Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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Cash Donations Pour in for Laymyethna Flood Victims

A donation ceremony was held yesterday afternoon at the City Hall in Pathein to provide financial assistance from well-wishers and donors for relief, rescue and rehabilitation activities in flood-hit areas in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region. President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony and accepted the donations.

In his speech, the President said that the donation ceremony held in Pathein was a meaningful occasion to support flood victims in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region, following heavy rainfall.

The heavy rains on the night of 30 July caused water to breach through a sandbar along the Ngawun River embankment in Laymyethna Township, resulting in water overflowing the embankment and inundating five urban wards and 138 villages. More than 9,000 households and over 39,000 people were affected, while 17 relief camps were opened.

He said that since 31 July, the Ayeyawady Region government, relevant Union ministries, residents and volunteers had been working together to reinforce the damaged embankment using timber supports, bamboo fencing, geotextile bags (geobags) and sandbags, while machinery and boats were also being used to control the flow of floodwater.

SEE PAGE 3

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing receives the donation from a well-wisher in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

Fuel being distributed to small boats supporting social relief efforts.

Free fuel provided to rescue boats supporting flood relief in Laymyethna

SEE PAGE 6

Myanmar exports 21,000+ tonnes of fishery products to China in 4 months

MYANMAR exported over 21,000 tonnes of fishery products to China through the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) in the first four months of the 2026-2027 financial year beginning 1 April, bagging over US$47.5 million, according to the Department of Fisheries.

The bilateral agreement through the GACC protocol was signed on 15 September, 2024. At present, approved facilities include 89 fishery processing plants, 29 live storage warehouses, seven fish-meal plants, and four aquaculture farms.

This picture depicts fishery processing plants.

Myanmar exports fresh, frozen, dried, and processed fishery products, including freshwater and saltwater fish, shrimp, and crabs, fish meal and feed. Myanmar's fishery products are transported to Chinese cities including Guangzhou, Nanning, Yunnan, Kunming, Chongqing, Shantou, Zhanjiang, Guangdong, Shanghai, Tianjin and Nanchang) through three transport modes (sea, air and land freight), the Fisheries Department stated.

Myanmar shipped over 69,600 tonnes of fishery products to China in the 2025-2026 FY, generating a $154.54 million income. — TWA/KK

NATIONAL

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 8 August 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over South West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha, India. Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and moderate to strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 9 August 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay and Magway regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states, with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway, lower Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and northern Shan states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states. In the area along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur, and therefore it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena in advance.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase in rain in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and eastern Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 August 2026: Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 August 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Ngawun River recedes at Aingthabyu intersection in Laymyethna

FLOODING in the Aingthabyu intersection area in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, has now receded, according to the regional government.

In line with measurements at 1:20 pm on 6 August, the water level in the area has visibly decreased.

The Ngawun River has receded at the intersection of Aingthabyu in Laymyethna Township.

Although river water levels have receded, a combined team led by the township administrator, together with ward and village administrators, continues to closely monitor water conditions and the potential for further flooding to ensure public safety and facilitate the restoration of transport services.

Through the installation of geobags and steel sheet piles, riverbank erosion has been brought under control, while efforts to protect farmland and public infrastructure from flooding continue uninterrupted. — TWA/ZS

DMH issues timely flood warnings across six townships

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) has issued timely flood warnings, urging residents living near riverbanks and in low-lying areas in Hpa-an, Madauk, Myitnge, Kalewa, Mingin, and Monywa to relocate to safe areas.

According to water level measurements taken on the morning of 8 August, the Thanlwin River in Hpa-an has risen about 0.5 foot above its danger mark. The DMH reported that the water level is expected to increase by another 0.5 foot over the next 24 hours, remaining above the danger level.

Similarly, the Sittoung River in Madauk is about one foot above its danger mark. Although it is expected to decrease the next day, it will remain above the danger mark. The Dokhtawady River in Myitnge has reached approximately 0.5 foot above its danger mark and is forecast to rise by about three feet over the next 24 hours, staying above the danger level.

The Chindwin River level in Kalewa is about 1.5 feet below its danger mark and is expected to reach it within the next day. The water levels in Mingin and Monywa are also approaching their danger marks. The DMH warns that the river is projected to reach the danger level in Mingin within the next 24 hours and in Monywa within the next 12 hours.

Flooding observed along the Mu River and villages in western Shwebo on 8 August.

Residents living near riverbanks and in low-lying areas across these three townships have been advised to exercise extreme caution and prepare to evacuate promptly if water levels continue to rise. — TWA/ZN

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 39

Issued at 8 am MST on 8 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, due to the unstable air conditions over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Coastal areas of West Bengal, India, and the strong development of the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from today morning to 11 August 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 9-11 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and the strong development of convective clouds, such as heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH

NATIONAL

Riverbed Maintenance Key to Reducing Seawater Intrusion

Efforts are urged to develop Pathein into the nation's second port city by boosting domestic goods transport.

President U Min Aung Hlaing attends the Pathein meeting on rescue and rehabilitation in flood areas in Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

Heavy rainfall caused a breach in the sandbar beneath the Ngawun River embankment in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, allowing water to flow through and resulting in a section of the embankment being lowered. As flooding occurred in wards in urban areas and surrounding villages of Laymyethna Township, as well as villages in Hinthada, Yekyi and Kyangin townships, intensive relief and rescue operations are being carried out.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing gave necessary guidance at the meeting to operate rescue and rehabilitation against the overflow of Ngawun River due to the flow of water over the lowered embankment at the Ayeyawady Region government office in Pathein yesterday.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw reported to the President on the occurrence of overflowing water from the embankment of Ngawun River, inundation at urban areas and schools, intensifying rescue and relief operations, healthcare services, prevention of erosion, distribution of fuel to vehicles from charity organizations which work rescue and relief measures, plans to evacuate the people from Kyonpyaw Township, receding of water, reopening of schools, and preventive measures of seawater in rivers of Ayeyawady Region.

Union Ministers U Min Naung, Dr Thet Khaing Win, U Mya Tun Oo, U Myo Thant and Dr Soe Win also presented reports on efforts to prevent floods with placing geobags and sandbags starting from 31 July, activities of mobile medical teams for flood-affected people, supply of water and food, storage of quality paddy seeds for recultivation, participation of personnel from relevant ministries in repairing the embankment, and maintenance of railways and transport services when water recedes.

The President asked about the construction and maintenance of the original embankment and Ngawun embankment, the situation of flooding that occurred previously in Ayeyawady Region due to breaches in embankments, causing damage in current flooding, and providing aid for flood-affected people.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that if the flooding persists for an extended period, it will cause greater damage to people's livelihoods and agricultural activities. Hence, systematic measures should be taken to facilitate the rapid drainage and recession of the floodwaters that have overflowed into the affected areas.

The President stressed the need to conduct systematic research to protect the Ayeyawady Delta region from seawater intrusion and to ensure that all water flowing down from the upper reaches of the rivers can flow along the natural waterways without entering residential areas. If the bed levels of rivers and creeks are properly maintained, seawater intrusion can be reduced to a certain extent.

He noted that the rising bed level of the Pathein River has currently reduced the ability of large vessels to enter the river. Products from Ayeyawady Region can be transported by large vessel via the Pathein River, while goods required for domestic consumption can likewise be handled through Pathein Port. Therefore, efforts should be made to develop Pathein as the country's second port city.

The President underlined that rivers can be used not only for transport but also for agricultural activities through river water pumping projects. In ensuring the availability

SEE PAGE 4

Cash Donations Pour in for Laymyethna Flood Victims

FROM PAGE 1

The government conducted relief and rescue operations, evacuating affected people to safer locations, providing food and drinking water, delivering healthcare services and taking measures to protect riverbanks from erosion. He stressed that rehabilitation and reconstruction works should take into account not only current disasters but also potential future risks and should be carried out in accordance with appropriate standards to ensure long-term resilience.

He also emphasized the need for greater preparedness for natural disasters, noting that climate change and environmental degradation could continue to pose challenges. He called for systematic planning and analysis to improve water management and reduce the impact of future floods, including the construction of water-control embankments where necessary.

He expressed appreciation for the generosity of Myanmar people, saying that the spirit of sharing and helping those in need remained a commendable tradition. He thanked donors and organizations for their contributions to flood response, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

He said donors at the ceremony had contributed more than K23.324 billion for relief and rehabilitation activities in flood-affected areas of Laymyethna Township. He also expressed his gratitude on behalf of the government and flood-stricken people.

The President added that he had inspected flood-hit areas of Laymyethna Township by helicopter before attending the ceremony, although adverse weather prevented him from conducting a ground inspection. He stressed the need for systematic disaster preparedness and risk assessment to minimize losses from natural disasters. He also called for effective water management, including the construction of water-control embankments where necessary, to reduce future flooding and improve drainage.

