Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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President launches 2026 National Tree-Planting Campaign in Minbu, calls for greater forest coverage

President U Min Aung Hlaing speaks on the occasion of the Myanmar 2026 national monsoon tree-planting campaign in Minbu, Magway Region.

President U Min Aung Hlaing yesterday morning launched the Myanmar 2026 national monsoon tree-planting campaign in Minbu Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, where he planted a neem sapling and urged nationwide efforts to expand forest cover and combat climate change.

The ceremony, held at the Myanma Railways station and concrete factory compound in Minbu, was attended by senior officials, regional chief ministers, civil servants, teachers, students and residents. A total of 3,000 saplings representing eight native tree species were planted, compared with 1,000 trees planted during the campaign last year at the same location.

In his address, the President stressed that tree planting is vital for environmental conservation, ecosystem restoration, disaster prevention, and raising public awareness of forest protection. He highlighted the severe environmental challenges facing the central dry zone, noting that forest cover nationwide stood at 42.15 per cent in 2025, while forest cover in Magway Region was only 11.51 per cent.

He warned that declining forest cover has contributed to rising temperatures in the central region, with Chauk recording 48.2°C in 2024. He also cautioned that a strong El Niño event expected later this year could make 2026 and 2027 among the hottest years on record, increasing the risks of drought, wildfires and impacts on agriculture, livestock, public health and the economy.

SEE PAGE 3

IFRC A-P Regional Director visits MRCS projects in Sittway

The IFRC Asia-Pacific regional director and team meeting with the Myanmar Red Cross Society in Sittway, Rakhine State.

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YSX stock trading values exceed K4.6B in June

THE grand trading of the eight listed companies on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) amounted to over K4.6 billion from 688,457 shares traded in June 2026, according to YSX's statistics.

Shareholders observe the index panel at the Yangon Stock Exchange.

At present, shares of eight listed companies – First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd (TMH), the Ever Flow River Group Public Co, Ltd (EFR), Amata Holding Public Co Ltd (AMATA) and Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) are traded in the securities market.

MTSH topped the trading on equity with over K1.8 billion from 206,877 shares, followed by FPB with stocks worth over K1.17 billion from 173,667 shares, FMI with over K658 million from 36,531 shares, MAEX with over K417 million from 68,295 shares, EFR with over K361.8 million from 180,927 shares, MCB with over K119.9 million from 8,903 shares, TMH with over K32 million from 8,750 shares, and AMATA with over K18.26 million from 4,507 shares.

The stock trading values were estimated at over K2.85 billion with 537,230 shares traded in May 2026. The stock trading value in June is up by over K1.76 million compared to that of May. — NN/KK

The UNESCO Summit on Education System Reform and Resilience in progress in Paris.

Myanmar delegation attends UNESCO education summit in Paris

MYANMAR participated in the UNESCO Transforming Education Summit +4 on System Transformation and Resilience for SDG4, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, on 10 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced.

The summit opened with addresses by UNESCO Director-General Khaled El-Enany, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J Mohammed, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Education ministers and

SEE PAGE 2

NATIONAL

Public Notice

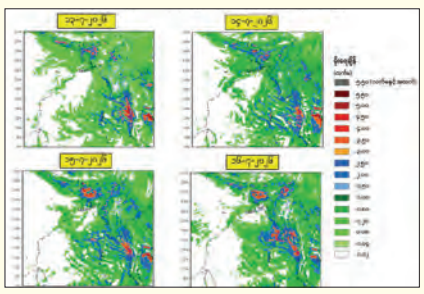
1. The Road Transport Administration Department of the Ministry of Transport, Nay Pyi Taw Office, District Offices -East Yangon, West Yangon, South Yangon and North Yangon, South Mandalay and North Mandalay will offer online digital payment system for drivers' licence service fees and online renewal of "B", "C", "D" and "E" licences within 90 days before their expiration date starting from 17 July 2026 (Friday).
2. Those who wish to obtain the driver's licence renewal service online can download and use the MM Driver Licence E-Payment Mobile Application on the Google Play Store using their Mobile Phone/Tablet.
3. For detailed information on how to use the system, they can visit the www.mot.gov.mm, www.rtad.gov.mm and www.myanamrrtad.com websites, and can contact the following phone numbers:

Head Office (Nay Pyi Taw)	067 3405099
Nay Pyi Taw Office	067 4510062, 067 4510064
Region Office (Yangon)	09 954921000
Region Office (Mandalay)	09 43096980

Road Transport Administration Department

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 heavy falls from today morning to 18 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. The 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 the Bay of Bengal and the Depression crossed the 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

Public Notice

1. Mobile phones entering the country through border checkpoints, seaports, and international airports are being registered under the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system. For passengers arriving through international airports (Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, and Mandalay), only the mobile phones accompanying the passenger, limited to a maximum of two devices per passenger, including the phone currently in use, will be eligible for registration in the CEIR system, subject to the following procedures.
2. Passengers arriving through international airports who are carrying mobile phones that have not yet been registered in the CEIR system must declare them at the airport customs counter by completing a Passenger Declaration Form (PD Form). The IMEI number of each mobile phone must be provided in the PD Form.
3. To register mobile phones in the CEIR system, applicants must submit the following documents to the CEIR One-Stop Service (OSS) Team:
   (a) Application form for CEIR registration
   (b) Passport (copy) (the first page bearing photo and the page bearing the immigration arrival stamp issued at the airport)
   (c) Boarding Pass (original, copy)
   (d) Passenger Declaration Form (PD Form) (original)
4. Applications must be submitted within 30 days from the date of declaration on the Passenger Declaration Form (PD Form), and the applicable taxes must be paid. If the application is not submitted within 30 days, penalties will be imposed in addition to the taxes payable under the CEIR system.
5. Each passenger may apply to register up to two mobile phones within one year from the date of the first PD Form declaration.

CEIR and EIR Project Steering Committee

Myanmar delegation attends UNESCO education summit in Paris

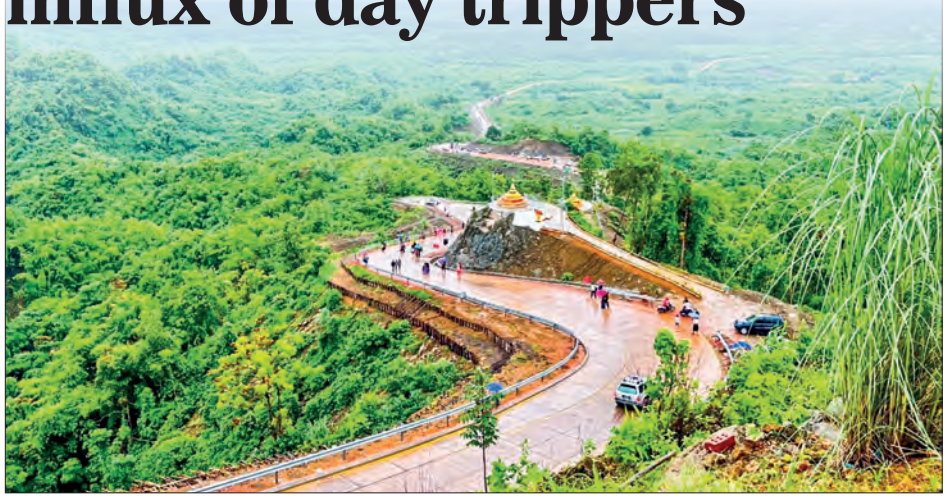
FROM PAGE 1

deputy ministers led panel discussions on education in conflict-affected areas, inclusive digital transformation, teaching quality, climate education, inclusiveness and gender equality, skills, employment and lifelong learning.

The meeting reviewed progress since the 2022 Transforming Education Summit, accelerated efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), and strengthened cooperation on education beyond 2030.

Myanmar was represented by a delegation led by Chargé d'Affaires ad interim and Ambassador U Kyaw Nyunt Oo. The summit was attended by education ministers, deputy ministers and senior representatives from 37 countries, UN agencies, international organizations and civil society. — ASH/KNN

Hmanpya Hill receives influx of day trippers

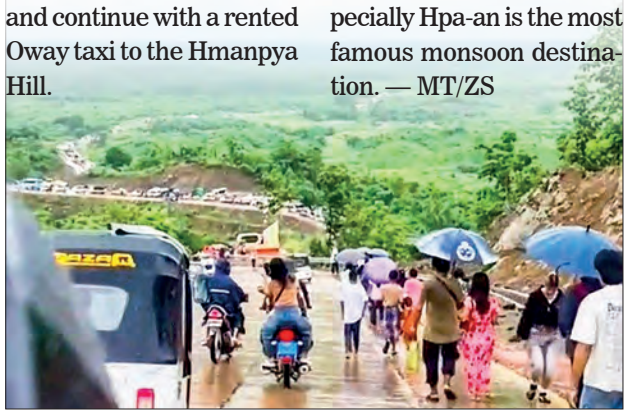


An aerial view of the Hmanpya Hill. **PHOTO: KAUNG HTET KYAW**

ACCORDING to sources, the arrival of day trippers has increased at the Hmanpya Hill, a recently popular monsoon destination located in Yangon Region's Taikkyi Township.

The day trip to the Hmanpya Hill Pagoda and waterfall has been popular as a beautiful viewpoint on the social media and the number of of tourists arriving has been extraordinarily high, with thousands arriving on weekends and public holidays.

"Recently, the Hmanpya Hill has been a popular tourist destination. People, especially young people, enjoy seeing the beautiful view from the mountain and exploring the waterfall. Many people visit there especially on public holidays, even we can see a long queue of vehicles at the foot of the mountain. The road is steep but the natural scenery will make you feel relaxed when you reach the top of the mountain. From there, you can continue exploring the waterfall. For Yangon residents, they can take a day trip so it has been popular recently on Facebook and TikTok," said a visitor. Yangon residents can go by the management of travel companies or by own arrangement. In addition, visitors can go by Yangon-Taikkyi YBS buses and continue with a rented Oway taxi to the Hmanpya Hill.



