

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.

Article

Upholding the Correct Historical Perspective on World War II to Build a Peaceful and Promising Future

By Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

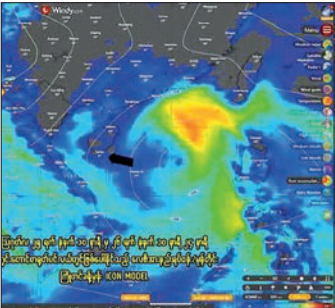
PAGE 8-9

BUSINESS PAGE 7



CBM sells US\$600,000 to edible oil importers on 20 Aug

NATIONAL PAGE 11



Low-pressure area may form in South China Sea within a week

Over 40% of Nay Pyi Taw hotels hit by Mandalay quake reopen



One of the hotels in Hotel Zone 1 in Nay Pyi Taw is pictured on 12 August 2025. PHOTO: MHT

In the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, which has 102 hotels and guest-houses with 6,434 rooms, the Mandalay Earthquake partially damaged 99 hotels and caused three to collapse, while over 150 tourists are staying in bed spaces and more than 1,500 residents have been accommodated in the remaining establishments.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism stated that 42.5 per cent of hotels hit by the Mandalay Earthquake in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory have resumed business operations. Of the hotels damaged by the Mandalay Earthquake, 63 hotels and guesthouses having 2,735 accommodation rooms were repaired and returned to normal operations after a post-earthquake usability assessment of the building with the recognized engineers. There are a total of 102 hotels and guesthouses in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, with 6,434 rooms. Of them, 99 were partially damaged by the Mandalay Earthquake. Three hotels collapsed. Over 150 tourists have occupied bed spaces in hotels, and over 1,500 residents have been accommodated in the hotels and guesthouses in Nay Pyi Taw. — ASH/KK

NATIONAL

Educated and uneducated approaches impact future political stability

- ❖ It has been observed that the level of education—whether educated or uneducated—has an impact on political stability in future politics.
- ❖ We must not neglect those who are academically weak; instead, we should support them through non-formal education by establishing libraries tailored to each region, promoting library services, organizing reading societies, and encouraging various forms of informal learning.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the State Administration Council meeting held on 25 March 2025)

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

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Thursday 21 August 2025)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 22 August 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, and Lower Sagaing Regions and Kayah, Chin, and northern Shan States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, and Magway Regions and Kayin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Magway, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon, 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: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 August 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 62/2025

13th Waning of Wagoung 1387 ME
21 August 2025

Announcement of the dates for overseas voters to start collecting Form 15 and to submit completed Form 15 to the respective embassies

THE Union Election Commission has announced to hold the general election Part I on 28 December 2025 (Sunday). The commission announced the dates in accord with Rule 82 (a) of the relevant Hluttaw Election Rules: –

1	The date for overseas voters to start collecting Form 15 from the relevant embassies to cast their votes in advance (Form 15 can be downloaded through the websites of the Union Election Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant embassy websites.)	21 August 2025
2	The date for overseas voters to submit the completed Form 15 to the relevant embassies to cast their votes in advance	From 21 August 2025 to 8 September 2025

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman

Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 63/2025

13th Waning of Wagoung 1387 ME
21 August 2025

Announcement of exercising rights related to election-related party organizational activities, area-wise organizational activities, gatherings and speeches, and canvassing

1. If a member of the Union government under Section 6 (a) of the Union government intends to participate as a candidate in any part-based general election in accord with Section 7 (b) of the Union Government Law or if a deputy minister under Section 17 (c) of the Union Government Law intends to participate as a candidate in any-part based general election under Section 17 (d) of the same law, starting from 18 August 2025 (Monday), as announced by the Union Election Commission in accordance with the provisions of Sections 120 and 121 of the Constitution, they are authorized to carry out both party organizational activities related to the election and organizational activities in relevant areas not to lose their citizen rights under Section 38 (a) of the Constitution.
2. Likewise, if the Chief Justice of the Union or a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union or a member, the Attorney-General of the Union or the Deputy Attorney-General, the Auditor-General of the Union or the Deputy Auditor-General, the Chairman of Union Civil Service Board or a member intends to participate as a candidate in any-part based general election, starting from 18 August 2025 (Monday), as announced by the Union Election Commission as per the provisions of Sections 120 and 121 of the Constitution, they are authorized to carry out both party organizational activities related to the election and organizational activities in relevant areas not to lose their citizen rights under Section 38 (a) of the Constitution.
3. Regarding the rights to hold election-related gatherings, make speeches, and conduct canvassing, the Union Election Commission will announce the details after the Hluttaw candidates have been confirmed.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman

Union Election Commission

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)

National seminar on ASEAN plan to end violence against women

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar National Women’s Committee, presided over a national-level seminar on the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the Union minister said the implementation period (2016-2025) of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women is coming to an end, and ASEAN Member States are to submit their national-level reports to conduct an End-Term Review of the implementation. Moreover, it needs to draft effective programmes for the next ten-year period (2026-2035). The discussion will also cover the current implementation in line with national policies adopted



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win delivers a speech at the national-level seminar on the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



to reduce and eliminate violence against women, newly emerging forms of violence against women, the challenges encountered, and the priority areas for action.

The country also formed the Myanmar National Women’s Committee and drafted the

National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) as the two work procedures of the Beijing Platform for Action. The work committee members also carry out the projects mentioned in NSPAW in accordance with the pledges of the international and ASEAN

regions. The country compiled the National Self-Assessment Survey as the first phase of the End-Term Review, and sent it to the ASEAN Secretariat on 24 July 2025. As the second phase, today’s national-level seminar will review the implementation work processes and submit the

reports that carry effective action plans for the coming 10 years.

The pre-recorded video of the Deputy Secretary-General for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community was played, and the attendees coordinated the discussion. — MNA/KTZH

Wazira Cinema Upgrading Committee holds Yangon coord meeting

THE coordination meeting of the Wazira Cinema Upgrading Committee was held yesterday afternoon at the Wazira Cinema, located on Bogyoke Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

Attending the meeting were Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint, committee members, and officials from the Directorate of Military Engineers under the Ministry of Defence, Yangon City Development Committee, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, the Ministry of Construction, the Association of Myanmar Architects, as well as representatives from the film,

music, and theatrical communities, together with invitees.

First, the Deputy Minister, who also serves as Chairman of the Wazira Cinema Upgrading Committee, delivered opening remarks. He stated that the work committee and three subcommittees had already been formed, and that, following the guidance of the Head of State, the upgrading project would be carried out with momentum. He emphasized that, by preserving the historic features of the cinema through restoration works, Myanmar would be able to showcase its prestige internationally by host-



The coordination meeting of the Wazira Cinema Upgrading Committee in progress in Yangon yesterday.

ing world-class events. He further noted that the Wazira Cinema is a cultural heritage building which, in addition to showing films,

should also serve as a venue for theatrical performances, musical concerts, and as a recreational space for the public. He called on

experts and technicians to join hands in its preservation.

He also urged the subcommittees to prepare detailed proposals for their respective sectors, including plans, formats, estimated timelines, and projected budgets, and to submit their findings as a first stage to the work committee by the second week of September.

Afterwards, participants exchanged views and presented their discussions. Deputy Minister U Ye Tint then coordinated the matters raised and delivered concluding remarks. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

MNHRC inspects Hninzigon Home for the Aged

UNDER Section 22 (e) and Section 43 of the Commission's Law, the inspection team led by the Chairperson U Paw Lwin Sein of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) inspected the Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, on 20 August 2025, which is operated under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare, to examine whether the fundamental human rights of the elderly, such as freedom and fairness were being implemented, and whether they were being cared humanely in line with the relevant international laws.

The inspection team met the elderly who were receiving medical care in the infirmary, as well as those observing religious practices at the Dhamma hall



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairperson U Paw Lwin Sein encourages elders residing at the Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, on 20 August 2025.

and assessed a range of conditions, including the provision of healthcare services, food and

nutritional support, access to clean drinking and household water, freedom of religion and

belief, and the overall hygiene and sanitation standards of dormitories, bathrooms, toi-

lets, and kitchens. They also enquired about arrangements for recreation and relaxation, the accessibility of pension payments for eligible residents, and the availability of social pension support for those aged 85 and above. Moreover, the team enquired about the measures taken for the enjoyment of secular benefits and transcendental merits for the elderly, as well as arrangements for ease in mind and body of the elderly.