The President also called on businesspeople and the public to contribute to the development of the national economy by expanding their businesses, while the government continued efforts to maintain stability and peace.

At the ceremony, families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), region and state governments, well-wishers, donors and organizations presented cash donations for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in flood-affected areas of Laymyethna Township. The President and relevant officials received the donations and presented certificates of appreciation.

Altogether, more than K23.324 billion in donations was received at the ceremony held at the Pathein City Hall. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Riverbed Maintenance Key to Reducing Seawater Intrusion

FROM PAGE 3

of freshwater required for agriculture, systematic measures should be taken to prevent seawater from intruding into rivers and creeks. To ensure an adequate supply of freshwater, solar-powered river water pumping projects can also be implemented during the summer season.

He stated that Ayeyawady Region, ranking first among the six regions with the highest GDP, should make to further increase its GDP and promote economic development.

The President urged all to ensure the development of an educated and skilled human resource base that is essential for effectively utilizing the region's favourable natural resources and conditions.

The President outlined that those responsible for each respective region should make sincere and dedicated efforts, using all possible means to promote the development and well-being of their regions, thereby contributing to the interests of both the region and the country.

Also present at the meeting were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the South-West Command and deputy ministers.

The President and party flew over Kangyidaunt, Ngaputaw and Thaboung townships in Ayeyawady Region by helicopter and gave necessary guidance to officials.

— MNA/TTA

Salient points from the speech delivered by the President in Pathein

1. If the flooding persists for an extended period, it will cause greater damage to people's livelihoods and agricultural activities.
2. Ayeyawady Region, ranking first among the six regions with the highest GDP, should make to further increase its GDP and promote economic development.
3. Those responsible for each respective region should make sincere and dedicated efforts, using all possible means to promote the development and well-being of their regions.

Bronze plaque installed at Loimwe Post Office in Shan State

A bronze plaque was installed yesterday morning at Loimwe Post Office in Loimwe, Kengtung District, Shan State (East), an ancient building with a history of more than 100 years that has been listed as an ancient building of historical significance.

Union Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Maung Myint unveiled the plaque by sprinkling scented water over it.

Union Minister U Maung Myint observes the displays at the Kengtung Cultural Museum in Shan State yesterday.

The Union Minister also inspected the Loimwe Centennial House (Frontier Officer's Residence), the Buddha Park in Kengtung, and the Thila Dhamma Hospital located within the Park, where people were receiving medical treatment. He also inspected the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Bridge (Kenglap Bridge), which is connected to the Asian Highway, with a view to promoting comprehensive development of tourism in the region and enhancing cross-border tourism between Myanmar and Laos. He instructed officials to ensure convenient and smooth entry and exit at the cross-border.

On Friday, the Union minister also inspected the excavation and research work being carried out on the Ngampha wall in the old Kengtung area by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, more than 100-year-old historic buildings within the RCM church compound, and prominent tourist attractions in Kengtung, including Maha Muni Buddha Image, where a bronze plaque has been installed, and Khemarathta Byadeik Standing Buddha Image, and made cash donations.

He attended the ceremony to install a bronze plaque at Cherry Building of Saint Mary's High School, also known as Basic Education High School No 2. At the ceremony, the Union minister said that installing such a bronze plaque would not only highlight the historical value of the sites but also preserve them as lasting commemorative heritage.

SEE PAGE 7

Efforts underway to resume operations of looms and equipment

EFFORTS are underway to resume production operations by salvaging looms and related equipment at the No 7 Textile Factory branch (Wundwin), despite damage to the factory buildings caused by the major Mandalay earthquake, according to the source.

Dr Charlie Than, Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Thwin Aung, inspected the relocation and installation of machinery, and the salvage operations being carried out to minimize damage to machinery at the factory yesterday morning.

During the inspection, the Union minister instructed officials to complete the installation and adjustment of the relocated looms as soon as possible so that production operations could resume, stockpile raw materials required for production, formulate and implement plans for rebuilding the factory and for salvaging machinery and resuming production, and systematically carry out salvage operations to minimize damage and losses to the machinery at the factory.

He also met the managing director and responsible officials of Kyaukse industrial area at the No 7 Textile Factory (Myittha), and briefed them on the guidance of the President, union-level meetings and business talks.

At noon, he proceeded to No 8 Textile Factory branch (Yamethin) and gave instructions to increase production, ensuring the timely manufacture and delivery of products ordered by ministries, and ensuring that machinery operates at full production capacity.

— MNA/KTZH

Union Minister Dr Charlie Than inspects the No 8 Textile Factory branch (Yamethin) on 8 August 2026.

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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

This photo shows students and teachers at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Students, teachers visit Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw)

THE Government and the Tatmadaw are organizing study tours to the Defence Services Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) for students and teachers to help younger generations learn about the history of the State and the Tatmadaw, broaden their knowledge, develop and strengthen their sense of patriotism, inspire them to emulate worthy examples, support their curriculum-based studies, and encourage them to set positive goals to contribute to the interests of the country.

Yesterday, students and teachers from Laytha Basic Education Middle School in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, visited the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

Upon arrival, the students and teachers watched a documentary on the history of the Myanmar Tatmadaw. A museum official then explained the history and objectives of the museum and provided information about the exhibits and displays in its various sections.

The students and teachers subsequently showed keen interest in viewing artillery pieces, armoured vehicles, models of naval vessels and weapons used during the Second World War and the post-war period, as well as aircraft used by the Tatmadaw over different periods of its history. — MNA/MKKS

Basic Aquaculture, Freshwater Fish Induced Breeding Training opens

THE opening ceremony of the Basic Aquaculture and Freshwater Fish Induced Breeding Techniques Training Course 1/2026, organized by the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, was held yesterday morning at the Laydauntkan Fisheries Station in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Yangon Region Chief minister U Aung Naing Thu attended the ceremony and delivered the opening address. Next, the head of the Yangon Region Fisheries Department explained arrangements for conducting the training course.

Afterwards, Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials inspected the fish hatchery and the fish and shrimp exhibition booths, and the chief Minister gave necessary instructions.

The training course will be conducted by instructors for a total of 33 trainees from 7 to 9 August, covering both theoretical and practical training. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/MKKS

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu observes at the fish hatchery and the fish and shrimp exhibition booths.

Construction materials provided to rebuild houses in Falam

Officials oversee collective cleaning activities in Falam.

YESTERDAY morning, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo, accompanied by state ministers and members of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the ongoing measures to clean up and beautify Falam.

He also inspected the repair of departmental staff housing and local residents' homes damaged by terrorist incidents. During the visit, snacks and soft drinks were distributed to Tatmadaw members, police members, firefighters, and district and township departmental staff who were taking part in collective cleaning activities. — MNA/MKKS

Rakhine State Hluttaw discuss supplementary budget estimate for 2026-2027FY

A coordination meeting on the supplementary budget estimate for Rakhine State for the 2026-2027 financial year was held yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the Rakhine State Hluttaw Office. Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker Dr San Shwe delivered the opening remarks, followed by presentations from the Director of the State Planning Department and the Director of the State Budget Department, who explained the proposed supplementary budget for the state.

Attendees raised questions and discussed the presentations, and the responsible officials responded to the issues raised before the State Hluttaw Speaker delivered the concluding remarks.

The meeting was attended by Rakhine State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Dr Htin Lin Oo, State Hluttaw representatives, members of the Committee for Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, and officials from the State Planning Department and the State Budget Department. — Tin Tun (IPRD)/TH

Tanga Creek floods in Madaya

TANGA Creek in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region's PyinOoLwin District, flooded on the morning of 8 August, leaving some villages covered with water, said the Fire Services Department.

The combined team comprising the township firefighters, rescue members, Red Cross members and volunteers has evacuated people from the affected villages: Tangataung, Yechaung, Bagansu, Rakhinesu and Anyagaing to safe zones — schools, station hospital and the Yonepin Village Monastery located at Umin Village, upper Taunggaing village-tract.

In case of natural disasters and other sudden-onset disasters, people can call the hotline number 191 or FSD's numbers: 01 8666912, 01 8666913 or regional office numbers: 02 4021084 and 09 340320202. — Htun Htun/ZS

Flooding in Kyunhla inspected; assistance provided for evacuees

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay presents cash assistance to residents evacuated from flood homes in Kyunhla, Sagaing Region, yesterday.

YESTERDAY morning, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay and regional ministers inspected the extent of flooding in the wards of Kyunhla in Kanbalu District following continuous rainfall.

They also met cordially residents who had temporarily evacuated their homes in Thityamyine Ward, where floodwaters had entered, and took necessary measures to fulfil the residents' needs.

