

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Four Objectives of the National Defence and Security Council

- 1. To steadfastly strive for emergence of political forces and the people’s representatives who can implement a genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system while constantly emphasizing on the national interests of the State.
- 2. To persistently strive for promoting the socio-economic life of the people through the development of agro-based industries in improving the agricultural sector, the vital foundation of the economic growth of the State.
- 3. To put emphasis on enhancing the national education and health sectors for sustainable development of the State.
- 4. To implement multi-party democratic system, with the participation of the people, to ensure the success of multi-party democratic general election process and successfully moving towards with the multi-party democratic system aspired by the entire people.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to make working visit to China

Chairman of the State Security and Peace Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, will pay a working visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar soon at the invitation of President of the People’s Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping.

During the working visit, the Senior General will be scheduled to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 to be held in Tianjin, the People’s Republic of China, and to join the parade to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War to be held in Beijing. Moreover, the Senior General will hold talks with the President of the People’s Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping, discuss with other Heads of State and meet officials of the government of the People’s Republic of China. In addition, the Senior General will go sightseeing around landmarks in China and observe education, industrial manufacturing and economic sectors, and hold talks about further development and strengthening of cooperation in friendship, economic and other sectors between the two governments and people of both countries. — MNA/TTA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



President Mr Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.

OPINION

Oppose nuclear tests to live in peace

PAGE 8

BUSINESS

PAGE 7



YRIC approves eight foreign and local projects

NATIONAL

PAGE 10



Dagon University hosts workshop to promote court-led mediation

NATIONAL

General Aung San Declares Firm Stand
Against Election Disruption

“Our Government shall not permit any disruption of the forthcoming election. The electoral process shall remain free and fair, and no interference shall be exercised upon those who participate in it. Yet, let it be firmly declared that any attempt to disturb or sabotage the election shall be met with the full weight of authority.”

(An excerpt from the radio address regarding the election, delivered by General Aung San on 13 March 1947)



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Notification 922/2025

6th Waxing of Tawthalin 1387 ME
28 August 2025

Announcement of Unlawful Association

- 1. The Acting President affirms that the objectives and activities of the Kayin National Union (KNU), its members, affiliated organizations, and associated individuals pose serious threats to the rule of law in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as well as to the peace, stability, and well-being of the State and its people.
- 2. Therefore, under Section 16 of the Unlawful Associations Act, the Acting President has declared the above-mentioned organization, along with its affiliated bodies, as unlawful associations in accordance with Subsection 2 of Section 15 of the Act.

By order,

Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung
Union Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Counter-Terrorism Central Committee
Notification 1/2025

6th Waxing of Tawthalin 1387 ME
28 August 2025

Announcement of Terrorist Group

- THE Counter-Terrorism Central Committee, with the approval of the Union Government and under the authority granted by Subsection (e) of Section 6 and Subsection (b) of Section 72 of the Counter-Terrorism Law, hereby issues this declaration.
- 1. The Kayin National Union (KNU) armed group has been carrying out terrorist activities in violation of the Counter-Terrorism Law. These acts pose grave threats to public safety, lives, and property, while also targeting critical infrastructure and damaging State-owned buildings, vehicles, machinery, equipment, and supplies. Their terrorist actions include planting mines to destroy public roads and bridges, attacking densely populated towns and villages with heavy weapons, conducting air raids with drop-bombs, killing innocent civilians, forcibly recruiting members, and launching destructive assaults on State property. All of these acts are being committed within the country.
 - 2. Therefore, the Kayin National Union (KNU), which is committing the above-mentioned acts of terrorism, is hereby declared a terrorist organization.

Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Central Committee

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

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Future Front Myanmar : Youth Strategy Forum - 2025
Confidence, Courage, Strength and Moving Forward
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NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

MoHA Union Minister inspects Nawnghkio

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, who is also Chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee, accompanied by the relevant officials, met departmental officials and locals in Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North), yesterday.

During the meeting with locals, who fled from the township due to terrorists and returned to the township, the Union minister said the townships and villages were destroyed due to the terrorists, and the students lost their learning opportunities. Tatmadaw regained Nawnghkio, and the temporarily displaced people were accepted systematically and provided with the healthcare system and education services as quickly as possible. Moreover, the schools which were closed

for nearly one year were also reopened, and the students are learning peacefully. The people should work with the relevant officials in security and rule of law activities in Nawnghkio.

He also highlighted the free and fair multiparty democratic general election to be held in December, and added that the people should cast their votes, while the officials arrange for all the eligible voters to be able to cast their votes.

The Union minister and party handed over five types of basic foodstuffs for security force members, departmental officials and locals.

They proceeded to the Nawnghkio Township Hospital, and comforted patients and presented cash assistance. They also inspected the township Fire



Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung is pictured during his inspection tours in Nawnghkio.

Services Department, Police Station and Nawnghkio Myoma Police Station and gave words of encouragement members and their families and provided them with basic foodstuffs.

On arrival at the township

General Administration Department, they met district and township-level departmental officials and inspected the rehabilitation processes.

They went to the BEHS 1 in Butar Ward, Nawnghkio, and

cordially met students there.

The Union minister and party went to the Hawtaw Monastery in Nawnghkio, and donated Waso robes and alms to the monks from 10 monasteries.

— MNA/KTZH

MoFA Union Minister receives ICRC Resident Representative

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Arnaud de Baecque, Resident Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters related to the ICRC's activities in Myanmar.

Also, present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA



The ICRC Resident Representative calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

MoFA Union Minister receives UNDCO's Asia-Pacific Regional Director

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr David William McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific of the UN Development Coordination Office in Bangkok, yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on continued cooperation in the development and humanitarian matters between the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations.

Also, present at the



The UNDCO's AP Regional Director calls on Union Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

meeting were the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and interim and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

NATIONAL

Second day of “Understanding Myanmar’s International Boundary” Workshop concludes



The second-day session of the workshop in progress yesterday, attended by Union Minister U Than Swe.

THE two-day workshop on “Understanding Myanmar’s International Boundary” continued at the Lawkanatt Hall of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 28 August 2025. On the second day, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs U Hau Khan Sum delivered the opening remarks. In his remarks, he highlighted the objective of the workshop,

the importance of maritime boundary delimitation and the expected outcomes of the workshop.

Experts from the Marine Administration Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Myanmar Naval Hydrographic Depot of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), International Law and Treaties Division of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Legal Affairs and Ministry of Education, as well as Charge d’Affaires of the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore, took part in the discussions both in person and online. The discussion focused on the legal frameworks and technical aspects of the maritime boundary delimitation, including the matters related to the delimitation of the Continental Shelf beyond

200 nautical miles.

Over the course of the two-day workshop, participants from the relevant ministries shared experiences, discussed plans, and cordially exchanged views on challenges and difficulties. At the end of the workshop, Certificates of Participation were given to the panellists by U Naing Min Kyaw, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Afterwards, a closing ceremony of the two-day workshop was held, and U Than Swe, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered closing remarks. In his remarks, he appreciated all the participants for their active participation and discussion at the workshop. He underscored the importance of pursuing border policies which can serve the national interest and strengthen the capacity in dealing with boundary matters. — MNA

China’s V-Day parade to host 26 world leaders

THE event commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War will take place in Beijing on 3 September, and the rehearsals for the upcoming military parade in Tian’anmen Square are basically complete, according to the press conference held at the Media Centre Hotel yesterday.

