

Government Pledges Every Effort to Achieve Lasting Peace



President U Min Aung Hlaing poses for the documentary group photo with delegation members of the Chair of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Myanmar.

Problems within society can be effectively resolved through dialogue and consultation based on democratic principles.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Cardinal Charles Bo, Chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall yesterday morning. First and foremost, the conference chair extended greetings. He expressed his appreciation

for the President's steadfast efforts in carrying out the State's heavy responsibilities despite numerous difficulties and challenges. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar was established to help Catholics in Myanmar freely practise their faith and carry out religious activities. **SEE PAGE 3**

Yangon Region grows sugarcane for export

A total of 3,436 acres of sugarcane for sugar production and export, along with 511 acres of chewing cane, have been cultivated in Yangon Region, exceeding the original cultivation targets, according to the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture. For the 2026-2027 financial year, the region had targeted the cultivation of 3,381 acres of sugarcane for sugar production and 507 acres of chewing cane. By the end of July, farmers planted 3,436 acres of sugarcane and 511 acres of chewing cane, surpassing the planned acreage. Sugarcane is being cultivated in Gonnyintan, Kywebote, Magayi, Chingon and the Okkan Seed Farm in Taikkyi Township, while the locally **SEE PAGE 7**



A thriving sugarcane plantation in Yangon Region.

Tiddim Delivers Education, Healthcare to Thousands

TIDDIM Township has opened 115 basic education schools for the 2026-2027 academic year, and 13,062 students' education. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo visited schools and the Government Technical Institute (Tiddim) to observe learning activities and encouraged students to pursue **SEE PAGE 4**

Over 400 container vessels dock at Yangon Port in Jan-July

A total of 402 container vessels arrived at the Yangon Port in the past seven months (January-July) of 2026, the Myanmar Port Authority announced. Yangon Port handled arrivals of 55 container vessels in July, 55 in June, 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 in February and 63 in January 2026. Yangon Port operated 728 container vessels **SEE PAGE 7**

OPINION

Boost solar power for nationwide electrification

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Short-, Long-Term Plans Must Prioritize Embankment Strengthening

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Flood victims at Patheingyi Sports Complex II receive food, assistance

NATIONAL

Proverb relay contest held to raise reading habits at Public Library

THE Information and Public Relations Department in Gyobingauk Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, held a proverb relay contest yesterday at the Community Centre as part of its reading promotion programme, which was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education.

A total of 15 students from Gyobingauk Basic Education High School participated in the contest, which was held alongside a wall poster



Students are seen enthusiastically taking part in the competition.

and a book exhibition as part of the township public library's reading promotion activities. Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Thandar Aung attended the event and

encouraged the participants.

Township IPRD Head Daw Wint Nandar Htay said that the event was organized to broaden students' knowledge beyond

their school curriculum, foster creativity and critical thinking among young people, and help them understand traditional Myanmar proverbs and apply their meanings in everyday life.

Following the contest, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative and officials gave detailed explanations of the meanings and interpretations of the proverbs featured in the competition. Prizes were then presented to the winning students. — Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)/KTZH

PUBG Mobile unveils YG-inspired outfit worldwide

PUBG Mobile has just introduced a new in-game outfit of Myanmar's top Esports team, Yangon Galacticos (YG), on a global scale.

The release marks PUBG Mobile's first-ever exclusive in-game outfit for an esports team, honouring YG's championship success and highlighting Myanmar's growing prominence in the international esports arena.

YG's in-game outfit is available to all PUBG Mobile players worldwide from 4 to 23 August. The global launch marks a major milestone for YG and serves as a significant show of support for the team as it represents Myanmar and defends its title at the 2026 Esports World Cup (EWC) in Paris.

YG won the EWC 2025 world championship, and it will defend the title this year. — MT/ZS



The Yangon Galacticos team is pictured with the EWC champion trophy in 2025.

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 36

Issued at 8 am MST on 5 August 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and due to 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 8 August 2026.

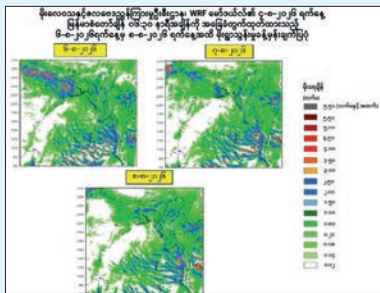
Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the

Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. 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 South Bay of Bengal and the Depression area over the West Bengal Coast near west Haldia, India, and 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

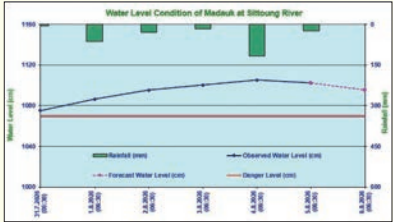


Weather

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 8 am MST on 5 August 2026

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sitoung River at Madauk has exceeded by more than one foot above its danger level.



It may fall about three inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level. It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Madauk, to take precautionary measures. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm wednesday 5 August 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to stormy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and moderate is elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 6 August 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Lower Sagaing Region, isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Upper Sagaing regions and Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (northern and eastern) Shan states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Deltaic, off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states.

FORECAST FOR THE NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 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 6 August 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

Short-, Long-Term Plans Must Prioritize Embankment Strengthening

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

In his speech, the Vice-President stressed the need to systematically carry out restoration work across all sectors to ensure that flood-affected roads and bridges, electricity and communications networks, schools, hospitals and drinking water systems are restored and returned to service as quickly as possible.

The Vice-President



Vice-President U Nyo Saw holds the meeting on relief and rehabilitation efforts in Ayeyawady Region.

stated that measures must be taken to replant paddy in flood-damaged farmland and that, if the planting season has passed, alternative crops should be cultivated instead. Relevant ministries and the regional government will coordinate efforts to provide seeds, agricultural inputs, necessary

assistance and technical support.

He noted that the overflow caused by the embankment subsidence resulted from water flowing through a breach in the sandbar beneath the Ngawun Embankment in Laymyethna Township. He added that the situation had been successfully brought under control

without any loss of life, thanks to the prompt and coordinated efforts of the Tatmadaw, departmental organizations, volunteers and residents in preventing further flooding. Meanwhile, the President is providing necessary support for ongoing disaster response and mitigation efforts.

SEE PAGE 4

Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss gas pipeline project, energy trade

MYANMAR and Bangladesh discussed the potential development of a natural gas pipeline and energy trade between the two countries last Sunday, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe met with Mr Iqbal Hassan Mahmood, Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh,



Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Moe meeting with Bangladesh's Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Mr Iqbal Hassan Mahmood.

at the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources on 2 August 2026. Both sides

exchanged views on the gas pipeline project, bilateral energy trade, and the importance of neighbouring ties.

Myanmar and Bangladesh also negotiated bilateral trade promotion and maritime transport cooperation, including the import of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the last week of July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated.

— ASH/KK

Government Pledges Every Effort to ...

FROM PAGE 1

He also expressed sincere gratitude, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar and all Catholics in the country, for the President's approval to construct a Catholic church on a two-acre plot of land in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, enabling Catholics to gather for worship and prayer. **He concluded by extending his prayers and best wishes for the President and all the people of Myanmar to enjoy physical well-being, peace of mind, and prosperity.**

In response, the President said that in Myanmar, all people are guaranteed the freedom to practise the religion of their choice. He noted that he had visited religious institutions of various faiths to make donations and observe their activities. He pointed out that places of worship for all religions should possess an appropriate level of dignity and grandeur. The President further stated that a review of the country's history showed

that land had long been allocated to enable different religious communities to carry out their missionary and religious activities. As Nay Pyi Taw is the nation's capital, land has also been allocated for the construction of appropriate places of worship and religious buildings for followers of different faiths. He emphasized that he does not discriminate among religions and encourages all religions to promote peace and prosperity through their respective faiths.

The President said that Myanmar is currently advancing along the path of a multiparty democratic system, and that the practice of democracy must be disciplined and orderly. He stressed that peace and stability are essential

in both religious and political spheres. Regarding the peace process, he noted that he has already extended invitations for dialogue and will continue to pursue every possible means to achieve lasting peace in the country. The President stated that he firmly believes that problems can only be successfully resolved within a society where people live together through dialogue and consultation based on the democratic means of finding solutions.

