

President inspects Ayeyawady flood-hit areas, orders faster relief and embankment repairs

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing yesterday inspected flood-affected areas in Ayeyawady Region, where heavy rainfall and damage to the Ngawun River embankment triggered widespread flooding, and instructed authorities to expedite rescue, relief, rehabilitation and embankment repair operations.

The President conducted an aerial inspection of flooded villages, residential areas and farmland along the Patheingyi River to Hinthada after severe flooding struck Laymyethna Township and neighbouring parts of Hinthada, Yekyi



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing meets flood victims from Laymyethna Township in Laharpa Village, Hinthada Township, yesterday.

and Kyonpyaw townships. He was briefed by officials and he directed them to prioritize immediate assistance for flood victims and rehabilitation efforts while

strengthening disaster preparedness to minimize future losses.

Heavy rainfall caused a breach beneath the Ngawun River embankment, result-

ing in subsidence of the embankment and inundation of Laymyethna town, nearby villages and surrounding townships. Government agencies, the Tatmadaw,

security forces, local authorities, social organizations and volunteers have been carrying out rescue operations and relocating displaced residents to tem-

porary shelters.

The President also inspected the damaged embankment at Mile Post 25/3 in Laymyethna Township, **SEE PAGE 4**

National Theatre hosts Myanmar-China cultural exchange programme

THE opening ceremony of the “Weekly Cinema, Shared Stories” Chinese Film Festival and the screening of the Shenzhou-13 space documentary was held at the National Theatre in Yangon on yesterday. The event aims to promote cultural exchanges between Myanmar and China and strengthen mutual understanding and friendship, particularly among young people.

The programme was



Chinese Minister Counsellor to Myanmar Mr Shen Dan speaks at the Myanmar-China cultural exchange programme in Yangon on 9 August.

jointly organized by the Yangon, China Media Group (CMG) and Myanmar Ra-

dio and Television (MRTV), with support from several educational and cultural organizations.

In his opening address, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Tint said that film and television are powerful tools for sharing knowledge and fostering cultural understanding. He noted that Chinese films and television dramas have long been popular with Myanmar audiences. **SEE PAGE 3**

Trial cultivation of Pawsan and Basmati rice begins in Shan State (East)

SHAN State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe attended an activity of broadcasting fertilizer and the field demonstration held yesterday for the 60-acre test plot of Pawsan paddy for 2026 in the highland and lowland areas of Mongtum, Wamton village-tract, Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), where he observed and encouraged the operations and distributed agricultural inputs, including chemical and organic fertilizers, to local farmers. **SEE PAGE 3**



Officials observe the activity of broadcasting fertilizer and the field demonstration in Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), yesterday.



Bago Region boosts aquaculture and fish stocks for 2026-2027 FY

IN the 2026-2027 financial year, three key hatcheries in Bago Region successfully released 40 per cent of their cultured fish fingerlings into natural waters while selling the remaining 60 per cent directly to local fish farmers to support sustainable aquaculture and regional food security. **SEE PAGE 4**

Officials demonstrate induced breeding techniques for native snakehead fish to farmers. **PHOTO: KANU**

NATIONAL

Laymyethna embankment breach repairs set for completion within 10 days

REPAIR operations to seal a breached sand layer along the Ngawun River embankment near the oxbow lake in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, are expected to be completed within 10 days, according to U Win Htay, Director of the Ayeyawady Region Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

Teams of technical experts, departmental officials, and labourers are working around the clock in rotating shifts with machinery and watercraft to carry out the temporary closure of the breach during the current rainy season. Per-



This photo shows temporary repair and reinforcement operations underway along the Ngawun River embankment.

manent reinforcement work will be undertaken during the upcoming dry season. With task forces fully mobilized and heavy machinery deployed, the temporary repair operation is currently about 25 per cent complete.

“To protect the ex-

isting embankment from erosion, we are carrying out toe-protection work by placing geotextile bags (geobags) and installing rows of bamboo and wooden piles filled with sandbags,” U Win Htay said.

He added that, at the 120-foot water inlet along

the old embankment, pile rows are being installed on both sides and filled with sandbags to reduce the flow velocity. Surveys are also being conducted and materials stockpiled to reinforce the outer embankment, while preparations are underway to place geotextile bags and rock-filled gabion mattresses to block the deep-water current.

Flooding in Laymyethna Township has affected more than 30,000 residents in 62 villages. Authorities have opened 13 relief camps to provide emergency assistance and carry out rescue operations for affected communities. — ASH/TH

Heavy rain damages retaining wall in Hsipaw

HEAVY rainfall caused a gtavel-filled retaining wall along Nampaw Creek in Nyaungpinkwin Village in Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North) to collapse on the morning of 8 August, resulting in water erosion in the surrounding areas.

The collapse diverted the water flow, damaging a combined bathroom and toilet at a resident's compound and about 60 feet of a brick fencing wall at another house.

Security personnel, departmental officials and residents are work-



Photo shows a flood-affected area along Nampaw Creek in Nyaungpinkwin Village in Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North).

ing together to contain the erosion by placing sandbags and construct-

ing barriers, while machinery is used to divert the watercourse. No

locals were reported injured or killed in the incident. — MNA/KZL

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 9 August 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: The monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and moderate to strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 10 August 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Magway Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine 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 Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Tainthayi 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. The 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 SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated heavy falls in Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and eastern Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 August 2026: Some rain or thundershowers with may be heavy at time. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 August 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 40

Issued at 8 am MST on 9 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 low-pressure area over the South-West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha, 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 12 August 2026.

The occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Gulf of Mot-

tama, off and along the Mon-Tainthayi 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. The squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times 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.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal, due to the low-pressure area over the South-West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha, India and the strong development of the convective cloud, 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

NATIONAL

Producing Agricultural and Livestock Scholars
Benefits National Development

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning made an inspection tour of universities in Hinthada and Maubin, Ayeyawady Region.

In inspecting the Ayemya Thaya People's Sports Ground in Hinthada, the President gave guidance that it is necessary to devise plans to upgrade the sports ground to a stadium equipped with a stand and a 400-metre track.

He also visited Hinthada University and urged the rector and officials to beautify the campus of the university.

At the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding University (Maubin) in Maubin, the President heard reports by officials on academic plans of the university, the number of students from



President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the development of the Agriculture and Livestock Breeding University (Maubin) in Maubin yesterday.

regions and states learning at the university, research plans, practical works for students, and implementation of the plan to develop the university starting from the 2025-26 academic year.

In giving guidance, the President stressed the need to systematically plan and implement the provision of master's degree

programmes in agriculture and livestock-related fields. Systematic education and training should be provided to cultivate agricultural and livestock experts who can contribute to the interests of the State.

Speaking on the occasion, the President outlined that the University of Agriculture and Livestock

Breeding (Maubin) needs to produce agricultural experts with specialized expertise in the major crops cultivated and grown in Lower Myanmar.

The President emphasized that livestock farming includes poultry, pigs, goats, cattle and fish, and chickens, ducks, pigs, cattle and fish are mainly raised

in Ayeyawady Region. It is necessary to produce livestock experts who can make effective use of the favourable natural resources and conditions in their respective areas and contribute to the successful development of livestock farming. If conditions permit in the future, an Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Univer-

sity will be opened in Shwebo. Likewise, agricultural institutes will be upgraded to college level.

He noted that it is essential to construct the necessary facilities for students and teaching staff at the university, including buildings, classrooms, libraries and laboratories. Responsible officials must make dedicated efforts to ensure that the classrooms, dormitories and dining facilities are properly arranged and adequately provided.

The President highlighted that graduates of the university will be assigned to positions such as Staff Officer and Officer. In various organizations and businesses, managers begin their careers by taking on responsibilities as junior leaders in key areas of their respective organizations.

SEE PAGE 4

Trial cultivation of Pawsan and Basmati rice begins in Shan State (East)

FROM PAGE 1

As part of his regional inspection tour, the chief minister also reviewed the construction of the 220-foot Mongpun Bridge near milepost 4/153 on the Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road in Loilem District.

He later attended a field demonstration in Ahshey village-tract, Mongpan Township, where high-yield model plots of the market-demanded Pawsan and Basmati rice varieties are being

tested to achieve target yields for the 2026 monsoon paddy season. Following the demonstration, fertilizers were distributed to local farmers.

The chief minister also inspected the ongoing concrete paving work on 8th Nawngpayin Street in Nawngpaing Ward, Mongton Township, which is being implemented under the 2026-2027 financial year Clean & Green Fund programme. — Mg Mg Than (Taungyi)/TH

National Theatre hosts Myanmar-China cultural exchange programme

FROM PAGE 1

The Shenzhou-13 documentary was selected to introduce Myanmar youth to China's achievements in space exploration and technology, while encouraging interest in science and engineering. The event also featured AI-assisted exhibitions of Myanmar and Chinese intangible cultural

heritage, a children's art exhibition entitled "Our Planet Throughout Your Eyes", and demonstrations of traditional Chinese calligraphy and paper-cutting.