The parade will feature a wide range of weapons and equipment and the Chinese military’s recent advancements in modernization and enhanced combat readiness, said Major-General Wu Zeke, Deputy Director of the Leading



The press conference on China’s V-Day parade underway yesterday.

Group Office of Military Parade and Deputy Director-General of the Operations Bureau of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.

The theme of the commemoration is to remember history, honour the fallen heroes, cherish peace and create a better future, said Chinese

Assistant Foreign Minister Mr Hong Lei.

A total of 26 foreign heads of state and government of Russia, North Korea, Cambo-

dia, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Myanmar will attend the event.

The participation of Parliament leaders, Deputy Prime Ministers and high-ranking officials and representatives of organizations shows three distinct features: their high-ranking positions, the participation of government and civil society representatives with strong representation from the five continents across the world and a wide scope of cooperation, added the Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister.

A gala at the Great Hall of the People will be held on the evening of 3 September as part of the victory anniversary events. — Khin Yadana/KTZH

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

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NATIONAL

Healthcare personnel and supporting materials are being provided to promote health services

❖ Policies such as ensuring that only with good health can one work and learn; nothing is more important than human life; and every hospital has doctors have been established. Necessary healthcare personnel and supporting materials are being provided and enhanced to promote health services.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the government coordination meeting of SAC on 19 May 2025)

MIFER Union Minister receives UNDCO’s Asia-Pacific Regional Director

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Wah Wah Maung received a delegation led by Mr David William McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia and Pacific of the UN Development Coordination Office (UNDCO), yesterday afternoon at Office 1 of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

They exchanged views and discussed closer cooperation between UNCT and relevant ministries for efficient and effective implementation of UN agencies' work plans, consideration of the government’s priorities on earthquake response



The UNDCO AP Regional Director calls on Union Minister Dr Wah Wah Maung yesterday.

plans to link with existing work plans and projects of UN agencies, and how to ensure more effective aid.

The meeting was also at-

tended by the director-general of the Union Minister's Office, the director-general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and Mr Michael Dunford, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator. — MIFER

MoTC Dy Minister discusses digital collaboration



The 2025 South and Southeast Asia Digital Cooperation Conference in progress yesterday in Bangkok, attended by Deputy Minister U Aung Kyaw Tun.

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communications U Aung Kyaw Tun, accompanied by relevant officials, attended the 2025 South and Southeast Asia Digital Cooperation Conference and Supply and Demand Matchmaking Event for the Industry and Trade in Bangkok yesterday.

Speaking at the event, the deputy minister said people can easily communicate with one another across the world thanks to the benefits of the technology, enabling the creation of a better digital future. Digital transformation will continue to evolve, and the cooperation of government, private enterprises, social organizations, and the public can bring success. Digital collaboration not

only advances technological development but also provides opportunities, fosters responsibility, promotes accountability, and ensures equitable access. Myanmar is making efforts to meet the country’s digital needs as much as possible in line with regional development and progress.

The event was jointly organized by the Yunnan Provincial government and Thailand’s Ministry of Digital Economy with the assistance of UN agencies and the APT. The representatives from Yunnan Province, South Asia and Southeast Asia discussed new opportunities, markets and progress in regional digital cooperation. The experts from 12 countries joined the event. — MNA/KTZH

U Kyaw Tin Shein concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Morocco

THE State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Tin Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Morocco. — MNA

U Kyaw Tin Shein concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Algeria

THE State Security and Peace Commission Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Tin Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. — MNA

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw reoccupies Alpha cement plant, Phayaungtaung mine

TNLA and MDY-PDF combined terrorists with the support of the NUG, sought to fully capture the Madaya area by establishing a strong foothold at the Alpha Cement Plant and the Phaungtaung mining site. Beginning on 18 July 2025, those terrorists launched a heavy attack on a lightly defended security outpost in Myakantha village in the eastern Madaya area. The outpost conducted a temporary strategic withdrawal on the night of 20 July 2025. On the morning of 21 July, pre-positioned main counterattack units launched a decisive strike with overwhelming force and heavy weapons, reclaiming the position and forcing the terrorists to retreat in disarray.

Starting from 21 July 2025, Tatmadaw launched a full-scale counteroffensive with well-preparedness to completely wipe off terrorists from the Alpha Cement Plant and Phayaungtaung mining site in Madaya region. The counteroffensive was executed along four columns: one column advancing from the Madaya-Bokone-Kyauktada route, one from Myakantha village, one from Pansalaung Hill, and one from Baingpin village, with coordinated attacks carried out in successive stages to increase momentum and pressure. The security forces successfully re-occupied the Phayaungtaung mining area, which had been firmly held by MDY-PDF terrorists, on 24 August and the Alpha Cement Plant yesterday.

During the one-month and seven-day period, the clashes between the Tatmadaw and TNLA-MDY-PDF combined terrorist group occurred 24 times. Some



activities were halted. Moreover, by extracting and selling valuable minerals from the country for personal gain by individual PDF leaders, significant harm and disruption were caused to the State, the local population, and factory workers.

Tatmadaw has successfully recaptured the Alpha Cement Plant and the Phayaungtaung mining area, which were temporarily controlled by the joint TNLA and MDY-PDF terrorist groups. Consequently, necessary repairs will be carried out on the plant buildings and machinery



Photos show the Tatmadaw's full-scale counteroffensive route, celebrating troops, and captured weapons and munitions.

security members sacrificed life and limbs for the State and seized 15 dead bodies, 46 assorted arms, ammunition and related equipment from terrorists.

The Alpha Cement Plant, located near Aungthabyay Village of Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region, started operations in August 2020. It produced 5,000 tonnes of cement per day with the strength of 80 foreign experts and 300 local employees. Terrorists took positions at the cement

plants, halting production. So, cement demand was high and the prices of cement rose. Moreover, residents faced a loss of job opportunities.

On 28 March 2025, a devastating Mandalay earthquake caused extensive damage to buildings in the city. The reconstruction of these buildings required a large volume of cement. The terrorist actions of the terrorists further caused significant harm and disruption to the socioeconomic lives

of the local people.

Likewise, the Ministry of Mining operated the Phaungtaung mine (gold refinery) from 1986 to 1997 for the sake of the nation. After 1998, the refinery was leased to the private sector. Such a mine emphasizes the production of gold ore minerals and refining works with the strength of more than 170 employees. During the period when TNLA and MDY-PDF terrorists temporarily controlled these areas, business

damaged by the terrorists, allowing the factories to resume operations. This will not only help meet local cement demands at reasonable prices but also restore employment opportunities for the local population.

It was reported that Tatmadaw will continue to conduct security operations where TNLA and MDY-PDF terrorist groups take positions between Madaya and Thabeikkyin townships. — MNA/TTA

Global market embraces innovative, attractive Myanmar handicrafts



The Messe Frankfurt press conference and networking event is in progress.

