

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Union and Region or State Budget Bills (2026)



The 10th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the 10th day at its convention hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Secretary of the Joint

Bill Committee U Zin Min Htet submitted each paragraph of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Bill (2026) and the Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Bill (2026) separately, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Speaker sought the approval for the each paragraph of both bills from the Hluttaw.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw Than Than Lin submitted a proposal to approve the bills. The

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the two bills.

With regard to the proposal sent by the President on further exemption for specific goods tax and commercial tax for diesel HSD (500 ppm) and

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Curtains Rise: Marionettes to Dance Weekly at Reborn Wazira Cinema

IN addition to film, music, literature, and theatrical performances, traditional Myanmar marionette shows will also be featured at the Wazira Cinema, which is set to reopen soon, stated Chairman U Phoe Chit of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

To ensure the long-term sustainability and preservation of Myanmar’s traditional marionette art,

the Myanmar Marionette Discussion was held on 20 July at the Governor’s Residence on Tawwin Road, Dagon Township, Yangon and U Phoe Chit made these remarks.

“Myanmar marionettes only have value to those who understand their worth, and we must make people recognize that value. At the soon-to-reopen Wazira Cinema,

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The talk show about Myanmar Marionette.

MDY to host Ayeyawady-Yangtze Traditional Culture Festival

THE Ayeyawady-Yangtze Traditional Culture Festival will be held at the Mandalay Convention Centre in Mandalay from 1 to 3 November, according to the Mandalay branch of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central).

“The festival will be organized at the national level. It aims to strengthen friendship between Myanmar and China, preserve the traditional cultures of both countries, and promote investment and trade. We invite the people of

Mandalay to take part in and enjoy the festival,” said Daw Thin Pyant Kyu, Secretary of the Mandalay branch of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association (Central).

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TTI to launch export startup course on 3-7 Aug

THE Trade Training Institute (TTI) of the Trade Department, under the Ministry of Commerce, will offer intensive training on how to start an export business (batch 24) from 9 am to 4 pm from 3 to 7 August 2026.

The institute is located at 228/240, the corner of Strand Road and Shwethontha Street in Yangon.

The institute will accept a maximum of 50 trainees. Registration requires submission of an application form, three licensed photographs, a bachelor’s degree certificate, a matriculation pass certificate, a citizenship scrutiny card, and other relevant documents.

For further information, individuals may contact the institute via 01 8250871, 09 254075848, or 09 677629372. — NN/KK

OPINION

Produce well-rounded student youths for the future State

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Mindon’s Emerald Green village project funds disbursed

NATIONAL

Press Statement on ASEAN Five-Point Statement, known as ASEAN Five-Point Consensus

DURING the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting held at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 24 April 2021, the ASEAN Leaders deliberated and provided recommendations on the developments in Myanmar. At the Meeting, Myanmar responded that (1) it noted that some suggestions by the ASEAN Member States were constructive and would be taken into consideration based on the internal situation of the state; (2) it would give careful consideration to those suggestions since priorities at the moment were given to maintain law and order and to restore community stability; and (3) the suggestions would be positively considered if it would facilitate the implementation of the Five-Point Roadmap laid down by the Government, in line with the purposes and principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, ASEAN Way and ASEAN Spirit.

Following the ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting, the Five-Point Statement was released as an annex to the Chairman’s Statement. It was attached as an annex to the Chairman’s Statement without prior notification and circulation of a draft to the Member States, particularly to the country con-

cerned, Myanmar, which was inconsistent with the ASEAN practice. Therefore, it was released without reaching a consensus among all Member States. Myanmar’s position on the said Statement had already been conveyed through the state-owned newspapers on 27 April 2021.

Myanmar has also endeavoured to cooperate to the fullest extent possible guided by the spirit of the ASEAN family and based on its national interests with regard to the recommendations and suggestions made by the ASEAN Member States, as well as the aforementioned Five-Point Statement. As the Five-Point Roadmap laid down during the tenure of the State Administration Council is complementary to the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, the Government has implemented its Five-Point Roadmap, while making every possible effort to cooperate on matters relating to it without compromising its national interests and sovereignty.

Following the successful holding of elections in Myanmar in December 2025 and January 2026, the Hluttaw (Parliament) has been duly constituted. On 9 July 2026, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union

Parliament) adopted an urgent motion “urging the Union Government to review and take necessary action regarding the Five-Point Statement, as it diverges from fundamental principles of ASEAN, and does not align with the current political developments in Myanmar”.

Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the Informal Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 12 July 2026.

At the said Informal Meeting, the Union Minister briefed that Myanmar will continue its efforts to normalize its relations with ASEAN through a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led process, based on the reality on the ground while safeguarding its national interests and sovereignty. Regarding the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, the Union Minister also briefed that as the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has adopted an urgent motion, the Government, being bound to respect the decision of the Hluttaw, consisting of the Representatives elected by the will of the people, is obliged to respect and to take appropriate measures accordingly while

Myanmar will cooperate with the Association to the fullest extent possible to restore normalization of its relations with ASEAN.

Myanmar will enhance its cooperation with international communities including neighbouring countries, friendly countries and ASEAN Member States, in line with its foreign policy stipulated in the 2008 Constitution and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and continue to maintain constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation with ASEAN while upholding its national interests and sovereignty.

In the discussion and implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, ASEAN Member States should respect and uphold ASEAN’s fundamental principles enshrined in the ASEAN Charter such as respect for the sovereignty of Member States and non-interference in internal affairs. Myanmar, on its part, will continue to cooperate with ASEAN to the fullest extent possible based on the real situations on the ground.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
23 July 2026

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred and appointed Dr Theingi, Rector of the Technological University (Thanlyin) of the Department of Advanced Science and Technology under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as Rector of Yangon Technological University of the same organization from the date she assumes charge of her duties.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr Toe Min Tun, Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Flood Warning

Issued at 4 pm MST on 23 July 2026

ACCORDING to the 2:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Toungoo is observed as more than 3.5 feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Toungoo Township, to take precaution measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DHM

Appointment of Thai Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Tor Saralamba as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Mongkol

Visitstump.

Mr Tor Saralamba was born on 3 March 1975. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts in German from Chulalongkorn University and a Bachelor of Laws from Ramkhamhaeng University of Thailand. He also obtained a Master’s degree in International

Political Economy from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in 1996 as Attaché, and has served in various capacities at the Ministry, the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City, the Royal

Thai Consulate-General in Sydney and the Royal Thai Embassy in Budapest. Currently, he is serving as Consul-General of the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Los Angeles, the United States of America.

Mr Tor Saralamba is married. — MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday 23 July 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and moderate over the Bay of Bengal. Weather has a few clouds over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. **FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 24 July 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Magway Regions and (northern and eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon,

Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon, Chin, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) 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 moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon and Shan States. — DMH

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker hosts Farmers' Foundation leaders, former national athletes

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi yesterday welcomed the chairperson, secretary, and members of the Farmers Livelihood Development Foundation, joined by former Myanmar national athletes, during the 28-day sitting of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw.

The foundation officials and former national athletes reported on their work plans.

Speaking at the meeting, the Speaker said the Hluttaw's responsibilities are broad, and that 22 committees have been formed to carry out their duties effectively. Among them are the Farmers Affairs Committee and the



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with the chairperson, secretary, and members of the Farmers Livelihood Development Foundation, and former Myanmar national athletes.

Health and Sports Committee. He encouraged those present to submit any difficulties they face or matters they wish to address through the relevant committees so that the Hluttaw can assist them. He noted that the Hluttaw serves as a bridge between the people who raise concerns and the government responsible for addressing them. He added that the Hluttaw's doors are always open to those wishing to present their concern, and expressed his appreciation for their visit to observe the parliamentary proceedings.

In the same afternoon, he accepted the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award and the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Manuscript Award-winning books written and donated by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Dr Aung Gyi from Kyaiklat Constituency. — MNA/KTZH

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Union and Region or State ...

FROM PAGE 1

Liquefied Natural Gas, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung stated that the State is working to broaden the tax base and improve the collection of taxes, rather than increasing tax rates, in order to offset the reduction in tax revenue resulting from the tax exemptions granted on diesel HSD (500 ppm) and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

With the approval of the Union Government meeting, this proposal is being submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval to extend, for an additional one month, the exemptions from the Specific Goods Tax and Commercial Tax on diesel HSD (500 ppm), as well as the exemption from Com-

mercial Tax on liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Under the 2026 Union Tax Law, approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is hereby sought to grant a further one-month extension, from 1 to 30 June 2026, of the exemption from the Specific Goods Tax and Commercial Tax on diesel HSD (500 ppm) diesel, as well as the exemption from Commercial Tax on liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that lawmakers wishing to discuss the proposal can list at the director-general of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue its 11th day meeting on 28 July. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

MNPIFER Union Minister receives UNFPA Representative to Myanmar

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative to Myanmar, yesterday at Office 1, Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

They frankly discussed matters relating to the implementation conditions and future co-operation plans between



The UNFPA Representative calls on Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe yesterday.