The team extended warm words of encouragement to the 127 elderly individuals residing at the facility.

The inspection team will send its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission's law. — MNHRC

Myanmar detains 38 undocumented foreign entrants

MYANMAR detained 30 Filipinos, four Kenyans, two Indians, one Cameroonian and one Ethiopian, totalling 38 individuals, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State yesterday.

Between 30 January and 21 August 2025, a total of 9,369 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 9,205 individuals have already been deported through

Thailand to their respective countries, while arrangements are being made to deport the remaining 164 individuals. These individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH



Immigration process is underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

Hospital, schools resume operations in Nawngkhio



Schoolchildren, with parents and guardians, enrol for the new academic year in Nawngkhio.

BASIC education schools in Nawngkhio were closed for nearly a year due to terrorist attacks. The schools were reopened on 25 July, and students can learn peacefully, with the school enrolment process being provided.

Nine more basic education schools reopened yesterday, totalling 87 schools, and 10,229 students are currently attending the schools.

The Nawngkhio Township Hospital was reopened on 2 August to provide healthcare services to locals.

Medical treatment was provided to 29 outpatients, and 15 patients were tested for malaria yesterday. Moreover, 15 locals were tested for blood type, and 31 patients received medical treatment. — MNA/KTZH

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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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Announcement 52/2025

7th Waning of Wagoung 1387 ME
15 August 2025

Announcement of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Constituencies

THE Union Election Commission, under Section 10 (d) of the Union Election Commission Law and Section 4 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law, has announced that the Region Hluttaw or Pyithu Hluttaw constituencies to hold 2025 multiparty democratic general election through the MMP system are designated as 322 constituencies with the FPTP system and 42 constituencies with the PR system, totalling 364 constituencies.
A total of 322 constituencies of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw with the FPTP system, and 42 constituencies of Region Hluttaw or State Hulttaw with the PR system are attached herewith.

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Constituencies for the 2025 multiparty democratic general election
designated for Region or State Hluttaw (the First-Past-the-Post System)

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw Representatives to be elected
Kachin State Hluttaw (FPTP System)			
1	Chipwe Township Constituency	An entire Chipwe Township	1
2	Sawlaw Township Constituency	An entire Sawlaw Township	1
3	Tanai Township Constituency	An entire Tanai Township	1
4	Khaunglanphu Township Constituency	An entire Khaunglanphu Township	1
5	Sumparabum Township Constituency	An entire Sumparabum Township	1
6	Nagmon Township Constituency	An entire Nagmon Township	1
7	Putao Township Constituency	An entire Putao Township	1
8	Machanbaw Township Constituency	An entire Machanbaw Township	1
9	Bhamo Township Constituency	An entire Bhamo Township	1
10	Mansi Township Constituency	An entire Mansi Township	1
11	Momauk Township Constituency	An entire Momauk Township	1
12	Shwegu Township Constituency	An entire Shwegu Township	1
13	Phakant Township Constituency	An entire Phakant Township	1
14	Mogaung Township Constituency	An entire Mogaung Township	1
15	Mohnyin Township Constituency	An entire Mohnyin Township	1
16	Myitkyina Township Constituency	An entire Myitkyina Township	1
17	Waingmaw Township Constituency	An entire Waingmaw Township	1
18	Ingyanyan Township Constituency	An entire Ingyanyan Township	1
Kayah State Hluttaw (FPTP System)			
1	Dimawhso Township Constituency	An entire Dimawhso Township	1
2	Prusho Township Constituency	An entire Pruhso Township	1
3	Pasawng Township Constituency	An entire Pasawng Township	1

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw Representatives to be elected
4	Bawlakhe Township Constituency	An entire Bawlakhe Township	1
5	Meisei Township Constituency	An entire Meisei Township	1
6	Shadaw Township Constituency	An entire Shadaw Township	1
7	Loikaw Township Constituency	An entire Loikaw Township	1
Kayin State Hluttaw (FPTP System)			
1	Kawkareik Township Constituency	An entire Kawkareik Township	1
2	Kyain-Seikkyi Township Constituency	An entire Kyain-Seikkyi Township	1
3	Papun Township Constituency	An entire Papun Township	1
4	Hpa-an Township Constituency	An entire Hpa-an Township	1
5	Hlaingbwe Township Constituency	An entire Hlaingbwe Township	1
6	Myawady Township Constituency	An entire Myawady Township	1
7	Thandaunggyi Township Constituency	An entire Thandaunggyi Township	1
Chin State Hluttaw (FPTP System)			
1	Tiddim Township Constituency	An entire Tiddim Township	1
2	Tonzang Township Constituency	An entire Tonzang Township	1
3	Paletwa Township Constituency	An entire Paletwa Township	1
4	Falam Township Constituency	An entire Falam Township	1
5	Matupi Township Constituency	An entire Matupi Township	1
6	Kanpetlet Township Constituency	An entire Kanpetlet Township	1
7	Mindat Township Constituency	An entire Mindat Township	1
8	Thantlang Township Constituency	An entire Thantlang Township	1
9	Haka Township Constituency	An entire Haka Township	1

NATIONAL

FROM PAGE 5

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw Representatives to be elected
Sagaing Region Hluttaw (FPTP System)			
1	Leshi Township Constituency	An entire Leshi Township	1
2	Lahe Township Constituency	An entire Lahe Township	1
3	Nanyun Township Constituency	An entire Nanyun Township	1
4	Kalay Township Constituency	An entire Kalay Township	1
5	Kalewa Township Constituency	An entire Kalewa Township	1
6	Mingin Township Constituency	An entire Mingin Township	1
7	Katha Township Constituency	An entire Katha Township	1
8	Htigyaing Township Constituency	An entire Htigyaing Township	1
9	Bamauk Township Constituency	An entire Bamauk Township	1
10	Indaw Township Constituency	An entire Indaw Township	1
11	Kawlin Township Constituency	An entire Kawlin Township	1
12	Wuntho Township Constituency	An entire Wuntho Township	1
13	Pinlebu Township Constituency	An entire Pinlebu Township	1
14	Kanbalu Township Constituency	An entire Kanbalu Township	1
15	Kyunhla Township Constituency	An entire Kyunhla Township	1
16	Khamti Township Constituency	An entire Khamti Township	1
17	Sagaing Township Constituency	An entire Sagaing Township	1
18	Myinmu Township Constituency	An entire Myinmu Township	1
19	Myaung Township Constituency	An entire Myaung Township	1
20	Tamu Township Constituency	An entire Tamu Township	1
21	ChaungU Township Constituency	An entire ChaungU Township	1
22	Budalin Township Constituency	An entire Budalin Township	1
23	Monywa Township Constituency	An entire Monywa Township	1
24	Ayadaw Township Constituency	An entire Ayadaw Township	1
25	Phaungpyin Township Constituency	An entire Phaungpyin Township	1
26	Mawlaik Township Constituency	An entire Mawlaik Township	1
27	Kani Township Constituency	An entire Kani Township	1
28	Salingyi Township Constituency	An entire Salingyi Township	1
29	Pale Township Constituency	An entire Pale Township	1
30	Yinmabin Township Constituency	An entire Yinmabin Township	1
31	Dabayin Township Constituency	An entire Dabayin Township	1
32	Taze Township Constituency	An entire Taze Township	1
33	YeU Township Constituency	An entire YeU Township	1
34	KhinU Township Constituency	An entire KhinU Township	1
35	Shwebo Township Constituency	An entire Shwebo Township	1

