with drugs) to have tim- ber from our country cut down. The charcoal is then exported to that country. This situation is brought to life through the dialogues between Thee Zan and Htin Gyi, which deep- ly move the reader. The twist at the end of the story is also quite beau- tiful. It reveals Thee Zan's character surprisingly.

“Baby Scoopy” is a contem- porary short story that portrays the events of modern times, like how people seek sponsors and make con- nections amidst the uncertainties of the era. It features charming char- acters riding Scoopy motorbikes, showing off, and even competing to win over the owner of the Scoopy. The inner emotions of characters like Yati Nway and Htar Htar Thi re- flect the realities of the present day.

In this book, readers will not only find contemporary short stories but also life-reflecting ones. With vivid depictions of rural life in Da- wei, coastal areas, islands, and the livelihoods of fishermen, the stories explore the character, nature of hu- man beings, and values of people in those regions. These portrayals are delivered in a rich and engaging style that is sure to capture the short story lovers.



Book Title - Analogous to Gaw Wein

Author - Ye Shan

Publishing House - Yatha Yinsoontan

Publication Date - July 2025 (1st Edition)

Price - K12,000

Analogous to Gaw Wein

YATHA Yinsoontan Publishing House published a unique and meaningful tribute novel by the author Ye Shan. He incorporated an- ecdotes and personal stories of Sayar Thike Tun Thet after his passing into a novel.

Writer Soe Bar Daing gave a remark on this book that “it is a third-person narrative, exploring Saya Thike Tun Thet's emotion- al journey and perspectives. This book, in honour of Saya Thike Tun Thet, involves their life stories, legacy and impact on oth- ers in a creative and narrative format. The author gathered memories and elements of the person's life to use as a framework for his narrative.”

Novel author Saya Ye Shan elaborated that “he is like a brother who supports and guides me in my career path with his en- couragement, advice and a sense of direction towards a smoother and more fulfilling goal. He is living in my memory as an immortal in the literary field, Mandalay and the country. As he is deeply remembered in my heart, I created a memoir about him and crafted a compelling and memorable character, pre- senting his past, unique perspective and

personality.

The preface started with how the author became acquainted with Saya Thike Tun Thet, how he became a mentor and consid- ered him as a brother in his heart. During his professional journey, he was like a trusted comrade who provided a safe space to share both positive and negative experiences. He became well-known in Mandalay's literary and arts industry. The author said Saya Thike Tun Thet is always linked to Mandalay city, bringing literary achievements. The author uses a metaphor for the idea of his love for his city, Mandalay, with “his love for the city running through his veins”.

“The book starts with a captivating quote, “Just a dimming light, a shabby mate lying on a concrete floor, lying tediously on a mat with his arm as a pillow, the time would come again. He told as much as he could remember, letting his breath flow in as deeply as he is comfortable by closing his eyes. Although his lungs are not good, he could not ask for a Ventolin inhaler. He took a deep breath in and out and escaped from the present situation for a moment. His past chapters

were flickering in his mind and appearing as fleeting moments, lacking clarity and detail. Later, a moment of clarity kicked off where everything became clear like a film picture. Being a writer, he portrayed them as char- acters from a fictional novel.

Saya Thike Tun Thet's eldest daughter (Sayama Aye Mya Nu) recommended this book and expressed her opinion that “even if my father had a chance to read the book, he would have felt elated. Nothing is unprec- edented. So, strike when it rains. I could not wait any longer to publish this despite unfav- ourable circumstances. Saya Ye Shan dug deep down into my father's diaries (73-95) and wrote an unparalleled novel. So, I would like readers to recommend this book. This book is to express my gratitude and honour him. The price of this book, designed for a lasting keepsake, is affordable”. The last chapter of this book holds unforgettable memories of Saya Thike Tun Thet and his two daughters (Sayama Aye Mya Nu and Sayama Ei Shu Lay), longing for a deceased father. This book was published on 28 July 2025, marking the fourth anniversary of his passing.



Once warriors lost in the shadow's call,
Now hear the homeland's peaceful song.
They lay their arms and stand up tall,
To right the past where they were wrong.

The olive branch, outstretched with grace,
Calls every soul to build anew.
In gentle hands, a safer place;
For children's hopes and skies of blue.

No longer bound by war's cruel thread,
They choose the law, not violent strife.
A nation mends what once had bled,
And walks the road to a brighter life.

