

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

President Orders Rigorous Four-Pronged Audit of Major Developments

The current administration is prioritizing the revival and upgrade of long-delayed cross-border connectivity projects initiated by previous governments.



President U Min Aung Hlaing chairs the coordination meeting on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.

The major development projects aimed at strengthening the State economy should be assessed from four perspectives — political, administrative, defence and

economic — and that both the advantages and potential drawbacks of such projects should be fully understood, said President U Min Aung Hlaing. The President addressed a coordination

meeting on the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project yesterday. In his speech, the President said Myanmar

shares borders with five neighbouring countries and is connected to them through both land and water transport routes. These road and waterway links play a vital role in facilitating cross-border

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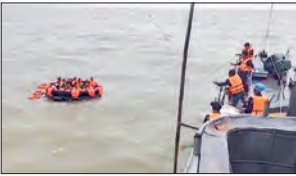
Gateway opens as Myanmar and Belarus embrace visa-free harmony



The national flags of Belarus and Myanmar.

THE reciprocal visa exemption agreement between Myanmar and Belarus came into effect on 8 July, allowing citizens of both countries holding valid passports to travel visa-free for up to 30 days per visit, with a maximum stay of 90 days in a calendar year, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agreement was signed by the two governments on 28 November 2025 and officially entered into force on 8 July, the Embassy of Myanmar to Belarus (Ottawa) announced. Travellers must comply with the host country's existing laws during their stay. — ASH/KZL

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Security forces rescue crew after cargo ship sinks in Myanmar waters

BUSINESS PAGE 11



Upgrading Myanmar rubber through Group Processing Factories

RBF+ unveils new funding blitz for agri-food and fisheries MSMEs

THE Responsible Business Fund Plus (RBF+) is set to launch its third call for proposals, offering financial support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) operating across Myanmar's agriculture, livestock, fisheries and agri-food value chains.

SEE PAGE 7



This photo features an announcement poster for RBF+'s third call for proposals.

Myanmar Positioned to Chair 2027 ASEAN Healthcare Summits

MYANMAR has begun preparations to host the 21st ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) and the Sixth ASEAN-ROK SOMHD meetings in 2027, according to the 30th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Dialogue.

Held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, from 6 to 7 July 2026, the dialogue was attended by a Myanmar delegation led by U Myo Myint Maung, Chargé d'Affaires/Ambassador of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



This image shows the Myanmar delegation attending the 30th ASEAN-ROK Dialogue.

During the meeting, the Myanmar delegation discussed regional health cooperation under the ASEAN-ROK socio-cultural cooperation. The delegation also briefed participants on developments in Myanmar, including peace

and national reconciliation efforts, amnesties and invitations for political dialogue, while calling for constructive engagement based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference. — Htun Htun/ KNN

NATIONAL

Country-Specific Reporting and Resolution Fail to Reflect Myanmar’s Actual Situation on the Ground

AT the 62nd Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 June to 8 July 2026, discussions on Myanmar were organized in contrary to the principles of constructive dialogue and cooperation. During the session, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a report on Myanmar on 29 June 2026, and the draft resolution on Myanmar tabled by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was adopted on 6 July 2026 in the absence of the country concerned.

It is observed that the High Commissioner’s report is a largely repetitive version of the reports and facts from the so-called Special Rapporteur submitted to previous sessions of the Human Rights Council. It is disappointing to note that the report contains highly extreme views and unsubstantiated allegations,

thereby failing to reflect the actual situation on the ground in Myanmar.

The failure of the successive resolutions, including the recent one tabled by OIC to address the root causes of the displacement in northern Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017, demonstrates a lack of genuine and meaningful intent to cooperate in resolving the issue of displaced persons. The allegations contained in the resolution, including unsubstantiated claims against state security forces and hate speech, are completely detached from the realities on the ground.

Myanmar reiterates its genuine political will to receive the verified displaced persons in accordance with the bilateral agreements once security and stability are restored in northern Rakhine State. With a steadfast commitment to receiving verified returnees, Myanmar has been verifying the lists of

individuals provided by Bangladesh and sending the verified lists back to Bangladesh on a monthly basis. In fact, the current delay in the repatriation process is solely due to the attacks perpetrated by the AA terrorist group.

Following the successful holding of a free and fair multiparty democratic general election in Myanmar, the Hluttaws and an elected Government have emerged in accordance with the will of the people. Furthermore, the President marked the period from 20 April to 31 July 2026 as the Union Government’s 100-Day plan implementation period. This plan includes peace talks with Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), inviting both signatories and non-signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). Moreover, the invitation has been extended to PDF members to return to the legal fold. As a result of these

continuous invitations, a total of more than 4,000 personnel, including PDF members and those from certain EAOs, have successfully returned to the legal fold to date.

The Government will resolutely continue its efforts and endeavours towards national stability and development through the Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned process. While these endeavours are underway, Myanmar consistently opposes country-specific discussions and resolutions at the Human Rights Council sessions that do not contribute to constructive dialogue and cooperation.

Therefore, Myanmar categorically rejects the resolution submitted by the OIC. The Government of Myanmar expresses its appreciation to friendly nations that maintained a balanced and fair stance during the discussions. — MoFA

Kyonkapyin-Tapseik logs first-ever Sarus Crane nest record in 2026

FOR the first time in 2026, a nest of the rare Sarus Crane species was recorded on 8 July at the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik area, according to the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik Community Conservation Association (KT-CCA).

As part of its biodiversity conservation efforts, the KT-CCA conducts annual counts of Sarus Crane nests. Thanks to local cooperation, the group could document the first nest on 8 July.

These rare birds build their nests during the rainy season and lay one to two eggs once construction is complete, breeding only once a year.

The KT-CCA is active-

ly carrying out biodiversity conservation efforts. Currently, around 100 bird species, including endangered birds, rare species, and resident birds, inhabit this area.

Led by the local community, the KT-CCA actively collaborates with related organizations to conduct biodiversity monitoring, educational programmes, fish resource conservation, and technical training for the sustainable extraction and use of natural resources.

Furthermore, to help residents generate alternative income, a birdwatching programme has been launched within the conservation area. — MT/ZN



A nest of the rare Sarus Crane species seen at the Kyonkapyin-Tapseik area.

Yangon Specialist Hospital Marks Milestone 40th Liver Transplant



THE Specialist Hospital (500-bed) in Yangon successfully performed its 40th liver transplant surgery on 3 July, involving a 48-year-old male patient and his 25-year-old niece as the liver donor. Both

are receiving post-operative care in the intensive care unit and are reported to be in stable condition.

The surgery was carried out by a multidisciplinary medical team

led by Professor Dr Min Zaw Oo, with support from specialists in liver surgery, hepatology, anaesthesia, cardiovascular surgery, diagnostics, radiology, blood services and hospital staff. Professor

Kwang Woong Lee from Seoul National University Hospital, the Republic of Korea, also participated in the procedure.

Since liver transplant surgeries began in 2004, Myanmar’s public hospitals have successfully performed 40 liver transplant procedures – two at Yangon General Hospital and 38 at the Specialist Hospital (500-bed). The service will continue to provide advanced treatment locally and help reduce patients’ healthcare expenses. — MNA/MKKS

Ministry of Immigration and Population

World Population Day

လူဦးရေစာရင်းကောက်ယူမှုအားဖြင့် အဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မှုအတွက် အကူအညီ
Building Myanmar's Developed Future Through Population Data

11 July 2026

NATIONAL

President Orders Rigorous Four-Pronged ...

FROM PAGE 1

He continued that the Kaladan Project was officially launched in 2008, while some sections of the Myawady route were implemented under the government's own programme, others received assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He emphasized the need for transport corridors to be interconnected. Regarding the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, he pointed out that the three participating countries have different traffic systems, making it necessary to establish systematic traffic management arrangements. He added that while certain sections of the project are financed through the Union Budget, others are being implemented with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). As these projects will bring substantial benefits to Myanmar, he stressed the need to expedite the implementation.

The President said the Monywa-Yagyi-Kalay-Tamu route would create investment and business opportunities through connectivity

with six of India's northeastern states. He added that expanded trade with China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, Thailand, and Laos through eastern Shan State would further boost economic growth and regional development.

He emphasized that Myanmar has numerous important trade routes with neighbouring countries that should be implemented without delay. Successful implementation requires coordinated efforts in construction, security and legal enforcement. Necessary agreements between governments and relevant organizations should be finalized, and once security conditions improve, construction work should proceed simultaneously.

He further stated that border trade should be conducted directly between the governments of the two countries without the involvement of intermediary organizations. In addition to promoting border trade, greater efforts should be made to strengthen friendship and exchanges among ethnic communities living along the border that share common religious and cultural

ties. Such people-to-people exchanges, he said, would also contribute to border security and stability. These strategic connectivity projects with neighbouring countries are important not only for the State's development but also for strengthening bilateral relations, and so they should be implemented systematically and efficiently.

Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Union Minister for Transport, Digital Development and Communications U Mya Tun Oo, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe, and Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant reported on joint statement of Myanmar-India for the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT Highway) Project and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project during the visit of the President to India, projects' background and history, inclusion in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) transport and economic corridors, project alignments, financing arrangements for each road section, progress made in

implementation, and the construction of the two-lane Paletwa-Zorinpui road, signing of MoU, assignment of port operators, opening ceremony of Sittway Kaladan international port, arrivals of vessels and goods handling processes at the Sittway Kaladan international port, facts on framework for transport of passengers and cargo by road among India, Myanmar and Thailand, benefits of the completion of IMT Highway Project, Asian Highway (AH1), paving of Kalewa-Yagyi road, construction of 69 bridges on Tamu-Kyigon-Kalewa road, Phase I of ICP construction at Tamu border, and China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC).

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and participants coordinated the discussion.

After hearing the reports, the President delivered a concluding remark saying the major development projects aimed at strengthening the State economy should be assessed from four perspectives — political, administrative, defence and economic — and that both the advantages and potential drawbacks of such

projects should be fully understood. He stressed the need for effective supervision and enforcement to prevent strategic highway projects developed for national progress from being exploited for illegal trade.

The President provided instructions that roads along these corridors must be continuously maintained to ensure they remain in good condition and meet the prescribed engineering standards. Proper drainage systems should be constructed to ensure effective water flow, and trees should be planted along the routes to create greener surroundings. If road construction projects are completed within the designated time-frame, trade and the flow of goods will increase significantly, contributing to State economic growth and improving the socioeconomic conditions of the people. He urged all relevant sectors to place special emphasis on ensuring the timely and successful completion of the projects.

Regarding border checkpoints, the President said that border management should be the sole responsibility of the governments of the two neighbour-

ing countries concerned, and that no organization or third country should interfere in the management of border crossings. He added that the establishment of border checkpoints should also include systematic planning for staff housing, communications systems, water and electricity supply, and security arrangements.

The operations of the two projects discussed today are being resumed, and all should make an effort to accelerate the drive, and there should be proper management for the Bago, Hpa-an, Kawkaeik, and Myawady-Thai border highway. He further pointed out that construction of strategically important highways linked to the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), a component of the Belt and Road Initiative, remains suspended and should be resumed as soon as possible. He urged all relevant sectors to work diligently to ensure that the strategically important highway projects included in major connectivity initiatives with neighbouring countries are completed in full during the current government's term. — MNA/KTZH

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye Helms 1st National Tourism Development Central Committee Parley

VICE-PRESIDENT Nan Ni Ni Aye, who is also Chair of the National Tourism Development Central Committee, presided over the committee's first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-President said Myanmar's strategic geographical location, rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, historical and archaeological sites, beaches and coastal areas, and the diverse traditions and customs of ethnic people constitute valuable tour-



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye chairs the first coordination meeting of the National Tourism Development Central Committee.

ism assets that attract international visitors. Therefore, the regional and state governments, together with tourism-re-

lated organizations, should formulate and implement practical tourism development plans based on the unique tourism resources of the respective areas.

The Destination Management Organization (DMO) plays a key role in the sustainable development of tourist destinations. She called for stronger DMO structures and effective destination management measures. She also stressed the need to improve air connectivity by expanding domestic flight routes to key tourist destinations and upgrading airport facilities through public-private partnerships.

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" Notice for those who come to Martyr's Mausoleum "

You are respectfully requested not to carry along the Following items into the Martyr's Mausoleum

Mobile Phones	Flower bouquet, Flower Wreaths and flower baskets
Various kinds of Flags	Vinyls
Various kinds of Bags	Bottles and Cans
Cameras	PVC and Steelpipes used as poles for Flags
Matches / Matchboxes	Ball Pens

Ladies and Gentleman who Come as Martyr's Mausoleum

Taking drones to museum and flying around the museum highly prohibited

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Implores Govt to Review Criticized ASEAN Five-Point Statement

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved a motion yesterday calling on the government to formally review and counter ASEAN's Five-Point Statement through diplomatic channels, maintaining that the framework misaligns with contemporary political realities and breaches core tenets of national sovereignty.

The motion was submitted by Dr Nanda Hla Myint, MP for Kalaw Constituency, during the seventh day of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw. It called on the government to take appropriate measures re-



The seventh-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is in progress yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

garding the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, saying it undermines Myanmar's equal status within ASEAN, interferes in the country's internal affairs, and no longer corresponds to

current political realities. A total of 553 of the 560 eligible lawmakers attended the session, meeting the required quorum before debate began. During the discus-

sion, lawmakers from both houses largely supported the motion, arguing that ASEAN should reassess its position on Myanmar following political developments and the formation of

a new elected government. U Thet Naing Oo, MP for Hpa-an Constituency, said some ASEAN members had acted contrary to the bloc's founding principles and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence by interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs. He urged ASEAN to better understand developments in Myanmar and suggested that continued discrimination against the country could even prompt consideration of Myanmar's future membership in the regional bloc. U Myo (aka U Myo Aung), MP for Pyay Constituency, said ASEAN's charter guarantees equal rights for all member states

and argued that Myanmar should enjoy the same representation and voice as other members. While acknowledging ASEAN's assistance over the years, he said the organization risked losing credibility if it failed to uphold its own principles. Daw Than Than Aye, MP for Thingangyun Constituency, argued that ASEAN's position was based on incomplete or misleading information about Myanmar. She said the government should continue engaging ASEAN through dialogue while clearly explaining developments in the country. **SEE PAGE 6**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Urges Stronger Support for Farmers & Agricultural Reforms

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, accompanied by Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and parliamentary officials, met members of the Farmers' Affairs Committee at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to discuss the committee's future work and priorities.

Committee Chairman U Myat Kyaw briefed the speakers on the committee's responsibilities, ongoing activities and plans. Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn said efforts were being made to improve lawmakers' capacity through legal training and discussions so that they could effectively perform their du-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, along with Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and officials, meets members of the Farmers' Affairs Committee.

ties during the five-year parliamentary term. He stressed that improving individual representatives' capabilities would strengthen the role and reputation of Parliament. Speaker U Khin Yi urged the committee to take practical steps to enhance Parliament's role by reviewing existing laws

and proposing necessary amendments or new legislation in line with current political, economic and social conditions. He highlighted the importance of the Farmers' Affairs Committee, noting that farmers make up around 70 per cent of Myanmar's population and agriculture remains

a key sector of the country's economy. He called on the committee to study farmers' major challenges, including access to agricultural inputs, timely farming loans, fair crop prices, land issues, labour shortages, climate change impacts, natural disasters and debt problems. The Speaker said the committee should work closely with relevant ministries, organizations, NGOs and INGOs, and use collected information to raise farmers' concerns through parliamentary questions and proposals. He also urged the committee to review laws protecting farmers' interests, ensuring provisions

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MoIP Union Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received Dr Md Monwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at the Union Minister's meeting room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. They discussed visa-related matters between Myanmar and Bangladesh, border checkpoints between the two countries, cooperation between the two governments in repat-

riating displaced persons from Rakhine State, and the Ministry's verification and response to reports submitted by Bangladesh regarding the process. They also exchanged views on challenges in verifying and responding to the reports, the need to submit complete supporting documents, and ways to enhance cooperation in immigration control and the repatriation process. — MNA/MKKS



The Bangladeshi ambassador calls on Union Minister U Myint Kyaing.



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NATIONAL

NSPNC, DKBA hold crucial talks to advance peace process

A meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said coordinated efforts would be made to support education, healthcare and regional development. He stressed that ensuring regional stability, together with strengthening education, healthcare and development, is essential for the benefit of future generations. On efforts to combat online scams, he outlined areas requiring cooperation and urged the DKBA to remain completely detached from such illegal activities. He also said the President places high priority on education, encouraged both sides to engage in open and con-



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army meet yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

structive dialogue during the meeting, and discussed the framework for cooperation between the DKBA, the Government and the Tatmadaw to maintain regional stability.

DKBA Chief Saw Shwe Wa said the group has consistently worked with the Government to maintain regional stability and promote development. He added that the DKBA had maintained a neutral stance during periods of

conflict to help foster harmony. He also emphasized the need to find practical solutions to the prolonged armed conflict and the hardships faced by the public, expressing confidence that lasting peace can be achieved through collective efforts. In closing, he reaffirmed the DKBA's commitment to following the political roadmap established by its founding leaders.

The participants also

discussed cooperation with the Union government to promote regional stability, development and lasting peace. They exchanged views on efforts to combat online scams, ensure that terrorist groups do not operate in the area, and reopen and upgrade schools in the Soneseemyaing, Walley and Kyaukkhat areas. The discussions also covered the provision of textbooks, the recruitment of teachers to fill vacancies, and

the supply of vaccines and medical treatment to address malaria and influenza outbreaks in local villages. Other issues included maintaining stability and peace in border areas, improving transport infrastructure, and facilitating the smooth flow of goods.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing then outlined key areas for future cooperation. He emphasized the need to eliminate online scam operations from core DKBA-controlled areas, including Walley, Kyaukkhat and Phayathonzu, and discussed joint operations with the Tatmadaw, local battalions, regional military commands and regional authorities. In light of the current security situation and ongoing clashes in Kayin State, he also urged the DKBA to strengthen communication, liaison and coordination with the Tatmadaw and the relevant regional

military commands. He added that reducing and ultimately ending the clashes to restore regional stability and peace would enable both sides to focus on regional development, education and healthcare. In closing, he called for continued cooperation based on honesty, transparency and mutual trust, while encouraging the use of informal bilateral discussions to advance regional stability and the peace process.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both sides reviewed the agreed points, signed the meeting record and formally approved its contents.