The Sagaing Region government also presented K1.565 million, provided by the Department of Disaster Management, to residents who had temporarily left their homes. — Region IPRD/MKKS

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

2 August

Pyithu Hluttaw meets media personnel

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met editors and reporters from 48 local news agencies, local-based foreign news agencies and local media at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw.

5 August

President receives UWSP delegation

A delegation led by U Xiao Guoan, Vice-Chairman of United Wa State Party (UWSP), paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

6 August

President meets Chair of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Cardinal Charles Bo, Chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall.

VP outlines rescue and repair in flooding

Vice-President U Nyo Saw attended the meeting on the repair of the embankment breach, relief and rescue efforts, and rehabilitation activities in connection with overflow of water caused by the subsidence of the embankment due to water flowing through a breach in the sandbar beneath the Ngawun Embankment in Laymyethna Township at the Ayeyawady Region Government Office in Pathein.

7 August

Joint Statement issued

A Joint Statement was issued by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of the official visit of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Thai PM welcomes Myanmar President

Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Anutin Charnvirakul warmly welcomed President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing during his official visit to Thailand with a Guard of Honour ceremony and held a meeting with the latter at the Government House building in Bangkok.

Myanmar, Thailand hold bilateral meeting

A bilateral meeting between the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Thailand took place at the Pakdi Bodin Building of the Government House in Bangkok.

Myanmar-Thailand Business Forum held

President U Min Aung Hlaing delivered a keynote address at the Myanmar-Thailand Business Forum held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok.

8 August

ASEAN Day message sent

Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, sent a message to citizens of Myanmar and the peoples of ASEAN on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, which falls on 8 August 2026.

President pays homage to Emerald Buddha Temple

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and party paid homage to the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, situated within the grounds of the Grand Palace in Bangkok.

Myanmar President holds talks with Thai National Assembly Acting President

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing met with Thai National Assembly Acting President Mr Mongkol Surasajja at the Thai Parliament building.

President visits Myanmar Embassy, Military Attaché Office

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office in Bangkok, as well as scholarship trainees. — GNLM/TTA

Free fuel provided to rescue boats ...

Fuel being distributed to small boats supporting social relief efforts.

FROM PAGE 1

THE Ayeyawady Region government has announced that, as of 6 August, a total of 1,596 gallons of petrol and 429.5 gallons of diesel had been distributed free of charge to small watercraft, including fibre-glass boats, engaged in social rescue and relief operations during the flooding in Laymyethna Township.

Nine fuel stations in Hinthada Township are supplying rescue vehicles arriving from across the region, ensuring uninterrupted fuel access for relief operations.

Flooding in Laymyethna Township has led to the opening of 13 relief camps, where 610 households comprising 2,023 people have been temporarily relocated. In Hinthada Township, three flood relief camps have been established, accommodating 25 households with 103 people, according to reports. — ASH/MKKS

Yangon Police intensify area-based crime prevention operations

POLICE personnel from township police stations across Yangon Region, in cooperation with traffic police and local administrative authorities, carried out area-based operations aimed at strengthening the rule of law, reducing crime, improving road safety and inspecting KTV establishments, according to reports.

Traffic police force work at the zebra crossing on Strand Road in Lanmadaw Township. **PHOTO: REGIONAL POLICE FORCE**

As part of the operations conducted yesterday, Police Captain Tin Pe of Thongwa Police Station, together with relevant departmental officials and personnel from Wanetchaung Police Outpost, carried out public awareness activities on crime prevention. Meanwhile, members of the Lanmadaw Township Traffic Police Unit conducted road safety awareness campaigns at pedestrian crossings along Strand Road to promote the safety of pedestrians.

On the previous evening, township police officers of Botahtaung Township and Hlinethaya (West) Township conducted inspections of KTV establishments, vehicle checkpoints and household guest registration records as part of efforts to maintain law and order and reduce crime. — Aung Thu/MKKS

Earthquake

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.1 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about five miles northwest of Pobbathiri), latitude 19.94°N, longitude 96.14°E, with a depth of 12 kilometres, about 11 miles north of the Nay Pyi Taw Seismological Observatory was recorded at 10 hours, 5 minutes and 43 seconds MST on 8 August 2026. — DMH

NATIONAL

Diesel tenders worth K200M floated for Pyu Creek Dam

THE Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department's Construction Division 1 office in Hlegu has invited open tenders for the supply of diesel valued at over K200 million for use in the Pyuchaung Dam project, according to the tender acceptance and evaluation committee.

The dam is located in Pyu Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region. The procurement will be funded under Union Capital Expenditure for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Tender forms are available by 11 August 2026 at the Accounts Branch of the Construction Division 1 in Hlegu. Bids must be submitted by 4 pm on 14 August. The bid opening date will be announced in due course. The tender opening will take place at the IWUMD in Bago. Interested individuals can contact the department via 09 420026073. — NN/KK

This photo shows the Pyu Creek dam in Pyu Township.
PHOTO: KANU

FDA issues food safety advisory for flood-affected areas

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Ministry of Health issued a public advisory on food safety measures to follow in the aftermath of recent flooding.

FDA stated that floodwater might cause stored food to break open or spoil, become contaminated with sewage or debris, or mix with oil and other chemicals.

Food items that were not exposed to floodwater, food sealed in clean, waterproof, and intact packaging and undamaged canned goods that have been properly cleaned can be safely consumed.

All cooked or raw food that came into contact with floodwater, drinking water with unusual color or odor, and unsealed water bottles, food with off-smells, abnormal texture, or discoloration, items packaged in cardboard or other non-waterproof material, food in torn, swollen, rusted, or damaged packaging, cans that are bulging, rusted, or leaking and any food suspected of being unsafe should not be consumed.

Refrigerators cannot maintain a cool temperature during power outages. Therefore, any perishable food stored at room temperature for more than four hours is no longer safe. Cooked or prepared food that has remained at room temperature for more than four hours should also be discarded. Unsafe food should be separated from safe food and properly disposed of.

FDA also offered health safety tips for boiling drinking water before use, ensuring the water bottle seal is intact so that it cannot leak, washing hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating and using water purification tablets where available. — NN/KK

15th Advanced Sewing Machine Operator Training set for 17-28 Aug

THE Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) will offer the Advanced Sewing Machine Operator Training (Batch 15) from 17 to 28 August 2026 at Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Training Centre (MGHRDC) in Insein Township, Yangon Region.

A glimpse of the Cut, Make, and Pack (CMP) garment workplace.

The training will cover detailed hands-on instruction to master sewing techniques such as round and angled flap corners, spiral, shoulder corner seam, different types of pockets, collar and band attachment, different ways of inserting zippers, invisible zipper application, side-seam pocket stitching, sleeve setting and rounded and straight welt pockets. Additionally, sewing methods for long-sleeved shirts and "A" skirt with belt, six special sewing methods including buttonhole sewing machine, button attached machine, Bartack Machine, overlock 4 threads, overlock 5 threads, and 2 Needle will be provided to trainees. The training fee is K50,000.

Those who wish to attend the training can enrol by contacting MGHRDC via 09 940858350. — NN/KK

Kayin State targets 400,000+ acres of monsoon paddy cultivation

PLANS are underway to cultivate more than 428,000 acres of monsoon paddy in Kayin State during the 2026-2027 financial year to ensure food self-sufficiency for local farmers, increase household incomes, and export surplus rice, according to the Department of Agriculture.

To date, more than 180,000 acres of monsoon paddy have been planted, and cultivation is continuing on the remaining acreage. To ensure good yields, Department of Agriculture staff are conducting field visits and providing technical assistance at every stage of cultivation, from soil preparation to harvest.

In Kayin State, more than 400,000 acres of monsoon paddy were cultivated last year, with an average yield of 69.78 baskets per acre. The Department of Agriculture is distributing high-quality seed varieties to farmers. In addition, crops such as monsoon grain corn, monsoon green gram, taro, sugarcane, coffee, tea, black gram, sesame, and sunflower are being cultivated across Kayin State, while cardamom and turmeric are being grown in the Thantaunggyi area.

This photo features paddy fields during the rice cultivation season in Kayin State.

To improve crop yields, the Department of Agriculture is providing close support by promoting the adoption of good agricultural practices and delivering technical advice through Viber groups. — TWA/TH

Bronze plaque installed at Loimwe Post Office in Shan State

FROM PAGE 4

He attended and delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of a basic Thai language speaking course, which will be conducted for about eight weeks at the Tourism Development Centre in Kengtung under the supervision and arrangement of the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture. He also met with local ethnic literature and cultural associations at the Kengtung Cultural Museum and instructed officials to arrange the silicone figures used in the ethnic traditional attire displays so that they closely resemble the original physical features of the respective ethnic groups.

