

State Support Aims to Lift Cotton Yields

The government, in its tenure, pledges to develop Agri-based industries based on cotton cultivation to achieve the targeted per-acre cotton yield.

As cotton cultivation and production are beneficial for the country, the relevant ministries, cotton growers, and officials have to strive to achieve the target per-acre yield, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the seminar titled “From Cotton Cultivation towards Textile Industry” held at the city hall in Magway yesterday morning.

In his opening speech, the President recalled that the nation’s cotton acreage had fallen to about 400,000 acres in the 2019-2020 financial year, down from more than 800,000 acres in 2011-2012. Since assuming State responsibilities, he reiterated that efforts have been made to promote cotton cultivation. As a result, the nationwide average cotton yield increased from 436 viss per acre on more than 390,000 acres cultivated in

the 2021-2022 season to 499.2 viss per acre on more than 540,000 acres in the 2025-2026 planting season. Total nationwide cotton production exceeded 27.43 million viss. Compared with the country’s domestic cotton requirements, this indicates that cotton production has generated a substantial surplus. At current world market prices, the President underlined that cotton is trading at between US\$1,800 and US\$1,900

per tonne. If the nation achieves its target cotton yield of 700 viss per acre, the sale of surplus cotton could generate an estimated US\$500 million in additional export revenue. He guaranteed that the State will also provide the necessary support and assistance. During its tenure, the government will make every effort to ensure the successful development of the cotton cultivation and production sector.

“The President noted that irrigation and supplementary water for cotton cultivation can be supplied through solar powered river pumping projects. He added that, with labour shortages posing a growing challenge in agriculture, seed sowing equipment such as feed seeders is now being utilized. The President stressed the need to develop agro-based industries based on cotton cultivation. He instructed that as

cotton cultivation is a sector that brings benefits to the country, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development are required to give due attention to this sector and make concerted efforts, urging cotton farmers and responsible officials to work hard to achieve the targeted per-acre yield.

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President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing views quality groundnut at the Regional Research Centre (Magway) of the Department of Agriculture after he attended the seminar titled “From Cotton Cultivation towards Textile Industry” held at the city hall in Magway yesterday.

Voices of Success: Cocokyun’s Students Celebrate 100% Matriculation Pass Rate



Matriculation exam winners and teachers from Cocokyun Township are seen in group photo. PHOTO: SITHU

STUDENTS from the remote Cocokyun have shared their joy after the township achieved a 100 per cent pass rate in Myanmar’s 2026 matriculation examination, a milestone made possible through the combined efforts of teachers, parents,

education officials and local authorities despite the town’s limited educational resources.

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Specialist medical teams extend healthcare services in Mawlamyine

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2026 matriculation marksheets available via online booking

PyinOoLwin Prepares for Tourism Boom after Airport Opening

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NATIONAL

Solar Power Workshop to Promote Renewable Energy Use in Myanmar

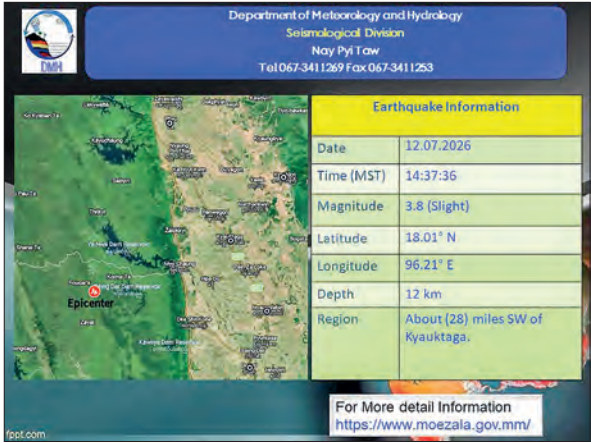


THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is organizing a workshop to increase the contribution of solar power systems to Myanmar’s electricity supply. The event will bring together experts, businesses, relevant organizations, students and interested individuals to

discuss solar technology, battery systems and solar power solutions. The workshop will be held from 9 am to 4:45 pm on 15 July 2026 at Horizon Lake View Resort in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. More than 300 participants have already registered as of 10 July.

Those who have not yet registered are invited to sign up through the provided QR code or contact the designated phone numbers. Registration will close at 4:30 pm on 14 July 2026. Previous registrants through the Google Form do not need to register again. — MNA/ST

Two minor earthquakes strike Bago and Mandalay regions on 12 July



This photo features a seismological map released by the DMH showing the earthquake that struck Bago Region on the afternoon of 12 July.

A minor earthquake measuring 3.8 on the Richter scale struck Myanmar at 2:37:36 pm yesterday, according to a statement released by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH). The earthquake was

detected at a depth of 12 kilometres underground, with its epicentre located approximately 50 miles north-northwest of the Bago Seismic Station, about 28 miles southwest of Kyauktaga, 17 miles northwest of Nyaunglebin, and eight miles

southwest of Penwagon. Similarly, a minor earthquake measuring 4.0 magnitude struck at 05:09:23 am yesterday. According to the DMH, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 11 kilometres underground, with its epicentre located approximately 49 miles north-northwest of the Mandalay Seismic Station and about 11 miles north of Singu. The DMH had also previously reported that a 4.1-magnitude earthquake struck Singu Township in Mandalay Region on the morning of 17 June. According to current seismic data for Myanmar, the country is expected to continue experiencing only routine, localized earthquakes

ranging from magnitude 2.5 to 4.0, with no unusual changes detected, the AI Info Team reported. Furthermore, based on currently available geological data, there is no evidence to suggest that a major earthquake of magnitude 7.0 or higher will occur in the near future. “However, earthquakes do not strike randomly. They are simply the natural, periodic release of stress accumulated over many years along tectonic plate boundaries. Only by staying vigilant and remaining prepared in advance can we mitigate the risks posed by earthquakes,” an official from the AI Info Team cautioned. — Htun Htun/TH

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 12 July 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: The monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea, the North Bay and the Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and a few clouds to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 13 July 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood regionally heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states and isolated heavy falls in Bago and upper Sagaing regions and Shan State. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Magway, Lower Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Chin and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 9-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: The strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 July 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 July 2026: Some rain or thundershowers with may be heavy at times. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 13 July 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 13

Issued at 8 am MST on 12 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and (northern and eastern) Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls during today morning to 18 July 2026.

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

Advisory

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

Flood Warning

(Issued at 8 am MST on 12 July 2026)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Thaungyin River at Myawady is observed as more than three feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next one day.

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

NATIONAL

PyinOoLwin Plants 3,000 Saplings in Drive to Green the City

PyinOoLwin Greening Project was launched this year to become greener with abundant trees and forests, healthier, more pleasant to live in, sustainably developed and clean.

The national-level monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2026 took place in Block 2 of the Maymyo firewood reserve in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday morning, attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who planted a Jacaranda sapling. Speaking on the occasion, the President announced that the PyinOoLwin Greening Project, launched this year, aims to preserve the city for future generations as

a model of sustainable urban development, greener with abundant trees and forests, healthier and more livable, clean, well maintained, and environmentally resilient. He noted that forest plantations are being established in the northern, southern, and eastern parts of PyinOoLwin, with 400,000 saplings to be planted across 15 plots covering 2,000 acres of project land. The President urged the relevant departments to establish urban forest plantations and community forest areas to expand

the city's green zones. He revealed that the Mandalay Region Forest Department plans to distribute more than one million saplings to the people and government departments to plant them along both sides of roads and railways. At the ceremony, the President planted a Jacaranda sapling at the designated venue. The dignitaries who accompanied the President, the Mandalay Region chief minister, the region-level authorities, senior Tatmadaw officers, departmental personnel,



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets a participant at the monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2026 in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday.

students and teachers participated in the tree-growing activities. The President and his party observed the public's participation in the tree planting activities. A total of 3,000 saplings of cherry, starflower, Jacaranda, gold mohur, ironwood, mahogany and other evergreen species were planted at the national-level monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2026 in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday. The first national tree planting ceremony was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 June, where 3,000 saplings were planted. On the same day, people across the country participated in planting 80,520 saplings at 111 locations nationwide. The second ceremony took place in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 June, adding another 3,000 saplings. — MNA/TTA

State Support Aims to Lift Cotton Yields

FROM PAGE 1

After the seminar, the President asked the attendees about the ways to develop cotton cultivation and production. The seminar was attended by the President's entourage, the chief ministers of Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions, as well as representatives of the cotton farmer groups, seed producers, seed oil millers, cotton wool and yarn producers, loom operators, and ginners. The President and party visited the Regional Research Centre (Magway) of the Department of Agriculture. He also inspected the display of quality seeds such as paddy, groundnut, green

gram, cotton, sesame and sunflower, the organic fertilizer and natural pesticide solution produced by the centre, and the research tests conducted at the Nano Technology for Seed Treatment Chamber with the use of cold plasma and UV machines and crop dryers. In his guidance, the President stressed the need not only to produce high yield, quality certified crop varieties, but also to pursue research and production that ensure crops meet international market standards, covering exportable traits such as colour, aroma, taste, and size. He underscored that the centre needs to con-