As monsoon day-trip destinations in Taikkyi, Hmanpya Hill, Pantapwint Hill, Abhoe Kyaung, HsedawU and Japan Pagoda have received many tourists.

Local destinations offering natural scenery have gained popularity among local tourists, especially Hpa-an is the most famous monsoon destination. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Cotton Production Requires Research on Internal and External Market Demands

It is necessary to continuously conduct research, evaluation and analysis to maintain stable and improved quality of cotton strains.

President U Min Aung Hlaing looks into cotton products on display at yesterday's event in Magway Region.

Myanmar, possessing favourable natural conditions and a strong foundation for successfully cultivating and producing cotton, can inevitably be developed into a cotton-exporting country, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the seminar titled "From Cotton Cultivation towards Textile Industry" at the city hall in Magway, Magway Region, yesterday morning.

The groups related to cotton cultivation and production industries expressed their wishes and hopes for production of quality cotton seeds through the contract system, import of foreign hybrid cotton strains, disbursement of loans to cotton seed oil production, distribution of agricultural inputs, supply of irrigation water, setting refence prices for cotton like paddy and rice, import of spare parts for cotton gins, modern machinery to produce yarns, production of textile rolls at home, import of raw dyes, linkages with foreign markets, designation of the Myanmar National Loom Day, supply of stable electricity round the clock, establishment of the spinning mill, and requirements of infrastructural and technological assistance from the government.

Union Ministers U Min Naung, U Myo Zaw Thein and Dr Charlie Than discussed the situations to fulfil the needs of those groups to ease difficulties in the production chain, and arrangements of relevant ministries for provision of capital, technologies, training, machinery and technical assistance and turning out human resources.

In his guidance, the President said that the President stressed the need to ensure that cotton cultivation is carried out properly with accurate sown acreage and correct statistical records. It is necessary to maintain stable cotton cultivation areas and achieve good yields in Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Bago regions.

He noted that to obtain high-quality cotton varieties, research and production are being carried out domestically, while cotton varieties are also being ordered and imported from abroad. Efforts must be made to achieve full production capacity of locally developed cotton varieties and to continuously conduct research, evaluation, and analysis to maintain stable and improved quality.

The President highlighted that cotton production requires conducting systematic research on domestic requirements and overseas market demand.

The President pointed out that as neighbouring countries and regional countries also have demand for cotton, Myanmar has to export high-quality long-staple cotton varieties to generate foreign exchange earnings and contribute to the enhancement of the national economy.

He stressed the need to undertake measures to resume the operation of former State-owned textile and garment factories, upgrade weaving machines, and introduce the use of modern weaving machinery. The State will provide capital loans to upgrade weaving facilities engaged in textile production in various regions and states.

To increase the country's cotton production, the President underlined that it is necessary to carry out activities through a collective cooperative system. The State will assist in promoting the development of cotton ginning machines, spinning mills, and looms.

After the seminar, the President visited the booths on cotton cultivation and production displayed by relevant groups.

Also present at the seminar were entourages of the President, chief ministers of Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions and officials. — MNA/TTA

Key points of the guidance provided by the President at the cotton seminar

1. The State will provide capital loans to upgrade weaving facilities engaged in textile production in various regions and states.
2. Myanmar has to export high-quality long-staple cotton varieties to generate foreign exchange earnings and contribute to the enhancement of the national economy.
3. It is necessary to maintain stable cotton cultivation areas and achieve good yields in Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing and Bago regions.
4. Cotton cultivation is carried out properly with accurate sown acreage and correct statistical records.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Rule of Law, Peace and Stability Committee members

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn meet members of the Rule of Law, Peace and Stability Committee.

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and relevant officials, met Rule of Law, Peace and Stability Committee members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, committee officials briefed the Speaker on their current work and plans. The Speaker emphasized that strengthening the rule of law and public security is essential for democratic governance and national development, and called for a prompt review of relevant laws, closer coordination with ministries and organizations, and stronger parliamentary oversight.

He also urged efforts to promote safe cities and communities, enhance the professionalism of law enforcement agencies, raise public legal awareness, improve the judicial system, and strengthen anti-corruption measures.

After the meeting, the Speaker greeted committee members and also met representatives of the Myanmar Youth Development Association (Central) and the Ami Myay Thitsa media, who were observing the ongoing Pyithu Hluttaw session. — MNA/KTZH

President launches 2026 National Tree-Planting...

FROM PAGE 1

The President called for a national effort to increase forest cover to 50 per cent of the country's land area, encouraging tree planting along roadsides and in communities. He urged the public to ensure every planted tree survives, describing forest conservation as a national responsibility to create a greener, more climate-resilient environment for future generations.

After the ceremony, the President inspected the Minhla-Minbu railway section and instructed officials to review the resumption of train services to improve passenger travel and freight transport. He also inspected the planned rehabilitation of Minbu's riverside road, directing officials to strengthen embankments, repair bridges, rebuild the road and implement proper urban planning for nearby residential areas. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

President on inspection tours to guide Magway's regional economic development

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by officials and the chief ministers of Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions, inspected regional development and economic promotion projects in Magway Region yesterday.

On arrival at the Magway Hybrid Power Company near Thabyaysan Village of Magway Township, project director U Tin Maung Latt reported on the implementation of the 100 MW hybrid power plant, which combines natural gas and solar energy, and its current progress and plans. The President discussed the presentations and guided the inspection of the sites.

President U Min Aung Hlaing is pictured during his inspection tour of development projects in Magway Region.

The President and party visited the Kaung Ko Group Co Ltd in Gwaydauksan Village near Kanbya junction on the Magway-Nay Pyi Taw Road. Company owner Daw Moe Moe Myat Ko explained the company's history, exports of 90 per cent purified sesame seeds and roasted sesame powder, domestic edible oil distribution, installation of processing machinery, implementation of contract farming and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training programmes, direct purchasing from farmers, operational challenges and future business plans.

After hearing the reports, the President stressed that securing a stable supply of quality sesame was essential for the company's operations, noting that improved seed varieties would help increase yields. He also called for systematic implementation of GAP training and said the government will provide support for the company where possible, and he inspected the sesame processing operations at the factory.

The President and party proceeded to the Sharpinhla Agricultural and Breeding Zone in Sharpinhla Village-tract, Magway Township. The regional officials briefed the President on the establishment of livestock zones in Aunglan Township, development of the agricultural and livestock zone, cooperative-led poultry farming, land development, future livestock expansion, land use, cropping plans and irrigation conditions aimed at strengthening regional rice sufficiency.

The President stated that Magway Region produces maize, pulses, rice bran and broken rice, and the locally available resources can be used to manufacture animal feed within the region to support the livestock sector. He also encouraged officials to ensure the success of ongoing projects before inspecting land development works, irrigation facilities, rice nurseries and poultry farms within the zone. — MNA/KTZH

MoFA Union Minister attends Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe attended the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 12 July 2026.

At the meeting, the Union Minister briefed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the efforts being undertaken by the newly elected government to advance the country along the democratic path by promoting national stability, the rule of law, peace and national development. He also explained the Government's ongoing efforts to eliminate transnational crimes, which constitute major challenges to national peace and stability, including online scams, illicit drug trafficking, and human trafficking.

The Union Minister further briefed the meeting on Myanmar's efforts to end conflicts and advance peace and national reconciliation, the effective distribution of humanitarian assistance provided through the AHA Centre without discrimination and the future course of action in this regard, cooperation with the ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar, as well as the realities on the ground and recent developments in Myanmar.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Tin Maung Swe and ASEAN Foreign Ministers meet in Thailand.

The Union Minister urged ASEAN Member States to better understand Myanmar's complex political situation and to make constructive assessments based on the realities on the ground. He expressed the hope that Myanmar would soon regain its full and equal participation within ASEAN and reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to cooperate with ASEAN to the extent possible.

Following the briefing, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their respective positions on Myanmar. While many Member States welcomed and supported the positive developments taking place in Myanmar, a few expressed that they wished to see more tangible progress. They discussed the importance of sustaining and further advancing the current positive developments in Myanmar, achieving further progress through continued engagement, making greater efforts to reduce conflicts mentioned in the ASEAN Five-Point Statement, enhancing dialogue, expanding the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and continuing engagement with a view to enabling Myanmar to resume its full and equal participation in ASEAN's processes.

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

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NATIONAL

Lawmakers Grill Govt on Jobs, Healthcare, Education and Infrastructure in Pyithu Hluttaw

THE Third Pyithu Hluttaw debated a broad range of public concerns during the 22nd day of its second regular session, with lawmakers questioning the government on employment, healthcare, education, infrastructure, markets and regional development. Union Ministers and deputy ministers responded by outlining current policies and plans, while several proposals were ruled out for the time being due to budgetary, staffing or administrative constraints.

The 22nd-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

The session opened with Daw Nan Tin Oo, MP for the Kehsi Constituency, asking what measures were being taken to create more domestic employment opportunities to reduce the growing number of young people leaving Myanmar for work abroad. Deputy Minister for Labour U Maung Maung Than said the ministry was promoting jobs through the expansion of agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), while also encouraging investments capable of generating more employment.

Education and technical training featured prominently in the debate. U Soe Win, MP for the Mohnyin Constituency, asked whether Mohnyin Government Technical Institute (GTI) would be upgraded to Government Technological College (GTC), but Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw said there were no such plans, arguing that the existing GTI system already offers strong vocational training and pathways to higher qualifications.

U Aung Win Swe, MP for the Myanaung Constituency, also asked about establishing a GTC or GTI in Kanaung, but the ministry said no new institution had yet been approved. Meanwhile, U Kaung Thet San, MP for the Hsipaw Constituency, sought assurances that more basic education schools would reopen next academic year and that additional teachers would be deployed. Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing said school reopening would depend on local security conditions and approval from relevant authorities, with staffing to be strengthened as needed. Daw Khin Saw Mu, MP for the Kangyidaunt Constituency, also requested an update on 72 unfinished school building projects in Ayeyawady Region, with the ministry saying completion would depend on revised project costs and future budget allocations.