He also inspected the operations of state-owned hotels in Kengtung, Shan State (East), including Amazing Keng Tung Resort and Kengtung Paradise Hotel, the display of historical documentary photographs of Kengtung Haw, and Kengtung Waterfall Resort, a tourist attraction, and the development of the Hoiyanglwe Ward community as a Community-Based Tourism (CBT) village established at the resort. — MNA/KTZH

OPINION

Maintain friendship and trust between Myanmar and Thailand

THE border between Myanmar and Thailand stretches for more than 2,400 kilometres, and as neighbouring countries, the two nations have shared historical ties, interactions and connections. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have reached 78 years, and in 2018, bilateral relations were elevated to the status of a "Natural Strategic Partnership."

Peace and stability along the long Myanmar-Thailand border are important not only for the two countries but also for other nations around the world. Armed groups operating along Myanmar's eastern borders are in one way or another involved in criminal activities such as drug production, transport and trafficking, as well as online scams. At present, Myanmar is striving to achieve lasting peace in order to build a union based on democracy and a federal system. In this regard, all armed groups have been invited to resolve political differences through political means.

> The economies and trade of Myanmar and Thailand are mutually important to each other, with shared interests between the two sides. Through the friendship, trust and mutual respect of good neighbours and true friends, the two countries should work together to build an even better future for both nations.

President U Min Aung Hlaing paid an official visit to Thailand from 6 to 7 August and held cordial discussions with Thai Prime Minister Mr Anutin Charnvirakul. During the discussions, the two leaders emphasized the importance of further strengthening bilateral cooperation in political, security, economic, environmental, and socio-cultural sectors. During the official visit, both sides expressed a joint commitment to promoting peace and stability along the Myanmar-Thailand border and agreed to enhance joint efforts in combatting transnational crimes, particularly online scams and drug-related issues.

The two leaders emphasized the promotion of bilateral trade with the aim of increasing two-way trade to US$12 billion, finding ways to facilitate official border trade and investment, strengthening transport and connectivity networks, enhancing cooperation in the energy sector, and increasing exploration and development of natural gas resources. They also highlighted cooperation in labour affairs, addressing environmental challenges, and promoting tourism. The friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand will greatly contribute to enhancing the interests and well-being of the peoples of both countries.

Myanmar and Thailand are countries that have shared close ties and connections for many years. As inseparable neighbouring countries, the two nations have strong bonds and interactions between their peoples. Along with their long shared border, peace and development are also closely interconnected between the two countries.

The economies and trade of Myanmar and Thailand are mutually important to each other, with shared interests between the two sides. Through the friendship, trust and mutual respect of good neighbours and true friends, the two countries should work together to build an even better future for both nations.

BOOKRACK

POEM

Book Title	-	Beauty with the Brain
Author	-	Various Authors
Publishing House	-	Pann Satt Lann
Publication Date	-	July 2026 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K10,000

Beauty with the Brain

THIS week's pick is a collaborative book titled Beauty with the Brain, guiding readers to the idea that true high value for a modern woman comes from self-mastery rather than fleeting physical beauty.

The book is co-authored by Min Khant (Pyay), Sue Sha May, Su Myat Chit, and Paing (That's for You). It addresses contemporary challenges including relationships, mental well-being, and personal value, positioning itself as a handbook for becoming a "High Value Woman".

This book is tailored to women who want to take the helm of their own lives confidently and radiantly, who want to escape toxic relationships, who want to achieve financial independence, who want to build self-worth, and who perceive the challenges faced by modern women.

Min Khant (Pyay) writes in his foreword that the book is meant to help readers contemplate their choices and partners rather than complaining of grief, sorrow or regret over misfortune. Instead of saying, "My situation is so bad while navigating a rough patch in a relationship; ask yourself: was my decision right? Is my partner worthy of my self-worth?". He reminds readers never to forget that they are not just beautiful, but capable of leading their lives with intelligence towards high-value women.

Sue Sha May, who is a constant seeker of inner peace day by day herself, wants every woman to achieve mental clarity, self-love and the ability to heal from emotional wounds. I want them to navigate life with fewer emotional scars. I would be immeasurably pleased to know if readers sense my goodwill, empathy and care woven into my writing.

Su Myat Chit offers guidance on building self-belief and standing independently. The contents of this book will guide you to become a stronger, more radiant woman, to love yourself, to define your own value, and to move forward with bold decisions no matter how hard the situation is. She noted that this is a great self-empowerment book serving as a personal toolkit in sailing your own ship in life.

Paing (That's for You) shares that his earliest idols were my mother and sister. His grandmother's life stories, his aunts' conduct, and his teachers' lessons deepened his respect for women's competence and compassion. This chapter highlights how to stand as a confident Smart Lady in society, grounded in the maternal love and strong spirit that every woman possesses, he noted.

To summarize, Beauty with the Brain serves as a practical and emotional roadmap, encouraging women to know their worth, take charge of their lives, and embrace their full potential. The book title features a popular trending keyword (High Value Woman – HVW) across social media, referring to becoming a strong and independent woman who prioritizes her personal growth, self-respect, standards and boundaries.

Book Title	-	Atway Amyin No 365
Author	-	Various Authors
Publishing House	-	Daung Sarpay
Publication Date	-	July 2026 (1st Edition)
Price	-	K6,000

Atway Amyin No 365

THIS week, I would like to recommend a publication to readers of The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM). It is the monthly magazine Atway Amyin (Perspectives), founded by the late writer Maung Wuntha and now steadfastly continued by his daughter Ma Htike, who has carried forward her father's literary legacy with dedication. The latest issue, No 365, was published in July 2026.

The magazine features thought-provoking essays by 25 writers, offering readers a rich collection of reflections and ideas.

One of the highlights is "Harvesting Oneself" by Maung Khine Lat, which opens with the following passage:

"Mercury has unexpectedly arrived in the great city of Rome. It is a journey I have long dreamed of. Unfortunately, the timing could not have been worse. It is the peak tourist season, and everywhere I go I find myself struggling through dense crowds. Such is Rome in the spring."

Another noteworthy essay is "Let Go of Dissatisfaction and Live Life Like an Art Form" by Sai Aung Myint (Tachilek). He begins with a powerful message:

"Living simply does not mean owning nothing. It means genuinely realizing from the heart that, 'This is enough for me.' Once we truly understand that, we can lighten the burdens we carry and travel through life's difficult journey with greater ease, grace and beauty."

Later in the essay, he writes:

"Life should not be like a paper boat weighed down with countless burdens. It should be like a paper aeroplane, gliding beautifully on the wind. When we cast aside the heavy weight of greed and learn to appreciate the beauty of simplicity, we can attain the most artistic way of living."

The essay also drew praise from book reviewer Zargana, who wrote:

"I would especially recommend Sai Aung Myint's essay Let Go of Dissatisfaction and Live Life Like an Art Form. It gives readers much to reflect on. Since 2020, the world has changed. We have moved from FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) to JOMO (Joy of Missing Out). In China, movements such as Tang Ping ('lying flat') and Bai Lan ('letting it rot') emerged among young people, reflecting growing disillusionment with a lifestyle of working from 9 am to 9 pm, six days a week. This essay is not merely for reading – it is for contemplation and for taking to heart. I believe Atway Amyin continues to strike that very chord in readers' hearts."

The magazine concludes with "Many Forms of Familiarity" by Maung Wuntha, in which he explores how repeated exposure shapes our perceptions. He writes:

"Let me continue talking about the many forms of familiarity. We often hear expressions such as 'the nose has grown accustomed', 'the ears have grown accustomed', 'the mouth has grown accustomed', 'the eyes have grown accustomed', or 'the hands have grown accustomed'. Here, 'accustomed' does not mean refined or cultured – it simply means becoming used to something."

He then recounts a parable about an elderly hermit living in seclusion. Concerned villagers sent the ugliest woman in the village to care for him. After about a month, the hermit asked the villagers to take her away. When they asked why, he replied:

"As time passed, her crooked eyes began to look perfectly straight to me. Her twisted mouth also started to appear normal. Her protruding teeth came to resemble a beautiful coral reef. Even her dark complexion began to seem radiant. No, this won't do – please take her away."

Maung Wuntha concludes with a reminder:

"Whatever you look at, look with mindfulness. Whatever you listen to, listen with mindfulness. What we see repeatedly becomes familiar; what we hear repeatedly comes to be believed. Be careful."