Following this, DKBA Chief-of-Staff Saw San Aung delivered a vote of thanks. NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae then delivered the closing remarks. The meeting concluded successfully with an exchange of commemorative gifts between the two sides. — MNA/TH

Nepal, Myanmar forge tech alliance to drive digital evolution

THE Embassy of Nepal hosted a digital transformation partnership event yesterday at Nay Pyi Taw's Ministry of Finance and Revenue, drawing key officials including Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin and Nepalese Ambassador Mr Harishchandra Ghimire.

In her remarks, Deputy Minister Daw Than



Deputy Minister Daw Than Than Lin addresses the Nepal-Myanmar Partnership in Digital Transformation event, hosted by the Embassy of Nepal in Nay Pyi Taw.

Than Lin said the initiative builds on previous digital cooperation between the two countries. She

highlighted the Ministry's focus on Public Finance Management (PFM) Reform and said the event

provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge on modernizing PFM systems through digital technology and applying digital solutions to public services.

The Nepalese ambassador also delivered remarks, while ICT experts from Nepal presented discussions on digital technology-based public

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye Helms 1st ...

FROM PAGE 3

She highlighted the importance of facilitating travel for international visitors by easing visa procedures where appropriate, enhancing travel safety and security, improving insurance services, and making payment systems more convenient. She said these improvements should be undertaken in accordance with existing laws, regulations and guidelines through coordination.

The Vice-President urged region and state governments to develop the tourism industry, cultural heritage sites, festivals and priority destinations, while improving infrastructure, marketing and service standards. She also called on private tourism operators to strengthen efforts to make Myanmar a competitive regional destination and encouraged all stakeholders to work together to accelerate the recovery of the country's tourism industry.

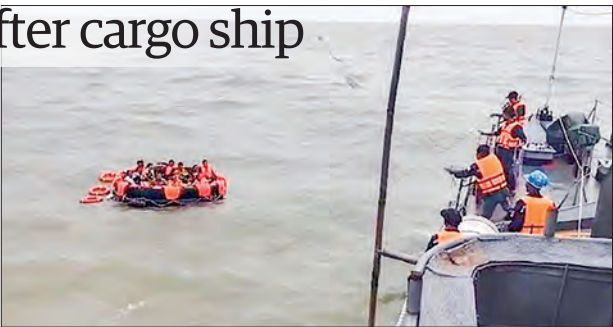
Committee Vice-Chair Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win and Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Phyo Zaw Soe reported on the current situation of the tourism industry, development measures, completed and ongoing work plans.

The Vice-President coordinated the discussion and concluded the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

Security forces rescue crew after cargo ship sinks in Myanmar waters

AFTER receiving a report from the cargo ship MV Oceanstar that the vessel MV ATK Nyein had sunk 27.5 nautical miles west of Kalakot Island, the Tatmadaw (Navy) carried out a rescue operation.

The sunken vessel was located at 6:30 pm on 8 July. The 12 crew members on board were rescued and taken aboard a Tatmadaw vessel, where they received medical checks and were provided with clothing and food. They were later handed over to the relevant authorities at



This image displays the rescue effort the Tatmadaw (Navy). the Yazamin Bridge in Mawlamyine Township at 10 am yesterday. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Implores Govt to Review ...

FROM PAGE 4

Daw Soe Soe Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw representative for Mon State Constituency 12, said ASEAN should base its approach on mutual respect, constructive dialogue and agreed regional principles. She urged the bloc to assess Myanmar fairly while respecting the sovereignty and dignity of all member states.

U Hla Swe, MP for Pobbathiri Constituency, argued that the Five-Point Statement is a political understanding rather than a legally binding treaty and noted that it contains no provision barring Myanmar from attending ASEAN meetings. He warned that prolonged exclusion could weaken regional cooperation and create opportunities for external powers to expand their influence.

Dr Kyaw Swe, MP for Taungdwingyi Constituency, said the statement was adopted in April 2021 as a temporary framework to address the crisis at that time. He argued that there

was no longer sufficient legal or political justification for treating it as a permanent framework and called for it to be revised or replaced to reflect current realities.

U Aung Thiha, Amyotha Hluttaw representative for Yangon Region Constituency 5, said any differences between the consensus and ASEAN's charter should be addressed through the bloc's established dispute-settlement mechanisms rather than political pressure. He also proposed sending Parliament's position to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), ASEAN member parliaments and the ASEAN Secretariat through diplomatic channels.

Other lawmakers supporting the motion included U Soe Thu (Chaungzon Constituency), U Naing Win (Kyauktan Constituency), U Pyone Cho (Ayeyawady Region Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 7), U Soe Min San (Mon State Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency 9)

and Daw Khin Saw Mu (Kangyidaunt Constituency). They argued that the Five-Point Statement had become outdated after more than five years and called for ASEAN to reassess or amend the framework while respecting Myanmar's sovereignty and equal rights as a member state.

Responding to the debate, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe said Myanmar had undergone significant political changes since the consensus was adopted in 2021. He said more than 13.13 million of the country's 24.23 million eligible voters participated in the general election held between December 2025 and January 2026, resulting in a voter turnout of 54.22 per cent. He described the election as free and fair, saying it was observed by international election monitoring groups and that no major irregularities had been reported.

The Union minister said a new parliament

and government elected through the polls had now been formed, and Myanmar's representatives had continued explaining these political developments at ASEAN meetings.

According to the Union minister, discussions at the 48th ASEAN Summit in Cebu, the Philippines, in May 2026 showed that many ASEAN leaders had acknowledged Myanmar's latest political developments and adopted a more constructive approach than in previous years.

He also noted that, since the new government took office, the foreign ministers of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Laos had visited Myanmar, with more ASEAN ministerial visits expected in the coming months. Myanmar has also been invited to attend an upcoming informal meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers.

The Union minister highlighted recent diplomatic engagements by President U Min Aung Hlaing, including visits to

China, India and Laos. He said Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lao President Thongloun Sisoulith had expressed support for Myanmar's efforts towards peace, stability and development, as well as recognition of the country's recent election.

U Tin Maung Swe said ASEAN members currently held differing views on Myanmar, with some maintaining tougher positions while others had adopted more flexible and positive approaches. He added that Myanmar would continue strengthening bilateral relations with individual ASEAN members while working to restore normal engagement with the regional bloc.

He said the Foreign Ministry would continue pursuing diplomacy based on Myanmar's national interests, sovereignty, the 2008 Constitution and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, to restore Myanmar's full role and participation within ASEAN.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe then sought the opinion of the motion's proposer. After the proposer requested that the motion be approved, the Speaker put it to the Hluttaw for a decision. As there were no objections, the motion was approved, and the Speaker announced that the relevant authorities would proceed with its implementation.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw then adjourned its seventh-day sitting and announced that the eighth-day session will be held on 14 July.

Before the debate, the Speaker also informed lawmakers that the Anti-Online Scam Bill, submitted by the Union Government Office, had been debated by both the Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. As the two chambers adopted different amendments and failed to reach agreement, the bill has been referred to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for further deliberation and a final resolution. — MNA/ST

Thayawady's Mya Sein Yaung village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Bago Region, Thayawady District, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Thazinaing Village, Thayawady Township, yesterday.

Thayawady Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lay Lay Lwin and project

staff 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, repayment periods and

rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K52.99 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Thazinaing Village and Tawgway (South) Village are implementing family income-generating activities using K52.99 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the 11th round of revolving loans to a total of 148 members from the two villages, including 138 people engaged in agricultural activities, nine in livestock farming and one in livelihood activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



The MSY fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Thayawady Township on 9 July.

Haka's reconstruction projects and govt facilities inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, accompanied by members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected road projects, government offices and staff housing in Haka, Chin State, on 8 July.

He first visited the Mission School on Tatkun Hill, where he paid respects to senior monks and made donations. He then inspected the road-widening work on the Monywa (Nyaungbingyi)-Pale-Gangaw-Haka Road between kilometre markers 313.460 and 313.580, instructing offi-



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint meets departmental personnel in Chin State.

cial to ensure workplace safety, improve drainage, prevent landslides and complete the project on schedule.

The deputy minister also inspected departmental offices and staff housing, urging timely maintenance and the provision of necessary facilities for civil servants. At

a meeting with officials from the Building Department, Road Department and Department of Urban and Housing Development, he called on staff to follow civil service regulations and SOPs, maintain professionalism, improve their skills and perform their duties responsibly. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Bar Council seeks Supreme Court guidance over misconduct of 13 lawyers

THE Bar Council is seeking a formal review from the Supreme Court of the Union to take disciplinary action against 13 lawyers accused of violating professional codes of conduct.

The decision was finalized during a Bar Council meeting held on 8 July in Nay Pyi Taw. Officials discussed penalizing the legal practitioners under Section 10(A) of the Bar Council Act. Chaired by Union Minister for Legal Affairs,



The Bar Council meeting is underway on 8 July in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Attorney-General, and Bar Council Chair Dr Thida Oo, the session also addressed several key

regulatory matters. Agenda items included reviewing advocate admission applications submitted by

164 lawyers, filling vacant seats within the council, and evaluating public complaints. Additionally, members deliberated on proposed amendments to the rules and regulations governing advocate admissions and finalized the archiving of official order copies.