Path of Peace

By Min Zan

Too Sweet Too Dangerous

By Mya Thae (Research)

Beside my house, the other house was repaired by the carpenter.
He and his wife maintained the house and furniture.
They had sweet smiles and treated us warmly.
I gave a packet of biscuits, and they accepted and smiled charmingly.
My sister told me they are too dangerous for us.
She continued, Too sweet is too dangerous and will give trouble fast.
That night, they stole our wooden sheet and got away to sell it at last.



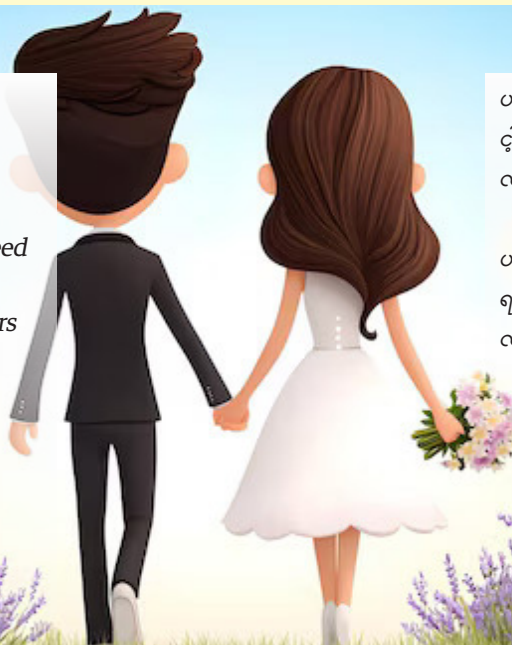
Journey

By Tin Moe (Translated by Myint Zan)

without the smell
of the fragrance of flowers
sans the singing of songs
(she) departs from me:
then the journey is so... long indeed

with the sweet fragrance of flowers
and melodious songs
with smiles and gentleness
when (she) accompanies me
this journey indeed is so short

Composed on 22 July 1959
Translated on 24 July 2025



ပန်းနဲ့ မချိုတော့ မဆိုဘဲ
ငါ့ကို ဝဲခွာ၊ သူ မပါသော်
လမ်းတာရှည်လွန်းနဲ့ ခဏတာကား။

ပန်းနဲ့မွှေးမွှေး၊ ချိုချိုတော့ နှင့်
ရယ်သွေးကြည်သာ၊ သူတည်းပါမူ
လမ်းတာ ဝိုက်လွန်းမည်တာကား။ ။

တင်မိုး
၂၂ ဇူလိုင်လ ၁၉၅၉

NATIONAL

Entertainment

Chaw Yadana

ACADEMY CHAW YADANA announced that she would visit cinemas to meet fans who come to watch the film 'Dreams Are Expensive', which is currently screening in theatres. On 2 August, she and other cast members will be at the Mingala Tamway Cinema at 2 pm and the Mingala Thanlyin Cinema at 4:30 pm. On 3 August, the stars will appear at Mingala Wazira and Mingala Gamonpwint cinemas at 11:30 am and 2:00 pm, respectively. The film is directed by Pwint Theingi Zaw, and stars Paing Takhon, Soe Myat Thu Zar, Chaw Yadana, Naw Phaw Eh Htar, Thune Set, May Pachi, and other supporting actors star in the movie.

U Win Myaing

SUPPORTING actor U Win Myaing, an executive member of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO), had planned to hold a reunion event for supporting cast members on 1 August. However, due to the venue trouble, the event will be rescheduled. He wrote on his social media page that the new date will be announced once again.



O Pyae Shin

20 JULY marks five months since the passing of Myanmar singer Khin Nyunt Yee. On this occasion, her daughter, singer O Pyae Shin, shared a message with her audience on social media: "It feels like it was just yesterday. Time flies so fast... I offered morning alms to monks and donated some items. My offering is a donation on behalf of my fans." O Pyae Shin has also begun singing two of her mother's songs as a tribute, hailing the beginning of her music-life journey. She hopes to connect with fans through this effort. — Htun Htun/MKKS



Haymar Nay Win

A concert by Haymar Nay Win, who has been away from her fans for a long time, will be held on 9 August at the VIP Bar & Restaurant in Nay Pyi Taw. Interestingly, she will be joined by two other Myanmar veteran singers, Bo Bo Han and Khin Maung Htoo. Their songs will be performed by Ko Patrick's Aurora Band.



