

Political Differences Call for Democratic Solutions

Resolving issues through armed terrorism is no true solution, but a destructive force that obstructs and undermines the future of the regions and the nation.



President U Min Aung Hlaing receives a briefing on ongoing development initiatives in Yangon Region during a meeting with cabinet members of the Yangon and Bago region governments.

ARMED terrorism is destroying the interests of the relevant areas and the local people, obstructing and undermining the future of the regions and the nation, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting with cabinet members of Yangon and Bago regions along with departmental officials at the Yangon Region government office yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the President underscored that as different political ideologies that emerged in the past could not resolved polit-

ically, and some groups chose the path of armed terrorism, stability and peace are still needed in some areas of the country. As the State is now moving forward on the path of multiparty democracy under the leadership of an elected government chosen by the people, political differences should be resolved and addressed through democratic means.

He noted that armed terrorism is destroying the interests of the relevant areas and the local people, obstructing and undermining the future of the regions and the nation. So, resolving issues through armed

terrorism is not a genuine solution.

The President expressed his economic policy that if products are identical, owned products must be cheaper, and if prices are the same, their quality should be superior. In carrying out agricultural, livestock breeding, and manufacturing activities, it is necessary to ensure the accuracy of statistical data and to conduct production processes properly and efficiently.

He added that rising commodity prices are caused by imbalances between supply and demand,

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Key notes provided by the President at the meeting with CMs of Yangon and Bago regions

1. It is necessary to sufficiently produce goods domestically to reduce commodity prices.
2. Teachers must train students to achieve genuine mastery of each subject, appropriate to their grade level and academic discipline.
3. Policies such as "Where there is a hospital, there must be doctors; nothing is more important than human lives" have been adopted.
4. Everyone needs to participate in efforts to beautify their regions and provide good services to improve the tourism industry.

Myanmar Gems & Jewellery Expo set for Ruili from 22 to 25 July

THE Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Exhibition will be held from 22 to 25 July in the Jiegao border trade zone in Ruili, Dehong Prefecture in Yunnan Province of China, under the cooperation of the Chinese and Myanmar governments.

Yunnan-based news outlets reported that all products at the exhibition are original gemstones

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Myanmar Poultry Body Launches Direct Egg Sales to Curb Price Hikes

THE Myanmar Poultry Farmers and Dealers Association, under the Myanmar Livestock Federation, is selling eggs directly to consumers at affordable prices to help curb rising prices.

The Egg and Duck Egg Distributors Group has launched a programme to sell eggs directly to consumers under the slogan "Clean, Fresh,

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Residents queue to buy eggs at affordable prices in a local community.

OPINION

Invest in bamboo processing for export

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Investors Eye Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Solar Projects

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Ordinance 3/2026

7th Waxing of Second Waso 1388 ME
21 July 2026

Announcement on Validity of Ordinance

- 1. The President's Office issued an Ordinance 1/2026, declaring the state of emergency on 8th Waxing of Kason 1388 Myanmar Era, 23 April 2026.
- 2. Among the townships in the Regions and States specified in the ordinance, except for Tonzang and Falam townships in Chin State, where administrative functions, community peace and stability, and the rule of law have returned to normal, the ordinance shall remain in force for the remaining townships for a further 90 days from today, in accord with Section 212 (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with the approval of the ninth day of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held on 21 July 2026.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Ordinance 4/2026

7th Waxing of Second Waso 1388 ME
21 July 2026

Announcement on Validity of Martial Law Order

- 1. To restore the administration, community peace and the rule of law in the townships where the State of Emergency has been declared under Ordinance 3/2026, the martial law order was issued under Section 413 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the executive and judicial power for these townships was entrusted to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.
- 2. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services shall exercise the power and responsibilities by himself or shall transfer them to any appropriate military authorities.
- 3. This ordinance remains in force for 90 days from today.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Gems & Jewellery Expo
set for Ruili from 22 to 25 July

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sourced directly from Myanmar, with traceable origins and quality guarantees.

The exhibition will adopt an integrated online and offline trading system, with transactions conducted in Chinese yuan. Traders will also benefit from import duty exemptions,

western region development policies, and the preferential tax incentives available under Jiegao's "Five Freedoms and Five Reductions" policy, helping to reduce business costs.