He further said that political problems, or political demands, must be resolved through political means alone, and cannot be achieved through armed violence or terrorism. Concerning religion, he said that every faith offers sound moral teachings. Therefore, he appealed to religious leaders to help foster a more civilized mindset and spirit among the people, and to contribute, through their respective religions, to bringing about peace and prosperity for the nation.

The President enquired about the bishops' needs and requirements and pledged the necessary support. Following the meeting, the President and the Chairman of the Conference exchanged commemorative gifts and posed for documentary photographs with the attendees.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Yangon, Bishop Noel Saw Naw Aye and Catholic bishops from Kengtung, Mawlamyine, Pathein, Pyay and Myitkyna. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Workshop on gender considerations in emergencies, recovery efforts held

DURING natural disasters and emergencies, vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities face greater challenges. It is necessary to shift from a general approach that provides equal assistance to everyone toward a gender-responsive approach that carefully analyzes and addresses needs based on gender differences when carrying out emergency response and recovery activities, according to the workshop on gender considerations in emergencies and recovery efforts.

The workshop is being held at Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw from 4 to 6 August, with the participation of 40 representatives from the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Zin delivers the address at the workshop on gender considerations in emergencies and recovery efforts.

Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

At the opening ceremony of the workshop, Chairperson of the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and Union Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin said that Myanmar has incorporated the priority area of "Women and Emergency Situations" into the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women. She added that the National Committee on

Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence has also been systematically established and is carrying out its duties. She said that incorporating gender considerations into emergencies and recovery processes would help strengthen cooperation among government departments, local authorities, community organizations and partner organizations. She emphasized the need to enhance the capacity of personnel

involved in planning and implementing projects so that gender perspectives can be given due consideration. She also encouraged participants to exchange views and discuss ways to effectively apply a gender lens in every stage of disaster response operation during the workshop.

Also present at the event were deputy ministers Daw San San Nwe and Dr Thant Zaw Lin and relevant departmental officials. — MNA/KTZH



Short-, Long-Term Plans Must Prioritize Embankment ...

FROM PAGE 3

The Vice-President emphasized the need to conduct field inspections of the condition and stability of embankments along the Ayeyawady and Ngawun rivers, systematically deploy water-level monitoring teams, and establish a mechanism to promptly inform the public of any abnormal situations. He also noted that low embankments could be constructed along river courses to help prevent flooding and support river water pumping projects.

He instructed officials to reopen schools as soon as possible once floodwaters recede and stressed that both short- and long-term plans must prioritize the strengthening of embankments.

The Ayeyawady Region chief minister and deputy ministers reported to the Vice-President on the flooding situation in Laymyethna Township, including rescue operations, efforts to reopen schools and hospitals, transport arrangements, rehabilitation activities, immediate repair works, and plans to construct embankments to prevent saltwater intrusion.

The Vice-President reviewed the reports and discussions and fulfilled the needs.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win, Lt-Gen Kyaw Lin Maung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and officials. — MNA/TTA

Tiddim Delivers Education, Healthcare to Thousands

FROM PAGE 1

He later visited mechanical, agriculture and livestock breeding subjects from Grade 10 onwards. He also provided refreshments to students.

Tiddim 100-bed People's Hospital, where he gave words of encouragement to patients and provided nutritious food and financial as-

sistance to expectant and postnatal mothers. The hospital, staffed by 166 health workers, has treated 12,665 patients since January 2026. — MNA/MKKS

Htantabin's model village project introduced; committee formed



An initiation and committee formation ceremony for the model village project in progress in Htantabin Township.

A ceremony to conduct an introductory briefing on the establishment of the Model Village Project and form a project committee for the 2026-2027 financial year took place in Thantaza Village, Kyutaw Village-tract, Htantabin Township, yesterday.

Htantabin Township De-

partment of Rural Development Head Daw Cho Mi Aye met village elders and villagers in the village and explained the objectives, implementation processes and rules and regulations to be followed in forming the project committee, as well as matters requiring coopera-

tion from the village. The villagers selected and formed a seven-member Model Village Project Committee through consensus to effectively lead and carry out project activities.

The project will commence implementation during the 2026-2027 financial year, focusing on six major areas including village infrastructure development, livelihood improvement, promotion of the rural economy, and establishment of a sustainable model village, with technical assistance and close cooperation from relevant departments and residents. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

EARTHQUAKE

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.9 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 22 miles west of Pale), latitude 21.91°N, longitude 94.52°E, with a depth of 89 kilometres, about 55 miles north-northwest of the Nyaung U Seismological Observatory was recorded at 6 hours 41 minutes 57 second MST on 5 August 2026. — DMH



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NATIONAL

Flood victims at Pathein Sports Complex II receive food, assistance



The Ayeyawady Region chief minister and officials oversee the arrangement for relief supplies.

THE Ayeyawady Region government stated that food and assistance from donors for flood victims in Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District, have

been collected at Pathein Sports Complex II and are being delivered to the places where the victims are needed as soon as possible.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw inspected the arrangements for the systematic storage of the assistance and their prompt delivery to the places where the victims are needed yesterday morning.

In addition, the chief minister encouraged blood donations from 102 students of Pathein University, University of Computer Studies (Pathein), Technological University (Pathein), and Pathein Education Degree College to mark International Youth Day at the Pathein People's Hospital by providing nutritious food to blood donors. — Region IPRD/MKKS

Bailey bridge substituted for collapsed bridge in Laymyethna flood

A Bailey bridge was built for temporary use at the collapsed bridge on the road that connects Laymyethna, Aithapyu and Ngathaingchaung, and the public can use it starting from 5 August, said the Ayeyawady Region government.

The bridge no 1/6 between 5 miles and 5 miles 1 furlong was destroyed in the strong current caused by the leakage of Ngawun embankment on 3 August in Laymyethna Township.

Under the instruc-

tion of the regional chief minister, a bailey bridge was built shortly after, as a temporary substitute, so that public transport wouldn't be interrupted when the water descends.

President Office's Spokesperson Dr Khine Khine Soe said that, according to statistics collected on the evening of 4 August, 7,734 houses with 7,858 families in five urban wards and 106 villages, totalling 32,607 people, were affected by the flood in Laymyethna Township. — TWA/ZS

K143M Aid Reaches Over 20,000 Laymyethna Flood Victims



This photo captures inundated areas in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 5 August 2026.

MORE than 20,000 flood-affected residents in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyawady Region, have received food supplies and cash assistance totalling over K143 million, according to the Office of

the President.

Flooding in Laymyethna Township has affected 4,749 houses, 4,815 households and 20,354 people. As of now, 1,889 people are taking shelter in 11 relief camps opened across the township.

Affected residents have been provided with food items, including instant noodles, canned fish, eggs and drinking water, as well as cash assistance.

In addition, more than 1,000 personnel from the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, the Fire Services Department, the General Administration Department, the Myanmar Red Cross Society, and social welfare groups are assisting with evacuation efforts. A total of 34 fibre boats, 35 motorboats and 28 vehicles have been deployed to relocate residents to safer areas. — ASH/MKKS



The Bailey bridge under construction for temporary use.

Floods inundate 106 villages in Laymyethna

HEAVY rain and river-bank erosion triggered flooding across Laymyethna Township in Ayeyawady Region, inundating 106 villages and prompting ongoing rescue and relief operations, authorities said.

Floodwaters entered five wards in Laymyethna

town, major roads and 72 surrounding villages after a weakened embankment along the Ngawun River gave way, allowing water to flow through a breached sand channel. The flooding also affected 26 villages in Hinthada Township, six in Yekyi Township and two in

Kyonpyaw Township.

Authorities have opened 13 relief camps, while security personnel, police, firefighters, rescue organizations, volunteers and residents are evacuating affected families, delivering food and providing medical assistance.

Emergency crews are also reinforcing embankments with sandbags, constructing water barriers and carrying out earthworks to prevent further erosion and flooding. Officials continue to monitor the situation and coordinate relief efforts. — MNA/KZL



Relief efforts are underway in Laymyethna Township.

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit www.moi.gov.mm/mal, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.