Translated by Myint Zan

အင်မလီ ဒစ်ကင်ဆင် ရဲ့ ကဗျာ အမှတ် ၁၅၁

ဘိသိက်ခံပွဲ ကို တိတ်ဆိတ် စေပါ
"မင်းကြီး သက်တော်ရာကျော်ရှည်ပါစေ" လည်း ပျော့ပြောင်းသွားစေ
မင်းကြီးရဲ့ ဝတ်ရုံဖြူတော်ထဲကို
သေးငယ်တဲ့ အခစားဝင်သူကို ထည့်လိုက်ပါ အသျှင်
ရိုသေလေးမြတ်စွာ အနားယူ နေဖို့ပေါ့
အလှပြပွဲတွေပြီးတဲ့အထိ
ဒီတော့မှ ကျွန်မ က တိုးညှင်းစွာ ပြောမယ်
အသျှင် -- ကျွန်မ ပါ (လို့)
(၁၈၅၉ ခုနှစ် ခန့်တွင် အင်မလီ ဒစ်ကင်ဆင် ရေးဖွဲ့သည်)

Emily Dickinson Poem 151

Mute thy Coronation --
Meek my Vive le roi,
Fold a tiny courtier
in thine Ermine, Sir,
There to rest revering
Till the pageant by.
I can murmur broken,
Master, It was I --

Composed around the year 1859

A harmonious life

By Thihathayna

Full of fierce rivalries in this age
Never compare yourself at every stage
Be your best and shine brighter
Your life becomes easier and lighter
Do the best to your ability
No matter how strong their capability
With what you have, be content

Let happiness be your true intent
Never live for wealth alone
Dream big and make it your own
Invest your time in what you love
Achievement and success will rise above
Putting aside ego and selfishness
Surround the world with tenderness
Be kind and help others
Make everyone happy, like brothers
Envy and jealousy are most hideous of all
A healthy mindset, strive to instil
Learn to rejoice in others' success
Peace and love you'll possess

Hard to separate good from bad
Learn from all the days we've had
Looking on the bright side, you'll thrive
With an optimistic heart, keep hope alive
Letting go of hatred and bitterness
Embrace joy and peacefulness
Lead a harmonious life free from care
Joy is greatest when we share

ခံစားမှု မြေစာပင်

'ဆင်းရဲခြင်း' က
ဒေါမာန်ထူ၍
လောကကြီးကို ခြိမ်းခြောက်သည်။

'ချမ်းသာခြင်း' က
အိပ်မောကျအောင်
လောကကြီးကို ချော့သိပ်သည်။

သူတို့နှစ်ယောက်
ခြိမ်းခြောက်နေဆဲ၊ ငါ့အသဲတွင်
အက်ကွဲကျေမှု၊ ဒဏ်ရာရလည်း
လောကကြီးက၊ လက်ရှိရင်ချုပ်
ကုသမပေးနိုင်ပြီတည်း။

ဒေါင်းနွယ်ဆွေ

Feeling Crossfire

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

A person named `poverty´,
Flying into a fury,
Threatens the great world.

A person called `prosperity´,
To make it flake out,
Lulls the large world into security.

While the two people
Are threatening, in my heart,
It's broken, crumbles and gets hurt;
But the huge world abjectly
Cannot heal it, actually.

NATIONAL
Entertainment

K30M cash donation initiated for flood victims

MYANMAR theatrical male dancer San Yay Moe will lead a relief effort to donate more than K30 million to flood victims in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region. He will personally contribute K10 million, while the remaining funds will come from donations made by supporters and well-wishers. He highlighted the donation campaign while attending the 16th anniversary special sales event of Htate Tan Shwe Ba Yin Diamond and Jewellery Shop.

He said that he would personally contribute K10 million and organize a group donation for the flood-affected families in Laymyethna. He added that about two days earlier, they had already collected K20.5 million. He also expressed sadness over the disaster and wished for the situation to improve as quickly as possible. With San Yay Moe's initial contribution and donations from fans and other donors, the total amount raised has now exceeded K30.5 million.

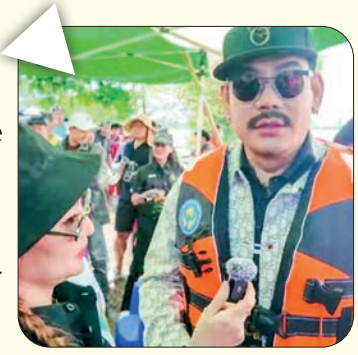
Meanwhile, organizers of San Yay Moe's theatrical performances have warned audiences to be cautious because counterfeit tickets are reportedly being produced and sold fraudulently. – TWA/KTZH

Academy actor donates to Laymyethna flood victims

ACADEMY Yan Aung visited flood-affected villages in Laymyethna Township as part of a relief programme organized by the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization.

Several donors joined him on the humanitarian trip. Yan Aung said they had travelled all the way from Nay Pyi Taw despite being exhausted and brought rice, cooking oil, medicine, salt, coffee, butter, meals, and other essential supplies. He said it was a truly rewarding experience. Actress Nway Nway Chit Phwe also accompanied him on the trip.

Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization said that many members of the film industry were helping flood victims in Laymyethna. Members of the theatrical community, including Phoe Chit, were also participating, while many others were organizing relief efforts through their own groups. He said the film industry always comes together to help whenever a crisis occurs. – Htun Htun/KTZH



Cele to donate for Laymyethna flood victims

ACTRESS Hsaung Eaindray Tun (Ma Ma Hsaung) will travel to Laymyethna Township in Ayeyawady Region on 9 August to donate relief supplies, including her cash donation of K10 million, to flood victims.

As flood victims in the township urgently need food and emergency assistance, she launched the donation drive to provide immediate support. People who wish to contribute alongside Ma Ma Hsaung can donate through KPay by contacting Ma Nilar Aye at 095140789. – TWA/KTZH

Actress, family support relief items for flood victims in Weidaung village

ACTRESS Myat Thu Thu and her family visited Weidaung Village in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, where they donated K10 million to flood victims.

Residents were pleasantly surprised to see the actress arrive in person. One villager said they would never forget that an actress they had only seen on television came all the way to their village to help.

Myat Thu Thu said she felt deeply saddened after seeing the entire village submerged by floodwaters. She encouraged residents not to lose hope despite the destruction of their homes and livelihoods, assuring them that many people were ready to help them overcome the hardship. She also spent time meeting villagers and taking commemorative photographs with them. – Htun Htun/KTZH

Academy actress to undergo medical treatment in Bangkok

ACADEMY Htet Htet Moe Oo has revealed that her thyroid disease has returned and that she will travel to Bangkok, Thailand, for medical treatment.

She shared details about her health while attending the 10th anniversary jewellery event of Rose Jewellery Palace at the Lotte Hotel. he said that her thyroid disease had recurred and she needed to return to Bangkok for treatment. She also explained that she had fatty liver disease and had sought treatment before it became more serious. She added that the thyroid condition was very severe and that she could not sleep at night even after taking sleeping pills.

Despite her health problems, she continues to participate in entertainment work and public events whenever possible. Fans and online users have expressed concern for her health and wished her a speedy recovery. – TWA/KTZH

Actress makes screen comeback

ACTRESS Moe Yu San, who has been away from the entertainment industry for a long period, has made a comeback by taking on a mother role in a television series.

Speaking about her participation in the series titled "Maung Ka Kyama Ko Chit Tha Tae Lar?" (Does He Love Me?), Moe Yu San said, "Although the storyline is good, I was worried that people might see me in the same style as before because my character is quite quiet. Looking at the story as a whole, I feel the role truly suits me. The main reason I decided to act was that I did not want to turn down the first opportunity that came to me."

She also talked about actor Vitamin, who takes the role of her son, "I also have sons, and I imagine that he is my son. I will try my best. This is my very first role as a mother." – TWA/KTZH

11th solo art exhibition held

ARTIST Lwin Lwin Kyaw is currently holding his 11th solo art exhibition titled "IS" (Existence) at Gallery Ohmar.

Based in Mandalay, Lwin Lwin Kyaw has previously held ten successful solo exhibitions and continues creating artworks inspired by the beauty of everyday life.

He said the exhibition explores the peaceful essence of present existence, nature, and emotion. Each painting is more than just a work of art, serving as a bridge connecting the artist's inner world with the emotions of viewers.

A representative from Gallery Ohmar invited art lovers, collectors, and members of the public to visit the exhibition and experience the artworks.

The exhibition runs from 6 to 30 August and is open between 10 am and 5 pm from Wednesday to Sunday. Admission is K5,000 for visitors aged 13 and above. – Htun Htun/KTZH

WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump slams court ruling on ballroom

A court ruling halting construction of a White House ballroom is a "national disgrace", President Donald Trump said Friday.

"This decision, made after much of the work has been done and paid for, is a National Security Threat at the highest level. It is also a National Disgrace," Trump said in a social media post, referring to an underground military bunker and other security features of the new addition. – AFP

Australia proposes new Aboriginal land council

A proposal to establish a new Aboriginal land council in Australia's Northern Territory (NT) could give Yolngu Indigenous communities greater control over their land and economic affairs.