Myanmar's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Yunnan

Provincial Government of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Kunming, Yunnan Province on 24 February 2026 to jointly organize the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Exhibition at the Jiegao Border Trade Zone in Ruili, Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province. — NN/KK

El Niño Conditions News

Issued on 21 July 2026

- (a) The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) in the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the equator indicate that reach to moderate El Niño conditions. According to the forecasts from International Meteorological Agencies based on Numerical Weather Prediction Models, Strong El Niño conditions may reach in August and very strong El Niño conditions at the end of 2026.
- (b) Although El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts can generally lead to irregular rainfall patterns, higher day temperatures, abnormal storm activity, drought and other extreme weather events in the upcoming summer season.
- (c) Therefore, all relevant sectors are kindly requested to take necessary precautionary measures in advance. Updates on the El Niño status will continue to be issued and disseminated in a timely manner. — DMH

Tonzang People's
Hospital equipped with
solar power system

THE Tonzang People's Hospital in Chin State has been equipped with a 3.5 kW solar power system, installed through collective donations from village elders and officials representing various Christian denominations. Members of the Township Management and Administration Committee visited the hospital yesterday afternoon to inspect the installation and operation of the solar power system. They also observed the provision of healthcare services and provided financial assistance to patients receiving medical treatment. — Township IPRD/MKKS

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 21

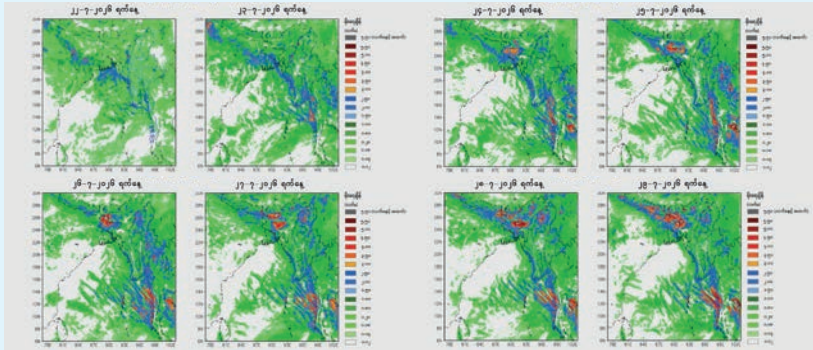
Issued at 8 am MST on 21 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the unstable air condition over the Bay of Bengal and 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, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls from today morning to 29 July 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the unstable air condition over the Bay of Bengal and 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 flight. — DMH



Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

Political Differences Call for Democratic Solutions

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in addition to high production costs. Therefore, it is necessary to sufficiently produce goods domestically.
The President urged authorities of Bago Region to expand fish farming activities, while Yangon Region must emphasize larger production of meat and fish.
Regarding domestic edible oil sufficiency, the President underlined that edible oils have to be imported annually from abroad, resulting in the expenditure of foreign currency. Although oil-seed crops are successfully cultivated and produced in the country, per capita domestic consumption of

edible oil remains high. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce edible oil consumption.
In the land utilization sector, the President emphasized that it is necessary to carry out construction tasks on the allotted land plots for infrastructural development. Likewise, land allocated for agriculture, livestock breeding, and industrial activities must also be utilized effectively and systematically in accordance with the approved purposes and permissions.
In the education sector, the President outlined that weaknesses in education were also partly due to the practice of

placing greater emphasis on students advancing to the next grade level rather than on ensuring that they had actually acquired knowledge and skills. Therefore, since assuming state responsibilities in 2021, priority has been given to improving the quality of education in both basic education and higher education sectors. Teachers need to train their students to have genuine mastery of the subjects taught according to their respective grade levels and academic disciplines.
The President highlighted that only by producing quality human resources equipped with comprehensive knowl-

edge, skills and proper, sound thinking can a developed and prosperous future nation be built.
With regard to the healthcare sector, the President stressed that policies such as “Where there is a hospital, there must be doctors; nothing is more important than human lives” have been adopted, and emphasis is being placed on enhancing the healthcare services provided to the people.
He continued that measures must also be taken to ensure that the surroundings around schools provide a healthy and balanced environment, and that food and drinking water are clean and safe.

