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

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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DIPLOMACY

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Receives Belaya Rus Party Chairperson



Chairperson Ms Olga Chemodanova of the Belaya Rus Party of Belarus calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Ms Olga Chemodanova, Chairperson of the Belaya Rus Party of the Republic of Belarus, who paid an observation visit to the Hluttaw at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building yesterday afternoon.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker discussed matters on the structure and functions of the Hluttaw, the establishment of committees, and the election of representatives. He elaborated on the Hluttaw's ongoing efforts to address the public's needs through parliamentary questions and motions concerning regional development and local issues across constituencies. Furthermore,

SEE PAGE 3

DIPLOMACY

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Receives Belarusian Party Delegation



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe meets Ms Olga Chemodanova, Chairperson of the Belaya Rus Party of Belarus, in Nay Pyi Taw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe received a delegation led by Ms Olga Chemodanova, Chairperson of the Belaya Rus Party of Belarus, at the Amyotha Hluttaw Reception Hall in the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on strengthening relations between the legislatures of Myanmar and Belarus to promote closer ties between the peoples of both countries. They also discussed enhancing mutual trust and understanding, expanding cooperation based on mutual respect, promoting political dialogue, and economic and social cooperation between the two nations.

SEE PAGE 3

Myanmar's GW-11 rice commands premium prices in Philippines



Export rice bags are seen neatly stacked at the warehouse.

MYANMAR'S GW-11 rice is currently fetching the highest price among rice-exporting countries supplying the Philippines, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Vietnam and Thailand, like Myanmar, are also exporting rice to the Philippines. However, Myanmar is receiving the highest price among the rice-exporting countries because of strong demand for its GW-11 variety. The strong demand is attributed not so much to rice milling technology as to the quality of the rice variety itself. Myanmar rice is also exported to the Netherlands, Spain, China, Europe, Africa and some South-East Asian countries.

SEE PAGE 6

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Guangxi eye robust trade, AI, and cultural ties



Myanmar Consul-General Daw Khaing Su Linn in Nanning meets Mr Wei Ran, Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Office of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

MYANMAR and China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region discussed matters on expanding cooperation in economic and trade ties, education, cultural exchanges, and artificial intelligence (AI) technology, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Consul-General Daw Khaing Su Linn from the Myanmar Consulate-General in Nanning met Mr Wei Ran, Director-General of the Guangxi Foreign Affairs Office, on 13 August at the Guangxi Foreign Affairs Office. The meeting discussed strengthening bilateral trade, fostering cultural exchange programmes, offering educational scholarships, and exploring joint initiatives in modern technology sectors including AI.

The two sides also emphasized arrangements for a Myanmar delegation to attend the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS), which will be held in Nanning in September 2026. — ASH/KK



This photo features officials inspecting booster chlorination operations across the Yangon Region water supply network.

YCDC Systematically Chlorinates Water Supply Network

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has intensified efforts to chlorinate the city's water supply network to protect public health and prevent the spread of diarrhoeal diseases, officials from the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) confirmed.

SEE PAGE 4

NATIONAL

Sitagu Sayadaw inspects maintenance work at Moscow Shwezigon Pagoda

THE Sitagu Sayadaw inspected the maintenance work at the historic Moscow Shwezigon, the first-ever pagoda in Russia built in authentic traditional Myanmar architecture.

To ensure the long-term durability and preservation of the pagoda – located within the Ethno-World (Etnomir) cultural park in the Bobrovsky District of Kaluga Region, Russia – the Sitagu Sayadaw visited the pagoda precinct yesterday to oversee the necessary maintenance operations.



The Sitagu Sayadaw inspecting maintenance work at the Moscow Shwezigon Pagoda.

Accompanied by responsible officials, the Sayadaw toured the pagoda grounds to assess its structural integrity, identify areas vulnerable to weather damage, and evaluate the platform and other structural needs. He provided guidance on issues related to long-lasting renovation and reinforcement.

Additionally, the Sayadaw observed the displays inside the Ethno-World Museum, including the statue of the Tipiṭakadhara Mingun Sayadaw as well as figures of prominent personalities from Asian and Western countries.

The Moscow Shwezigon Pagoda is a historic landmark built in Russia utilizing genuine traditional Myanmar craftsmanship, serving as a symbol of religious and cultural friendship between Myanmar and Russia. In accordance with the Sayadaw's guidance, necessary restoration and maintenance works will proceed as quickly as possible. — MT/ZN

Weather

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 45

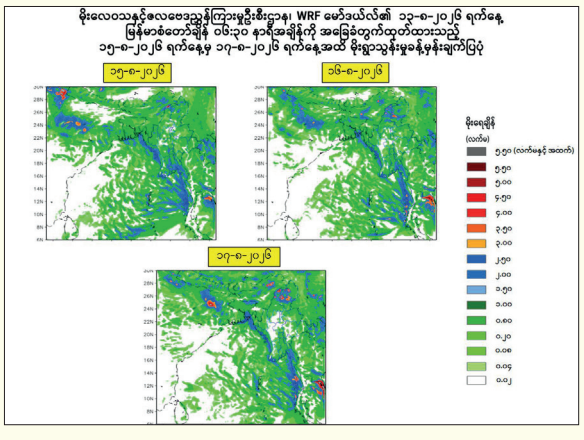
Issued at 8 pm MST on 14 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the Depression over the interior region of Gangetic 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, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Bago, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States from today morning to 16 August 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the Depression over the interior region of Gangetic West Bengal, India, and the strong development of the convective clouds, such as the 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



Depression News No 2 2026

Issued at 7 pm MST on 14 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Depression over the Gangetic West Bengal, India has moved west-northwestwards and reached interior region of Gangetic West Bengal. It is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards and across to the interior region of Gangetic West Bengal and Jharkhand, India, during the next 24 hours. — DMH

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Payment Rates Set for Online Digital Smart Meter Applications

1. It has been announced on Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) and in state-owned newspapers that, starting from 15 August 2026, the people who wish to use electricity but do not yet have a meter can apply through the website to the head office to lease new digital smart meters from the government for household, commercial, or industrial use. The initiative aims to facilitate the quick acquisition of meters, save time and expenses, and eliminate the need for intermediaries, brokers, and staff involvement.
2. It is hereby announced that applicants for new digital smart meters who meet the department's requirements and apply via the website will be required to pay the prescribed fees, including supervision, wiring, and connection fees, at the existing rates, which remain unchanged, as specified below:
   (a) Household Meter – K250,000
   (b) Household Power Meter (10 kW) –K1,000,000
   (c) Household Power Meter (20 kW) –K1,230,000
   (d) Household Power Meter (30 kW) –K1,460,000
   (e) Industrial Power Meter (10 kW) –K1,077,500
   (f) Industrial Power Meter (20 kW) –K1,382,500
   (g) Industrial Power Meter (30 kW) –K1,687,500
3. Further enquiries can be made through the following contact numbers:
   (a) Ministry of Electricity and Energy (Head Office) – 067 3410460
   (b) Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) – 1717
   (c) Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation (MESC) – 1616, (02 4039330, 02 4073666, 02 4072618
   (d) Remaining Regions and States – 067 3410407, (09 682232600, 09 665432575)

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

MRTV to air Hyundai ASEAN Championship knockout matches live

MRTV will broadcast the semifinal and final matches of the Hyundai ASEAN Championship men's football tournament live.

The semifinal first legs will see Singapore face Thailand at the Singapore National Stadium at 7:30 pm on 15 August 2026, followed by Malaysia against Vietnam at the Malaysia National Stadium at 7:30 pm on 16 August.

The second legs will be played between Thailand and Singapore at the Thailand National Stadium at 7:30 pm on 18 August, and Vietnam and Malaysia at the Vietnam National Stadium at 7:30 pm on 19 August.

The final will be played over two legs on 22 and 26 August, with both matches kicking off at 7:30 pm.

All matches will be broadcast live on MRTV Sports Channel and MRTV Entertainment Channel. — MNA/ KZL

NATIONAL

Press Statement on Myanmar's ongoing efforts on repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State

GLOBAL news media have presented different accounts of displaced persons from Rakhine State, and "the boat people" migrating to other countries, as well as those living in camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. It is observed that these reports, publications, and broadcasts are one-sided and based on misinformation and disinformation. Therefore, Myanmar wishes to clarify the true account of displaced persons from Rakhine State as follows:

The reality on the ground regarding displaced persons from northern Rakhine State was that in October and November 2016 and in August 2017, the ARSA terrorist group carried out simultaneous and coordinated attacks on police outposts and battalions in northern Rakhine State. In addition, the terrorist group carried out killings of civil servants and local ethnic people. In a defensive response, the Tatmadaw had to undertake counter-terrorism measures. As a result of the threats and attacks by the ARSA terrorist group, local ethnic people fled to other towns and villages, while a large number of Bengalis crossed over to Bangladesh.