Healthcare issues were raised by U Saw Hae Thar Gyi, MP for the Thantaunggyi Constituency, who asked when the 25-bed Thandaung People's Hospital would reopen. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun said the hospital remained closed after staff left their posts in 2022 and that repairs, equipment replacement and security coordination were still required before services could resume. U Myo Myint Thein, MP for the Wundwin Constituency, requested that Tamagon Rural Health Centre be upgraded to a station hospital and called for more medical staff and medicines. The ministry replied that staffing and essential medicines were being supplied, but the proposed upgrade could not yet be implemented.

SEE PAGE 10

Falam's MSMEs inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee visited vineyards, a wine production site, a weaving and vocational training school, and handicraft businesses in Falam Township on 12 July.

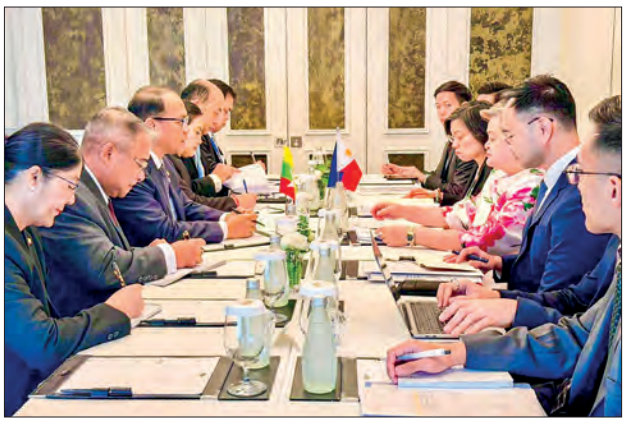
The deputy minister stressed the need to support MSMEs, including grape cultivation and wine production, to help them grow into sustainable family businesses. He also inspected damaged weaving equipment, observed handloom production, and instructed relevant departments to promote small-scale industries supporting agriculture, livestock and construction sectors. — MNA/MKKS

Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and officials inspect the rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in Falam, Chin State.

MoFA Union Minister attends Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

FROM PAGE 4

In response to the discussions, the Union Minister reaffirmed that, in accordance with the foreign policy enshrined in the 2008 Constitution and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Myanmar will continue to strengthen cooperation with neighbouring countries, friendly countries, ASEAN Member States, and the international community. He further stressed that Myanmar will continue its efforts to promote peace, stability, and prosperity through a Myanmar-owned, Myanmar-led process that reflects the realities on the ground while safeguarding the interests and fundamental rights of the Myanmar people.



Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Tin Maung Swe holds talks with the Filipino FM-led delegation yesterday.

On the sidelines of the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe met Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, on 11 July 2026. He also held separate bilateral meetings with Ms Maria Theresa Parreno Lazaro, Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Dato Seri Setia Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, and Mr Le Hoai Trung, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, on 12 July 2026.

During these meetings, they exchanged views on strengthening of bilateral relations and closer cooperation, as well as on promoting constructive cooperation to facilitate Myanmar's restoration to its full and equal participation in ASEAN.

Following his attendance at the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe will continue his official visit to Thailand from 13 to 14 July 2026 at the invitation of Mr Sihasak Phuangketkeow, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. — MNA

NATIONAL

MoFR Union Minister responds to motion, urging govt to implement tax administration and anti-corruption measures

THE Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the 16th day at its convention hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

MP U Kyaw Kyaw Latt from the Yangon Region Constituency 10 asked about compensation for over 200 farmers for their confiscated farmlands in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu replied that regarding the remaining 204 farmers who are still awaiting farmland compensation, verification and necessary procedures are being carried out to provide compensation to 11 farmers. About the remaining 193 farmers, the relevant committees at various levels for reviewing cases of confiscation of farmland and other lands are conducting assessments in accordance with the 52 policy guidelines.

The 16th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.

The deputy minister also responded to the questions raised by MP U Zaw Min Htoo from the Kayah State Constituency 11, saying that the process of granting land lease permits for lands within the municipal areas of Loikaw Township is currently being initiated. During the ongoing process, for industrial zones and MSMEs to be eligible to obtain loans from the State Economic Promotion Fund, arrangements are being made to provide loan disbursements where agricultural land use certificates (Form-7) are available. In addition, the Department of Land Records is undertaking urban land surveying works, and in areas where the surveys have been completed, arrangements are being made to issue land lease permits for residential and business purposes.

The deputy minister also answered the questions raised by MP U Yan Naing Win from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 1, stating that the current residential conditions within the areas designated for urban land use shall be reviewed, and a Town Plan shall be prepared based on the projected future population growth in Kyonpyaw District. In accordance with the Town Plan, coordination and negotiations shall be carried out with the original landowners under the supervision of the Ayeyawady Region Government.

MP U Than Tun from the Rakhine State Constituency 3 asked whether a plan is implemented to build IDP camps for the people who fled their residences from Sittway Township of Rakhine State due to terrorist attacks. Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Min Thu answered that the internally displaced persons (IDPs) are living safely in buildings at temporary displacement camps arranged by the Rakhine State Government. Arrangements have already been made to provide monthly rice supplies for food, conduct mobile medical treatment services for healthcare, and provide educational support. Therefore, there is no need to construct additional buildings similar to IDP camps.

Hluttaw representatives participated in the debates over the motion tabled by MP Daw Soe Soe Myint from the Mon State Constituency 12, urging the government to implement tax administration and anti-corruption measures through effective strategies, through collaborative efforts of public and government departments to contribute to national development.

In response to the motion, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Kan Zaw stated that among the most significant measures undertaken are the introduction of the Aung Bar Lay Online Lottery system from 8 June 2023, enabling people to conveniently participate in the Aung Bar Lay lottery anytime and anywhere; the implementation of tax collection on mobile phone imports through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system and Equipment Identity Register (EIR) system starting from 1 April 2026, to ensure the full collection of legally required taxes on imported mobile phones and to control illegal imports; and the ongoing efforts to introduce the Vehicle Automatic Valuation System (VAVS), which will automatically assess and calculate the payable value for motor vehicle purchases and sales.

SEE PAGE 11

Ywangan's Mya Sein Yaung income-generating activities inspected

Officials oversee one of the Mya Sein Yaung project sites in Ywangan Township.

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development inspected the implementation of income-generating activities under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Thitseintpin Village, Ywangan Township, yesterday.

Ywangan Township Department of Rural Development Head U Thein Myat Htike and staff observed the farming, livestock breeding and trading activities being carried out with loans from the project's revolving fund. He also met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee to check whether monthly financial records had been properly completed and coordinated necessary measures to address any requirements.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was launched in Thitseintpin Village with an initial fund of K30 million, enabling the revolving fund to grow to K53.35 million, which has been lent at concessional interest rates to 179 members, all of whom are successfully operating local income-generating activities with support from the project. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

IFRC A-P Regional Director visits MRCS projects in Sittway

FROM PAGE 1

THE IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Director and his team visited the Myanmar Red Cross Society's humanitarian programmes in Sittway, Rakhine State, the society said.

The delegation met Red Cross volunteers and staff, visited a free mobile clinic providing primary healthcare at the Sayamagyi Camp, observed cash assistance for displaced people living in temporary shelters, and attended the opening of a children's play centre.

The delegation included IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Director Mr Alexander James Mathieu, IFRC Myanmar Representative Ms Nadia Khoury, Myanmar Red Cross Society Executive Director U Kyaw Moe Kyi, and other officials. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Three bills were released for public observation and reviews. Reviews and recommendations can be sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office.

Seventh Amendment to Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bill

(2026 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. ...)

.....1388 ME
(....., 2026)

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law.

1. This Law shall be called the Seventh Amendment to the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law.
2. Section 8(c) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced as follows:
   "(c) A person who has obtained a degree from any university, degree college, or college recognized by the State."
3. A new subsection (m) shall be inserted after Section 11(l):
   "(m) A person shall be disqualified if an Election Tribunal determines that he or she failed to submit the election expense report in accordance with the prescribed requirements."
4. The following Section 11-A shall be inserted after Section 11:
   "11-A. A person elected as a Hluttaw representative:
   (a) If the political party he or she represents has its registration cancelled under Clauses (4), (5), (6), (7), or (11) of Section 12 (a) of the Political Parties Registration Law, the person's election as a Hluttaw representative shall automatically become void.
   (b) If the political party he or she represents is dissolved, or its registration is cancelled under clauses (1), (2), (3), (8), (9) and (10) of Section 12 (a) or Section 24(e) of the Political Parties Registration Law, the elected representative shall apply to the Union Election Commission within 60 days from the date of dissolution or cancellation, providing valid evidence of membership in another political party in order to continue serving as a representative of that party. If no such application is made within 60 days, the person's election as a Hluttaw representative shall automatically become void.
   Exception: A representative who wishes to continue serving as an independent representative may submit such a request to the Commission."
5. Section 28 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced as follows:
   "28. (a) A person who has submitted a nomination as a parliamentary candidate may withdraw the nomination in accordance with the prescribed procedures.
   (b) After the official announcement of the list of parliamentary candidates, a candidate may withdraw from the election in accordance with the prescribed procedures."
6. The introductory paragraph of Section 30-A shall be replaced as follows:
   "30-A: Central Executive Committee members of political parties contesting the election, parliamentary candidates, and their election agents may conduct election campaigns using the following methods as prescribed by the Commission."
7. In Section 42:
   "6:00 am" shall be replaced with "7:00 am" "4:00 pm" shall be replaced with "5:00 pm"
8. In Section 48(b):
   "two days in advance" shall be replaced with "three days in advance." "before 4:00 pm" shall be replaced with "before 9:00 am".
9. Section 88(d) shall be replaced as follows:
   "(d) Except for the circumstances specified in subsections (a), (b), and (c), the following persons shall not be eligible to contest elections for the remainder of the parliamentary term resulting from that election, whether for the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region or State Hluttaw:
   A person whose election as a Hluttaw representative has been declared void by the Union Election Commission under Section 74(b) or Section 75(b) and published in the Official Gazette. A Hluttaw representative, candidate, or election agent who has been declared disqualified by the Commission following an Election Tribunal's decision that he or she failed to submit an election expense report as prescribed. A Hluttaw representative who, after being elected, is sentenced to imprisonment under any existing law and is declared by the Commission to be no longer qualified to continue serving as a representative. Such persons shall be barred from contesting any election held during the remainder of the parliamentary term arising from the election in which the disqualification or declaration took effect."