Salient points from the guidance given by the President at the cotton seminar

- 1. As labour shortages have become a growing challenge in agricultural activities, feed seeders are being utilized.
- 2. If the country succeeds in achieving its target cotton yield of 700 viss per acre, the sale of surplus cotton could generate additional export revenue of approximately US\$500 million.
- 3. The government will make every effort to ensure the successful development of the cotton cultivation and production sector.

duct trials and research to increase the per-acre target yields of Myanmar's Pawsan rice and oilseed crops, including groundnuts and sesame, and to ensure sufficient domestic production of high-quality,

pure seeds. The President viewed the research farm of crops in the centre plots and test plantations of green gram, sesame and groundnut and gave necessary guidance to officials. — MNA/TTA

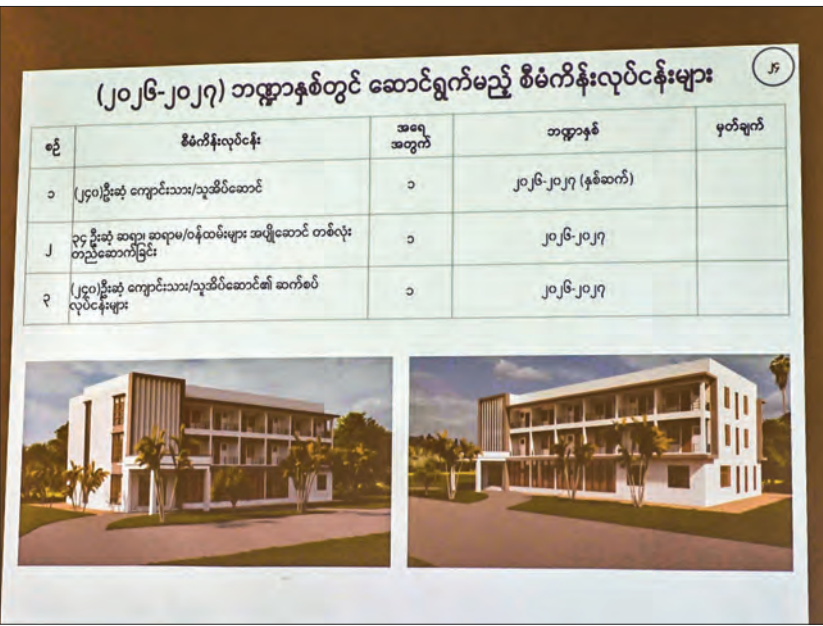
Cleanup campaign conducted at Falam People's Hospital damaged by terrorists

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, accompanied by members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected a collective cleanup campaign at Falam People's Hospital (200-bed) on 11 July, which had been damaged by terrorist incidents. He observed Tatmadaw members, police officers, departmental officials, and local residents working together to clean the hospital buildings and compound and encouraged the participants. Falam People's Hospital was upgraded to a 200-bed facility in July 2008 and has since provided healthcare services to local residents of Chin State. The deputy minister then inspected joint reconstruction efforts by Tatmadaw members, MPF members, and residents to repair homes damaged by terrorists in Balai and Pharthauk wards of Falam, and provided corrugated iron sheets and roofing nails. During the inspection tour, the deputy minister instructed officials to ensure that the materials provided accurately match actual on-ground requirements, prevent the wastage of relief supplies, and ensure that no local residents genuinely in need of assistance are left behind in Falam's rehabilitation and reconstruction processes. — MNA/TH

NATIONAL



President U Min Aung Hlaing meets faculty members of the Technological University (Magway) during his inspection tour in Magway yesterday.



been known for its strong educational standards and produced many outstanding performers in this year's matriculation examination. Stressing that quality education begins at the basic level, he called on teachers and education officials to strengthen classroom instruction and continue promoting compulsory education through the KG+9 system. He also highlighted the importance of reading, saying it broadens knowledge, improves critical thinking and equips young people with the skills needed for future success.

The President said the government is working to improve people's livelihoods by promoting agriculture and livestock production, while encouraging citizens to acquire both academic and vocational skills so they can become self-reliant. He stressed that regional development depends not only on government investment but also on the active participation of local communities.

SEE PAGE 5

President Calls for Education, Agricultural Growth and Infrastructure Development in Minbu

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing met local officials, community leaders and departmental representatives in Minbu Township, Magway Region,

yesterday afternoon, emphasizing the importance of education, agricultural development, infrastructure improvement and environmental conservation as key pillars to regional and national progress.

Addressing the gathering at Minbu Sasana Beikman Hall, the President said Minbu has undergone significant development since the opening of the Ayeyawady River bridge linking the town with Mag-

way, transforming it into an important commercial and administrative centre in the region. He urged local authorities to continue improving urban development so that Minbu could serve as a model township

for the district.

The President placed particular emphasis on education, describing it as the foundation of national development and social progress. He noted that Minbu has traditionally

Independent complaint system set up for judicial misconduct cases

THE Union Supreme Court has established independent complaint mechanisms for reporting judicial misconduct and corruption involving judges, according to Supreme Court Judge U Thein Ko Ko. Judges serving at township and district courts are required to follow civil service laws, regulations and codes of conduct, as well as judicial ethics issued in 2017. The Supreme Court of the Union investigates complaints



Photo shows a meeting of judges at the Supreme Court of the Union.

transferred from the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Office of the President and direct submissions to

the department when there are reasonable grounds for violations.

Disciplinary actions

are taken against judges and judicial staff in accordance with civil service laws, and related information on penalties is transparently included in the annual reports of the courts.

The Union Supreme Court stated it will continue working on establishing key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess the integrity and quality of courts, with advice from the Anti-Corruption Commission. — ASH/KZL

Myanmar participates in regional seminar in Siem Reap, Cambodia

A delegation from the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) attended the regional seminar titled "LMC and Multilateralism: Challenges and Ways Forward for Shared Growth," held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 9 to 11 July and organized by Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.

During the seminar, Mr Meas Kim Heng, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, delivered the opening remarks, while MISIS members U Ko Ko Maung and Daw Carole Ann Chit Tha served as key panelists. Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Kyaw Soe Min also attended the seminar. — ASH/TH

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NATIONAL

President Calls for Education, Agricultural Growth and Infrastructure Development in Minbu

FROM PAGE 4

Highlighting Magway Region's agricultural potential, he encouraged farmers to expand cotton cultivation and develop value-added industries ranging from cotton processing to textile manufacturing. He also called for greater efforts to increase domestic edible oil production by improving sesame and other oilseed yields, saying higher agricultural productivity would strengthen rural incomes, increase exports and reduce reliance on imported cooking oil. Livestock breeding and modern agricultural practices should also be expanded to support sustainable economic growth, he added.

Community representatives presented several



President U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets attendees at the meeting with local officials, community leaders and departmental representatives in Minbu Township, Magway Region, yesterday.

proposals to improve local infrastructure, including flood protection along the Ayeyawady River, upgrading roads, constructing a new hospital building, pro-

viding dormitories for vocational students, expanding solar power generation and improving public utilities. The President listened to the requests and instructed

relevant authorities to coordinate and take necessary action. He also donated books and publications to residents to enhance reading and education.

The President also urged residents to plant more trees to help mitigate the effects of rising temperatures and climate change, noting that environmental

conservation is essential for future generations. He further called for continued efforts to improve health-care, sports, urban development and public awareness, while encouraging people to work together for the country's long-term development.

During his visit, the President inspected the upgrading of the Minbu District Sports Ground before visiting Magway University and the Technological University (Magway). At both institutions, he toured academic buildings, research facilities and libraries, received briefings from university officials on infrastructure and educational needs, and gave guidance on future development plans. — MNA/ST

Registration now open for Chinese vocal class trainees

FOR those who like Chinese songs and want to learn singing skills systematically, Chinese vocal class will be opening soon for third time and trainees are now being accepted, said the China Cultural Centre in Yangon.

In addition to basic vocal training, the vocal class will teach singing techniques for modern Chinese songs and ancient Chinese cultural arts- poetries in Tang Dynasty and rhymes in Song Dynasty. Learning Chinese songs can also help practising Chinese speaking skill, it said.

Anyone who is interested in Chinese music and language can join the vocal class. Trainees are limited so early registrations are preferred, said the China Cultural Centre in Yangon. — TWA/ZS

授课老师
Vocal Trainer

Ko Phyo (梁明杰)

ACES 音乐队 主唱
Vocalist, ACES Music Band

声乐训练: 葛佩平 GITAMATE 音乐学院

专业经验: 中德双语婚礼主持人
2019年参加中国广西广播电视台春晚并演唱

Vocal Training: Studies at GITAMATE Music Institute

Professional Experience: Wedding Presenter (Chinese & Burmese Language)
2019 Chinese New Year Performance at Guangxi TV Station

Chinese vocal class is being advertised.