Yoon Shwe Yi

YOON SHWE YI, a well-known supporting actress, attended a special event for her upcoming movie 'Prestige'. In the film, she plays the role of Wah Nu, a mother who always stands up for her children like a father. 'Prestige', which was released on 1 August, was written by Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt), Ko Kyaw, and script Ko Kyaw, and directed by Kyaw Zaw Lin (Atwayponyeik). The cast includes Aye Myat Thu, Wyne Su Khine Thein, Naw Phaw Eh Htar, Wai La Ri, Yamon Myint Myat, Yoon Shwe Yi, and Phyo Ngwe Soe.



CELEBRITY

BRIEF

Thae Su Nyein

THAE SU NYEIN, who has enjoyed the love and support of fans since competing in a beauty pageant, is currently busy with advertisements and films. Her first movie, 'Ahta Tot Hta', has already been filmed and is set for release in August. Regarding her role in the film, actor Myint Myat, who co-starred with her, said: "Thae Su Nyein worked hard really in her first film with me. She's good. She did a lot. She can act like an experienced star". Kyaw Ye Aung, Myint Myat, Nyi Htut Khaung, Phone Min Nay La, Chaw Yadana, Thae Su Nyein, Soe Moe Kyi, Lin Lin, Nay San, Bay Bae, and many others star in the movie.

Stage performer steps into TV with 'Encroachment in Life'

THEATRICAL star Yay Kyi Chan Mya is making her debut in the drama series 'Encroachment in Life', according to her statement. The story and screenplay are written by Alinka, and the series is directed by Yahwinoh for Shanlay Film Production.

"Since I come from a theatrical background, dancing is very easy for me. Acting is more challenging because it's a field I'm not yet skilled in," the actress said.

Academy Wai Lu Kyaw, Minthagyi, Su Hlaing Hnin, Yay Kyi Chan Mya, Saung Thit Thit, Sit Naing Thiha Oo, Ma Yadana, Nyo Mie, Htike Htike, Wai Oo, and many others star in the drama series. — MNA/MKKS

WORLD

Malaysian King Ibrahim to pay historic first visit to Russia

During their discussions, they will focus on the development of relations between Russia and Malaysia, along with relevant regional and international topics.

MALAYSIAN Supreme Head of State, Sultan Ibrahim will visit Russia from 5-10 August and will hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin said.

The Malaysian leader will hold talks with the Russian president on 6 August.

During the talks the leaders will discuss the development of the relations between Russia and Malaysia, as well as relevant topics of regional and international agenda, the Kremlin added.

This will be the historic first state visit of a Malaysian monarch to Russia. — SPUTNIK



Malaysia's new king Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar (L) attends the installation ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 20 July 2024. PHOTO: MALAYSIA'S DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION/HANDOUT VIA

Indonesia volcano belches six-mile ash tower

AN Indonesian volcano spewed a 10-kilometre (6.2-miles) molten plume of ash topped by lightning into the Friday night sky, weeks after another huge eruption triggered dozens of flight cancellations in Bali.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a 1,584-metre-high volcano on the tourist island of Flores, erupted at 20:48 pm (1248 GMT), the volcanology agency said in a statement.

"The height of the eruption column was observed to be approximately 10,000 metres above

the summit," the agency said.

There were no immediate reports of damages or casualties.

The eruption was triggered by a gas buildup in recent weeks, geological agency head Muhammad Wafid said in a statement.

He also warned of the possibility of hazardous lahar floods — a type of mud or debris flow of volcanic materials — if heavy rain occurs, particularly for communities near rivers.

Tourists and residents were told to avoid a six-kilometre radius around the crater. — AFP

Ex-porn actor to be Colombian equality minister

IN a move likely to spark controversy in Colombia's Catholic heartlands, the government is set to appoint a former porn actor and LGBT activist to a top equality post, a senior official has confirmed.

A former porn actor and gay rights activist will be Colombia's new equality minister, a government source told AFP Friday.

Juan Carlos Florian is to be named to the cabinet, an official said, in a move sure to spark debate in the deeply Catholic nation.

Florian, who was a sex worker and creator of gay porn, will head up a department that guarantees vulnerable communities get access to social programmes. — AFP

Iran to set up "defence council," says media

IRAN plans to establish a "defence council" as part of the country's new governance arrangement, the semi-official Fars news agency reported Friday.

The new council, "the structure of which will soon be finalized," will be tasked with carrying out strategic missions concerning Iran's defence policies, Fars quoted unidentified informed sources as saying.