Seventh Amendment to Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bill

2026 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No ...

.....1388 ME
(....., 2026)

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has enacted this law.

1. This law shall be called the Seventh Amendment to the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law.
2. The subsection (c) of Section 8 shall be substituted as follows: -
   "(c) a person who has completed their degree from a university, a degree college and a college recognized by the government."
3. The subsections (m) and (n) after the subsection "(l) shall be substituted as follows;
   (m) Being declared disqualified by the Election Tribunal for failure to submit the election expense statement in accordance with the prescribed procedures.
   (n) A Hluttaw representative elected under the constituency as per Section 4(c) resigns or is dismissed from the relevant political party in accordance with the party's constitution and rules."
4. Subsection 11 (a) after Section 11 shall be substituted as follows;
   "11-a. A person elected as a Hluttaw representative shall automatically cease to be a duly elected Hluttaw representative if the registration of the political party he or she represents is cancelled under clauses (4), (5), (6), (7) and (11) of Section 12(a) of the Political Parties Registration Law.
   If the political party he or she represents is dissolved, or its registration is cancelled under Section 12(a), clauses (1), (2), (3), (8), (9) and (10) of Section 12(a) or Section 24(e) of the Political Parties Registration Law.
   (i) where the representative was elected from a first-past-the-post constituency, he or she shall apply to the Commission within 60 days from the date of dissolution or cancellation of registration, with valid evidence of membership in another political party, seeking permission to continue serving as a Hluttaw representative of that party. Failure to apply within the prescribed period shall result in the automatic loss of his or her status as an elected Hluttaw representative.
   Exception: Those who wish to stand as Independent Hluttaw representatives can submit to the commission.
   (ii) if the representative was elected from a proportional representation constituency, he or she shall automatically cease to be a duly elected Hluttaw representative."
5. Section 28 shall be substituted as follows;
   "28. (a) A Hluttaw candidate for constituencies under Section 4(a) and (b), or a political party for constituencies under Section 4(c), may withdraw the nomination of a Hluttaw candidate in the prescribed procedures.
   (b) A person whose name has been officially announced as a Hluttaw candidate may withdraw his or her candidacy in the prescribed manner.
6. In Section 30A of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, the expression "political parties" shall be substituted with the expression "central executive committee members of political parties".
7. In Section 42 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, the expression "6 am" shall be substituted with "7 am", and the expression "4 pm" shall be substituted with "5 pm".
8. In Section 48(b) of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, the expression "two days in advance" shall be substituted with "three days in advance", and the expression "before 4 pm" shall be substituted with "before 9 am".
9. Section 88(d) of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law shall be substituted as follows: -
   "(d) The person who has been declared as Hluttaw representative except subsection (a), (b) and (c) by the Commission and has been announced in Government Gazette under Section 74 (a) or 75 (b), who has been declared disqualified by the Election Tribunal for failure to submit the election expense statement in accordance with the prescribed procedures, and subsequently declared by the Commission to be disqualified as a Hluttaw representative, Hluttaw candidate, or election agent; or who, after being elected as a Hluttaw representative, is sentenced to imprisonment under any existing law and is declared by the Commission to have lost the right to continue serving as a Hluttaw representative, shall not contest as the candidate for the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaw in the elections which are held for the existing Hluttaw term and the forthcoming Hluttaw term commencing from the date of declaration."
10. Section 88-b, after Section 88-a, shall be added as follows:
    "88-b- The Commission –
    (a) shall remove the voting results of a political party under Section 49(b), clause (2) if a political party is voluntarily dissolved or its registration is cancelled under the Political Parties Registration Law.
    (b) For constituencies prescribed under Section 4(c), deduct the invalidated votes referred to in sub-section (a), recalculate the remaining valid votes in the prescribed manner, and announce the list of elected Hluttaw representatives accordingly."

OPINION

Leverage up efforts in agricultural and livestock productivity

MYANMAR is a country endowed with abundant natural resources and favourable land and water conditions. As it also possesses rich aquatic resources, the country can strengthen its economy by increasing the production and export of fisheries products, as well as by upgrading, innovating, and producing a wide range of other products to meet quality standards for export to international markets.

Myanmar is a country that primarily cultivates and produces paddy. Rice bran oil can be produced from rice bran, which is generated as a by-product of rice milling. Therefore, it is necessary to invite domestic entrepreneurs to make investments in the production of rice bran oil to meet domestic consumption needs to some extent in an effort to ensure the cooking oil security of the nation.

To ensure self-sufficiency in edible oils, efforts must be made to boost the production of major oilseed crops such as groundnuts, sesame, sunflower, soybean, and oil palm. In order to produce high-quality edible oils, the government needs to provide support for the use of modern and high-quality oil mills for oil extraction and processing.

To increase the productivity of oilseed crops, the government must carry out agricultural research activities, while the respective Region and State Chief Ministers must closely supervise and provide the necessary encouragement, assistance, and support to agricultural producers and entrepreneurs. Regardless of the type of business or activity undertaken, success can only be achieved through systematic and proper research.

In conducting the necessary research for relevant agricultural and livestock production sectors, it is essential not only to carry out research aimed at improving production processes but also to study the entire supply chain, from production to domestic and international market requirements.

To increase the production and export volume of commodities, relevant authorities must provide systematic supervision and management, while entrepreneurs must make concerted efforts to ensure the success of their businesses. Efforts must be made to boost the national economy by increasing the export of rice, which is the country's main crop, as well as other agricultural products. To produce and export larger quantities of agricultural products, domestic entrepreneurs should also increase their participation and investment in agricultural production businesses and contribute to the country's economic development.

As such, when prioritizing agricultural and livestock development, research activities must be systematically conducted in each relevant sector. By also studying related market conditions and potential opportunities, products can be effectively delivered to markets and receive fair and appropriate prices.

To increase the production and export volume of commodities, relevant authorities must provide systematic supervision and management, while entrepreneurs must make concerted efforts to ensure the success of their businesses. Efforts must be made to boost the national economy by increasing the export of rice, which is the country's main crop, as well as other agricultural products. To produce and export larger quantities of agricultural products, domestic entrepreneurs should also increase their participation and investment in agricultural production businesses and contribute to the country's economic development.

ARTICLE

Myanmar Strengthens Regional Economic Integration through ASEAN Cooperation

By Dr Kyaw Linn Htun – Public Administration

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar's participation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continues to be an important pillar of its regional economic policy. Membership in ASEAN provides Myanmar with valuable opportunities to expand trade, attract investment, and strengthen regional connectivity. With a population of approximately 54 million people, of whom more than 65 per cent are of working age, Myanmar possesses a competitive labour force and significant potential for agricultural and industrial development within South-East Asia.

Under the current administration led by President U Min Aung Hlaing, Myanmar continues to promote balanced economic engagement with ASEAN member states while making full use of its strategic geographical location linking South-East Asia, South Asia, and China. In line with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Strategic Plan 2026-2030 under the *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future* vision, Myanmar is implementing measures to improve its investment climate, facilitate trade, and strengthen infrastructure, thereby enhancing its participation in regional supply chains and supporting sustainable economic growth.

Myanmar occupies an important strategic position within ASEAN because of its geographical location and extensive land and maritime connectivity. Sharing borders with China, India, Thailand, Bangladesh, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar serves as a natural bridge between ASEAN and neighbouring regional markets. This strategic position supports regional trade, transportation, energy cooperation, and logistics development. In addition, Myanmar contributes agricultural products, fisheries resources, and natural resources to regional markets, further strengthening economic cooperation within ASEAN.

Trade facilitation remains a key component of Myanmar's regional economic integration. Through the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Myanmar continues to work with fellow ASEAN member states to reduce non-tariff barriers, simplify customs procedures, and improve the movement of goods across borders. These efforts are particularly beneficial for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), enabling them to participate more effectively in regional value chains. Myanmar also actively participates in the ongoing modernization of ATIGA, including discussions on simplifying Rules of Origin (ROO) and expanding digital customs procedures to facilitate trade within the region.

Myanmar also benefits from its participation in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement. Through RCEP and ASEAN-led dialogue mechanisms, Myanmar is working to expand market access for key export products, including agricultural commodities, pulses, fisheries products, and cut-make-pack (CMP) garments. These initiatives contribute to trade diversification and strengthen Myanmar's integration into regional and global supply chains.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) from ASEAN member states continues to play an important role in Myanmar's economic development. Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia remain among the principal ASEAN investors in sectors such as manufacturing, banking, real estate, logistics, and services. The Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) continues to serve as one of Myanmar's leading industrial zones, attracting regional investment and supporting export-oriented manufacturing activities. To further strengthen investor confidence, Myanmar continues to implement the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), which promotes transparent investment policies, legal protection, and a more predictable business environment. These efforts support technology transfer, industrial upgrading, human resource development, and value-added manufacturing.

Regional connectivity remains central to Myanmar's long-term development strategy. The country continues to support infrastructure projects that contribute to the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 while exploring future initiatives under the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan. Improvements in cross-border highways, transport corridors, ports, and energy infrastructure are expected to facilitate trade and investment throughout the region. Cooperation with neighbouring countries, particularly Thailand, continues to strengthen border trade, transport, and energy connectivity.

Digital transformation has also become an increasingly important area of regional cooperation. Myanmar continues to expand digital payment services, e-commerce, and electronic business systems while working with ASEAN partners to support regional digital integration. As ASEAN advances negotiations on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), Myanmar is preparing to strengthen digital trade, improve cross-border electronic transactions, and enhance cybersecurity cooperation. These initiatives are expected to improve the efficiency of regional commerce while creating new opportunities for businesses and consumers.