Gumatj clan elder Djawa Yunupingu announced plans for the Dilak Land Council at the Garma Festival, Australia's largest Indigenous gathering, in northeast Arnhem Land last weekend, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported on Saturday. – Xinhua

Disaster relief volunteers enter quake-hit Kumamoto

OVER 1,200 disaster relief volunteers have entered quake-hit Kumamoto Prefecture since municipalities started accepting them this month. Disaster volunteer centres have been set up in 11 municipalities in the southwestern Japan prefecture based on local requests, and 10 of them had begun despatching volunteers by Saturday. These 10 local governments have received more applications than the number of volunteers they solicited. – Kyodo

India, Russia reaffirm commitment to advance defence industrial and technological cooperation

India and Russia held a four-day assembly strengthening defence ties.

INDIA and Russia have renewed their pledge to bolster confidence and accelerate defence industrial and technological collaboration during the fifth India-Russia Army Land System Sub-Group (ALSSG) conference in the national capital. Held from 4 to 7 August under the framework of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC), the four-day assembly sought to fortify the longstanding security ties uniting both countries.

The image shows the Akash surface-to-air missile system, a medium-range defence weapon produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/IBEF**

"Lt Gen Rahul R Singh, DCOAS (CD&S), led the Indian delegation. Maj-Gen Tufekchi Aleksandr, Deputy Head of the Main Armoured Directorate, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, headed the Russian delegation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing mutual trust and advancing defence industrial and technological cooperation," the Indian Army's Additional Directorate-General of Public Information (ADGPI) posted on X. — ANI

Uzbekistan aims to rank among top 50 countries in AI readiness by 2030

UZBEKISTAN aims to join the top 50 countries in the global artificial intelligence (AI) Readiness Index by 2030 and expand the value of its AI-based software products and services to US$1.5 billion, the presidential press service said Friday.

According to the report, Uzbekistan currently ranks 62nd in the international AI readiness ranking. To achieve the target indicators, Uzbekistan plans to expand its computing infrastructure. In addition to the existing cluster worth $24 million, a proposal has been made to allocate an additional $70 million. — Xinhua

Colombia's new president vows to 'defeat narco-terrorists'

COLOMBIAN President Abelardo de la Espriella vowed to restore order and eradicate "narco-terrorists" in a fiery first speech as leader on Friday.

The US-backed millionaire flew by helicopter to address soldiers in a military garrison after his inauguration in the southwestern city of Cali.

His mandate marks a sharp turn right for the Andean nation, with the 48-year-old keen to cozy up to Washington and come down hard on Colombia's patchwork of armed groups.

"There will be no room for maneuvers that undermine the stability of the nation," the president, who adopted a stiff military salute on the campaign trail, told hundreds of soldiers.

He pledged to "relentlessly defeat narco-terrorism", adding that "the option of dialogue is completely exhausted" — a reference to the former administration's spluttering peace talks with guerrillas. — AFP

Etna ash suspends arrivals at Italy's Catania airport

MOUNT Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, belched smoke and ashes in a new eruption on Saturday, forcing the suspension of arrivals at a nearby airport on Sicily.

"Due to Etna's eruptive activity and the associated release of volcanic ash into the atmosphere, the airspace corresponding to the cloud (Sector C1) has been closed," Catania airport said in a statement.

"All arriving flights at Catania Airport are suspended until 12:00 local time (1000 GMT). Departures of aircraft currently at the airport are operating normally," it said.

A plum of ashes rises from a crater of the Mount Etna volcano during an eruption on 30 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

A plume of smoke could be seen billowing from the summit on a webcam on the website of the National Institute for Geophysics and Vulcanology, which monitors Etna.

At 3,324 metres (nearly 11,000 feet), Etna is the tallest active volcano in Europe and has erupted frequently in the past 500,000 years.

Around 12 million passengers transited in 2024 through Catania International Airport, which services the eastern part of Sicily, one of Italy's most popular tourist destinations. — AFP

ECONOMY
WORLD

Holiday exodus begins in Japan, heavier congestion than 2025 predicted

Traffic jams stretching nearly 20 kilometres clogged the Tomei Expressway and the Kanetsu Expressway around noon.

THE summer holiday exodus began in Japan on Saturday, with rail and expressway operators forecasting heavier congestion than last year.

Traffic jams stretching nearly 20 kilometres clogged the Tomei Expressway and the Kanetsu Expressway around noon, according to the Japan Road Traffic Information Centre. Expressway operators have said they expect traffic jams of 10 klometres or longer to occur more frequently during the season than 2025. Six companies of the Japan Railways Group have seen a three per cent increase in reservations during the holiday season from Friday to 16 August.

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows congestion on the Chuo Expressway in Sagamihara, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 8 August 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Airlines have seen a decline in holiday season reservations for both domestic and international flights, with more people choosing to take holidays in September, when a weekend will be followed by three successive national holidays. — Kyodo

Europe readies for solar eclipse dip in power generation

EUROPEAN energy operators are braced for next week's solar eclipse to cause a temporary dip in power generation and have taken steps to keep electricity flowing to businesses and consumers, an industry body said Friday.

While the 12 August eclipse offers a rare spectacle for the general public, it presents a technical challenge for grid operators, which must constantly balance electricity supply and demand to guarantee secure power provision.

The solar eclipse challenges grid operators balancing power supply and demand. **PHOTO: EARTH.ORG**

"Under clear-sky conditions, photovoltaic (PV) output could decrease by up to 9.7 GW across Europe, creating a rapid but predictable change in generation patterns between 19:15-21:30 CEST," said the association representing Europe's power grid operators, ENTSO-E.

It said operators were "ready to ensure the secure and stable operation of the electricity system throughout the event". — AFP

China-Africa Zero Tariff: 100 days in 100 seconds

ON 1 May, China began offering zero-tariff access to products from all 53 African countries with diplomatic ties. What does it mean for Africa?

"For years, Africa clamored, said, look, we want to trade. We do not want to aid," said a Nigerian expert. "And China responded. China is opening wider."

"China has not only spoken for developing countries, it has taken practical steps to foster a whole range of initiatives designed to support the Global South." — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hungary lifts emergency energy saving heat measures

HUNGARY is lifting emergency energy-saving measures introduced during an extreme heatwave and severe drought, after slightly cooler weather eased pressure on the country's power system, Prime Minister Peter Magyar said Friday.

Companies, municipalities, and households are no longer being asked to voluntarily reduce electricity consumption, Magyar announced in a video address.

Under the easing of restrictions, mandatory remote working arrangements in the public sector will end, decorative lighting on public buildings can be turned back on. Freight trains will again be allowed to operate between 5 pm and 10 pm, peak hours for power demand.

Magyar said Hungary has weathered "the most critical days of the summer so far", noting that national energy supplies remain stable and drinking water supplies secure, adding that the country's highest level heat alert will be downgraded from three to two on Saturday. – Xinhua

Amazon finances massive private Texas gas plant

AMAZON confirmed Friday it is financing a massive, private gas power plant in Texas that could become the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

It is the latest example of tech giants going off the grid to get their AI operations online faster.

The news was first reported by market intelligence company Cleanview, which reviewed satellite imagery to connect three data centre construction permits filed this week by Amazon to the gas plant, which is being developed by Pacifico Energy and is known as GW Ranch.

Previously filed permits for the plant show it would have 35 turbines and generate 7.65 gigawatts -- larger than any gas plant currently operating in the United States.

A bigger facility, at 9.2 gigawatts, is planned in Ohio under a public-private partnership involving SoftBank. That plant would connect to the grid as well as power a data centre. — AFP

This image shows an AWS data centre facility in Indiana featuring pink server racks labeled "Project Rainier". **PHOTO: AMAZON**

Italia rail firm FS Italiane orders Hitachi trains for London-Paris service

FS Italiane Group said Friday its Trenitalia railway operating unit will launch high-speed rail services between Paris and London in 2029 and has ordered trains from a Hitachi Ltd subsidiary with a plan to invest two billion euro ($2.3 billion).

Hitachi Rail Ltd will deliver 19 high-speed trains as the Italian railway group aims to expand its operations in France.

Supplied photo shows a train of Trenitalia serving in France. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Eurostar has long dominated high-speed rail services connecting Britain and continental Europe, but other companies are seeking to challenge its dominance.

Trenitalia has already entered the high-speed rail market in France following the deregulation of the sector, operating train services connecting Paris separately with Lyon and Marseille in southern France, as well as Milan in northern Italy. — Kyodo

India natural gas demand recovers in June

LNG import carrier at port terminal. **PHOTO: THE GLOBAL ENERGY ASSOCIATION**

INDIA'S natural gas consumption rebounded near pre-disruption levels in June 2026, driven by a steady recovery in industrial activity across key sectors.

According to a report by Equirus, major consumption segments — including fertilizers, city gas distribution, and industrial power — showed strong operational resilience.