Shan State CM releases fingerlings into Inlay Lake, tours local MSMEs



Shan State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe observes a smithy of Sekhaung Village from the Inlay region of southern Shan State on 11 July 2026.

SHAN State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe and his wife, accompanied by state ministers, the state advocate-general and officials, released 207,000 fingerlings into the natural waters of Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe on 11 July.

The chief minister inspected weed removal activities in the lake carried out by the Nyaungshwe

Township Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department to preserve the cleanliness and beauty of Inlay Lake. He also visited Heya Ywama Village, where local MSME products from the Inlay region of southern Shan State are produced and sold. — Maung Maung Than (Taunggyi)/MKKS

Bago CM observes mechanized rice cultivation

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win met local farmers in Phaye Village, Thanatpin Township yesterday, and discussed measures to reduce chemical fertilizer use, promote natural fertilizer production and use, grow beans as intercropping crops, and achieve target yields for various crops.

He also provided necessary agricultural inputs to farmers and coordinated support for their needs.

Later, the chief minister observed collective monsoon rice cultivation using agricultural machinery produced, distributed and sold within Bago Region, including potable transplanting machines and seeders. — Region IPRD/KZL



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win and officials observe monsoon rice cultivation using a drum seeder in Thanatpin yesterday.

NATIONAL

Illegal scam building demolished in Shwe Kokko



Image displays the update after the demolition of a nine-storey structure.

A nine-storey illegal building used for online scams and gambling activities in the Shwe Kokko area of Myawady Township, Kayin State, has been systematically demolished, bringing the total number of demolished illegal buildings to 72. Authorities have been conducting joint operations to demolish illegal buildings and destroy equipment used for online

scams and gambling activities in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas. Of the 77 targeted buildings in Shwe Kokko, 57 have been demolished using machinery, while 20 have been destroyed through controlled demolition. According to reports, 72 illegal buildings have been demolished, and the remaining five will be demolished in due course. — MNA/KZL

Specialist medical teams extend healthcare services in Mawlamyine

UNDER the programme organized by the Ministry of Health, a specialist medical team comprising professor/senior specialists from Yangon Specialist Hospital (500-bed) and the Yangon Children's Hospital provided free medical treatment at Mawlamyine General Hospital in Mawlamyine, Mon State from 10 to 12 July, along with specialists from Mawlamyine General Hospital.

During this outreach, a total of 2,265 patients received treatment, including individuals from 11 townships in Mon State. The medical conditions treated ranged from cardiac diseases, gastrointestinal issues, and neurological ailments to orthopaedic and dermatological problems, among others.

Additionally, medical check-ups included procedures such as Echocardiography, Oesophago-Gastro-Duodenoscopy (OGD) Scope, CT scans, X-ray examinations, laboratory tests, ultrasound scans, and electrocardiograms (ECG). A total of 111 patients requiring further treatment were referred to relevant hospitals. In addition, professors/specialists from Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw will conduct field treatment programmes in general hospitals in regions and states, and specialists general hospitals from region and state will conduct field treatment programmes in districts/townships. The Ministry of Health will also conduct such programmes in other townships. — MNA/KZL



The specialist and health staff perform medical checkup on the patient with the aid of diagnosis machines in Mawlamyine.

Nawngkhio's rural water supply work completed

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Development inspected the completed rural water supply project in Bantbwekyin Village, Nawngkhio Township, on 11 July. The project aimed to ensure an adequate supply of drinking water to rural residents and to ensure year-round access to safe drinking water. Officials of Shan State (North) and District Department of Rural Development and engineering staff looked into the laying of a spring water pipe-



Officials of the Department of Rural Development inspect the completed rural water supply project in Bantbwekyin Village, Nawngkhio Township, on 11 July. line measuring one mile and four furlongs, a 5,000-gallon brick water tank and an embankment measuring 25 feet in length, three feet in width and five feet in height in the village. In meeting with members of the village

water supply committee and villagers, officials discussed the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of the water supply facilities and to use the water distribution system properly. The project was implemented under the Quick Win Programme with K64.5 million provided under the fund. The project has now been completed 100 per cent, enabling rural residents in the village to enjoy access to clean drinking water throughout the year. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

46 Myanmar national detainees repatriated from Ruili

ACCORDING to the Consulate-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Kunming, 46 Myanmar nationals, who had been detained in Ruili, China, for illegal residency and employment, were repatriated to Myanmar on 8 July. These Myanmar nationals were reportedly arrested for living and working illegally at the Xinjiang Garment factory in Ruili, Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province. To ensure their safe return, the Myanmar Con-

sulate-General in Kunming maintained close coordination with the Foreign Affairs Office of the Dehong Prefecture People's Government and the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ruili People's Government, working alongside the relevant authorities in Ruili. Following these coordination efforts, the individuals were systematically handed over to the relevant Myanmar authorities on 8 July via the Nantaw, the border crossing point between Ruili and Muse. — TWA/ZN

Labour Attaché Office secures insurance for deceased Myanmar migrant worker

FOR a Myanmar migrant worker who passed away in a car accident in Thailand, Myanmar Labour Attaché Office helped in claiming insurance worth 1.5 million baht from a private insurance company. The worker died in a car accident in June 2026. The first transfer 500,000 baht was made at the office on 10 July. Similarly, a few days ago, the office helped a worker receiving private



The Labour Attaché Office transfers the insurance claim to the deceased worker's wife. insurance claim 1.1 million baht and transferred it to his mother on 7 July. Myanmar migrant workers are advised to contact the telephone

numbers of the Labour Offices during office hours if their rights are violated. More information can be obtained from its call centre: 020030015, Labour Attaché (Bangkok): 0618108454, Labour Officer (Bangkok): 0652206952 and 0626890119, Labour Attaché (Mae Sot): 0652206953, Labour Officer (Chang Mai): 0945866607 and Labour Officer (Ranong): 0634818121. — MT/ZS

INTERVIEW/NATIONAL

Voices of Success: Cocokyun's Students...

FROM PAGE 1

All eight candidates from Cocokyun Township passed the national examination, including seven students from Cocokyun Basic Education High School and one external candidate. The successful group included children of Navy families and an Air Force enlisted serviceman, while one student earned a distinction.

Township Education Officer Daw Khin Aye Nang described the achievement as a significant improvement. Last year, only 12 of 19 candidates passed, but this year's students achieved a perfect result. She said the success reflected the dedication of the school's teacherhead

and 11 teachers, along with support from education authorities, the Navy, the Air Force and township officials, who provided extra classes, meals and learning materials. She added that the school still needs more science teachers but is preparing intensively for the 21 students expected to sit next year's examination.

Among the successful candidates was Ma Thone Wati Oo, 20, a member of a Navy family who passed on her second attempt. She said failing the previous year motivated her to work harder, studying every lesson thoroughly while receiving constant encouragement from her teachers. She recalled being unable to sleep the

night before the results were announced and described learning that she had passed as one of the happiest moments of her life. She hopes to study at the Defence Services Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences and become a military nurse.

Another successful student, Ma Su Sanda Hlaing, 18, passed on her first attempt. She expressed gratitude to her teachers, parents and local authorities, noting that students on the remote island often face delays in receiving books and other educational supplies because transportation depends on ships and aircraft. She plans to continue her education and pursue

a nursing career.

Maung Thura Aung, 18, said he maintained a disciplined study routine, reviewing lessons every evening and waking at 5 am to revise before school. Although he did not receive a distinction, he said passing the examination was a proud achievement and thanked his teachers and education officials for their support. He hopes to attend university and become a civil servant.

Maung Myat Zaw Lin, also 18, said he celebrated his success by running through the rain with excitement when the results were announced. He credited his achievement to faithfully following his teachers' guidance throughout the academic year and hopes to serve the country after graduating from university.

Another student, Maung Win Si Thu Nyein, 20, passed on his second attempt. He admitted feeling anxious before the results were released but said he believed his hard work would be rewarded. He encouraged younger students to view the matriculation examination as an important gateway to their future and urged them never to give up.

The township's success also included Air Force enlisted serviceman Maung Phone Htet Paing, 20, who was granted permission to take the examination while serving in the military. He thanked his commander for supporting his education and said passing the exam has opened the door to further technical training and, eventually, the opportunity

to earn a university degree and become a military officer.

Lt-Col Phyo Zin Oo of the Cocokyun Airbase said the Tatmadaw encourages personnel to pursue education because developing skilled and educated human resources benefits both the Tatmadaw and the country. He noted that the successful serviceman had already been recognized for his achievement and would receive further technical training.