No	Constituency	Areas in Constituency	Number of Hluttaw Representatives to be elected
36	Wetlet Township Constituency	An entire Wetlet Township	1
37	Homalin Township Constituency	An entire Homalin Township	1
Taninthayi Region Hluttaw (FPTP System)			
1	Kawthoung Township Constituency	An entire Kawthoung Township	1
2	Dawei Township Constituency	An entire Dawei Township	1
3	Yebyu Township Constituency	An entire Yebyu Township	1
4	Launglon Township Constituency	An entire Launglon Township	1
5	Thayetchaung Township Constituency	An entire Thayetchaung Township	1
6	Bokpyin Township Constituency	An entire Bokpyin Township	1
7	Kyunsu Township Constituency	An entire Kyunsu Township	1
8	Taninthayi Township Constituency	An entire Taninthayi Township	1
9	Palaw Township Constituency	An entire Palaw Township	1
10	Myaik Township Constituency	An entire Myeik Township	1
Bago Region Hluttaw (FPTP System)			
1	Kyaukkyi Township Constituency	An entire Kyaukkyi Township	1
2	Kyauktaga Township Constituency	An entire Kyauktaga Township	1
3	Nyaunglebin Township Constituency	An entire Nyaunglebin Township	1
4	DaikU Township Constituency	An entire DaikU Township	1
5	Shwegyin Township Constituency	An entire Shwegyin Township	1
6	Toungoo Township Constituency	An entire Toungoo Township	1
7	Htantabin Township Constituency	An entire Htantabin Township	1
8	Pyu Township Constituency	An entire Pyu Township	1
9	Yedashe Township Constituency	An entire Yedashe Township	1
10	Ottwin Township Constituency	An entire Ottwin Township	1
11	Zigon Township Constituency	An entire Zigon Township	1
12	Nattalin Township Constituency	An entire Nattalin Township	1
13	Paungde Township Constituency	An entire Paungde Township	1
14	Thaegon Township Constituency	An entire Thaegon Township	1
15	Kawa Township Constituency	An entire Kawa Township	1
16	Bago Township Constituency	An entire Bago Township	1
17	Waw Township Constituency	An entire Waw Township	1
18	Thanatpin Township Constituency	An entire Thanatpin Township	1
19	Paukkhaung Township Constituency	An entire Paukkhaung Township	1
20	Padaung Township Constituency	An entire Padaung Township	1

TO BE CONTINUED

CBM sells US\$600,000 to edible oil importers on 20 Aug

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold US\$600,000 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$232,500 to those individuals who made non-trade payments after an injection of over one million yuan into the foreign exchange market on 20 August. CBM announced on 19 August that it would sell \$32 million to fuel oil importers.

Additionally, CBM sold \$314,375 to edible oil importing companies and \$36,550 to those who made non-trade payments, in addition to an injection of 337,500 into the financial market on that day.

CBM sold \$700,800 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$429,200 to fuel oil-importing companies on 18 August, in addition to an injection of 579,910 yuan into the financial market.

Additionally, CBM sold over \$429,260 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade pay-



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar (head office) in Nay Pyi Taw.

ments on that day.

CBM sold \$1.16 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$76,600 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments on 15 August, in addition to an injection of \$244.000 into the financial market.

CBM pumped \$1 million and over 1.27 million yuan into the financial market on 14 August.

Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.88 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$220,900 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade

payments on the same day.

CBM sold \$36.5 million purchased from companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis, in addition to the injection of \$8.8 million, 13.3 million baht, 10.5 million yuan and 500,000 rupees in July. Furthermore,

CBM sold over \$2.3 million to other commodities-importing companies as per its initial announcement of selling \$10 million. CBM sold \$8.4 million, 13.9 million baht and 5.2 million yuan in June 2025, in addition to the injection of \$14.9 million that was purchased from the CMP enterprises into the financial market. 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

Customs duty exemption on Myanmar maize exports to Thailand ends in Aug

ONLY one week is left to export Myanmar's maize to Thailand with a customs duty exemption benefit.

The market statistics showed a bit decline in late August. Myanmar's maize is currently flowing into Thailand under a zero-tariff benefit. Thailand gives green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes the maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of their growers if the maize is imported during the maize season in Thailand.

The Myanmar Corn Industrial Association expects over one million tonnes of maize export to Thailand in the current financial year. Thailand is the top importer of Myanmar's maize, which is also exported to China, India, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under the alternative development programme. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2022. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for maize exports. Myanmar ships over two million tonnes of maize to foreign trade partners yearly. The maize is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three maize seasons – winter, summer, and monsoon. Myanmar's annual maize output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK

DICA: Office address changes must be reported to Registrar

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) has notified companies that their registered office address must not differ from the actual business address where the company's operations are conducted. DICA will take action against those companies that do not have a physical office as per the registered address. According to Section 141 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law, a company needs to use an appropriate address as the registered office starting from the date of incorpo-

ration, where business operations and the company's management will be undertaken. It is obliged to report any change in the registered office address to the Registrar accordingly before the change.

According to Section 97 of the Myanmar Companies Law, all registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation.

The DICA notified them of further necessary documents to be submitted along with the AR. The relevant township police veri-

fication certificate or ward administrator verification certificate for the present address of the company, which needs to be the exact address, the registered address and Immigration Form C if the company's director is a foreigner, are required.

Directors and shareholders of the companies need to strictly adhere to Section 141 of the Myanmar Companies Law. Failure to do so will result in a fine and legal action under the existing laws, DICA notified. — NN/KK



The front view of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration office in Yangon.

Analyze information on social media platforms

SOCIAL media is a platform where rumours may begin spreading even before events that attract significant public interest actually occur. Although rumours may be based on partially correct information, most real incidents are quite different from these rumours. In any case, social media rarely scrutinizes information to verify its accuracy and is quick to spread rumours among its users.

Rumours, malicious media actions, fake news, fabricated information, and misinformation all exacerbate public panic and fear among people anticipating imminent dangers, whether from natural disasters, armed conflicts, or political, social, economic, and other crises. For example, when the nation was still reeling from the devastating Mandalay earthquake on 28 March, rumours circulated that a severe earthquake might strike Yangon, and another claimed that a strong earthquake would occur on 21 April 2025. These rumours, spread through TikTok and other social media platforms, caused significant distress to the public.

An examination of how rumours spread shows that fears arising after a natural disaster or following a major incident affecting the public often give rise to rumours, which in turn tend to reinforce public belief in them. In addition, people, when psychologically affected, tend to share information that aligns with their emotions. In this context, social media serves as a platform for rapidly disseminating information, and for the same reason, it also facilitates the spread of false news, misinformation, and rumours.

As such, people should not rely entirely on social media, especially on the circulation of rumours, fake news, and misinformation, which may be intentionally designed to mislead people and foster misunderstanding. People should seek reliable sources of information and critically analyze any content before sharing it, avoiding the spread of unverified information to others. Furthermore, authorities need to take effective action against those who intentionally circulate rumours, fake news, and misinformation about any events while releasing true information in time, rebutting all sorts of fake news and misinformation.

Upholding the Correct Historical Perspective on World War II to Build a Peaceful and Promising Future

By Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

ON 7 August, my colleagues and I travelled to Taungoo in Myanmar’s Bago Region to pay tribute at the Chinese Expeditionary Force Monument. Each year, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar holds this memorial ceremony to revisit history, honour fallen heroes, and convey a message of lasting peace. This year, marking the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, the ceremony carried particular significance. Standing before the monument, I could not help but recall how, more than eight decades ago, the soldiers and civilians of China and Myanmar fought shoulder to shoulder, supporting each other. The profound bond, forged through the blood and sacrifice of both peoples, rang out as a heroic anthem to the “Pauk-Phaw” friendship between China and Myanmar amid the flames of war.

Eighty years ago, the just forces of the world, including China and Myanmar, rose in defiance, fought with courage, defeated the once-arrogant Fascist powers, and laid the foundation for the post-war international system and order. Today, eight decades later, unilateralism is on the rise, bullying practices are spreading, and the tide of historical nihilism is making a comeback. Some deliberately downplay the important contribution of the Eastern main battlefield to securing the global victory over Fascism, romanticize colonial rule, or even deny the very history of Fascist aggression. We must remain vigilant against such dangerous trends. With this in mind, I would like to share my thoughts on how World War II should be viewed from a correct historical perspective.

We must uphold a peace-oriented historical perspective on World War II. War is like a mirror – it reflects the priceless value of peace. World

War II was an unprecedented catastrophe in human history, engulfing Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania. More than 60 nations took part, and over 80 countries and regions – about two billion people, or four-fifths of the world’s population at the time – were drawn into the war, inflicting unparalleled devastation on human civilization. The flames of World War II were first kindled in the East by Japanese militarists. From that moment, China’s destiny became inseparably linked with that of Asia and with the cause of world peace. The China Theatre was the first to open and the longest to endure. From the Mukden Incident (September 18 Incident) in 1931 to Japan’s surrender in 1945, the Chinese people fought a 14-year war of resistance against aggression, enduring immense national sacrifice and suffering over 35 million casualties.