Regarding the development of the tourism sector, the President pointed out that Yangon and Bago regions have many prominent pagodas, temples and stupas, ancient cultural heritage buildings, and beautiful natural surroundings that attract international tourists. Everyone needs to participate in efforts to beautify their regions and give good services in order to improve the tourism industry.
At the meeting, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win reported on efforts for the development of their regions. They presented the

systematic installation of communication and electric cables, proper drainage system, formation of town plans without reduction of farmlands, export of paddy and surplus rice, beans, seafoods, irrigation facilities for cultivable lands, cultivation of oil crops and coffee, storage of water at dams, efforts to control flooding and overflow of water, encouragement to MSME businesses, conducting vocational courses to develop human resources, and development undertakings at Toungoo Special Development Region.
After the meeting, the President cordially greeted the attendees. — MNA/TTA

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets members of Committee on Domestic & International Non-Governmental Organizations



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with members of the Committee on Domestic and International Non-Governmental Organizations.

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Khin Yi, accompanied by Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, met members of the Committee on Domestic and International Non-Governmental Organizations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.
Committee Chair U Thet Pon explained the

duties and ongoing work plans of the committee, and the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker said the committee will work with domestic organizations to help enhance the dignity of the Hluttaw and strengthen the capacity of lawmakers.
The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said Pyithu Hluttaw has formed 22

committees to coordinate with government ministries and that each committee must carry out its responsibilities to generate meaningful questions and proposals that will benefit the country and the people. He continued that Myanmar currently has 3,666 registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and

45 international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). He said these organizations contribute to national development, humanitarian assistance, and food security, providing valuable support to the country. The Hluttaw, he added, should review their activities from a legal perspective and establish an appropriate framework to ensure they can contribute effectively to national interests.
He pointed out that Myanmar has yet to enact specific laws for NGOs and INGOs and suggested that the committee discuss the need for laws such as an NGO/INGO Management Law, a Foreign Assistance Transparency Law, a Volunteer Service Law, a Data Protection Law, a Public Benefit Organization Law and a Humanitarian Coordination Law.
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U Zaw Win Myint concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to Mongolia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Zaw Win Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People’s Republic of China, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Mongolia. — MoFA

DIPLOMACY:

MNPIFER Union Minister receives UN's WFP Representative & Country Director

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received Mr Michael John Dunford, Representative and Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Myanmar, at the Ministry’s Office 1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views regarding the WFP’s work plan for ongoing programmes and plans in Myanmar.
Senior officials from the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations also attended the meeting. — MNPIFER



The United Nations WFP Representative and Country Director calls on Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe.

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw weighs ordinance continuation, WAICO signing

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued its ninth day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Zin Min Htet from the Bago Region Constituency 7, who is secretary of the Joint Bill Committee, read out the findings on controversial points between the two Hluttaws for the Anti-Online Scam Bill and remarks of the Joint Bill Committee.

Chair of the Joint Bill Committee Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Jeng Phang Naw Taung and Joint Bill Committee member MP U Thein Tun Oo from the Amarapura Constituency read out the findings on the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Bill (2006) and the Region or State



The ninth-day sitting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

Budget Preparation and Submission Bill (2006).

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced that MPs wishing to discuss the bills can list at the director-general of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Lawmakers discussed the continuous approval for the ordinances proposed by the President to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Speaker sought the approval for the proposal from the Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ap-

proved the proposal.

Lawmakers also participated in discussions over the proposal sent by the President so that Myanmar can sign the agreement to establish the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization.

In response to the discussions, Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Thet Win Aung stated that the President sent a message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker on 10 July, mentioning that the organization is established to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Organization will operate in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, upholding the principles of equality and the broad participation of all countries. The Agreement will be open for signature from 1 May to 31 July 2026, and States that sign the Agreement during this period will be recognized as founding

member States. Member States will be required to pay annual membership contributions. Any member wishing to withdraw from the Agreement and the Organization must submit a written notification, and such withdrawal will take effect one year after the notification is given.

The deputy minister continued that ministerial-level representatives from 29 countries, including the Union Minister for Digital Development and Communications representing Myanmar, signed the agreement at the 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference, and the High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance was held in Shanghai, China, from 17 to 20 July.