Myanmar and UNFPA.

The meeting was attended by the direc-

tor-general and officials from the Ministry. — MNA

Ruili hosts Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Expo

THE Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Exhibition was held yesterday at the Jiegao International Jade & Jewellery Trade Centre in Ruili, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China. Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo and Yunnan Provincial Governor Mr Wang Yubo attended the event.

At the opening ceremony, Governor Wang Yubo delivered a speech, while Union Minister U Hsan Oo explained the objectives of the exhibition and the promotion of border trade between the two countries. The



The launch of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Expo in Ruili, China.

Union minister and the Yunnan provincial governor officially opened the exhibition and toured the jade booths.

The Myanmar Gemstone Exhibition will be held at the Jiegao International Jade & Jewellery Trade Centre from

22 to 25 July.

Moreover, Union Minister U Hsan Oo held talks with Governor Wang Yubo and his delegation on matters related to the exhibition and border trade between the two countries. — MNA/MKKS

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

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw reviews township governance, infrastructure and agriculture issues

THE Third Pyithu Hluttaw convened the 28th day of its second regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn presiding over the meeting. Lawmakers raised seven questions covering township administration, road and bridge infrastructure, agricultural development, reservoir rehabilitation, transport routes and farmland management.

Responding to a question on whether the government plans to enact a Township Administration Law, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu said there are currently no plans to



The 28th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

draft such legislation. He explained that township administration is already governed by existing laws, presidential directives and administrative regulations, which clearly define the responsibilities and powers

of township authorities. He said these legal provisions are considered adequate for the effective management of township affairs.

Addressing a question on upgrading the Nyaung-sayay-Tayokhmaw-Kway-

ma road in Shwedaung Township, Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myo Zaw Thein said the route is managed by the ministry's Department of Rural Road Development.

He noted that much of the road remains too narrow for asphalt paving and requires embankment widening and gravel surfacing first. The initial improvement works have been proposed for the 2027-2028 financial year, subject to budget approval. On another question, he said the construction of a new Gwaygyo Bridge in Kyangin Township is not included in the government's current priorities because nearby villages have alternative access to the main highway. However, repairs to the existing bridge to allow pedestrians and motorcycles to cross are planned during the 2027-2028 financial year.

Replying to several agriculture-related questions, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun said the government is working to improve the transportation of goods, prevent illegal taxation along trade routes and support domestic agricultural production. He urged people to report illegal toll collection with evidence so that authorities can take action. He also said the government is expanding domestic seed production, distributing fertilizer at affordable prices and implementing measures under existing laws to protect farmers' interests.

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DIPLOMACY

Union Women's Affairs Minister meets UNFPA representative

UNION Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin held talks with UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Jaime Nadal Roig and his delegation at the ministry's office.

They discussed cooperation between the ministry and UNFPA, including implementation of the joint work plan, establishing a help line at the ministry, and providing support services through One-Stop Women Support Centres



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Zin receives the UNFPA Resident Representative and his delegation yesterday.

(OSWSCs) for women affected by violence.

The meeting was attended by the direc-

tor-general, relevant officials and UNFPA representatives. — MNA/KZL

Papun MSY projects inspected

OFFICIALS from the Papun Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection of the implementation of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project in Kamamaung Ward 4 yesterday.

District Head U Khin Maung Win of the Papun District Department of Rural Development, Township Head U Pyae Oo Ko Ko of the Township Department, and project staff met the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Committee. They inspected the implementation status of project



An Emerald Green village development project.

activities in Kamamaung Ward 4, verified whether financial forms were systematically filled out, and checked compliance with the instructions in the project manual before providing necessary guidance.

According to U Pyae Oo Ko Ko, Head of the Papun Township Depart-

ment of Rural Development, a total of K46 million was disbursed under the project to 79 members in Kamamaung Ward 4, including 11 engaged in agriculture, 38 in livestock breeding, and 30 in trading, at an interest rate of K0.50 per month. — Ko Ko Soe (Rural)

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw reviews township governance, ...

FROM PAGE 4

Dr Ye Tint Tun also outlined the Rice Export Zone (REZ) project, saying it is being implemented through a government-private sector partnership to produce high-quality rice that meets international

standards and boosts exports. Under the scheme, participating farmers will receive financial assistance of up to K750,000 per acre, including support from exporters, the State Economic Promotion Fund and agricultural loans. Farmers will also

receive quality seeds, fertilizer, technical assistance and improved market access.

On a separate question concerning the transfer of farmland ownership after the death of a registered landholder, Dr Ye Tint Tun said legal heirs

must continue to follow existing inheritance and land registration procedures, adding that no changes to the current process are planned.

Responding to a question on Naung Tone Hone Reservoir in Kengtawng, Deputy Minister for Ag-

riculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw said the reservoir has gradually lost water storage capacity because of sediment accumulation.

He said dredging, embankment improvements and the construction of a new spillway have been

proposed for the 2027-2028 financial year, subject to funding, to improve irrigation and domestic water supplies.

The Pyithu Hluttaw adjourned and is scheduled to resume its 29th day of meetings on 24 July. — MNA/ST

DIPLOMACY

MoIP Union Minister meets UNFPA to discuss signing MoU

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to Myanmar, and his team at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They discussed the signing of an MoU between the ministry and UNFPA to implement joint projects.

They also discussed the 2024 Population and Housing Census Union Report, the completion of reports for four regions and the ongoing publication of reports for the remaining regions and states, the use of the 2024



The UNFPA Resident Representative calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing yesterday.

Census results in national development, procedures to facilitate the entry and residence of UNFPA's foreign staff, and ways for UNFPA to continue strengthening cooperation with the ministry.

The meeting was at-

tended by Deputy Minister U Lin Zaw Tun, Director-General U Ye Tun Oo of the Department of Immigration, Acting Director-General U Aung Min of the Department of Population, and other officials.

— MNA/MKKS

Handover ceremony for VDP water supply project held in Pyinmana

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a presentation and handover ceremony for the completion of Village Development Project (VDP) activities implemented in Zaygon Village, Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday.

Pyinmana Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nay Chi Zar Wai



The handover ceremony for the completed water supply project is in progress in Pyinmana Township.

delivered opening remarks at the ceremony. The project officer then explained the objectives of the project handover and presented the im-

plementation status of the completed project activities, featuring a 3,300-foot water supply pipeline.

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Zalun's VDP project initiated, committee formed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted an introductory briefing on the Village Development Project (VDP) to be implemented and formed a project committee in Ohndaw Village, Zalun Township, yesterday.

Zalun Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw May Myo Han met village elders and villagers in Ohndaw Village and explained the objectives, processes and expected benefits of the Village Development Project (VDP). Project staff then explained the rules and regulations to be followed in selecting and forming



An initiation and committee-formation ceremony for Emerald Green village development project is underway in Zalun Township.

the Village Development Committee, as well as the tasks to be carried out by the village. The villagers who attended the meeting selected and formed a seven-member Village Development Committee in line with the wishes of the majority to effectively lead and implement village development activities.

In Ohndaw Village,

selected village development activities will be implemented by the villagers themselves using K15 million in support funds from the Village Development Project (VDP) and contributions from residents, with technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Department of Rural Development. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Welcome ceremonies held for returning Tatmadaw personnel

WELCOME ceremonies were held yesterday afternoon for Tatmadaw personnel returning from frontline operations in Kayin State to support security and regional stability.

Eastern Command Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Naing Oo, officials, Tatmadaw personnel, families, ethnic traditional performance groups and residents attended the ceremony held in Kalaw, Shan State (South).

The returning personnel were honoured with traditional performances and



Victorious Tatmadaw troops are seen receiving warm welcome at the Eastern Command.

greetings for their service during security operations. Similar welcome ceremonies

were also held at other Tatmadaw stations. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Handover ceremony for VDP water ...

FROM PAGE 5

Afterwards, the town-ship head and members of

the village development committee formally hand- ed over the completed VDP

activities to Zaygon Village by presenting the handover record, and a village elder

gave words of appreciation on behalf of the residents. The project was imple- mented utilizing K15 mil- lion from the Village Devel- opment Project (VDP) fund

and K3.9 million contribut- ed by residents. Executed by residents themselves with technical support from the Department of Rural Development, all project

activities have now been completed in full and offi- cially handed over to the village for long-term oper- ation and maintenance. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Ayeyawady cultivates 1,897,241 acres of monsoon paddy against target

A total of 1,897,241 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated in Ayeyawady Region so far during the current monsoon season, out of the targeted 3,757,171 acres, according to the Ayeyawady Region Department of Agriculture.