News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Frontline Tatmadaw troops receive warm welcome home



Triumphant Tatmadaw personnel are seen being warmly welcomed back. A ceremony to warmly welcome back the triumphant frontline Tatmadaw members who courageous-

ly served their duties was held at the local battalion in Mongnai, Shan State (south), yesterday. Relevant officials of East Central Command, departmental officials, Myanmar Police Force members, people's militia unit members, and locals welcomed back returning soldiers with heartfelt enthusiasm. They welcomed back the victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia and presented cash prizes to the returnees. The event included traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/KTZH

41 Chinese arrested for illegal border crossing in Tachilek

AUTHORITIES arrested 41 Chinese nationals for illegally entering Myanmar in Tachilek Township, eastern Shan State, during operations targeting illegal border crossings linked to efforts to combat online scam operations. Security forces first detained two Chinese men near the Waelelan joint checkpoint before follow-up operations led to the arrest of another 39 Chinese nationals near Wanpon village, bringing



This map shows the location where undocumented entrants were arrested in Tachilek Township. The total to 41. The suspects, comprising 40 men and one woman, are being held for legal action under Myanmar's immigration law, authorities said. — MNA/KZL

Zeyathiri's Emerald Green funds disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held the third-round disbursement of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project Revolving Fund through the Mobile Financial Payment system in Thayawun Village, Zeyathiri Township, Zeyathiri District, Union Territory of Nay Pyi Taw, on 4 August. Daw Soe Soe Oo, District Head of the Department of Rural Development, Zeyathiri District, delivered the opening remarks. U Myo Zaw, Township Head of the Department of Rural Development, Zeyathiri Township, then explained the objectives and benefits of disbursing the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Fund through the Mobile Financial Payment system. Afterwards, under the supervision of officials from the District and Township Department of Rural Development, responsible personnel from Citizens Pay and members of the Emerald Green

Village Project Committee used Citizens Pay digital technology to disburse loans from the Emerald Green Village Project Revolving Fund. A total of K32.7 million was provided to 30 members engaged in agricultural activities, and K7.9 million was provided to 16 members engaged in livestock breeding. In total, K40.6 million from the Emerald Green Village Project Revolving Fund was disbursed to 46 members in Thayawun Village. — Naw Lu (DRD)

Thayawady Emerald Green project activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Bago Region, conducted a field inspection of the Emerald Green project activities being implemented in Letpantone Village, Thayawady Township, yesterday. The project aims to create employment opportunities for rural residents, increase household incomes, and reduce poverty. District Head U Nyunt Zaw of the Thayawady District Department of Rural Development, together with project staff and township officials, reviewed the implementation of livestock breeding and small-scale business activities financed through the Emerald Green project revolving fund. They also inspected the completeness and accuracy of the monthly project records and documentation. U Nyunt Zaw encouraged members of the Emerald Green Project Committee to expand their small-scale income-generating businesses to strengthen household economies and improve their livelihoods. He also coordinated the necessary support to ensure the continued project success. The Emerald Green project in Letpantone Village was launched during the 2017-2018 financial year. In the current financial year, a total revolving fund of K45.9 million has been provided to 207 beneficiaries, comprising 146 agricultural producers, 50 livestock breeders, and 11 small-scale business operators. According to the Thayawady District Department of Rural Development, the project is being implemented successfully and continues to contribute to rural socioeconomic development. — Myo Myo (DRD)

Aunglan's concrete road construction inspected

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development (DRD) conducted a field inspection yesterday of the ongoing concrete road construction in Yebawhaung Village, Aunglan Township, Aunglan District, Magway Region. The project is being implemented using interest income from the Emerald Green Project to improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities. Daw Htar Htar Yi, Head of the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Development, together with project staff and members of the Emerald Green Project Committee, reviewed the construction progress of



Officials oversee the ongoing concrete road construction in Aunglan Township. the village road. The project consists of a 500-foot-long, 12-foot-wide, and six-inch-thick concrete road. She also instructed the committee members to ensure that the construction meets the required quality standards and is completed within the specified timeframe. Necessary coordination and technical guidance were also provided. The project is being implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with a total budget of K30 million, comprising K11 million from the Emerald Green Project's interest income, allocated for village development, and K19 million contributed

by residents. Construction commenced on 20 July 2026 under the technical supervision and close monitoring of the staff of the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Development, with the Mya Sein Yaung Project Committee carrying out the work. The project has now reached approximately 95 per cent completion. Once fully completed, the improved road is expected to enhance transportation and facilitate economic, educational, healthcare, and other social activities for the residents of Yebawhaung Village, according to the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Development. — Moe Moe (DRD)



Officials inspect a village development project in Thayawady Township.

NATIONAL

Bridge Dept invites tenders for YGN-MDY railway overpass project

THE Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction invited domestic contractors for the construction of a railway overpass bridge over the Pobbathiri ring road in Nay Pyi Taw, crossing the Yangon-Mandalay railway line.

The project will be funded under the 2026-2027 Union budget, covering the procurement and transport of construction materials, and the rental of machinery for the overpass bridge spanning 1,400 feet in length.

Bid documents have been available since 30 July at the Bridge Department near the Thanlwin Road traffic light, Sinphyushin Ward, Pobbathiri Township. Sales and tender submission will be closed at 4 pm on 14 August.

Bids will be opened at 9:30 am on 18 August at the department. Interested individuals can enquire further details through the overpass bridge construction project team at 09 891954629 or 09 883881123, according to the tender evaluation committee. — NN/KK

MTE auctions over 4,000 tonnes of teak, hardwood logs, sawn timber

LOCAL Marketing and Milling Department, Myanma Timber Enterprise, operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for an open tender to sell over 4,000 tonnes of round logs and sawn timber of teak and hardwood.

Open tendering will be held at 8:30 am on 18 August at Taw Win Hall, Myanma Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon.

Those logs and sawn timber are sourced from mills operated under the department in Shan State (South) and Nay Pyi Taw.

Interested bidders can observe details of the open tender through official website of Myanma Timber Enterprise www.mte.gov.mm or by dialling 09 795700439 or 09 402705515. — NN/KK

Over 400 container vessels dock at Yangon Port in Jan-July



A general view of the Yangon Port along the Yangon River.

FROM PAGE 1

work was accelerated. After that, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99 metres LOA, 35.25 metres Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled. — NN/KK

in 2025, 633 in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanma Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2024.

After the discovery of a new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) to access the inner Yangon River, the draft extension

Yangon Region grows sugarcane for export

FROM PAGE 1

grown chewing cane is cultivated in Hlegu Township. Foreign sugarcane varieties, including K95/84, KK-3 and K2000/89, and the high-yield Dar-4 variety developed by the Department of Agricultural Research, are being grown as monsoon crops. Sugarcane planted in November last year is scheduled to be harvested starting in late October.

As sugarcane is a year-round crop, harvesting takes place from October through January, after which replanting is carried out immediately. Sugarcane for sugar production is replanted using stem cuttings, while chewing cane is replanted using the upper portions of the stalks.

"Myanmar uses molasses produced from domestically grown sugarcane for local consumption, while the sugar is exported, generating foreign exchange earnings. Sugarcane is also a profitable crop for farmers because it commands a good market price," said U Myo Myint, deputy director of the department.

Sugarcane is processed into sugar and molasses, while bagasse – the fibrous residue left after crushing – is used to produce organic fertilizer.

Last year, sugarcane sold for K160,000 per tonne, while the current market price has risen to K200,000 per tonne. Average yield stands at 20.86 tonnes per acre.

Magway and Mandalay regions are Myanmar's principal sugarcane-producing areas. In Yangon Region, sugarcane is also cultivated alongside rice as an export crop. Chewing cane is commonly sold as fresh sugarcane juice in Yangon during the cool season.

Sugarcane for processing is used to produce molasses for beverages and other food products, while refined sugar produced from boiled cane juice is supplied for domestic consumption and exported overseas. Most sugarcane and chewing cane in Yangon Region are cultivated around the Okkan Sugar Mill. Sugar produced from processing sugarcane is exported mainly to China and India. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH



PHOTO: ZWE MARN

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 5 August 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,661.50~3668.00	558.00~558.70	125.60~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	10,533,875.63	4,749,872.55	4,935,560.38	-

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

Gold Market Rate as of 5 August 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,950,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

Boost solar power for nationwide electrification

Solar energy is a clean and inexhaustible source of renewable energy provided by the Earth to all humankind equally. If this energy can be harnessed effectively, it could generate and supply the electricity the country needs in the shortest possible time.

In Myanmar, electricity generation mainly relies on hydropower and natural gas. Hydropower generation faces challenges due to climate change-related impacts as well as disruptions and damage caused by terrorist groups. In addition, rising global energy prices have become another difficulty in ensuring the country's energy security. Therefore, conditions are increasingly being created to promote the use of solar energy, also known as solar power generation.