War brings humanity nothing but boundless suffering and grief. The crimes of Japanese militarism inflicted deep wounds not only on the Chinese, the Myanmar people, and other nations across Asia, but also on the Japanese people themselves. To remember this history is not to perpetuate hatred, but to chart a better course forward – to pass on the torch of peace from one generation to the next. The painful lessons of World War II remind us that the strong preying on the weak and the law of the jungle are not the way for humans to coexist; that winner-takes-all and zero-sum competition lead nowhere for humanity; and that aggression and plunder are not inevitable milestones to becoming a great power. The only correct and enduring path for humankind is to safeguard peace, foster development, and promote cooperation. After World War II – when the wounds of hot war had yet to heal and the tensions

of the Cold War were already emerging – the elder leaders of China and Myanmar jointly put forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. This historic initiative offered a profound answer to the questions of how to preserve peace and uphold sovereignty. Over the decades, these principles have stood the test of time, bearing witness to the enduring power of peace.

We must uphold a just historical perspective on World War II. The World Anti-Fascist War was a decisive battle between justice and evil, light and darkness, freedom and slavery. Japanese aggressors committed a series of brutal and inhumane acts across China and Southeast Asia. On 13 December 1937, the invading Japanese army perpetrated the horrific Nanjing Massacre. Over the course of just six weeks, they mercilessly slaughtered 300,000 civilians and unarmed Chinese soldiers in Nanjing, subjected countless women to rape and torture, and stained the Yangtze River with torrents of blood. This stands as one of the most savage and barbaric war crimes of World War II, and an appalling atrocity in the history of human civilization. Japanese forces also launched atrocious biological and chemical warfare against the Chinese people, conducting inhumane live human experiments and committing crimes against humanity on an enormous scale. In June 1942, they began constructing the Thailand-Burma Railway in Southeast Asia, forcibly mobilizing 62,000 Allied prisoners of war and more than 350,000 conscripted labourers, including 180,000 Burmese workers. These prisoners and labourers were subjected to gruelling, physically demanding work with primitive tools amid severe food shortages and ram-

pant disease, resulting in nearly 150,000 deaths, a staggering mortality rate of 37.5 per cent. This “Death Railway” stands as irrefutable evidence of Japan’s brutal military domination in Southeast Asia.

Tragically, to this day, some deny the brutal crimes committed by the Japanese army, some continue to glorify Japan’s so-called “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” and its false claim of “liberating Asia,” and some persist in venerating war criminals stained with blood. Such actions blur the lines between right and wrong and affront the conscience of humanity. The war of resistance against the Japanese by the Chinese people and Southeast Asia was a just war against Japanese militarist aggression, a fight to reclaim territorial sovereignty, a struggle for national liberation, and a defence of freedom and independence. It was a progressive war of resistance, fundamentally defined by its justice. History has proven and will continue to prove that justice inevitably triumphs over evil, and light over darkness.

We must uphold an objective historical perspective on World War II. Influenced by Cold War mentalities and ideological biases, the role and significance of China’s War of Resistance have long been underestimated and insufficiently acknowledged. Driven by geopolitical interests, some countries and politicians have ignored historical facts and sought to deny China’s contributions to World War II. The truth is that while major Western powers pursued policies of compromise and appeasement toward Japanese aggression, the Chinese people raised the banner

of anti-fascist resistance, took up arms, fired the opening shots of the global anti-fascist struggle, and launched the first chapter of the worldwide fight against fascism. From 1931 to 1941, China largely stood alone in mounting a determined defence against Japanese fascism. Before Germany’s invasion of Poland in September 1939, the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression was the principal theatre of the World Anti-Fascist War. And prior to the outbreak of the Pacific War in December 1941, it remained the sole battlefield opposing Japanese fascist aggression. Under the leadership and unifying banner of the Anti-Japanese National United Front established by the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people united and fought relentlessly, ultimately securing a great victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression. Rana Mitter, Director of the Oxford University China Centre, states plainly in his book *Forgotten Ally: China’s World War II, 1937-1945*: “For decades, a major piece (China) of World War II history has gone virtually unwritten.”

As early as 1938, the Chinese and Japanese sides had deployed over four million troops, with a frontline stretching more than 1,800 kilometres and a combat zone covering some 1.6 million square kilometres. Approximately 400 million people in China were directly or indirectly involved in the war. China’s battlefield efforts tied down more than two-thirds of Japan’s ground forces, as well as a significant portion of its navy and air force, effectively immobilizing Japanese fascism and trapping it in a prolonged

and exhausting war it could not escape. China’s enduring resistance halted Japan’s planned northern advance into Siberia, delayed its southward push into Southeast Asia, and strongly supported the United States and the United Kingdom in their fight against Japan. These efforts laid a solid foundation for the eventual total victory in the World Anti-Fascist War. As President Franklin D Roosevelt once remarked: “Without China, or if China had been defeated, many more Japanese divisions would have been deployed to other areas and they would have been able to occupy Australia and India immediately without any trouble, and then push to the Middle East.”

We must uphold a comprehensive historical perspective on World War II. The victory in the World Anti-Fascist War was a collective achievement shared by the Chinese theatre, the European theatre, the Pacific theatre, and the North African theatre – each theatre’s contribution was indispensable and must not be overlooked. Myanmar, located southwest of China, bordering India to the west and facing the Indian Ocean, held a crucial strategic position. The Burmese theatre was a key part of the Eastern theatre in the World Anti-Fascist War. The armed forces of China, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other Allied nations fought alongside the Burmese military and civilians against the Japanese invaders, creating many heroic and poignant stories. Completed in 1938, the Burma Road (connecting Kunming, Yunnan, to Lashio) became the only secure supply route between the Chinese theatre and the Allied forces. Vast amounts

of international aid destined for China were transported along this road. Most supplies first arrived at the port of Yangon, were then carried by rail to Lashio, and finally transported via the Burma Road to China through Wanding. In 1942, aiming to cut off the Burma Road, the Japanese launched a large-scale invasion of Myanmar. To protect China’s war rear and support the justice cause of the international anti-fascist alliance, the Chinese Expeditionary Force deployed around 400,000 soldiers in multiple campaigns in Myanmar, suffering nearly 200,000 casualties. On March 27, 1945, the people of Myanmar rose up in a nationwide uprising against the Japanese occupation, eventually driving the invaders out of the country.

A comprehensive historical perspective on World War II also includes recognizing the post-war international order. The most significant decision made by the international community near the end of World War II was the establishment of the United Nations. In today’s complex and turbulent international environment, we must remain steadfast in defending an international system centred on the United Nations, an international order founded on international law, and fundamental norms of international relations grounded in the purposes and principles of the *United Nations Charter*. This year also marks the 80th anniversary of Taiwan’s Retrocession. Taiwan’s return to China is an integral part of the achievements of World War II and the post-war international order. A series of documents with the force of international law, including the *Cairo Declaration*, the *Potsdam Declaration*, all affirmed China’s sovereignty over Taiwan, forming a key element of the post-war world order. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly

overwhelmingly adopted *Resolution 2758*, which restored all lawful rights of the People’s Republic of China in the UN and immediately expelled representatives of the Taiwan authorities from the UN and its affiliated bodies. This resolution confirmed the One-China Principle: there is only one China in the world, Taiwan is part of China, and the government of the People’s Republic of China is the sole legitimate representative of all China.

The Chinese Expeditionary Force Monuments in Taungoo, Yenangyaung, and Myitkyina, along with the Burma Road and the Wanding Bridge, stand as enduring symbols of the shared history between China and Myanmar in their joint resistance against fascism. It is through this common experience of hardship that we come to deeply appreciate the priceless value of peace. President Xi Jinping emphasized: “*We must learn from history, especially the hard lessons of the Second World War. We must draw wisdom and strength from the great victory of the World Anti-Fascist War, and resolutely resist all forms of hegemonism and power politics. We must work together to build a brighter future for humanity.*” China is committed to working alongside Myanmar to safeguard the achievements of World War II and the post-war international order, uphold international fairness and justice, advance the building of the China-Myanmar community with a shared future, and thereby contribute more to the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind. Together, we will help steer the world towards a bright future of peace, security, prosperity, and progress.

(Views expressed in the article belong solely to the author)

NATIONAL

MMPO to elect new executive board in early 2026



This collection of photos captures artists who voted in the election of the new executive board of the MMPO in 2017.

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization will hold its new executive board election within the first half of next year, according to U Chantha Kyi Soe, secretary of the organization.

be announced ahead of time in early 2026.