Students and education officials alike said the 100 per cent pass rate demonstrates that determination, strong teaching and community support can overcome the challenges of studying in one of Myanmar's most isolated island communities. — Thitsa (MNA)/ST

PyinOoLwin Prepares for Tourism Boom after Airport Opening

FROM PAGE 1

PYINOOLOWIN, Myanmar's famous hill station known as the "City of Flowers", is preparing for a rise in visitor arrivals during this year's open tourism season following the reopening of Anisakan Airport.

Local tourism operators and flower garden managers expect the airport to make travel to the scenic destination faster and more convenient, attracting more domestic and international tourists and boosting the local economy.

Daw Hla Hla, manager of PyinOoLwin's December Garden, said, "Businesses are optimistic that the renewed air connection will benefit the tourism, commercial and hospitality sectors." She also noted that the town remains a popular destination during major holidays, including Thadingyut, Tazaungdine and Thingyan, thanks to its cool climate, picturesque



This photo depicts pleasant December Garden in PyinOoLwin. PHOTO: KANU

scenery, cafés and local cuisine.

Garden operators are also upgrading attractions ahead of the peak season. Daw Shwe Yi Tun, manager of PyinOoLwin Waterfall Garden, said the park has planted more than 30 species of flowers and is expanding colourful floral displays and photo spots to appeal to younger visitors. She added that flower fields and waterfalls remain the town's biggest attractions.

PyinOoLwin is home to many well-known tourist sites, including the National Kandawgyi Gardens, Pwe Kauk, Anisakan

and Deedok waterfalls, flower gardens, colonial-era buildings, markets and ethnic cultural villages, making it one of Myanmar's best-known mountain resorts.

Local residents say the town has seen significant urban improvements in recent years and are hopeful that the reopening of Anisakan Airport will bring even more visitors. Tourists are especially drawn to PyinOoLwin's cool weather, blooming flowers and annual flower festival, while the lush greenery and waterfalls during the rainy season also remain popular attractions. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/ST

2026 matriculation marksheets available via online booking

STUDENTS who passed the 2026 matriculation examination can apply to receive their marksheets through the Online Appointment system starting 14 July, according to the Department of Myanmar Examinations under the Ministry of Education.

Students and parents wishing to obtain marksheets must access the DME Online Service Portal (<https://osp.dme.gov.mm>) to make an appointment. The marksheets will be issued from 16 July at the Department of Myanmar Examinations head office in Nay Pyi Taw and its Hline branch in Yangon, based on the locations selected during the



The Department of Myanmar Examinations (Hline Branch) office.

application process.

Applicants collecting their marksheets in person must present the QR Code and Transaction Number generated from the online portal. For those unable to visit the offices, a postal delivery

service is also available by selecting the mailing option during the application process. The department said the system was arranged to provide a more convenient and efficient service for students. — TWA/KZL

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Strengthen domestic airport networks

THE Anisakhan Airport, inaugurated the other day, becomes a facility to help develop the aviation transport of the State as well as the regional development and the enhancement of tourism service as a milestone in the PyinOoLwin region.

Currently, a total of three international airports and 28 domestic airports are being operated in order to give regular flight services to travellers. The State has been implementing an upgrading project for Anisakhan Airport since 2023 to ensure that it fully meets the standards and requirements of an airport. The already-inaugurated Anisakhan Airport will proudly stand as an airport that further strengthens the domestic airport network.

The new Government is making vigorous efforts to provide and develop the necessary infrastructure to transform the country into a modern and comprehensively developed nation.

Anisakhan Airport will not only serve the tourism sector of the PyinOoLwin region, but will also become a strategic gateway for aviation connectivity in the development of “Yadanabon Cyber City” into a world-class Silicon Valley, which is envisioned as a hub for advancing the country’s Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. Moreover, the facility will help distribute high-quality agricultural products of PyinOoLwin to domestic markets as well as foreign countries through the Air Cargo & Cold Chain Logistics system.

has been constructed. Furthermore, navigation equipment, runway lighting systems, and aircraft arrival guidance systems have also been installed.

Anisakhan Airport will not only serve the tourism sector of the PyinOoLwin region, but will also become a strategic gateway for aviation connectivity in the development of “Yadanabon Cyber City” into a world-class Silicon Valley, which is envisioned as a hub for advancing the country’s Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. Moreover, the facility will help distribute high-quality agricultural products of PyinOoLwin to domestic markets as well as foreign countries through the Air Cargo & Cold Chain Logistics system.

As such, Anisakhan Airport will firmly establish itself as an airport that supports networked aviation routes connecting with airports across Myanmar, including those in Shan State, and contributes to the socioeconomic development of the people through the flow of trade and technology.

Cooperatives Contributing to the National Economy and People’s Prosperity

By Min Min Zan

COOPERATIVES have long played an important role in improving the economic and social well-being of people around the world. They are organizations formed by individuals who voluntarily work together to achieve common economic, social, and cultural goals. In Myanmar, cooperatives have become an important mechanism for supporting rural development, promoting entrepreneurship, and improving the living standards of ordinary citizens. As a member of the international cooperative movement, Myanmar recognizes the significance of cooperatives in national development. At a time when the world economy faces numerous challenges, including inflation, geopolitical conflicts, climate-related disasters, and economic uncertainty, the cooperative system offers a practical and sustainable approach to achieving inclusive growth and prosperity.

The Central Cooperative Society of Myanmar became a member of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) on 7 September 1993. Since 1995, Myanmar has celebrated the International Day of Cooperatives every year. The cooperative movement promotes the principles of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. These principles encourage people to work together for mutual benefit rather than pursuing individual interests alone. The annual celebration of the International Day of Cooperatives highlights the importance of cooperation in solving economic and social problems and in building stronger communities.

Throughout the world, economic inequality remains a serious concern. Although technological progress and globalization have created

enormous wealth, many people continue to live in poverty. In many countries, a small percentage of the population controls a large share of national wealth, while millions struggle to meet their daily needs. This situation is especially challenging for workers, farmers, and small business owners who often lack sufficient capital to expand their activities or improve their productivity. As a result, many people seek ways to increase their income and improve their quality of life through collective action. Cooperatives provide an effective solution by enabling individuals with similar interests and needs to pool their resources and work together.

The fundamental idea of a cooperative is that people can achieve more through cooperation than through individual effort. Tasks that are too difficult or expensive for one person can often be accomplished when people combine their resources, skills, and knowledge. Cooperative members contribute funds, share responsibilities, and participate in decision-making processes. Because cooperatives are democratically managed, each member has a voice in determining the direction of the organization. This democratic structure promotes transparency, accountability, and fairness. It also strengthens trust among members and encourages active participation in community development.

Myanmar is a developing country with a population of more than fifty million people. Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors of the economy, providing livelihoods for a large portion of the population. In addition to agriculture, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a critical role in generating employment,

supporting local industries, and stimulating economic activity. However, these enterprises often face significant challenges, including limited access to finance, inadequate infrastructure, fluctuating market conditions, and rising production costs. In such circumstances, cooperatives can help entrepreneurs and farmers overcome difficulties by providing access to credit, shared equipment, training opportunities, and collective marketing channels.

Myanmar’s economy has experienced considerable difficulties in recent years. Economic growth has been affected by political instability, natural disasters, supply-chain disruptions, foreign exchange shortages, and rising energy costs. According to recent assessments, the country’s economic recovery remains fragile. The Asian Development Bank projects Myanmar’s economic growth to be around 2.4 per cent in 2026.

Furthermore, the World Bank has reported that Myanmar’s economy continues to face substantial pressures from rising fuel prices and external economic shocks. Increased energy costs have raised transportation and production expenses, making it more difficult for businesses to operate efficiently. Economic activity has shown some signs of stabilization, but structural challenges remain significant. Continued uncertainty, trade disruptions, and foreign exchange constraints continue to affect both businesses and consumers.

In this difficult environment, cooperatives can provide valuable support to communities and businesses. Agricultural cooperatives can help farmers purchase seeds, fertilizers, and equipment at lower costs. Savings and credit cooperatives can offer



affordable financial services to individuals who may not have access to commercial banks. Consumer cooperatives can help members obtain essential goods at reasonable prices. Producer cooperatives can strengthen the bargaining power of small manufacturers and entrepreneurs by enabling them to market their products collectively. Through these activities, cooperatives contribute to income generation, employment creation, and poverty reduction.

The importance of cooperatives extends beyond Myanmar. Across the world, cooperative organizations serve hundreds of millions of people and operate in sectors such as agriculture, finance, healthcare, housing, retail, and energy. Many successful cooperatives have demonstrated that businesses can be profitable while also serving social objectives. By prioritizing the needs of their members rather than maximizing profits for external shareholders, cooperatives often promote more equitable and sustainable forms of economic development.

The global economy in 2026 presents both opportunities and challenges. International organizations project moderate global growth, but

the pace remains below historical averages. The International Monetary Fund estimates that global economic growth will be around 3.1 to 3.3 per cent in 2026. However, the world economy continues to face risks from geopolitical conflicts, inflationary pressures, energy market volatility, and financial uncertainties. Rising commodity prices and disruptions in international trade have affected both developed and developing countries.