“To achieve the targeted yield in line with the cultivation plan, the use of certified high-quality seeds has reached 97 per cent. During this monsoon season, nearly 800,000 acres have been improved through the use of sun- hemp as green manure to enhance soil fertility and conservation. Com- post production using rice straw and organic fertiliz- ers has also been carried out. Moreover, 8,500 acres of seed production fields have been established to ensure a sufficient supply of quality seeds. Farmers



Collective transplanting underway in a paddy field.

have also been provided with technical guidance on improved cultivation methods, soil fertility management, balanced and timely application of chemical fertilizers, and the use of lime and silt to increase rice productiv- ity,” said U Thein Aung Than, deputy director of the department.

Monsoon paddy is

being cultivated across Pathein, Kyonpyaw, Hinthada, Myanaung, Maubin, Pyapon and La- butta districts. Pyapon District has recorded the largest cultivation area. High-yielding rice varie- ties being grown include Sinthukha, Sinthwelat, GW-11, 90-Day, Aungna- ingtoe, Manawthukha, Pakhan Shwewah, Th-

eehtatyin, Hmawby-3 and Yayhmyoke Khan-1. Local varieties such as Kauknhin, Hnanka, Hsit- pwa, Meedon, Byothtun, Mikauk and Ngasein are also under cultivation.

As part of efforts to increase rice exports, Ayeyawady Region has es- tablished a Rice Export Zone for the 2026-2027 fi- nancial year, cultivating 150,000 acres of Aemahta rice varieties and 50,000 acres of Pawsan rice vari- eties. To support farmers in using chemical fertiliz- ers in their paddy fields, about 1,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer produced by My- anmar Petrochemical En- terprise are distributed. More than 26,000 tonnes of chemical fertilizers were distributed dur- ing last year’s monsoon paddy season. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Dekkhinathiri’s MSY project activities inspected



Officials oversee the Emerald Green project in Dekkhinathiri Township.

THE Department of Ru- ral Development, under the Ministry of Coopera- tives and Rural Develop- ment, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review income-generat- ing activities implemen- ted under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Nyaunggon, Zeebyugon and Htantabin villages, Dekkhinathiri Township.

Nay Pyi Taw De- partment of Rural De- velopment Deputy Di- rector U Zaw Moe and project officials visited women-led households in the three villages to assess the implementa- tion of agriculture, live- stock, trading and other livelihood activities sup- ported by the project’s

revolving funds. They met village project committees and bene- ficiaries to review fund management, household income improvements and project challenges, while collecting survey data and coordinating necessary follow-up ac- tions.

Under the project, revolving funds amount- ing to K79.065 million have been provided to Zeebyugon Village, K46.152 million to Htant- abin Village and K37.86 million to Nyaunggon Village, which are be- ing effectively utilized to boost household in- come-generating activ- ities. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

HRD Korea announces insurance claim eligible list

THE Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD Korea) has announced that more than 2,300 Myanmar workers are eligible to claim insurance.

The EPS Centre in My- anmar has issued a list of names, passport numbers, dates of birth and claim amounts for 2,397 Myan- mar workers and all EPS workers are urged to check the list.

It doesn’t concern illegal stays; however, workers who have the in-

surance cover are eligible. Those who have returned to Myanmar after working in South Korea and haven’t yet filed repatriation insurance and gratuity insurance are urged to contact the EPS centre.

For more information about the insurance claim, workers are requested to place a call through 09 426217648 between 9 am and 5 pm. — MT/ZS

Myanmar workers are seen at the EPS centre.



Gold Market Rate as of 23 July 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 estab- lished by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

YR launches MSME One-Stop Service

THE Yangon Region MSME One-Stop Service office has been opened to provide micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) with easier access to government services through a single-window system and help address business challenges, Dr Myo Thaw, Chairman of the Yangon Region MSME Development Agency and the region’s minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport, said at the opening ceremony on 21 July.

Located at 35, the corner of Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road and Min Dhamma Road in Ma-yangon Township, the office offers business registration and licensing, financial advice, technical and quality certification support, training, market linkage services, and other government services.

The minister said that, as Yangon is the country’s economic hub, strengthening the MSME sector is vital to both the regional and



The Yangon Region MSME One Stop Service office.

national economies. He urged staff to provide accurate, transparent and business-centred services, stressing that MSME development requires close cooperation between the government, relevant agencies, the private sector and entrepreneurs. — TWA/MKKS

Curtains Rise: Marionettes to Dance Weekly at Reborn Wazira Cinema

FROM PAGE 1
we will be granted the opportunity to showcase Myanmar marionettes one day every week. When it comes to reviving this art, many business owners and people value Myanmar culture, and I believe they will participate,” he said.

Regarding Myanmar marionettes, Daw Ma Ma Naing, Chairperson of the Myanmar Marionette Committee, stated that since ancient times, marionettes

have been a high-level stage art of great prestige and value, elaborating, “During the reign of King Singu, performances were not permitted on an elevated stage. Instead, they performed on a ground-level circle. Because marionette puppets were given the privilege to perform from an elevated position above ground level, it came to be called the ‘High Stage’ (A-Myint-The-Bin).” — MT/ZN

Ywangan’s MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Shan State (South), Danu Self-Administered Zone, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Hsinnatchaung Village, Ywangan Township, yesterday.

Ywangan Township Department of Rural Development Head U Thein Myat Htike explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village

Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials then explained project activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K67.05 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Hsinnatchaung Village is im-

plementing family income-generating activities using K67.05 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the 12th round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 190 members from the village, including 137 people engaged in agricultural activities, 15 in trading businesses, 11 in production businesses and 27 in livelihood businesses. — Karan (Rural)

MDY to host Ayeyawady-Yangtze Traditional Culture Festival

FROM PAGE 1
During the three-day festival, there will be B2B matching programmes involving international embassies, companies and businesspeople, panel discussions by economic experts, MoU signing ceremonies, and competi-

tions featuring traditional Myanmar Thanaka, pickled tea leaves (Laphet) and Acheik Longyi (silk sarong). Chinese cultural activities, including calligraphy, paper-cutting and quiz competitions, will also be held. — ASH/KNN

Masonry training graduation ceremony held in Thayet

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held the graduation ceremony for the Livelihood Support Masonry Training on the morning of 22 July at the meeting hall of the Thayet District Department of Rural Development Office.

Acting District Head Daw Ngu Wah Htwe of the Thayet District Department of Rural Development delivered the graduation address. Officials explained the objectives of conducting the training. He also urged trainees to effectively apply the knowledge and skills ac-



A group documentary photo of officials and trainees from the masonry training session in progress in Thayet Township on 23 July.

quired during the course in their practical work.

Afterwards, Acting District Head Daw Ngu Wah Htwe presented training completion certificates to the trainees. On behalf of the trainees, one trainee delivered words of appreciation.

Responsible officials from district and township departments were present on the occasion. A total of 20 trainees from six villages in Thayet Township attended the training, which was conducted from 8 to 22 July at the office of the Thayet Township Department of Rural Development. The course included both theoretical and practical instruction. — Set Lu (Rural)

Mindon’s Emerald Green village project funds disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed the tenth installment of the revolving fund under the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project in Kyoewa Village, Mindon Township, on the morning of 23 July.

Mindon Township Head U Khu Mun Lian of the Department of Rural Development met village elders, association members, and beneficiaries. He explained the objectives and benefits of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project revolving fund, the provisions of the Rural Development Law and its Rules, and the regulations that



Emerlad Green village project funds are disbursed to villagers.

must be followed in the disbursement and utilization of the loan.

Afterwards, Township Head U Khup Mun Lian handed over K41.3 million in project funds to the Village Project Implementation Committee of Kyoewa Village.

Later, members of the Village Project Implementation Committee disbursed K 41.3 million, as the tenth installment of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project revolving fund, to 80 association members engaged in agricultural activities in Kyoewa Village. — Naw Lu (Rural)

Produce well-rounded student youths for the future State

ONE of the factors contributing to the development of a country is the advancement of intellectual capacity. When people with limited formal education and knowledge act without careful thought and consideration due to the instigation and manipulation of others, it can undermine national stability and slow down development.

Only with capable and virtuous people who possess comprehensive knowledge and skills can a nation achieve continuous devel-

opment, peace, and prosperity. Those who are able to carefully and deeply analyze any matters can make the best and most appropriate decisions for the affairs of the country. Therefore, it is necessary to produce young people with a comprehensive education system, together with the development of moral and physical fitness.