“We recently held a series of annual elections for the MMPO chairman. Since the two-year term has now ended, we will hold a re-election. We also plan to review the current executive members and make adjustments to ensure the organization keeps up with the times. In addition, we will gather feedback and re-assess the qualifications of both elected executives and voting members,” said U Chantha Kyi Soe.

MMPO members will be notified in advance about the upcoming executive committee election, giving them time to consider candidates who can best serve the interests of the film industry.

— ASH/TH

Mister Cosmopolitan 2025 national costume inspired by ancient Parabaik

THE national costume for Mister Thet Wai Ko, who will be competing in the Mister Cosmopolitan 2025 competition in Bangkok, Thailand, has been created according to the ancient traditional Parabaik, said Myat Theinkha Nge, founder of Myat Taw Win Royal Dresses.

He will proudly wear the national costume that is a reflection of the image of Myanmar, rich in culture and art. All parts of the costume, including the cloak, were made in consultation with experts in Myanmar traditional arts, goldsmiths, historians, and handicraft

scholars, she said.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among young people in traditional Myanmar clothing, and there is a tendency for models to dress modestly when visiting and competing in international and local competitions.

Myat Theinkha Nge had previously said that it is very encouraging to see the growing interest among young people in traditional cultures. Currently, they are working to recreate 37 Spirit costumes after consulting with ancient Parabaik, murals and scholars. — MT/ZN



Preparation underway for the Mister Cosmopolitan 2025 competition.

Myanmar to export over 40,000 tonnes of pineapples in FY2025-26

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Pineapple Growers and Exporters Association, arrangements are being made to export over 40,000 tonnes of Myanmar pineapples abroad during the 2025-2026 financial year.

Myanmar pineapples are cultivated across the country. In the past, they were grown mainly for domestic consumption, but in recent years, cultivation has shifted towards production for export markets.

“This year, we are planning to export more than 40,000 tonnes of pineapples. High-quality pineapples such as those from Hsipaw will be exported, with



This image displays market-quality pineapples from Hsipaw, Shan State. The majority destined for China,” said a responsible official from the association.

At present, more than 20,000 acres of pineapples are under cultivation domestically, with the largest areas in Shan State and Kachin State. Pineapples, especially high-quality pineapples

from Shan State, are mainly exported to China.

Among the cultivated areas nationwide, plantations in Shan State (North) alone produce on average between 80,000 and 100,000 tonnes of quality pineapples annually.

Across Myanmar’s pineapple-growing regions, there are two main types of farms – local GAP farms and organic farms. Cultivation and production methods from China, Thailand and Sri Lanka are also being applied. As a result, varieties of pineapples with quality suited to penetrating international markets are mainly being cultivated. — ASH/KN

From rejection to reality: Tun Tun’s dream realized in Behind the Lost



A scene from the TV series ‘Behind the Lost’ with Tun Tun and Chue Lay.

THE Myanmar television series, Behind the Lost, will begin broadcasting on 1 September. The story for the series was written by Aung Chan Lu, while Yin Mar Kyaw Win wrote the screenplay. Director Aung Chan Lu was in charge of the production for Picture Power 24 Film Production.

“I wanted to act in the TV series ‘Behind the Lost’,” said Academy Tun Tun. “How much did I want to? Enough to present the story synopsis, director, and actors to almost every TV channel to ask for the chance to film it. But, unfortunately, at that time, everyone rejected it. This is a true story. It was only in the end that HEY Play liked the story and trusted everything, allowing me to work as a producer for the very first time in my life. This story is a true crime story that appeared in the Morning Journal on 18 March 1998. The first person to tell me about this story was director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Phyt). From the moment U Myo first told me, my heart was racing, and because of my desire to film and produce it, I got in touch with director Aung Chan Lu, and it came to be. To my fans, if you enjoy and find my acting natural, this film will make you even happier. Please watch and see how hard everyone in the film has worked.”

The TV series “Behind the Lost” stars Academy Award winners Tun Tun and Chue Lay, along with Ye Htut Min Khaung and many other performers. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

New YPS cards released in limited numbers

YPS cards in a new design, produced in a limited number, can be purchased at eight counters, according to Yangon Payment Services (YPS).

The newly designed card was launched with music themes, and the available cards are being limited. New YPS cards can be available at eight counters located in Sule, Thakin Mya Park, Hledan, Myanmar Plaza, Pansodan, 8th Mile, Thamine and Bahan, said YPS.

YPS QR services can be used for YBS Nos 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 72, 76 , 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92 , 93, 94, 96, 97, 100, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118 , 119, 120, 128, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144 and 145.

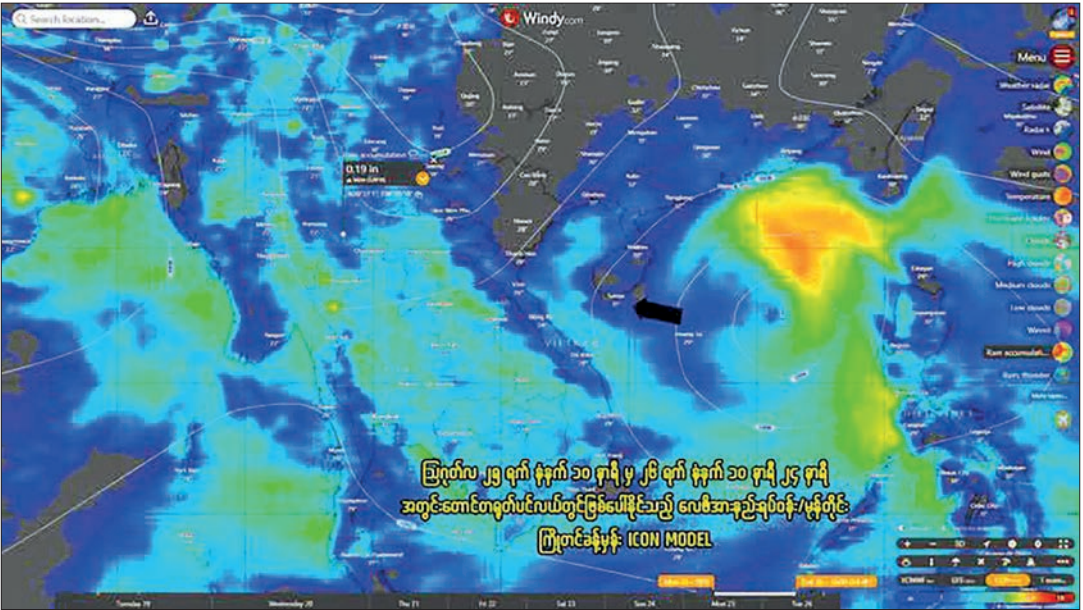
In order to provide more efficient service, prepaid YPS cards and YPS QR can be paid for by AyaPay, CBPay and WavePay at YPS counters. For more information, enquiries can be made



to the Yangon Payment Service Facebook page messenger or call centre hotline 09 772666699 from 9 am to 5 pm on week-days. — MT/ZS

The launch of a new YPS card.

Low-pressure area may form in South China Sea within a week



Weather forecast on a low-pressure area to form in the South China Sea.

OVER the next seven days, there is a possibility of a low-pressure area forming in the South China Sea, said meteorologist U Win Naing.

From 19 August to next week, low pressure area will form and it will transform at least into a tropical storm-TS, he said on his Facebook page on 19 August.

Following becoming a storm in the South China Sea, a low-pressure area will form over the Bay of Bengal according to the A-B-C relation, and ECMWF and ICON Model have also shown a forecast of becoming a storm, he said.

Until the monsoon leaves or the end of post-monsoon on 10 October, rain will continue,

and just the rate of rainfall will differ. Under predictions, rainfall will be high in eastern Myanmar, Shan State.