One major concern is the impact of geopolitical tensions on global economic stability. Recent conflicts in various regions have increased energy prices and disrupted supply chains, creating uncertainty for businesses and consumers worldwide. The World Bank has warned that higher fuel costs and geopolitical instability could slow economic growth and increase inflation in many countries. Developing economies are particularly vulnerable because they often depend heavily on imported fuel and essential commodities.

Another important trend shaping the global economy is technological innovation, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI). Advances in AI are creating new opportunities

for productivity growth, business innovation, and economic expansion. Investment in technology sectors continues to drive growth in many countries. However, technological change also raises concerns about income inequality, job displacement, and the need for workforce adaptation. Governments, businesses, and educational institutions must work together to ensure that the benefits of technological progress are widely shared across society.

At the same time, climate change has emerged as a major economic challenge. Extreme weather events, floods, droughts, and natural disasters are causing significant economic losses around the world. Agricultural production, infrastructure, and public health are increasingly affected by climate-related risks. Countries must invest in sustainable development, renewable energy, and climate resilience to protect future economic growth. Cooperatives can contribute to these efforts by promoting environmentally sustainable practices, supporting local communities, and encouraging responsible resource management.

SEE PAGE 11

Are You Empathetic or Just a People Pleaser?

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

WE live in a world that constantly demands our attention. From the moment our alarms buzz in the morning to the final scroll of our phones at night, we are bombarded with things to prioritize. But amid the chaos of everyday life, please choose yourself before everyone else.

Let’s get one thing straight right off the bat – this isn’t about being selfish. It doesn’t count when it comes to your parents or your family; taking care of the people who raised and support you is just love. But outside of that sacred circle? If you are constantly putting everyone else’s comfort above your own, this is your wake-up call. Because when you’re too busy filling everyone else’s cups, yours runs dry.

The Cost of Kindness: When Giving Becomes Giving In

There is a beautiful difference between empathy and people-pleasing, though they often masquerade as the same thing.

Empathy is understanding someone else’s feelings and caring about their well-being.

People-pleasing is abandoning your own needs just to keep someone else comfortable.

Here is the harsh truth we have to face: people will always take advantage of someone who constantly forgives, constantly surrenders, and constantly says yes. They don’t necessarily do it out of malice; they do it because you’ve taught them that your boundaries are negotiable.

You must develop the instinct to know when to accept things and when to say a firm, unapologetic “No”. Do not be afraid to reject invitations, favours, or tasks that make you uncomfortable or drained.

My Wake-Up Call: From Hospital Beds to Hard Boundaries

I’m not speaking from a place of

judgement. Admittedly, I was once a chronic people-pleaser.

At one point, I was grinding through a full-time nine-to-five job during the week and working a part-time gig on the weekends. I had zero free time. Yet, when my friends wanted to hang out, I was so terrified they would complain or abandon me that I actually took leaves of absence from work just to keep them happy.

It was the same story at my job. My managers would call and assign me shifts on my designated days off, and I would always say yes. Why? Because I had built a reputation as the person who never said no.

Then came the breaking point.

I was hospitalized, fighting off Hepatitis (A). My phone rang. It was my manager, asking me to come into work because a coworker had taken an emergency leave.

Read that again. I was literally in a hospital bed with a serious liver infection, and they wanted me to cover a shift.

It made absolutely no sense. I am not a miserable loser with a victim mindset – I don’t look for reasons to feel sorry for myself – but in that moment, I realized I could no longer accept that level of disrespect.

Choosing Tranquillity Over Approval

From that day forward, I chose my own tranquillity and comfort. Learning to say no didn’t make me a cold person; it made me a healthy one. If something is not okay with me, it is simply not okay. If you are reading this and recognizing your own reflection in my past, please hear me: You are allowed to protect your peace. Your time, your health, and your mental sanity are not currency to buy other people’s approval.

Choose yourself today. Everyone else can wait.



DELICACY/QUIZ

Traditional Myanmar Delicacy

Pyay Rice Salad (Pyay Htaminthoke)

WHEN visiting Pyay, one of the most popular local specialities is the famous Pyay Rice Salad. Loved not only by locals but also by people across Myanmar, Pyay Rice Salad shops can be found nationwide. It's as easy to prepare as it is delicious, which is why many households often make it at home.

So, for those tired of plain rice every day and wondering what to eat, here's a simple recipe for Pyay Rice Salad.

Ingredients

1. Cooked white rice
2. Vermicelli (chickpea flour noodles)
3. Boiled potatoes (thinly sliced)
4. Roasted chickpea powder
5. Chilli powder
6. Dried prawn powder
7. Chicken powder
8. Fish sauce
9. Garlic oil (fried with turmeric)
10. Cabbage (thinly sliced)
11. Garlic
12. Green chillies
13. Salad leaves
14. Myanmar tofu (yellow chickpea tofu)

Preparation

- Rice & Potatoes: Cook rice as usual and let it cool. Boil potatoes until soft, peel, and slice thinly.
- Tofu: Slice the chickpea tofu thinly.
- Vermicelli: Soak vermicelli in water for 1 hour, drain, then boil for about 3 minutes and drain again.

- Garlic Oil: Fry garlic with turmeric powder in oil until golden, then cool and mix the fried garlic back into the oil.
- Soup Base: Boil water with dried prawn powder, salt, and chicken powder. Once boiling, add pounded chilli, garlic, and sliced cabbage, adjusting taste as needed.

Mixing the Salad

- Place rice in a mixing bowl, add sliced potatoes, and a little tamarind juice (or lime juice if



- preferred).
 - Add vermicelli, tofu, garlic oil, fish sauce, salt, MSG (Monosodium Glutamate) or Ajinomoto if preferred, chickpea powder, and dried prawn powder.
 - Mix gently so the rice grains don't break.
 - Finally, garnish with coriander, fried shallots, sliced cabbage, and tofu to taste.
- Pyay Rice Salad pairs wonderfully with fried chicken, fried eggs, beef stir-fry, or mutton dishes.
- MOON



Weekly News Quiz

5-11 July 2026

NATIONAL NEWS QUIZ

Which airport has recently been inaugurated by the Myanmar President?

- A. Myeik Airport
- B. Loikaw Airport
- C. Anisakhan Airport
- D. Myitkyina Airport

Which nation is the leading importer of Myanmar's rice?

- A. Ivory Coast
- B. Philippines
- C. Bangladesh
- D. China

GLOBAL NEWS QUIZ

Which specific region of the Pacific Ocean experiences a warming of surface temperatures during an El Niño event?

- A. The northern and southern regions
- B. The central and eastern equatorial regions
- C. The western coastal areas near Asia
- D. The deep seafloor trenches

Which global city ranked first, ahead of Shanghai, in the 2026 international shipping centre report?

- A. Tokyo
- B. Rotterdam
- C. Singapore
- D. London

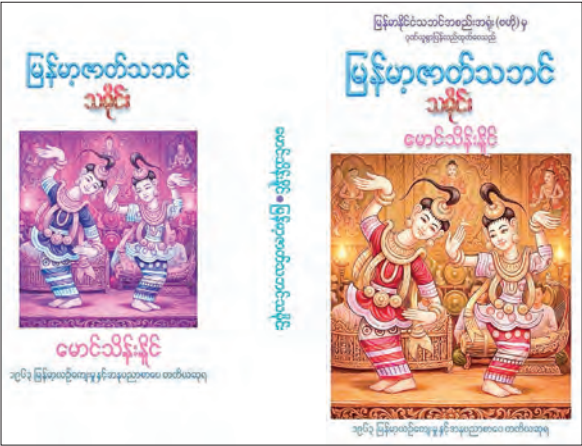
What primary type of food is targeted for regulation under Japan's newly revised staple food law?

- A. Wheat
- B. Rice
- C. Seafood
- D. Soybeans

SEE ANSWERS OF QUIZ ON PAGE 15

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

Classic Work ‘The History of Myanmar Zat Thabin’ Returns to Print



‘The History of Myanmar Zat Thabin’ written by Myanmar Language teacher Gondu U Thein Naing.

MYANMAR Theatrical Association (Central) said it will reprint, publish and distribute The History of Myanmar Zat Thabin written by Gondu U Thein Naing, a Myanmar Language teacher, for the first time.

The book features historical records about the Myanmar Zat Thabin, which has existed since the Pyu era. It is a good book that should be on the bookshelf of those who love Myanmar Thabin, it

said.

Sayagyi U Thein Naing was awarded the third prize of Myanmar Culture and Arts Literature genre in 1963 for the book. Orders can be placed via the following number: 01 3640982 or the Facebook page chat box. The price will be K25,000.

The association said it will continue trying to publish the next books related to the Thabin industry. — MT/ZS

Miss Supranational Myanmar 2026 vows to give her best at pageant in Poland

MYANMAR representative Zin Moe Pyae, Miss Supranational Myanmar 2026, has pledged to give her absolute best by using all her strength and intellect at the 17th Miss Supranational 2026 pageant, which will be held in Poland.