According to the records, more than 740,000 Bengalis resided in Buthidaung, Maungtaw and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State before the ARSA terrorist attacks. Following the incidents, more than 200,000 Bengalis remained in these areas, whereas more than 540,000 Bengalis fled to Bangladesh. Based on these figures, the narrative referring to more than one million displaced persons from Rakhine State has been found to be inaccurate.

In order to repatriate the displaced persons, Myanmar concluded three bilateral agreements with Bangladesh within two months. In accordance with these agreements, Myanmar made necessary arrangements to receive the displaced persons on three occasions – on 23 January 2018 as agreed in the Arrangement, on 15 November 2018 as agreed at the Joint Working Group meeting, and on 22 August 2019 following notification from China and Bangladesh. However, none of the displaced persons returned to Myanmar on the three occasions.

Of the list of 828,824 displaced persons provided by Bangladesh, Myanmar had verified 426,545 individuals as of 31 July 2026. Among those verified, 308,797 individuals were found to be former residents of Rakhine State, whereas 4,241 individuals were found to have been involved in terrorist activities, while the data of 113,507 individuals could not be verified.

In light of the figures mentioned above, Myanmar expresses its concern over allegations that all individuals residing in the camps in Bangladesh are from Myanmar. Myanmar categorically rejects the expression and allegations that "the boat people" and other persons who have arrived in other countries, using a nomenclature that falsely claims an ethnic identity which has never existed in Myanmar, originated from Myanmar.

Due to the immigration checks conducted in 1978, 1991 and 1992, some Bengalis from Rakhine State fled to Bangladesh. However, as per bilateral agreements between the two countries, Myanmar had successfully received 186,968 displaced persons between 1978 and 1979, and 236,495 displaced persons between 1992 and 2005.

Myanmar has made every effort with genuine goodwill for the expeditious repatriation of verified displaced persons who had resided in Rakhine State. In preparation for receiving them under a Pilot Project, Myanmar organized one "Come-and-See" visit to Rakhine State, two "Go-and-Talk" visits to Bangladesh, two visits by Myanmar delegations to Bangladesh for an in-person verification process and two diplomatic tours to observe the preparations for the Pilot Project.

In the spirit of good neighbourliness, Myanmar will continue to cooperate with Bangladesh to facilitate the voluntary return of verified displaced persons in a safe and dignified manner. The repatriation of displaced persons is a matter to be resolved between the two countries. Therefore, Myanmar is deeply displeased with the wrong portrayal of the issue as an international issue. Myanmar will continue to cooperate constructively with friendly countries with regard to the repatriation of displaced persons.

Myanmar will receive the displaced persons who have been verified as former residents of Rakhine State when the security situation in Rakhine State becomes more stable.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 15 August 2026

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Receives ...

FROM PAGE 1

he highlighted the strong friendship and bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and the Republic of Belarus, as well as future cooperation with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Ms Olga Chemodanova said that the Republic of Belarus is a reliable friend of Myanmar and stated that her party would assist in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. Following the discussions, she signed the guestbook.

Also present at the meeting were Dr Pwint San, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee, U Hla Thein, spokesperson for the Union Solidarity and Development Party, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA/TH

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Receives ...

FROM PAGE 1

Also attending the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, the chairpersons of the International Relations Committee and the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, the chairperson and secretary of the Myanmar-Belarus Parliamentary Friendship Association, and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. — MNA/ST

MIC approves 14 new investment projects

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) approved 14 new investment projects that create over 3,300 jobs yesterday.



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo presides over the fifth meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting approved two new foreign investment projects from the capital increase of ongoing investments and six new local investment projects in the industry, two new local investment projects in the service, three new local investment projects in the electricity sector and one new local investment project in the housing sector. The investment amount of these businesses is US$140.474 million and K1,178,731.925 million, which can create 3,336 job opportunities.

The businesses included fuel retailing, development, construction, sale and rental of affordable housing, construction of solar power plants for electricity generation and sale, assembly, manufacturing and sale of cargo motor vehicles under the SKD system, assembly, manufacturing, distribution and sale of electric two- and three-wheel motorcycles under the SKD system, assembly, manufacturing, distribution and sale of various types of motor vehicles, assembly, manufacturing and sale of various types of tractors for agricultural use, healthcare services, manufacturing and sale of various consumer electrical appliances, manufacturing of various plastic sheets and plastic bottles under the CMP system, manufacturing of various types of footwear, and food production.

As of the end of July 2026, among the 48 foreign countries, Singapore, China, and Hong Kong SAR are taking a leading role with the largest foreign investments in the country. Of the 12 sectors, the electricity sector accounts for 28.06 per cent by drawing the most significant investments, followed by the oil and natural gas sector at 20.41 per cent and the industrial sector at 15.47 per cent.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approves investment project proposals from locals and overseas, and provides services to the existing investors under the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Myanmar and Belarus discuss enhancing tourism cooperation

PROMOTION tourism cooperation, mutual travel and exchanging information between Myanmar and Belarus, photos and videos about the two countries' tourist destinations were discussed during a meeting between Union Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Maung Myint and a delegation led by Ms Olga Chemodanova, Chairperson of the Belaya Rus Party of the Republic of Belarus.



Union Minister U Maung Myint holds talks with Chair Ms Olga Chemodanova of the Belaya Rus Party of Belarus and her delegation in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Belarusian representatives addressed the need to disseminate information to make the Belarusian more aware of Myanmar's natural beauties, coastal areas and other prominent tourist destinations, especially since the two countries have achieved visa-free travel as well as the Minsk-Yangon direct flight will make it easier for Belarusian tourists to visit Myanmar and tour operators will be able to organize tours more effectively.

Similarly, the Union minister emphasized to promote tourism, Myanmar also offers mountaineering tours, having many places with adventure tourism and unique travel experiences can be had, such as the Inlay Lake region. Myanmar Embassy in Belarus has to distribute videos and photos depicting Myanmar's famous tourist attractions, culture, and natural beauty to the Belarusian while tour operators to promote their awareness.

Afterwards, the artistic staff from the Department of fine Arts performed the "Myitta Shwesaung Dhammaratha Zatdawgyi" in full costume at the office of Training Theatre. Afterwards, the officials honoured the artists who participated in the performance with giving the suggestions. — MNA/MKKS

AYA Bank, PRO 1 Global sign MoU for Agent Banking Partnership

TO provide greater convenience for customers through banking and digital services accessible via AYA Bank's authorized agents, AYA Bank and PRO 1 Global Company Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for an Agent Banking Partnership.



An MoU signing ceremony between AYA Bank and PRO 1 Global Company Limited.

AYA Bank announced on 13 August that the signing ceremony took place at the Pathein Hall of the AYA Bank Head Office in Yangon.

Through this partnership, all AYA Bank service users will be able to access banking services at three PRO 1 Global branches: the Kyimyindine and the East Dagon branches in Yangon, and the Tanpawady branch in Mandalay. At the same time, shoppers at PRO 1 will be able to access banking services conveniently in one place while shopping.

AYA Agent Banking allows the public to securely carry out daily financial services, such as cash deposits, withdrawals, transfers, and other services, at any AYA Agent without visiting branches as before.

The ceremony was attended by AYA Bank Chief Executive Officer Daw Thazin Aung, Chief Business Officer U Nay Lin Htut, and Chief Operating Officer U Zaw Tun Naing, along with PRO 1 Global Managing Director Daw Aye Aye Han, Chief Financial Officer Mr Teerapong Thongmuean, and other officials. — MT/ZN

Thayawady's completed concrete wheel-track road inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection of a completed concrete wheel-track road in Yaytaik Village, Thayawady Township yesterday.

Thayawady Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lay Lay Lwin and project engineers inspected the completed 465-foot-long, three-foot-wide and six-inch-thick concrete wheel-track road in the village. She met local communities, discussed measures for collective maintenance to ensure long-term durability, and provided necessary coordination for matters raised by the villagers.

The concrete wheel track road was constructed using K16 million in interest income from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project, with technical assistance from the township department. Residents themselves carried out the construction work, which commenced in the third week of July. The project is now 100 per cent complete. — Karan (Rural)



This image displays the completed concrete wheel-track road in Thayawady Township.

YCDC Systematically ...