Myanmar's continued engagement within ASEAN reflects its commitment to regional cooperation, shared prosperity, and sustainable development. By combining its strategic geographical location, abundant natural resources, productive workforce, and growing industrial capacity with ASEAN's economic integration agenda, Myanmar is strengthening its role within the regional economy. Through continued reforms in trade facilitation, investment promotion, infrastructure development, and digital connectivity, Myanmar is well positioned to contribute to ASEAN's long-term vision of an integrated, resilient, and prosperous regional community.

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Myanmar at a Demographic Opportunity: Turning Population Change into Sustainable Development

World Population Day 2026 Special Feature

By Dr Aung Tun

Introduction

World Population Day, observed every 11 July, highlights a defining issue of the twenty-first century: how countries respond to changing population dynamics. While global growth slows overall, structural shifts — urbanization, ageing, migration, and youth concentration in working-age cohorts — continue to reshape national development priorities.

At the global level, the population picture is one of growing divergence. The world's population is projected to peak at approximately 10.3 billion by the mid-2080s before gradually declining. More than 60 per cent of people now live in countries where fertility has fallen below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman. In Europe and parts of East Asia, population decline and rapid ageing are already a reality — South Korea recorded a fertility rate of just 0.75 in 2024, and by 2080, those aged 65 and older are expected globally to outnumber children under 18 for the first time in history. Meanwhile, sub-Saharan Africa is projected to account for over half of all births worldwide by 2100. Life expectancy reached 73.3 years globally in 2024, yet gains remain unevenly distributed, with lower-income countries still carrying a disproportionate burden of maternal mortality and preventable disease. This uneven global landscape makes strategic demographic planning all the more urgent for countries like Myanmar — still in the active phase of transition — before the window of opportunity narrows.

For Myanmar, these shifts present not a crisis but a genuine demographic opportunity. The country is in a transitional phase — a relatively young population, declining fertility, increasing urban migration — that, if properly managed, can build a strong foundation for sustainable development. But this opportunity must be earned: it requires strong institutions, sustained human capital investment, and long-term policy commitment. Without these, population potential can just as easily turn into economic pressure. This feature examines how population change can be transformed into inclusive, sustainable growth.

Myanmar's Ministry of Immigration and Population has anchored this year's national observance under the theme: **"Building Myanmar's Developed Future Through Population Data"**. This reflects a recognition that demographic data is not merely a statistical exercise — it is a governance tool. Timely, accurate population data enables evidence-based planning across education, health, housing, employment, and social protection. Myanmar completed its most recent Population and Housing Census in October 2024 — the first in a decade — recording a provisional total population of 51.3 million. The theme's emphasis on population data as a governance foundation could not be more timely: translating fresh census findings into evidence-based policy is exactly the work now at hand.

Myanmar's Demographic Profile: Key Trends

According to the 2024 Population and Housing Census provisional results, Myanmar's total population on 30 September 2024 was 51,316,756, comprising an enumerated population of 32.2 million and an estimated 19.1 million for unenumerated areas due to security constraints. This represents a slight decline from the 51.5 million recorded in the 2014 Census, reflecting below-replacement fertility and significant outward migration. Key demographic features include an urban share of just 31 per cent with 69 per cent living in rural areas; females outnumbering males with a sex ratio of 88 males per 100 females; an average household size of 3.8 persons; and a population density of 76 persons per square kilometre. Yangon Region is the most populous at 14.4 per cent of the national total, followed by Shan State (12.7 per cent) and Mandalay Region (12.2 per cent), together accounting for nearly 40 per cent of Myanmar's population.

This demographic profile places Myanmar in a critical phase of development transition. The 2024 Census confirms a predominantly rural population, with only 31 per cent living in urban areas — well below the ASEAN average — yet urbanization is proceeding steadily, led by Yangon Region, where 68 per cent of residents are urban. A significant portion of the population still lives below the poverty line, with rural poverty markedly higher than urban, meaning demographic change and economic hardship continue to unfold side by side, raising the stakes of getting policy right.

Youth Population: A Strategic National Asset

One of Myanmar's most important demographic features is its large youth population — a significant share of citizens is under 35, forming a potentially powerful labour force. This offers the possibility of a demographic dividend: accelerated growth driven by a working-age population large relative to its dependents, with opportunities in expanded labour productivity, manufacturing, services, entrepreneurship, and digital economy adoption. But the dividend must be earned through policy — a youth bulge without matching opportunity becomes a source of frustration and outward migration, not development.

Education and Skills: The Foundation of Opportunity

Education is the most critical factor in converting demographic potential into economic success. Myanmar has made genuine progress in basic access, yet significant challenges remain in quality and relevance: a persistent gap between what schools teach and what the labour market needs, limited vocational and technical training capacity, unequal urban-rural access, and insufficient digital skills development. To benefit fully from its youth population, Myanmar must prioritize modernizing education, expanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), integrating digital literacy into curricula, and promoting lifelong learning. This human capital development is the foundation of long-term economic competitiveness — it cannot be deferred without cost.

SEE PAGE 13

NATIONAL

Seventh Amendment to Region or State Hluttaw Election Bill

(Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law ..., 2026)

... 1388 ME
(... , 2026)

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law.

1. This Law shall be called the Seventh Amendment to the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law.
2. Section 8 (c) of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced as follows: -
   "(c) Those who have graduated from any university, degree college or college recognized by the State"
3. Subsections (m) and (n) shall be added behind Section 11 (l) of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law as follows: -
   "(m) those disqualified by the Election Tribunal for failure to submit the election expense statement within the prescribed period
   "(n) resignation or dismissal of a Hluttaw representative elected representing the relevant party from the relevant constituency in accord with the rules of the party under Section 4 (a)
4. Section 11-a shall be added behind Section 11 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law as follows: -
   "11-a: An individual elected as Hluttaw representative –
   (a) If the registration of the political party represented by that representative is revoked under Clauses 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11 of Section 12 (a) of the Political Parties Registration Law, the representative shall be deemed to have automatically ceased to have been elected as a Hluttaw representative.
   (b) If the party represented by the individual is dissolved or its registration is revoked under Clauses 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10 of Section 12 (a) and Section 24 (e) of the Political Parties Registration Law,
   (i) If the representative is a Hluttaw representative elected from a constituency under the first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system, he or she shall, within 60 days from the date on which the party is dissolved or its registration is revoked, apply to the Commission for permission to continue serving as a Hluttaw representative of another political party, supported by conclusive evidence of membership in that party. If no such application is submitted within the prescribed period, the representative shall be deemed to have automatically ceased to have been elected as a Hluttaw representative.
   Exception: If the representative wishes to continue serving solely as an independent Hluttaw representative, he or she may submit a request to the Commission expressing that intention.
   (ii) If the representative is a parliamentary representative elected from a constituency under the proportional representation (PR) system, he or she shall be deemed to have automatically ceased to have been elected as a parliamentary representative."
5. Section 28 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced as follows: -
   "28 (a) For the constituencies referred to in Section 4 (a) and (c), the respective Hluttaw representative candidates, and for the constituency referred to in Section 4 (b), the political party, shall have the right to withdraw the candidate nomination application in accordance with the prescribed procedures.
   (b) After the announcement and publication of the list of candidates for Hluttaw representatives, a candidate shall have the right to withdraw from candidacy in accordance with the prescribed procedures."
6. The expression "political parties" in Section 30-a of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced with "Central Executives from Political Parties".
7. The expression "6 am" in Section 42 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced with "7 am" and the expression "4 pm" with "5 pm", respectively.
8. The expression "two days in advance" in Section 48 (b) of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced with "three days in advance" and the expression "before 4 pm" with "before 9 am", respectively.
9. Section 88 (d) of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law shall be replaced as follows: -
   "(d) Except for those specified in subsections (a), (b), and (c), any person who has been declared by the Commission in the State Gazette as having ceased to be validly elected as a Hluttaw representative under Section 74 (b) or Section 75 (b), any Hluttaw representative, candidate for Hluttaw representative, or election agent who has been determined by the Election Tribunal to be disqualified due to failure to submit the election expense statement as prescribed and has been declared by the Commission as a disqualified person; and any Hluttaw representative who, after being elected as a Hluttaw representative, has been declared by the Commission as no longer having the right to continue serving as a Hluttaw representative due to being sentenced to imprisonment under any existing law, shall not be eligible to participate as a candidate for the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region or State Hluttaw in any elections held during the term of the Hluttaw formed based on the results of the election held from the date of such declaration."
10. Section 88-b shall be added behind Section 88-a of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law as follows: -
    "88-a: The Commission –
    (a) shall cancel its votes under Clause 2 of Section 49 (b) if a political party voluntarily dissolves itself, or if its registration is revoked under the Political Parties Registration Law.
    (b) shall recalculate the remaining valid votes as prescribed and shall announce the list of elected Hluttaw representatives after reducing the cancelled vote results mentioned in Subsection (a) for the constituencies prescribed under Section 4 (b)."

Thayawady's Mya Sein Yaung village project loans disbursed

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

Thayawady Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lay Lay Lwin and project staff first 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 K54 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Sihnitkhwa Village is utilizing K54 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project to implement family income-generating activities. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the 11th round of revolving loans to a total of 194 members from the village, including 175 people engaged in agricultural activities, 16 in livestock farming and three in other businesses. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Lawmakers Grill Govt on Jobs, Healthcare, Education and Infrastructure ...

FROM PAGE 5

Economic development also dominated the session. U Thet Pon, MP for the Sagaing Constituency, asked whether an official gemstone market would be reopened in Sagaing, but Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Latt Gyi said the ministry would only consider the proposal after regional stability and reconstruction efforts had progressed. Dr Nay Lin, MP for the Hmawby Constituency, requested information on bamboo exports and government assistance for MSMEs seeking overseas markets. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo said Myanmar exports bamboo products to several countries and is helping producers connect with foreign buyers and commercial attachés. U Htun Htun Moe, MP for the Yedashe Constituency, proposed allocating residential land plots for retiring civil servants, while U Khin Maung Chin, MP for the Myawady Constituency, called for more tax-free markets and measures to reduce unofficial charges imposed on locally produced goods during transportation. Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Win Moe Khaing said tax-free markets already operate in several regions and states and maintained that only legally authorized tolls are collected on roads, adding that any illegal collection of money would be subject to disciplinary and legal action.