Educated individuals will be able to resolve problems effectively, and opportunities for a better socioeconomic life will emerge. As such, the State is increasing investment from the national budget and implementing special programmes for areas with limited access to education to ensure that students can pursue education up to the KG+9 level. In addition, basic industrial, agricultural, and livestock breeding subjects are being introduced at the basic education level. Through these schools, the government upgrades suitable institutes to university and college levels, as well as to establish universities and polytechnic institutes.

In the 2026-2027 financial year, the State will allocate 6.92 per cent of the national budget to the Ministry of Education. If the education sectors under other ministries are included, the allocation will account for 9.22 per cent of the national budget. In the coming financial year, the allocation for the education sector will be increased to at least 10 per cent of the national budget. Over the following year and beyond, the allocation for education development will be increased to 15 per cent of the national budget. In its tenure, the government plans to further increase education sector spending to 20 per cent of the national budget.

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All young people should be educated not only academically but also nurtured to become well-rounded and outstanding individuals. All schools should provide the necessary facilities, including sports grounds, libraries, and other basic requirements, to ensure that children become physically healthy and strong as well as knowledgeable and well-informed.

Investment in the education sector will bring about significant improvements and positive changes in the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in a country. Likewise, the advancement of the education sector has the potential to transform and enhance the future of the nation.

The Value of Small Steps: How Every Citizen Shapes Our Nation's Success

Great things are not done by one great act, but by many small acts brought together.

By Dr Zaw (Sli)

WHEN people admire a magnificent building, they often notice its height, beauty, and impressive design. Yet few stop to think about the thousands of bricks, beams, and bolts that quietly hold it together. If even one important part is missing, the entire structure may become weak. The same truth applies to our lives and to our nation. Lasting success is not created by one great achievement alone. It is built through countless small actions performed with care, honesty, and responsibility every day.

Whether we are students, teachers, engineers, farmers, healthcare workers, business owners, or public servants, every small duty we perform contributes to the strength of our families, communities, and nation. No sincere effort is ever too small to matter.

A Small Nail That Changed the Fate of a Kingdom

A well-known traditional rhyme has reminded people of this lesson for centuries:

For want of a nail, the shoe was lost,
For want of the shoe, the horse was lost,
For want of the horse, the rider was lost,
For want of the rider, the message was lost,
For want of the message, the battle was lost,
For want of the battle, the kingdom was lost,
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

At first glance, a tiny horseshoe nail appears unimportant. However, when it is missing, the

horseshoe becomes loose. The horse can no longer travel safely. The rider fails to deliver an urgent message. The battle is lost, and eventually an entire kingdom falls. This simple story teaches a powerful lesson. The destiny of a nation is rarely changed by one great event; more often, it is quietly written by countless small choices made each day faithfully.

Value The Hidden Power of Small Things

Nature offers many examples of this truth. A giant banyan tree begins as a tiny seed. Just as tiny streams unite to create a mighty river, small acts of responsibility come together to build a peaceful, resilient, and prosperous nation. A beautiful pearl develops from a tiny grain of sand inside an oyster. Great achievements often have humble beginnings.

Likewise, success in life grows through daily discipline. Reading a few pages every day expands knowledge. Saving a small amount of money regularly creates financial security. Speaking kindly strengthens relationships. Helping one neighbour builds trust throughout an entire community.

The quiet efforts of today become the proud achievements of tomorrow, proving that no sincere act of responsibility is ever too small to make a difference.

Small Habits Shape Our Future

Our personal lives follow the same principle. A journey toward difficulty seldom begins with a great mistake. More often, it starts with a small choice that seems

harmless. A young person may take a first sip of alcohol out of simple curiosity, believing that it will make little difference. At first, nothing appears to change. Yet, when self-discipline is gradually set aside and unhealthy habits are allowed to take root, an occasional drink may slowly become a lasting dependence.

Small problems that are ignored rarely remain small. Consider a large dam that supplies water to thousands of families and farms. Engineers inspect it regularly because they know that even a tiny crack deserves immediate attention. At first, the crack may be almost invisible. If repaired quickly, the dam remains safe for many years.

However, if the warning is ignored, water slowly widens the opening. Day after day, the pressure increases. Eventually, the structure may fail, causing floods that destroy homes, farmland, roads, and livelihoods. A disaster affecting thousands of people may begin with a crack no wider than a finger.

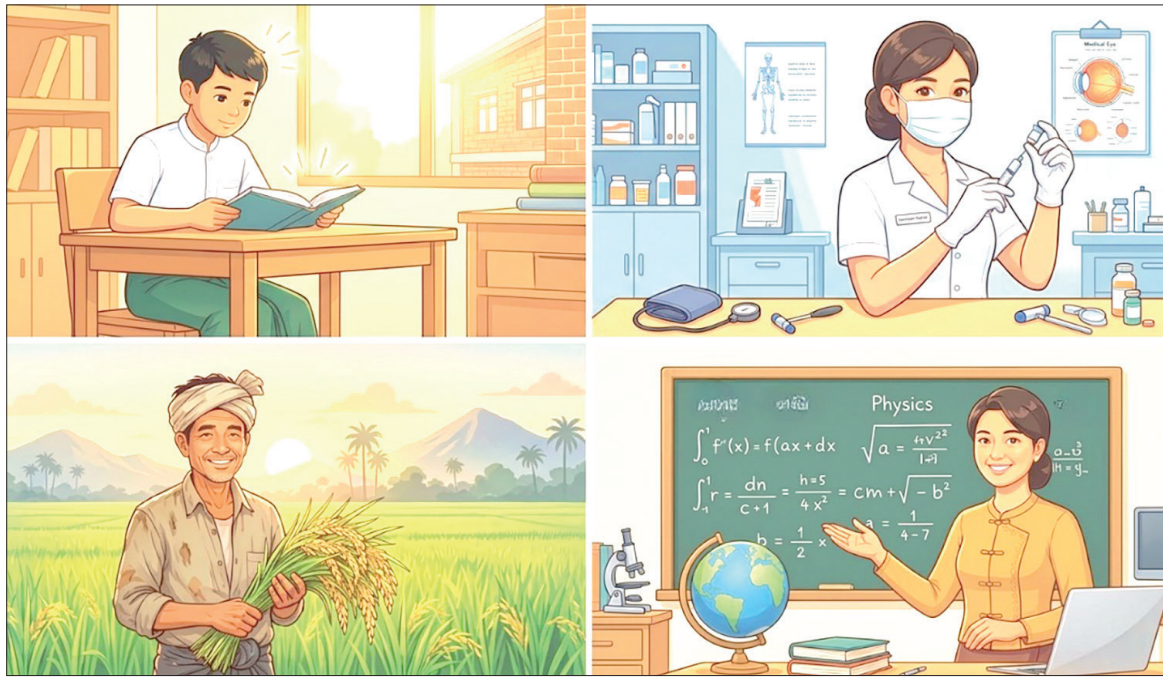
The encouraging truth, however, is that the same path can be changed. Wise choices, strong self-control, supportive families, caring friends, and timely guidance can help young people stay on the path of health, dignity, and hope. Every positive decision made today becomes another firm step towards a brighter tomorrow.

Fortunately, the opposite is also true. Good habits grow in the same gradual way. Daily exercise improves health. Honest work builds trust. Reading develops wisdom. Respect for parents,

teachers, and elders strengthens families and communities. Our future is shaped not by one decision alone but by the habits we practise every day.

Communication Builds Peace

History shows that many misunderstandings begin with small mistakes in communication. Sometimes, one careless statement, one misunderstanding, or one unanswered concern creates unnecessary tension. If



these issues are ignored, mistrust may grow, and relationships may become more difficult.

However, when people choose respectful dialogue, patient listening, and mutual understanding, small disagreements can be resolved before they become larger problems. Communities become stronger when differences are discussed with wisdom rather than conflict.

This lesson is valuable not only for families and workplaces but also for cooperation among communities and nations. Peace often begins with simple conversations conducted in a spirit of respect and goodwill.

The Small Efforts Behind Great Success

Many successful people understand the importance of paying attention to small details. Scientists make discoveries through

Craftsmen create excellent products because they value accuracy and quality in every step of their work. Behind every great success are thousands of careful decisions that many people never notice.

Every Young Person Is a National Asset

The future of every nation depends on its young people. Each student possesses unique talents waiting to be discov-

ered. Academic examinations are important, but they do not define a person's entire future. Some young people excel in science, while others succeed in technology, agriculture, engineering, business, healthcare, arts, or vocational professions.

When families, schools, businesses, and communities work together, every young citizen has an opportunity to develop useful

knowledge and practical skills. - A skilled electrician lights homes. - A talented mechanic keeps industries moving. - A dedicated nurse protects public health. - A creative entrepreneur creates jobs.