MADE-IN-MYANMAR handicrafts are more popular in the international market because of their design, innovation and quality, said Mr Stephan Kurzwski, Senior Vice-President of Consumer Goods, Automotive and Textile Shows and Sales at Messe Frankfurt.

He made the remarks at the Messe Frankfurt press conference and networking event held in Yangon on 27 August at the invitation of Su Shwe Nadi Trading & Consultancy, the Myanmar representative of the German Messe Frankfurt group.

“If we show our products at international fairs, we will have direct access to potential international buyers, and we can reap huge benefits. This is a great way to connect local producers

with international buyers. We will have direct access to future deployments in their own countries. It builds mutual trust and we'll have opportunities to learn from other countries,” said Daw Thet Su Hlaing, Managing Director of Su Shwe Nadi Trading & Consultancy.

The companies that will be exhibiting at the international fairs need to have the capacity to manufacture quality products in time to meet the demand of the customers, she added.

The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association will exhibit in Paris, France, in September this year, and the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association will also participate in Frankfurt, Germany, in February 2026. — MT/ZN

CBM sells over THB1M, over CNY920K on 27 Aug

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over 925,900 yuan and over one million baht on 27 August. Furthermore, it sold US\$735,040 to edible oil-importing companies, over \$723,000 to fuel oil-importing companies, and over \$350,000 to CMP companies and individuals who made non-trade payments.

CBM announced on 26 August that it would sell \$32 million and 15 million yuan to importers of other commodities.

CBM also sold \$930,000 to edible oil-importing companies, \$260,354 to fuel oil-importing companies and over \$452,280 to CMP companies and those who made non-trade payments.

CBM sold over \$444,430 to edible oil-importing companies and \$390,000 to fuel oil-importing companies on 25 August after

sales of over \$29,440 to those who made non-trade payments.

CBM pumped \$1.177 million into edible oil-importing companies and over \$287,600 into fuel oil-importing companies on 22 August, after sales of 500,000 baht.

Furthermore, it sold over \$102,700 to companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis and those who made non-trade payments.

CBM sold over \$602,000 to fuel oil-importing companies and \$150,000 to edible oil-importing companies on 21 August, beyond the injection of over 702,000 baht into the market. CBM sold \$36.5 million purchased from companies working on a Cut, Make and Pack basis, in addition to the injection of \$8.8 million, 13.3 million baht, 10.5 million yuan and



An aerial drone view of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) in Yangon.

500,000 rupees in July. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$2.3 million to other commodities-importing companies as per its initial announcement of selling \$10 million. CBM sold \$8.4 million, 13.9 million baht and 5.2 million yuan in June 2025, in addition to the injection of \$14.9 million that was

purchased from the CMP enterprises into the financial market. CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and

prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

SWD to launch school-based vocational training on 1 Sept



Trainees are practising in the training session.

THE Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will offer the school-based domestic vocational training from 1 September to 10 October at its schools in ten big cities.

This training will take place at its schools located in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Thantgathary, Pyawbwe, Sittway, Ywangan and Dawei cities from 17 February to 28 March 2025.

The training will provide sewing courses (women, children and men's clothing, coats), domestic handicraft training (crochet, embroidery, sewing), baking, cooking and floral design training with domestic and foreign experts through technical and practical approaches.

There are eight batches every financial year, with each batch taking six weeks. Moreover, schools in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Patheingyi cities offer other special training as well.

Those interested individuals can contact the respective domestic vocational schools in regions and states.

For further details, individuals can enquire Yangon school in Bahan through contact numbers 09 427900046, Mandalay schools through 02 4036798, Mawlamyine through 057 2027166, Thantgathary through 054 2823571, Pyawbwe through 074 2522558, Patheingyi through 09 262757899, Sittway through 042 25373 and 042 21037, Sittway through 043 22067, Ywangan through 081 4768015 and Dawei through 059 2024009. — NN/KK

YRIC approves eight foreign and local projects

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) endorsed four foreign enterprises, one joint venture and three domestic enterprises, with an estimated capital of US\$7.09 million and K9.46 billion, at the meeting held on 27 August.

One domestic enterprise will put investments in the hotel and tourism sector, and the other two domestic enterprises will invest in the manufacturing

sector. Four foreign enterprises and one joint venture will execute rice processing and exporting, and the apparel manufacturing on a Cut, Make and Pack basis. They are to create over 5,000 jobs for locals.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein and committee members discussed capital expansion matters and an increase in employment. — NN/KK



Workers are working at the Cut, Make, and Pack (CMP) workplace.

Oppose nuclear tests to live in peace

HISTORY has revealed the tragic consequences of these experiments, particularly when controlled conditions failed, and today the risks are magnified by the existence of far more powerful nuclear weapons. As such, it is important to consider whether the risks and advantages of nuclear tests are truly balanced.

Even though nuclear tests are sometimes justified as part of efforts to generate electricity from nuclear energy, their tragic consequences for human health and threats to biodiversity cannot be avoided. Moreover, even if such tests are conducted in remote areas far from communities, the explosions still cause environmental degradation.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres remarked, “In 2025, we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the first nuclear test. We must never forget the legacy of over 2,000 nuclear weapons tests carried out over the last 80 years.” Recognizing these dangers of nuclear tests, the UN General Assembly, at its 64th session, declared 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests. Since 2010, the day has been marked annually.

The CTBT is both a disarmament and a non-proliferation measure. By halting the development of advanced weapons and serving as a strong barrier against proliferation, it remains vital to global security. While the CTBT awaits full ratification, every effort must continue to ensure its entry into force. Until nuclear weapons are eliminated, the international day stands as a powerful reminder of the urgent need to end nuclear explosions and safeguard humanity.

have greatly improved the ability to verify compliance, strengthening confidence in the treaty’s effectiveness.

The United Nations has also linked the fight against nuclear testing with broader disarmament efforts. On 26 September, a significant day is observed, reaffirming that only the complete eradication of nuclear arms can guarantee protection against their use or threat. Together, these observances reflect the growing momentum toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

The CTBT is both a disarmament and a non-proliferation measure. By halting the development of advanced weapons and serving as a strong barrier against proliferation, it remains vital to global security. While the CTBT awaits full ratification, every effort must continue to ensure its entry into force. Until nuclear weapons are eliminated, the international day stands as a powerful reminder of the urgent need to end nuclear explosions and safeguard humanity.

FIRST and foremost, it is informed in advance that the information presented in this article does not consist of biased accusations or fabricated facts.

This article will highlight an armed terrorist group that dreams of achieving its racial prejudices and political ambitions through armed means, and which is heavily involved in the drug trade for its survival, threatening the entire human race in the world.