The session also included questions from U San Myint of the Myittha Constituency, U Htun Htun Naing from the Singaing Constituency, U Khin Maung Myint from the Taikkyi Constituency, and U Hla Khaing from the Zalun Constituency, who sought improvements to roads and bridges in their respective townships. Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe said most projects would depend on future budget allocations and regional development priorities.

The parliamentary session was then adjourned and will resume on 15 July. — MNA/ST

NATIONAL

MoFR Union Minister responds to ...

FROM PAGE 6

The ministry has established eight strategic plans to ensure that tax system reforms are carried out systematically and is implementing phased projects to achieve nationwide coverage.

Previously, tax assessments were conducted under the Assumption-Based Assessment system, which relied on the estimated decisions of tax authorities. In place of this system, the system is being gradually introduced to shift towards an Evidence-Based Assessment system based on accounting records and factual data, and to exercise greater control over the discretionary authority of tax officers.

In the 2025-2026 FY, approximately 75 per cent of the total tax revenue collected by the Internal Revenue Department was collected through the Self-Assessment System (SAS). At SAS offices, digital tax administration systems, including the Tax Revenue Management System (TRMS), have been implemented; the taxpayer registration system with a Unique Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) in line with international standards has been introduced; and online tax services have been facilitated through e-Registration, e-Filing, and e-Payment systems (m-Banking and IRD Tax Payment Hub), enabling taxpayers to fulfil their tax obligations online.

Efforts have also been made to obtain real-time information by linking with MyCO (DICA), MACCS (Customs), CBM-NET (Central Bank of Myanmar), and TradeNet 2.0 (Trade); to implement the Aung Bar Lay Online Lottery system; to modernize the Aung Bar Lay Lottery draw process by using the Air Blow Digital Machine; to establish the CEIR/EIR registration system to ensure that mobile phone imports are not exempted from applicable taxes; and to begin implementing the Vehicle Automatic Valuation System (VAVS), which enables the automatic assessment and calculation of taxes payable on motor vehicle purchases and sales.

In addition, to improve tax compliance, measures are being taken to develop and implement a Tax Compliance Improvement Strategy; establish a dedicated unit at the Head Office to analyze potential tax losses; conduct tax audits and supervision targeting business sectors with a high risk of tax loss; carry out field inspections and supervision of tax stamp affixing at restaurants, hotels, and gold shops; and effectively impose penalties in accordance with the Tax Administration Law.

Furthermore, Taxpayer Service Centres, tax service offices, and e-Services Help Desk Centres have been opened and are operating to enable taxpayers to fulfil their tax obligations conveniently and to provide timely solutions to difficulties encountered by taxpayers.

Daily SMS campaigns are being automatically sent to the mobile phones of taxpayers who have received tax services to directly inquire about their satisfaction with the services provided by tax offices, the conduct and interactions of staff, whether there have been any inappropriate requests, and any circumstances that may lead to corruption.

Tax system reforms and the widespread expansion of technology adoption depend on the establishment of a Digital Tax Ecosystem and the provision of necessary infrastructure, including computers, data centres, and internet coverage. Accordingly, efforts are being made to expand technology-based tax services to tax offices across the country as well as to individual taxpayers.

The Union minister urged that tax departments, taxpayers, and all MPs work together and cooperate to ensure that the public fulfils their responsibilities in a responsible and corruption-free manner in contributing to tax revenue collection. The Amyotha Hluttaw approved the motion of the submitter. The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its session on 16 July. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar language is now available in PUBG MOBILE

An image of the popular mobile game, PUBG.

PUBG MOBILE, a popular and famous mobile game worldwide, has officially introduced the Myanmar language to help players in Myanmar enjoy the game more easily.

Its goal is to allow players in Myanmar to communicate with one another more easily and clearly in their native language, leading to a more enjoyable gaming experience. Through this integration of the Myanmar language in-game, PUBG MOBILE aims to bring Myanmar players closer together and create a more connected gaming experience.

Aman Kumar, Country Manager of PUBG MOBILE, stated, "PUBG MOBILE is constantly striving to provide better gaming experiences. I believe that adding the Myanmar language will not only make the game easier to use but also create a more familiar experience for Myanmar players. We hope that this initiative will allow players to have a closer connection with PUBG MOBILE."

To highlight this launch, PUBG MOBILE has produced campaign videos featuring the famous Myanmar actor Nay Htoo Naing and the Shan United football club. These videos are designed to show fans how using the game in the Myanmar language makes the experience much better.

PUBG MOBILE intends to continue developing further plans to ensure a better gaming experience for the Myanmar Esports community. — MT/ZN

Pyinmana's concrete road inspected

Officials inspect the completed concrete road in Pyinmana Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection yesterday of a completed concrete road construction project in Santhitlwin Village, Pyinmana Township.

Nay Pyi Taw Department of Rural Development Deputy Director (Technical) U Teza Nay Myo Win, Pyinmana Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nay Chi Zar Wai 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, while coordinating necessary measures to meet the village's requirements.

Santhitlwin Village is implementing village development activities using K200 million allocated by the Nay Pyi Taw Council. With technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Township Department of Rural Development, the construction of a concrete road measuring one mile long, three feet wide and six inches thick was carried out by local villagers themselves during the 2026-2027 financial year, and has now been completed 100 per cent to improve year-round rural transportation and contribute to the socio-economic development of the area. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Illegal electricity users urged to report by 31 July for leniency

Officials conduct a surprise inspection of industrial electricity meters along the Myaungtaga-Hmawby power line, where high electricity losses have been recorded.

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy announced on 12 July that it is developing a digital monitoring system that will enable Control Centres to detect illegal electricity use.

Those using electricity unlawfully may receive leniency if they report their violations by 31 July 2026.

The ministry said it is expanding power generation, promoting proper electricity use, and introducing measures to reduce both technical and non-technical losses, including electricity theft. It is also investigating illegal connections, rolling out smart meters, and enabling consumers to read their own meters and pay bills accordingly.

After 31 July, any illegal electricity use detected through the Control Centres will be dealt with under the Electricity Law, including fines, temporary suspension or cancellation of meter services, and revocation of business licences. — ASH/KNN

NATIONAL

YR expands high-demand Robusta coffee cultivation

One of the thriving coffee plantations in Yangon Region. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

THE Yangon Region Department of Agriculture announced that Robusta coffee, which has strong domestic and export demand, is being cultivated on 1,000 acres as an intercrop in the region.

Myanmar is expanding coffee cultivation in suitable areas under a five-year plan from 2026-2027 to 2030-2031, targeting 20,390 acres in Taikkyi, Hlegu, Hmawby, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships. As of June, 77.5 acres had been planted.

The department said coffee is a high-demand perennial crop with export potential, and the regional government has distributed 33,200 seedlings and 45 kilogrammes of seeds to farmers interested in commercial cultivation. — Thitsa (MNA)/ MKKS

CAD warns against hoarding of cooking oil

THE Department of Consumer Affairs notified palm oil importers and business owners to avoid hoarding the palm oil and purchase exactly what they actually need.

Efforts are being made to increase domestic oilseed production and boost domestic edible oil output, and reduce palm oil imports, according to the notification.

Furthermore, the distribution of imported palm oil for July is being apportioned to the public with a proportional inventory allocation method according to population and consumption in each region and state, sales volume and demand of the previous month. Batch delivery is scheduled to ensure adequate supply. Industrial-used palm oil is also being allocated based on the actual needs of each business.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution is monitoring the distribution process to ensure supply to the public. Moreover, a coordination committee is also working to ensure that palm oil reaches food processing businesses, restaurants, and hotels.

Therefore, the Department of Consumer Affairs warned against those who purchase palm oil to resell it instead, and an investigation and action against them are ongoing. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 13 July 2026

	US$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,662.20~3,668.00	558.40~558.70	125.50~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	13,738,102.78	214,447.77	20,705,831.46	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

The foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, consumer goods, industrial raw materials, construction materials, and corn. Of the CMP sector revenue, US$5.39 million was sold to the edible oil sector and US$2.44 million to the LNG sector. — MNA

Domestic footwear industry aims to boost production by 50%

DOMESTIC footwear makers are endeavouring to ramp up production by 50 per cent in two years amid the dominance of foreign footwear in the market, according to the Myanmar Footwear Manufacturers Federation.

The domestic footwear industry is currently striving for resilience amid intensifying competition with foreign brands in the domestic market. The domestic industry holds only 25 per cent of the market share. U Kan Nyunt, president of the Myanmar Footwear Manufacturers Federation, made the remark during the meeting of Myanmar MSME Cluster Footwear Manufacturers Federation (Central) held on 12 July.

"The federation stated that Myanmar footwear manufacturers are endeavouring to win some market share against foreign brands made in China, Thailand and other countries that hold about 75 per cent of shares in the domestic market. Although Myanmar restricts foreign footwear, they are still dominating the market," he explained about the market condition.

With the influx of foreign footwear in the market, the federation has forwarded a plan to increase domestic production by 50 per cent to meet the local demand, he added.

Domestic footwear factories are using up to 85 per cent of local raw materials, including locally produced rubber. Discussions regarding the implementation of a footwear industrial zone were also held to ensure the long-term, sustainable development of the domestic footwear industry. — TWA/KK

This image shows a small-scale footwear factory.

YBS bus fleet undergoes refuelling compliance checks

THE Yangon Region Ministry of Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport announced that YBS buses will be inspected to ensure they are systematically purchasing CNG using the authorized CNG purchase permit booklet.

YBS buses are required to present their CNG purchase permit booklet when refuelling at natural gas stations. Those without the booklet will no longer be permitted to purchase gas, the Automotive Natural Gas Department of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy notified.

The department formed three joint inspection teams, comprising officials from the Automotive Natural Gas Department and one member from the Yangon Region Private Transport Supervisory Committee (YRTC). These teams have been conducting on-site field inspections at CNG stations starting from July 10 to verify compliance with the refuelling protocol.