According to the Director of the China Cultural Centre in Yangon, a three-month screening programme has been prepared, featuring historical,

technological and inspirational films, including 'The Battle at Lake Changjin'.

Weekly film and documentary screenings will be held at the China Cultural Centre in Yangon every Saturday from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm to promote greater cultural understanding between the two countries. — TWA/KNN



Photo shows volunteers stacking sandbags for flood prevention in Sagaing yesterday.

Sagaing Region strengthens flood prevention measures along Chindwin River

A total of 12 flood-monitoring stations have been established along the banks of Chindwin River from Ahlon Ward to South Monywa Ward in Monywa. Departmental personnel, local residents and members of social organizations are jointly monitoring designated locations to help

prevent flooding and inundation.

Yesterday morning, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Ko Lay, accompanied by regional ministers, inspected the condition and stability of flood-control gates and embankments. He also discussed flood-prevention

measures for the Chindwin River with responsible personnel.

On 8 August, the chief minister visited Shwese-myaing Hall in Kanbalu Township, where residents from villages affected by flooding from the Mu River had taken shelter. He presented K32.425 mil-

lion in assistance provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, together with K10 million contributed by the Sagaing Region Government to residents. He also inspected the Thaphanseik Reservoir in Kyunhla Township. — Region IPRD/KNN

NATIONAL

Producing Agricultural and Livestock Scholars Benefits National Development

FROM PAGE 3

In conducting practical agricultural activities, the President underlined that rubber and mango should be prioritized as major perennial crops. The President urged all to produce the agricultural experts required for Maubin District. Administrative organizations should work systematically in cooperation with the university to identify and develop agricultural land in an orderly manner.

He urged responsible officials to conduct systematic field surveys and research in flood-prone and deep-water areas. If fish ponds and farmland are systematically developed in these areas, aquaculture, including fish and shrimp farming, as well as agricultural activities, will develop further.

To support environmental conservation efforts



President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the Hinthada University in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

in the region, the President underscored that students at the university should be taught subjects related to environmental conservation to raise their awareness and knowledge. To prevent flooding and inundation, sandbanks and sediment

deposits that have formed in rivers and streams should be cleared to ensure smooth water flow.

After the meeting, the President viewed the construction of new buildings at the university and gave necessary guidance to of-

ficials.

On 8 August, the President visited the Technological University (Pathein) and Pathein University by car and instructed officials to beautify the campuses in pursuit of university criteria. — MNA/TTA

President inspects Ayeyawady flood-hit areas, orders faster relief and ...

FROM PAGE 1

where emergency work is underway to prevent further erosion and seal deep-water channels. The repair programme includes the installation of geo bags, geotextiles, sand-filled barriers and steel sheet piles, with the work being jointly undertaken by the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Transport, and Construction, together with technical experts and the Ayeyawady Region Government.

He instructed officials to complete the engineering works as quickly as possible and ensure relief supplies reached affected communities without delay.

Later, the President travelled to Laharpa Village in Hinthada Township, where flood victims from Laymyethna Township are being sheltered at the village monastery. He met the evacuated residents, expressed sympathy for their losses and assured them that the government would provide all possible assistance to support relief and recovery.

He encouraged residents to work together to rebuild their livelihoods after floodwaters recede and said Ayeyawady Region's strong agricultural potential would facilitate regional recovery from the disaster. He also called for systematic tree planting, including mangroves and coconut trees, to reduce riverbank erosion and improve resilience against natural disasters, while stressing the importance of better river management.

The President said more than K23 billion had been donated during a recent national fundraising ceremony for flood relief, describing the public response as encouraging.

He also urged parents to ensure their children return to school once flood-affected schools reopen, saying education is essential for developing knowledge, discipline and responsible future citizens.

During the visit, the President presented relief supplies to representatives of flood victims. The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also handed over K19.14 million in financial assistance for vulnerable groups affected by the flooding in Laymyethna Township.

The President concluded his visit by inspecting mobile healthcare services provided for displaced residents and instructed health authorities to continue delivering essential medical care at temporary shelters. — MNA/ST

Bago Region boosts aquaculture and fish stocks ...

FROM PAGE 1

These ongoing operations are centered at the Bago, Thanatpin, and Okpo fishery stations, which specialize in breeding species such as Rohu, Bighead Carp, Common Carp, Silver Carp, and Java Barb. During the monsoon season, as part of their 25th restocking initiative, the stations released 4.222 million fingerlings — primarily Rohu, Java Barb, and Common Carp — into natural lakes and rivers, while selling another 1.127 million fingerlings to commercial breeders.

For the full 2026-2027 FY, the three stations have established an overall production target of 13.22 million fingerlings. So far, the facilities have successfully produced 5.349 million fingerlings for restock-

ing and direct sales, with plans already underway to breed the remaining 7.871 million fingerlings in the upcoming phase.

According to Dr Su Myo Thwe, Director of the Regional Department of Fisheries, the department focuses on both commercial and ecological goals to ensure food sufficiency. In addition to commercial breeding, the hatcheries use artificial breeding techniques on native species — such as Walking Catfish, Butter Catfish, Climbing Perch, Snakehead, and Black Carp — to replenish natural rivers, streams, and lakes. Over 2,900 local farmers currently raise Rohu, Carp, Pangasius Catfish, Pacu, and Tilapia, prompting the department to focus its breeding efforts on high-demand

species like Rohu, Pangasius, and Thai Java Barb while providing regular training and discussions.

Bago Region currently maintains over 30,000 acres of freshwater aquaculture ponds. To support these operations, the Department of Fisheries has conducted more than 60 practical workshops and sessions, training over 2,000 local fish farmers. These educational programmes cover freshwater fisheries laws, aquatic resource conservation, Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP), basic fish farming and artificial breeding techniques, the specific rearing of native Climbing Perch, and the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung Project's fishery sector initiatives. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ST

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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.

Taunggyi holds public awareness talk in Pantpon Model Village

THE Department of Rural Development staged a public awareness talk at Pantpon Model Village in Taunggyi Township on 7 August.

Deputy Director of Shan State (South) Department of Rural Development U Khun Myint Thaung delivered opening remarks.

Officials gave lectures on reducing smoke and haze, proper waste management, environmental and indoor air pollution, and related health risks and preventive measures, dengue fever and malaria prevention, including water container sanitation and larvicide application, environmental protection, traffic safety regulations, licensing and the risks of unlicensed vehicles, fire prevention techniques, oil-fire handling and extinguisher maintenance.

During the event, officials distributed informational pamphlets on fire prevention and environmental conservation to 165 local elders and residents in attendance.— Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Departmental officials talk about public awareness an environmental conservation in Taunggyi Township on 7 August.

Senior medical specialists provide free healthcare to over 1,200 patients in Kengtung

A team of 11 medical professors and senior specialists from major hospitals in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw conducted a two-day mobile healthcare mission at Kengtung People's Hospital in Shan State (East) on 8-9 August.

Guided by the Ministry of Health, the visiting medical team worked alongside local doctors to provide specialized medical care to 1,259 local residents. The patients travelled from across 10 townships in Shan State (East), as well as the Wa and Mongla special regions.

During the mission, specialists from the medical team are seen in front of Kengtung General Hospital.

doctors provided treatments and diagnostic procedures across multiple specialties. Medical consultations included general medicine for 227 patients, orthopedics for 224, cardiology for 150, ENT and eye care for 112, nephrology for 108, gastroenterology for 85, and endocrinology for 74. Additionally, the team carried out essential diagnostic tests and operations, including 317 laboratory tests, 308 ECGs, 128 X-rays, 109 echocardiograms, 108 ultrasounds, 16 CT scans, and eight endoscopic and colonoscopic procedures.



Specialists from the medical team are seen in front of Kengtung General Hospital.

Additionally, health awareness lectures on diabetes and hypertension were conducted. Sixteen patients requiring further advanced care were referred to major tertiary hospitals. Local lawmakers and regional administrative officials visited the site on 8 August to encourage patients, meet with the specialist team, and present financial donations to the hospital fund and attending patients. — MNA/ST

CAFEO 44 in Indonesia invites research papers

FOR the 44th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization (CAFEO 44) to be held in Indonesia, engineering research papers can be submitted, according to the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies (Fed.MES).

The event will be held in Bandung, Indonesia from 20 to 22 October.

It also features engineering research paper reading and local engineers from government departments and private organizations or companies as well as teachers and students from technological universities are urged to submit their research papers.

The submission period will end by at 4:00 pm 15 August and papers can be sent to the chief executive officer of the Fed.MES, U Myint Soe; Tel: 09-5141322, email- ceomyintsoe.mes@gmail.com. — MT/ZS

Police rescue kidnapped Yangon jeweller within 12 hours, arrest 9 suspects

SECURITY forces rescued a prominent local jeweller and arrested nine suspects within 12 hours following a high-profile kidnapping in Pabedan Township on 6 August.