The high-level meeting was attended by Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney-General Dr Htein Lin Oo, alongside other council members. — TWA/ZS

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Urges Stronger Support for Farmers & Agricultural Reforms

FROM PAGE 4

for affordable agricultural supplies, stable crop prices, storage systems, market access, agricultural technology training and climate-based farming advisory services.

U Khin Yi suggested that Hluttaw consider developing legislation related to contract farming, crop insurance, agricultural extension services and agricultural marketing, or a comprehensive

law to safeguard farmers' rights and improve their socio-economic conditions.

He called for collaborative efforts to build a Parliament that farmers can rely on for the protection of their interests and sustainable agricultural development.

Following the meeting, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker warmly greeted members of the committee. — MNA/ST

Yatsauk's VDP concrete road inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Shan State (South), Taunggyi District, conducted a field inspection yesterday of the completed concrete road construction project implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Sanyayoo Village, Yatsauk Township.

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win, Yatsauk Township Department of Rural

Development Head U Ye Min Aung and engineering staff inspected the completed concrete road construction work. They also met village elders and villagers and discussed the need to collectively maintain and use the concrete road sustainably.

Sanyayoo Village is implementing village development activities using K15 million from the Village Development Project support fund and K9 million contributed by the public. With technical



Officials inspect the completed concrete road project in Yatsauk Township.

assistance and close supervision from officials of the Township Department of Rural Development, the construction of a concrete road measuring 400 feet long, 12 feet wide and sev-

en inches thick was carried out by local villagers themselves starting from the first week of May this year, and has now been completed 100 per cent. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

RBF+ unveils new funding blitz for agri-food and fisheries MSMEs

FROM PAGE 1

Jointly funded by the European Union, Switzerland and Denmark, RBF+ is a targeted financial assistance programme built around three core pillars. The initiative aims to support the long-term growth and sustainability of agri-food MSMEs while creating employment opportunities and reducing the sector's environmental impact.

The upcoming call for proposals covers a range of thematic areas across the programme's three pillars. Under the first pillar, funding will support Area 1, which focuses on modern agricultural inputs and technologies for farmers, and Area 2, which promotes technology localization to enable MSMEs to manufacture modern agricultural machinery and technologies within the region. The second pillar emphasises environmental sustainability and product quality, covering Area 4 on water-use effi-

ciency, Area 5 on waste treatment and recycling, and Area 7 on food safety and value-added production. The third pillar emphasizes knowledge sharing and investment, including Area 9, which promotes knowledge exchange for farmers and agri-food MSMEs to help them adapt to changing market demands and standards, and Area 10, which supports greater technology exposure and technical investment for agri-input and agri-tech companies.

The RBF+ will host a series of hybrid information sessions, both online and in person, to introduce its third call for proposals and provide prospective applicants with a better understanding of the application process. To give interested applicants sufficient time to prepare, information packages for the third call for proposals, together with the schedule of the information sessions, will be released shortly. — ASH/TH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 10

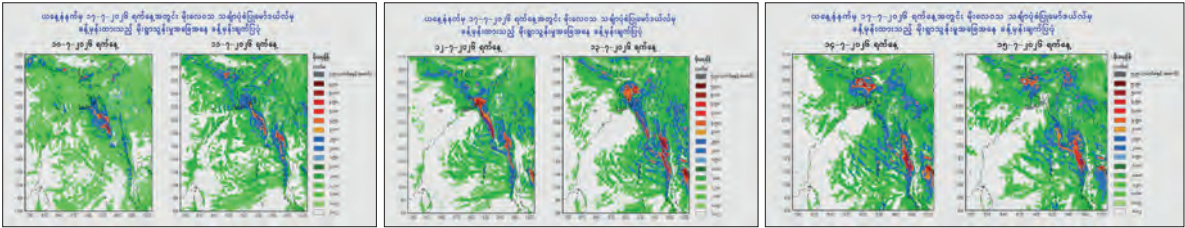
Issued at 08 pm MST on 9 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, (northern and eastern) Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from today morning to 16 July 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong to vigorous monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and the Depression crossed North Odisha Coast close to Balasore, India, such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



Strive to ensure food security nationwide

MYANMAR has 33 million acres of cultivated land, which is sufficient for its needs. Rather than expanding cultivated areas, it is necessary to make efficient use of land and increase productivity. In particular, to achieve food security, efforts should be made to raise the target yield per acre, while also working to improve and enhance cropping intensity.

About food security, it is necessary to ensure sufficient production of non-direct food items. Ensuring national food sufficiency is a key policy priority. In some regions and states, food items that are not available locally are supplied from other regions and states

The State is producing human resources for agricultural and livestock industries, and in order to further develop human resources in each region and state, it is necessary to provide scholarships in relevant agricultural and livestock disciplines. Only then will skilled workers and human resources be developed in the industrial, agricultural, and livestock sectors. That is why all citizens have to join hands in implementing the food security policy through efforts to develop industry, agriculture and livestock sectors.

In areas with sufficient irrigation water, efforts should be made step by step to increase cropping intensity up to 300 per cent.

Efforts should also be made to produce chemical fertilizers domestically, while ensuring the systematic and proper use of both chemical and organic fertilizers. In particular, arrangements should be made to enable the local production and utilization of organic fertilizers in remote border areas where transport is difficult. For the further development of agricultural activities, the State will provide all possible support, including the extension of additional agricultural production loans.

The State is producing human resources for agricultural and livestock industries, and in order to further develop human resources in each region and state, it is necessary to provide scholarships in relevant agricultural and livestock disciplines. Only then will skilled workers and human resources be developed in the industrial, agricultural, and livestock sectors. That is why all citizens have to join hands in implementing the food security policy through efforts to develop industry, agriculture and livestock sectors.

where they are produced. In doing so, efforts should be made to ensure that such food items are sufficiently available domestically, so as to achieve overall national food security.

A policy has been set to ensure that target yields per acre are achieved in agricultural activities. Research activities must be conducted systematically in multiple sectors so as to ensure food security nationwide by comparing and analyzing research data collected across Myanmar with international research findings. Similarly, in livestock farming, it is necessary to select and raise high-quality, purebred animals that yield better productivity.

It is possible to improve cropping intensity in upland farming by ensuring an adequate irrigation water supply. Upland cultivation is widely practised in regions such as Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway. A policy should be formulated to transform upland fields into irrigated paddy fields through land preparation and development, supported by river water pumping projects for implementation.

MYANMAR possesses a remarkably rich cultural and architectural tapestry, spanning ancient archaeological zones like Bagan to the unique colonial and vernacular architecture of its urban centres. As the nation pursues rapid economic development, modernization, and urbanization, a critical policy challenge emerges: how to build the infrastructure of the future without erasing the tangible remnants of the past. Sustainable development must balance economic expansion with the careful preservation of cultural heritage.

The economic argument for heritage preservation is compelling. Historical sites and preserved architectural districts are the foundational assets of international cultural tourism. When historical buildings are demolished to make way for generic high-rises, a

Guardians of History: Keeping Our Heritage Alive

By Maung Lumaw Oo



modern safety, plumbing, and electrical systems so they can function as contemporary offices, museums, boutique hotels,

city loses its unique identity and its long-term appeal to global travellers. Preserving historic quarters retains the distinct character of Myanmar’s cities, ensuring they remain vibrant cultural hubs rather than uniform urban landscapes.

However, preservation policies must evolve beyond merely maintaining ancient monuments. Modern urban planning must incorporate adaptive reuse policies. Adaptive reuse allows historic structures to be retrofitted with

or community centres. This strategy breathes new economic life into old neighbourhoods while safeguarding their architectural integrity, proving that conservation and commercial viability can coexist harmoniously.

To succeed, heritage preservation requires a clear, enforceable legislative framework. Zoning laws must clearly demarcate heritage zones where building heights, facade designs, and demolition activities are strictly regulated. Furthermore, these policies must be paired with financial incentives, such as tax relief or matching grants, for private

property owners who undertake the costly task of restoring historical buildings according to strict conservation standards.

Equally important is community involvement. Local populations must be recognized as the primary custodians of their heritage. When residents are educated on the value of their historical surroundings and are given a direct stake in tourism revenues, they become active participants in conservation efforts.

Preserving our cultural heritage is not an act of looking backwards; it is an act of securing our identity for the future. By weaving historical preservation into the fabric of national urban planning policies, Myanmar ensures that future generations will inherit a nation that is economically advanced, yet deeply rooted in its rich history.

The Wisdom of Keeping Some Things Private

By Laura Htet (UDE)

“NOT everything valuable needs to be seen. Not every thought needs to be spoken. Not every success needs to be celebrated in public.” In today’s world, where sharing has become part of everyday life, these simple ideas are becoming more meaningful than ever.

We live in a time when people often feel encouraged to post their achievements, express every opinion, and let others know almost everything about their lives. Social media has made it easy to share our happiest moments, newest possessions, and biggest successes with just a few clicks. While there is nothing wrong with celebrating life’s blessings, there is also great wisdom in knowing that some things are better kept private.