FROM PAGE 1

The accelerated chlorination campaign, which began on 12 August, involves the systematic injection of chlorine disinfectant into distribution pipelines serving selected townships across the city. The measure is intended to eliminate harmful bacteria and other waterborne pathogens.

"The disinfectant is being added systematically in precise, prescribed dosages. Because this is not done regularly, residents may be concerned about the unfamiliar smell," an official from the Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) said.

Chlorine is a disinfectant approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is effective in eliminating pathogens in water. Systematic measures are being implemented to ensure that the public has access to clean and safe drinking water. — ASH/TH

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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

Kyauktan's MSY Village Project oriented; committee formed



THE Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project introduction and committee formation ceremony was held at the monastery in Shwepyauk Village, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region, on the morning of 13 August. The event was organized by the Kyauktan Township Department of Rural Development (DRD).

Township Head U Htun Win Latt of the DRD explained the objectives and benefits of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. He also highlighted the importance of safeguarding the project funds to ensure that the revolving fund remains sustainable and maintaining systematic financial records. He emphasized the need to establish a village-level project implementation committee.

Project staff explained the rules and regulations to be followed in forming the project committee, as well as its duties, responsibilities, and authorities. They also provided detailed information on the responsibilities of villagers and the procedures to be undertaken at the village level.

Following the discussions, the village elders and local communities in attendance selected and formed a seven-member project implementation committee through a consensus-based process. The committee members will be responsible for effectively implementing village development activities under the project.

Kyauktan Township has been implementing the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project to support income-generating activities for rural households in 44 villages from the 2014-2015 financial year through the 2026-2027 financial year.

Interest generated from the project funds has also been utilized for village development activities, contributing to improvements in the socio-economic conditions and living standards of rural communities. — Myo Myo (DRD)

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.

Renovation continues for damaged offices in Falam, Tiddim, Tonzang

UNDER the supervision of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, local companies performed renovation work on departmental office buildings in Falam district and township that were damaged by the violence.



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo and officials are pictured during their inspection tour in Falam, Chin State.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo, along with the minister for Chin State Security and Border Affairs and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the renovation work yesterday.

Similarly, Tiddim Township Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee Chair U Zaw Naing Oo and committee members inspected the damage to the four-room, two-storey building of the Township Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Department's staff housing, the Auto-Exchange of the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and the drain cleaning work of Dr Vungh Suan Thang Road in Myoma Ward as well as the construction of a retaining wall on the Lintong Road and Luisu Road.

Additionally, the secretary of the Tonzang Township Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the partially damaged departmental buildings, such as the renovation of the Township General Administration Department's new office, the renovation of the Youth Training School's student dormitory, and the renovation work of the four-room staff housing complex of the electricity office. — MNA/MKKS

Flood recovery efforts press on across 7 Ayeyawady townships



This image depicts ongoing recovery efforts in Ayeyawady Region.

TO date, five downtown wards of Laymyethna Township, 124 inner-city roads and surrounding villages, 37 villages of Hinthada Township, four wards of Yekyi Township and 27 surrounding villages, two downtown wards of Ngathainggyoung Township, two downtown wards of Kyonpyaw Township and nine surrounding villages, two downtown wards of Kyaunggon and two villages, a total of 15 downtown wards and 199 villages have been flooded due to heavy rain and river erosion, the Ngawun River overflowed the riverbed and overflowed on the evening of 30 July 2026.

Therefore, the Tatmadaw personnel from South-West Command, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department, social relief groups, charitable organizations, and local ethnic groups have jointly opened flood relief camps with providing search and rescue services to flood victims, delivered food, provided health care, and installed geobags, sandbags, and steel sheet piles to protect the floodwaters entering.

The Tatmadaw officials from the South-West Command are visiting these activities and coordinating as needed. — MNA/MKKS

MPMDMA donates for flood victims

THE Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturers Association donated medicines and medical supplies worth over K370 million, along with K71 million in cash, to the Ministry of Health yesterday for healthcare services in flood-affected areas and assistance to flood-affected health workers.

The donations were handed over by representatives of member companies at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw and received by Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win and ministry officials. — MNA/KTZH



NATIONAL

Myanmar's GW-11 rice commands premium prices in Philippines



This image depicts neatly stacked export rice sacks.

FROM PAGE 1

"Farmers are paying close attention to cultivation as paddy prices are currently favourable. As for rice exports, we are exporting to the Philippines, where demand is strong. We have exported nearly 800,000 tonnes within four months. Among the countries exporting rice to the Philippines, Myanmar is receiving the highest price. It is an unprecedentedly high price. They are purchasing GW-11 rice because they prefer its quality and variety for consumption. Therefore, as in Ayeyawady Region, it is necessary to cultivate GW-11 separately in Mandalay and continue maintaining its quality. At present, higher prices are being offered when the rice is sold separately. The fact that Myanmar rice is in stronger demand than rice from other exporting countries is also a source of satisfaction and pride for the country," said U Sai Kyaw, a member of the Management Committee of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

GW-11 rice from Myanmar is being consumed in the Philippines and has become a popular variety among consumers. As consumers have increasingly accepted and preferred the variety over other imported rice, GW-11 was initially cultivated, produced and exported exclusively from Ayeyawady Region, after which demand increased due to its popularity. GW-11 rice was exported to China in 2024, where it was well received, and exports have continued annually. In 2026, exports to the Philippines began, and strong consumer preference has resulted in buyers offering good prices and increasing their orders, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

For GW-11 rice exported to the Philippines, Thailand receives US$480 per tonne, while Myanmar receives US$580 per tonne. From April to August this year, Myanmar has exported about 800,000 tonnes of rice, including varieties from the Aemahta group, with broken rice being exported mainly to Belgium. The Philippines is preparing to purchase 5 million tonnes of rice, while Myanmar has already exported about 800,000 tonnes and continues to ship rice to the country.

As a summer paddy variety, GW-11 produces about 150 to 200 baskets per acre. It is cultivated in Ayeyawady Region, Yangon, Bago, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, and is a high-yielding variety. About 10 per cent of its cultivation takes place during the monsoon season, while about 80 per cent is cultivated during the summer season.

When GW-11 rice from Ayeyawady Region was first exported to the Philippines this year, it fetched a moderate price. However, farmers in Mandalay Region are now receiving better prices due to strong demand. As overseas demand remains high and companies are competing to export the rice, some exporters who have already signed contracts at the original price are reportedly having to purchase rice at higher prices and export it at lower margins. This is because they need to spend about a month collecting rice after receiving overseas orders, during which the price of a bag of rice has been rising by about K5,000 per week.

Among South-East Asian countries, Myanmar is currently receiving a higher price than Thailand for its rice exports. The high price of Myanmar's GW-11 rice is attributed not to rice processing capacity but to the quality of the variety and favourable soil and water conditions that contribute to its quality. — Nyein Thu (MNA) KTZH

Yenangyoung's Village Project activities inspected



This image shows an agricultural project in Yenangyoung Township.

OFFICIALS conducted a field inspection this morning of the implementation status of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project activities carried out in South Bukyaung Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region, under the Department of Rural Development of Yenangyoung Township, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Officials spected the implementation of project activities in South Bukyaung Village using Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Geen) Village Project funds amounting to K46.62 million.

In South Bukyaung, to enable households to undertake income-generating businesses using the project funds, loans were provided to a total of 167 members, comprising 145 persons engaged in agricultural activities with K37.82 million, 19 persons engaged in livestock breeding with K7.6 million, and three persons engaged in trading businesses with K1.2 million. Thus, a total of K46.62 million was provided as the revolving fund of the Emerald Green Village Project. — Naw Lu (DRD)

Kangyidaunt Rural Development Dept inspects completed 400V power line installation

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region, inspected the 100 per cent completion of a 400-volt power line installation project in Thabawngu Village yesterday.

Kangyidaunt Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thinzar Nyunt and officials inspected the newly installed 1,000-foot-long 400-volt power line. She met members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Committee and urged them to maintain the electrical infrastructure to ensure its long-term durability.

The power line project was executed using K12 million from the accumulated interest of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project revolving fund and K2.2 million contributed by local communities, supported by technical assistance from the Township Electricity Distribution Enterprise. The successful installation now provides electricity to 12,307 residents in the village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials inspect the completed power line in Kangyidaunt Township.

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Ports to auction seized illicit imports

THE Auction Sales Committee of Myanma Port Authority will sell goods imported without prior authorization at ports and airports through an open-tender auction on 20 August.

Two containers of goods seized at the AWPT port will be auctioned off in their exact state at 1 pm on 20 August.