In the dry zone- lower Sagaing Region, Magway Region and Mandalay Region, moderate rain is forecast in 24 hours from 0.5 inch to 1.5 inches, said U Win Naing. — MT/ZS

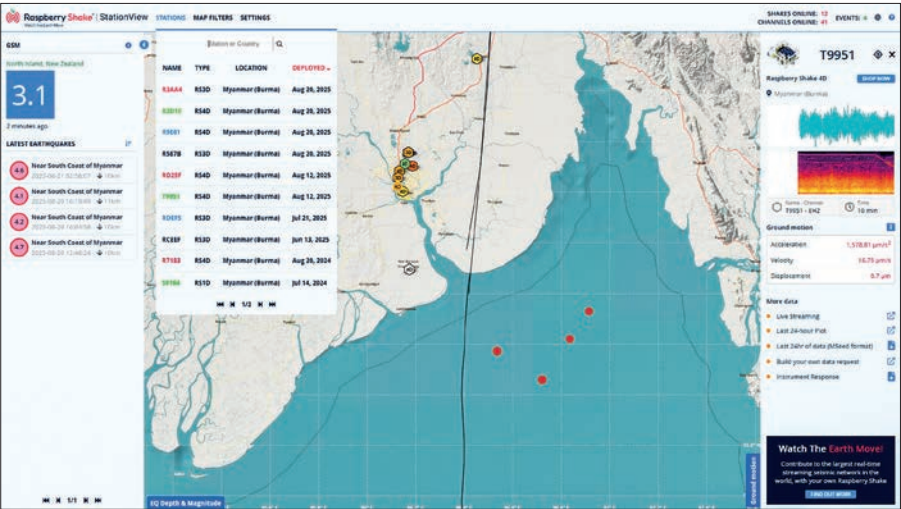
Sagaing fault shakes Yangon four times on 20-21 Aug

SEISMIC observers have commented that four earthquakes within 50-60 miles (80-97 kilometres) southeast of Yangon on 20-21 August were caused by Sagaing fault activity.

These tremors include a 4.8 magnitude at 56 miles (90.1 kilometres) southwest of Yangon's Kaba Aye at 19 hours, 16 minutes, and 19 seconds on 20 August, a 4.7 magnitude within seconds after the first one, a 4.2 magnitude at 22 hours and 34 minutes and a 4.1 magnitude at 22 hours and 49 minutes in the Mottama Gulf, according to the announcements from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. Social media accounts stated that residents of Yangon were affected by the earthquakes.

Similarly, a series of small earthquakes have been observed in recent days: Thabeikkyin-PyinOoLwin-Htila, Shan-Southeast-South and Kayah north-east-north, and Nay Pyi Taw-Pyuntaza groups, according to the aforementioned seismologist.

"We've been building GCPs on the cracks along the Sagaing fault to observe



A seismic monitoring network shows the seismic activity in Myanmar's sea on 20-21 August.

it, obtain scientific facts and forecast," he said.

On 21 August, the DMH announced that a 5.1 magnitude earthquake with 17.4-miles (28-kilometre) epicentre of 54 miles (86.9 kilometres) south of Yangon's Kaba Aye hit Yangon at 9 hours, 28 minutes, and six seconds.

Meteorologist U Win Naing urged people to be alert in connection with the

recent earthquake on his social media page.

"We've installed a lot of seismometers, so we know immediately when it shakes. We cannot exactly forecast the place and magnitude of an earthquake. People in high or old buildings must take care. Emergency materials and gathering points should be prepared in advance," he said. — Htun Htun/ZN

Family remittance documents to be reviewed in Nay Pyi Taw

SAFE Migration under the Ministry of Labour said family remittance documents from overseas employment agencies will be reviewed at the head office in Nay Pyi Taw this month.

It will begin on 25 August until mid-October and will cover 359 agencies which sent workers from September to December 2024.

These agencies will have to be examined by the prescribed period and timetable shown in the remark, without fail, and Myanmar Overseas Employment Agency Association (MOEAA) officials are also reminded of conveying this notification to let respective agencies know.

Agencies which fail to do so will have to face a fine and suspension of the new demand letter proposal, said Safe Migration. — MT/ZS

ECONOMY
WORLD

India’s online retail to hit \$260 billion by 2030: FICCI-Deloitte report

The surge is driven by rapid digital adoption, greater internet access, and the rising influence of younger consumers, particularly Gen Z.



By 2025, Gen Z is expected to account for 43 per cent of India’s total consumption, with a direct spending power of US\$250 billion. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PEXELS**

INDIA’S online retail sector is on track for an uptick in growth, rising from US\$75 billion in 2024 to US\$260 billion by 2030. According to a new FICCI-Deloitte report, this surge will double e-commerce’s share in overall retail from seven per cent to 14 per cent, reshaping the way Indians shop.

The transformation is being fuelled by rapid digital

adoption, deeper internet penetration and the rising influence of younger consumers. Gen Z, known for its digital-first habits and evolving preferences, will account for 43 per cent of India’s total consumption in 2025, commanding a direct spending power of US\$250 billion, the report said.

In fashion alone, Gen Z is expected to drive nearly half

the demand, while also leading spending in personal care and footwear, it said. As per the report, a notable shift is the dominance of Tier II and III cities, which now contribute over 60 per cent of all e-commerce transactions in India. Affordable smartphones, widespread connectivity and low-cost data plans have widened the digital consumer base. — ANI

Thailand’s foreign tourist arrivals surpass 20M so far in 2025

THAILAND recorded over 20.81 million foreign tourist arrivals so far in 2025, marking a decline of 7.04 per cent from a year earlier, official data showed on Tuesday.

With 2.93 million arrivals, China became the largest source of inbound visitors as of 17 August, followed by Malaysia at 2.87 million, along with India, Russia, and South Korea, according to the Thai Ministry of

Tourism and Sports.

The Southeast Asian country has generated approximately 966 billion baht (about \$29.73 billion) in revenue from international tourists so far this year, the ministry said in a statement.

Tourism, the key driver of the nation’s economic growth, accounted for 14.71 per cent of its gross domestic product and 11.98 per cent of employment in 2024. — Xinhua



In this file photo dated 14 May 2024, tourists and locals look at the view of the city from the observation deck of the Mahanakhon Skywalk in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Britain’s July inflation highest in 18 months, limiting scope for interest cuts

BRITAIN’S annual consumer price inflation rose to 3.8 per cent in July, the highest since January 2024, adding pressure to businesses and consumers while limiting the space for interest cuts in the near term.

The rate, up from 3.6 per cent in June, was driven mainly by higher air fares, food and non-alcoholic beverages, and increased costs for hotels and restaurants, according to data released by the Office for National Statistics on Thursday. — Xinhua

US agrees to talks with Brazilian WTO delegates on tariffs

THE United States has agreed to Brazil’s request to enter talks with the World Trade Organization (WTO) to discuss the 50 per cent tariffs imposed by Washington, according to a recent letter.

Brazil approached the global trade body in early August after President Donald Trump raised duties on more than a third of US-bound exports from the Latin American powerhouse, including key items like coffee, beef and sugar. — AFP

French champagne harvest begins with ‘promising’ outlook



Around 120,000 seasonal workers are recruited each year to pick the grapes. **PHOTO: PEXELS**

THE Champagne region of France commenced its official grape harvest on Wednesday, with producers optimistic about a “promising” yield due to an early start prompted by hot weather.

Maxime Toubart, co-president of the Comité Champagne, noted that the vineyards are in excellent condition, allowing for a confident approach to the harvest.

The harvest for the three

grape varieties — Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Meunier — will occur in stages, with the latest beginning on 4 September.

This year’s early ripening is attributed to the second-warmest year of the century, leading to a rapid increase in alcohol content. Despite recent warnings about the impact of US tariffs on the industry, which accounts for 10 per cent of production volume and 14 per cent of total output value, producers remain hopeful for a very good vintage. However, they announced a 10 per cent reduction in grape usage for the 2025 harvest amid economic uncertainty. The marketable yield limit was set at 9,000 kilogrammes per hectare, one of the lowest in years. — AFP

Israel allocates millions to aid business near Lebanese border

THE Investment Authority in Israel's Ministry of Economy and Industry is publishing a dedicated capital investment track to preserve and strengthen business activity in localities and industrial zones near the Lebanese border.

The track, with a scope of 60 million Shekels (US\$17.6 million), is being published as part of the ministry's extensive assistance programme to strengthen industry and business activity in the north, which was recently approved by the government, with a total scope of approximately 610 million Shekels (US\$179 million).

The track allows for a grant of up to 50 per cent of the investment volume, and is intended for businesses, with an emphasis on the industrial sector, that were located in the area near the border as of 6 October 2023, and are interested in making investments in fixed assets, with the aim of returning to the level of activity on the eve of the start of the "Iron Swords" war. These are budgets that will significantly assist in the economic development of the localities and industrial areas, which were damaged, sometimes severely, as a result of the fighting.