Solar energy is a clean energy source because it is derived from sunlight. While fossil fuels such as crude oil are limited

Myanmar's central dry zone, encompassing Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions, receives abundant sunshine throughout the year, making it well-suited for large-scale solar power generation. Solar power projects require relatively shorter construction periods, and Myanmar possesses abundant solar energy resources. Therefore, solar energy should account for a much larger share of the country's energy mix than it currently does. The use of solar power not only helps meet electricity demand but also contributes to environmental conservation by reducing fuel consumption and lowering carbon emissions.

Under the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy, there are 32 hydropower plants, 24 natural gas-fired power plants, two coal-fired power plants, and 12 solar power plants, with a total installed capacity of 6,725 megawatts. If operated at full capacity, the facilities could generate approximately 3,400 to 4,000 megawatts of electricity.

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resources and may become increasingly scarce, solar power can be easily installed and used by individual households. The government is encouraging the use of solar systems through two approaches: integrating solar power into the national power grid at an appropriate proportion, and enabling individuals or groups to install and use Solar Home Systems according to their own arrangements.

Responsible authorities have already arranged for the installation of solar systems in areas where the national power grid is not accessible. As a clean and sustainable energy source that provides long-term benefits, solar power should be widely adopted. Myanmar's energy mix currently relies mainly on natural gas, which accounts for about 56 per cent, and hydropower, which accounts for around 40 per cent. Electricity generated from solar energy still represents only about 3.58 per cent of the country's total power generation.

Under the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy,

13 July 2026 was the 213th anniversary of the arrival of American Baptist Missionary Dr (Doctor of Divinity) Adoniram Judson (9 August 1788-12 April 1850) and his then wife (who turned out to be his first of three wives), Ann Heseltine Judson (22 December 1789-5 October 1826), in Rangoon, Kingdom of Burma, on 13 July 1813.

Adoniram Judson lived about 36 years in Burma, making one visit to the United States and died at sea in April 1850 on the way for his second visit.

The Wikipedia website on Adoniram Judson states:

When Judson began his mission in Burma, he set a goal of translating the Bible and founding a church of 100 members before his death. When he died, he left the Bible, 100 churches, and over 8,000 believers. In large part due to his influence, Myanmar has the third largest number of Baptists worldwide, behind the United States and India. The majority of adherents are Karen and Kachin.

I want to be clear that I am mentioning Judson's arrival two hundred and thirteen years ago in Burma is not to positively commemorate or alternatively bemoan it.

Judson, who already knew Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, immediately began studying the Burmese grammar but took over three years learning to speak it. This was due, in part, to the radical difference in structure between Burmese and Western languages. He found up to three different tutors and spent twelve hours per day studying the language. He and his wife firmly dedicated themselves to understanding it.

Just over 20 years after his arrival 1835, Judson had translated and published the entire Bible into Burmese.

I have read parts of the Burmese translation, which was written in classical and excellent Burmese. The translation is not from the English but either the Greek or the Hebrew versions, with perhaps consulting the English translation as well.

JUDSON'S EXCELLENT TRANSLATIONS OF TWO BIBLICAL PHRASES

I want to comment (and praise) on his translation skills by giving two examples of Biblical

Two hundred and thirteenth anniversary of American Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson's arrival in Burma (Myanmar)

By Myint Zan

phrases which he had translated. (Again, I want to make myself clear that I do praise his superb translation and his dedication, skills and determination in learning and mastering the Burmese language and NOT on his theology, metaphysics or religion).

"Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11) in the 'Sermon on the Mount' was translated by Judson thus: 'Give us food (or victuals) (just) to make a living this day'. Not a literal translation of bread since bread is not the staple food of the Burmese. Also, Judson, in his translation, did not use the staple food of the Burmese, which is rice. He did not translate (retranslating from the Burmese) 'Give us this day our rice and curry'; Judson did state 'to make us a living', which was not in the English translation, but the addition of that phrase is appropriate, right on the mark and compelling.

Second, the phrase in *Ecclesiastes* 'Vanities of Vanities, all is Vanity' (Eccles. 12:8) is translated as 'All in this world is ANATTA (non-self) ANATTA and ANATTA.

ANATTA is a Pali term which is proximately translated as "non-self". I have read a succinct elaboration in English which reads (with emphasis) "There **IS** no self" (the emphasis is on the IS)

It is one of the three signata of Buddhism: ANICCA (non-permanence), DUKKHA (suffering or the state of being awry) and ANATTA (non-self). It is significant that Dr Judson appropriated the Pali Buddhist term ANATTA and deployed it to proximately translate 'Vanities of Vanities, all is Vanity'; by using the Pali word ANATTA. I mentioned this translation to my high school teacher, the late M A Williams, who taught us English at Saint Peter's High School in Manda-

lay several decades ago. Saya (teacher) M A was a Catholic. Saya M A said in response that Judson translation was ***Ma Hsoe Boo*** (not bad), which I think was an understatement.

'BURMA THROUGH ALIEN EYES'

It was in the University of Michigan Library in 1982 that I found the book *Burma Through Alien Eyes* by Helen Trager. Ms Trager reported and critiqued the very uncomplimentary remarks about Buddhism, if not by Judson himself but then by one of his wives. They wrote: 'how lucky American children were when they have Christ as their Saviour and worship the only true god and Burmese children bow down to idols'. In the year 2001, in a sermon in a Methodist Church in Fiji, I also heard similar denigrating comments about 'heathen idols'.

In relation to the relative ease with which Dr Judson converted the non-Burman ethnic groups to become Buddhists, he had some explanations. It is with some, if not considerable, difficulty that he was able to convert relatively few Burmans in contrast to the ethnic groups and hill tribes. The Burman Buddhists had a well-established religion of Buddhism for about eight centuries before the Judsons arrived in Burma. Judson or one of his wives wrote that the hill tribes and ethnic groups did not have an organized religion, only animistic belief. It is considerably easier to pour down, so to speak, the truth of Christianity into the jar or the minds of the hill tribes, wrote the Judsons. For the Burman (Bamars) Buddhists, they already have dark and smelly petroleum or kerosene in the form of Buddhism. Petroleum in Burmese is written (the water

that smells). So, it takes time and effort to clean the 'smelly water' before Christianity can be poured down into the cup (minds) of the targeted populace of Burmans compared to the hill tribes, Judson stated.

Wikipedia and other sources state that it took Judson six years to convert the first Burmese. In 1819, he baptized Maung Naw, a 35-year-old timber worker from the hill tribes. There still stands a Church by the name of U ('Mr') Naw Memorial Church in Yangon.

Wikipedia also states that when Judson met the Buddhist Burmese King Bagyidaw, also known as Sagaing Min (23 July 1784-15 October 1846) and presented to him a Burmese translation of one of the tracts of *The Bible*, the King threw them away to the ground after reading a few lines.

COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TO PROSLETIZE IN TWO SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES 200 YEARS APART

Still, it is significant that two centuries ago, at least at times in Burma, the Judsons and other missionaries had the partial freedom to preach, and as early as 1835 and even now the Burmese translation of *The Bible* is available to be purchased or read in Churches.

I have a two-volume copy of the Burmese translation of *the Quran* too, and as far as I know, though it may be hard to obtain, *the Quran* in Burma is not formally banned.

Fast forward two centuries later to Malaysia in the year 2013 – the 200th anniversary of Judsons' arrival in Burma. In the year 2013, a Malay translation of *The Bible*, even if not formally banned in Malaysia, is scarcely

available. I understand that only a somewhat different translated version in the Indonesian language (*Bahasa Indonesia*) is available. The Malay language (*Bahasa Melayu*) and Indonesian language (*Bahasa Indonesia*) are to a maximum of 90% similar, but they are not identical.

I also dare to wonder whether, hypothetically, if Adoniram Judson were to come to Malaysia in July 2013 instead of to Burma in July 1813, would he be able to proselytize as he did in Burma two centuries earlier? It is true

“In large part due to his influence, Myanmar has the third largest number of Baptists worldwide, behind the United States and India.”

that Judson had been prosecuted and jailed in Burma for about 17 months. But would he have similar freedom to convert Malays and Muslims in Malaysia like Judson did in Burma in the year 2013 in Malaysia or not? To extend this counter-factual, could Judson have built a rest house (Zayat), say in any Malay-dominated area in Malaysia in the year 2013 to preach Christianity to Malays and other Muslims? And instead of inviting Buddhist Burmans to 'hear the good news' (to preach Christian tenets) in the early 19th century, could he have invited Malays or other Muslims to propagate the gospel in the early 21st century?