U Aung Myint (also known as Supra Money), owner of the Diamond Shine Jewellery Shop, was abducted by an unidentified group near his home on Shwebontha Street around 5:30 pm. Shortly after, the captors used the victim's phone to demand a ransom of K450 million and 60 ticals of gold from his family, threatening to kill him if authorities were alerted.

Following an intensive overnight investigation, security personnel tracked down and arrested two primary suspects, Win Ko Aung (aka Mudugar) and Lin Lin (aka Gindo), near the Setsan Hotel in Tamway Township at 4:30 am on 7 August.

By 5:30 am, law enforcement detained six additional accomplices alongside a taxi driver and the vehicle used in the crime. During a search of the surrounding area, officers safely rescued U Aung Myint unharmed from an abandoned house.

Authorities credited the swift resolution of the case to continuous surveillance efforts and key tips from attentive citizens. All nine suspects are currently in custody and face prosecution under applicable laws. — MNA/ST

Livestock Farming Operations underway in Hpa-an District



Departmental officials inspect progress of livestock farms in Hpa-an Township.

ON the morning of 8 August 2026, Departmental officials conducted an on-site inspection regarding the execution of livestock operations under the Rural Business Fund (RBF) project in Naingkya Village, Hpa-an Township.

They reviewed sev-

eral key areas: the setup and condition of systematic cattle farming operations supported by the RBF fund, the accurate updating of monthly financial record forms, compliance with instructions outlined in the project manual, and the accessibility of livestock breeding technologies.

Four livestock business groups in the village were disbursed K7.5 million each, totalling K30 million from the RBF project funds. These project operations are currently running successfully. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural)

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.

NATIONAL

Ayeyawady River nears danger levels in three towns

THE Ayeyawady River is expected to reach danger levels in Myinmu, Pakokku and NyaungU within the next 24 to 36 hours, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

Measurements taken at 6:30 am on 9 August showed that water levels in Myinmu and Pakokku were about two feet below their respective danger marks and were expected to reach those levels within 36 hours. In NyaungU, the river was about 1.5 feet below the danger level and



Officials travel by speedboat along riverside wards in NyaungU Township, using loudspeakers to warn residents about the rising river water level.

was expected to reach it within 24 hours. A further measure-

to 2,110 centimetres, just 10 centimetres below the town's danger mark of 2,120 centimetres, according to local administrative authorities.

Residents living near the river and in low-lying areas of Myinmu, Pakokku and NyaungU have been urged to remain vigilant and move to safer locations in good time if necessary. Authorities in NyaungU have also been using speedboats and loudspeakers to warn residents in riverside wards of the rising water level. — TWA/KZL

Film artistes make donations to flood recovery efforts in Ayeyawady Region

FILM actors and well-wishers are making donations through the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization to support rehabilitation and recovery efforts following the ongoing flooding in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, according to the organization.

The family of veteran

film artiste and MMPO patron Academy Award winner Myint Myint Khin donated K500,000, while the family of veteran film artiste and MMPO patron Kyi Soe donated K700,000 to the MMPO on 8 August, according to Chairman of the organization Academy Award winner Kyi Soe Tun.

— ASH/KZL



Veteran film artistes and MMPO patrons Academy Award winners Myint Myint Khin and Kyi Soe make donations.

Heavy rain triggers landslides, flooding in Mogok, Madaya



Rescuers transfer the flood-stranded people in Upper Taungkaing Village, Madaya.

HEAVY rainfall from 5 to 8 August caused landslides and flooding in Mogok and Madaya townships, Mandalay Region, damaging homes, roads and

residential buildings and brick walls in some wards and villages. Several asphalt roads were also damaged and temporarily closed to traffic. Security personnel, departmental officials and local residents have been working to clear affected roads with loaders, assist residents and provide necessary healthcare.

In Madaya Township, heavy rain caused water levels at the Saedawgyi Reservoir in Saedawgyi Village to exceed its storage capacity. On 7 August, excess water was released through seven spillway valves, each measuring 40

feet wide and 35 feet high, with each valve opened by about two feet to regulate the reservoir level and protect nearby villages and Tanga Bridge, also known as Kyauksaritkon Bridge.

The resulting overflow inundated sections of the Mandalay-Thabeikkyin-Mogok road near Tangataung Village. Security personnel, departmental officials and social organizations have been assisting residents in nearby Upper Taungkaing Village, relocating belongings to safer areas, distributing food and providing healthcare services. — MNA/KZL

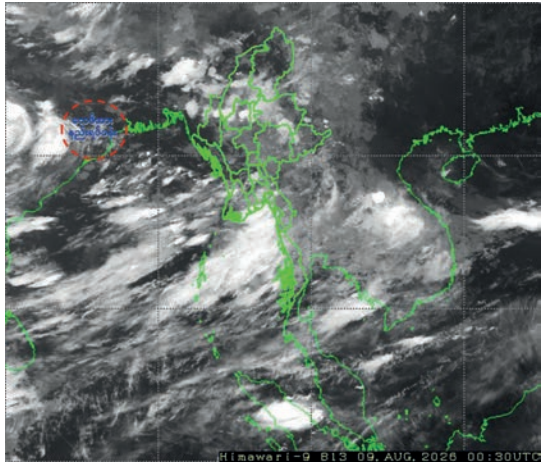
Flood-affected people evacuated to safer locations in townships of Sagaing Region

HEAVY rainfall that began on 5 August has caused flooding in towns, villages, wards, and farmlands across Sagaing Region.

Due to floodwaters entering villages and wards, members of the Myanmar Police Force, fire brigade members, and social rescue organizations assisted in temporarily relocating local residents from certain villages and wards in YeU, Kanbalu, and Mingin townships to safer areas. Furthermore, coordination is underway with the respective Township Disaster Management Departments to provide necessary relief supplies, including rice, cooking oil, and other food items, to the flood-affected population.

Additionally, due to heavy rainfall, the left retaining wall of Reinforced Concrete Bridge No 1/230 on the Thekkekyin-Phaungpyin-Homalin-Khamti road section was eroded by floodwaters, causing the asphalt road surface to sink and deteriorate. As a result, water is overflowing onto the road, making it passable only for large vehicles.

Furthermore, farmlands across 33 village-tracts in Shwebo District, as well as three villages in Kyunhla Township, have been flooded. Security forces are currently carrying out necessary rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. — MNA/TH



Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 7 am MST on 9 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, the low -area over the South West Bengal and adjoining North Odisha, India still persists. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 10:45 am MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.5 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about three miles southeast of Pyigyitagun), latitude 21.88°N, longitude 96.14°E, with a depth of 12 kilometres, about 10 miles south-southeast of the Mandalay Seismological Observatory was recorded at 10 hour 30 minute and 59 second MST on 9 August 2026. — DMH

NATIONAL

Mic Up! 2026 boosts youth English skills

THE Mic Up! English Speaking Competition 2026 was held on 8 and 9 August at the Junction Square Promotion Area, marking its fourth consecutive year, to boost English communication skills, public speaking confidence, and youth's international exposure.

Organized by the RVi Group, the competition aims to create platforms for young people from diverse educational and regional backgrounds to freely express their ideas, present their thoughts and English-speaking abilities with confidence, and connect with a broader audience.



This image displays the opening ceremony of the Mic Up! English Speaking Competition 2026.

A total of 487 contestants from three regions and two states participated in this year's preliminary stages. This included students from 12 schools in the Mini Mic competitions alongside participants rep-

resenting 18 schools. Contestants advanced to the National Round through two primary pathways. This year's National Round features 43 contestants in the Junior Category and 32 contestants in the

Youth Category. A major highlight of this event is the selection of four Gold Plus Winners, each from the Junior and Youth Category. Each winner will receive a cash prize of K300,000, full financial sponsorship for travel and competition expenses to Thailand, and the opportunity to represent Myanmar in the Regional Finals, where they will compete against winners from Thailand and other participating countries.

Additionally, all 75 contestants in the National Round will receive a cash prize of K50,000 and a certificate of participation. — MT/ZN

Workshop-cum-Lecture Demonstration on Indian Classical Music and Bharatanatyam concludes



Students present joint performances at the graduation ceremony for the workshop and lecture-demonstration on Hindustani Classical Vocal Music and Bharatanatyam dance.

A graduation ceremony for a Workshop cum Lecture Demonstration on Hindustani Classical Vocal Music and Bharatanatyam dance was held at the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) on 5 August, according to the university.

The programme was jointly organized by the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) of the Embassy of India. During the ceremony, trainees from SVCC and the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon) presented joint cultural performances.

The event was attended by the Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), Dr Kathy Htwe, Pro-Rectors, professors/heads of departments, students and officials from the Embassy of India. — ASH/KNN

Magway riverfront viewpoint project completes 80%



This photo depicts part of construction site for Ayeyawady River Viewpoint in Magway.

THE construction of the Ayeyawady River Viewpoint along the Strand Road in Magway has reached 80

per cent completion and is expected to be finished this month, according to the Magway Township Development Committee.