When dealing with others, honesty is important – but so

is knowing how to keep certain things private. Being honest does not mean revealing every detail about ourselves. Instead, honesty works best when it is balanced with wisdom, self-control, and good judgement. As we grow older and gain more life experience, we begin to understand that

protecting certain parts of our lives is not a sign of secrecy. Rather, it is a sign of maturity. One of the clearest examples of this wisdom is learning to keep our wealth private. There is a well-known saying: “If we lend money to a friend, we may lose both the money and the friendship. If



we refuse to lend it, we may lose the friendship anyway.”

Although this saying may sound harsh, it reflects a reality that many people have experienced. Money can easily change relationships. It may create expectations, misunderstandings, jealousy, or disappointment. Even close friendships can become strained when financial matters are involved.

For this reason, there is no need to boast about our wealth or place it on public display. Choosing not to show everything we own is not a sign of stinginess. Instead, it is a way of protecting ourselves and preserving healthy relationships. Privacy often brings peace of mind.

At the same time, we should remember that a person’s true value cannot be measured by the size of a house, the price of a car, or the amount of money in a bank account. Wealth may impress people for a short time, but

integrity earns respect for a lifetime. Our true worth is reflected in our honesty, kindness, and moral values rather than in our possessions.

Another lesson that becomes clearer with age is learning when to keep certain words unspoken.

Many of us believe that speaking honestly means saying everything that comes into our minds. However, experience teaches us that not every thought needs to become a spoken word. Most relationships do not end because problems cannot be solved. Instead, they often fall apart because of words spoken without care.

Words carry great power. A few kind words can encourage someone who feels hopeless, comfort a friend during difficult times, or strengthen trust within a family. Yet the opposite is also true. Angry or careless words can hurt deeply and leave emotional wounds that remain long after the conversation has ended.

That is why we do not need to speak in absolutes or allow our emotions to control our conversations. Taking a moment to pause before speaking often prevents unnecessary conflict. Sometimes, silence is not a sign of weakness. In-

stead, it is one of the greatest signs of wisdom.

Listening with patience often achieves more than speaking without thinking. A calm response can solve problems that harsh words only make worse. When we choose our words carefully, we protect not only our relationships but also our own peace of mind.

Another quality that quietly shapes successful people is humility. There is an old saying:

“If a single tree looks down on the forest, it will be the first to fall when the storm comes.”

This beautiful image reminds us that pride can make even the strongest person vulnerable. Those who constantly try to prove that they are more intelligent than everyone else often attract unnecessary competition and conflict. However, those who quietly use their knowledge while respecting others usually earn genuine admiration.

People with true ability rarely feel the need to show off. They understand that there is always something new to learn and someone from whom they can learn it.

SEE PAGE 10



ရေကြည်ရာ မြက်နုရာ
အညာတစ်ခေါက်၊ အလည်ရောက်၍
ရှေ့နောက်စုန်ချည်၊ မိတ်ဆွေများဆီ
ကြည်သာရွှင်ပျံ့၊ နတ်ခွန်းဆကာ
ဘဝအလှ၊ ဝေငှကြ၏။
လူပျော်တစ်စု
ကိုသာရ တို့၊ မြင်လွှာကွယ်ပျောက်
ဘယ်များရောက်သွား ကြပါသနည်း။
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အာကျယ်မ ထံ၊ (အ)သံ ရယ်မကြား
ဘယ်များ သွားနေပါသနည်း။
မောင်ငယ်ညီမ၊ ကျောင်းနေစွယ်
အများအလယ်၊ ဘဝထည့်ဖို့
အရွယ်မငှ၊ အားမာန်ထည့်ကာ
တိုင်းတပါးခြား၊ အလုပ်သွားသည့်
များမကြာမီ ငါးနှစ်ပြည့်တော့မည်။
လူငယ်တစ်ယောက်၊ မောင်သာထိုက်တို့
မတွေ့တာကြာ၊ ယခုအခါ
ဘာများလုပ်နေ ကြပါသနည်း။
မြို့ပြအရပ်၊
ဆိုင်ရာ(အ)တတ်ဖြင့်၊ အလုပ်ဖွေရာ
အခွင့်သာ၍၊ ရွာမှထွက်သွား
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ပညာအမွေ
မိဘတွေ၍၊ မနေသာရွာ
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မိမိမှာလည်း၊ ဌာနီမေ့ပျောက်
မရောက်ဖြစ်တာ၊ နှစ်များစွာ
ကာလ အတော်ကြာညောင်းခဲ့လေပြီ
သီဟ

Greener Pastures

A casual visit to my native, Upper Land, Wandering back and forth, I dropped into my friends' house, We had a chat, swapping our costly experience.
“A group of jolly men, KO THAR DUs, No one in my sight, Where have they gone?” I asked.
“They find it hard to make both ends meet. So as to make a better living, They left for the gold mines in Upper Land,” he replied.
“What about dear Ms Motor-mouth? I could hear a pin drop since I’ve arrived, Where has she been?”
“For the sake of her younger brothers and sisters, In order to get a good education, Not to feel small amongst others, To lead a decent life, Despite her age, full of beans, She has gone abroad And nearly five years there now.”
“And MAUNG THAR HTIKEs, a gang of youngsters,

It’s been a long time since I last met. What have they been doing lately?”
“It’s easier to get a job In urban areas, As blue-collar So, they all left the village many years before.”
We talked for hours about the good old days. And there came a time to end our chat Whilst the setting sun was on the brim of the mountain after his all-day’s work. And a piece of thought flashed on my mind, As I was getting to my feet.
How about me? I was raised and brought up by my parents to be well-educated. As a result, I live in a suitable region as well In accordance with my career Despite the fact that I’m not willing to fly the coop. It’s been quite a while Since I left my homeland behind!

Thiha

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Khayan's Mya Sein Yaung concrete road inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Yangon Region, Kyauktan District, conducted a field inspection yesterday of the completed concrete road construction project implemented using 50 per cent of the interest income from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Pantawchaung Village, Khayan Township.

Khayan Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Htar Htar Naing, the project officer and engi-



This image features the completed Mya Sein Yaung concrete road project in Khayan Township.

neering staff inspected the completed concrete road construction work. She met project committee members and villagers, discussed the need to collectively maintain the completed concrete road for long-term sustainabil-

ity, and inspected whether the monthly Mya Sein Yaung Village Project financial record forms had been properly and accurately maintained. Pantawchaung Village is implementing village development activ-

ities using K16.2 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project interest funds and K2 million contributed by the public. With technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Township Department of Rural Development, the construction of a concrete road measuring 500 feet long, seven feet wide and six inches thick was carried out by local villagers themselves starting from the second week of May this year, and has now been completed 100 per cent. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Magway's Mya Sein Yaung Village Project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday of the Mya Sein Yaung Village project in Natkan Village, Magway Township, Magway Region. The project aims to provide capital for rural residents to engage in agriculture, livestock farming, and trading businesses.

Regional Head U Kyaw Zaw Hein of the Magway Region Department of Rural Development, District Head U Kyaw San Htay of the Magway District Department of Rural Development, Township Head U Soe Lin Htut of the Magway Township Department of Rural Development, and other officials, together with the Village

Project Committee members, reviewed the implementation of agricultural, livestock, and trading activities under the project. Officials also verified that the activities were being conducted in compliance with the loan agreements and inspected the project's bookkeeping records, providing necessary coordination and guidance.

According to U Kyaw Zaw Hein, a total of K45.6 million in revolving funds from the "MSY" project has been disbursed to 179 members. This includes K19.6 million for 49 individuals in the agricultural sector, K22.6 million for 113 individuals in the livestock sector, and K3.4 million for 17 individuals in the trading sector. — Nyein Thu

Yamethin's VDP project launched, committee formed



Residents and officials gather during the launch and committee formation ceremony for the Village Development Project in Yamethin Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Mandalay Region, Yamethin District, conducted an introductory briefing on the Village Develop-

ment Project (VDP) to be implemented and formed a project committee in Kanmyint Village, Yamethin Township, yesterday. Yamethin Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye

Aye Win met village elders and villagers in Kanmyint 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 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 Project Committee in line

with the majority's wishes to effectively lead and implement village development activities.

In Kanmyint 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 locals, with technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Department of Rural Development. — Karan (Rural)



Officials are seen during their inspection tour of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Magway Township.

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The Wisdom of Keeping Some Things Private

FROM PAGE 9

They respect different opinions and appreciate the strengths of others. Their confidence comes from within rather than from the praise of those around them.

Success is not achieved by defeating others or proving that we are better than everyone else. Real success comes from walking through life with honesty, humility, and

good character. It comes from lifting others instead of looking down on them.

These simple lessons may sound ordinary, but they become more meaningful as life teaches us through experience. Keeping our wealth private helps us avoid envy and unnecessary expectations. Keeping our words measured helps us avoid misunderstandings and needless trouble. Keeping our intelligence

humble helps us avoid conflict and build stronger relationships based on mutual respect.

Each of these choices reflects self-control rather than fear. They allow us to focus on what truly matters instead of seeking approval from others.