Every trained young person becomes another strong pillar supporting national development.

Small Responsibilities Create Great Nations

Nation-building is the combined work of millions of responsible citizens. A clean street begins with one family disposing of waste properly. Safe roads begin with one driver obeying traffic rules.

- A productive workplace begins with one employee completing every task carefully. - A healthy environment begins with one citizen planting a tree. - A peaceful society begins with one neighbour showing kindness to another.

When these small actions are repeated by millions of people, they create a strong, stable, and prosperous nation.

Choosing the Better Path Every day presents two simple choices. - We can repair the small crack or ignore it. - We can encourage a struggling student or overlook hidden potential. - We can solve misunderstandings through dialogue or allow distrust to grow. - We can develop good habits or

allow harmful habits to take root.

The direction of our future often depends on these small daily decisions.

Building Tomorrow, One Step at a Time

National development is not achieved only through large infrastructure projects or major policy decisions. It is also built through the quiet efforts of ordinary citizens who carry out their responsibilities faithfully every day.

Every lesson studied, every promise kept, every act of kindness, every honest day's work, every tree planted, every road kept clean, and every child encouraged adds another strong brick to the foundation of our nation's future.

The story of the horseshoe nail reminds us that small actions never remain small. They either become the beginning of great success or the beginning of great loss.

Let us therefore value every responsibility, however small it may seem. Let us encourage our young people, care for our communities, respect one another, and perform every duty with sincerity and dedication.

For when millions of citizens take small positive steps together, they create something truly remarkable - a peaceful, resilient, and prosperous nation where every individual has the opportunity to contribute, succeed, and thrive.

The future of our nation is not built in a single day. It is built every day, one thoughtful action, one responsible citizen, and one small step at a time.

“Mental wellness and healthy lifestyles” are India’s new priorities at 16th BRICS Health Meet

INDIA on Wednesday said it has introduced two new agenda items, promotion of mental wellness and the BRICS Mission on Healthy Lifestyles, at the 16th BRICS Health Ministerial Meeting, as delegates from member

and partner countries visited an exhibition showcasing the country's healthcare innovations, traditional medicine and digital health ecosystem.

Speaking with the media on the sidelines of the exhibition on

the second day of the ministerial meeting, Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava said officials from all 11 BRICS member countries and 10 partner nations were deliberating on nine agenda items under the health track.

“We have the deliberations that we are holding with secretaries of all the BRICS countries - that is the 11 BRICS group members, as well as the 10 partner countries. And we will be deliberating on the nine agenda items

that we have identified for the health track,” she said.

“There are two new agendas that have been introduced by India: one is on the promotion of mental wellness, and the second one is the BRICS mission on healthy lifestyles. We will be discussing and finalising our action plans,” Srivastava added.

She said the event also featured yoga sessions to underline

the role of yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being, alongside millet-based dishes prepared by the Ministry of Ayush institutions to showcase the climate resilience and nutritional value of millets. She also mentioned that celebrity chef Vikas Chawla was himself present at the event.

She said, “We will be discussing and finalizing our action

plans...here we also have a chair yoga session, besides a yoga session in the morning, to highlight the strength of yoga, both for health and wellness, as well as mental well-being...the Prime Minister has been highlighting how millets are climate-resilient, how they are good from the climate perspective...to showcase that, we have a lot of millet recipes which have been prepared

very scientifically by Ministry of Ayush institutions. We have celebrity chef Vikas Chawla with us.”

Delegates attending the exhibition praised India's hospitality and its advances in healthcare. Maysoun Al Matrooshi, a delegate from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), told ANI that the visit provided valuable insights into India's healthcare system.

SOURCE: ANI

NATIONAL

New hotels, tourism licences foster job creation for youth

FURTHER expansion of hotels and tourism licences has recently been approved, bringing new job creation to more than 500 young people, according to the Yangon Region Tourism Committee.

In the regional tourism committee meeting held on 22 July, permissions were granted for two hotel construction projects, six hotel licences, 56 inbound tour operator licences and 30 outbound tour operator licences.

The approval of licences and permits can



The Yangon Region Tourism Committee meeting is in progress.

support the creation of new job opportunities for 532 young individuals.

The regional tourism committee chair and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu attended the meeting and delivered speeches.

— TWA/ZS

Pantanaw’s VDP initiated with committee formation



An Emerald Green Village development project initiation and committee formation ceremony is underway in Pantanaw Township.

ACCORDING to the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Pantanaw Township Department of Rural Development held an introductory briefing and committee formation ceremony yesterday for the implementation of the Village Development Project (VDP) for the 2026-2027 financial year. The event took place across six villages: Thaye-

chaung, Kyaungsu, Thaegon, Hnekaw, Melanpyaw, and Yaylalgvi.

Head Daw Aye Aye Hlaing of the Pantanaw Township Department of Rural Development explained the objectives of the VDP, the responsibilities of the village committee members, the effective utilization of project funds, and the importance of public participation.

Project officials from the department then explained the rules and regulations for selecting committee members, the rural development laws and bylaws, as well as the duties and rights of the villagers. Following the briefings, the township head and responsible officials facilitated the selection of seven-member village committees for each of the six villages, based on the unanimous consensus of the local residents.

The project will utilize a total fund of K108 million, comprising VDP grant funding of K90 million and community contributions of K18 million. With technical assistance and close supervision from departmental staff, the villagers themselves will begin implementing the development projects within this month, as stated by Daw Aye Aye Hlaing.

— Nyein Thu (Rural)

Public Notice on Filing Complaints

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) investigates complaints relating to alleged human rights violations against citizens. Under Section 30 of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law, any citizen who has suffered violations of fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution, rights provided by law, rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, children’s rights, women’s rights, or human rights contained in international human rights treaties accepted by the State can submit a complaint to the Commission. A complaint may be lodged by the affected person, on behalf of another individual, or on behalf of a group of persons.
2. Complaints shall be submitted to the Chairperson, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, No 27, 6½ Mile, Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon, or to the Commission’s branch offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sittway and Patheingyi. Complaints can be submitted in person, by post, by fax to 01 8654678, or by e-mail to info@mnhrc.org.mm. The complaints shall be included the followings;
 - (a) the complainant’s full name, permanent residential address and contact address (telephone number, fax number and e-mail address, if available)
 - (b) A detailed description of the human rights violation and the loss or damage suffered by the complainant, and documents, photographs and copies of relevant evidence should be attached where necessary.
 - (c) A copy of the complainant’s CSC must be attached without fail.
 - (d) The complaint must be signed by the complainant to certify the correctness of the particulars of the complaint.
3. Upon receiving a complaint, the Commission will review and assess it in accordance with the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law. Except cases under trial before any court, cases under appeal or revision on the decision of any court or cases that have been finally determined by any court, the Commission will conduct investigations in accordance with the law and its procedures, and will coordinate with the relevant departments and organizations in addressing the matter.



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Foreign earnings increased from Kayin’s agri exports

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, foreign earnings are increasing as agricultural products originating from Thandaung, Bawgali, Leiktho, and Mone regions in Kayin State are being exported.

During the 2025-2026 financial year, 2,000,000 viss of wild cardamom were exported via Mandalay at a rate of K20,000 per viss. In addition, other exports included 200,000 viss of Robusta coffee at K25,000 per viss, 2,000,000 viss of turmeric at K18,000 per viss, 50,000 viss of Indian trumpet seeds at K20,000 per viss, and 50,000 viss of Hsay Pale at K16,000 per viss.

3,000,000 viss of betel nuts and 200,000 viss of C-grade betel nuts were exported via Yangon at a rate of K6,000 per viss. Similarly, 500,000 viss of konjac were exported via Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Yangon at a rate of K3,000 per viss, while 500,000 viss of bamboo shoots were

exported via Yangon at a rate of K2,500 per viss.

According to the statement of the ministry, since Myanmar is an agriculture-based country, foreign currency is being earned by exporting and selling surplus farm products, such as rice, pulses and beans, corn, sesame, sunflower, and peanuts, as well as turmeric, coffee, konjac, and bamboo shoots, abroad in addition to domestic consumption.

— TWA/ZN



Tapioca tubers originating from Kayin State.

Myanmar ships over 2,100 tonnes of shrimp in Q1 2026-2027 FY

MYANMAR exported 2,157.19 metric tonnes of shrimp with an estimated value of US\$6.5 million in the first quarter of the current financial year 2026-2027 beginning 1 April, according to the Department of Fisheries.

Myanmar's shrimp export by sea reached 2,100.779 metric tonnes worth \$6.24 million in Q1, while Myanmar sent 56.42 metric tonnes of shrimp worth \$0.31 million to the neighbouring countries through the border checkpoints.