The 300-foot-long and 30-foot-wide viewpoint is being built along the more than 9,000-foot-long Strand Road. The facility will include viewing areas, benches and recreational spaces, allowing visitors to enjoy views of the Ayeyawady River and nearby

landmarks.

The project is expected to support local tourism by providing views of the Magway-Minbu Bridge, Myathalun Pagoda and Kandawmingala Lake, an engineer from the township development committee said.

Construction began on 1 June with an approved budget of K570 million, and completion is scheduled for August. — ASH/KZL

Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Field Inspection Conducted in Myohoung Village, Kyain-Seikkyi Township

DEPARTMENTAL officials from the Kyain-Seikkyi District Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development inspected family income-generating activities funded by the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Myohaung Village of Kyain-Seikkyi Township on 8 August.

Officials reviewed the operation of family income-generating businesses in the village. They

observed the completion of project-related financial records and documentation, providing necessary guidance and instructions where needed. According to the Kyain-Seikkyi Township Department of Rural Development, a total project fund of K60.9 million has been disbursed to 153 project members — comprising four agricultural workers, 125 livestock breeders, and 24 traders. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural)



This photo shows a pig farm funded by the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Kyain-Seikkyi Township on 8 August.

Rural youth under training at electric welding course



This photo shows youth trainees at practical welding work.

OFFICIALS observed the conditions of the vocationally supportive electric welding training being conducted by the Department of Rural Development of Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, on 8 August.

District and township officials of the Department of Rural Development oversaw the training of welding techniques at the electric welding course in Thayawun Village.

They instructed the trainees that if they faced any difficulties, they could contact and coordinate through the person in charge of the training.

A total of 20 trainees are attending the course which lasts from 15 July to 13 August. — Naw Lu (Rural)

OPINION

Encourage farmers to actively engage in cultivation and production

At present, Myanmar is a country rich in land and water resources among the countries in the region. Therefore, it has become necessary to make the most effective use of these resources and transform agricultural and livestock production systems in line with the globally changing food systems.

In transforming agricultural and livestock production systems, it is necessary to formulate and implement policies not only to ensure food security but also to achieve balanced and adequate nutrition, food safety, increased productivity, and sustainable development. In addition, it is essential to strictly adhere to the existing laws, rules, and regulations, and to make continuous efforts to achieve progress and improvement.

As the State is promoting national economic development based on agriculture and livestock farming, the long-term sustainable development of agricultural and livestock sectors is of great importance. It is necessary to protect the rights and interests of farmers and livestock breeders to ensure that they do not suffer any losses.

Efforts must be made through coordinated measures to enable farmers and livestock breeders to gain access to quality inputs such as high-quality seeds, breeding stocks, seedlings, and livestock breeds, as well as fertilizers, pesticides, water resources, animal feed, veterinary medicines, and necessary technologies. Hence, arrangements should be made to ensure that they can obtain agricultural loans with reasonable terms to cover production costs.

To enable every farmer to gain access to markets, relevant ministries and organizations need to provide domestic and international market information, market-related knowledge, and modern information technology services. In addition, efforts must be made to develop and strengthen reliable rural credit and financial systems so that farmers can easily invest in and adopt new technologies for crop cultivation, livestock breeding, and production.

Officials should study and closely monitor the market and trade-related information released by regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), as well as trade policies announced from time to time, so that they can be aware of such developments in advance. They should provide timely warnings and guidance to prevent farmers from suffering losses due to major market changes when their agricultural products reach the production and marketing stage.

Officials should study and closely monitor the market and trade-related information released by regional organizations such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), as well as trade policies announced from time to time, so that they can be aware of such developments in advance. They should provide timely warnings and guidance to prevent farmers from suffering losses due to major market changes when their agricultural products reach the production and marketing stage.

Only when responsible authorities provide comprehensive support and farmers themselves make concerted efforts in cultivation and production will their socioeconomic conditions improve and their living standards be raised. At the same time, the country will achieve food security and be able to export surplus crops to earn increased foreign exchange as part of efforts to bring multiple benefits.

Beyond Trees: Why Forests Are the Foundation of Life on Earth

As the world grapples with climate change, biodiversity loss, and increasing environmental degradation, one truth has become unmistakably clear: protecting forests is no longer simply an environmental concern – it is a global necessity. Forests are the living foundation of Earth’s ecosystems, sustaining life by regulating the climate, safeguarding biodiversity, protecting water resources, and supporting the livelihoods of billions of people.

Recent scientific research has reinforced what environmentalists have long argued: preserving natural forests is far more effective than attempting to replace them after they have been destroyed. While tree-planting campaigns have gained worldwide popularity, experts increasingly emphasize that no newly planted forest can immediately replicate the ecological complexity of an ancient, healthy forest. The priority, therefore, must be to protect the forests that remain.

More Than a Collection of Trees

A forest is far more than a group of trees. It is a sophisticated and interconnected ecosystem where plants, animals, fungi, microorganisms, soil, water, and climate interact in delicate balance. Every layer – from the towering canopy to the forest floor – plays a vital ecological role.



The canopy regulates sunlight and temperature, while the understory provides habitat for countless species. Fallen leaves and decaying wood enrich the soil, recycling nutrients essential for new plant growth. These intricate ecological relationships have developed over centuries, making natural forests remarkably resilient and productive.

When forests are cleared or fragmented, this balance is disrupted. Wildlife loses its habitat, soil fertility declines, water cycles become unstable, and local climates often become hotter and drier. Environmental scientists warn that even partial deforestation can trigger ecological consequences extending far beyond the affected area.

The Global Cost of Deforestation

Across the world, the consequences of forest destruction are becoming increasingly visible.

In Brazil, large-scale deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest has reduced one of the world’s greatest reservoirs of biodiversity while disrupting rainfall patterns across South America. Scientists warn that continued forest loss could eventually transform large sections of the rainforest into dry savannah, with profound consequences for regional agriculture and the global climate.

In South-East Asia, the conversion of tropical forests into oil palm plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia has dramatically reduced biodiversity and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Although these plantations contain trees, they cannot replace the ecological richness of natural rainforests.

Myanmar faces similar challenges. Forest degradation in regions such as Kachin and Shan States threatens wildlife habitats, weakens watershed protection, and places additional pressure on endangered species. These examples demonstrate that deforestation is not merely the loss of trees; it is the gradual dismantling of entire ecosystems upon which both nature and human societies depend.

Forests: A Lifeline for Biodiversity

Healthy forests are among the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth. According to

By Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)

the United Nations, forests provide habitat for more than 80 per cent of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity.

From insects and birds to mammals, reptiles, fungi, and microorganisms, countless species depend entirely on forest ecosystems for food, shelter, and reproduction. Each species performs unique ecological functions that contribute to the stability of the entire ecosystem.

South-East Asia’s tropical forests are among the richest biodiversity hotspots in the world. The forests of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar support endangered species such as clouded leopards, hornbills, and gibbons. The rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra remain the last refuge for critically endangered orangutans, while Malaysia’s Taman Negara represents one of the world’s oldest tropical rainforests, preserving extraordinary biological diversity.

Beyond South-East Asia, the Congo Basin in Africa and Canada’s boreal forests illustrate the indispensable role forests play in sustaining wildlife across vastly different climates.

Protecting Existing Forests Is More Effective Than Planting New Ones

Tree-planting initiatives have

become increasingly popular around the world, but scientists caution that planting trees alone cannot restore complex forest ecosystems.

Many large-scale projects rely on single-species plantations that may store carbon but provide only limited habitat for wildlife. Such plantations often lack the biodiversity, soil health, and ecological resilience of natural forests.

China’s ambitious afforestation programmes have helped combat desertification in several regions. Nevertheless, ecological studies suggest that monoculture plantations cannot fully replace the ecological functions of diverse natural forests.

In contrast, several European countries, including Germany, are increasingly adopting mixed-species forest management to improve resilience against climate change, pests, and disease.

The lesson is clear: restoring forests is valuable, but protecting mature natural forests remains the most effective conservation strategy.

Nature Can Recover - if Given the Chance

Encouragingly, forests possess remarkably regenerative capacity when protected from further disturbance.

Costa Rica has become an

international model for forest restoration. Areas once cleared for agriculture have gradually regenerated into thriving secondary forests that now support diverse wildlife and vibrant ecotourism industries.

Similar progress has been observed in parts of Vietnam and Laos, where forest restoration programmes have improved watershed protection and increased forest cover.

However, researchers emphasize that rebuilding the ecological complexity of old-growth forests may require decades – or even centuries. This reality reinforces the importance of conserving existing forests before they are lost.

Forest Conservation Benefits Everyone

Protecting forests delivers benefits that extend far beyond environmental conservation. Forests absorb significant quantities of atmospheric carbon dioxide, helping slow climate change. They regulate rainfall, reduce flooding, prevent soil erosion, and maintain clean water supplies for millions of people.