As the years pass, many of us begin to realize that life's greatest achievements are often invisible. Peace of mind cannot be

bought with money. Respect cannot be demanded through power. Lasting happiness does not come from impressing others but from living according to strong values.

The wisest people are often the quietest. They do not feel the need to compete for attention because they understand that actions speak louder than words. Their kindness leaves lasting memories.

Their humility earns lasting respect. Their integrity becomes their greatest achievement.

In a world that encourages us to share more, perhaps real wisdom lies in knowing what not to share. It is found in the quiet confidence that comes from protecting our privacy, speaking with kindness, and remaining humble despite our abilities.

True wisdom is not about showing the world how much we know, how much we own, or how suc-

cessful we have become. It is about living each day with sincerity, exercising restraint, making thoughtful decisions, and treating every person with respect and compassion.

When we choose character over attention, humility over pride, and wisdom over applause, we build a life that shines without demanding the spotlight. Such a life becomes an example for others — not because it is loudly displayed, but because its quiet strength speaks for itself.

CBM sells US\$2,200 to CMP companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over US\$2,200 into companies operating on a Cut, Make, and Pack basis on 8 July, following the sale of US\$ 8,400 on 7 July.

CBM sold over \$1.4 million, purchased from CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies and over \$11,400 to CMP companies on 6 July.

CBM sold over \$595,500 to edible oil-importing companies on 3 July and over \$114,400 to edible oil-importing companies and \$39,600 to CMP companies, along with \$3,700 worth of non-trade transactions on 2 July.

CBM also sold \$3.3 million to edible oil importing companies and over \$21,228 to CMP com-



The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), Yangon Branch.

panies on 1 July.

CBM injected over \$35 million, purchased from CMP companies, into the foreign exchange market in June.

CBM pumped over \$51 million and 1.2 mil-

lion baht into the foreign exchange market in May. CBM transacted over \$70 million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three mil-

lion 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 freely conduct foreign exchange trading online at market rates, based on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

UMFCCI, MFVP discuss export promotion, fruit sectoral development

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) discussed the development of the fruit sector on 8 July.

The meeting highlighted UMFCCI's support for export promotion, growth of the fruit sector development, improving the association's performance, strengthening MSMEs engaged in the fruit sector, exploring market access for potential new fruit varieties in new markets and on digital platforms, and digital transformation in both domestic and foreign markets.

MFVP Chair U Kyaw Thu introduced the new executive members and discussed the management policies and procedures updated to meet the standards within the first 70 days of assuming office, efforts to improve members' performance and the short-term and long-term action plan for the next three years.

The UMFCCI president encouraged and coordinated the association. MFVP also expressed gratitude to the UMFCCI for its continuous support and partnership. — NN/KK

Upgrading Myanmar rubber through Group Processing Factories

CONCERTED efforts are being exerted to expand and establish Group Processing Factories to enhance the quality of Myanmar's rubber in the global market.

Rubber is one of the key sources of foreign revenue for Myanmar. The GPF are designed to consolidate raw latex into high-value, standardized rubber, enabling small-scale farmers to manufacture premium-grade rubber by pooling resources.

Adopting modern drying techniques, farm-to-factory traceability, and compliance with international standards

will help Myanmar rubber to reach the European market, which demands premium rubber at high prices.

At present, China accounts for 75 per cent of Myanmar's rubber exports, followed by Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Viet Nam and the Republic of Korea.

Myanmar possesses over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantations, producing over 300,000 tonnes and generating US\$480 million in revenue. Nonetheless, the lack of quality rubber pushed Myanmar to export only raw materials, lowering the global



This image shows the rubber processing.

market price.

The GPF system was implemented in early 2026 to organize small farmers to produce premium-quality rubber, as 92 per cent of rubber farmers are smallholders. The Group Processing factories produc-

ing RSS3 rubber are being operated in Shwegyin and Mayanchaung in Bago Region, Kyaikto, Thaton, Mudon and Thanbyuzayat in Mon State and Myaingkalay in Kayin State, and expansion of facilities is also ongoing. — TWA/KK

Myanmar Insurance Association launches Credit Guarantee Insurance for MSMEs

THE Myanmar Insurance Association, under the guidance of the Insurance Business Regulatory Board (IBRB) of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, hosted a launching ceremony of the Credit Guarantee Insurance for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on 7 July 2026 at Park Royal Hotel.

This scheme is designed to enable MSMEs to secure business loans when they lack immovable collateral. Wunna Kyaw Htin Dr Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of the Myanmar Insurance Association, explained the Credit Guarantee Insurance policy, and attendees also actively engaged in the discussion.

Yangon Region Minister Dr Myo Thaw for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport, Daw Khin Saw Oo, Chair of the Myanmar Banks Association, Secretary of the Financial Regulatory Department, the director-general of the Business Regulatory Board (IBRB), officials of Myanmar Insurance Association, MSME Association and General Insurance Companies attended the event. — NN/KK



The launch ceremony for the Credit Guarantee Insurance for MSMEs is in progress on 7 July 2026.

Registration board approves 4,670 pesticides

THE Pesticide Registration Board has issued permits for 4,670 pesticides so far at its 48th meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 July 2026. Reviews on the registration of 179 pesticides

were also conducted, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The pesticide registration board also provides pesticide standard

criteria, issues orders, specifications, and instructions from time to time and monitors agricultural products to ensure food safety and a pesticide-residue-free status.

The Myanmar Agricultural Import Registration System (MAIRS) online portal was launched to streamline the pesticide registration process. — NN/KK

ECONOMY

WORLD

China's new energy vehicle output, sales both exceed 7 mln in H1

NEV output from January to June reached 7.438 million units.



China's new energy vehicle (NEV) sector reported continued growth in the first half of 2026, with output and sales both exceeding seven million units during the period. **PHOTO: GLOBAL TIMES**

CHINA'S new energy vehicle (NEV) sector reported continued growth in the first half of 2026, with output and sales both exceeding seven million units during the period, latest industry data showed on Thursday. NEV output from January to June reached 7.438 million units, while sales stood at 7.446 million units, according to data released by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Pure electric vehicles accounted for 67 per cent of the total NEV sales during the period, the data showed. — Xinhua

German exports rise despite Iran war headwinds

GERMAN exports unexpectedly rose in May, their fourth straight monthly increase, official data showed Thursday, as Europe's biggest economy defied headwinds from the Iran war. Exports rose 0.9 per cent from the previous month to 137.9 billion euros (\$158 billion), according to preliminary data from statistics agency Destatis, driven by a rise in demand from the United States and China. Analysts surveyed by financial data firm FactSet had expected a decline of one per cent. It was the latest evidence that Germany's long-struggling economy is coping with the turmoil unleashed by the US-Israeli war against Iran better than some had feared. — AFP



Positive trade figures offer a glimmer of hope for Germany's economy. **PHOTO: AFP**

Neyagawa levies new empty property tax

THE city assembly of Neyagawa in Osaka Prefecture passed an ordinance Thursday to introduce a tax on owners of vacant houses, aiming to cope with an increasing number of such homes and bring them onto the housing market. The municipal government said the vacant house distribution promotion tax will be imposed across the entire city starting in fiscal 2029, making it Japan's first such levy not limited to a specific area. After the assembly enacted the ordinance, Mayor Keisuke Hirose told reporters, "Securing housing is an issue in commuter towns near major cities," adding that the new tax has significance not only for Neyagawa but also for the whole country, which faces the problem of vacant homes amid its aging population. — Kyodo

Chip titan SK hynix to set price for mega US listing

SOUTH Korean chip giant SK hynix is expected on Thursday to set the price for its mega US listing that could be one of the world's largest stock sales. As governments and tech firms race to build data centres to train and run artificial intelligence, SK hynix — a supplier to industry behemoth Nvidia — has seen profits and its share price skyrocket. The Asian semiconductor giant plans to issue the equivalent of nearly 18 million new shares on Wall Street's tech-heavy



SK hynix is already traded on Seoul's Kospi index, where its market capitalisation soared past \$1 trillion in May. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE** Nasdaq index on Friday. SK hynix said this week it hoped to raise a whopping 43 trillion won

(\$28 billion) by selling American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), which allow shares of foreign

companies to be traded on US exchanges. That goal was revised down from an initial target of more than 45 trillion won, but recent volatility in the company's shares make firm estimations difficult. Global tech stocks have tumbled in recent weeks amid fears about extended valuations — SK hynix has jumped more than 200 per cent this year — and questions over when the enormous spending on AI will reap returns. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Renewed ME tensions underscore inflation risks

New Zealand's central bank said renewed tensions in the Middle East underscore ongoing inflation risks, as the bank raised interest rates for the first time in more than three years. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) on Wednesday lifted its official cash rate by 25 basis points, with Governor Anna Breman citing rising oil prices following a resurgence of hostilities between the United States and Iran, Radio New Zealand (RNZ) reported on Thursday. Brent crude rose more than five per cent to about US\$78 a barrel on Thursday, extending gains from the previous day. Breman told RNZ that higher fuel costs remain a key inflation risk, warning that prolonged conflict could entrench price pressures. "There's a risk this will become embedded," she said, adding the bank's role was to prevent inflation staying elevated for too long. The RBNZ expects annual inflation to peak at 3.9 per cent in the June quarter, above its 1-3 per cent target range, though lower than an earlier 4.3-per cent forecast. Despite disruptions, including the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Breman said shipping routes continued to function. According to the governor, economic recovery was underway in New Zealand and could prove stronger than expected, though many households had yet to feel the improvement. — Xinhua

Cocoa lynchpin sees chocolate lovers make hesitant return

BARRY Callebaut, one of the world’s biggest chocolate makers, signalled Thursday that chocoholics are starting to replenish their stocks after being stung by inflation.