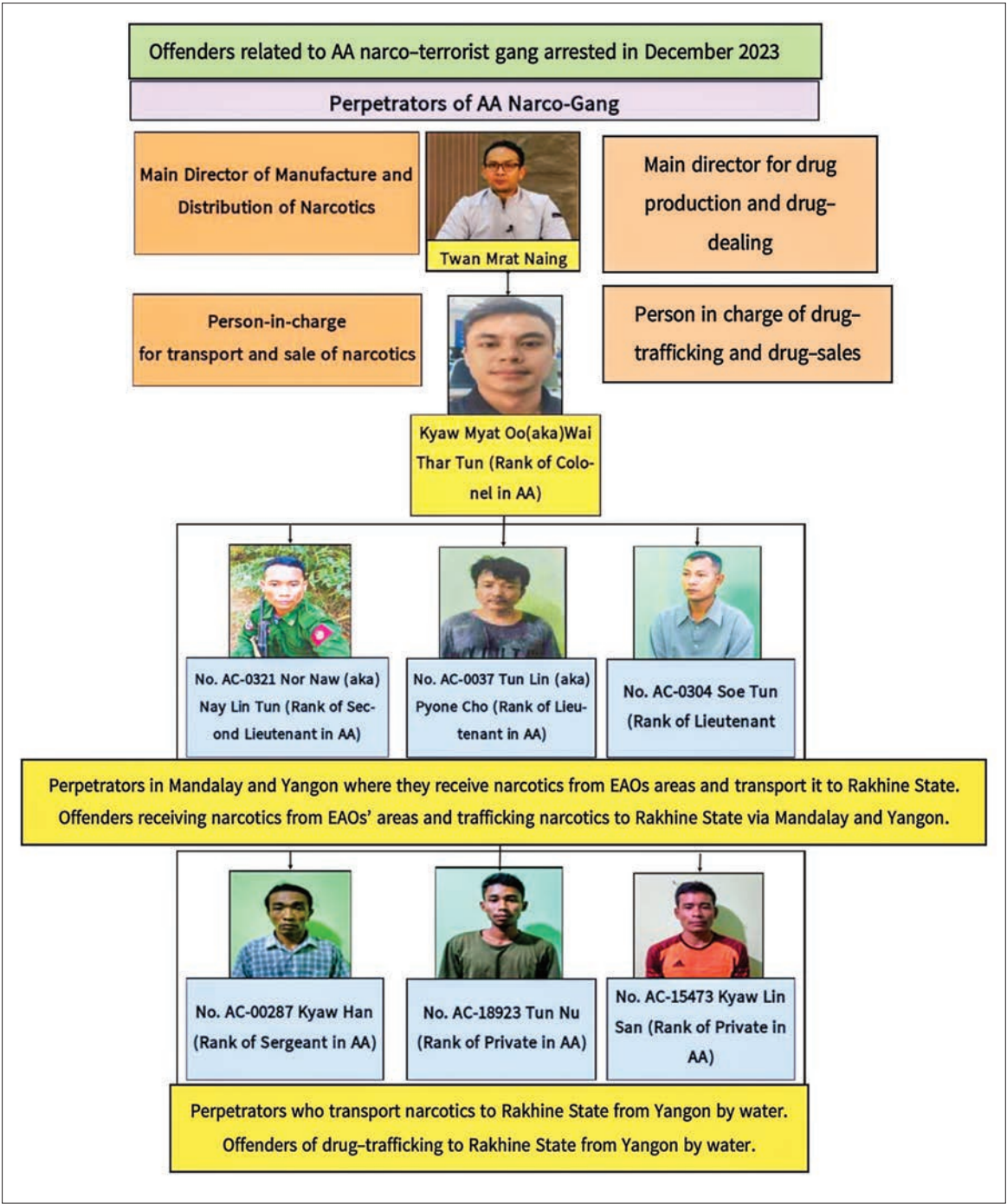
The AA group is an armed terrorist group comprised mostly of Rakhine people. However, the public already knows that neither all Rakhine people accept the AA group, nor does it represent Rakhine State and the Rakhine ethnic people. Undeniable evidence indicates that the AA group is indeed a terrorist armed group led by a self-serving group of Rakhine individuals, who are trampling on the Rakhine people and Rakhine State, with extremist racial sentiments, destroying the peace and stability of Rakhine State, and massively engaging in drug trafficking.

Evil-natured drug lord

The AA group, which emerged in 2009 in the KIA-controlled area, was formed with Rakhine people who had arrived in Kachin State. To equip its members with weapons, the AA group has heavily traded amphetamine pills, ICE, and heroin, not only within the country but also to foreign countries where large profits can be made, following the examples of its god-fathers, the KIA, the UWSA and the MNDAA groups. Since its inception, the AA has lacked strong businesses and has not received sufficient tax revenue from the impoverished Rakhine ethnic people. Therefore, it relies primarily on income from drug trafficking to purchase rations, weapons, ammunition and fuel for its members.

The AA’s drug trade has expanded its market abroad. The AA group is working with international drug lords in a network-like manner, involving the smuggling of precursor chemicals, drug production, transport and storage of drugs, distribution within the country, and coordination for drug trade abroad.

Drug Economy Network of the AA Terrorist Group and the Perils of Terrorist Attacks (Part I)



Drug seizures involving AA group members

From 2016 to 21 July 2025, there were 24 instances of seizures of narcotics and weapons/ammunition involving members of the AA terrorist insurgent group. During the incidents, 276 drug-related offenders were arrested, together with over 14.4 million methamphetamine pills, over 11.9 tonnes of ICE (crystal meth), 800 kg of caffeine, 2.2 tonnes of Ketamine, with a total estimated value of over 266 billion Kyats (over USD 73.9 million). Moreover, along with them, 224 weapons, 41,379 rounds of ammunition, 977 magazines, 36 hand grenades, 178 mortar shells, 25 GPS devices, 40 satellite phones, related accessories, vehicles, motorboats and ships

used for transporting narcotics were seized. The seizures in detail can be read on the Infosheet Website <https://infosheet.org//>.

Apparent narcotics seizures

Of 24 narcotics seizures involving AA group members, 9 apparent narcotics seizures involving AA top leaders themselves will be highlighted. On 8 August 2019, over 2.48 million methamphetamine pills, emblems with the ARAKAN Army logo, hand grenades, and walkie-talkies were seized at the residence of San Thar Kyaw, the Yekkun Taing village administrator of Rathedaung Township in Rakhine State-cum-member of the AA group. The drugs were stored for distribution to refugee camps within the Rakhine State

By Aung Shinn

and three other members of the AA group, as well as eight civilians.

According to the interrogations, as per the instructions of AA leader Twan Mrat Naing, his trusted confidant and the AA’s business-in-charge, Colonel-ranked Kyaw Myat Oo (aka) Thar Thar (aka) Wai Thar Tun, managed to conduct drug-trafficking. The drugs were produced by the armed groups in Shan State, and they plotted to smuggle the drugs to Rakhine State from Mandalay and Yangon via land and water routes. They confessed that the drugs were to be shipped to Malaysia and Indonesia via the

sea adjoining Rakhine State. It can be witnessed that AA group members are being tasked to be involved in drug dealings.

Drug trade by AA group members masquerading as civilians

On 6 March 2025, authorities arrested a team masquerading as civilians led by AA business in charge of Ye Win (aka) Kyaw Soe Lin at a warehouse located at No 546/547, Hsin Phyu Shin Street, Ward (144), Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region. Along with them, over 3 tonnes of ICE (crystal meth) and over 200 kg of Ketamine, es-

timated at over 96 billion Kyats (USD 28.82 million), were seized. In this case, 14 members of a drug smuggling ring were arrested. Five of whom were business in charges masquerading as civilians, tasked by the AA group. It was discovered that many AA leaders’ trusted members were arrested in drug trafficking, so the AA members were masqueraded as civilian business in charges in a diversion tactic.