The decision has been made in line with the finalization of "structural changes" in the country's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), it reported.

Ali Larijani, an advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and a former parliament speaker, will probably be appointed at the SNSC's helm in the coming days, and the SNSC's incumbent Secretary Ali Akbar Ahmadian will possibly be responsible for pursuing a number of Iran's "special and strategic cases, involving leading and strate-

gic missions in the country that require management and coordination at the macro level," it reported.

In a post on social media platform X on Wednesday, Iran's Nour News, affiliated with the SNSC, said, "After

preparing the necessary ground and making structural reforms, the likeliness has increased for the implementation of imminent changes at the level of (Iran's) certain high-ranking security institutions." — Xinhua



Ali Larijani, an advisor to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. A file picture shows then-parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani addressing the media in Tehran, on 31 May 2024. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Indonesia to utilize AI for MSMEs

AI is seen as a facilitator for MSMEs to expand domestically and enter the global industrial chain, aligning with Indonesia's broader push for digital transformation through advanced technologies.



Making handicraft in Yogyakarta. PHOTO:PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ BASTIAN AS / SHUTTERSTOCK

THE Indonesian government is encouraging the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as an effort to strengthen the supply chain within the industrial ecosystem.

“By utilizing AI technology, our MSMEs will be able to analyze market demand more quickly,” Loto Srinaita Ginting, expert staff for finance and MSME development from the country’s Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises, said at an event in Surabaya, East Java province, on Friday.

She said that AI technology would be capable of paving the way for data integration between buyers and sellers, making business processes more precise and responsive to market dynamics, adding that the technology would also help the MSMEs estimate raw material stock and manage pro-

duction processes effectively and adaptively.

“AI can be a facilitator that can help the MSMEs expand business at the domestic level and enter the industrial chain at the global level,” Ginting said.

Indonesia, through its Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs, is currently pushing digital transformation to maximize performance by utilizing the latest digital technologies. This includes the utilization of AI, big data, and cloud computing.

Earlier this week, Vice Minister of Communication and Digital Affairs Nezar Patria said that AI, supported by big data and cloud computing, would help state-owned enterprises improve strategic planning processes, risk mitigation, service security, and financial optimization. — Xinhua

Uzbekistan to build new international airport, highway

UZBEKISTAN plans to construct a new international airport and a highway, the press service of the Uzbek President said. Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was briefed on the implementation of major projects in the transportation sector.

“With the growth of the economy and the acceleration of the pace of life, the demand for transportation infrastructure is also increas-

ing. By 2030, passenger traffic through Tashkent is expected to reach 15 million people,” the press service said on Friday.

To address this need, plans are underway to build a new international airport in the Tashkent region. Proposals from foreign companies are currently being reviewed.

The press service said that in recent years, investment in road infrastructure

has also increased significantly, with new facilities being constructed, adding that companies from several countries have expressed interest in building an alternative highway between Tashkent and Samarkand.

In June, the Eurasian Development Bank estimated that Uzbekistan’s gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 6.5 per cent in 2025. — Xinhua

Russia’s Lukoil under pressure in Bulgaria, considering selling assets: Ambassador

RUSSIAN energy giant Lukoil’s subsidiaries in Bulgaria are under unprecedented pressure from local authorities, and the company is considering selling assets in the country, Russian Ambassador to Bulgaria Eleonora Mitrofanova told Sputnik.

“Despite the fact that Lukoil is not subject to anti-Russia sanctions, its subsidiaries are often subject to unprecedented

pressure from government agencies. Just in June, the Bulgarian authorities initiated another anti-monopoly investigation.

In such circumstances, it is not surprising that Lukoil’s head office in Moscow is considering the possibility of selling all assets in Bulgaria. As far as we know, a final decision has not been made yet,” Mitrofanova said. — SPUTNIK



Despite Lukoil not being subject to anti-Russia sanctions, its subsidiaries are frequently targeted by government agencies, including a recent anti-monopoly investigation initiated by Bulgarian authorities. PHOTO:AFP/FILE

Pakistan’s inflation rises to 4.1% in July

PAKISTAN’S headline inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to 4.1 per cent year-on-year in July, up from 3.2 per cent in June, official data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) showed on Friday.

On a month-on-month basis, CPI inflation increased by 2.9 per cent in July, compared

to a rise of 0.2 per cent in the previous month. The CPI had stood at 11.09 per cent in July 2024.