The group, which says it runs the world’s biggest chocolate factory in Belgium and provides cocoa products to nearly all major makers, warned however that any improvement would be “gradual”.

Barry Callebaut said sales volumes increased for the first time in two years in the quarter from March to May this year, as it revealed its latest results.

It said that sales volume fell 2.8 per cent to 1.5 million tonnes over the first nine months of

its financial year up, but had increased 5.7 per cent in the third quarter.

Asia, the Middle East and Africa boosted sales over the nine months, while Western Europe was down 2.5 per cent and North America 7.6 per cent.

It predicted that for the whole financial year up to the end of August, sales volumes would be down about one per cent.

The group attributed the belated increase to increased demand for cocoa powder and some customers “replenishing their stocks”.

Its turnover over the nine months fell 12.7 per cent against the previous year to 9.5 billion Swiss francs (\$11.75 billion), below analysts forecasts. — AFP



Cocoa giant Barry Callebaut senses a tentative rebound in the chocolate market after more than a year of inflation turbulence. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australian house rents rise to record high in Q2: report

THE median weekly rental price for houses in Australia rose to a record-high in the second quarter of 2026, a report released on Thursday has found.

The latest rent report from property marketplace Domain showed that the median weekly rent for houses across all capital cities rose by 2.9 per cent over the June quarter and 7.7 per cent year-on-year to 700 Australian dollars (US\$485.2).

The report noted that it was the highest rate of annual growth in almost two years.

In Sydney, Australia’s most expensive property market, the median weekly asking rent for houses rose to 850 AUD (US\$589.2), up from 800 AUD (US\$554.5) in the first quarter of 2026. Domain said that the 6.3 per cent increase in Sydney house rents was the strongest quarterly growth in four years. — Xinhua

Sony promoting character business, sees resurgence in popularity of “Pingu”

SONY Group Corp is promoting character goods and events sales as a part of its efforts to strengthen its thriving content business, with one such character, Swiss-born “Pingu”, recently seeing a resurgence in its popularity.

Merchandise sales of the penguin character, the marketing rights of which have been held in Japan by Sony since 1991, doubled in fiscal 2025 from the previous year, as the company has promoted it on social media and through collaborations with other companies.



This photo shows production materials from the “Pingu” animated series on display at an exhibition about the Swiss-born penguin character at Tokyo International Forum in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Pingu, the main character of a penguin family animation that began in 1980, has been aired in Japan since the

1990s. The character is popular not only among Japanese in their 30s and 40s who watched the TV animation series in their

childhood but also among younger generations.

On Thursday, Sony held a press event showcasing an exhibition titled “More than just cute!? The Pingu Exhibition”, which will start the following day and runs through 6 September at Tokyo International Forum.

In the exhibition, visitors can see a display of original clay animation puppets used in the filming, learn about the behind-the-scenes production process and buy various goods including stuffed animals and bags. — Kyodo

S Korean banks’ household lending rises faster in June

SOUTH Korean banks’ household lending rose faster last month due to robust demand for both mortgage and credit loans, central bank data showed Thursday.

Debt owed by households to deposit-taking banks totalled 1,189.4 trillion won (US\$789.5 billion)

at the end of June, up 7.6 trillion won (\$5.0 billion) from a month earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The June growth was faster than an expansion of 6.9 trillion won (\$4.6 billion) in the previous month, keeping an upward trend for a fourth straight month.

Banks’ mortgage loan increased 4.3 trillion won (\$2.9 billion) last month amid higher home transactions.

The domestic real estate market fluctuated in recent months, with the number of apartment transactions across the country reaching 48,000 in

January, 41,000 in February, 49,000 in March, 49,000 in April and 49,000 in May.

Other loans to households, including credit loan, credit line and commercial real estate-backed loan, advanced 3.3 trillion won (\$2.2 billion) in June compared to the previous month. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0401N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0401N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2026** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (177W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (177W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2026** 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.

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Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

EU parliament greenlights digital euro

The EU believes a digital euro is the answer to cutting its addiction to US payment systems.

EU lawmakers on Thursday backed kickstarting negotiations on creating a digital version of the euro, as the European Union races to introduce the currency.

The project has been years in the making but the EU first needs to agree on the legal framework underpinning the virtual currency before it is available for use.

The EU believes a digital euro is the answer to cutting its addiction to US payment systems like Visa and Mastercard as well as Apple Pay and Google Pay.

A European Parliament committee had already given its green light but that approval was



The electronic version of the euro used in the 21-nation currency area would be available to use free of charge.
PHOTO: AFP

challenged and there was a call for an assembly vote.

An overwhelming majority of lawmakers approved establishing a digital euro.

That means negotia-

tors from the parliament and EU capitals can start talks to reach a deal by the end of 2026. If they stick to that timeline, the European Central Bank hopes the digital euro would be avail-

able to citizens in 2029.

The first meeting of negotiators is expected this month.

There are also plans for a pilot programme in mid-2027 to test how the digital euro would work in practice if there is an agreement by the end of the year.

EU lawmaker Fernando Navarrete Rojas, one of the lead negotiators for the parliament, insisted the digital euro was “an alternative, not a requirement”.

He added that those saying the digital euro would be used “as a tool of control” were “lying”, stressing there would be the “highest privacy standards”. — AFP

Chemical weapons watchdog reinstates Syria

THE world’s chemical weapons watchdog reinstated Syria on Thursday, noting a “significant change in circumstances” since the fall of Bashar al-Assad and “concrete steps” to dismantle his deadly stockpile of banned substances.

In 2021, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) took the unprecedented step of stripping Syria of its voting rights after finding its air force had used nerve agent sarin and chlorine gas on its own people.

But since Assad’s 2024 overthrow, the new authorities in Damascus have vowed to co-operate with the OPCW to destroy

the chemical weapons the former president was repeatedly accused of using during Syria’s 13-year civil war.

The new Syrian government has “committed to fulfilling Syria’s obligation under the (Chemical

Weapons) Convention and... since taken concrete steps to cooperate... to achieve this goal,” the OPCW said in a statement.

The decision “marks another milestone in the OPCW’s efforts to achieve the complete and verified



The chemical weapons watchdog said Syria had made progress in dismantling the stockpile of banned substances built up under former president Bashar al-Assad.
PHOTO: AFP

elimination of all remaining chemical weapons associated with the former Syrian government”, said the watchdog’s Director-General Fernando Arias.

In 2013, Syria agreed to join the OPCW and disclose and hand over its toxic stockpile under Russian and US pressure, and to avert the threat of air strikes by Washington and its allies.

This came after a suspected chemical attack on the Eastern Ghouta suburb of Damascus that killed more than 1,000 people, according to US intelligence, and was attributed to the Syrian government, which denied involvement and blamed rebels. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump blasts Spain, targets Greenland at NATO summit

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened to cut off trade with Spain and insisted he still wanted Greenland, as NATO leaders met for their summit in Ankara.

“I’m very upset with NATO,” he told reporters as he met alliance chief Mark Rutte ahead of the main summit session.

“I’m not happy with NATO because of what they did with Greenland, and I’m not happy with NATO because of the fact that they didn’t want to help us with the number one state sponsor of terror, that’s Iran.”

Trump singled out Spain for particular criticism calling it a “terrible partner in NATO”.

“Spain is a wasted cause. We don’t want to do any trade business with Spain anymore,” he said, asking his Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to “cut it off”. — AFP

Mexico to take legal action after migrant’s death in US

MEXICAN President Claudia Sheinbaum said Wednesday that her government would take “legal measures” following the death of Mexican citizen Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, who was shot dead by an agent from the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Houston.

Speaking at her daily press conference at the National Palace, Sheinbaum expressed indignation over the mistreatment of Mexican migrants in the United States and said Mexico needed to go beyond traditional diplomatic notes.

“Our goal is to go beyond diplomatic notes and what we have raised before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, because we cannot allow the mistreatment of our brothers and sisters who are in the United States, our fellow nationals. So we are considering other measures,” she said. — Xinhua

US resumed cash shipments to Baghdad

THE United States has resumed cash shipments to Iraq after a delay, signalling its support for Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi’s administration, with the premier expected in Washington later this month, a government spokesperson said Thursday.

Iraq’s revenues from oil exports are largely held at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, under an arrangement reached after the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled former ruler Saddam Hussein.

Under the system, payments for oil are made into dollar-denominated accounts in the US which are then either used to pay for imports or flow to Iraq as cash.

Earlier this year, Washington suspended the cash transfers to Iraq as it piled pressure on Baghdad to disarm Iran-backed armed groups, which launched hundreds of attacks on US facilities in Iraq during the Middle East war.