Bidding forms and terms and conditions are available by 18 August at the Myanma Port Authority's Central Store Department located on Strand Road near the Toll Gate, Concrete Road, west of Botahtaung Pagoda, Botahtaung Township. Individuals can enquire about details at the department in person. — NN/KK

Customs to auction seized consumer goods, general items

THE Customs Department will auction off consumer goods and general merchandise seized under customs laws through competitive bidding at 10 am on 28 August at the Customs Training School Hall, located at 205/211, between 49th and 50th Streets, Maha Bandoola Road, Botahtaung Township.

Auction forms, including rules and the list of items, will be sold from 18 to 20 August at K10,000 per set. Security deposits will also be accepted during this period.

The goods will be available for public inspection from 21 to 27 August from 10 am to 4 pm, for those who have placed a security deposit.

Individuals can enquire about details at the Supply and Transport Branch, Customs (Warehouse), located on Concrete Strand Road, Saw Yan Paing West Ward, Ahlon Township, at 09 5165241 or 09 5506355, according to the Secretary of the Auction Committee. — NN/KK

Free pattern-making training for CMP factories offered on 24-29 Aug

A free training on pattern-making for Cutting-Making-Packaging garment factories will be held from 24 to 29 August (9 am to 5 pm) at the Myanmar Garment Human Resources Development Centre (MGHRDC), jointly organized by the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) and the China Textile & Garment Association (CTGA).

The course aims to help garment factory workers apply pattern-making techniques in real production lines and strengthen practical skills at the factory.

Experienced instructors from China will share knowledge on current pattern-making processes, techniques, and practical skills aligned with production needs. Interested individuals can register on 19 August by dialling 09 940858350 or 09 795405583. — NN/KK

YGN palm oil wholesale reference price set at K7,202 per viss

THE wholesale reference price of palm oil set for the Yangon market slightly decreased to K7,202 per viss this week ending 20 August, up from K7,208 per viss during the week ending 13 August, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.


Cooking oil bottles are seen on the shelf inside the supercentre.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce has informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers. The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 14 August 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,647.00~3669.00	557.00~558.70	125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9,179, 058.24	2,102,094.87	2,789,556.00	-

THE foreign currency volume traded in the market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, car/motorcycle spare parts, construction materials, fertilizers, animal feed and materials, and agricultural inputs. The revenue from the CMP sector was sold to the edible oil sector and the CMP sector. — MNA

Myanmar Business Trade Show, Travel Expo 2026 set for 4 Sept

MYANMAR Business Trade Show & Travel Expo 2026 will take place on 4 September at the Pacific Ballroom of Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon, under the theme of From Visit Myanmar Year 1996 to Visit Myanmar Year 2026.

This expo aims to promote Myanmar's business and tourism sectors on the international stage, organized by STP Event Management. This expo will feature numerous exhibition booths and special promotions.

Ambassadors, international delegates, top local and foreign business executives, invited VVIPs, media representatives, and well-known celebrities and influencers are expected to attend the expo.



A promotional poster for the Myanmar Business Trade Show & Travel Expo 2026.



A preview of the traditional Myanmar dance performance to be presented by Htet Arkar's Loka Pala Production.

Traditional Myanmar dance performances presented by Htet Arkar's Loka Pala Production, and a special performance by Project K, combining traditional dance with contemporary tourism-themed styles, will be presented. Pre-event promotions are currently running on LED billboards at Junction City. — TWA/KK

Generate electricity while produce electrical professionals

Ensuring sufficient electricity supply is very important for the development of the country and for improving the socioeconomic living standards of the people. Currently, the State Government is implementing various projects to generate electricity.

Currently, the State Government is implementing electricity generation projects using solar energy, hydropower, natural gas and coal. In addition, LNG-fired power plant projects have been implemented to address electricity demand in the short term. In particular, the 1,390-megawatt Mee Lin Gyaing LNG power plant is currently under construction in the Ayeyawady Region.

When considering appropriate electricity generation based on domestic electricity and energy resources, solar energy is particularly suitable for the country. Due to Myanmar's geographical location near the equator, the country receives abundant sunlight throughout the year and is among the countries with the greatest potential for solar power generation in South-East Asia. Therefore, the government is encouraging relevant departments and organizations, private businesses, and hotel operators to install and use renewable self-sufficient solar power systems that help reduce environmental impacts.

Only then will the country be able to obtain not only electricity but also develop the capacity to effectively utilize advanced technologies for the benefit of the nation and its people. These projects will help produce skilled technicians and professionals who can best fulfil their national responsibilities in long-term electricity generation and enable the implementation of more advanced projects for the country.

In addition, efforts must continue to ensure the long-term and sustainable generation of electricity from hydropower plants. Therefore, feasibility studies are being conducted to construct low-head dams and power plants along the main Ayeyawady River. If the 10 planned power projects can continue to be implemented, the required amount of electricity for the country will be fully supplied. Therefore, the government will continue striving to implement these projects to improve the socioeconomic life of the people.

In seeking various ways to obtain the electricity required for the country, coal-fired power generation and nuclear energy-based power generation are also methods that need to be considered. When implementing various power generation projects, priority must be given to ensuring that the environmental and social impacts are minimized.

Furthermore, in order to contribute to the achievement of Myanmar's plan to ensure nationwide access to electricity by 2030, a coal-fired power plant with a capacity of up to 660 megawatts, designed to minimize environmental impacts, will be constructed in phases over a period of five years. In addition, efforts will continue to be made to enable the construction of a nuclear power plant.

Only then will the country be able to obtain not only electricity but also develop the capacity to effectively utilize advanced technologies for the benefit of the nation and its people. These projects will help produce skilled technicians and professionals who can best fulfil their national responsibilities in long-term electricity generation and enable the implementation of more advanced projects for the country.

Upholding Empathy and Courtesy in Public Service

By Aung Kyaw Thant



This photo depicts a courtesy relation among the participants at a workplace. **PHOTO: WALLS-IO-OGEWHRAJASA-UNSPLASH**

The role of government departments is very important in carrying out the country's development activities. Government employees discharge their duties every day to ensure that the policies, plans and public services laid down by the State are effectively delivered to the people. Therefore, government employees must not only discharge their official duties and obligations but also place due emphasis on the meaning and responsibility of public service whenever they directly interact with the people.

In fact, government employees are also members of the general public. Their family members, friends, relatives and they themselves are all citizens of a single country. When providing services to the public through their respective departments, they must carry out every process with empathy and understanding.

For example, when they themselves need to obtain a service from another department, they may need to seek someone's assistance because they may not be fully familiar with the procedures of that department. Whenever they encounter such situations, they should put themselves in the position of the people and consider their needs when performing their departmental duties, as people may require assistance to ensure that procedures are completed smoothly and promptly.

Although one may be a government employee, it does not mean that one knows and understands the procedures of every department. Likewise, it is perfectly natural for members of the public not to be familiar with departmental procedures that differ from the occupations and livelihoods they engage in on a daily basis.

When a member of the public comes to a government department to obtain a service, it should not be assumed that the person is already familiar with the department's procedures, the steps for submitting an application, the required documents, or the relevant rules and regulations. Even if they have some prior knowledge, they may not be able to complete all the procedures smoothly because these are not tasks they handle daily.

A task that is routine and familiar to a government employee may be something a civilian is encountering for the first time. Therefore, rather than speaking to them with an attitude of "You don't even know this?", it is better to guide them with the understanding that "Naturally, you may not know this yet; this is how it should be done." Such an attitude reflects the true meaning of public service.

Courteous public relations

Therefore, government employees should treat the people with courtesy and respect. When a civilian asks about something they do not know, employees should avoid showing displeasure, speaking impatiently or harshly, using disparaging words, or sending the person away without clearly explaining the matter. They should understand that guiding and assisting a civilian who needs help is not an act of personal kindness or favour on the part of an employee, but an integral part of the duties they are responsible for carrying out.

In particular, when dealing with members of the public, government employees should not adopt an attitude that creates a hierarchy or distinction between "employees" and "the public". A government employee serves within an administrative system operated with public taxes and the State's resources. Their primary responsibilities are to meet the needs of the people, help them understand the policies and procedures of the State, and effectively provide the services to which they are entitled in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Responsibilities of the people

However, people also have responsibilities. Just as government employees are required to carry out their duties in accordance with rules and regulations, people are also required to follow established procedures, bring all necessary documents, and respectfully comply with the guidance provided by government employees. Public services can operate smoothly only when both the people and government employees respect and understand one another.

For example, an employee of the Agriculture Department may have a good understanding of agricultural technologies within their own department but may not be fully familiar with land registration procedures, tax-related procedures, or specific procedures of another department. Likewise, an employee from another department may not be familiar with the details of agricultural processes. If government employees themselves may encounter such situations where they are unfamiliar with the procedures of other departments, it is clear that they should show greater understanding, patience and willingness to assist the people who are completely unfamiliar with departmental procedures.