They also sustain local economies by providing timber; non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, and employment through sustainable forestry and ecotourism. Countries such as Costa Rica and Thailand have demonstrated that protecting forests can generate substantial economic returns

while preserving natural heritage.

Urban forests also play a growing role in improving public health by reducing air pollution, lowering temperatures, and creating healthier living environments in rapidly expanding cities.

Simply put, healthy forests support healthy societies.

A Shared Responsibility

The future of our forests will depend not only on government policies but also on collective public action. Stronger law enforcement against illegal logging, sustainable forest management, community participation, environmental education, and responsible land-use planning must become national priorities.

Forests cannot be replaced overnight. Ancient ecosystems that have evolved over hundreds of years represent irreplaceable natural capital whose value extends far beyond economic calculation.

Protecting forests is therefore not merely an investment in nature—it is an investment in humanity’s future. Every forest preserved today strengthens climate resilience, safeguards biodiversity, secures clean water, and ensures that future generations inherit a healthier and more sustainable planet.

In the end, the greatest legacy we can leave is not simply planting more trees, but protecting the magnificent forests that continue to sustain life on Earth.



Journalling and Reflective Teaching for Professional Growth

By Maung Maung Aye

JOURNALLING and reflective teaching are important practices for teachers. They help teachers improve their teaching skills and understand their students better. These two ideas are connected, but they are not the same. Journalling implies writing down thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Reflective teaching is a more organized process that involves thinking carefully about teaching and making changes to improve it. When teachers use both practices together, they can grow and

become more effective.

Journalling is simple and personal. Teachers often write in a journal every day. They write about what happened in their classroom. They also write about how they felt during the lecture. Journalling does not need formal language. It is usually informal and honest. For example, a teacher might write, “My students did not understand the group activity today. I think my instructions were not clear.” This kind of writing helps teachers express their thoughts freely.

It also helps them notice problems in their teaching.

Reflective teaching is more structured than journalling. It is a step-by-step process. Teachers think deeply about their teaching. They try to understand what worked well and what did not work. They also think about why something did not work. After that, they make plans to improve. For example, a teacher may review a lecture and realize that students were confused. Then the teacher may decide to explain the topic in a different

way next time. Reflective teaching helps teachers learn from their experiences.

Journalling and reflective teaching work well together. Journalling gives teachers a place to record their experiences. Reflective teaching helps them analyze those experiences. When teachers write regularly, they start to think more deeply. Writing helps them organize their ideas. It also makes their thinking clearer. Over time, this helps teachers improve their teaching.

SEE PAGE 11

DELICACY/NEWS QUIZ

Wood Ear Mushroom Salad (Kyauk Pwint Thoke)

WOOD Ear Mushroom (Kyauk Pwint) is a type of fungus that thrives in warm, humid tropical and subtropical climates. In Myanmar, it grows naturally on decaying tree stumps, old trees, and the dead branches of fig trees in forests receiving abundant rainfall and having high humidity.

Among Myanmar’s many traditional salads, Kyauk Pwint Thoke (Wood Ear Mushroom Salad) is one of the most popular and refreshing dishes. The mushrooms are most commonly enjoyed as a salad, either as a light afternoon snack or as a side dish together with a meal.

The main appeal of this salad lies in its delightfully crisp, chewy texture. The tangy freshness of lime juice blends harmoniously with the savoury taste of fish sauce and dried shrimp powder, the nutty richness of roasted chickpea flour and crushed roasted peanuts, and the gentle heat of fresh green chillies. Together, these ingredients create a well-balanced combination of sour, salty, spicy and nutty flavours that stimulate the appetite. Fragrant fried garlic oil and fresh coriander further enhance both the aroma and taste, making the salad even more irresistible.

Ingredients

- Wood ear mushroom (fresh or dried) – as required
- 1 onion, thinly sliced and rinsed
- 1 tomato, deseeded and thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons of dried shrimp powder
- 1½ tablespoons of roasted chickpea flour
- 2 tablespoons of coarsely crushed roasted peanuts
- Fresh green chillies, thinly sliced (to taste)
- 1–2 limes
- Fish sauce, to taste
- 2 tablespoons of garlic-infused oil
- Fresh coriander, for garnish
- A pinch of seasoning powder or chicken powder (optional)

Method

- 1. Prepare the mushrooms**
If using dried wood ear mushroom, soak them in cold water for 2-3 hours until they become soft and fully expanded.
- 2. Clean the mushrooms**
Trim away the tough yellow root-like portions at the base, rinse thoroughly, and tear or cut the mushrooms into bite-sized pieces.
- 3. Blanch**
Briefly blanch the mushrooms in boiling water for about one minute. Remove them immediately, rinse under cold water, and drain well. This helps eliminate any earthy smell while improving their cleanliness and crisp texture.
- 4. Combine the ingredients**
Place the drained mushrooms in a mixing bowl together with the sliced onion, tomato, green chillies, dried shrimp powder, roasted chickpea flour, crushed roasted peanuts, and garlic oil.
- 5. Season**
Add fish sauce, freshly squeezed lime juice, and a pinch of seasoning powder. Toss everything together thoroughly. Since the mushroom do not readily absorb flavours, season the salad slightly more boldly than usual.
- 6. Serve**
Taste and adjust the seasoning as desired. Garnish with fresh coriander and serve immediately.

A Healthy Traditional Dish

Besides its delicious taste, Wood ear mushroom is also highly valued for its nutritional benefits.

It is rich in plant-based collagen, which is believed to help maintain skin hydration and improve skin elasticity, reducing the appearance of fine lines. In traditional Chinese medicine, the mushroom has long been regarded as a beneficial ingredient for promoting healthy skin and beauty.

Because it is very low in calories and virtually fat-free, it is an excellent choice for people who are trying to lose weight or maintain a healthy diet.

The mushroom is also an excellent source of dietary fibre, which supports healthy digestion, promotes proper bowel function, and helps prevent constipation.

In addition, it contains polysaccharides, compounds that are associated with supporting the immune system and enhancing the body’s natural defences. It also contains substances with anti-inflammatory properties.

This week, why not try making Kyauk Pwint Thoke at home? It is simple to prepare, wonderfully refreshing, packed with flavour, and offers a nutritious addition to any meal. — MOON

Traditional Myanmar Delicacy



Weekly News Quiz

(for 10 August 2026)

THE following quiz is based on three national news stories and two international news stories published in Friday’s newspaper (7 August 2026).

National News Quiz

- Which chickpea varieties is the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Merchants Association preparing to export to Pakistan?
A. 929 red chickpeas and V3 white chickpeas
B. 555 yellow chickpeas and V1 white chickpeas
C. 929 black chickpeas and V2 red chickpeas
D. 777 red chickpeas and V5 white chickpeas
- Who will lead the upcoming 10-week Animated Documentary Training programme organized by the Yangon Film School (YFS)?
A. Mr Mikinor Naito
B. Imma Carpe
C. U Set Naing Tun
D. Dr Su Myo Thwe

- At the Myanmar-Thailand Business Forum held in Bangkok, what target figure was aimed to boost bilateral trade between the two countries?
A. US\$4 billion
B. US\$8 billion
C. US\$12 billion
D. US\$20 billion

Global News Quiz

- What is the name of China’s first independently-developed 16-megawatt TLP-supported floating wind power platform recently connected to the grid in the South China Sea?
A. “Haiyou Anlan”
B. “Shenzhou-16”
C. “Lufeng Power”
D. “Pearl River”
- What is the proposed maximum power capacity for the planned two-trillion-yen AI data centre in Akita Prefecture, Japan?
A. 250 megawatts
B. 500 megawatts
C. 750 megawatts
D. 1,000 megawatts

SEE ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 15

ARTICLE/LIFESTYLE

WORLD

Ainu musician brings tradition and global sounds to New York

AINU musician Oki returned to the city where he first began exploring his identity, bringing with him a sound that blends the traditional music of Japan's indigenous people with influences ranging from rock and reggae to African rhythms.

In early June, the sound of the tonkori, a traditional Ainu stringed instrument, reverberated through a concert hall in New York as Oki, 69, performed with the Oki Dub Ainu Band, the group he leads.

His music fuses traditional Ainu music with genres such as rock, reggae and Afrobeat. Returning to the city that had prompted him to reflect on his Ainu roots, he performed the distinctive style he continues to refine.

"I'm back home, New York City!" he called out during the concert. The packed hall erupted in cheers. — Kyodo



Ainu musician Oki plays the tonkori during a performance in New York on 4 June 2026.
PHOTO: KYODO

Bilingual volunteers bridge cultures to share 5,000-year story of Chinese civilization

Emma Chen shares rich ancient Liangzhu culture with international visitors.



Guests attending the Third UNESCO High-Level Forum for Museums visit the Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City Park in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 23 April 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

AT the Liangzhu Museum in Zhejiang Province, over 200 volunteers—including an expanding squad of bilingual guides—are helping global visitors connect with an ancient Chinese civilization dating back

more than 5,000 years.