Pakistan’s inflation has been on a declining trend since reaching a record high of 38 per cent in May 2023. Despite the uptick in July, the latest figure remains within the government’s projected range of

3.5 to 4.5 per cent, backed by stable prices and improved supply conditions.

According to PBS, urban inflation climbed to 4.4 per cent year-on-year in July, while rural inflation was recorded at 3.5 per cent. On a monthly basis, urban inflation increased by 3.4 per cent and rural inflation by 2.2 per cent. — Xinhua

Tesla ordered to pay \$242 mln in Autopilot death

A Florida jury on Friday ordered Tesla to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to plaintiffs who blamed a deadly 2019 crash on the company’s “Autopilot” driver assistance technology.

The jury found Tesla’s system partly responsible for a crash in Key Largo that killed Naibel Benavides Leon and injured her boyfriend, Dillon Angulo, according to attorney

Darren Jeffrey Rousso, a partner at the law firm that represented Angulo and Leon’s family.

The plaintiffs had alleged that Autopilot was to blame when driver George McGee’s Tesla careened into a Chevrolet sport utility vehicle, killing Leon and injuring Angulo.

The jury awarded \$200 million in punitive damages, plus \$59 million in compensatory damages

to Leon’s family and \$70 million in damages to Angulo, according to court records.

Since the jury assigned one-third of the blame to Tesla, the compensatory damages will be reduced, Rousso said, with the total impact of the jury award totalling \$242 million after these reductions.

Tesla will appeal the decision, according to its defence attorneys. — AFP



The awarded damages include \$200 million in punitive damages and \$129 million in compensatory damages, which will be reduced due to the jury assigning one-third of the blame to Tesla. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Bank credit growth in India expected to remain low

CREDIT growth of banks in the country is likely to remain low as corporates continue to opt for alternative methods of funding in the current low-interest rate environment, according to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI).

The report noted that corporates tend to avoid bank loans when interest rates are low and instead explore other sources of funding.

It stated, “Bank

credit to remain low as corporates are using other avenues of funding in low-interest rate regime.”

The report has analysed data on resource flows over the past eight years and observed that during periods like FY21 and FY22, when interest rates were low, companies typically relied on non-bank sources for raising funds. The same pattern appears to be repeating now. — ANI

Japan insurer to cover damage caused by emergency bear-shooting

WITH Japan set to allow the emergency shooting of bears in populated areas from September, an insurance company has decided to offer coverage for damage caused by stray bullets during such operations. The new insurance product for municipalities from Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co provides up to 30 million yen (\$203,000) for damage to property, including buildings and vehicles. It does not apply to human injuries or deaths, which are covered by the State Redress Act.

The move comes af-

ter Japan, faced with more bears coming into contact with humans, amended the law on wildlife protection and management to allow local governments to authorize hunters to shoot a bear or wild boar in emergencies such as when they enter a residential area.

The insurance premium is expected to be around 100,000 yen per year, but may vary depending on the frequency of bear appearances and other regional factors, according to the company.

Between April and June, one person was

killed and 36 injured by bears, according to the Environment Ministry.

A 52-year-old newspaper delivery man was also

killed by a bear last month in Hokkaido, prompting the prefectural government to issue its first bear warning. — Kyodo



File shows a bear climbing a tree on the premises of a temple in a residential area in Morioka, Iwate Prefecture, on 2 April 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

South Africa arrests 1,000 illegal miners

SOUTH African police said Friday they have arrested some 1,000 undocumented migrants working in gold mines in the north-east of the country.

A police spokesman for the Mpumalanga province, where the week-long sweep took place, told AFP there could be more arrests because there are still illegal miners underground. “As they are coming out, they have been taken,” said the spokesman, Donald Mdhuli.

The police operation, which started on Monday, targeted clandestine mining near the village of Barberton, close to the borders of Eswatini and Mozambique. The Sheba Mine is owned by Barberton Mines who said in a statement: “Earlier this year there was outcry from the community and employees when Barberton Mines retrenched workers as the mine was unprofitable and facing closure. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (148N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (148N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM5MS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM5MS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-8-2025** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

AUGUST 2

Kim orders freight station construction near China border

NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un has ordered the construction of a freight station near the Chinese border to support a large-scale greenhouse farm project in the north-west, state-run media reported Saturday.

Kim visited the region around Sinuiju on Friday, where severe flooding occurred in July 2024 after the Yalu River, which runs along the border with China, overflowed, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

While inspecting embankment and farm construction, Kim called for the creation of a “comprehensive transport centre” with a new vegetable storehouse and processing facilities built around it, the official news agency said.