Dr Myo Thaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport, visited CNG Station No 019 in Sawbwagyigon. U Khun Myo Thant, Director of the department, presented the status of YBS buses' purchase of gas using the CNG purchase booklet, the presence of annual inspection QR code stickers issued by the CNG department, CNG labels affixed to the left and right sides of the vehicles, and gas distribution operations. U Khin Maung Htwe, a YRTC member, also explained the installation status of Telematic Devices and CCTV systems on YBS buses. Minister Dr Myo Thaw instructed officials concerned to continue their joint inspections, in coordination with the Automotive Natural Gas Department and YRTC, to ensure that vehicles comply with the prescribed regulations, ensuring the safety of the public. — NN/KK

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

ARTICLE
AD

Myanmar at a Demographic Opportunity: Turning Population Change into Sustainable Development

FROM PAGE 9

Employment and Economic Transformation

Even with a young, educated population, sustainable development cannot be achieved without job creation. Myanmar's labour market remains characterized by high informal employment and limited industrial diversification. Key challenges include youth unemployment and underemployment, continued dependence on agriculture and informal sectors, limited high-value manufacturing, and a persistent skill mismatch between graduates and employers. Strategic opportunities exist in industrial zone development, SME expansion, growth in digital services, and modernization of agricultural value chains. Job creation must keep pace with population growth, or the result is structural unemployment that erodes the very dividend a young population is meant to deliver.

Urbanization and Infrastructure Pressure

Urbanization is one of Myanmar's strongest demographic trends, driven by employment, education, and healthcare access concentrated in cities. While it supports economic productivity, it also brings real challenges: housing shortages, congestion, uneven public services, and informal settlements. Sustainable urban planning and decentralized development — spreading opportunity beyond Yangon and Mandalay — are essential to ensure urbanization's gains are not undermined by growing inequality.

Health Impact of Demographic Change

Population dynamics directly influence public health. Myanmar faces a dual burden of disease: communicable diseases persist in rural and low-income areas, while non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular conditions rise steadily among urban populations. A young population also requires strong maternal and child healthcare – reproductive health, nutrition, and early childhood development are core infrastructure at this demographic stage. Additionally, rapid social change and unemployment pressure contribute to rising mental health challenges among youth that often go undiagnosed. Strengthening primary healthcare, preventive care, and health education is essential to ensure that population growth supports — rather than weakens — public health outcomes.

Migration and Human Mobility

The 2024 Census population figure — a slight decline from 2014 — partly reflects large-scale outward labour migration, predominantly to Thailand and Malaysia. Remittances support household incomes and transfer international skills, but the loss of working-age people represents a real reduction in domestic human capital. With proper reintegration and skills development for returning migrants, labour mobility can shift from being a demographic drain to a genuine development asset.

Policy Directions for Sustainable Development

To fully realize its demographic opportunity, Myanmar requires coordinated policy strategies across five priority areas: human capital investment through stronger education, healthcare, and skills training; employment creation through industrial diversification, SME development, and digital economy expansion; sustainable urban development, investing in housing, transportation, and sanitation; youth empowerment, supporting entrepreneurship and meaningful participation in economic planning; and health system strengthening, expanding primary healthcare, preventive medicine, and mental health services across urban and rural areas alike.

Conclusion

Myanmar's demographic structure represents a significant opportunity for sustainable development. With a large youth population, ongoing urbanization, and a gradual demographic transition, the country is well positioned to benefit from a potential demographic dividend. But this opportunity is not guaranteed — it requires deliberate policy action, strong institutions, and long-term investment in human capital sustained beyond any single budget cycle.

If Myanmar successfully aligns its education, employment, and health systems with its demographic realities, population change can become a powerful engine of inclusive growth. Population is not only a number – it is human potential. The future depends on how effectively that potential is transformed into development outcomes, beginning with the choices made today.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0098N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PELICAN VOY.NO. (0098N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **14-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Notice for change of distributor

We, **Zhejiang Wynca Import & Export Co., Ltd**, **Zhejiang Xinan Chemical Industrial Group Co., Ltd**, would like to changes the Distributor (Old distributor: Friends Helper Co., Ltd.,) of the following product, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar. If any objection or enquiry, please contact to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, West Gyogone, Insein township, Yangon from here to next two weeks.

No	Manufacturer	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Number	New Distributor
1	Zhejiang Wynca Import & Export Co., Ltd	PropiAdvance 30 ME	Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% ME	P2024-6354	Myanmar Golden Sun Crop Science Co., Ltd.
2		Pyrimite 15 EC	Pyridaben 15% EC	P2024-6298	
3	Zhejiang Xinan Chemical Industrial Group Co., Ltd	JGmycin A 8 SL	Validamycin A 8% SL	P2022-5652	Agro Hero Crop Science Co.,Ltd.
4	Zhejiang Wynca Import & Export Co., Ltd	Space-X 50 SC	Azoxystrobin 20% + Tebuconazole 30% SC	P2023-6100	
5	Zhejiang Wynca Import & Export Co., Ltd	Cheers Max 70 WG	Dinotefuran 20% + Pymetrozine 50% WG	P2023-6196	Aomei K Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd.

Friends Helper Co., Ltd
Address: PV-113 B, Padauk Garden Villa, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon. Ph.no - 09421111797

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

EU says donors offering $1 bln to help Gaza 'early recovery'

THE EU said Monday that European donors had put some $1 billion on the table to help initial recovery efforts in war-torn Gaza.

"We will present the initial package today of almost 900 million euros or one billion dollars," Dubravka Suica, EU commissioner for the Mediterranean, said ahead of a donor meeting in Brussels.

"We now need the conditions on the ground that will allow the support to reach the people in Gaza."

People gather by the rubble of destroyed buildings following an Israeli strike on an industrial area in Gaza City on 12 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

The funds — which officials said include money already pledged to help Gaza — would be used to clear debris left from Israel's devastating military offensive and rebuild basic services such as water and sanitation.

"The governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, together with the European Commission and the European Investment Bank, are participating," Brussels said.

The EU said Suica had on a recent visit to Israel "reached agreement with the Israeli authorities on next steps for the implementation of two major projects in the areas of waste and water management in Gaza".

The commissioner said donors "want to start with so-called early recovery, and it is very important to show that we are willing to do it."

"But to do that, we need disarmament of Hamas in order to start proper recovery," she said.

The humanitarian needs of Gaza remain overwhelming.

The United Nations estimates reconstruction will take years and require tens of billions of dollars, as construction materials and debris-clearing equipment remain in critical short supply. — AFP

Sri Lanka urges protective clothing for preschool children amid dengue threat

SRI Lanka's Minister of Women and Child Affairs Saroja Savithri Paulraj on Monday urged parents to dress preschool children in clothing that covers their arms and legs to protect them from dengue-spreading mosquitoes.

Paulraj made the appeal during a media briefing at the Department of Government Information on National Early Childhood Week.

Her comments followed a recent decision by the Ministry of Education to allow schoolchildren to wear suitable clothing that covers their arms and legs as a precaution against dengue.

Paulraj said parents should extend the same protective measures to preschool children and dress them appropriately before sending them to preschool.

She also encouraged parents to use child-safe mosquito repellents where appropriate and take all possible precautions to prevent mosquito bites. — Xinhua

Thailand probes Bangkok bar fire that killed 28

INVESTIGATORS combed on Monday through the wreckage of a huge fire at a Bangkok bar that killed at least 28 people, as relatives began the grim task of identifying the dead.

More than 70 people were injured following the blaze on Sunday evening on the outskirts of the Thai capital, officials said, the country's worst such incident for almost two decades.

Flames ripped through the Rong Beer Na Lat Phrao bar and restaurant and burst out of the entrance, sending people fleeing, several with their clothing burned or ablaze.

"Everybody was running, squeezing into each other," recalled Athipat "Ice" Wijarn, whose bandmates were on stage when the fire broke out around 11 pm (1600 GMT) Sunday.

The lights went out and he noticed smoke come from the circuit board behind them, he told Thai talk show Hone-Krasae.

As he crawled towards the exit, he said, "there was an explosion, and I got hit at the back of my head". — AFP

Genetic map of bone cells opens way to therapies that rebuild bone: study

SCIENTISTS have mapped the cells and genes that regulate bone formation and loss at an unprecedented scale, a breakthrough that could lead to new therapies to rebuild lost bone.

The team, led by researchers from Australia and Britain, combined genomic sequencing with data from half a million individuals to identify hundreds of previously unknown genes that govern bone health, according to a statement released by Australia's Garvan Institute of Medical Research on Monday.

Researchers revealed cells surrounding blood vessels as one of the drivers of bone repair, a role that has been underappreciated until now.

The findings fundamentally advance understanding of skeletal disease and could enable new therapies to reverse bone loss, offering hope to almost half of people over 50 with conditions such as osteoporosis, as well as those with rare bone disorders and cancers that spread to bone, the researchers said. — Xinhua

Japan startup SkyDrive showcases high-speed "flying car" demo in Yamaguchi

This photo shows a SkyDrive Inc "flying car" during a demonstration in Yamaguchi, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on 13 July 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPANESE startup SkyDrive Inc conducted high-speed demonstration flights of its "flying car" on Monday at a test site in Yamaguchi, western Japan.

The demo was designed to simulate a sightseeing tour over the Seto Inland Sea. The company remotely operated an aircraft that seats three, including the pilot, flying about two kilometres, including over water, at a top speed of 86 kilometres per hour.

As multiple propellers on top began to spin, the aircraft lifted vertically and took off towards the sea. After flying for about one kilometre, it turned around, accelerated, and returned to the departure point. The six-minute demonstration flight was conducted twice.

"I hope this gave you a sense of how we can tour the beautiful Seto Inland Sea in a way that respects the environment and the local community," said SkyDrive CEO Tomohiro Fukuzawa.

In June, SkyDrive said it had achieved stable flight at 100 kilometres per hour toward commercialization. The company aims to launch services around 2028 in Osaka and Oita prefectures.

Such electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft are expected to help address various challenges, including traffic congestion and overcrowded trains. SkyDrive, based in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture in central Japan, conducted demonstration flights at the World Exposition in Osaka last year. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Sinner defends Wimbledon title with victory over Zverev

WORLD No 1 Jannik Sinner retained his Wimbledon men's singles title on Sunday, defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev 6-7 (7), 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-4 to claim his fifth Grand Slam title.