American graduate student Emma Chen is among those leading the effort. Dressed in a red volunteer vest, Chen has spent five years sharing the rich history of the UN-

ESCO World Heritage site, which showcases the Neolithic Liangzhu culture's advanced social structure, agriculture, and exquisite jade craftsmanship. Chen, who is fluent in Chinese and co-translated an Eng-

lish picture book series on Liangzhu culture, believes in providing international visitors with deep, detailed cultural insights rather than simplified overviews.

The museum now offers English tours twice a week with over 20 qualified bilingual guides. Volunteers range from former professionals like Yao Hua, who uses digital tablets to magnify intricate jade carvings, to social media content creators like Dong Zhen.

So far this year, the museum has welcomed over 527,000 guests, including 5,100 overseas visitors. The surge in international interest reflects a broader trend, with surveys showing over 60 per cent of inbound tourists visit China primarily to experience its cultural heritage. — Xinhua

Journalling and Reflective Teaching for ...

FROM PAGE 9

Reflective teaching happens at three different times. These are before the lecture, during the lecture, and after the lecture. Each stage is important for improvement.

Before a lecture, teachers reflect on their plan. They think about what they are going to teach. They also think about what their students already know. This helps them connect new ideas to previous knowledge. Teachers set clear goals for the lesson. They decide what students should learn by the end. They also choose the best teaching methods. For example, they may decide to use group work, discussion, or examples. Teachers also try to predict possible problems. They may think that some students will find the lesson difficult. They may also worry

about time. By thinking ahead, teachers can prepare solutions. This makes them feel more confident.

During a lecture, teachers reflect in the moment. This is often called quick reflection because it requires fast thinking. Teachers carefully observe their students' facial expressions and behaviour to check whether they understand the lesson. If students look confused, the teacher quickly adjusts the plan. For example, the teacher may explain the idea again in a simpler way or give more examples. The teacher may also change the activity to make it more interesting. This kind of reflection requires fast thinking and helps teachers respond to students' needs immediately.

After a lecture, teachers reflect on what happened. They look back at

the whole lecture. They think about what went well. They also think about what did not go well. Teachers may ask themselves simple questions. For example, "Did my students understand the explanations?" or "Which part of my lecture was difficult for them?" They also think about their teaching methods. After that, they plan how to improve next time. This helps teachers learn from both success and mistakes. It is an important part of professional growth.

Journalling supports all these stages of reflection. Teachers can write before the lecture, during the lecture, or after the lecture. They can write a record about their plans, their experiences, and their results. Writing helps them think more clearly and remember important details. Over time, jour-

nals become very useful records of growth. By reading these records and entries, they will know how to handle problems better. Out of pride and motivation, they can make continuous efforts for growth.

Journalling also helps teachers solve problems. In the classroom, teachers often face challenges such as student behaviour problems or learning difficulties. When teachers write about these problems, they can understand them better. They have enough time to think about possible solutions. By analysing the problems from different angles, teachers can make better decisions in the future.

Journalling reduces stress. Since teaching is a stressful job, teachers may feel tired, worried, or frustrated. A journal gives them an outlet to express their feelings. Writing

about their emotions can help them feel calmer and manage stress more effectively. In the same way, they can also write about happy moments. For example, they may write about a successful lecture or a student's progress. This helps them stay positive and motivated.

Journals are also useful for professional development. Some teachers use their journals for research. This shows that they think carefully about their work and want to improve their teaching. By reflecting on their experiences, they can identify areas for improvement and develop more effective teaching strategies.

Last but not least, journalling helps teachers become more flexible and confident. Teachers learn to understand their own beliefs and ideas. They become more open to new

teaching methods. They are more willing to try new ideas in the classroom. They can also adjust their teaching to meet the needs of different students. This is very important because every student is different. Journalling helps teachers feel more confident in their decisions.

In conclusion, journalling and reflective teaching are very useful for teachers. Journalling helps teachers write about their thoughts and experiences. Reflective teaching helps them think deeply and improve their teaching. When teachers use both practices, they can grow professionally, solve problems, reduce stress, and become better teachers. In the end, these practices help students learn more effectively and create a better classroom environment.

ECONOMY
WORLD

India approves \$8.8 billion offshore oil and gas exploration programme

India's initiative attracts exploration investment, creates business opportunities, and strengthens technical capabilities.



India has opened most of its offshore acreage to exploration over the past decade.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI/FILE

INDIA has approved an investment programme of up to 840.84 billion rupees (\$8.8 billion) to accelerate offshore oil and gas exploration over the next five years, as the country seeks to strengthen domestic energy supplies and reduce its reliance on imports. The National Off-

shore Exploration Scheme will run through the end of the 2030-31 financial year and is expected to accelerate the addition of more than 600 million tonnes of discoverable oil equivalent to India's reserves.

The programme will finance seismic surveys, data processing and interpretation, and exploration drilling in deepwater and ultra-deepwater areas. It will also support scientific drilling in frontier basins, shared offshore production and evacuation infrastructure, and the establishment of an integrated oil

and gas manufacturing and services zone.

The government said the initiative is designed to attract investment across the exploration and production supply chain, create long-term business opportunities and strengthen India's domestic technical capabilities.

India has opened most of its offshore acreage to exploration over the past decade while reforming its legal and contractual framework and expanding the National Data Repository for exploration data. — ANI

Half of firms expect Japan's economy to grow amid inflation concern

ABOUT half of major Japanese companies expect the domestic economy to grow in the year ahead, down from 70 per cent six months ago, reflecting concerns over inflation from the prolonged conflict in the Middle East, a Kyodo News survey showed Saturday.

Some 51 per cent expect gradual economic growth over the next 12 months, while 38 per cent expect growth to be flat and five per cent expect the economy to contract moderately, according to the survey of 111 companies conducted from early to late July.

In the January poll, 70 per cent expected steady growth and 25 per cent

expected the economy to move sideways and one per cent expected it to shrink moderately.

Among those expecting moderate economic contraction or flat growth, 54 per cent cite rising prices as a reason for the outlook with multiple answers allowed, while 50 per cent cite sluggish consumer spending and 48 per cent cite a surge in energy costs. Some 81 per cent of the companies forecasting gradual economic expansion see capital spending recovering, 77 per cent point to rebounding consumer spending and 68 per cent expect wage hikes to help growth. None expects stronger expansion. — Kyodo

Afghanistan's gold rush upends lives and landscapes

IN Afghanistan's north-eastern Badakhshan province, dozens of excavators operate day and night to extract gold from the mountains where villagers and their livestock once roamed.

Thousands of miners are deployed across the Shiwa area, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) northeast of the provincial capital Faizabad, extract-

ing gold for investors nationwide.

Some residents in the area have profited from the gold rush, only to regret it later, such as farmer Muhammad Amin.

"Before, the river was deep, the water was clean," said the 74-year-old from Pul-e-Ziri Ban valley.

Since mining got underway, "the water of the river is not drinkable;

you can't even wash your body with that water", he told AFP.

With tears in his eyes, Amin said the grass along the riverbank "has all gone" and farming is no longer possible due to "the wind and dust".

Now he can only feed up to 15 goats, compared with as many as 40 previously.

Amin said he was paid

half the \$20,000 for which he agreed to lease his land to a mining firm that failed to fulfil a promise to restore his fields after the work stopped.

The Taliban authorities have expanded the mining sector since returning to power five years ago, aiming to tap into Afghanistan's vast underground resources to boost state coffers. — AFP



Japan possesses the third-largest strategic oil inventory in the world, managed under the nation's Oil Stockpiling Act.
PHOTO: AFP /FILE

South Africa repatriates over 77,000 undocumented foreign nationals

SOUTH Africa has repatriated 77,184 undocumented foreign nationals to various countries as of 3 August, the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) said Friday.

Briefing the media in Pretoria, Deputy National Police Commissioner Tebello Mosikili, who also serves as NATJOINTS co-chairperson, said 18,816 people were formally deported between 1 April and 31 July, while 3,016 undocumented foreign nationals were awaiting deportation at the Lindela Repatriation Centre.

Just over 500 people remain at a repatriation center in Musina, Limpopo Province, and will be returned to their respective countries in the coming days, Mosikili said.

"Government will continue enforcing immigration legislation while ensuring that all enforcement measures remain lawful, humane and consistent with the Constitution and applicable legislation," she said.

More than 16,208 undocumented foreign nationals were arrested in July under Operation



Shanela and related multidisciplinary operations. From January to date, 59,947 undocumented foreign nationals have been arrested for being in the country illegally, according to NATJOINTS. — Xinhua

Private security officials and South African police officers conduct inspections for illegal immigration in Johannesburg, South Africa, 29 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

India amended FDI rules to boost e-commerce exports

INDIA has recently amended its foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations to facilitate large-scale e-commerce trade and help small businesses, artisans, farmers and fishermen access wider markets, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

Speaking to the media following the BRICS Trade and Industry Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur, Goyal said the changes would facilitate e-commerce trade in products including handlooms, handicrafts, textiles, footwear and food products.