Similarly, on 26 and 27 April 2025, 19 drug-related offenders led by AA’s supply in charge, Nay Paing Lin (aka) Aung Naing Kywe, were arrested in Yangon, Pyapon and Kawthoung. Along with them, 4.113 tonnes of ICE (crystal meth), one litre of ICE liquid and three tonnes of Ketamine were seized. They were a group to purchase arms/ammunition and provide rations for the AA group, using drug sales income.

In this instance, drug dealers masquerading as civilians were



The arrest of narco-gang involving supply in charge of AA terrorist group, together with 200.325 billion Kyats worth of ICE 4.113 tonnes one litre of ICE liquid and 3 tonnes of Ketamine to be smuggled to Malaysia, at the sea to the west of Kawthoung on 26 April 2025.



The arrest of narco-gang involving AA terrorists in Yangon Region on 6 March 2025, together with 96 billion Kyats worth of over 3 tonnes ICE (crystal meth) and 200 kg of Ketamine.

covered by the AA group as the supply in charge of AA. They were tasked to conduct drug trafficking in fewer trips but in larger quantities.

According to statements from the arrested drug-dealers of AA group members, those tasked to be involved in the drug trade are confidants of AA leader Twan Mrat Naing. The main responsible manipulator is Kyaw Han of colonel-level rank, working as the secretary of the AA group. The arrested drug-related offenders stated that they were not carrying out drug trafficking as a private business, but were being tasked to serve for the AA group. They received more salary and benefits than other AA group members. Their work is compartmentalized into those who keep drugs stored, those who distribute drugs and those who deal drugs abroad. Each group is unaware of another’s presence. However, it is reported that a senior in charge, like Wai Thar Tun, had served as a link between the separate groups.

Under the management of AA leader Twan Mrat Naing, profits obtained from the drugs are used to supply arms/ammunition/rations to AA members, build fortifications and provide support for AA members. 70 per cent of the income from drugs is usually used to purchase weapons and ammunition, and they are known to exchange weapons for amphetamine pills and commit money laundering as well as transnational crimes such as human trafficking, connecting with international arms smuggling gangs.

TO BE CONTINUED

NATIONAL

Dagon University hosts workshop to promote court-led mediation

A workshop on court-led mediation was reportedly held on the morning of 27 August at the convocation hall of Dagon University.

The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness of the court-led mediation system among professionals from various fields.

During the workshop, Daw Cho Cho Mar, Assistant Director of the Yangon Region High Court Mediation Department, gave a presentation titled “Introduction to Mediation”, while Daw Mon Thu Zar Khin, Deputy Director, spoke on “Court-led Mediation”. Additionally, U Saw Myo Myo, Regional Judicial Officer, delivered a talk on “An

Analysis of the Mediation System”.

Attendees, including teachers and students from the Department of Law of Dagon University, asked questions and engaged in a lively discussion with the speakers. The workshop was attended by more than 250 people, including judicial officers from the Yangon Region High Court, the Dagon University Pro-Rector, the Professor and Head of the Department of Law, and teachers and students specializing in law. — ASH/KNN

The workshop on court-led mediation is in progress.



New Myanmar comedy ‘Pwe’ premieres at President Cinema

THE premiere of the Myanmar film ‘Pwe’ took place on 27 August at the President Cinema in Dagon Township, Yangon.

The film’s story was written by DD Htet Aung, who co-wrote the screenplay with Min Ko Soe (Natthankwin). Director Academy Ko Zaw (Arun Oo) was in charge of production for Luswankaung Film Production.

“In this film, I play a character called Htun Thi, who is an LGBT person. He leaves the toddy-palm forests in his village with his uncle and goes to the city. He works hard, saves money, and gets a cosmetic operation. He goes to the city with Ko Myint Myat, Ko Kyaw Kyaw Bo and Naw Phaw to make this dream a reality. In



The cast of the film ‘Pwe’ introducing themselves to the audience before the premiere.

between, you’ll see all sorts of funny situations,” said actor Nyi Htut Khaung.

‘Pwe’ stars a large cast, including Academy Myint Myat, Academy Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Nyi Htut Khaung, Academy Soe

Myat Thuzar, Naw Phaw Eh Htar, Ya Mone Myint Myat, Khin Hlaing, Zaw Win Naing (Mandalay), Sin Ma, Zin Myo, Thwet Lett, and Super Lin. — ASH/MKKS

Three top artistes to reunite for Mandalay concert

SINGERS Zaw Win Htut, J Maung Maung, and Chit Kaung will perform a concert titled ‘Hlyetsit Moe Kaungkin’ (The Electric Sky) at The Square Theatre Bar in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, according to singer Chit Kaung.

“We have a concert in Mandalay at The Square Theatre Bar on the night of 30 August. I’ll be performing with the rock legend Zaw Win Htut and J Maung Maung. We’ll be singing lots of rock songs with the Emperor band, so I don’t want you to miss it,” said Chit Kaung.

The album, also called ‘Hlyetsit Moe Kaungkin’, featured famous and popular songs from a past era, such as ‘Ageing Love’ by Zaw Win Htut, ‘Heartbroken City’ by J Maung Maung, and “Naughty Ma Ma” by Chit Kaung. The album was written solely by the renowned songwriter Min Chit Thu and was so successful that it was released up to its third volume.

The concert, featuring performances by Zaw Win Htut, J Maung Maung, and Chit Kaung, is scheduled to begin at 7 pm on 30 August, with the Emperor Band providing musical accompaniment. — ASH/KZL



The promotional poster for the ‘Hlyetsit Moe Kaungkin’ concert.

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Van Gogh Museum ‘could close’ without more help from Dutch govt

THE Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam warned Wednesday that it faced closure without more state funding, saying a 104-million-euro (\$120 million) renovation was vital to protect its masterpieces.

The museum — which holds the world’s biggest collection of the artist’s work — said the project could not go ahead unless the Dutch state honoured a 1962 agreement with Vincent van Gogh’s nephew by providing the necessary funds.

“The museum faces closure,” it added “because it will not be able to guarantee the safety of the collection, visitors, and staff.” The Dutch ministry

of culture rejected the warning, saying the museum already received a subsidy under the Dutch Heritage Act that was sufficient to cover maintenance.

It said its position was based on “comprehensive research” by independent experts. But the museum has launched legal proceedings over the subsidy, with a court hearing scheduled for February 2026. The museum houses more than 200 of the tortured Dutch artist’s paintings, 500 of his drawings and almost all of his letters. They were given by the artist’s nephew Vincent Willem van Gogh in 1962 under a state-backed deal to build and maintain a museum. — AFP



The museum emphasized that the renovation is essential to ensure the safety of its masterpieces, visitors, and staff, and it cannot proceed without the Dutch government’s adherence to a 1962 agreement with Vincent van Gogh’s nephew for funding. **PHOTO: KOEN VAN WEEL / ANP/AFP**



Fisherman Chris Kelly, 32, shows octopus caught aboard his vessel in Plymouth Harbour, southwest England. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Perfect storm’: UK fishermen reel from octopus invasion

VETERAN fisherman Brian Tapper has faced significant challenges during this year’s crabbing season off southwest England, where he found his 1,200 crab pots nearly empty.