I do not think so. In every

state of Malaysia there are laws which prohibit proselytizing to Muslims and distributing religious pamphlets to them. All pamphlets from 'other religions' (more on this below), whether Christian, Buddhist or Hindu, carry the disclaimer of 'For non-Muslims only'.

I have been inside the Judson Memorial Church, which is in the compound of the University of Rangoon/Yangon, built around July 1931. I went there when there was no sermon, but I have listened to a Method-

It states that in July 1816, a mere three years after his arrival, Judson published (did he have access to a printing press or did he hand copy it?) in Burmese titled (in translation) *A View of the Christian Religion*. In it the following bold or, in the context of the third decade of the 21st century and in retrospect, nonsensical prediction appeared:

A hundred or two hundred years from now ('the other') religions Buddhism, of Brahma (Hinduism), of Muhammad (Islam) and the religion of Rome Roman Catholicism) will disappear and the true faith of the Lord Jesus Christ (i.e., Baptism) will pervade the whole world.

Two hundred and ten years to the month (in July 2026) after Dr Judson wrote that bold prediction, the rosy, over-optimistic scenario stated in Dr Judson's tract has not materialized. Obviously, NONE of the 'Other' religions Judson predicted or 'prophesized' (more below) has disappeared. Significantly, Judson did include the Roman religion (Roman Catholicism) as the 'Other' religion, albeit it was the earlier version of the religion of Christianity.

About 114 years after Judson's prediction, philosopher Bertrand Russell 18 May 1872-2 February 1970), in one of his essays first published in 1930, wrote:

... Protestantism split into innumerable sects, which weakened each other; and there is reason to suppose that a hundred years hence Catholicism will be the only effective representative of the Christian faith. (Emphasis added).

'Has Religion made useful contributions to civilization' in *Why I am not a Christian* (Routledge Classics, 2004, pp. 37-38.)

In July 2026, Russell's prog-

nosis or projection in 1930 that in 100 years only effective representative of the Christian faith would be Catholicism has not materialized. Still, according to Vatican sources there are currently about 1,420 million Catholics in the world and online sources indicate that the population of all sects of Protestants (including Baptists) is between 690 million to 1,000 million. Russell is right in that, as in 1930, there are currently many ('innumerable') sects among Protestants. Russell was not quite right when he stated that the Catholic Church will be the only effective representative of the Christian faith. Russell, unlike Judson, did not state that Protestants will 'disappear' as Judson did as to 'religion of Rome' and 'Other' religions.

'ALL OTHER RELIGIONS WILL DISAPPEAR' JUXTAPOSED WITH 'WITHERING AWAY OF THE STATE AND LAW'

Sixty-two years after Judson's bold prediction of the disappearance of other religions except that of his own, Frederick Engels (29 November 1820-5 August 1896), with approval of the contents by Karl Marx (5 May 1818-14 March 1883), published *Anti-Duhring*. In the book, he claimed that under communism the State and Law will wither away. Engels did not say they will be abolished or 'will disappear', unlike Judson. And unlike Judson in 1816, Engels did not provide a timeline as to **when** the State and Law will begin to wither away.

'WHERE THERE ARE PROPHECIES...'

'But where there are prophecies, **they** will cease'. 1 *Corinthians* 13:8

One supposes that Dr Adoniram Judson was not a Prophet in the full Christian theological sense of the word. But in pre-Christian Greek mythology, Cassandra had a gift of prophecy, albeit her prophecies were not believed. Dr Adoniram Judson was not (strictly) theologically a prophet. Neither was he the mythological Cassandra. But it is **not** politically or religiously incorrect to state that Judson's prediction of 1816 has as the per the *Corinthians*, 'ceased' to be valid and ceased to be of any relevance.

■

SCI/ENVIRON: WORLD

US appeals court blocks Trump administration's cancellation of billions of dollars in climate grants

Court blocked EPA's unlawful freeze on clean energy grant funds.

A US federal appeals court in Washington on Tuesday ruled against the Donald Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over its decision to cancel about 20 billion dollars in clean energy grants awarded to several nonprofit groups during the Joe Biden administration.

In a divided vote, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit affirmed an April 2025 injunction against the EPA decision to terminate the grants in March 2025.

"Today, the DC Circuit Court judges affirmed what we have always known: EPA took actions to unlawfully freeze and dismantle the National Clean Investment Fund grant program," Climate United, one of the nonprofits, said in a statement Tuesday.



Trump administration's EPA has moved aggressively to roll back Biden-era clean energy and climate policies. **PHOTO: ACP**

"Despite efforts to harm the awardees with false allegations and misinformation, there remains no legal basis for terminating our grant award and clawing back funds that were already

disbursed in our bank accounts," the statement said.

Under Administrator Lee Zeldin, the Trump administration's EPA has moved aggressively to roll back Biden-era clean en-

ergy and climate policies. Actions include deregulation, repealing emissions standards, terminating climate-related funding, and challenging the scientific basis for climate regulations. — Xinhua

Guatemala on orange alert as Fuego volcano eruption intensifies

GUATEMALA remained on alert Tuesday as Fuego volcano, one of Central America's most active, continued an intense eruptive phase marked by pyroclastic density currents, the country's volcanology institute said.

The National Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH) said pyroclastic currents began descending the Las Lajas and Honda ravines on the volcano's southeastern flank at 1:15 am local time.

The currents added



pyroclastic currents began descending the Las Lajas and Honda ravines on the volcano's southeastern flank at 1:15 am local time. **PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

to others already moving through the Seca, Taniluya and Ceniza ravines on the southwestern and south-

ern flanks of the volcano.

INSIVUMEH said the activity marked a paroxysmal phase of the

eruption, characterized by a sustained increase in volcanic energy, heavy emissions of gas, ash and lava fragments, as well as strong seismic and acoustic signals.

The institute said the pyroclastic currents had travelled between five and seven kilometers toward the base of the volcano, posing the main threat to nearby communities. It warned that more currents could descend through any of the ravines and potentially travel farther than those observed so far. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

SpaceX Falcon 9 upper stage to crash into Moon: NASA

PART of a used SpaceX rocket is expected to crash into the Moon on Wednesday, but the impact poses no danger to Earth, NASA said Tuesday.

In a news release posted on its website, NASA said it is using ground-based telescopes and space-based assets to track the used Falcon 9 upper stage from a commercial mission. The roughly 3,900-kilogram part is expected to impact the Moon near the Einstein and Bell craters.

NASA scientists are planning to collect lunar data from the event and refine techniques for tracking objects in space. — Xinhua

Austria sees record high temperature as European heatwave rages on

A 41 degrees Celsius temperature record was set in Austria on Tuesday, together with forest fires and low Danube water levels in the Alpine country.

The all-time high temperature was measured in the Stammersdorf region in the Austrian capital Vienna on Tuesday afternoon, according to Austria's state broadcaster ORF.

A forest fire is raging in the eastern state of Burgenland, while the Lobau wetlands in Vienna is seeing "highest fire danger level".

said Austrian newspaper Kronen Zeitung, adding that eastern Austria was located in the European heat hotspot on Tuesday.

Water levels on the Danube are currently at historically low levels. The current period of low water is therefore comparable to the most significant years to date, 2003 and 2018, said Kronen Zeitung.

The current heat wave is heading towards its peak on Tuesday and Wednesday. Meteorologists are also forecasting record highs for Wednesday, ORF said. — Xinhua



Water levels on the Danube are currently at historically low levels. **PHOTO: ANI**

One third of Australian students failing to meet numeracy, literacy benchmarks

ONE third of Australian school students are failing to meet national benchmarks for numeracy and literacy, according to the latest results from annual standardized testing.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority on Wednesday released the results from the 2026 National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests, which are taken every year by students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 at Australian schools.

The results revealed

that 33.5 per cent of the 1.2 million students who took the tests in March failed to achieve expectations for their year level across reading, writing and numeracy.

The testing found that 10.2 per cent of students nationally across the four year levels need additional support to reach national literacy benchmarks, up from 9.3 per cent in 2025.