— ANI

Nissan eyes selling HQ office to US investment fund for 90 bln yen



NISSAN Motor Co is likely to sell its headquarters building in Yokohama, near Tokyo, to US investment fund KKR & Co, sources close to the matter said Thursday.

The Japanese automaker plans to use funds from the deal, expected to be worth around 90 billion yen (\$609 million), to cover business restructuring costs, the sources said.

The company is overhauling its operations to restore profitability by reducing its global workforce and production capacity.

KKR is believed to have submitted the highest bid in a tender conducted by Nissan for the "sale and leaseback" of the building. The automaker is expected to officially decide by late September whether to move forward with the sale, according to the sources. — Kyodo

File photo taken in May 2025 shows Nissan Motor Co.'s headquarters in Yokohama. PHOTO: KYODO

Korean banks' net profit rises 18.4% in H1

KOREAN banks' combined net profit jumped more than 18 per cent from a year earlier in the first half of the year on a sharp rise in non-interest income that more than offset a slight drop in interest income, data showed Thursday.

The combined net profit of 20 banks reached 14.9 trillion won (US\$10.66 billion) in the January-June period, marking an increase of 2.3 trillion won, or 18.4 per cent, from 12.6 trillion won a year earlier, figures from the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) showed.



Korean banks' combined net profit jumped more than 18 per cent from a year earlier in the first half of the year on a sharp rise in non-interest income that more than offset a slight drop in interest income. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY

Interest income fell marginally by 0.1 trillion won, or 0.4 per cent, to 29.7

trillion won over the same period.

Yonhap News Agency

quoted the FSS as saying that non-interest income came to 5.2 trillion won, up

3.4 trillion won, or 53 per cent, over the cited period.

— ANI

Google unveils latest Pixel phones packed with AI

GOOGLE on Wednesday unveiled new Pixel 10 smartphones that promise more artificial intelligence capabilities, as it seeks to elbow out competition in the emerging AI-assistant market.

Comedian Jimmy Fallon hosted a launch event in Brooklyn that blended Google product pitches with stars such as The Jonas Brothers band and Stephen Curry of the

Golden Gate Warriors basketball team.

"This is exciting," Fallon, host of NBC's "The Tonight Show," said in an opening monologue.

"It's like a Taylor Swift announcement for nerds."

The line-up of new products included a foldable phone, improved Pixel smartwatch, and ear buds all synced to work with AI and each other. — AFP

Turkish Airlines says offer to buy stake in Spain's Air Europa accepted

TURKISH Airlines on Tuesday said Air Europa had accepted its 300-million-euro (\$350 million) offer to purchase a minority stake in the indebted Spanish airline.

In a statement to the Istanbul Stock Exchange

regulator (KAP), the Turkish flag carrier said "the binding offer submitted has been accepted by Air Europa" and procedures to close the deal had started.

"The transaction involves an investment

of 300 million euros, the majority of which is in the form of a capital increase" which would then be converted into a stake whose share would be finalized in the coming months.

"The minority shareholding ratio to be ac-

quired will be finalized following technical and financial adjustments to be made at the closing," it said.

Media reports in Spain and Turkey gave a figure of some 26 per cent.

— ANI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AREZOO VOY.NO. (SCY1182)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1182)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-8-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 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.

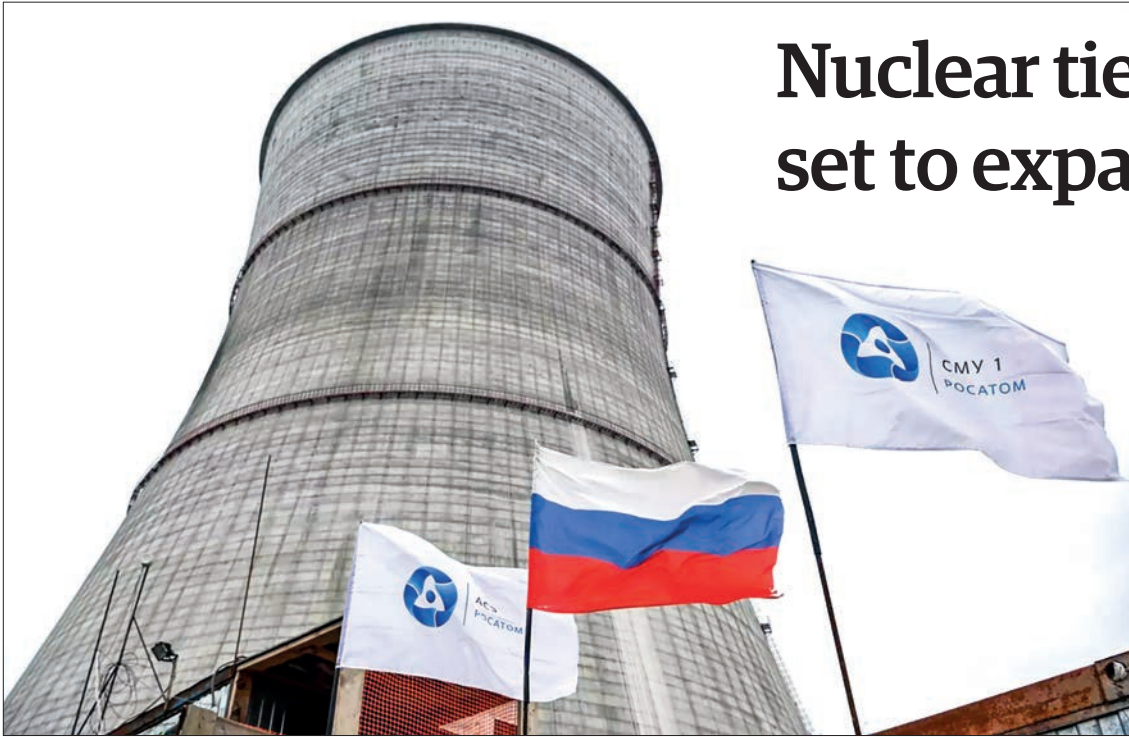
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD



A Russian national flag and flags with the logo of Rosatom flutters at the construction site of a cooling tower at the Kursk II nuclear power plant near the village of Makarovka outside Kurchatov, Kursk region, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Nuclear ties with India and China set to expand soon: Rosatom CEO

In India, the third unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) is expected to enter the commissioning phase by mid-next year, with plans for the fourth unit by 2027.

ahead of schedule. Commissioning and start-up work has already begun at the Xudapu and Tianwan plants on the first of the new units – everything is going according to plan. In India, the third unit of the Kudankulam NPP is expected to move into the commissioning phase by mid-next year, and we are looking at 2027 for the fourth unit,” Likhachev said.

Likhachev believes new co-operation packages with India to

expand the agenda are not far off. Similar work is underway with China, he added.

With Rosatom’s involvement, units 7 and 8 of the Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant and units 3 and 4 of the Xudabao (Xudapu) Nuclear Power Plant are under construction in China. The Tianwan units are scheduled to be commissioned in 2026–2027, while the Xudapu units are expected to go online in 2027–2028. — SPUTNIK

THE expansion of Russia’s cooperation with China and India in the construc-

tion of new nuclear power plants is “just around the corner,” said Alexey Likhachev, Director Gen-

eral of the Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom.

“Construction in China is

DPRK top leader meets commanding officers of army’s overseas operation unit

THE top leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) met on Wednesday with the leading commanding officers of the overseas operation unit of the Korean People’s Army, state media said Thursday.

Receiving a detailed report by the commanding officers at the headquarters building of the Central Committee of the

Workers’ Party of Korea, Kim Jong-un, the Party’s general secretary and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, said he “appreciated their feats of leading the combat units of our armed forces, which participated in the operations to liberate the Kursk Region of the Russian Federation, to victory,” the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported. — Xinhua

Google and Australia’s national newswire strike AI deal

AUSTRALIA’S national newswire has agreed to provide content to Google’s Gemini artificial intelligence to improve its responses, the two firms said.

Financial details of the agreement, which was announced Tuesday, were not provided.

The deal would help deliver real-time information to “enhance” responses in the Gemini app, said Nic Hopkins, Google’s head of news partnerships for Australia and New Zealand.

Australian Associated Press, which was established

90 years ago, said its journalism would ensure timeliness and accuracy in the information Google’s products provide.

“This is a strong endorsement of our reputation as a leading and trusted news media organization,” AAP chief executive Emma Cowdroy said.