Myanmar shipped



This image shows shrimps designated for exports.

thousands of shrimps to Japan, Middle East countries, European Union member countries, Malaysia, Taiwan Province

of China and Australia. Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Department of Fisheries are working together to boost fisheries

export.

The department and exporters are working to meet the specific requirements of each importing country, to ensure continuous export, and not to decrease export volume depending on market conditions

To export to countries such as China, which have strict import requirements with mandatory COVID-19 testing, efforts are being made to comply with safety standards, meet market demands and prevent any decline in exports. — ASH/KK

CBM injects US\$43M to importers in past 3 weeks

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$43 million to importing companies in the past three weeks of July.

CBM injected over \$35 million, purchased from CMP companies, into the foreign exchange market in June, over \$51 million and 1.2 million baht into the foreign exchange market in May. CBM sold over \$70 million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in the foreign exchange market in February and over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026. CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market to regulate 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

DICA: 200 companies fail to file AR in May

TWO hundred companies were struck off the register in May 2026 as they failed to file annual returns (AR) on the online registry system, MyCO, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

DICA mentioned those companies which failed to file its AR on the MyCO were struck off the register from the date of directive, under 430 (F) of Myanmar Companies Law, according to the DICA's notification.

DICA stated that 400 companies failed to submit AR in April 2026.

A total of 7,300 companies in 2025 and 19,000 in

2024 also failed to submit the AR.

The registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

All registered companies need to submit AR on the MyCO registry system within two months of incorporation, and at least once every year (not later than one month after the anniversary of the incorporation), according to Section 97 of the law.

Under Section 266 (A) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, public companies must submit

annual returns and financial statements (G-5) simultaneously. All overseas corporations must submit ARs in the prescribed format on MyCO within 28 days of the financial year ending, under Section 53 (A-1) of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.

As per DICA's report, thousands of companies were suspended for failing to submit AR forms before the due date. Newly established companies are required to submit ARs within two months of incorporation or face a fine of K100,000 for filing late returns.

DICA has notified that any company which

fails to submit its AR within 13 months will be notified of its suspension (I-9A). If it fails to submit the AR within 28 days of receiving the notice, the system will show the company's status as suspended. Companies can restore their status only after shelling out a fine of K50,000 for AR fee, K100,000 for restoration of the company on the Register, and K100,000 for late filing of documents, totaling K250,000. If a company fails to restore its status within six months of suspension, the registrar will strike its name off the register, according to the DICA notice. — NN/KK

Myanmar sets US\$340M corn export goal for 2026-27FY

MYANMAR plans to export 1.4 million tonnes of corn in the 2026-2027 financial year, with export earnings expected to exceed US\$340 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the 2026-2027 financial year, Myanmar exported over 350,000 tonnes of corn in June, earning more than \$97 million and surpassing the month's export target, the ministry reported.

"For July, we have set a target of exporting more than 100,000 tonnes of corn, with expected export earnings of more than \$26 million. We have also urged corn exporters to work toward doubling that target," an official from the ministry said.

Myanmar corn is mainly exported to ASEAN countries, including Thailand and the Philippines, while neighbouring India also imports it based on domestic demand.

Under Thailand's current import policy, Myanmar corn can be exported to Thailand duty-free from 1 February 2026 to the end of August 2026. — ASH/TH



This photo features Myanmar corn destined for export to regional and international markets.

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 23 July 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	Indian rupee
Exchange rates	3,663.70~3,668.00	558.00~558.70	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	12,692,547.54	21,784,388.59	13,921,721.36	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE volume of the foreign currency traded in the market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, packaging materials, animal feed, fertilizers, construction materials, and stationery. Of the CMP sector revenue, US\$2.72 million was sold to the edible oil sector and US\$0.02 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

ECONOMY
WORLD

Japan economy may surpass 73-month
postwar growth record in July

The economy is recovering moderately, positioning it to potentially break the postwar record of 73 consecutive months of sustained growth.

THE Japanese government is likely to maintain its view that the economy is recovering moderately in its monthly assessment for July, a source close to the matter said Thursday, raising the possibility that the economy will surpass the postwar record of 73 consecutive months of expansion.

But even if it is later confirmed that the previous record expansion seen between February 2002 and February 2008 has been exceeded, the achievement will come as households continue to struggle with a rising cost of living.

The final determina-



Despite this prolonged macroeconomic expansion, everyday citizens and households across Japan continue to face severe financial pressure due to a rising cost of living. PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

tion of the length of the current economic expansion will be made retrospectively by a Cabinet Office panel of economists and other experts.

The economy has continued to expand since hitting bottom in May 2020 due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, with gross domestic product growth remaining in positive territory even when Japan was hit by the fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the higher tariffs pol-

icy of the administration of US President Donald Trump.

Nevertheless, in the first economic and fiscal policy guidelines approved by the Cabinet of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Tuesday, the government acknowledged the need to make sure that "everyone across Japan can really feel that 'the economy is getting better'".

In maintaining the economic assessment for

July, the government said that personal consumption, which comprises around half of GDP, is solid, supported by recent wage hikes and the government's subsidies to tackle inflation, the source said.

Capital investment by businesses and industrial output have also been robust due to the spread of artificial intelligence, while exports are solid due to strong demand for autos in the United States, the source said. — Kyodo

Brazil launches US\$3.65 bln credit line to
counter US tariffs

BRAZILIAN President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday announced 18.5 billion reais (US\$3.65 billion) in new credit lines for companies affected by the US additional 25-per cent tariff on Brazilian products.

Lula said that his government would continue negotiations with the United States, while seeking new markets to expand exports, and that Brazil would focus on expanding its presence in other international markets.

The move will be the third phase of a programme the Brazilian gov-



Agricultural machines are displayed at a store in Formosa, Goiás, Brazil, 22 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

ernment created last year in response to an initial round of US tariffs. The program, Sovereign Brazil, provides subsidized credit lines and encourages affected industries

to seek new markets.

"We are not going to sit and cry over the products we did not sell to them, because we will look for other buyers," Lula said, noting US pro-

tectionist measures had accelerated Brazil's trade diversification.

As the second US tariff hike against Brazil in less than a year took effect Wednesday, Lula said the trade crisis could become an opportunity.

"We are at the negotiating table. We proposed the negotiating table, we have already sent several documents and proposals. We will continue there," he said.

Lula said Brazil had repeatedly sought dialogue with US authorities before the new tariffs took effect. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

S Korea's real GDP grows 0.6% on
quarter in Q2

SOUTH Korea's economy grew at a faster pace than expected in the second quarter, driven by semiconductor exports boom and robust investment in intellectual property, central bank data showed Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product (GDP), adjusted for inflation, expanded 0.6 per cent in the April-June quarter compared to the previous quarter, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It outperformed market expectations of 0.3 per cent, beating the BOK's own forecast of 0.2 per cent unveiled in May. The real GDP rebounded 1.8 per cent in the first quarter on a quarter-on-quarter basis after contracting 0.1 per cent in the previous quarter.

The continued Middle East conflict was offset by aggressive corporate research spending and soaring global demand for locally-made chips used for artificial intelligence (AI) chipsets. The outbound shipment of the export-driven economy gained 1.4 per cent in the second quarter from three months earlier thanks to strong demand for semiconductors, machinery and equipment. — Xinhua

Prosecutors search Deutsche Bank
HQ over tax trades

GERMANY'S Deutsche Bank said Wednesday that prosecutors had searched its headquarters in Frankfurt, with media reports saying the probe is linked to alleged "cum-cum" tax avoidance.

Cum-cum cases involve investors temporarily transferring ownership of shares to lower tax jurisdictions around dividend day.

"We can confirm that prosecutors are carrying out measures in Deutsche Bank's offices," the company said in a statement sent to AFP.

The bank said that the case "has to do with activities of Postbank between 2008 and 2010".

Deutsche Bank took over Postbank in 2010. It said it was "cooperating fully with the authorities" and was being investigated as a "third party".

According to reports by Business Insider and Die Welt, the raid is connected to alleged cum-cum cases. — AFP

Cuba's population slide continued in
2025 to 9.4 mln

CUBA'S population fell in 2025, official statistics show, extending a downward streak as the country faces an unprecedented wave of migration.

The communist island is reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades — one made worse by a fuel blockade and sanctions imposed by US President Donald Trump.

Cuba's population fell to 9.4 million in 2025, down from 9.7 million a year before, according to data from Cuba's National Statistics Institute (ONEI) released Tuesday. The population was just over 10 million in 2023.

The negative net migration at the end of 2025 was around 245,000 people, fueled by the economic crisis.