Therefore, government employees should not regard a civilian's lack of knowledge about a particular procedure as a fault. It is the responsibility of employees to guide people so that they understand the procedures, and they should recognize that their assistance may be necessary to ensure that all procedures are completed smoothly. The responsibility of a government employee is not merely to repeat what the people already know, but also to explain what they do not yet know so that they can understand it.

A member of the public's time is also valuable. For government employees, coming to the office and processing a particular matter may be part of their daily routine. For a person, however, handling the same matter may require taking time away from their daily work, incurring travel expenses and spending considerable time. Therefore, clearly explaining all the requirements so that people do not have to make unnecessary return visits is a way of showing respect for the people.

Likewise, special attention should be given to elderly people, persons with disabilities, those who have travelled from distant areas, and those who may have difficulty understanding procedures. Since not everyone has the same level of knowledge, experience and circumstances, service providers need to understand each individual's situation when delivering public services.

Strengthen trust in government departments through good public relations

Building good relationships with the people can also strengthen their trust in government departments. When a civilian is respectfully welcomed at a department, and their needs are patiently explained, they are likely to develop greater trust in that department. Such trust can have an impact not only on individual employees but also on the department and the State's administrative system as a whole.

On the other hand, managers also need to give due attention to addressing excessive pressure on employees and imbalances between workloads and available resources. To enable employees to serve the public patiently, it is also important to distribute workloads appropriately, provide necessary training, and streamline procedures to make them clear and easy to follow. The quality of public service does not depend solely on the attitude of individual employees; it is also closely linked to the quality of the system as a whole.

Therefore, all employees need to adopt the attitude that "they do not know yet, so we should explain it to them," rather than looking down on someone for "asking because they do not know". They must assist and serve the people with compassion, empathy, courtesy and respect. They must also promote mutual understanding and cooperation among government departments so that the services needed by the public can be provided seamlessly from one department to another.

Being able to understand a member of the public's problem as if it were one's own, and being able to patiently guide members of the public when they are unfamiliar with something, just as one may need assistance from others in areas one does not know, are fundamental qualities of a good public servant. If more and more capable and dedicated public servants emerge, and trust, understanding and cooperation between government departments and the public are further strengthened, public services will become more effective and efficient.

Everyone should understand that the essence of public service is not "exercising authority" but "serving with a sense of responsibility". Respecting the people does not diminish one's position; rather, it means fulfilling one's duties in a way that gives them greater value. Speaking courteously to the public is not a sign of weakness but a reflection of good character and a positive attitude. Patiently assisting and guiding the people is not an additional favour, but a duty that a public servant can take pride in.

■

Today and Tomorrow

By Min Min Zan

I live my life from day to day,
And try to walk the proper way.
Tomorrow may be bright and gay,
Or take my happiness away.

The future comes with mystery,
No one can read its history.
It may bring joy for all to see,
Or write a sad new story for me.

So, I will cherish every hour,
And use my time with all my power.
Today may bloom like a lovely flower,
For tomorrow may change its colour and power.



NATIONAL

Returning Tatmadaw members welcomed in Taninthayi Region



Triumphant Tatmadaw personnel receive warm welcome home at the Coastal Region Command.

A ceremony to honour and welcome back Tatmadaw personnel returning from frontline duties was held at a local battalion in Palauk, Taninthayi Region, yesterday morning.

Officials from the Coastal Region Command, departmental officials, members of the Myanmar Police Force, war veterans and residents attended the ceremony.

The returning personnel were welcomed back with garlands, Eugenia twigs, traditional music and dance performances in recognition of their service in operations for State stability and regional peace.

Officials also delivered congratulatory remarks and presented cash awards to the returning Tatmadaw personnel. — MNA/KZL

20 PDFs rejoin society



The handover and awards ceremony for returnees is in progress in Toungoo.

THE government is inviting those involved in various armed groups, including PDFs, to return to the legal fold. Those who do so are being provided with necessary assistance and support.

A total of 20 PDFs including 18 males and two females entered the legal fold yesterday.

The 20 individuals from Yedashe, Nattalin, Okpo, and Nyaunglebin townships of Bago Region entered the legal framework and were accepted by responsible officials.

At the handover ceremony, PDF members were handed over to their parents and guardians at Ayechanphyo Hall of the Southern Command Headquarters yesterday.

At the event, the commander gave an opening speech and briefed on legal matters.

The returnees handed over three MA-1 rifles, three M-4 rifles, one BA-63, one Energa grenade, three hand grenades, 322 rounds of 5.56-mm ammunition, 140 rounds of 7.62-mm ammunition, 13 bullets and five magazines to the commander. The commander and officials then presented K35 million for seven rifles, K300,000 for one Energa grenade, K900,000 for three hand grenades, and K4 million for the 20 returnees at K200,000 each, bringing the total reward money to K40.2 million.

There are still individuals who wish to return to the legal fold. Those who intend to do so are encouraged to promptly contact and report to the nearest Tatmadaw bases or police stations. They will be welcomed and accepted, provided with the necessary assistance and support, and cash rewards for any arms and ammunition. — MNA/KTZH

YBS Bus Fares to Increase from 1 Sept



YRTC officials hold a press conference on 14 August to announce the increase in YBS bus fares, which will take effect from 1 September.

BUS fares on Yangon Bus Service (YBS) routes will increase from 1 September, following approval by the Yangon Region Transport Supervisory Committee (YRTC), officials announced at a press conference yesterday.

Under the revised fare structure, the current K200 fare for downtown routes will rise to K300, while the K400 fare for suburban and outlying routes will increase to K600. The new rates will also apply to payments made using YPS cards. YRTC said the fare adjustment was necessary due to rising costs of vehicle spare parts and maintenance, which have created an imbalance between operators' income and expenses.

According to the committee, the 21 YBS operating companies under its supervision have 5,399 registered buses, but only around 3,300 buses are currently in daily service. The remaining fleet includes 1,024 buses undergoing minor repairs, 209 under medium repairs, 510 requiring major repairs, and 356 buses that are out of service.

The committee said operators, including Yangon Urban Public Transport (YUPT) and Yangon Bus Public Company (YBPC), had requested a fare increase to help cover repair and maintenance costs and enable more buses to return to service. YRTC said increasing the number of operating buses would ease overcrowding at bus stops and on buses, improving services for passengers. It described the revised fares as a balanced "win-win" solution that would help transport companies remain operational while avoiding an excessive burden on commuters.

The committee currently oversees 21 YBS companies operating 145 registered routes. About 134 routes are in daily operation with approximately 3,300 buses, transporting around 1.8 million passengers each day. YRTC added that efforts would continue to increase the number of buses in service to meet growing passenger demand and reduce congestion across the YBS network. — MT/ST

Yaksawk opens free agricultural technology course

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South), in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, opened a free agricultural technology training course at the Kyauktaw Model Village yesterday to provide local farmers with modern agricultural knowledge and scientific farming techniques.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Khin Maung Myint and Township Administration and Management Committee Chairman U Min Soe Naing delivered opening remarks. Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win explained the objectives of the course and the benefits to be gained by trainees. Trainers from the Township Department of Agriculture detailed the training subjects before officials presented learning materials and agricultural pamphlets to the attendees.

A total of 20 trainees from Kyauktaw Model Village are attending the 10-day free course. Instructors will provide practical training on preparing Effective Micro-organism (EM) solutions, producing rice and sunflower seeds, making natural fertilizers and pesticides, modern farming techniques, yield-increasing methods, and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). — Maung Khaing (Rural)



The opening ceremony for agricultural technology course is underway in Yaksawk Township.

NATIONAL

Model village project introduced; committee formed



An orientation and committee formation ceremony for model village projects is in progress in Ottarathiri Township.

THE Rural Development Department, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ottarathiri Township, held a project introduction and committee formation ceremony in Poesataw Village, which will implement the Model Village Project (Smart Village) for the 2026-2027 financial year, on the morning of 11 August.

Township Head Daw Myint Myint Win of the Ottarathiri Township Rural Development Department explained to the village the objectives and benefits of the Model Village Project, the steps and activities to be carried out by the sector-wise project process, and discussed the selection of priority activities for each year.

The project staff then explained the points to be followed for electing committee members in the project manual, and the responsibilities of the committee members. The villagers who attended the meeting elected nine members of the Village Development Committee by voting in line with consensus.