"We have recently amended FDI regulations to facilitate large-scale e-commerce trade for products such as handlooms, handicrafts, textiles, footwear, and various everyday items, including food products, that consumers typically purchase online. This will benefit our farmers and fishermen," Goyal said.

His remarks came as BRICS ministers discussed ways to strengthen trade, investment, financing for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), digital commerce and industrial co-operation among member countries. Goyal said that India, which holds the BRICS presidency this year, hosted a meeting of industry ministers on Thursday, where discussions focused on increasing investment and creating employment opportunities through emerging technologies. — ANI



Goyal said changes will facilitate e-commerce trade for products like textiles and food. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ MEESHA FABRICS**

Moscow tests fully autonomous 'Lastochka' train on open rails

MOSCOW has begun testing its Lastochka train equipped with Level 4 automation, marking a key milestone in fully autonomous rail technology operating on open, real-world infrastructure.

Under Level 4 parameters, the self-driving train handles all operational functions independently, including navigation, door controls, automatic braking, and real-time obstacle detection along the tracks. Unlike most fully automated transit systems globally that operate within closed tunnel environments, the domestic system is designed to navigate complex open-rail conditions, including ground crossings and urban rail traffic.



Moscow has begun testing its Lastochka train equipped with Level 4 automation. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Rather than sitting in the cab, a single operator monitors up to four trains simultaneously

from a centralized control center, stepping in only in the event of an emergency. The development follows a lower-level autonomous version that has carried passengers with a safety driver onboard since August 2024. According to officials, the autonomous technology and system architecture are entirely Russian-made. — SPUTNIK

EU faces self-made energy crisis over Russian gas phase-out

THE European Union is facing an energy crisis triggered by abandoning Russian gas supplies, the Russian special presidential envoy for investment and economic cooperation with foreign countries, Kirill Dmitriev, said on Saturday.

"Winter is coming as due to decoupling from Russian gas: Germany has filled only 47.6 per cent of gas storage against a normal 75 per cent, and the Netherlands only 38.5 per cent against 77 per cent. The EU is facing a

self-made energy crisis," Dmitriev wrote on X.

In January, the Council of the EU approved a regulation on the phase-out of Russian LNG and pipeline gas imports.

Russian officials have repeatedly said that Western countries made a serious mistake by refusing Russian energy supplies, arguing that Europe will become more dependent on higher-priced alternatives and will continue to purchase Russian coal, oil and gas indirectly and at higher costs. — SPUTNIK

China's advertising industry revenue up 11.3% in H1

CHINA'S advertising industry generated more than 1 trillion yuan (about US\$147.27 billion) in revenue in the first half (H1) of 2026, the country's top market regulator said.

Advertising business revenue of leading industry players totaled 1.04 trillion yuan during the January-June period, an increase of 11.3 per cent year on year, indicating strong growth momentum in the industry, according

to the State Administration for Market Regulation.

Internet advertising placement was the main driver of this growth, with revenue surging by 25.3 per cent from a year earlier to 612.1 billion yuan, accounting for 86 per cent of total advertising placement revenue. Notably, revenue from film advertising placement registered several-fold growth during this period, the regulator said. — Xinhua

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In the matter of the Financial Institution Law, 2016
In the matter of MUFG Bank, Ltd. (Yangon Branch)

[Under Paragraph 34 of the Directive on External Auditors of Banks of
the Central Bank of Myanmar (10/2019)]

Public Notice regarding Publication and Exhibition of Financial Statements

Pursuant to Paragraph 34 of the CBM Directive (10/2019), notice is hereby given that the Audited Financial Statement of the MUFG Bank, Ltd. (Yangon Branch) for the Financial Period ended 31st March 2026, and the External Auditors' Report had been published on the website of the bank at

<http://www.bk.mufg.jp/global/globalnetwork/asiaoceania/yangon.html>

On the date of 6th August 2026
MUFG Bank, Ltd. (Yangon Branch)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XIN HUA YUAN VOY.NO. (0B82FS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XIN HUA YUAN VOY.NO. (0B82FS1NC) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

French farmers need billions of Euros in aid amid extreme heat

Agricultural production becomes practically impossible when temperatures exceed 40°C.

FRENCH farmers will need billions of euros in aid to offset losses from extreme heat and the wildfires and drought it has caused, Arnaud Rousseau, chairman of the National Federation of Farmers' Unions (FNSEA), said on Saturday.

"We are talking about billions of euros... Obviously, we need to wait for the [heatwave] to end to get a more precise figure, but we already know these are unprecedented amounts. Although there are some insurance programs in place, we know perfectly well that they will



In eastern France, the Doubs river has vanished in places.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

not cover such a level of claims," Rousseau said on franceinfo radio.

In agriculture, whether crop farming or livestock, it is practically

impossible to produce anything when temperatures exceed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), he noted.

In late July, French

Agriculture Minister Annie Genevard said extreme heat had caused enormous damage to the country's agriculture, leading to a sharp drop in vegetable yields and milk production, as well as increased livestock mortality.

Europe is experiencing one of the worst heatwaves in years, with Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, and Greece hit the hardest. French President Emmanuel Macron said in July that the country was facing the highest number of wildfires this summer since the end of World War II. — SPUTNIK

Japan eyes using cutting-edge AI under preemptive cyber defence policy

JAPAN is considering utilizing cutting-edge artificial intelligence systems under its preemptive cyber defense policy in the face of the risk of attacks by advanced models such as US startup Anthropic's Claude Mythos, a senior government official said.

Amid growing concerns over cyberattacks by AI models with high capabilities to detect security vulnerabilities, it is "inevitable" that Japan will use sophisticated AI technology, said National Cyber Director Yoichi Iida.

"It would be no surprise if the time between

vulnerability discovery and exploitation were shortened to a fraction of a hundredth or a thousandth of what it used to be," Iida said in a recent interview with Kyodo News.

The Claude Mythos model is seen as highly capable of finding security vulnerabilities, and Anthropic initially limited its access to IT companies such as Google LLC and certain financial institutions after its April unveiling, due to concerns it could be misused for cyberattacks.

Iida's remarks came after Prime Minister



The government aims to leverage proactive AI capabilities to counter potential cyber threats posed by sophisticated next-generation models. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Sanae Takaichi's Cabinet decided in March to enable the government from 1 October to take "active cyber defence" measures to eliminate in advance

the possibility of serious cyberattacks that could disrupt critical infrastructure, economic activity and people's livelihoods. — Kyodo

Iran Guards demand US conditions met

IRAN'S Revolutionary Guards said on Sunday they would not reopen the Strait of Hormuz, vital to the world economy, until the United States met Tehran's conditions set out

the day before, including compensation for war damages.

Iran has imposed an effective blockade of the strait since the United States and Israel at-

tacked in late February, and wants to charge tolls for passage, striking ships it accuses of attempting to circumvent its preferred route.

Continued attacks in

the waterway, which was free to transit before the war, led to the collapse of an April ceasefire. Mediators have urged both sides to return to the terms of a subsequent June memo-

randum that set out a path for peace talks.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said discussions with Oman over transit and management of the strait were "approaching the final stages", but added that the reopening of Hormuz

"is subject to other conditions and compensation for the violation" of the June agreement.

He denied on Sunday that Iran was negotiating with the United States, saying they were merely "exchanging messages" via intermediaries. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka hydro storage rises to 66.5% after rainfall

SRI Lanka's hydro storage levels have risen to 66.5 per cent following recent rainfall, providing temporary relief to the national power system, local news outlet The Morning reported Sunday, citing National System Operator (NSO) Chairman Pradeep Perera.

Perera said hydro storage had increased to about 850 gigawatt-hours (GWh) from around 560 GWh before the rains, enabling more reliable system management until the first week of September.

However, the improved storage has not reduced the need for longer-term preparations, as forecasts indicate possible dry conditions in January, February and March 2027. — Xinhua

Ecuador charges seven in candidate's murder

ECUADOR'S Prosecutor's Office formally charged seven people Saturday on suspicion of being the masterminds behind an assassination plot against a prominent presidential candidate in 2023.

Fernando Villavicencio, a legislator known for his anti-corruption investigations, was polling in second place when he was shot and killed at a campaign event in Quito 11 days before the 2023 presidential election.

Ecuador's Prosecutor's Office announced on X that it "charges the seven defendants as indirect perpetrators for their alleged participation in the crime of #Murder". — AFP

Indonesia closes national park as wildfire spreads

INDONESIAN authorities have closed access to a national park on Java Island as firefighters battle a wildfire raging there for nearly a week.

The blaze has razed 176 hectares (435 acres) since it broke out on Monday in the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park, near the popular East Java tourist destination of Mount Bromo, a disaster official said.