Cuba is "the oldest country in Latin America and the Caribbean," where people over 60 make up around 27 per cent of the population. The working-age segment of the population has shrunk by more than 1.2 million people over the past five years. — AFP

S Korea’s Hyundai Motor reports double-digit fall

SOUTH Korea’s biggest carmaker Hyundai Motor reported a double-digit fall in its second-quarter operating profit, hit by US tariffs and temporary supply chain disruptions, the company said Thursday.

The company’s operating profit dropped 20.8 per cent from a year earlier to 2.85 trillion won (US\$1.9 billion) in the April-June quarter. A major fire at a key local parts supplier caused severe component shortages amid higher raw material costs, while the US tariffs on automobiles and parts increased marketing expenses and war-

ranty provisions, weighing heavily on profitability.

Hyundai’s revenue gained 1.9 per cent over the year to reach a record high of 49.22 trillion won (\$33.5 billion) in the second quarter, but its net income retreated 11.2 per cent to 2.89 trillion won (\$2.0 billion).

The record revenue was driven by strong hybrid vehicle sales and favorable foreign exchange rates. The average South Korean won versus US dollar exchange rate went up 7.0 per cent in the second quarter from a year earlier. — Xinhua

Portugal unveils project for new Lisbon airport



This image displays a rendering of the planned Luís de Camões Airport in Lisbon, Portugal. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/ X.COM**

AIRPORT operator (ANA) on Wednesday Aeroportos de Portugal unveiled the project for

Lisbon’s new airport, to be named Aeroporto Luis de Camoes, with construction costs estimated at between 7.9 billion euros (US\$9.01 billion) and 8.9 billion euros (10.15 billion dollars).

The estimate revises a preliminary projection of 8.5 billion euros (9.69 billion dollars) submitted to the government in December 2024, reflecting inflation and updated technological requirements.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2029, with completion tar-

geted for 2033. The airport is expected to begin operations in 2035, two years earlier than the original 2037 timetable.

The airport, to be built at the Campo de Tiro de Alcochete site east of Lisbon, will have an initial annual capacity of 56 million passengers, expandable to 85 million. The first phase will include two runways, 64 boarding gates, 72 passenger boarding bridges, and a terminal covering about 500,000 square metres. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (006N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (006N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V OCEAN ARIEL VOY.NO. (1)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OCEAN ARIEL VOY.NO. (1)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **24-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Thailand-China expo kicks off in Bangkok

THAILAND-CHINA Cooperation Expo 2026 commenced here on Wednesday, expanding from a traditional trade exhibition into a comprehensive platform connecting capital investment, technology, innovation, and business networks.

Now in its second consecutive year, the expo, under the theme "Investing for the Future, Growing Together", aims to create concrete linkages, positioning both Thai and Chinese stakeholders to adapt to global economic trends and emerging industries. In his keynote address, Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul emphasized that the expo arrives at a critical juncture in diplomatic relations. Following last year's 50th anniversary of bilateral ties and the deepening of the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, 2026 marks "Year One of the Next 50 Years." — Xinhua

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by **Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Keywa Gly 41% SL	Gly King 41% SL	F2022-3517

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Shwe Pyaung Co.,Ltd. No.CA-316, Cherry 1st Street, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar.

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by **Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Niflo One	Pyaung Thu Gyi	P2022-5103

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd. No.CA-316, Cherry 1st Street, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar.

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by **Eastchem Co.,Ltd** and distributed by **Terra Max Solutions (TMS) Agribusiness Co.,Ltd** is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	Clinger 10 EC	TMS Cylo	F2020-2669
2	Director 120 SC	TMS Detail	P2023-5219

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Terra Max Solutions (TMS) Agribusiness Co.,Ltd. Tel: 09-250406611

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Eastchem Co.,Ltd**, would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **LionChem (Myanmar) Pte.Ltd** to **Oakthar Phone Hlyan Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Citiusa 550 WP	Isoprothiolane 40% + Tricyclazole 15% WP	Provisional	P2024-5345

Oakthar Phone Hlyan Co.,Ltd Tel: 09-965104416

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Iranian Army destroyed THAAD radar, Patriot system at US base in Jordan



THAAD missile launcher loading onto a C-17 at Fort Bliss. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE**

THE attacks targeted US military assets at Ali Al Salem Air Base and Camp Al-Adiri. The Iranian armed forces announced the destruction of the radar of the THAAD missile defence system and the Patriot air defence system at the US base in Jordan, the IIRB broadcaster reported on Thursday.

result of an attack on a US armed forces base in Kuwait, Press TV reported on Thursday. The attacks targeted US military assets at Ali Al Salem Air Base and Camp Al-Adiri, destroying military equipment, drones, helicopters, and other facilities, the broadcaster reported. The retaliatory strikes come as the US continues its escalation of the conflict in blatant violation of the memorandum of understanding signed in Switzerland. For the past 12 days, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) has carried out mass strikes on Iran, with multiple resulting in civilian casualties. — SPUTNIK

China stands ready to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN: FM

AS the most important anchor of stability in the region, China stands ready to strengthen cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here on Tuesday. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during his meeting with ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn. Wang stated that China has always upheld the equality of all countries and pursued a policy of good-neighbourliness and friendship with neighbouring countries. He noted that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of

the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia (TAC). China was the first major country to accede to the treaty, prompting other major countries to follow suit and significantly elevating ASEAN's international standing. China will continue to support ASEAN Community-building and ASEAN's pursuit of unity and self-strengthening. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ancient Nile Delta burial complex discovered

EGYPT has uncovered a new burial complex at the Tel El-Qweisna necropolis in the Nile Delta, shedding new light on funerary practices and trade links during the Late and Graeco-Roman periods, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said Wednesday. The discovery was made by an archaeological mission from Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities during ongoing excavations at the site in Menoufia Governorate, the ministry said in a statement. The complex has a well-planned architectural layout, featuring a central hall connected to several vaulted burial chambers, providing researchers with fresh insights into the original design of burial structures from these eras, the ministry said. — Xinhua

US court sets June 2027 trial for Maduro

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores will go on trial starting on 1 June 2027, a US judge ruled on Wednesday. The couple, who pleaded not guilty to drug trafficking and firearms charges, made their third appearance in a New York court after the forcible seizure by US troops in a military raid in early January. During Wednesday's 15-minute hearing, Judge Alvin Hellerstein set the trial date at the request of lawyers on both sides. Maduro's lawyer, Barry Pollack, said he will first challenge the indictment on sovereign immunity grounds because if that is successful, Maduro will not have to continue litigating the case. — Xinhua

Fatah official slams US-led "Board of Peace"

A senior Fatah official on Wednesday criticized the US-led "Board of Peace" as a "council of occupation", and accused Washington and Israel of obstructing the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement. There is "no Board of Peace at all," Fatah spokesperson Munther al-Hayek told the official Voice of Palestine radio. "If there were a genuine will, specifically from the United States, to solidify the ceasefire, the second phase would have been completed. However, the occupation continues to obstruct its implementation." — Xinhua

Ancient Lebanese city of Tyre added to heritage danger list

TYRE, an ancient Phoenician city in southern Lebanon hit in recent months by Israeli bombardment, was on Wednesday added to the UNESCO list of world heritage sites in danger. "The site has been directly hit and has sustained damage. Furthermore, its state of conservation is a cause for growing concern, particularly given the possibility of further impacts," the organization said. "Optimal conditions are no longer in place to ensure the conservation and protection of the property's outstanding universal value," said the UN body, adding that it was the Lebanese government that requested its inclusion on the list. The ruins in Tyre, around 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Beirut but

barely 20 kilometres from the Israeli border, were placed on the UNESCO heritage list in 1984 and contain mainly Roman-era archaeological remains. The coastal city was caught up in recent months in the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, and tens of thousands of its residents fled after the Israeli army issued evacuation orders covering districts including some archaeological areas, though most locals have since returned. Lebanese Culture Minister Ghassan Salame welcomed Wednesday's move and said the listing would "focus the attention and concern of UNESCO and member states on a site of great importance in the history of a region currently witnessing conflicts". — AFP



Tyre, an ancient Phoenician city in southern Lebanon. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SPORTS

MBC to hold WBC, OPBF Myanmar title bouts in Nov

THE Myanmar Boxing Commission will organize the WBC and OPBF Myanmar title fights in November, featuring the 52.16-kilogramme and 55.35-kilogramme weight classes.

Winners of the bouts held in July will compete in the PBM 12 event in November as title challengers.

The two weight classes will not be included in the competition scheduled for 12 September. The weight classes for the remaining bouts will be announced later.

Boxers wishing to participate must submit an application, together with three boxing pose photographs (front and side views) and one passport-sized photograph. Applications must be submitted by 25 August via the Myanmar Boxing Commission's official Facebook Messenger, Viber, or the MBC Boxing Club at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Yangon. — TWA/KZL



Boxers, referees and spectators during the PBM 10 event.