The Model Village Project will be implemented in Poesataw Village starting from the 2026-2027 financial year. Once the project is completed, the village's infrastructure, economy, education, health, and tourism sectors will be developed, and the living standards will be improved, according to Daw Myint Myint Win, Township Head of the Ottarathiri Township Rural Development Department. — Aung Ye Kyaw (DRD)

People's Military Service Training 25 graduation ceremonies held

GRADUATION ceremonies for People's Military Service Training 25 were held yesterday at training schools under the respective commands.

The ceremonies included military parades, during which trainees pledged their allegiance while holding the national flag. Officials from the training schools delivered graduation addresses and presented awards to outstanding trainees.



The graduation ceremony of the People's Military Service Training 25 is underway.

Following the ceremonies, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the chief ministers of the regions and states, the commanders of the respective commands and other officials met the graduates at the training schools, delivered speeches and offered words of encouragement.

Training Course 25 trainees received instructions in physical fitness, military drill, military tactics and other general subjects.

The graduates will now be assigned to various battalions and units to undertake national defence and security duties.

Graduation dinner ceremonies were also held at the training schools in the evening. — MNA/KZL

Yangon Region hospitals to provide meals for needy patients



Donors are previously seen providing food to needy patients at the Yangon General Hospital.

ACCORDING to Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department Head Dr Nanda Win, arrangements are being made to provide meals to poor patients receiving treatment in hospitals in Yangon Region.

The State allocated a budget for needy patients who really needy it, planning to provide clean and fresh meals to the poor patients in hospitals.

Similarly, regulations are being taken to prevent the spread of diarrhoea. Recently, a total of 14 patients, who were cared for in a hospital after consuming food from donors, had diarrhoea. Therefore, all hospitals in Yangon Region have suspended the provision of outside food for about a week, Dr Nanda Win stated.

Currently, there are 14 central-level hospitals in Yangon Region. Healthcare services are provided by 67 hospitals, including small district hospitals under the Public Health and Medical Services Department and 99 private hospitals. — TWA/MKKS

MSY funds disbursed; air pollution awareness talk held in Kyaiklat

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an event on the morning of 12 August at Shwebosu village to disburse revolving funds for the eighth time and conduct an awareness talk on preventing smoke haze and air pollution. The project was launched in the 2019-2020 financial year, covering Shwebosu, Sipinsu and Taegyisu villages in Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Region. U Thura Shein, Head of the Kyaiklat Township Department of Rural Development, gave a detailed explanation of the objectives and processes of the Mya Sein Yaung (MSY) Village Project, provisions of the Rural Development Law, and how the loan supports poverty reduction efforts by creating job opportunities and increasing family income. He also provided educational information regarding the prevention of smoke haze and air pollution. Daw Yu Wei Khin, an officer-in-charge of the village, along with the project officer from the Township Department of Rural Development, handed over K50 million in project funds to the members of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project Committee from Shwebosu, Sipinsu and Taegyisu villages.



An Emerald Green rural development project fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Kyaiklat Township.

Following this, the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Funds Supervisory Committee disbursed the funds to a total of 107 members (K50 million total): Agriculture: K43.65 million to 81 members; Livestock Breeding: K3.75 million to 16 members; Trading/Commerce: K2.6 million to 10 members, according to U Thura Shein, Head of the Kyaiklat Township Department of Rural Development. — Chit Oo Ko (Rural)

ECONOMY
WORLD

India's rare earth magnet scheme gets bids

India's rare earth magnet scheme gets 20 bids; L&T, Coal India, ReNew among bidders.

NEW Delhi: The government's Rs7,280-crore scheme to promote domestic manufacturing of rare earth permanent magnets has received 20 bids, including from Larsen & Toubro, Coal India and ReNew, for setting up integrated manufacturing facilities in the country, the Ministry of Heavy Industries said on Thursday.



A worker displays raw metallic rare earth minerals held in hands. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ DD NEWS**

The bids were received through a global tender for selection of manufacturers under the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM), according to a press release issued by the ministry.

It said the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) received 20 bids through Global Tender on CPP portal for Selection of Manufacturers for establishing integrated Sintered NdFeB Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Manufacturing Facilities.

The bidders also include Attero Recycling, 20 Microns, Lohum Magnets & Energy Solutions, NEO Performance Materials (Singapore), Proterial (India), Prozeal Green Energy.

The scheme aims to establish a total domestic manufacturing capacity of 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated rare earth permanent magnets. The capacity will be allocated to five beneficiaries selected through a global competitive bidding process, with each beneficiary eligible for up to 1,200 MTPA. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan foreign minister visits Mideast next week

JAPANESE Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi will visit Saudi Arabia and Oman next week for talks with his respective counterparts, as Japan seeks to strengthen ties with the Middle Eastern countries to ensure free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Departing 17 August and arriving back on 22 August Motegi's visit to the Middle East marks the first by a Japanese foreign minister since the start of the US-Israeli war with Iran on 28 February.

According to the ministry, through the visit, Japan also hopes to do its part to facilitate talks for the United States and Iran to reach a peace deal. – Kyodo

Swiss GDP jumps 1.5% in second quarter

SWITZERLAND'S economic growth surged in the second quarter according to initial estimates released Friday, shaking off higher energy costs thanks to its chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

GDP growth reached 1.5 per cent after a 0.4 per cent rise in the first three months of the year, the economy ministry said, well above analyst estimates of around 0.3 per cent. – AFP

Cambodia draws billions in fixed asset investments

CAMBODIA secured US$5.22 billion in fixed-asset investment projects during the first seven months of 2026, according to a Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) press release issued Friday. The CDC approved 309 investment projects between January and July, a surge expected to create approximately 177,000 jobs.

"During the first seven months of 2026, Cambodia continued to attract high-quality projects, driven by capital growth in the infrastructure and tourism sectors, while the industrial sector remained the leading driver of investment," the press release said. — Xinhua

Venezuela inks gas deals with foreign companies

VENEZUELA granted licences Thursday for three foreign companies to look for and produce natural gas as the government opens up the energy sector under intense US pressure.



Venezuela grants gas licences to three foreign energy companies. UCC Holding (Qatar) is expanding its global oil and gas footprint. **PHOTO: UNN HOLDING**

After the US capture of Nicolas Maduro in January, interim leader Delcy Rodriguez yielded to President Donald Trump's administration and reformed Venezuela's energy law so the US and other foreign companies can benefit from its vast oil reserves and other natural resources.

Since then, Venezuela has signed several agreements with foreign companies to look for, produce and export oil and gas.

But the devastating 24 June earthquakes, which killed more than 6,300 people, prompted a halt in the granting of these licenses.

The process resumed Thursday as permits went to British Petroleum, XRG of the United Arab Emirates and UCC, a company based in Qatar. — AFP

New Zealand visitor numbers show strong annual growth



Tourists enjoy the view of Mount Taranaki in New Zealand, 22 June 2021. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

NEW Zealand recorded 3.67 million overseas visitor arrivals in the year to June 2026, up nine per cent from 3.38 million a year earlier, official data showed on Friday.

Foreign arrivals increased by almost 300,000, with Australia and China accounting for more than two-thirds of the growth, Stats NZ said in a statement.

Arrivals from Australia rose by 144,400, while those from China increased by 67,000 during the period, said the statistics department.

Australia was the largest source of visitors with 1.59 million arrivals, a record for any annual period from the country, followed by the United States, China and Britain, the department noted. — Xinhua

US Court rules Trump tariff actions

A trade court ruled Thursday that President Donald Trump could halt a tariff exemption for small packages entering the country, rejecting a challenge to the US leader's earlier move.

Trump had acted last year to end the "de minimis" exemption for parcels valued at $800 or less, citing the use of low-value shipments to avoid tariffs and smuggle drugs.

This had sparked concern from small businesses, which experts said have less buffer to absorb shocks, unlike larger consumer platforms like Chinese-founded Shein and Temu. Both were hit when Washington previously closed the exception for Chinese products.

While the legal challenge argued that Trump had lacked the authority to rescind the exception, the US Court of International Trade ruled that this was allowed.