In numeracy, 9.6 per cent of students were graded as needing additional support compared to 9.2 per cent in 2025. — Xinhua



In numeracy, 9.6 per cent of students were graded as needing additional support compared to 9.2 per cent in 2025. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

S Korea’s employed seniors hit record high amid increase in desired retirement age

South Korea’s elderly population and economically active seniors rose significantly in May.

SOUTH Korea’s employed seniors hit a record high amid an increase in desired retirement age to supplement living expenses, statistical ministry data showed Wednesday.

The number of the elderly population aged 55-79 totalled 17.02 million in May, up 570,000 from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Data and Statistics.

Among the total, the number of economically active elders, including those employed and unemployed, rose 352,000 to



An elderly South Korean woman is seen in this file photo. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

10.36 million.

The employed seniors gained 345,000 to nearly 10.13 million, topping 10 million for the first time since relevant data

began to be compiled in 2005. It represented a roughly 1.5-fold growth over the past decade.

Employment rate among the elderly pop-

ulation maintained last year’s historic high of 59.5 per cent.

The rapidly ageing population, coupled with economic needs, drove the elderly workforce to keep working.

The number of seniors who expressed their desire to work in the future was 11.78 million in May, accounting for 69.2 per cent of the total elderly population.

It pushed up their ideal retirement age to an average of 73.6 years old in May, up 0.2 from a year earlier. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka readies exams for bad weather

SRI Lankan authorities held a special discussion on Wednesday to ensure the uninterrupted conduct of two national examinations amid prevailing adverse weather

conditions.

Representatives from the Department of Meteorology, the Disaster Management Center and the Department of Examinations attended

the meeting.

The participants discussed contingency measures for the Grade Five Scholarship Examination and the General Certificate of Education

Advanced Level Examination if adverse weather continues in the coming days.

The Disaster Management Centre said it would establish a special unit at its operations room to monitor possible disruptions to examination activities. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jamie Foxx stars in ‘Deadlocked’ thriller

ACADEMY Award-winning actor Jamie Foxx has found his next major project with ‘Deadlocked’, a hostage action thriller that has landed at Amazon MGM Studios for worldwide distribution, Deadline reported.

Directed by filmmaker Nikhil Bhat, known for the Hindi-language action thriller Kill, the film will stream globally on Prime Video. ‘Deadlocked’ follows a grieving former Marine serving jury duty who is forced back into action when the trial of the century turns into a deadly hostage situation.

The crisis begins when the defendant’s daughter takes control of the courthouse in an attempt to free her father, Deadline reported. — ANI

South Sudan pursues tourism growth via UNESCO site

SOUTH Sudan said Tuesday it will leverage the recent inscription of the Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape on the UNESCO World Heritage List to promote tourism, strengthen wildlife conservation, and create economic opportunities for local communities.

Sarah Nyanath Elijah Yong, minister of culture, museums and national heritage, said the recogni-



South Sudan uses new UNESCO inscription to boost tourism, conservation, and economy. **PHOTO: UNESCO**

tion of the country’s first UNESCO World Heritage Site marks a new chapter in safeguarding South Su-

dan’s natural and cultural heritage while unlocking broader development opportunities.

Nyanath said the designation is expected to strengthen biodiversity conservation, promote scientific research, attract sustainable investment, create jobs, improve local livelihoods and advance national peacebuilding efforts. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan Cabinet OKs 2-yr consumption tax cut on food to 1% from next Apr

Japan's inflation-aid plan sparks fiscal health and political backlash concerns.

JAPAN'S Cabinet approved Wednesday a plan to lower the consumption tax rate on food and beverages to one per cent from the current eight per cent for two years starting next April, in what will be the first reduction since the system's introduction in 1989.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government aims to enact related legislation for the inflation-relief scheme, which will involve cash handouts to low- and middle-income earners to realize "effectively zero" tax burdens, during an extraordinary parliamentary session likely to begin in the fall.

While the plan is intended to support house-



A shopper visits a supermarket in Tokyo last month. **PHOTO: KYODO**

holds facing persistent inflation, it has fueled concerns about Japan's fiscal health amid already high government bond yields and a weak yen. It has also drawn a backlash from many opposition parties and even from some members of the ruling Liberal Democratic

Party led by Takaichi.

Takaichi, known for her dovish stance on fiscal policy, has yet to identify a specific revenue source to offset the tax cut but vowed to secure the necessary funding through budgetary reforms such as reviewing nontax revenues and

subsidies "without relying on" the issuance of deficit-covering bonds.

The two-year tax reduction is estimated to result in around 10 trillion yen (\$63 billion) in lost revenue, a vital funding source for social security.

After the Cabinet approval, Takaichi told reporters that the government will conduct a "zero-base" review of its budget to help make up for the loss of tax revenue and prevent any negative impact on social security.

"We will continue to firmly maintain the government policy of managing public finances with close attention to their sustainability and securing market confidence," she added. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore leads South-East Asia's IPO fundraising rebound in H1

SINGAPORE led South-East Asia's initial public offering (IPO) fundraising rebound in the first half of 2026, raising US\$1.1 billion from five listings as larger deals lifted the region's total proceeds despite a sharp decline in the number of IPOs, according to a report revealed by EY on Wednesday.

Singapore's IPO market rebounded from a low base, up sharply from a single IPO that raised just \$4.5 million in the first half of 2025, said the report.

Across South-East Asia, 35 IPOs raised \$2.5 billion in the first half, down 30 per cent in volume from 50 listings a year earlier, while total proceeds jumped 85 per cent from \$1.4 billion, reflecting larger fundraisings despite weaker deal volume. — Xinhua

World Bank warns developing countries to embrace AI or be left behind



A woman visits the permanent exhibition at the Zhongguancun Exhibition Centre in Beijing, capital of China, 25 March 2026.

Cambodia's milled rice exports set to hit historic 1M tonne milestone in 2026

CAMBODIA exported 707,471 tonnes of milled rice in the first seven months of 2026, marking a dramatic 68 per cent surge year-on-year, the

Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) reported on Wednesday.

This export boom generated US\$415.1 million in revenue from

January to July, representing a 34.3 per cent increase year-on-year.

"Based on our strong performance through July, we expect to achieve the government-set target of exporting 1 million tons of milled rice this year," said CRF President Lay Chhun Hour.

Reaching this target would mark the first time Cambodia's annual milled rice exports have crossed the 1-million-ton threshold.

According to the CRF, 61 companies shipped Cambodian milled rice to 66 coun-

tries and regions worldwide during the January-July period this year. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, and the European Union remained the primary destination markets for Cambodian rice.

In terms of product variety, premium fragrant rice dominated the export market, accounting for 59.2 per cent of the total volume. White rice followed at 23.6 per cent, broken rice at 13.7 per cent, while parboiled and organic varieties made up the remaining 3.5 per cent. — Xinhua



A woman cleans rice in a rice shop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 20 November 2014. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

THE World Bank on Tuesday called on developing countries to embrace artificial intelligence technology tools to deliver better governance outcomes, warning that they risked being left behind if they failed to do so.

"AI has thrown developing economies a lifeline, and they should seize it," Indermit Gill, chief economist of the World Bank Group, said as the organization launched its annual World Development Report.

"They do not need large models or big data centres to reap its benefits," he added, advocat-

ing for the adaptation of lower-cost AI tools to local conditions to deliver results in the health, education, justice and agricultural sectors.

Advanced AI models — largely developed in the United States and China — offer the ability to quickly analyze data and automate many tasks that otherwise take skilled humans longer to do. These AI models, however, require huge data centres and large amounts of complex computing power, using massive amounts of electricity and water — with implications for climate change. — AFP

Hong Kong’s Cathay Group H1 net profit up 71%

HONG Kong-based Cathay Group on Wednesday reported an attributable profit of 6.243 billion HK dollars (about US\$795.93 million) for the first half of 2026, up 71 per cent year on year.

Hong Kong’s flagship airline Cathay Pacific carried a total of 16 million passenger trips in the first half of 2026, averaging around 88,400 per day, which was 17.5 per cent more than in the same period in 2025.

Passenger revenue increased by 26.3 per cent to 43.203 billion HK dollars compared with the first half of 2025.

Hailing the group’s strong financial performance in the first half of 2026, Cathay Group Chair Guy Bradley said that it has committed around 150 billion HK dollars in investments into its fleet, cabin and lounge products, and digital innovation. — Xinhua

China’s SAIC Motor signs joint venture renewal agreement with GM

CHINESE automaker SAIC Motor and General Motors (GM) on Wednesday announced a 20-year extension of their joint venture partnership to 2047.