Iraqi officials downplayed the issues, saying the dollar shipments had ceased due to the closure of airspace and the security situation. — AFP

SPORTS

France, Morocco kick off blockbuster World Cup quarterfinals

FRANCE take on Morocco on Thursday in a blockbuster World Cup quarterfinal showdown as the largest and most logistically complex edition of the footballing showpiece ever staged enters the home straight.

After a month of spell-binding action that has seen 280 goals scored in 96 matches, the expanded field of 48 has been whittled down to just eight teams who are dreaming of winning the title at the 19 July final in East Rutherford.

France, the outstanding side of the tournament to date, kick off the quarterfinals against African champions Morocco at Gillette Stadium, outside Boston, in a rematch of the two teams' 2022 World Cup semi-final meeting.

A defeat for Les Bleus would mark the end of the road for France coach Didier Deschamps, who

is stepping down after a successful 14-year reign at the conclusion of the tournament.

Deschamps, one of only three men to win the World Cup as both a player and coach, said Wednesday he is paying scant attention to his personal legacy.

"I am not thinking about that at all. In my head, with my staff, the objective is just to do everything we can so that things go well. I am focused on this Morocco team and on things going well for us," Deschamps said.

The France coach also dismissed concerns shared widely across social media that the choice of Argentinian referee Facundo Tello could spell trouble for his side.

France and Argentina are on a collision course to reach the final in a repeat of the 2022 final won by the South Americans. — AFP



Kylian Mbappe will lead France's fearsome attack against Morocco in the World Cup quarterfinals. PHOTO: AFP

MGF to host President's Cup, amateur and senior golf tourney in Aug

THE Myanmar Golf Federation (MGF) has announced that the MGF President's Cup 2026 for amateur and senior golfers will be held in Yangon over four days in early August.

Organized by the MGF, with primary sponsorship from SAE PAING Development Ltd and Phyo Si Thu Teak Plantation (Myanmar), the tournament will take place from 3 to 6 August at the Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon).

Men's amateur category is open to players with a handicap of 0 to 12. Men's senior amateur is open to players with a handicap of 0 to 18, categorized into age groups: 55-60, 61-65 and 66-75.

The tournament will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Golf 2023 prescribed by the R&A Rules Limited and the United States Golf Association (USGA), alongside local tournament rules. The registration deadline is 1 August, by 2:00 pm. The entry fee is 30,000 kyats per person. Interested participants can register by calling 09-421002259. Players who have previously registered are also required to reconfirm their entries.

Amateur participants must submit their World Handicap System (WHS) Handicap Index Card (recognized by the MGF) and a Handicap Certificate issued by their respective member golf clubs. — MT/ZN



This image shows the opening ceremony of the MGF President's Cup 2025.

17 players face suspension risk ahead of World Cup quarterfinals

Seventeen players head into the World Cup quarterfinals one yellow card away from suspension, with several title contenders at risk of losing key players for the semifinals.

Yellow cards accumulated during the group stage were wiped before the knockout rounds, but any players who receive two bookings between the round of 32 and the quarterfinals will be suspended for the semifinals if their teams advance. England and Morocco are the teams facing the greatest disciplinary concerns. Morocco has four players at risk ahead of its quarterfinal against France, with Issa Diop, Achraf Hakimi, Redouane Halhal and Bilal El Khannouss all one booking away from suspension. France also has two key players walking a disciplinary tightrope, with forward Michael Olise and midfielder Manu Kone both at risk of missing a potential semifinal. — Xinhua

FIFA denies France's appeal against Olise's yellow card

FRANCE head coach Didier Deschamps revealed on Tuesday that Michael Olise's yellow card from France's World Cup round-of-16 match against Paraguay will stand.

Olise was booked late in last Saturday's match following an altercation. The French Football Federation subsequently appealed to FIFA to have the yellow card overturned. Speaking at a pre-match press conference, Deschamps said, "Nothing has changed regarding Olise's yellow card. We received FIFA's notice this morning confirming the original decision stands."

This means that if France beats Morocco on Thursday and Olise receives another yellow card, the Bayern Munich player will be ruled out of the semifinal. Olise has impressed throughout the World Cup, registering a tournament-leading five assists. — Xinhua

Belgium bid to crack Spain's ironclad defence in World Cup quarterfinal

BELGIUM meet Spain in the World Cup quarterfinals on Friday with the daunting task of breaching the European champions' watertight defence for the first time at the 2026 tournament.

In beating Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal 1-0 on Monday, Luis de la Fuente's men became the first team in history to record six

consecutive World Cup clean sheets. Spain have not shown the attacking flair of France but they are playing the careful, possession-based football that took them to glory in South Africa in 2010.

The prodigiously gifted Lamine Yamal is the team's most potent attacker on paper but the teenager arrived in the United States

still recovering from a late-season injury and has netted just once in five games. Mikel Oyarzabal has made up for that, scoring four times, including twice in a 3-0 romp against Austria in the last 32.

Barcelona midfielder Dani Olmo said club teammate Yamal was growing into the tournament.

"He brings so much to the team with his dribbling and presence. When he receives the ball, two or three opposing players close in on him, which opens up space," he said.

"Lamine scores and assists — he's always done that in his short career — and even when he doesn't, he'll keep helping us with the work he's doing." — AFP



Spain forward Mikel Oyarzabal celebrates scoring his team's third goal in the 3-0 win over Austria. PHOTO: AFP



Artificial cloud brightening could tame El Nino

A brewing “Super” El Nino cycle is poised to unleash heat waves, floods and drought worldwide, with the effects amplified by long term human-caused climate change.

But what if it was possible to interrupt and effectively “switch off” the Pacific Ocean heating phenomenon as it starts to form?

That’s the premise of a new Science Advances study published Wednesday, which uses computer models to show that artificially brightening clouds over the Pacific, when timed right, could neutralize the influential weather pattern and blunt its worst impacts.

While previous research on so-called geo-engineering has focused on cooling the planet as a whole, the new paper

instead proposes more targeted interventions.

“These shorter timescales of interventions could be a very powerful way that geo-engineering enters this portfolio of responses to climate change,” lead author Jessica Wan, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Chicago, told AFP.

Prior research had shown that the “Black Summer” bushfires that scorched Australia in 2019-2020 played a key role in creating a multi-year La Nina, the cool phase of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation cycle.

As smoke particles entered the clouds, they set off chain reactions that actually made the clouds brighter, bouncing more of the Sun’s energy back to space. — AFP

EU heatwave exposed two-thirds of population to ozone

TWO thirds of the European Union’s population may have been exposed to harmful levels of ozone pollution during last month’s record-breaking heatwave, a report exclusively shared with AFP warned Thursday.

Nearly 300 million people, including 100 million children and elderly people, faced higher-than-recommended levels of the toxic pollutant during the punishing heat in late June, according to the report from the NGO Global Witness.

The scale of this “invisible threat” highlights how “people are being forced to live through

very dangerous conditions as a result of our dependence on fossil fuels,” the organization’s senior campaigner Flossie Boyd told AFP.

Ground-level ozone is different from the ozone layer in the atmosphere, which protects Earth from the Sun’s radiation -- and is slowly recovering from damage made by refrigerants called CFCs.

On the ground, ozone is the main ingredient in smog and can cause breathing problems, damage lung tissue, trigger asthma attacks and lead to other health issues. — AFP

Rosatom hits new milestone with Egyptian El Dabaa Nuclear Plant

The ceremony was attended by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy Mahmoud Esmat, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev and International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi.

THE installation of a 330-tonne reactor pressure vessel for Unit 1 at the El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant in Egypt has begun in northern Egypt, marking another stage in building the country’s first nuclear power station.

The ceremony was attended by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly, Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy Mahmoud Esmat, Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev and International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi.

Sputnik news agency and radio, in cooperation with Egyptian television, broadcast the installation live. Egypt and Russia struck a deal to build the El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant in November 2015.

The project is financed through a \$25 billion Russian loan, with the agree-



This image shows the installation of a 330-tonne reactor pressure vessel for Unit 1 at the El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant in Egypt. **PHOTO: ROSATOM**

ment coming into force in December 2017.

Under the contract, Russian state nuclear energy firm Rosatom is responsible for the plant’s design, materials and construction, as well

as nuclear fuel supplies, operational support and

maintenance.

The Russian company is also tasked with training Egyptian staff and providing technical assistance over the first 10 years of the plant’s operation.

When complete, the El Dabaa plant will have four power units with a ca-

capacity of 1,200 MW each, equipped with Russian VVER-1200 Generation III+ reactors.

The reactor is one of Rosatom’s most advanced technologies, with four units already in operation at other power plants. — SPUTNIK

US, Iran trade new strikes ahead of Khamenei burial

THE United States and Iran traded new strikes on Thursday that killed several people in the Islamic republic as Iranian authorities prepared for the burial of longtime supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

Iran said it had resumed its attacks targeting US assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, with the renewed hostilities, sparked by tensions over

the Strait of Hormuz, threatening a return to

full-scale war.

This was the second



Mourners gather in Mashhad before Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei’s burial. **PHOTO: AFP**

day in a row that the decades-old foes exchanged attacks, with Iran’s health ministry saying the US attacks across both days had killed 14 people and injured 78.

The fighting came with Iran preparing to bury Khamenei, who was killed alongside close family members on the first day of the US-Israeli war against the Islamic republic on 28 February. — AFP