Instead, they were filled with octopuses, marking the largest bloom in British waters in 75 years. This unexpected surge of octopuses, driven by an 18-month marine heatwave,

has devastated the shellfish industry, as these voracious predators consume crabs and other shellfish.

Tapper’s wife has closed her crab processing factory, and he fears his business may not survive, estimating a potential 80 per cent drop in his catch by 2025. Statistics reveal that UK fishermen landed over 1,200 tonnes of octopus in the

first half of this year, a stark increase from previous years, while shellfish landings have plummeted. The octopus boom has forced restaurants and retailers to adapt by offering octopus instead of traditional shellfish. Local officials have commissioned a study to investigate the situation, with initial findings expected in October. — AFP

Argentina hunts Nazi-looted painting revealed in property ad

ARGENTINE police hunted Wednesday for a 17th century painting which was allegedly stolen by the Nazis from a Dutch Jewish art collector and resurfaced this week in a property ad, only to disappear again.

The painting, believed to be “Portrait of a Lady” by Italian baroque portraitist Giuseppe Ghislandi (1655-1743) was identified by the Dutch newspaper AD on Monday in a picture of a house for sale in the seaside resort of Mar del Plata.

The authenticity of the artwork cannot be proven until it is recovered but it is believed to

have been stolen from Amsterdam art dealer Jacques Goudstikker during World War II.

In the for-sale notice of the house in Mar del Plata, published by Robles Casas & Campos realtors, the painting of a noblewoman in a gilded frame was seen hanging in the living room, above a green sofa.

After AD journalists spotted it, Argentine prosecutor Carlos Martinez ordered a search of the residence.

But while firearms were seized during Tuesday’s raid, the painting had disappeared. — AFP

Japanese climber, 102, sets Mount Fuji record

A 102-year-old Japanese man with a serious heart condition has been certified as the oldest person to climb Mount Fuji — but still shrugged off the feat as nothing special.

Kokichi Akuzawa, who was born in 1923, summited Japan’s

highest peak after climbing a mountain on an almost weekly basis as part of his training.

His achievement in early August was recognized by Guinness World Records.

“I am six years older than the last time I climbed,” Aku-

zawa told AFP, referring to his hike up the 3,776-metre (12,388 feet) peak at the age of 96.

“I have been there and seen the view many times, it wasn’t anything special,” he said. “I reached the summit last time too.” — AFP

Singer Taylor Swift, NFL star Travis Kelce engaged

POP sensation Taylor Swift and NFL star Travis Kelce are now engaged after two years of dating.

The couple announced their engagement on Instagram with a carousel of photos

on Tuesday (India time), featuring Swift’s engagement ring from the ceremony. The series of photos captured the moment Kelce got down on his knee in a rose garden, including a close-up shot of the diamond wedding

ring in a gold bezel setting.

The ‘Blank Space’ singer appeared over the moon as she hugged and kissed her new fiancé, and the pair even posed for photos in celebration of their milestone moment. — ANI

ECONOMY
WORLD

Swiss economy set to slow due to US tariffs



Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter visited Washington in early August 2025, with her trip taking place on 5 and 6 August 2025, to seek friendlier tariff terms from the United States. PHOTO: AFP

The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) announced that these high tariffs, among the largest levies imposed by the US on various countries, have led to a revised economic outlook projecting weaker growth for Switzerland next year.

THE Swiss economy will likely grow more slowly than previously expected next year due to the massive import tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, the economy ministry said Thursday.

Trump blindsided Switzerland when he announced that incoming Swiss goods would be hit with a huge 39-per-cent tariff on 1 August, one the highest new levies he imposed on dozens of

countries.

The Swiss economy ministry's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) said it was now looking at weaker growth.

"An updated economic scenario from SECO shows that, as a result of higher US import tariffs, the Swiss economy is likely to grow more slowly than previously expected, particularly in 2026," it said in a statement.

— AFP

Russia's economy to grow by at least 1.5% in 2025: Finance Minister

RUSSIA'S Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by at least 1.5 per cent in 2025, Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said on Wednesday.

"This year, we see quite tough conditions for the operating of the monetary policy. We see that the economic growth rate will nevertheless be at least 1.5 per cent this year, at least, according to the Economic Development Ministry," Siluanov said at a governmental meeting.

A balanced budget for 2026-2028 would be the basis for Russia's Central Bank to mitigate the monetary policy, the minister added. — SPUTNIK

China renews currency swap agreement with New Zealand

THE People's Bank of China (PBOC), China's central bank, has renewed a bilateral currency swap agreement with the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

The value of the renewed deal is 25 billion yuan (about US\$3.52 billion), the PBOC said in a statement on its website on Thursday.

The arrangement is valid for five years and can be renewed upon mutual consent, said the statement. The renewal of this arrangement will deepen monetary and financial cooperation between the two countries, facilitate bilateral trade and investment, and contribute to financial market stability, according to the PBOC. — Xinhua

Poland's President seeks to prevent EU-Mercosur trade agreement

POLISH President Karol Nawrocki wants to form a blocking minority in the EU Council in order to prevent the signing of a free trade agreement between the European Union and South American trade bloc Mercosur.

Declaring his intent during a meeting with his cabinet, Nawrocki insisted that he acts with Poland's national interests in mind.

Nawrocki added that he is even willing to work together with his political opponents like Donald Tusk in order to shoot down the EU-Mercosur trade pact. — SPUTNIK

Australian government to cut 500 "nuisance" tariffs

THE Australian government on Thursday said that it will cut another 500 "nuisance" tariffs as part of a push to boost productivity and encourage free trade.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Trade Minister Don Farrell and Industry and Innovation Minister Tim Ayres on Thursday announced that the small tariffs on items including tyres, wine

glasses and televisions will be removed from the start of the next financial year on 1 July, 2026, to reduce the compliance burden on businesses.

Chalmers told reporters in Canberra that the nuisance tariffs "often do more than good". He said that current tariffs on tyres raise less than 80,000 Australian dollars (US\$52,109.8) in revenue every year, but that

removing them will save businesses more than 32 million AUD (\$20.8 million) in compliance costs annually.

"We are putting our money where our mouth is," Farrell said, adding, "We want countries to remove trade barriers. We are demonstrating to the rest of the world we are serious about this issue."

— Xinhua



Chalmers said that the treasury will consult on the proposed tariffs to be cut until December and the final agreed list will be published in the next federal budget, which he is expected to hand down in May 2026. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/PIXABAY

UK car exports to US rebound on trade deal: industry

UK exports of vehicles to the United States rebounded in July thanks to a trade agreement between London and Washington that reduced tariffs on the sector, industry data showed Thursday.

Following three months of declines, July exports rose 6.8 per cent to almost 10,000 vehicle units, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said in a statement.

Exports of new vehicles to the US had slumped 55.4 per cent year-on-year in May, in between much smaller declines in April and June, the SMMT had previously said.