Both sides agreed that the renewal of the partnership is based on the foundation of nearly 30 years of successful collaboration, and both companies have cast a vote of confidence in the long-term value of the Chinese automotive market against the background of profound changes in the global



This photo taken on 28 May 2026 shows the 100 millionth vehicle delivered by SAIC Motor in east China’s Shanghai.
PHOTO: XINHUA

nology research and development (R&D), supply chain and global market resources, while providing continuous support for intelligent and electric transformation, local innovation, global layout and long-term development of SAIC General Motors Corporation Limited.

The joint venture company will launch at least 30 new energy vehicle models by 2030, accelerating its entry into the ranks of mainstream new energy brands in China. — Xinhua

automobile industry. The shareholders of both companies will further coordinate tech-

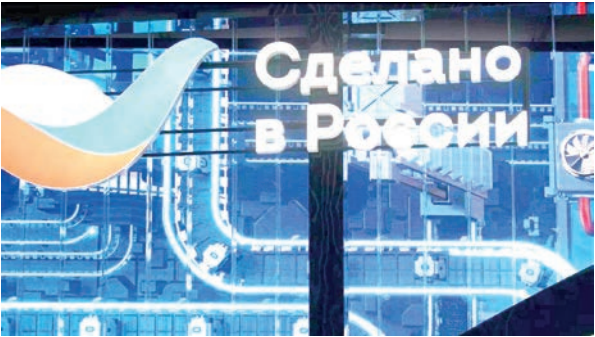
Russian Export Centre opens new office in Brazil

“THE Russian Export Centre (REC, VEB.RF Group) has expanded its overseas network by opening an official representative office in Brazil. The office is located in Rio de Janeiro and is headed by Anton Kaunov,” the REC press release stated.

The new division is designed to accelerate the entry of Russian companies into the Brazilian market, which is viewed as one of the priority destinations for non-commodity exports. The office’s tasks include full support of foreign trade projects: from targeted selection of local partners and organization of negotiations to legal and logistical

consulting at all stages of the deal. Key areas of cooperation will include industry, construction, the agro-industrial complex, and other sectors where Russia and Brazil have mutual interests.

The opening of the representative office in Brazil marks another step in the systematic strengthening of the REC’s international network. To date, the overseas network covers 18 countries, including China, India, Vietnam, Türkiye, Egypt, Kazakhstan, and other states. Three representative offices have opened during 2025-2026 (Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil). — SPUTNIK



The Russian Export Centre (REC, VEB.RF Group) has expanded its overseas network by opening an official representative office in Brazil. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Notice for Change of Pesticide Trade Name
The foreign manufacturer Alliance Agri Company Limited will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Tawin 330EC	ShayDawPyay 330 EC	Pendimethalin 33% EC	Provisional	PRB-02746

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.

Address- Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.
No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

Notice for Change of Pesticide Trade Name
The foreign manufacturer Agrinova Cropcare Pte., Ltd. will import and distribute the following insecticide registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Jet 20 OD	Jet Star 20 OD	Bispyribac-sodium 20% OD	Full	F2025-5190

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of herbicide.

Address- Wi Sar Ra International Co., Ltd.
No. (95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0100N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0100N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V AS SERENA VOY.NO. (628W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SERENA VOY.NO. (628W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-8-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Putin signs law legalizing use of cryptocurrencies in Russia

Russia regulates digital currency as property, allowing legal crypto investments.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin signed a law establishing the legal basis for the legal circulation of cryptocurrencies in Russia, according to a document published on the legal acts portal on Tuesday.

The document recognizes digital currency as property, introduces general requirements for its circulation, and empowers the Bank of Russia to allow, regulate, and supervise the organizers of its circulation. At the same



The law empowers the central bank to supervise crypto circulation organizers. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

time, Russians will have the opportunity to legally invest in cryptocurrency

on licensed Russian platforms and use the services of brokers and manage-

ment companies when conducting operations with it. The purpose of the introduced regulation is to create a legal framework for the crypto market so that it is as comfortable as possible for bona fide participants, guarantees the protection of their rights, and at the same time makes it possible to stop criminal transactions, Chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee on the Financial Market Anatoly Aksakov explained. — SPUTNIK

Israel, Lebanon resume US-mediated talks in Rome

ISRAEL and Lebanon on Tuesday resumed US-mediated talks in Rome aimed at advancing security arrangements along their border and implementing a framework

agreement reached in Washington in late June, according to local media.

The three-day talks, held at the US Embassy in Rome, bring together technical delegations

from both sides under a trilateral mechanism backed by the United States.

The discussions focus on security arrangements in southern Leba-

non, unresolved border issues and the disarmament of Hezbollah, which Washington considers a key condition for a lasting settlement, said Euronews. — Xinhua

Trump admin to review ‘closed’ AI models before release: reports

THE Trump administration on Tuesday met tech leaders to finalize a security review process for advanced AI models before their release, though it will apply only to “closed” models, US media reported. However, it remains unclear when — or if — the White House will release the details of the process or how it will be implemented and enforced. According to Axios, the review process will only apply to closed models that are tightly controlled by their developers. Major

closed model developers include OpenAI, Anthropic and Google. By contrast, Meta and Nvidia are de-

veloping “open” models that can be downloaded and updated directly by users.

Tuesday’s meeting at the White House reportedly included OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Nvidia, Microsoft and Meta.

The move to exempt open models is likely aimed at helping the United States stay competitive with China. However, there is a “deeper problem”, according to Martijn Rasser, vice-president for technology at the Special Competitive Studies Project, a think tank founded and chaired by former Google chief executive Eric Schmidt. — AFP



US President Donald Trump (C) and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman (L) attend an AI leaders’ meeting during the G7 summit in Evian, France, on June 17, 2026. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

N Korea condemns Japan’s recent test-firing of Tomahawk cruise missile

THE powerful younger sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has condemned Japan’s recent test-firing of a Tomahawk cruise missile, branding the country a “war criminal state”, official media reported Wednesday.

“It is now clear that such moves were, after all, a camouflaged tactic to cover up its ambition for a military giant,” Kim Yo Jong, an executive of the ruling party, was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

“The international community should heighten vigilance against the reckless military ambition of the descendants of the war criminal state keen on realizing the old daydream” of Japan’s wartime expansionism, Kim said, according to the news agency. — Kyodo

Canada authorizes clinical trials of Moderna Ebola vaccine

CANADA has authorized US pharmaceutical giant Moderna to begin clinical trials for a vaccine against the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola, the Canadian health ministry announced Tuesday.

The Phase 1 trial of the mRNA vaccine “will assess the candidate vaccine’s safety, determine the right dosage range and identify any side effects,” according to the ministry. No Ebola cases have so far been recorded in Canada.

As part of the trial, a group of healthy participants will receive a dose of the vaccine to assess the antibody response to the Bundibugyo strain. — AFP

Yemen’s Houthis claim missile attack on Saudi oil tanker

YEMEN’S Houthi group said on Wednesday that it had launched a ballistic missile attack on a Saudi oil tanker in the northern Red Sea, as the group vowed to expand its campaign against Saudi-linked shipping.

In a televised statement aired by the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the tanker “Wafa” was targeted with ballistic missiles off the coast of Yanbu, a major Saudi Red Sea port city.

“The strike was precise,” Sarea said, without providing details on possible damage or casualties. He said the operation was part of the group’s declared maritime campaign against Saudi-linked shipping, which he described as a “blockade-for-blockade” response. — Xinhua

Over 40,000 ships transit Turkish straits in H1

A total of 40,218 ships transited Türkiye’s Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits in the first half of 2026 amid heightened security risks in the Black Sea, according to official data released on Tuesday.

Figures from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure showed that 19,277 ships passed through the Bosphorus in Istanbul and 20,941 through the Dardanelles in the northwestern province of Canakkale. This figure marks a slight decline from the 40,988 transits recorded during the same period last year. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Salah arrives in Türkiye for Trabzonspor talks



Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah was greeted by hundreds of ecstatic supporters upon his arrival in Istanbul. **PHOTO: AFP**

FORMER Liverpool star Mohamed Salah arrived in Istanbul on Wednesday to complete his move to Turkish club Trabzonspor after leaving the Premier League giants at the end of his contract. "Salah mode: ON," Trabzonspor posted on social media alongside photos of the 34-year-old Egyptian aboard a private jet wearing the team's blue

and maroon home shirt. The club from Türkiye's northeast announced on Tuesday that they had begun "negotiations" with Salah, who left Liverpool after nine seasons and as many trophies with the Reds. He landed at around 0900 GMT in Istanbul, where he was greeted by hundreds of ecstatic supporters, AFP journalists reported.