However, elevated international spot prices and intensifying global competition for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) continue to pose challenges for the domestic market.

Analysts note that while demand trends remain encouraging, long-term stability will largely depend on volatile global energy markets and supply chain dynamics.

Meanwhile, India's LNG sourcing has undergone a significant shift. The country imported around seven million tonnes during May-July, up 15 per cent year-on-year, despite a 91 per cent collapse in Qatar volumes.

The US emerged as the largest supplier, followed by Nigeria and Oman, reducing India's immediate dependence on Qatar.

However, Equirus cautioned that stronger Chinese LNG buying is increasing competition for flexible cargoes. — ANI

Beijing eases home purchase limits

BEIJING on Friday introduced a package of measures, including easing housing purchase restrictions for non-local families and increasing housing provident fund loan limits, in a bid to stabilize the property market and better meet residents' housing consumption needs.

These measures, which will take effect on Saturday, were jointly announced in a circular issued by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Planning and Natural Resources, and the Beijing Housing Fund Management Centre.

Under the new policies, the required period for social insurance or individual income tax payment records in Beijing for non-local families to buy homes within the fifth ring road is reduced from two years to one year, the same as the current requirement outside the fifth ring road.

The city has also raised the housing provident fund loan cap for couples who both contribute to the fund. — Xinhua

IMPETUS INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

Call for proof of debts or claims
(Pursuant to Insolvency Rule 9)

Following the approval of the company's voluntary winding-up and the appointment of U Aung Naing Maung Maung as liquida- tor, all persons claiming to be creditors of the above named company are hereby requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence in their possession to the liquidator at the address given below not later than 22 August 2026.

U Aung Naing Maung Maung
Insolvency Practitioner Registration Number : 109774
Liquidator

Liquidator's Office: Uniteam Marine Office Building, 8th Floor, Unit #1, No. 84, Pan Hlaing Street, Sanchaung Township, Yan- gon Region, Myanmar, 11111

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2611N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2611N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2616S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2616S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB631A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB631A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

Major technology and manufacturing firms are financing private natural gas, solar, and small modular nuclear projects to supply critical facilities directly. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

AUGUST 8

Corporate energy strategies pivot towards self-generation

MULTINATIONAL corporations are increasingly bypassing traditional electric power grids to invest directly in on-site power generation facilities. Driven by surging utility tariffs and grid reliability concerns, major technology and manufacturing firms are financing private natural gas, solar, and small modular nuclear projects to supply critical facilities directly.

Energy analysts note that off-grid power solutions allow large enterprises to secure predictable energy pricing and accelerate operational expansions without waiting for utility infrastructure upgrades. High-consumption sectors — particularly artificial intelligence data centres — are leading this strategic pivot to guarantee continuous electricity provision.

However, industry experts caution that widespread corporate grid defection could leave residential consumers bearing a larger share of utility grid maintenance costs, triggering growing regulatory scrutiny nationwide. — AFP

AUGUST 7

Lebanon and Israel agree verification nations

LEBANON and Israel have reached a consensus identifying neutral nations to monitor and verify Hezbollah's disarmament along the southern border. The diplomatic breakthrough follows weeks of mediated negotiations aimed at establishing a secure framework to de-escalate ongoing regional border tensions.

Under the agreed terms, multinational inspection teams will supervise the withdrawal of heavy weaponry and verify military sites in designated zones. Representatives from both governments confirmed that designated international monitors will ensure strict compliance with disarmament protocols to prevent accidental flare-ups.

Officials express optimism that this verification pact marks a critical step towards stabilizing security along the border, though defence analysts note implementation remains contingent on sustained cooperation from all regional factions. — AFP

AUGUST 6

Asian spot LNG surge above $20

ASIAN spot liquefied natural gas prices surged past $20 per million British thermal units due to escalating supply constraints and intense regional competition.

The price spike reflects heightened demand across major North Asian economies seeking to secure flexible cargoes ahead of the upcoming winter season. Unscheduled production disruptions at key liquefaction facilities, alongside delayed shipments caused by maritime bottlenecks, have further tightened spot market availability. European gas storage levels, currently remaining well below historical seasonal averages, are driving intense competition between European and Asian importers for uncommitted supplies.

Energy analysts warn that sustained high spot prices could increase electricity generation costs across import-dependent markets, presenting severe operational challenges for energy-intensive industrial sectors and worsening inflationary pressures. — AFP

AUGUST 5

China rejects Japan's defence white paper

CHINA'S foreign ministry expressed strong disapproval regarding Japan's "Defence of Japan 2026" white paper, lodging formal diplomatic representations against Tokyo.

Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian criticized the document for repeating groundless accusations and promoting a "China threat" narrative while meddling in China's internal affairs. The white paper classifies China as Japan's "greatest strategic challenge", advocating for enhanced military investments alongside cross-border alliances with like-minded nations to address regional activities.

In response, Lin reiterated China's commitment to peaceful development and a defensive military policy. He firmly rejected Japanese commentary concerning Taiwan Province of China, emphasizing that the island is an inalienable part of Chinese territory and strictly an internal matter. Furthermore, Lin reaffirmed China's historic sovereignty claims over Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands, asserting that Japan's statements cannot alter this fact. — Xinhua

AUGUST 4

International trade litigation mounts over tariffs

MULTILATERAL trade litigation has escalated globally as multiple nations file formal legal challenges against recently enacted import tariff policies. Unilateral trade barriers across key consumer goods and manufacturing components have triggered widespread opposition from international trade federations and impacted exporting countries.

Representations lodged with international regulatory tribunals allege that the newly enforced tariff structures violate existing bilateral agreements and distort global supply chain dynamics. Plaintiffs argue the measures impose arbitrary costs on global businesses and threaten stability across developing export markets.

Government representatives defending the tariffs maintain the policies protect vital domestic industries against unfair competition. However, economic analysts warn that prolonged legal disputes could trigger retaliatory trade actions and dampen long-term global market confidence. — AFP

AUGUST 3

South American diplomatic efforts reboot successfully

DIPLOMATIC relations across South America have entered a renewed phase of cooperation following high-level cross-border bilateral talks held over the weekend. Senior ministers from neighbouring nations convened to address long-standing trade disputes, regional security protocols, and shared infrastructure developments along mutual frontiers. The summit concluded with joint commitments to streamline cross-border customs procedures and enhance environmental monitoring along shared river basins. Officials emphasized that re-establishing formal communication channels will foster economic stability and help resolve border migration challenges more efficiently. — AFP

AUGUST 2

Suicide blast targets northwestern Pakistan rally

A SUICIDE bombing near a police station in the Swat district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province resulted in at least 14 deaths and left 26 others injured.

District Police Officer Muhammad Umar reported that the attack occurred as a nearby public peace gathering was wrapping up. The suicide bomber attempted to breach the main entrance of the local police facility but detonated his explosives after being intercepted at the gate by an alert officer.

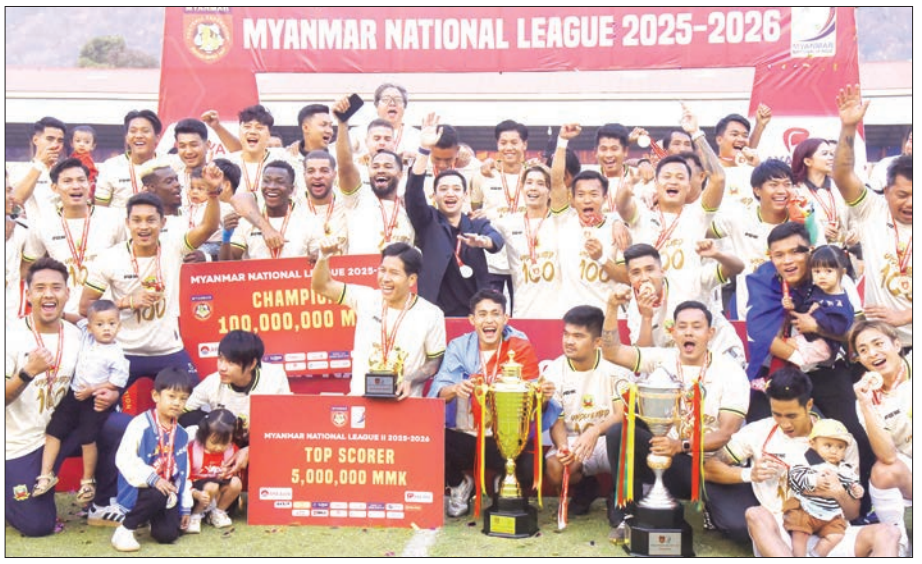
The resulting blast inflicted casualties on both police personnel and civilian attendees leaving the rally. Security forces and medical teams quickly responded to the site to transport victims to neighboring medical facilities. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Shan United to host both ASEAN Club Championship qualifiers

MYANMAR club Shan United will host both legs of their 2026-27 ASEAN Club Championship qualifying tie against Laos' Ezra FC at Yangon's Thuwunna Stadium on 11 and 14 September.