Kim Jong Un announced plans to relocate flood victims to Pyongyang, highlighting recovery efforts and rejecting international assistance. — Kyodo



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspecting construction sites of permanent embankments on the island areas of Sinuiju city and Uiju county, in North Pyongan province. **PHOTO: KCNA/AFP**

AUGUST 1

France cannot stop US contraceptive destruction

FRANCE said Friday it could not seize \$9.7 million worth of women's contraception products that the United States plans to destroy, after media reports suggested the stockpile would be incinerated in the country.

The contraceptives were purchased by the US foreign aid agency USAID under former president Joe Biden to be provided to women in some of the world's poorest countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

But Donald Trump's administration, which has dismantled USAID since Trump succeeded Biden in January, confirmed last month it intends to destroy the contraceptives being stored in a warehouse in the Belgian city of Geel.

The unexpired products were to be incinerated in France at the end of July by a company that specialises in destroying medical waste. — AFP

JULY 31

Former president Yoon resists interrogation in prison

SOUTH KOREA'S IMPEACHED former president Yoon Suk Yeol lay on his prison cell floor in his underwear to resist attempts to interrogate him, prosecutors said Friday.

Prosecutors obtained a fresh arrest warrant on Thursday to forcibly bring the former leader in for questioning over allegations of election tampering.

However, they were “unable to do so due to his strong refusal”, prosecutor Oh Jeong-hee told reporters.

“The suspect refused arrest while lying on the floor without wearing his prison-issued clothing,” she said. “Due to concerns over safety incidents, physical force was withheld, and the execution of the warrant was temporarily suspended.” Yoon was wearing “a sleeveless top and prison-issued briefs,” prosecutors said. — AFP

JULY 30

UNICEF urges France to protect minors

THE UN CHILD AGENCY and non-governmental organisations on Wednesday urged France to better protect minors exploited by gangs for crime instead of prosecuting them.

“In France, children who are victims of criminal exploitation are too often prosecuted and punished for offences committed as a result of their exploitation,” UNICEF said.

“But international and European law requires them to be recognized and protected as victims of human trafficking.”

UNICEF pleaded for “a complete overhaul of (France's) treatment of minors exploited to commit offences”.

Two-thirds of people exploited in France for crimes — including drug peddling, theft, robbery, pimping and fraud — are under the age of 18, according to government figures.

Ninety-two percent are foreign unaccompanied minors — mostly from Algeria and Morocco, other parts of Africa and eastern Europe, according to non-governmental organisations who work with them. — AFP

JULY 29

Israeli FM rejects intl. pressure for Gaza ceasefire

ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTER rejected on Tuesday what he called a “distorted campaign” of international pressure for a ceasefire in the Gaza war and recognition of a Palestinian state.

Gideon Saar told reporters that if Israel was to halt the conflict while Hamas is still in power in Gaza and still holding hostages it would be a “tragedy for both Israelis and Palestinians”.

“It ain't gonna happen, no matter how much pressure is put on Israel,” he said.

Israel has been conducting a military campaign against Hamas in Gaza for almost 22 months, since the bloody 7 October 2023 cross-border assault by the Palestinian group.

In recent weeks, international pressure has been mounting for a ceasefire to allow aid agencies to flood Gaza with food aid.

Saar also responded to moves by some foreign capitals to revive efforts for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. — AFP

JULY 28

Europe's auto still nervous despite trade deal

EUROPE'S AUTO INDUSTRY is relieved that the EU-US trade deal reduces short-term uncertainty but many, particularly in the struggling German sector, remain deeply worried about the long-term impact.

After months of tariff turbulence that threatened to escalate into a trade war, US President Donald Trump and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen struck the agreement.

This across-the-board rate also applies to exports from Europe's critical auto sector to America, and is far below a previous rate of 27.5 per cent for cars and vehicle parts that came into force in April.

European auto industry group ACEA welcomed the “de-escalation” as the United States is a major destination for the continent's vehicle shipments. — AFP

JULY 27

Impact of US tariffs varies across EU

US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP announced on Sunday that the United States was imposing 15-percent tariffs on all European Union countries.

These countries are not all equally exposed to the US market and so will not suffer the same consequences when the duties kick in on 1 August.