Trump touted the "big win" in a social media post, saying the provision "became a giant loophole for tariff cheats" and others. — AFP



The image shows a person packing a cardboard shipping box on a wooden workbench, holding a smartphone while a barcode scanner and tape dispenser sit nearby.
PHOTO: AFP

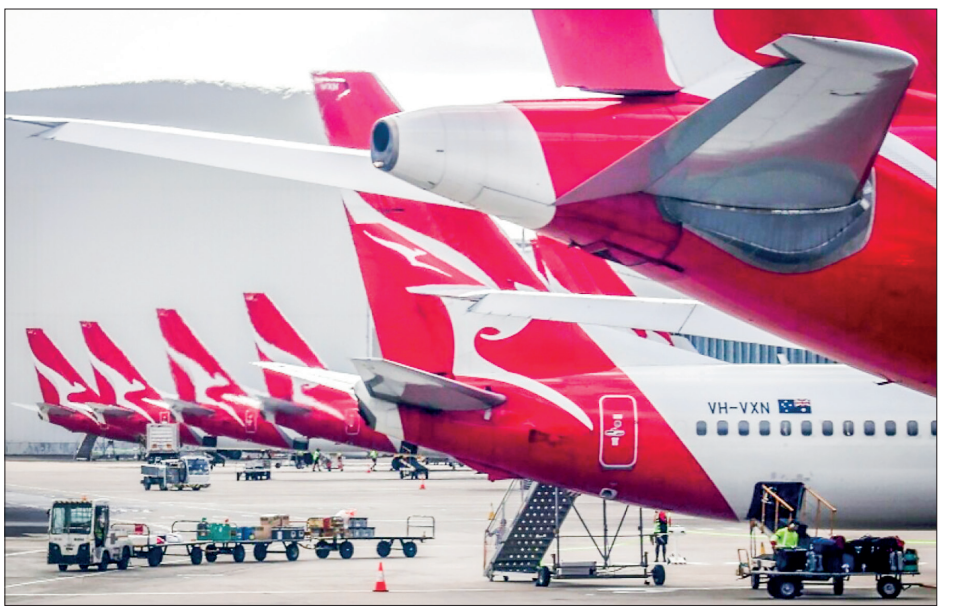
Australia probes three near-misses at Sydney Airport

AUSTRALIA'S transport authorities said Friday they were investigating what went wrong after three near-misses in less than two weeks at Sydney Airport, including two in one day.

A Virgin Australia 737 had been cleared for takeoff by air traffic control on Sunday morning when the crew saw a Qantas plane crossing the runway ahead of them, the country's transport safety investigator said.

The crew brought the plane to a stop about a kilometre from the other aircraft, which had also been cleared to taxi across the runway.

Earlier in the day, a Jetstar pilot was forced to apply the brakes suddenly to avoid crashing into a Qatar Airways jet.



Sunday's two incidents at Sydney International Airport following another near-miss on 27 July. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

They came after two Qantas planes also avoided a collision on 27 July after they had been cleared for takeoff.

"I can reassure the travelling public that we will consider any organisational or systemic issues that may have contributed to these occurrences, and will do so in a comprehensive and timely manner," Transport Safety Bureau Chief Commissioner Angus Mitchell said Friday.

"We look at all the evidence, how busy the airport was, what was the manning in the tower at the time," he added. — AFP

Norway central bank holds key rate

NORWAY'S central bank on Thursday kept its policy rate unchanged at 4.25 per cent, while saying that a further rate increase may still be necessary as inflation remains above target.

Norges Bank's Monetary Policy and Financial Stability Committee unanimously decided to maintain the rate at its meeting on Wednesday, the bank said in a statement.

Inflation has slowed and come in below forecasts this summer, but it is too early to conclude that the inflation outlook has changed materially, Norges Bank Governor Ida Wolden Bache said.

"It may thus still become necessary to raise the policy rate," she said.

Norway's year-on-year consumer price inflation stood at 3.0 per cent in July, compared with the central bank's target of two per cent. — Xinhua

Topix ends at record high after US price data

THE Topix index ended at a record high for the third consecutive trading day on Friday as the release of a weaker-than-expected US producer price index for July further eased inflation concerns. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 405.21 points, or 0.59 per cent, from Thursday at 68,713.80. The broader Topix index finished 21.16 points, or 0.51 per cent, higher at 4,197.20. — Kyodo

Korean economy strengthens recovery amid uncertainty

THE South Korean economy strengthened its recovery amid lingering uncertainties such as geopolitical risks in the Middle East and inflationary pressure, a finance ministry report said Friday.

The Ministry of Finance and Economy said in its monthly report, called Green Book, that the Asian economy recently showed signs of a strengthening recovery, powered by a sharp increase in exports and an improving domestic demand.

The ministry, however, cautioned that burdens on people's livelihood persisted due to inflationary pressure, affected by high oil prices, alongside difficult employment conditions for vulnerable groups amid ongoing uncertainties from the Middle East conflict.

While the global economy maintained moderate growth, uncertainties remained over the Middle East conflict and the US tariff measures, the ministry explained.

Exports jumped 62.8 per cent in July from a year earlier on strong demand for semiconductors, computers and ships. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V XINGHE TIMES VOY.NO. (106690)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XINGHE TIMES VOY.NO. (106690)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S CHUN AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO., LTD

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

US states declare 15 Aug 'India day' as global Indian missions gear up for 80th Independence Day

Diplomatic missions globally celebrate India national Independence Day.



Cadets and participants gather at Delhi's Red Fort for India independence rehearsals. **PHOTO:ANI**

AHEAD of India's landmark 80th Independence Day, Indian embassies, high commissions, and consulates across the globe are marking the occasion through official state proclamations, civic receptions, vibrant cultural performances, and community outreach initiatives.

From executive declarations in major American cities to grand music collaborations in Berlin and diplomatic commentary in Hanoi, Indian missions are highlighting the nation's democratic values and global partnerships.

In the United States, the Consulate General of India in Seattle announced a series of official proclamations issued across Washington State and Nebraska designating 15 August as India Day.

Expressing gratitude to state and municipal leaders, the Consulate posted, "The proclamation recognizes the vibrant and growing Indian-American community in Seattle and its significant contributions to the city's cultural fabric, economic vitality and civic life. It highlights the shared values of democracy, diversity and mutual respect that unite India and the United States, while recognising the Consulate's role in fostering meaningful people-to-people ties between India and the City," the Consulate General wrote in the post.

Seattle Mayor Katie B Wilson and Washington Governor Bob Ferguson honoured the occasion with official proclamations, which were accompanied by municipal declarations in Bellevue by Mayor Mo Malakoutian and in Kent by Mayor Dana Ralph. — ANI

German farmers warn drought will spell heavy crop losses

GERMANY'S farmers' association warned Friday that persistent drought and summer heat will spell reduced harvests and even total crop failures in the worst-hit regions.

Lower grassland yields have meanwhile also sharply reduced winter fodder reserves for livestock, Joachim Rukwied, head of the German Farmers' Association, told AFP.

Southwestern Germany has been especially hard hit by high temperatures and low rainfall this summer, which has stoked wildfires, dried out farmland and seen river levels drop. In some southern regions where no rain has fallen for weeks, Rukwied said "yield losses or even total crop losses are very likely".



People walk on the long riverbed of the river Elbe, as a passengers ship is docked on the banks in Dresden, eastern Germany, on 9 August 2026, with hot and dry weather conditions keeping very low the water level of the river. **PHOTO: AFP**

The EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service this week reported that Western Europe experienced its hottest June-July on record as climate change fuels an historic summer of heat, drought and wildfires.

"We farmers have been feeling the effects of climate change for a long time now," Rukwied told AFP in one of a series of media interviews he has given to sound the alarm. — AFP

Venezuela plans recovery of Bank gold

THE Venezuelan authorities are planning to reclaim $4 billion in bullion from the Bank of England, the Financial Times reported on Friday.

The government and the opposition reportedly said in a joined statement that they were working "to recover Venezuela's international reserve assets held in the Bank of England".

The funds will be used for the reconstruction after recent earthquakes, as well as for recovery from the consequences of US sanctions, the report said.

Since 2018, the United Kingdom refuses to recognize the Venezuelan government, blocking its access to 31 tonnes of gold stored in the vaults of the Bank of England.

The Bank of England is reportedly awaiting legal clarity on who will control the gold reserves once they are returned to Venezuela. An unnamed opposition figure told the paper that the Venezuelan authorities and the opposition were working on a "transparency mechanism" to prevent the gold from being misappropriated. — SPUTNIK

Kennedy centre board approves Trump name inscription



Board adds Trump name to cultural centre. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON: The board of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for the Performing Arts on Thursday voted to inscribe US President Donald Trump's name on the building, although a federal judge previously ruled it unlawful, US media reported on Thursday.

The Trump-allied board decided to inscribe Trump's name on the building beneath the main signage, The New York Times cited two people with direct knowledge of the proceedings as saying.

The inscription would read: "Restored and Renovated by President Donald J Trump". the report said.

Meanwhile, the board also voted on Thursday to close the institution for renovations, CNN reported.