Authorities barred access to visitors late Saturday until further notice. No injuries or property destruction have been reported, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Abdul Muhari. Two water-bombing helicopters have been deployed to douse the flames in areas difficult for firefighters to reach due to steep slopes and strong winds, he said in a statement Sunday. — AFP

SPORTS

Naing Win Tun wins Lethwei world championship belt



Naing Win Tun with the championship gold belt.

NAING Win Tun won the 67-kilogramme championship belt at the 11th Myanmar Traditional Lethwei World Championship held at Theinbyu Lethwei Gymnasium in Yangon on 9 August.

In the 67-kilogramme bout, Naing Win Tun of Nine Lethwei defeated Kayin victorious flag champion Kabar Shar of Zarhtet Meiktila by medical stoppage in the fourth round after his opponent suffered a head injury from a punch.

Other four-round bouts saw Daung Maik Thway of Nine Lethwei and Saw Ruby of YMA finish in a draw at 53 kilogrammes, while Kayin victorious flag champion Aung Ko Latt of Ray and Saw Htein Lin of 555 Sports also drew at 65 kilogrammes.

In the five-round bouts, Salai Thang Kwi Shein of Kyar Ma Naing and SEA Games bronze medallist Hein Tun Aung of Khae Yue Wah drew at 56 kilogrammes. MLWC champion Eh Mwi of Eh Kanyaw and Sky Net victorious flag winner Thant Zin of Python Tawwin Ayeya drew at 60 kilogrammes, while Tun Min Aung of Top One and MLWC gold medallist Raman of Yoya Swan Ah drew at 75 kilogrammes.

The tournament was organized by the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation and Myanmar Martial Arts Group, with Myanmar Economic Corporation as the main sponsor. — MNA/KZL

Man Utd boss Carrick being ‘careful’ with Mount as Man Utd draw with PSG

MICHAEL Carricksaid he had to be “careful” with Mason Mount after the England midfielder was involved in an injury scare during Manchester United’s 1-1 friendly draw with Paris Saint-Germain in Gothenburg on Saturday.

Mount, who joined United from Chelsea in 2023, has been hampered by injury problems since arriving at Old Trafford and he lasted less than 20 minutes after starting against PSG.

The 27-year-old appeared to suffer a foot injury in Sweden and, following discussions with coaches on the touchline, left the field to be replaced by Tyler Fletcher.

“He (Mount) got kicked,” United manager Carrick told reporters. “We just wanted to be careful and look after him.”

“We’ve been lucky with injuries so far, so we wanted to be careful.”

Post-match video footage showed Mount



Manchester United midfielder Mason Mount.
PHOTO: AFP

walking on to the United visible knee support or a bus without any form of protective boot. — AFP

World number one Sabalenka ousted in Toronto by Alexandrova

WORLD number one Aryna Sabalenka was eliminated by Russian 16th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova on Saturday in a fourth-round match at the WTA Toronto Masters tournament.

Alexandrova defeated the four-time Grand Slam

winner from Belarus 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-4 in 2 hours 29 minutes to book a berth in the quarterfinals.

Sabalenka, who will seek her third consecutive US Open title next month, fell to 5-5 in her career WTA rivalry with

Alexandrova, who will face either American eighth seed Amanda Anisimova or Ukraine’s ninth-seeded Elina Svitolina in the quarterfinals.

Sabalenka broke for a 2-0 lead in the opening set, dropped the next

four games, then held and broke back to 4-4 on a forehand drop volley winner. Double faults by Sabalenka in the 11th game and Alexandrova in the 12th surrendered breaks leading to a tie-break. — AFP

Futsal quarterfinals set after knockout wins

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 advancing to the quarterfinals.

The Ministry of Home Affairs defeated the Ministry of Religious Affairs 12-4, while the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications thrashed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 13-2. The Ministry of Construction beat the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture 9-0, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement edged the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation 4-1.

The quarterfinals will be played from 9 am on 10 August, featuring Ministry of Defence versus Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Finance and Revenue versus Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Home Affairs against Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, and Ministry of Construction versus Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. — MNA/KZL



This image captures the match between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ FROM PAGE 10



Weekly News Quiz
Answer Key

- 1. (A) 929 red chickpeas and V3 white chickpeas (From the Chickpea Export story on Page 1)
- 2. (B) Imma Carpe (From the Yangon Film School story on Page 2)
- 3. (C) US\$12 billion (From the Myanmar-Thailand Business Forum story on Page 4)
- 4. (A) “Haiyou Anlan” (From the Floating Wind Power Platform story on Page 16)
- 5. (B) 500 megawatts (From the Akita AI Data Centre story on Page 13)



WORLD

Yemen's Houthis say struck refinery on Saudi's Red Sea coast

YEMEN'S Iran-backed Houthi rebels said on Sunday they had struck an oil facility on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast after the Gulf kingdom said it had extinguished a fire at the site. The group's military spokesman Yahya Saree said the Houthis had "succeeded in targeting the Aramco refinery in Jazan with a drone".

He added the attack on the facility operated by Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil firm was launched in response to incursions by drones from the Gulf monarchy into northwest Yemen. A years-long truce in Yemen's civil war between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government appeared to collapse last month as fighting between regional allies of the United States and Iran flared. Later Saree said the Houthis on Sunday targeted "Saudi enemy" troops and equipment in the area of Yemen's Red Sea coastal city of Mokha with missiles and drones. — AFP



Container ships are seen anchored near the Strait of Bab al-Mandeb off Yemen's coast in the Gulf of Aden. PHOTO: AFP

Construction of new units at Bushehr nuclear plant continues, says Rosatom CEO

Russian nuclear firm Rosatom has sent its first five specialists back to the Bushehr plant in Iran to resume work.



The image shows the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Iran. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

The construction of facilities that will house new power units at Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant is ongoing, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev said on Sunday.

"The construction of the main and auxiliary buildings for power units No 2 and 3 is continuing at the site. Preparatory work has also begun on hydraulic engineering structures," Likhachev said.

The new power units at the Bushehr nuclear plant are being built with Russia's participation.

Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom is sending its specialists back to the Bushehr nuclear power plant construction site in Iran, with the first five staffers having resumed their work, Likhachev said.

"We have begun the return of specialists to the site of the Bushehr NPP, which is under construction. The first five people from among the engineering and technical personnel have already arrived at our residential settlement and have started performing

their tasks," Likhachev told reporters.

He clarified that the total number of Russian specialists at the plant had reached 25.

Rosatom plans to send several dozen employees to the Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran within two weeks, provided there is no further escalation, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev said.

Likhachev said that Rosatom had begun returning specialists to the Bushehr construction site. The first five staffers have

already resumed work. This brings the total number of Russian personnel at the site up to 25.

"We plan to send the next group, consisting of several dozen employees, within the next two weeks, provided, of course, that there is no further escalation in the conflict between the United States and Iran," Likhachev told reporters.

In July, Likhachev said that strikes had targeted the Bushehr province, but the nuclear plant construction site had not been hit. — SPUTNIK

Nagasaki warns of risk of nuclear war on 81st A-bomb anniversary

NAGASAKI on Sunday warned nuclear powers and deterrence-reliant nations of the increased risk of a war using nuclear weapons, as the Japanese city marked the 81st anniversary of the US atomic bombing with a resolve to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again.

"Nuclear weapons are not a 'necessary evil' but an 'absolute evil,' and can never coexist with humanity," Mayor Shiro Suzuki said in the Peace Declaration read during the annual memorial ceremony for the attack on the southwestern city, which followed the atomic bombing of Hiroshima

three days earlier. Adding cadence and vocal inflection, Suzuki's powerful voice pierced through the Peace Park as he called the concept of nuclear deterrence "extremely dangerous and fragile".

This year's commemoration comes amid geopolitical tensions in the wake of the Middle East conflict and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A moment of silence was held at 11:02 am, when the plutonium device codenamed "Fat Man" was dropped by a US bomber and exploded over Nagasaki. It remains the last place to have suffered a nuclear attack. Still, more



Photo shows the ceremony at Nagasaki Peace Park in Nagasaki on 9 August 2026 marking the 81st anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the southwestern Japan city. PHOTO: KYODO

than 12,000 nuclear warheads exist, Suzuki pointed out. He expressed concern over unpredictability in the conflicts in Ukraine and the

Middle East, where nuclear states are involved, referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the US-led war on Iran. — Kyodo

Flagship AI factory opens in Armenia

A new artificial intelligence (AI) factory opened in Armenia's Hrazdan on Saturday, marking the launch of the first phase of a project developed by Firebird, a US-based AI company, Armenpress reported.

The total investment in the two-phase project is expected to reach US\$5 billion upon completion.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan described the launch as a significant event for the country.

The factory is powered by NVIDIA accelerated computing and Dell Technologies' high-performance AI infrastructure. NVIDIA said Firebird plans to deploy more than 70,000 NVIDIA Rubin and Blackwell GPUs and 300 megawatts of AI infrastructure capacity in Armenia by the end of 2027, as part of efforts to accelerate the country's development as a center for AI research, advanced computing and innovation. — Xinhua