In terms of value, Germany is by far the biggest exporter of goods to the US, which is a major outlet for its cars, steel and machine tools. These goods exports totalled \$161.2 billion in 2024. Next in line are Ireland and Italy, whose exports last year were worth \$72 billion and \$64 billion respectively, according to EU statistics office Eurostat.

France is less exposed, even if it does have aeronautics, agri-food, wine and luxury goods heavyweights that risk losing markets. — AFP

SPORTS

Team Botahtaung claims YRCM Chinlone Championship



Botahtaung District team demonstrates their skills during the championship match at Padetha Gymnasium.

THE 14th Yangon Region Chief Minister’s Cup Six-Player Chinlone Scoring Tournament concluded successfully yesterday at Padetha Gymnasium in South Okkalapa Township, with the Botahtaung District Team taking top honours.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, in his capacity as Patron of the Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Committee, honoured the event with his presence during the afternoon finals. The championship match featured intense

competition between four district teams: Botahtaung, Insein, Mayangon and North Dagon.

After spirited performances, Botahtaung District emerged victorious with 12,005 points, securing the championship title. Insein District claimed first runner-up position with 1,166 points, followed by Mayangon District as second runner-up with 1,122 points. North Dagon Myothit District finished in fourth place with 820 points.

During the awards ceremony, special recognition was given to

outstanding male and female athletes, while North Dagon Myothit District received consolation prizes. Chief Minister U Soe Thein personally presented championship trophies, medals and cash awards to the triumphant Botahtaung District team.

The tournament’s top performers will now prepare to represent Yangon Region at the upcoming Inter-State and Region Chinlone Championship, scheduled to be held in Bago Region this September. — Arkar Linn/KZL

41st Junior Golf Myanmar Championship awarding ceremony held

THE winners of the 41st Junior Golf Myanmar Championship were awarded on 1 August, according to Junior Golf Myanmar.

Under the supervision of the Myanmar Golf Federation, the 41st New Generation Youth Golf Tournament, organized by JGM and mainly sponsored by Myanmar Max Purified Drinking Water Co Ltd, was held for three days from 30 July to 1 August at the Dagon Golf Club.

At the award ceremony on the third day, JGM Secretary U Kyaw Min Min Lat presented awards for under-12 (men) winners – the second runner-up Kyaw Lin Tun (334 shots), the first runner-up Ngwe Phone Theinkha (305), and the first prize winner Kaung Khant Zaw (299). The winners in the under-18 category (women) — the second runner-up Nan May Myat Noe Thu (322), the first runner-up Nan Seng Awng Ngin (281), and the first prize winner Hnin Shweyi Win (275) — were awarded by JGM Vice-Chair U Aik Pan.

JGM General Secretary Dr Myint Oo gave awards for under-14 (men) winners — the second runner-up Ye Min Thant (257 shots), the first runner-up Kyaw Thanlwin Hein (25), and the first prize winner Naing Oo Ko (247). The winners in the under-18 category (men) — the second runner-up Arkar Myo Thant (250), the first runner-up Kaung Htet (247), and the first prize winner Min Khant Thaw (237) — were awarded by MGF Chair U Ko Ko Aye.

The ceremony was attended by MGF Chairman and executive members, JGM executives, Dagon Club officials, parents and invitees. — MT/ZN

Myanmar to host AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup Qualifiers

MYANMAR is set to host the AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers Group D matches at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon from 6 to 10 August.

Group D consists of four teams: Myanmar (host), India, Indonesia, and Turkmenistan. The Indian squad was the first to arrive in Yangon and began their training session on 2 August in preparation for the competition.

According to the fixtures released, matches will be played in two time slots daily. Myanmar will feature in the 4 pm matches throughout the tournament.

On 6 August, Myanmar will face Turkmenistan at 4 pm, followed by the match between India and Indonesia at 7 pm. On 8 August, Myanmar will take on Indonesia at 4 pm, while Turkmenistan will meet India at 7 pm. On 10 August, Myanmar will play against India at 4 pm, and Indonesia will face Turkmenistan in the final group match at 7 pm.

The qualification



The Myanmar U20 Women’s National Team is in training ahead of their AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup 2026 Qualifier matches. PHOTO:MFF

round comprises eight groups. From these, the top team from each group, along with the three best second-placed teams across all groups, will advance to the final tournament. A total of 11 teams will secure qualification for the AFC U20 Women’s Asian Cup 2026.