The prestigious pageant will take place in Poland on 31 July. The Myanmar beauty queen will compete in the Group 5 alongside representatives from countries including the Netherlands, Mexico, Portugal, Namibia, Türkiye, South Africa, and Hong Kong SAR.

“I really want to achieve a top-tier achievement. I am excited to see how well I can showcase everything I have pre-

pared. Since I have studied and trained to the best of my ability, I can’t say for certain what I may still be lacking, but I have conditioned myself to stay calm and free from anxiety. That’s why I want to tell everyone that I will spare no effort, using every ounce of my strength and intellect,” said Zin Moe Pyae, Miss Supranational Myanmar 2026.

The international pageant will also feature contestants from numerous countries, including Vietnam, India, Thailand, France, Spain, Brazil, Canada, the UK, the US, Paraguay, the Philippines, Venezuela, Australia, the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, and Singapore. — ASH/TH



This photo shows Myanmar representative Zin Moe Pyae at Yangon International Airport before departing to compete in the 17th Miss Supranational 2026 pageant in Poland.

Myanmar FIFAE Mobile team advances to Continental Championship 2026



CHARLIE (Aung Thant Sin) and ZIATAN (Min Thuya Thant) from Myanmar’s FIFAE Mobile national team are seen in the advert.

MYANMAR’S FIFAE Mobile national team has qualified for the FIFAE Continental Championship 2026 after successfully progressing through the National League competition and will continue competing in Malaysia for a place at the FIFAE World Cup 2026.

The Myanmar team competed for three weeks in the National League against teams from 17 countries, securing sixth place in the Consistency Ranking to earn a place at the continental championship.

Representing Myanmar in the international tournament are CHARLIE (Aung Thant Sin) and ZIATAN (Min Thuya Thant). Their achievements have been praised by the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation (MESF) and the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The FIFAE Continental Championship 2026 will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19 to 22 August. Top-performing teams at the event will qualify for the FIFAE World Cup 2026 in Saudi Arabia. — TWA/KZL

Cooperatives Contributing to the National Economy ...

FROM PAGE 9

In Myanmar, the cooperative movement can play an especially important role in supporting rural development and economic resilience. Rural communities often face challenges such as limited access to markets, financial services, and modern technology. By organizing farmers, artisans, and small entrepreneurs into cooperative

groups, communities can improve productivity, reduce costs, and increase their bargaining power. Cooperatives can also help members adapt to changing market conditions and environmental challenges through education, training, and collective action.

The success of cooperatives depends on strong leadership, effective management, active member

participation, and supportive government policies. Government agencies, cooperative societies, and community leaders must work together to strengthen the cooperative sector. Investments in education, financial literacy, digital technology, and infrastructure can further enhance the effectiveness of cooperatives and increase their contribution to national de-

velopment.

In conclusion, cooperatives are powerful instruments for promoting economic development, social inclusion, and community empowerment. In Myanmar, where many people face economic challenges and uncertainty, cooperatives provide practical solutions that enable individuals to work together for mutual benefit. They

support farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, and rural communities by improving access to resources, finance, and markets.

In fact, Myanmar is not a country that is completely unfamiliar with the cooperative system. It is a nation that has accumulated a great deal of experience with cooperatives over many decades. If we can learn from the mis-

takes of the past and work together through close cooperation between the government and the people, Myanmar’s social and economic development can achieve success far beyond our expectations. On the occasion of the International Day of Cooperatives, I would like to present this message with sincere hope and confidence for a brighter future.

ECONOMY WORLD

Chinese companies win WIPO Global Awards for strategic use of intellectual property

ArteryFlow automates non-invasive cardiac diagnostics, while Botree optimizes sustainable battery recycling.



Photo shows shoppers interacting with a humanoid robot at an unmanned retail store in Shenyang, Liaoning province. **PHOTO: CHINA DAILY**

THREE Chinese companies won the Global Awards 2026 presented by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) here on Friday.

Regend Therapeutics, ArteryFlow, and Botree were among 11 winners selected by the United Nations (UN) agency for innovation from over 1,300 applicants worldwide, representing countries

including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, and the United States.

The awards celebrate small and medium-sized enterprises and startups that leverage intellectual property to drive business growth and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This year, the organization expanded the accolades to 11 awards

by introducing a new sports category.

Regend Therapeutics broke barriers in regenerative medicine by developing a world-first lung repair therapy that is currently in Phase Three clinical trials and has already helped hundreds of patients with severe respiratory diseases.

ArteryFlow pioneered non-invasive cardiovascular diagnostics. The company utilizes artificial intelligence algorithms to replace invasive procedures with quick, 3-minute hemodynamic calculations.

Tackling the global scalability bottleneck of electric vehicle battery disposal, Botree focuses on building sustainable battery recycling supply chains. The company utilizes advanced technologies to efficiently recover critical metals such as nickel, cobalt and lithium, making material regeneration more economically viable. — Xinhua

Japan registers its tea under protection system

JAPAN'S farm ministry said Friday it has newly registered three products, including "Japanese tea", under its geographical indication protection system aimed at safeguarding brands of agricultural and fishery products as imitations spread overseas.

Once registered, products can be sold with a GI mark, and the government will crack down on false labeling and other violations.

The new designation for Japanese tea applies broadly to all green tea cultivated and processed domestically. It is unusual for a GI, which typically

protects brand names tied to specific regions, not to specify a particular production region.

The only other case is "Japanese sake", which is registered under the geographical indication protection system for alcohol that is overseen by the National Tax Agency.

Amid growing international popularity of green tea, the aim of the initiative is to highlight the differences between Japanese tea and overseas imitations to enhance its value, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.— Kyodo



The registration will help promote the brand power of Japanese tea as a whole, strengthen measures against imitation products and further boost robust exports. **PHOTO: KYODO**

India's food services market to reach \$150 billion by FY31

INDIA'S food services market is expected to grow from around \$90 billion in FY26 to \$150 billion by FY31, with online food delivery continuing to gain a larger share of the market, according to a report by Redseer Consulting.

The report said the online segment's share in the food services market is projected to increase from 11 per cent in FY26 to 18 per cent by FY31, reflecting changing consumer preferences and growing adoption of food delivery platforms.

According to the report, India's food services market has al-



India's food services market is growing steadily, with online acting as a key accelerator, while profitability needs a playbook as new opportunities arise. **PHOTO: ANI**

ready expanded significantly over the past five years. The market size increased from US\$ 56 billion in FY21 to around US\$ 90 billion in FY26, while the online share rose from four per cent to 11 per cent during the

same period.

It stated, "India's food services market is growing steadily, with online acting as a key accelerator, while profitability needs a playbook as new opportunities arise".

The report also

added that the market continues to benefit from rising consumer spending on convenience, increasing preference for eating outside the home and the rapid growth of organized food service brands.

The report noted that consumers, particularly younger people in metro and Tier-1 cities, are increasingly choosing outside meals not only for convenience but also for social gatherings and celebrations. At the same time, higher spending on leisure and convenience is driving greater consumption of non-home-cooked food.

— ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Credit usage drops amid economic stress

US credit card spending has dropped by the biggest margin in two years, highlighting Americans' financial strain from ongoing inflation, record interest rates and a "K-shaped" economy.

Total outstanding consumer debt dropped by roughly US\$182 million in May, Federal Reserve's recently released Consumer Credit Report showed. This marks the first decrease in consumer borrowing since late 2024. The overall drop was driven by a US\$5.3 billion slide in revolving credit, largely credit card debt, which also marked the biggest decline since 2024.

"I'm not going to use my credit card much anymore," Floyd Marion, 50, an electrician outside Washington DC, told Xinhua, citing losses in his investment portfolio. He's now relying on cash and plans to pay off his credit card by January. — Xinhua

Container ship hit, catches fire off Oman: UKMTO

A container ship sustained damage and caught fire following an incident off the coast of Oman, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said late Saturday.

The UKMTO said it received a report of the incident about 16.7 kilometres east of the Gulf country at 2240 GMT Saturday.

“Military authorities have reported that a container ship has sustained damage to the rear of the vessel, which has caused a fire onboard,” the advisory said, adding that authorities were investigating the incident.

The UKMTO did not disclose the name of the vessel.

Separately, the US Central Command said that the GFS Galaxy, a Cyprus-flagged container ship, was attacked by Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guard Corps when transiting the Strait of Hormuz, leaving a crew member missing. — ANI

India shifts to aggressive power capacity expansion

INDIA’S power utilities are entering a “different current” of aggressive capacity buildout, said Equirus, in a research report and initiated coverage on the sector, calling for a multi-year capex cycle led by renewables, storage and thermal additions.

The brokerage expects balance sheet leverage across private players to rise sharply through FY30 before easing as new assets stabilise.