The Italian needed three hours and 46 minutes to overcome second seed Zverev in a high-quality final on Centre Court, securing his first major title of the 2026 season.

With the victory, Sinner became the 10th player in the Open Era to successfully defend the Wimbledon men's singles crown.

"It has been an amazing final once again. It always takes two players," Sinner said after the match. "I'm very happy about the win but also about the level we played."

Zverev made an aggressive start, taking the opening set in a tiebreak after producing confident baseline tennis and serving strongly. The German, who won his maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open last month, continued to challenge Sinner in the second set before the Italian prevailed in another tiebreak to level the match.

Sinner gradually took control in the final two sets with consistent serving, solid baseline play and effective returning, breaking serve once in each set to seal victory. — Xinhua

Jannik Sinner of Italy celebrates after winning the men's singles final against Alexander Zverev of Germany at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Britain, 12 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

4th-year BDS team wins University of Dental Medicine Rector's Cup

THE fourth-year BDS team won the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) Rector's Cup Men's Football Tournament after defeating the internship team 3-2 in the final at Thuwunna football training ground-I in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional ministers, Rector Dr Kyaw Thiha, professors, department heads, teachers and staff attended the event. After the match, prizes were presented to outstanding players, the runners-up Internship team, and the champions. The tournament was held from 6 to 13 July with six teams participating. — Bala/MKKS

The intership team and the fourth-year BDS team competing in the final match.

Slaven Bilic returns as Croatia coach

SLAVEN Bilic will return as head coach of Croatia, the national football federation announced Monday, replacing Zlatko Dalic, who resigned after the country's World Cup exit.

Dalic stepped down last week after a tenure that included a runner-up finish at the 2018 World Cup. Croatia failed to move into the last 16 of this year's World Cup, losing 2-1 to Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

Former Croatian international defender Bilic previously coached Croatia between 2006 and 2012.

The 57-year-old, who also coached English clubs West Ham, West Bromwich Albion and Watford, was "unanimously appointed" as head coach, the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) said.

"It is not easy to succeed Zlatko, but we are convinced that Slaven is the right person for this role," HNS president Marijan Kustic said, praising Bilic's "extensive coaching and managerial experience".

Bilic recorded a higher winning percentage than Dalic during his last tenure, with 42 wins, 15 draws and eight defeats in 65 matches.

But his side's best result was reaching the quarterfinals of the 2008 European Championships, which they lost on penalties to Türkiye.

"I am extremely excited about this challenge, which I feel completely ready for as a more mature and experienced coach than I was in 2006, but with the same motivation and desire for Croatia to be strong, bold and successful," Bilic told a press conference.

The Split-born Bilic said he took the post to "achieve a great result, above all at the European Championship" in 2028.

Asked about whether veteran captain Luka Modric would retire from international football, Bilic said the decision was up to the former Ballon d'Or winner, who will turn 41 in September. — AFP

Yamal aims to steal Mbappe's World Cup thunder in semifinal showdown

LAMINE Yamal is hoping to emulate Kylian Mbappe by winning the World Cup as a teenager, but first his Spain side will have to get the better of France and their superstar captain in Tuesday's semifinal.

When Mbappe scored in France's win over Croatia in the deciding match of the 2018 tournament, he was just 19 years and 207 days old. He therefore became only the second teenager to score in a World Cup final after a 17-year-old Pele in 1958.

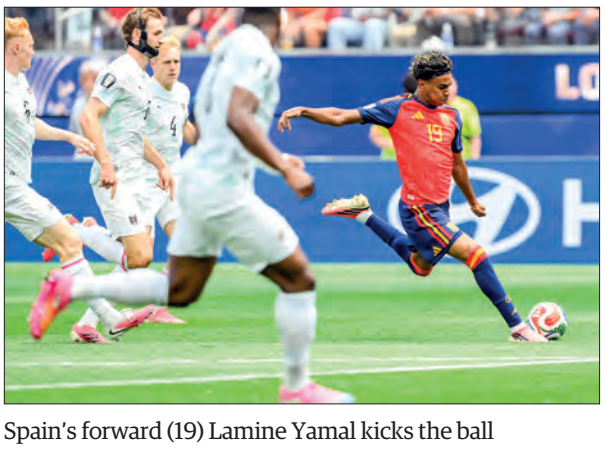
Mbappe's love affair with the World Cup began then, while this is Yamal's first experience of the competition.

He has already had his big breakthrough in a major tournament, however — Yamal's stunning goal in the Euro 2024 semifinal against Mbappe's France helped Spain to a 2-1 victory.

That came four days before he turned 17. His birthday was the day before the final. Spain beat England, and Yamal was named young player of the tournament.

This time his 19th birthday comes on the eve of the semifinal in Arlington.

Such a young player with his best years to come. But he is clearly eager to leave a firm mark on this World Cup. — AFP



Spain's forward (19) Lamine Yamal kicks the ball during the 2026 World Cup round of 32 football match between Spain and Austria at the Los Angeles Stadium in Inglewood on 2 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Former Athens Olympic hall gutted by fire

FIRE has severely damaged a badminton hall built for the Athens 2004 Olympics, causing the roof to cave in.

The fire department said it sent nearly 40 firefighters and 13 vehicles to contain the fire, which started late Sunday, inside the hall, which had not been used for several years.

It took until early Monday to control the flames, the department said.

There were no injuries reported. The badminton hall is situated in a park popular with local residents.

The complex, originally built as a temporary venue, cost over 20 million euros ($23 million). It was leased as a private concert hall after the Olympics at a cost of another 16 million euros, hosting shows including Cats, Mamma Mia! and Jesus Christ Superstar.

Greece's highest administrative court in 2012 ruled that the venue contravened building regulations and should be demolished. The venue's 20-year lease had expired in April, the city of Athens said. — AFP

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Thai PM to pay official visit to China

AT the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Anutin Charnvirakul will pay an official visit to China from 16 to 20 July, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

Spokesperson Lin Jian said Anutin will attend the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance, which will be held in Shanghai. President Xi Jinping will meet with him. Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji will hold talks and a meeting with him respectively.

This will be Anutin's first official visit to China since taking office, showing that both sides attach high importance to the development of China-Thailand relations, Lin said.

China and Thailand are good neighbours, good friends, good relatives and good partners, he said, citing King Maha Vajiralongkorn's state visit to China last year when the two countries marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, the two sides have deepened political mutual trust, and engaged in fruitful cooperation in areas of trade and investment, digital economy, aerospace, science, education, culture and health, he said.

Amid the changing and volatile international situation, China hopes the Thai PM's visit will help redouble efforts to carry forward the traditional friendship and family-like relationship of China and Thailand, deepen comprehensive strategic cooperation, achieve new outcomes in building the China-Thailand community with a shared future, boost the two countries' respective modernization, and contribute to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity, Lin added. — Xinhua

Carrier rocket for China's Chang'e-7 lunar probe arrives at launch site

A stacked composite photo taken on 4 November 2025 in Changping District of China's capital Beijing shows the Chinese space station passing in front of the Moon. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

THE carrier rocket for the Chang'e-7 lunar exploration mission has arrived at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said on Monday.

The Long March-5 Y14 carrier rocket will undergo assembly and testing at the launch site together with the Chang'e-7 lunar probe, which was transported to the site in April, the CMSA added.

Chang'e-7 is scheduled for launch in the second half of this year. The mission aims to achieve breakthroughs in multiple key technologies, such as high-precision soft landing on the lunar surface, legged movements, hopping and exploration of permanently shadowed craters.

The Chang'e-7 mission will employ a comprehensive detection approach, which involves orbiting, landing, roving and hopping to conduct environmental and resource surveys of the lunar south pole. It will also involve international cooperation, the agency said. — Xinhua

DR Congo reports Ebola cases in 5 provinces, caseload nears 1,900

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has reported Ebola cases in five provinces, with the nationwide tally rising to 1,873 confirmed cases, including 672 deaths, according to a report released Sunday by the country's health authorities.

The report, covering data through Friday, listed Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele and Tshopo as affected provinces. Haut-Uele and Tshopo were included in the national situation report for the first time. Investigations indicate that the cases detected in the two provinces were epidemiologically linked to the outbreak epicentre in Ituri province through contacts and population movements.

The report said 763 patients were in isolation or receiving hospital treatment, while the overall bed occupancy rate at treatment facilities stood at 95.1 per cent. A total of 306 people have recovered, while 299 suspected cases, including 91 deaths, have been recorded. — Xinhua

Russia's retaliation will be mirror-image and more powerful

RESPONSES to strikes on Russian territory will be mirror-image and several times more powerful, and the enemy will feel this with growing intensity, Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

"Our responses will always be mirror-image, wherever they try to strike on Russian territory, we will respond in a mirror-image manner, just several times more powerfully. The enemy will feel this. They already feel it, I hope. And they will feel it going forward with growing intensity," Putin said.

The president on Monday toured an exhibition by the People's Front called "All for Victory!", where, among other things, the president was shown a model of the Pantsir-S anti-aircraft gun-missile system. — SPUTNIK

A Pantsir-S air defence missile system shoots during the Kavkaz 2020 military drills at the Ashuluk training range, in Astrakhan region, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Iran says to stop fulfilling commitments if US keeps violating MoU obligations

IRAN will stop fulfilling its obligations if Washington continues violating commitments under last month's bilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU), Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said on Monday.

The MoU has undoubtedly entered a "crisis phase", while Iran has never been the party to violate commitments under the deal first, Baghaei said at a weekly press conference in the capital Tehran.

He accused the United States of having continuously violated its obligations and mutilated the MoU's paragraphs and components over the past weeks.

Iran adheres to the principle of "commitment for commitment" in implementing the MoU's provisions. When the other side remains committed to its obligations, "we will also implement our commitments", he said.

Asked whether diplomacy remains open following the latest developments, Baghaei said diplomacy, as a tool and lever, never stops. — Xinhua