The Myanmar U20 women’s team, led by head coach Daw Thet Thet Win, earned their spot in this tournament following their commendable fourth-place finish at the ASEAN U19

Women’s Championship. As part of their preparations, the team trained domestically and played friendly matches within Myanmar, as they were unable to schedule international friendlies.

The Myanmar Football Federation has made the necessary arrangements to ensure the successful hosting of the tournament, and fans are expected to support the national team as they aim to advance to the final round. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

McKeown beats Smith again for world backstroke double

AUSTRALIA’S Kaylee McKeown underlined her backstroke dominance with a world championships double after winning the 200m in Singapore on Saturday.

McKeown again got the better of Regan Smith, touching the wall in a championships-record 2:3.33 to beat her American arch-rival into second place in 2:04.29.

Another American, Claire Curzan, was third in 2:06.04.

McKeown picked up the 100 metre backstroke gold earlier this week in Singapore — also beating Smith into second — for her sixth career world title.

She also won the 100-200 backstroke double at the Tokyo and Paris Olympics.

McKeown made a fast start but Smith held on and overtook her rival heading into the final lap.

McKeown switched up the gears to regain the lead and power towards the finish, although she fell just short of her own world record. — AFP

The White House announced on Thursday that it will begin construction of a large event space christened as the White House State Ballroom which will be an addition of approximately 90,000 total square feet of innately designed space, with a seated capacity of 650 people — a significant increase from the 200-person seated capacity in the East Room of the White House.

In an official statement, the White House said, “For 150 years, Presidents, Administrations, and White House Staff have longed for a large event space on the



Under Trump’s direction, to the White House Rose Garden lawn has been paved over. **PHOTO: AFP**

Trump to build huge \$200M ballroom at White House

The White House has lacked a large event space for 150 years, prompting Presidents and staff to seek a solution for hosting larger gatherings.

White House complex that can hold substantially more guests than currently allowed. President Donald J Trump has expressed his commitment to solving this problem on behalf of future Administrations and the American people”.

“The White House is one of the most beautiful and historic buildings in the world, yet the White House is currently unable to host major functions

honouring world leaders and other countries without having to install a large and unsightly tent approximately 100 yards away from the main building entrance,” the statement mentioned.

Trump himself and unspecified donors will foot the bill for the \$200 million project, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told a press briefing on Thursday. — ANI

“Speaking” tactile sidewalks enrich lives of visually impaired



Ikuko Kawaguchi tries out a smartphone audio guide system that uses braille blocks in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, in April 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Tactile paving for people with visual impairments in Japan has recently been enhanced with audio guidance, as the developers of the technology aim to improve the lives of people with partial sight and assist sighted tourists.

New braille blocks feature black stickers with special patterns for audio information access.

The new braille blocks are marked with black stickers in special patterns. By scanning the coded blocks with a smartphone camera and app, users can listen to audio information about the location and its surroundings.

“There is a zone where people can enjoy the smells of earth and young green leaves on the right side, about two metres ahead,” a voice from a smartphone said as Ikuko Kawaguchi tried the system in a trial held in Kawasaki, near Tokyo, in April.

The system was jointly developed by the laboratory of Kanazawa Institute of Technology professor Kunio Matsui and Tokyo-based W&M systems LLC. Those behind the technology hope it can also be made available to tourists and foreigners as they walk the streets of Japan, whether they are sighted or not. — Kyodo

Seals sing ‘otherworldly’ songs structured like nursery rhymes

The study analyzed recordings of 26 leopard seals.

MALE leopard seals in Antarctica perform intricate songs resembling nursery rhymes, with these vocalizations lasting up to 13 hours during the breeding season. Researchers from Australia, led by bioacoustics PhD student Lucinda Chambers, found that these seals share a common set of five notes, but each seal arranges them uniquely to create personal songs. This individual composition likely serves to

establish identity and attract potential mates while deterring rivals.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, analyzed recordings of 26 leopard seals and revealed that their songs are less predictable than those of humpback whales or dolphins, yet simpler than the music of human composers like the Beatles and Mozart. The simplicity of the songs allows seals to remember their compositions, akin to how children memorize nursery rhymes.

Leopard seals, as apex predators, have evolved these songs to ensure their messages travel long distances in the ocean. While female seals also sing, the purpose remains unclear, with possibilities including teaching pups or facilitating communication among themselves. Overall, the research highlights the unique vocal behaviours of leopard seals, likening them to the “songbirds of the Southern Ocean”. — AFP



Hello, is it me you’re looking for? Male leopard seals sing to woo mates, scientists believe. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**