“Going forward, the capex cycle spanning re-

newables, Nabha, Raigad PSP and the MP thermal project is expected to materially increase leverage,” Equirus noted on Torrent Power.

It forecasts net debt to rise from Rs 129 billion in FY26 to Rs 637 billion by FY30, while gross block expands to Rs 954 billion. Consequently, net debt/EBITDA is expected to peak at 4.9x in FY30.

Return ratios are likely to stay subdued during execution before recovering. — ANI



The image shows a large-scale, utility-grade Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) integrated with an electrical substation grid. PHOTO: ANI



Villagers harvest wheat at a village in Weirong Town of Jingning County, Pingliang City of northwest China’s Gansu Province, 7 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

China summer grain harvest tops 150 million tonnes for first time

CHINA has seen another bumper summer grain harvest in 2026, with total output topping 150 million tonnes for the first time, official data showed Friday.

The country’s summer grain output totaled 150.75 million tonnes this

year, up 0.7 per cent or 1 million tonnes year on year, according to a survey by the National Bureau of Statistics.

China’s summer grain sown area remained basically stable by standing at 26.53 million hectares, slightly down 0.2

per cent from last year. Of them, over 23 million hectares of wheat were sown, down 0.3 per cent year on year. The output per hectare reached 5,681.6 kilogrammes, an increase of 0.8 per cent from last year, according to the bureau. — Xinhua

Narita airport operator to start land expropriation process

THE operator of Japan’s Narita airport and related entities agreed Friday to begin procedures for compulsory land acquisition to advance its stalled plan to build a new runway and extend an existing one.

Narita International Airport Corp plans to expand the airport, a major international gateway in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, amid booming inbound tourism, but has struggled to acquire the necessary land.

The decision was made by a committee comprising representatives of the airport operator, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Chiba prefectural government and sur-

rounding municipalities.

“We have been reflecting upon the one-sidedness in the history of airport construction. We will do our best to gain approval from the landowners with their situation in mind,” said Naoki Fujii, president of the airport operator.

The operator said it has yet to acquire agreements for 4.8 per cent, or about 53 hectares, of the land needed for the project, as some landowners remain dissatisfied.

Construction of the 3,500-metre Runway C and an extension of the 2,500-metre Runway B by 1,000 metres has been under way at Narita airport since 2025 to accommodate growing inbound

tourism and expanding logistics demand.

Once completed, the project will nearly double the airport’s size to 2,297 hectares and increase its annual takeoff and

landing slots to 500,000 from the current 340,000.

— Kyodo



The control tower of Narita International Airport (NRT) in Japan. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Boeing unveils new 737 MAX production line

BOEING marked another step in a marathon comeback Friday when it celebrated expanded production of the 737 MAX, now an aircraft in heavy demand after earlier disasters tarnished the company’s reputation.

At a rousing ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by hundreds of Boeing employees, commercial airlines chief Stephanie Pope and Washington state elected officials characterized the new \$1 billion “North Line” MAX production line investment in Everett, Washington as the appropriate next step for an industrial site that has been building Boeing’s most storied aircraft for decades.

“This investment is a

vote of confidence in our workforce, in American manufacturing, and the future of aerospace in the city of Everett,” said Everett Mayor Cassie Franklin. “This factory has repeatedly shown the world what is possible.”

Boeing has big plans for the North Line, envisioning a production cadence comparable to that in Renton, 35 miles to the south, which until this week was the exclusive home of MAX assembly.

But in keeping with Boeing’s caution after two deadly MAX crashes, executives plan a gradual ramp-up in Everett for a jet that once defined the company’s problems but is now at the centre of its comeback. — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Russia has no plans to attack NATO, is open to equal dialogue

Russia avoids NATO attack, seeking dialogue based on shared security.

NATO justifies the alliance’s preparations for a major conflict with the false claim that Russia allegedly poses a threat, Vladislav Maslennikov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry’s Department of European Issues, told Sputnik.

The North Atlantic bloc “is a priori geared toward confrontation, pursuing its interests through force, and is not prepared to cooperate in the name of strengthening security and stability,” Vladislav Maslennikov noted.

In reality, Russia does not intend to attack NATO members and is open to dialogue provided the principle of the indivisibility of security is respected, he emphasized. In recent years, Russia has witnessed NATO’s unprecedented activity and buildup of troops near its western borders. Russian President Vladimir Putin previously stated that NATO, by hiking up its military budgets, is provoking global militarization and an arms race. He also pointed out that this



Russia has witnessed NATO’s unprecedented activity and buildup of troops near its western borders. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

is being achieved through false claims about an alleged threat from Russia. — SPUTNIK

China tackles severe floods as Bavi hits



A drone photo taken on 12 July 2026 shows cargo ships anchoring at a harbor to avoid the typhoon in Changzhou City, east China’s Jiangsu Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINESE authorities have stepped up flood control and disaster relief efforts as Typhoon Bavi continued to affect large parts of the country on

Sunday.

Typhoon Bavi, the ninth typhoon of the year, made successive landfalls along the coast of east China’s Zhejiang Province late Saturday before moving inland. It is expected to move northwest while gradually weakening.

From Sunday to Tuesday, heavy to torrential rain is expected to lash a swath of China, including Anhui, Jiangxi and Zhejiang provinces, as well as parts of Liaoning and Jilin provinces.

The Ministry of Water Resources on Sunday upgraded its flood alert to yellow, the third-highest level in China’s four-tier weather warning system, saying that heavy rainfall could trigger flooding in some rivers, mountain torrents and urban waterlogging.

Central authorities have dispatched 70,000 items of disaster relief supplies to Zhejiang, Tianjin and Anhui to support the relocation and resettlement of affected residents, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM). — Xinhua

Car crisis takes toll on Germany’s young engineers

DESPITE a year of searching, previous stints at big automotive suppliers and sending out about 50 applications, German software engineer Max Peil is still looking for a job.

Trained in computer vision, a critical part of autonomous and intelligent driving systems, Peil could once have expected to sail into a role at one of Germany’s industrial giants.

But years of stagnant

growth in Europe’s biggest economy and increasingly fierce Chinese competition are now taking their toll on young engineers like Peil.

“Usually you just get rejected straight up,” the 30-year-old told AFP in the western city of Frankfurt.

“I’ve had one interview. It was the same with my friends, one has sent over 60 applications.”

Known the world over for cutting-edge technology

and innovative design, Germany’s car industry, powered by exports, has so far managed to avoid the drastic decline seen in countries like Britain, France and Italy.

But Chinese carmakers like BYD and Xpeng have eaten into German carmakers’ sales in the world’s largest auto market, leading to painful adjustments at home.

“Ten years ago we



German engineering graduates used to be guaranteed good jobs, but times are changing. PHOTO: AFP

made about six million vehicles a year and we’ve now stabilized at about four, 4.2 million,” transport economist Thomas Puls of the IW economic institute in Cologne told AFP. Total employment in the German automotive sector fell eight per cent in the five years to 2025, according to Federal Employment Agency (FEA) data, even as it grew a little over one per cent overall. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Qatari leader Sheikh Hamad dies

QATAR’S Father Amir and former amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani died on Sunday at the age of 74, the Amiri Diwan announced.

“The Amiri Diwan mourns the passing of the nation’s esteemed leader, the late Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani,” the administrative office of the Qatari amir said in a statement.

Sheikh Hamad ruled Qatar from 1995 until 2013, when he transferred power to his son, the current Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. — Xinhua

A quarter of Japan municipalities see population drop

A quarter of Japan’s municipalities saw their population decline by more than 10 per cent between 2020 and 2025, Kyodo News analysis of census data showed Sunday.

Significant depopulation often leads to a deterioration of public services, prompting some experts to highlight the urgent need to adapt to rapid change.

The number of municipalities experiencing such a decline increased from 247 between 2015 and 2020 to 477, with Suzu, Ishikawa Prefecture, recording the sharpest decline of 34 per cent after being hit by a massive earthquake in 2024. — Kyodo

Severe US heat wave worsens wildfires

A broad heat dome expanding across the western and central United States is aggravating a destructive wildfire emergency while posing health risks and causing property damage.