“The US remains the largest single national



The Oxford Mini plant continues to manufacture Mini vehicles. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ GEOFF CADDICK /AFP/FILE

market for British built cars, underscoring the importance of the UK-US trade deal, and July’s performance illustrates the impact of this deal,” the SMMT said.

The agreement, which concluded in May and entered into force on 30 June, reduced tariffs on UK car exports to 10 per cent on a limit of 100,000 vehicles annually. — AFP

Qantas says profits up, strong travel demand ahead

QANTAS Airways said Thursday it lifted annual net profit and saw a bright outlook for travel demand, days after it was fined for illegally firing staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Australia’s dominant airline group said rising passenger numbers boosted its financial performance, and it saw further revenue growth in the six months ahead for Qantas and its budget subsidiary Jetstar.

“While we are pleased with the progress we are making, we remain focused on further improving our performance,” chief executive Vanessa Hudson said. “Continuing strong demand across all market segments, combined with our dual brand strategy, helped the Group grow earnings,” she said in a statement. — AFP

Fuji TV sues 2 ex-officials for 5 bln yen over TV host sex scandal



Combined photo shows former Fuji Television Network Inc President Koichi Minato (L) and former Managing Director Toru Ota. PHOTO: KYODO

FUJI Television Network Inc said Thursday it has sued two of its former top officials for a combined five billion yen (\$34 million) over a sexual misconduct scandal involving popular TV host Masahiro Nakai and a former female employee.

The lawsuit filed at the Tokyo District Court seeks damages from the network’s former President Koichi Minato and former Managing Director Toru Ota for neglecting their duty of care after being informed of the incident in June 2023, according to Fuji TV.

The scandal, which came to light following a weekly magazine report last December, triggered a mass exodus of spon-

sors. Fuji TV said it has incurred losses totaling over 45 billion yen as of the end of June.

“We deemed it essential to hold (Minato and Ota) accountable in order to ensure a corporate culture that places the highest priority on human rights and compliance,” the TV station said. — Kyodo

The Announcement from The Association of Myanmar-Japan Socio-Economic Development Cooperation (AMJSEDC)

The Association of Myanmar – Japan Socio- Economic Development Cooperation (AMJSEDC) will be holding a Japanese language basic course based on A1 (Activities) (only one white book) from the Marugoto textbook series published by the Japan Foundation at the **Akafuji Vocational Training Center** as follows.

Course date	- Monday, Wednesday, Friday. [(3) days a week.]
Course time	- (10) am to (12) pm.
Course duration	- (3) months.
Number of participants accepted	- (18) people.
Course fee	- Free (scholarship)
Course opening date	- (24.9.2025)

Note. . The textbooks must be ordered by the trainees and can also be purchased at the training center.

Where to attend the training - **Akafuji Vocational Training Center**

Room No. (906), Yuzana Tower, Shwegondaing, Bahan Township.

Contact Phone number - 09 402001617, 09 250414537

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (267N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (267N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-8-2025** 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 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

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

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

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ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Preparations for China’s V-Day parade basically complete: official

Three full rehearsals have been successfully conducted, with troops in high spirits and equipment in excellent condition.



A set of floral installations is pictured at Jianguomen in Beijing, capital of China, 26 August 2025. PHOTO: XINHUA

PREPARATIONS for China’s V-Day military parade to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War are basically complete, a military official said on Thursday.

The parade will feature a wide

range of weapons and equipment, many of which will be unveiled for the first time, said Wu Zeke, deputy director of the Office of the Leading Group for the Military Parade and a senior officer of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission, at a press conference.

He noted that the event will

highlight the Chinese military’s recent advancements in modernization and enhanced combat readiness. The three comprehensive rehearsals have been completed with satisfactory outcomes, Wu said, emphasizing that all troops remain in high spirits and that all military equipment is in good condition. — Xinhua

“India-Nepal Economic Partnership Summit” 2025 commences in Nepal

TO accelerate the bilateral economic cooperation for shared prosperity, PHDCCI, in association with the Consulate General of India, Birgunj (Nepal) and other bodies, organized “India-Nepal Economic Partnership Summit 2025” in Birgunj, Nepal.

The event was also co-organized by the Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI) Birgunj Chapter and the NADA Automobile Association of Nepal, Madhesh Pradesh, and the PHDCCI India-Nepal Centre. The Summit witnessed the significant presence of industry leaders from both India and Nepal, office bearers of NICCI, BiCCI, FNC-CI, NADA, Chambers in neighbouring Indian state Bihar (India) etc. Consul-General of India, Birgunj (Nepal) and

Vice-Chairman, Madhesh Province Policy and Planning Commission, Government of Madhesh Province, Nepal, were among the key speakers.

Speaking on the occasion, the

“Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker”, Devi Sahai Meena, Consul-General of India, Birgunj (Nepal) presented a brief overview of India-Nepal bilateral economic and trade relations. — ANI



The Summit, co-organized by the Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI) Birgunj Chapter, the NADA Automobile Association of Nepal (Madhesh Pradesh), and the PHDCCI India-Nepal Centre, saw strong participation from industry leaders of both India and Nepal. PHOTO: ANI

US eyeing shortened visa durations for students, journalists

THE United States is aiming to shorten the duration of visas for foreign students and journalists, a government proposal showed Wednesday, as President Donald Trump further ramps up immigration enforcement across the country.

The Department of Homeland Security said it is seeking to tighten rules on F visas for international students, J visas for visitors allowed to participate in exchange programs and I visas for members of the media. — Kyodo

French PM warns against snap polls to end political crisis

FRENCH Prime Minister Francois Bayrou on Wednesday warned that snap legislative polls would not help restore stability in his country, after calling a parliamentary confidence vote in less than two weeks that he is widely expected to lose.

Bayrou’s surprise gambit to hold the confidence vote on 8 September has raised fears that France risks entering a period of prolonged political and financial instability.

Should Bayrou lose the vote — called after months of squabbling over a budget that aims to slash spending -- he must resign along with his entire government. — AFP

Guyana, emerging oil superpower, elects new leaders

SOUTH America’s only English-speaking country Guyana goes to the polls on Monday in elections that will decide who will manage the nation’s bountiful new oil riches.

In 2015, petroleum giant ExxonMobil discovered huge deposits of crude off Guyana’s coast, transforming the fortunes of what was once among South America’s poorest countries.

In 2024, Guyana’s economy grew by a world-beating 43.6 per cent on the back of surging oil revenues.

In the next five years, the government hopes to nearly double crude output, from 650,000 barrels per day currently to over 1 million.

The bonanza comes with a caveat, however. — AFP

Parents sue OpenAI over California teen’s death

THE parents of a 16-year-old California boy filed a wrongful death lawsuit against artificial intelligence company OpenAI on Tuesday, alleging the company’s ChatGPT chatbot actively encouraged their son’s suicide and provided detailed instructions on how to take his own life.

Matt and Maria Raine said their son Adam died by suicide on 11 April after months of conversations with ChatGPT that transformed from homework assistance into what they describe as suicide coaching, according to the 39-page complaint filed in the San Francisco Superior Court.

It is the first legal action accusing OpenAI of wrongful death in relation to its popular AI chatbot, which the company claims has 700 million weekly users worldwide. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar esports team celebrated for 2025 World Cup win



Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung (R) presents the cash award.