Norway set to make formal complaint to FIFA over Balogun red card saga

NORWAY'S football chief told The Times they are set to make a formal complaint to FIFA over the suspension of Folarin Balogun's World Cup ban because it has put "the whole game at risk".

Lise Klaveness, the president of the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF), says she will seek the backing of her board at a meeting on 6 August to lodge the complaint with FIFA's ethics committee over an incident that "should not have happened".

Klaveness told AFP the intention is to "include the Balogun affair" in a complaint already filed by the NFF over FIFA president Gianni Infantino awarding football's governing body's inaugural Peace Prize to US President Donald Trump, which was widely ridiculed.

"I will bring it to a board meeting and discuss with my board, and then we do it," Klaveness told The Times in an interview published on Thursday.

"To me, it should be in the same sphere of ethical complaint."

Trump's involvement in the Balogun affair sparked the controversy.

Balogun's red card in the last-32 win over Bosnia and Herzegovina resulted in an automatic suspension for the match with Belgium.

But FIFA stepped in and suspended his ban, leading to widespread condemnation, especially when it emerged that Trump had intervened by phoning Infantino. — AFP

Myanmar's Nat Khat Min to face Pomphet in ONE debut

TRADITIONAL Myanma Lethwei fighter Nat Khat Min will make his ONE Championship debut against experienced Thai fighter Pomphet at ONE Friday Fights 163 on 24 July, according to ONE Championship.

The bout has been scheduled as the co-main event of the show. Nat Khat Min received the opportunity after his original opponent, Decho, withdrew due to injury.

Pomphet is a fighter being monitored by ONE Championship for a potential contract and has a strong record, including a TKO victory over Khaosuayroi and fights against well-known fighters such as Suriyanlek, Yodlekpet and Otop. He currently holds a record of eight wins and five losses, with three victories by KO or TKO.

The fight is expected to be a major challenge for Nat Khat Min in his ONE debut. The event will also feature other notable bouts, including a flyweight fight involving a Brazilian fighter and an atomweight Muay Thai bout between Mahisaowan and Yod-Udon. — TWA/KZL



This image displays a promotional poster for ONE Friday Fights 163 featuring Myanmar fighter Nat Khat Min and Thai fighter Pomphet.

FIFA announces World Cup Dream XI

FOLLOWING is the FIFA World Cup Dream XI announced by FIFA on Wednesday, which has been voted by the fans.

FIFA World Cup Dream XI: Vozinha (Cape Verde), Pedro Porro (Spain), Upamecano (France), Lisandro (Argentina), Cucurella (Spain), Rodri (Spain), Olise (France), Bellingham (England), Messi (Argentina), Mbappe (France) and Haaland (Norway). — Xinhua

FC Barcelona confirms signing of German forward Adeyemi

FC Barcelona completed the signing of German forward Karim Adeyemi on Thursday, with the player officially presented to fans and the media.

The 24-year-old has signed a contract until the end of June 2031 after joining from Borussia Dortmund, where he scored 36 goals in 146 appearances.

Adeyemi has also made 11 appearances for Germany, although he was not included in the squad for the World Cup. — Xinhua

Premier League champions Arsenal sign Greece winger Tzolis from Brugge

ARSENAL have signed Greece winger Christos Tzolis on "a long-term contract", the Premier League champions announced on Thursday.

No fee was disclosed but British media reports said the 24-year-old had arrived from Club Brugge for £34 million (\$45 million), with Tzolis effectively a replacement for Leandro Trossard following his move to Besiktas.

Arsenal's third permanent transfer of the current window arrives 48 hours after the Gunners missed



Christos Tzolis, pictured in action for Belgian champions Brugge, has joined Premier League holders Arsenal. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

British player.

England midfielder Rogers called Chelsea the "biggest club in London".

Tzolis scored 43 goals in 108 appearances for Brugge and featured in the Belgian side's 3-0 Champions League loss to Arsenal last season. He already has experience of English football's top flight, having joined then Premier League side Norwich after helping PAOK Thessaloniki, the club where he started his career, win the Greek Cup in May 2021. — AFP

out on Morgan Rogers to city rivals Chelsea for a reported £117 million (\$157 million) — a record for a



France passes
EU's first
under-15 social
media ban

FRANCE'S parliament on Tuesday approved a bill banning social media access for children under 15, making France the first European country to bar children from apps such as TikTok.

President Emmanuel Macron has championed the ban as a flagship reform of his final term in office and pledged to enforce it by September.

"France is leading the way in Europe when it comes to protecting our children and teenagers," Macron said in a video posted on social media, hailing "a major step forward".

He thanked members of parliament for backing the legislation.

"The Constitutional Council must now rule on it, and then it will be time to take action to make this measure a reality and protect our children online," he added on X.

After approval by the Senate earlier Tuesday, members of the National Assembly passed the bill by 279 votes to 81. A growing number of countries are taking steps to restrict social media access amid multiplying warnings over its harmful effects on children. The ban was to be rolled out in two stages, with under-15s blocked from creating new accounts from 1 September. The ban would apply to existing accounts from January 2027, according to the legislation.

Digital Minister Anne Le Henanff said ahead of the vote that the timeline was realistic, "because age-verification tools already exist" with others still in the works, and the onus was on the platforms to impose the rule.

"For four months, all of us in France will have to prove our age," she told journalists. — AFP

Saudi Arabia, US ink deal on nuclear energy

Saudi Arabia aims to enhance peaceful nuclear cooperation and exchange global safety and security expertise.

Saudi Arabia and the United States have signed an agreement on cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Saudi Energy Ministry said on Thursday.

The deal builds on the longstanding strategic partnership between the two countries and follows the announcement made during Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud's visit to the United States in November last year on the conclusion of negotiations on bilateral cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the ministry said in a press release.

It aims to enhance cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and facilitate the exchange of expertise, knowledge and technologies in line with the highest international standards of nuclear safety, nuclear security and non-proliferation, said the ministry.



On 10 June 2024, King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy made history by launching its first-ever practical simulation and training programme for operating nuclear reactor systems. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SPA.GOV.SA

The agreement supports efforts to diversify energy sources, advance cutting-edge technologies, and expand opportunities for cooperation and investment that serve the mutual interests of the two countries, it added. — Xinhua

Why US threatens to strike
Iran's Pickaxe Mountain?

TENSIONS between Washington and Tehran have escalated in recent days, with Pickaxe Mountain — a fortified site near Iran's Natanz enrichment facility — emerging as the confrontation's new flashpoint. Threats from Washington to strike the fortified underground complex have widened the rift between the two sides, stoking fears of renewed instability across the Middle East.

As the United States and Iran continued their exchanges of strikes for several days, US President Donald Trump

warned on Tuesday that Washington was prepared to strike Pickaxe Mountain "very soon" and "very heavily".

The threats followed reports, citing Israeli intelligence assessments, that Iran may have moved advanced uranium-enrichment centrifuges into the underground complex.

However, when asked whether Iran had relocated centrifuges to the site, Trump said the United States did not have that information "on record".

Tehran has rejected allegations that the site

represents an undeclared nuclear facility, saying the complex was declared to the International Atomic Energy Agency in 2020 as the future site of an advanced centrifuge assembly plant.

In response to US threats, Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters warned on Wednesday that any US attack on nuclear or other sensitive sites would be treated as an expansion of the conflict and would trigger strikes against US, allied and partner interests across the region. — Xinhua



A soldier guards in the Natanz nuclear plant, some 300 kilometres south of Tehran, Iran, 9 April 2007. PHOTO: XINHUA/LIANG YOUCHANG

Japan to send students to Russia
for first time in 7 years

THE Japanese government will resume sending university students to Russia under a short-term study programme from August after a seven-year hiatus following the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Wednesday, Japan's Foreign Ministry said that about 15 Russian-language students are expected to stay in Saint Petersburg, in northwestern Russia, for around 10 days, during which time they will attend language classes and meet with local students.

Foreign Ministry underscored the importance of people-to-people

exchanges, saying, "It is important for young generations that will support future bilateral relations to learn each other's languages and interact with one another."

Japan and Russia launched the exchange program for young people in 1999, based on an agreement reached at a summit meeting the previous year.

About 9,000 Japanese and Russian young people had joined the programme as of the end of 2019, according to the Japan Russia Youth Exchange Centre. — Kyodo

South Korea drops
denuclearization-first policy

SOUTH KOREA'S Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said Thursday that the Lee Jae Myung government has effectively scrapped the previous administration's "denuclearization-first" policy, including its pursuit of the

complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and shifted to a "peace-first" approach focused on freezing DPRK's nuclear program. — Xinhua