The qualifying round features four clubs from Myanmar, Laos, the Philippines and Brunei, with two teams advancing to the 14-team group stage. Shan United will face Ezra FC, while the Philippines' Manila Digger will meet Brunei's Kasuka FC.



Shan United celebrate the Myanmar National League 2025-2026 championship triumph. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW**

The winner of the Shan United-Ezra FC tie will enter Group B alongside Thailand's Port FC, Malaysia's Johor Darul Ta'zim, Singapore's Lion City Sailors, Vietnam's Cong An Ha Noi, Indonesia's Persis and Cambodia's Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng. Group A will feature Buriram United, Ratchaburi, Kuching City, Tampines Rovers, Ho Chi Minh City, Borneo and the winner of the Manila Digger-Kasuka FC tie.

Shan United have qualified for the ASEAN Club Championship for three consecutive editions since the competition's revival, reaching the group stage in the previous two editions but failing to advance further. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

Inter beats Juventus to stay unbeaten in preseason tour

INTER Milan extended its unbeaten run in preseason with a 2-1 victory over Juventus on Saturday, handing its archrival its first defeat of the offseason.

Inter had drawn 1-1 with AC Milan at the same venue in its previous match, while Juventus entered the game after a 1-0 victory over Chelsea in Hong Kong, China.

The reigning Serie A champion opened the scoring in the 20th minute when Ange-Yoan Bonny cut the ball back from the left for Federico Dimarco, who swept a first-time finish into the net. It was the first goal Juventus had conceded this preseason.

Inter doubled its advantage in the 62nd minute as Pio Esposito set up Andy Diouf, who fired home from inside the area. — Xinhua

11th Myanma Lethwei World Championship set for Yangon

THE 11th Myanma Lethwei World Championship will be held on 9 August at the Theinbyu Traditional Myanma Lethwei Gymnasium in Yangon, featuring title bouts across four weight classes.

The event, organized by the Traditional Myanma Lethwei Federation and Myanmar Martial Arts Group (MMAG), will feature 56-kilogramme, 60-kilogramme, 67-kilogramme and 75-kilogramme bouts for the championship's gold belts.

In the 56-kilogramme bout, Salai Than Khui Hsein (Kyar Ma Naing) will face Hein Tun Aung (Khay Yu Wah), while MLWC gold-belt champion Aye Myee (Aye Kyar Nyo) will meet Than Zin (Python Tawwin Ayeya) in the 60-kilogramme class.

In the 67-kilogramme class, MLWC gold medallist Naing Win Tun (Nine Lethwei) will take on Kambya Shar (Zar Htet Meiktila), while Tun Min Aung (Top One) will face MLWC gold medallist Yarman (Yoeya Swanar) in the 75-kilogramme class.

Other four-round bouts will feature Daung Maik Thwe (Nine Lethwei) against Saw Ruby (YMA) in the 53-kilogramme class and Kayin Flag winner Aung Ko Latt (Ray) against Saw Htein Lin (555 Sports) in the 65-kilogramme class.

The championship, mainly sponsored by Myanmar Economic Corporation, will begin at 2 pm on 9 August. — Bala/KZL

A press briefing on the 11th Myanma Lethwei World Championship is underway in Yangon.

Four ministries advance in inter-ministry futsal knockouts

THE second-round knockout matches of the 2026 Inter-Ministry Futsal Tournament continued at Wunna Theikdhi Futsal Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, with four teams securing wins.

The Ministry of Defence beat the Ministry of Transport 7-2, while the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development edged the Ministry of Commerce 2-1. The Ministry of Finance and Revenue defeated the Ministry of Border Affairs 5-1, and the Ministry of Sports beat the Office of the Union Supreme Court 8-2.

This image captures the match between the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development and the Ministry of Commerce.

Four more knockout matches are scheduled for 9 August, including Ministry of Religious Affairs versus Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs versus Ministry of Digital Development and Communications. The tournament is open to spectators free of charge. — MNA/KZL

Tiny Light, Big Dream: The Japanese Designer Harvesting Power from the Earth

Japanese designer Satoshi Nakagawa harvests clean electrical energy using soil compost.

Soil powered lights offer sustainable eco friendly living solutions for off grid communities. **PHOTO: AFP**

Perched halfway up a hill in the quiet town of Hitachi-ota, a glass-encased laboratory glows softly against the night sky. The magical scene isn't powered by the conventional electrical grid, but by the very earth beneath our feet. Inside the "Ku-An" test lab, 800 sparkling LEDs are illuminated using electricity harvested directly from 1,500 wooden boxes filled with soil and compost.

The mind behind this bioluminescent marvel is 72-year-old designer and engineer Satoshi Nakagawa. As chief executive of Tripod Design, Nakagawa has spent years pioneering "micropower collection" (MPC), a process inspired by Alessandro Volta's 1799 voltaic pile battery. By inserting zinc and copper electrodes into moist organic matter, the system draws steady, gentle currents of electricity from the surrounding environment. Nearby, his newer project, "Lu-An", uses 2,000 soil-filled cylinders to generate 100 watts of continuous power — enough to run everyday household appliances like a rice cooker.

While critics point out that soil energy yields far less power than standard batteries, Nakagawa sees vast potential for everyday lifestyle applications. Off-grid systems can comfortably power remote agricultural sensors, flood warning alarms, or emergency lights during natural disasters. Because the technology relies solely on natural soil moisture, it operates completely weather-independent and carbon-free, unlike traditional solar or wind setups. Nakagawa has even transformed the concept into whimsical art installations featuring glowing rods that sway in the dark grass like fireflies. — AFP

Seoul's Heatwave Divides Rich and Poor in Upmarket Gangnam

Affluent Gangnam residents easily escape extreme heat inside air conditioned homes.

Pedestrians stand under the shade of a large umbrella at Gangnam district in Seoul on 4 August 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

IN Seoul's ultra-glamorous Gangnam district, made famous globally by K-pop pop culture, the luxury lifestyle is defined by air-conditioned comfort. As temperatures soar past a scorching 42°C, affluent residents escape the summer heat inside multi-million-dollar high-rises, sipping iced drinks and enjoying designer boutiques. Yet, right in the shadow of these gleaming skyscrapers lies Guryong Village, a makeshift settlement where the summer heat has become a life-threatening crisis.

For the roughly 160 households living in Guryong's crude wooden and tarpaulin shacks, escaping the oppressive heat is nearly impossible. Indoor temperatures often surpass 40°C, turning modest dwellings into unbearable heat traps. Many elderly residents, unable to afford basic air conditioning or proper electricity, rely on tiny battery-powered fans or seek respite under outdoor tarps.

While South Korea experiences economic growth driven by high-tech industries, the widening wealth gap highlights stark social inequalities. Government emergency initiatives, including cooling centres and distributed appliances, offer brief relief against climate extremes. Ultimately, access to simple cooling technology reveals the deep divide between high-life luxury and pure survival in modern Seoul. — AFP

Finding Balance: Inside Thailand's Spiritual Sober Summer

AS the three-month Buddhist Lent period of Khao Phansa begins, millions of Thais are choosing spiritual reflection over happy hour. Blending wellness trends with ancient faith, the nation's annual "dry season" campaign invites drinkers to pledge temporary abstinence at local temples, turning a public health push into a deeply personal spiritual journey.

For 42-year-old Wassana Nak-umma, taking the pledge in Samut Sakhon was a life-changing turning point. Once a heavy drinker, she found that committing to three sober months before a sacred Buddha image gave her the mental discipline she desperately needed. Now participating for her third year, Wassana has successfully transformed her relationship with alcohol into one of mindful moderation. — AFP

Living with the Blaze: How Canadians Are Adapting to the New Normal

Faced with another scorched summer, Canada is trying to limit devastating annual forest fire damage. **PHOTO: TERENCE BURKE/UNSPLASH**

Federal programmes now fund fleet expansion and vegetation clearing around high risk vulnerable communities.

AS wildfire season turns skies a smoky haze across the country, Canadians are finding that summer now comes with an unwelcome ritual: watching horizons burn and tracking air quality maps. Across millions of scorched hectares, a stark reality is setting in that changing climate conditions are making intense blazes an inevitable part of North American life.

In response, national defence strategies are getting a serious upgrade. Ottawa recently allocated $317 million to build a fast-response aerial fleet, dispatching specialized water bombers to hot spots on short notice. Meanwhile, a $150 million initiative is helping communities clear dry vegetation, while provincial fire agencies have expanded frontline staffing by up to 40 per cent. — AFP