A CEREMONY to honour the Myanmar team that won the world championship title at the 2025 Esports World Cup was held yesterday at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) in the Kyaik-kasan Sports Complex, Tamway Township, Yangon.

Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and for Hotels and Tourism, and Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, regional ministers, officials, donors, guests, and the winning athletes attended the ceremony.

In his address, the Union minister congratulated the Yangon Galacticos Esports team for clinching the PUBG Mobile world champion title at the Es-

ports World Cup held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 25 July to 3 August. He highlighted the historic achievement as Myanmar's first-ever world championship title in any sport, marking national pride and serving as an inspiration for future generations. He also expressed appreciation to the Myanmar Esports Federation, its officials, supporters, and main sponsors KBZ Bank and KBZ Group for their contributions.

The Union minister awarded K40 million in prize money to the champion athletes and K20 million to the coaches, while the Yangon Region Chief Minister presented K10 million to the coaches and team officials. Donors also presented honorary cash awards totalling K1,310 million to the team.

The event continued with

the presentation of certificates of honour to the world champion team, after which the President of the Myanmar Esports Federation delivered a vote of thanks.

As the Yangon Galacticos Esports team representing Myanmar secured the Championship gold medal, it was recorded as the only one sports event in the world first time in Myanmar's sports history. So, the team brought honour to the State, enhancing the mental power of the new generation youths. As such, all goal medallist athletes, the founder, the president and officials from Myanmar E-Sports Federation and KBZ Bank and KBZ Group Patron U Aung Ko Win, who contributes more than K4 billion per year to the federation, were recorded in the Myanmar sports history. — MNA/KZL

ISPE Women secure second straight AFC qualifier win

MYANMAR club ISPE FC Women continued their strong form in the 2025–2026 AFC Women's Champions League qualifiers with an emphatic 8-0 victory over Mongolia's Khovd Western Club on 28 August in Yangon.

The home side opened the scoring in the third minute when winger Hnin Pwint Aye curled in directly from a corner. ISPE's relentless attack saw May Htet Lu, Shwe Yee Htun, and Lynn Myint Mo add further goals before half-time to make it 4-0.

In the second half, despite making changes to rest key players, ISPE maintained pressure. San Thaw Thaw converted a penalty on 48 minutes, Sanda Lin



struck two minutes later, Phyu Phyu Win added another from the spot on 64 minutes, and Lynn Myint Mo netted her second in 68 minutes to complete the rout.

With two straight clean-sheet wins, ISPE lead Group A with six points, level with Stallion Laguna of the Philippines. Khovd Western and Guam's Strykers remain winless after two games.

The decisive group match will be played on 31 August, when ISPE face Stallion Laguna for a place in the next round. — Chit Ko Ko/KZL

MGF holds two-day Level 2 Rules seminar

THE Myanmar Golf Federation will organize a two-day Level 2 Rules seminar on 15 and 16 November at the Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) under the R&A and APGC.

Interested trainees will need to learn the Rules of Golf 2023, as issued by the R&A and USGA, in advance, said MGF. Registration and inquiries can be made to MGF's official, U Tun Kyaw, at 09 5193423.

A PDF file of the Rules of Golf 2023 in the original English version can be found on the R&A website, and a PDF file with a Myanmar translation can be accessed at www.myanmargolfederation.org. A printed version will be available at the seminar.

Under the guidance of MGF, Junior Golf Myanmar (JGM) organized the 42nd Junior Golf Myanmar Championship, sponsored by Ar Htan Co Ltd. The third day and the awarding ceremony took place at the Yangon City Golf Course (Ngwe Thawda) on August 27. — MT/ZS



The 42nd Junior Golf Myanmar Championship's third day and awarding ceremony is in action at the Yangon City Golf Course on 27 August 2025.

'Something has to change', says Amorim after United humiliation

A furious Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim said "something has to change" within the team after the pressure mounted on him following a humiliating League Cup loss to Grimsby.

In arguably their worst result since legendary boss Alex Ferguson retired at the end of

the 2012/13 season, United were knocked out of an English cup competition by a fourth-tier side for the first time.

Having fought back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2, they lost a penalty shoot-out 12-11 on Wednesday.

Amorim cut a disconsolate figure having hoped the night-

mare of last season, when United finished a woeful 15th in the Premier League, was behind them.

He had been backed by the board and spent £200 million (\$270 million) on the attacking talent of Bryan Mbeumo, Matheus Cunha and Benjamin Sesko alone. — AFP



China's trade with other SCO members hit US\$512.4 bln in 2024

CHINA'S trade with other Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states stood at around US\$512.4 billion in 2024, up 2.7 per cent year on year, a commerce official said Wednesday.

Last year, China imported nearly \$90 billion worth of crude oil, natural gas and coal from other SCO members, along with \$13.66 billion worth of agricultural products, Ling Ji, vice minister of commerce, said at a press conference.

Energy imports from other SCO members accounted for about one-fifth of China's total imports in 2024, according to Ling.

"The investment and industrial cooperation between China and other SCO member states has made steady progress in recent years," Zhang Li, another official with the Ministry of Commerce, said.

In recent years, Chinese enterprises have set up more than 3,000 companies in other member states, creating over 200,000 jobs on average each year, Zhang added.

The SCO Summit 2025 will be held from 31 August to 1 September in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin. The event will bring together leaders from more than 20 countries and heads of 10 international organizations to outline the blueprint for the bloc's development over the next decade. — Xinhua

The SCO Summit 2025 is scheduled for 31 August to 1 September in Tianjin, China, where leaders from over 20 countries and 10 international organizations will discuss the bloc's development plans for the next decade.



This photo shows a building adorned with a giant poster marking the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 in north China's Tianjin, 22 August 2025. PHOTO: SUN FANYUE/XINHUA

South Korea to ban mobile phones in school classrooms

SOUTH Korea's parliament has approved a nationwide ban on mobile phone use in school classrooms starting next March,

citing concerns over smartphone addiction and student well-being.

South Korea has passed a bill banning

the use of mobile phones in school classrooms nationwide, officials said Thursday, joining other countries in efforts to curb social media use among minors.

One of the world's most wired nations, South Korea has recently sought to tighten rules on electronic devices in schools, citing concerns over smartphone addiction among students.

The bill, which will take effect in March next year, bans smart devices including mobile phones in classrooms and was passed Wednesday, a National Assembly spokeswoman told AFP.

The move makes South Korea the latest country to restrict social media use among schoolchildren, following similar steps in countries including Australia and the Netherlands. — AFP



South Korea has passed a bill banning the use of mobile phones in school classrooms nationwide, joining other countries in efforts to curb social media use among minor. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Arab League urges stronger Arab cooperation in AI, increased investment

ARAB League (AL) Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit on Wednesday urged Arab countries to strengthen cooperation in the artificial intelligence (AI) industry and boost investment in research and development.

In his address at the opening of the first annual Arab AI Forum in Egypt's coastal city of New Alamein, Gheit also called on Arab states to adopt the AL's ethical charter on AI, which was endorsed last month as a guiding document to ensure "responsible and fair use of AI, while respecting cultural specificities and social values in the Arab region," the AL said in a statement. — Xinhua