A growing number of deals between news media and generative AI makers have been struck recently as tech firms look to make their natural-language responses to users’ questions more relevant. — AFP

Brazil’s lower house passes law expanding social media protections for minors



The Brazilian Congress has passed a new law aimed at enhancing protections for minors on social media platforms, responding to growing concerns about the safety of young users. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ AFP/FILE**

BRAZIL’S lower house approved legislation on Wednesday expanding requirements for digital platforms to protect minors, after a prominent social media influencer allegedly sexually exploited a child.

The measure includes stricter age verification systems and mandates that the accounts of children under 16 be linked to their parents’ pages.

The law takes effect one year after the president’s assent and must receive final approval from the Senate.

Social media regulation has become a thorny political issue in the South American nation, with leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva warning this week that “society will be under constant threat without regulation of big tech”.

Right-wing opposition parties have accused the government and judiciary of seeking to “censor” online platforms.

The legislation was passed by a wide margin after public outrage over alleged child sexual exploitation by Hytalo Santos, a well-known influ-

encer who posted content on Instagram featuring partially naked minors taking part in suggestive dances.

Santos was arrested last week as part of an investigation into “exposure with sexual connotations” to adolescents, and his Instagram account is no longer available.

Under the new rules, social networks must report suspected exploitative or sexually abusive content to Brazilian authorities and link the accounts of minors to parental controls. — AFP

SPORTS

Swiss international Okafor move to Leeds heralds new EPL record

NOAH Okafor's reported £18 million (\$24 million) fee Leeds United paid AC Milan on Thursday means English Premier League clubs have spent more than the previous record in a single transfer window.

The money spent on the 25-year-old Swiss international, who signed a four-year deal, takes the total outlay by the clubs to £2.37 billion, passing the previous mark of £2.36bn in the summer of 2023.

That total will only grow as there is still over a week to go before the transfer window closes.

Okafor, capped 24 times, made his name at Austrian side RB Salzburg, winning four league titles, before joining Milan and played a minor role in Napoli's Scudetto triumph last term after being sent on loan there.

"As a kid, I dreamed of playing in the Premier League. That's why for me it was quite an easy decision," said Okafor on the club website.

"My football suits the Premier League, this is like a dream come true. I can't wait to step on the field.

"I heard that the Premier League is the best league in the world, it's so intense. I have loads of friends that played there or are playing there.

"I am ready for this new challenge." — AFP



Chan Myae Tun (L), Myo Thura Kyaw (C) and Sai Thit Naung Oo (R) seen with their gold medals.

Myanmar bodybuilders win four golds at SEA Championship

The Myanmar national bodybuilding and physique sports athletes won the Champion of Champions Overall Champion trophy along with four gold, two silver, and three bronze medals at the XIX Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 18 to 25 August.

On 21 August, Myanmar athletes secured the Champion of Champions trophy through Chan Myae Tun. In the MSP Over 175 centimetres event, Myo Thura Kyaw won gold, while in the MSP up to 175 centimetres event, Sai Thit Naung Oo also won gold. In the Men's Bodybuilding 75-kilogramme event, Chan Myae Tun

claimed gold, while in the WMP up to 160 centimetres event, Su Mon Hlaing secured silver. In the WMP Over 170 centimetres event, Ma Zu Zu Thant won silver. In the WMP up to 165 centimetres event, Ma Lin Lin Soe won bronze, while Than Zaw Htaik secured bronze in the WAP up to 167 centimetres event, and Maung Maung Sai earned bronze in the Men's Bodybuilding 70-kilogramme event.

A total of 10 Myanmar athletes participated in the XIX Southeast Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship, with six of them securing medals. From 22 to 24 August, Myanmar athletes will continue to compete in the LVII Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Cham-



Myanmar athlete Chan Myae Tun accepts the Overall Champions trophy.

pionship at the same venue.

The Myanmar bodybuilding team is led by Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation Vice President U Kyaw Than (manager), referees Daw Yi Yi Win and U Aung Naing, coaches U Win Lwin and Daw Tin Ma Ma Myo, along with 20 athletes. Among them, 10 are competing in the XIX Southeast Asian Championship and another 10 in the LVII Asian Championship. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Myanmar women's team brings home ASEAN silver

THE Myanmar national women's football team, which won the silver medal at the ASEAN Women's Championship 2025 held in Vietnam, was warmly welcomed back at Yangon International Airport on the evening of 20 August.

The team, led by Head Coach Yuki Tetsuro and Manager U Kyi Lwin, competed with a total of 23 players in the championship and secured the silver medal before returning to Yangon.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, Asian Football Confederation Senior Vice President and Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw, Yangon Region Sports and Physical Education Department



Officials welcome back the victorious Myanmar national women's football team at the Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)

Director U Kyaw Min Than and officials, athletes from the Myanmar Football Federation, trainees from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), parents, people, and responsible personnel welcomed back and honoured the team at the airport.

In the final match of the ASEAN Women's Championship 2025 held in Vietnam, Myanmar played against the Australia U23 team and lost 0-1. At the awarding ceremony, the Myanmar team received the silver medal, while Win Theingi Tun won the Top Scorer Award and Myo Mya Mya Nyein was named the Best Goalkeeper. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/KZL



India stabilizes global market by purchasing Russian oil: Jaishankar



SIBUR is the largest integrated petrochemicals company in Russia and one of the fastest-growing companies in the global petrochemicals industry. PHOTO: SIBUR

Lavrov highlighted the successful cooperation between Russia and India in the hydrocarbon sector, emphasizing mutual interest in joint energy production projects in the Far East and the Arctic shelf.

INDIAN Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar responded to the White House’s claim that India’s Russian oil purchases are “financing the conflict in Ukraine” during a press conference following high-level talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Thursday.

“For years, the US urged us to stabi-

lize energy markets, even suggesting we buy Russian oil. Now, we’re being criticized for doing just that?”

Russia and India are interested in joint projects for energy production in the Far East and the Arctic shelf, Lavrov further said. “We have good results in cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector; the supply of Russian oil to the Indian market, and we

have a mutual interest in implementing joint projects for the energy production, including in the Russian Federation, in the Far East and on the Arctic shelf,” Lavrov said during a joint press conference with his Indian counterpart Jaishankar.

Both the minister also highlighted that Vladivostok-Chennai, North-South, Northern trade routes deepen economic

linkages, reduce transit times, and expand trade access across Eurasia and beyond.

Defence and military-technical cooperation between India and Russia continues to remain strong, with Russia expressing support for India’s “Make in India” initiative through joint production efforts and technology transfers, Jaishankar emphasized. — SPUTNIK

INNOVATIVE USE OF STEM CELLS

Australian scientists grow world’s first fully functioning human skin in lab

AUSTRALIAN scientists have grown the world’s first fully functioning lab-made human skin with its own blood supply.

Researchers used stem cells to grow skin with blood vessels, capillaries, hair follicles, nerves, tissue layers and immune cells, paving the way for better treatment of skin diseases, burns, and grafts, according to a statement released Thursday by Australia’s University of Queensland (UQ).

“This is the most life-like skin model that’s been developed anywhere in the world and will allow us to study diseases and test treatments more accurately,” said the study’s lead researcher, Abbas Shafiee, a tissue engineering & regenerative medicine scientist from UQ’s Frazer Institute.

The team used recent advancements in stem cell research to create three-dimensional “skin organoids,” before engineering tiny blood vessels that allowed the tissue to develop like natural human skin, according to the research published in Wiley Advanced Healthcare Materials. — Xinhua

Hungary ready to host Russia-US-Ukraine summit, guarantees security for all participants

“If needed, we are here, and we will provide fair and safe conditions at any time. We would be happy to host such peace talks if we can help ensure the success of peace efforts, should we be needed,” Hungary’s Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto says.

Earlier, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, in an interview with Fox News, did not rule out the possibility of a Russia-US-Ukraine summit being held in the Hungarian capital. According to sources, the White House is allegedly considering Budapest as the priority location for the trilateral meeting.

According to Szijjarto, Budapest is a credible location because Hungary offered to host negotiations for both Russia and Ukraine right after the conflict began, and continued to extend the invitation.

Szijjarto also called Hungary’s ability, under Prime Minister



Hungary’s Foreign Minister, Peter Szijjarto, expressed readiness to host peace talks, ensuring fair and safe conditions for negotiations. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Viktor Orban, to maintain a respectful dialogue with both Russia and the US a huge and unique achievement, despite the “tremendous pressure” it has faced. — SPUTNIK