The US National Interagency Coordination Centre (NICC) said in its Saturday report that the country was at National Preparedness Level 4, one level below the maximum, with 78 active large incidents covering about 2,961 square kilometres, including Alaska. A total of 14,409 personnel were assigned to the incidents. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar U12 trials begin for Japan tournament



Myanmar U12 players attend selection trials for the U12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2026. THE player selection trials for Myanmar's U12 football team, which will compete in the U12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2026 in Japan, began simultaneously in Yangon and Mandalay on 11 July, according

to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF). On the first day of the trials, 42 young players took part at the National Football Academy in Yangon, while 20 players participated at the Myanmar Football Academy in Mandalay, with a total of 62 players joining the selection process. The MFF said the trials were organised to provide opportunities for talented young players from across the country who meet the age requirements and to ensure an open selection process. The Myanmar U12 team selection trials will continue until 12 July. Outstanding young players will be selected through a series of assessments and developed into the national U12 squad that will represent Myanmar at the U12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2026 in Japan. — TWA/KZL



Myanmar women's national football team players. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW

Myanmar women's team to compete at Asian Games

MYANMAR women's national football team has been granted the opportunity to compete at the 20th Asian Games, which will be hosted by Japan. The women's football tournament group draw will be held on 23 July. Myanmar was added to the competition after some teams withdrew, with the final list of participating teams announced on 10 July. A total of 12 teams, including Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Taiwan Province of China, Hong Kong SAR, the Philippines, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, will compete in the women's football event. The Asian Games will mark the second international tournament for Myanmar's new Japanese head coach Mitsuo Katoh. Myanmar women's team previously competed once at the Asian Games in 2022, where they were eliminated in the group stage. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

Argentina 'giving every last drop' for World Cup repeat, says coach Scaloni

ARGENTINA manager Lionel Scaloni said his side would give everything in pursuit of back-to-back World Cup titles after Saturday's 3-1 extra-time quarterfinal victory over Switzerland. Argentina led through Alexis Mac Allister's early header but Dan Ndoye equalized in the second half. Breel Embolo was later sent off before Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez struck in extra time at Kansas City Stadium. The result means Ar-



Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni speaks to Lionel Messi during their World Cup quarterfinal against Switzerland in Kansas City. PHOTO: AFP Argentina will play in its fifth consecutive semifinal at a major tournament dating back to the 2019 Copa America. "Five tournaments and five semifinals," said Scaloni, who took charge of Argentina after the 2018 World Cup. "I hadn't thought about it, but it is something we should be happy about. Without these players, it wouldn't be possible. "It is incredible to reach a semifinal and occupy such a privileged place in football. We should be satisfied and remain hopeful until the end, giving every last drop of sweat. If we achieve it, great. If we don't, we will have given everything." After finishing top of its group with three wins from three, the reigning champion has been tested in the knockout stage. It needed extra time to overcome Cabo Verde and recovered from two goals down with 11 minutes left to beat Egypt in the round of 16. — Xinhua

Senegal part ways with coach Thiaw after World Cup exit



Pape Thiaw was appointed Senegal coach two years ago. PHOTO: AFP/FILE SENEGAL coach Pape Thiaw has been sacked in the wake of his side's last-32 elimination at the World Cup, the Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) announced Sunday.

"Following a meeting of the (FSF) executive committee, it was decided to initiate proceedings to relieve national team coach Pape Thiaw, as well as the entire coaching staff, of their duties," the federation said in a statement. It added that FSF president Abdoulaye Fall will hold a press conference on Monday to explain the "reasons behind this decision" and "to discuss the future". Thiaw, 45 and a former Senegal international, took over as national team boss in 2024. But he paid the price for a disap-

pointing World Cup, in which the Lions of Teranga suffered two defeats in the group stage, against France and Norway, before a 5-0 victory over Iraq secured their place in the knockout rounds. Senegal were then knocked out by Belgium in the round of 32, losing 3-2 after extra time, despite having led 2-0 until the 86th minute. Under Thiaw, Senegal won the Africa Cup of Nations final in January before being stripped of their title as a punishment for walking off the pitch during the chaotic final against Morocco. — AFP

ANSWERS OF QUIZ FROM PAGE 10



WEEKLY NEWS QUIZ
Test Your Knowledge Weekly

Weekly News Quiz

5-11 July 2026

Answer Key

NATIONAL NEWS QUIZ

Correct Option: C Anisakhan Airport

Correct Option: D China

GLOBAL NEWS QUIZ

Correct Option: B The central and eastern equatorial regions

Correct Option: C Singapore

Correct Option: B Rice



China rocket breakthrough uses new LNG fuel

CHINA'S Long March-10B rocket, which achieved the successful sea-based net recovery on Friday, has for the first time used high-purity methane fuel made from liquefied natural gas (LNG), marking a critical breakthrough in diversifying propellant sources for China's commercial space industry.

The Long March-10B is a two-stage reusable commercial launch vehicle developed specifically for China's commercial space market, with a core-stage diameter of five metres and featuring 100-per-cent domestically produced critical components.

As the country's first commercial reusable rocket powered by liquid oxygen-methane propellant, the methane fuel used in this launch achieved a purity of 98.7 per cent, with the entire supply chain secured domestically, said the fuel developer, Sinopec, in a report by China Media Group (CMG) on Saturday.

"The methane fuel used in this launch was refined from over 1,000 tonnes of LNG," said Cao

Lizhao, manager of the south China sales center of Sinopec's natural gas branch.

"The high-purity methane fuel can be processed and prepared using civilian LNG," Cao noted.

"Compared with traditional liquid hydrogen fuel, this propellant reduces storage and transport costs by 40 per cent, offering a brand-new and viable fuel solution for low-cost, high-frequency commercial launches," he added.

As China's commercial space industry rapidly expands, traditional propellants such as liquid oxygen-kerosene and liquid oxygen-liquid hydrogen have struggled to meet the demands of frequent, low-cost missions.

Liquid oxygen-methane propellant, with its superior performance, compatibility with reusable technologies, environmental friendliness, and convenient storage and transport, has emerged as the preferred option for next-generation commercial launch vehicles, according to the CMG report. — Xinhua



A video grab shows a platform mounted on the recovery ship Linghangzhe successfully capturing the first-stage booster of the Long March 10B carrier rocket on Friday.
PHOTO: CCTV

Oil giants warn energy market to worsen as US-Iran strikes resume

European gas storage (excluding Italy) is at 47 per cent, needing 35 billion cubic metres more.

MAJOR oil companies are sounding the alarm as the resumption of US-Iran hostilities threatens to tighten global energy supplies and push prices higher.

Italian energy giant Eni warned that the situation could deteriorate in the short term amid declining global oil reserves and increased competition for energy resources, CEO Claudio Descalzi said in an interview with Il Sole 24 Ore.

"We all believed that the United States and Iran had found a solution to the conflict," Descalzi said. "In reality, the resumption



Pipes and pressure gauges for gas lines are pictured at Open Grid Europe (OGE), one of Europe's largest gas transmission system operators, in Werne, Germany on 15 July 2022.
PHOTO: AFP/FILE

of the war is the chronicle of a foretold event."

Key warnings from the industry:

- Global oil inventories have been declining at an average of 3.8 million barrels per day since the Gulf conflict began, accelerating to 4.6 million barrels per day in May
- Competition for energy resources is set

to intensify as Asian buyers return to the market

- European gas storage (excluding Italy) stands at approximately 47 per cent, well below the 80 per cent target, requiring an additional 35 billion cubic metres of gas
- Descalzi noted that European countries will need to secure

roughly 35 billion cubic metres of gas to refill storage facilities ahead of winter.

The comments come as the United States and Iran exchange strikes following the collapse of a 60-day ceasefire, with the Strait of Hormuz — through which roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG flows — now closed by Tehran. — SPUTNIK

IRGC announces closure of Hormuz "until further notice"

IRAN'S Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Saturday (local time) announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz "until further notice", stating that the strategic waterway would remain shut until the United States ends its "interference" in the West Asia region, Press TV reported.

According to an IRGC statement cited by Press TV, the decision was taken "in light of the security situation resulting from the unlawful intervention of foreign powers".

"The Strait of Hormuz has been closed until further notice and will remain closed until the United States ends its in-

tervention in the region. No vessel will be permitted to transit the strait," the statement said, as quoted by Press TV.

The IRGC Navy also warned against any further military action against Iran under the pretext of the waterway's closure, saying such actions would draw a strong response.

"Should the aggressor enemy exploit this development, which it, itself, has caused, as a pretext for committing another act of aggression against us, it will be met with a forceful response, and additional enemy bases in the region will be targeted," the statement added. — ANI

South Korea triggers new emergency heat warning

SOUTH Korea issued its first-ever emergency heatwave alert on Sunday under a new warning system launched this year, advising people to halt outdoor activities and keep cool.

The new warning system was introduced to better deal with a rising number of heatwaves in South Korea, which have become longer and more intense, officials said.

An emergency alert is issued when areas experiencing a heatwave are forecast to hit perceived temperatures of 38C or an actual temperature of 39C for one day.

"The Korea Meteorological Administration issued an Emergency Heat-

wave Warning at 10 am today (GMT 0100) for two cities in southern North Gyeongsang Province — Gyeongsan and Pohang," said chief Lee Mi-seon at a press briefing.

"This marks the first time it has been issued since the system took effect," she added. The affected areas saw temperatures reach the emergency criteria over the weekend. "An emergency heatwave warning does not simply mean the weather is extremely hot," Lee said. "It indicates conditions in which even healthy people face a significantly elevated risk of serious harm, including heat-related illness and death." — AFP