"I'm here straight after my night shift, and now for Mohamed Salah, I am ready to spend another sleepless night," Trabzonspor supporter Abdul Kerim Yervan told AFP. — AFP

Japanese winger Yokota targets 'special memories' with Rangers

JAPANESE winger Daisuke Yokota said he hoped to create "special memories" after joining Scottish Premiership club Rangers from Hannover 96 on Wednesday. Yokota has agreed a three-year contract with the option of a further season. The deal is worth a reported initial £2.75 million (\$3.7 million), plus add-ons. The 26-year-old is

Rangers' ninth close-season signing and he hopes to make a big impact in Glasgow after swapping the German second tier for the Scottish Premiership. — AFP

MoHA crushes MoST 23-0 in inter-ministry futsal tournament

THE 2026 Inter-Ministry Futsal Tournament continued with group-stage matches at Wunna Theikdhi Futsal Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, highlighted by the Ministry of Home Affairs' emphatic 23-0 victory over the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Other results saw the Ministry of Foreign Affairs defeat the Union Government Office 10-1, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications beat the Ministry of Labour 3-1, the Ministry

of Finance and Revenue thrash the Ministry of Health 19-0, the Ministry of Sports edge the Office of the Auditor General 4-2, and the Ministry of Border Affairs overcome the Ministry of Electricity and Energy 4-1.

Group-stage action will continue on 6 August, with five fixtures scheduled, including a match between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defence. The tournament is open to spectators free of charge. — MNA/KZL



'Deceitful' Infantino 'must go' says Luis Figo

FORMER Real Madrid and Barcelona star Luis Figo has called for "deceitful" Gianni Infantino to quit as pressure mounts on the under-fire FIFA president. Infantino is fighting to save his job after a fierce backlash against his plan to sell off stakes in the World Cup. The 56-year-old wanted to sell a 20 per cent stake in the World Cup to private equity investors through his FIFA Forward Enterprise. The plan sparked a cascade of criticism for Infantino and has been rejected by three continental confederations, forcing the FIFA chief to ditch his divisive idea. In a bid to win back



FIFA president Gianni Infantino (L) and Luis Figo (R). **PHOTO: AFP** support after his divisive plot, Infantino held emergency talks with other FIFA directors in Morocco on Wednesday, a source told AFP. But former Portugal forward Figo heaped pressure on Infantino as

all my life. I was a professional player for 20 years. And believe me, I have met some rogues in my time in the game. "But what I have seen exposed in the last 10 days is the lowest, most deceitful and cravenly self-interested behaviour I have ever witnessed. "The man who would do that — the man who would try to force through such major changes just to enrich himself and his friends — is a relic of the game's past and should have no part in its future." Infantino had defended his proposal by claiming it would increase revenue for all FIFA member nations. — AFP

Arsenal agree £75 mln Guimaraes deal: reports

ARSENAL have reportedly agreed a £75 million (\$101 million) fee with Newcastle to sign captain Bruno Guimaraes. The Brazil midfielder's future has been the subject of fevered speculation for weeks since it emerged he wanted to leave Tyneside for the Emirates Stadium. Guimaraes, 28, who joined Newcastle from Lyon in 2022, scored nine goals and provided eight assists in all competitions for the Magpies last season. After a break following Brazil's World Cup campaign, he linked up with Newcastle on the club's pre-season training camp in Spain. Eddie Howe, who



Bruno Guimaraes joined Newcastle from Lyon in 2022. **PHOTO: AFP / FILE** quit as Newcastle manager last week, had admitted he was concerned about losing Guimaraes. Premier League champions Arsenal have been relatively quiet in the market compared with Tottenham, Manchester City and Chelsea as the new season approaches. — AFP



Potential Iran-Oman deal not to mean immediate reopening of Hormuz Strait: Iranian media

A potential agreement between Iran and Oman on arrangements for vessels' passage through the Strait of Hormuz would not mean the immediate reopening of the waterway, Iran's state-run IRIB TV reported on Wednesday. The negotiations on the arrangements are solely between Iran and Oman and have no connection to the United States, IRIB TV quoted an informed source as saying.

The source said that even if Iran and Oman reach an agreement, the strait will remain closed as long as the United States continues its "violations", adding that the waterway's reopening hinges on "the

US changing its behavior and rectifying its violations." Also on Wednesday, Sepah News, the official news outlet of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, quoted an informed official as saying that US "interventions" and President Donald Trump's threats are the main reasons for the delay in reaching an agreement between Tehran and Muscat on the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Tuesday described the ongoing talks between Iran and Oman on designating safe routes through the strait as "positive". — Xinhua



Iranian soldiers patrol the Strait of Hormuz in southern Iran, 30 April 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

India's electric vehicle sales jump 63% year-on-year in July

EV penetration in the three-wheeler segment successfully recovered to 65.55 per cent.

India's electric vehicle (EV) market continued to witness strong growth in July 2026, with total EV registrations rising over 63 per cent year-on-year to 3,07,752 units, reflecting sustained expansion in EV adoption across the country, according to a report by JMK Research & Analytics.

The report said overall EV sales increased by 0.72 per cent month-on-month from 3,05,566 units in June to 3,07,752 units in July. On an annual basis, registrations grew by around 63.18 per cent compared to July 2025.

Electric two-wheelers continued to dominate the market with a 61.37 per cent share of total EV registrations, followed by electric passenger three-wheelers at 23.72 per cent. Electric cars accounted for 10.01 per cent of overall EV sales, while electric cargo three-wheelers contributed 3.75 per cent.



E-car sales grow from expanded infrastructure while electric three-wheelers hit strong numbers. PHOTO: ANI

The report highlighted that electric car sales stood at 30,806 units in July, up 81 per cent year-on-year, although they were down two per cent from the previous month. EV penetration in the passenger vehicle segment increased to 7.92 per cent, continuing its steady rise since March 2026.

"The sustained growth in E-car sales is increasingly being driven by structural factors such as a wider portfolio of EV models, continued

expansion of charging infrastructure, and improving consumer confidence," the report said.

Electric three-wheeler sales also remained strong, rising 9 per cent month-on-month to 84,554 units and about 22 per cent year-on-year. According to the report, the segment continued to benefit from improving financing availability, favourable operating economics and a lower total cost of ownership for commercial operators. EV penetration

in the three-wheeler segment recovered to 65.55 per cent in July.

Among states, Uttar Pradesh retained the top position with 47,062 EV registrations, followed by Maharashtra with 36,642 and Karnataka with 29,183. The report noted that the top 10 states accounted for around 77 per cent of India's total EV registrations during the month, indicating that adoption continues to be concentrated in key regional markets. — ANI

Archaeologists excavate ancient Bakong Temple causeway

A team of experts from the APSARA National Authority (ANA) is conducting archaeological excavations along the western causeway of the millennium-old Bakong Temple in Cambodia's Angkor Archaeological Park, according to an ANA news release on Wednesday.

Saray Kimhual, head of the restoration team

at the ANA's Department of Conservation of Monuments and Preventive Archaeology, said the project will collect technical data and assess the structure's condition, saying that this assessment is required before launching a restoration project aimed at preserving and enhancing the historic architectural feature. — Xinhua

Rakuten to develop AI store managers for online shopping platform

RAKUTEN Group Inc said Tuesday it will develop "artificial intelligence store managers" for its e-commerce platform that will explain products and help shoppers around the clock.

The avatar store managers will use AI that learns from data held by individual merchants on the Rakuten Ichiba platform to answer inquiries from



This autonomous delivery robot, created by Avride, is part of Rakuten Group's unmanned delivery service in Tokyo. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ RAKUTEN GROUP

shoppers, Rakuten said, aiming to roll out a prototype by the end of this year.

Chairman and President Hiroshi Mikitani disclosed the plan at an event in Yokohama and said his company envisions avatars that will eventually answer questions from customers by voice and help them complete purchases. — Kyodo