The centre is widely regarded as the United States' national cultural center, hosting world-class performances in music, opera, drama, dance and other performing arts. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Construction wins 2026 Inter-Ministry Futsal Championship

THE Ministry of Construction team won the 2026 Inter-Ministry Futsal Championship, defeating the Ministry of Defence team 4-3 after extra time in the final at the Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex futsal stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.



The Ministry of Construction team receives the 2026 Inter-Ministry Futsal Championship trophy.

The Ministry of Defence took the lead through No 7 Nyein Min Soe in the sixth minute before the Ministry of Construction's No 7 Tun Aung Kyaw equalized in the 12th minute. Defence regained the lead through No 11 Tut Wai Tun in 18 minutes, but No 11 Naing Tun Lu levelled the score for Construction just before half-time. The two sides continued to exchange goals in the second half and finished 3-3 at full time. The Ministry of Construction then scored the winner in extra time to secure a 4-3 victory and claim the championship title.

At the awards ceremony, Ministry of Defence goalkeeper No 2 Min Khant Aung received the Best Goalkeeper Award and K200,000, while Ministry of Construction's No 11 Naing Tun Lu was named Player of the Tournament and received K200,000.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement won the Fair Play Award and K500,000. The Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance and Revenue shared third place, receiving K1.5 million each, while the Ministry of Defence received K5 million as runners-up. The champion Ministry of Construction team received medals, K10 million in prize money and the championship trophy. — MNA/KZL

Sebastian Coe champions prize money for athletics

IT is fair to say that Sebastian Coe's ground-breaking move to award prize money to track and field gold medallists at the 2024 Paris Olympics ruffled some feathers.

Two years ago, World Athletics announced that winners in the French capital would each receive $50,000, the governing body becoming the first international federation to introduce such prize money.

The unilateral decision sparked a backlash.

Although the move was widely welcomed by athletes, the hierarchy of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other federation chiefs argued that it broke with the tradition of the Olympic spirit.

"Prize money for the Olympics is probably why I'm sitting here talking to you and not in (IOC headquarters in) Lausanne," Coe joked Friday. The 69-year-old Briton who won two Olympic 1,500-metre golds stood in last year's IOC presidential election won by Kirsty Coventry, who happens to be an opponent of prize money at the Olympics. — AFP



Athletics chief defends vital financial rewards for top global competitors. **PHOTO:AFP**



This image illustrates a poster announcing the City Run programme for enthusiastic runners in Yangon.

YRCM Sets Free City Run for Yangon Runners, Beginners

THE Yangon Running Club/Community (YRCM) will hold a City Run on 23 August for runners and beginners as part of its twice-monthly programme, aiming to promote fitness and provide newcomers with opportunities to train.

The meeting point will be at People's Square on Pyay Road. Warm-up exercises will begin at 5:45 am, with the run starting at 6 am.

The route will cover approximately five kilometres, starting from the Pyay Road entrance to People's Square and continuing along Pyay Road to the Bogyoke Road junction. Runners will then turn left onto Bogyoke Aung San Road, continue along the Myoma Kyaung Road and Ahlon Road, and return to the finish at the Pyay Road entrance to People's Square.

The City Run is open to everyone free of charge, with no registration fee. Free refreshments will also be provided to participants at the finish. YRCM has invited anyone interested in running, improving their fitness, or simply enjoying a run to take part in the event. — TWA/KZL



Manchester City midfielder Rodri won the Ballon d'Or in 2024. **PHOTO: AFP**

Transfer uncertainty surrounds Manchester City player

MANCHESTER City manager Enzo Maresca said "anything can happen" amid reports La Liga champions Barcelona have bid to sign World Cup winner Rodri.City are understood to have rejected an opening bid of £38.5 million ($52 million) from Barcelona for the midfielder.

The 30-year-old has just one season remaining on his deal at the Etihad and has been strongly linked with a return to his native Spain. City are reported to want about £68 million for Rodri, who was named player of the tournament at the recent World Cup in North America. — AFP

Asian Games: Japan hosts for 1st time in 32 years, aims for record golds

WELCOMING the Asian Games in summer for the first time in 32 years next month, Japan is aiming to eclipse its record tally of 78 gold medals by sending its biggest-ever delegation of around 930 athletes. Some 15,000 athletes and officials from 45 countries and regions will compete in 43 sports at the 19 September-4 October games mostly in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, with the country hosting for the third time after Tokyo in 1958 and Hiroshima in 1994.

Japan finished second behind China in the number of golds in the past two Asian Games, in China's Hangzhou in 2023 as well as in Indonesia's Jakarta and Palembang in 2018, when its 75 golds came close to the record number from 1966 in Bangkok. — Kyodo



Japan's Akari Fujinami (L) competing en route to winning the gold medal in the women's wrestling 53-kilogramme category at the Paris Olympics in August 2024. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

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Iran President Pezeshkian to travel to Delhi for BRICS Summit

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian will travel to New Delhi to attend the upcoming BRICS Summit, Iranian sources said on Friday.

Pezeshkian's participation in the summit is scheduled to be held in the national capital in September.

The visit assumes significance as India is hosting the 18th BRICS Summit under its 2026 chairship. The summit will be held under India's theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability". India assumed the BRICS chairship from Brazil at the beginning of 2026.

In October 2024, Pezeshkian met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, where the two leaders discussed bilateral and regional issues.

Iran became a full member of BRICS in 2024, along with Egypt, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates. Indonesia joined the grouping in 2025, taking the total number of full members to 11. — ANI

Tourists beat the heat with 'magical' Colosseum night tours

THE Colosseum has extended opening hours at night this summer to allow more visitors to see the famous Roman amphitheatre in cooler temperatures after sunset.

The night tours, which run until 11:00 pm, are sold out and tourists on one visit this week spoke of a "magical" and "romantic" atmosphere in the illuminated monument.

"After sunset is a lot more comfortable," Victor Li, 52, told AFP as he toured the arena and the underground passages where animals and gladiators were once held.

"It's a good idea because it's really hot in the morning and during the day," said Svetlana Spielberg, visiting from the United States, adding that it was "really beautiful" and "more romantic" at night. — AFP

Two tankers struck by drones in Strait

TWO tankers were struck by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, sustaining minor damage with all crew reported safe, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said on Friday.

According to two UKMTO advisories, military authorities reported that the tankers were hit by UAVs while conducting outbound transit of the strait.

The advisories said both vessels sustained only minor damage. All crew members were reported safe, and no environmental impact has been reported.

The Strait of Hormuz, which links the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, is one of the world's most important energy shipping chokepoints. The incidents came amid heightened regional security tensions.

On the same day, the United Arab Emirates blamed Iran for attacks on two vessels linked to its state-owned oil company, which were transiting the strait. It was not immediately clear whether the UAE statement referred to the same incidents reported by the UKMTO. — Xinhua

Putin congratulates Pakistan on Independence Day

Russian-Pakistani relations develop successfully, cooperating fruitfully across political and economic fields.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin sent congratulations to Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif on the country's Independence Day on Friday.

"Dear President, Dear Prime Minister, please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your country's national holiday, Independence Day," Putin said in a congratulatory message, as quoted by the Kremlin.

Russian-Pakistani relations are developing very successfully, the message read, adding that Moscow and Islamabad cooperate fruitfully in political, trade, economic, humanitarian and other fields, and cooperate in addressing important issues on the regional and global agenda.

"I am confident that we will continue to work constructively together to further enhance the entire range of partnerships for the benefit of the friendly peoples of Russia and Pakistan, in the interests of strengthening international security and stability," Putin added. — SPUTNIK



Pakistani military personnel attend a ceremony to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 14 August 2026. **PHOTO: STR/ XINHUA**

Japanese automakers support Indian energy strategies

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal to Indians to reduce petrol and diesel consumption is reinforcing a broader shift in the country's mobility strategy, with Japanese automakers, a major presence in the country's market, taking a technology-neutral approach.

During his monthly radio address in May, Modi urged citizens to reduce petrol and diesel consumption by using public transport, carpooling and electric vehicles, saying lower fossil fuel consumption would strengthen India's energy security and economic resilience.



This photo taken on 18 May 2026 shows cars queuing up at a gas station in New Delhi. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The policy message came as India, the world's third-largest crude oil importer, is simultaneously promoting electric mobility, ethanol blending, natural gas, biogas and flex-fuel technologies to diversify its energy sources. Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker, said India's transition would require multiple technologies rather than relying on a single solution.

"There are many technologies available today and each has its own advantages and limitations. Since every country has unique resources, infrastructure and customer needs, no single technology can address them all," Rahul Bharti, senior executive officer for corporate affairs at Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, told Kyodo News. — Kyodo