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HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets members of Committee on Domestic & International ...

FROM PAGE 3

He urged the committee to review existing laws related to organizations, assess the registration, objectives, operations and financial activities of NGOs and INGOs in cooperation with relevant departments. He also called for coordination with NGOs and INGOs to address their challenges

through Hluttaw mechanisms and ensure they can effectively support the State and the people. He also stressed efforts to strengthen the role of the Hluttaw and make it a trustworthy institution during its five-year term.

After the meeting, the Speaker cordially met the committee chair, secretary and members. — MNA/KTZH

Dy C-in-C attends ceremony marking 99th Anniversary of China's PLA Founding

A ceremony commemorating the 99th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China was held at the Novotel Max Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening, with Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin attending the event with his wife.

General Kyaw Swa Lin and his delegation were welcomed at the venue by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia,



Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief General Kyaw Swa Lin, his wife, the Chinese ambassador, and the Chinese Military Attache and his wife cut the ceremonial cake at yesterday's event.

Chinese Military Attaché to Myanmar Senior Colonel Qu Zhe and his wife, along

with other officials.

The ceremony began with the playing of the na-

tional anthems of Myanmar and China, followed by a documentary presentation highlighting the history and development of the PLA. Senior Colonel Qu Zhe then delivered a welcoming speech.

As part of the programme, General Kyaw Swa Lin, his wife, the Chinese ambassador, and the Chinese military attaché and his wife cut a commemorative cake marking the PLA's 99th anniversary, followed by a group photo session. **SEE PAGE 5**

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NATIONAL

Quality fire trucks, fuel bowzers and water tankers need boosted production

IT is necessary to carry out continuous research and development to manufacture higher-quality vehicles with advanced technologies that meet international standards, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo on his inspection tour of the Tatmadaw Heavy Industry (Yangon Branch) in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region yesterday morning.

Officials reported to the General on the functions of relevant branches of the industry, production capacity, implementation of assigned duties, capacity of utility vehicles manufactured by the industry, production process, manufacturing of vehicles and parts and research process.

In his response, the General urged officials to

strive for manufacturing a larger number of quality vehicles as not only Tatmadaw but ministries use fuel bowzers, water tankers and fire trucks. He stressed the need to coordinate efforts to meet the raw material demands of MSME businesses. He instructed officials to distribute vehicles produced by the industry to regions and states depending on demand.

The General visited the moulding workshop, the bolt and nut workshop, and the tank assembly workshop.

The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief and officials observed the fire trucks, water tankers and fuel bowzers manufactured by the industry and presented cash awards to employees.



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo is pictured (L) during his inspection tour of the Tatmadaw Heavy Industry (Yangon Branch).

Tatmadaw Heavy Industry (Yangon Branch) manufactures 2,800-gallon-capacity fire trucks, 11,000-gallon-capacity fire trucks, 2,200-gallon-capacity water tankers, 4,200-gallon-capacity fuel bowzers and 2,200-gallon-capacity fuel bowzers being distributed to Tatmadaw, ministries and relevant governments of regions

and states.

Moreover, the industry produces body press parts, frames and other parts for Inlay Jeep and Inlay Pickup. These parts are sent to Tatmadaw Heavy Industry (Htonbo) to finalize assembling the Inlay Jeeps to be sold at fair prices to Tatmadaw as well as ministries. — MNA/TTA

NSPNC, NCA-S EAOs hold second-day meeting

THE second day of the meeting to review the peace process between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the NCA-Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations (NCA-S EAOs) was held at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, NSPNC Member Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retired) presented and explained a framework for a more inclusive peace process based on the principles and achievements of the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA).



The second day of the meeting between the NSPNC and NCA-Signatory EAOs is in progress yesterday.

Participants then continued discussions on the remaining issues from the first day of the meeting.

Afterwards, while recording the outcomes of the two-day discussions, participants de-

liberated on implementing an NCA-based peace process, resolving political issues through political means, facilitating inclusive political dialogue involving relevant stakeholders, arranging meetings between nego-

tiating delegations, and promoting peace, stability, and regional development in areas where EAOs are based. They also discussed providing humanitarian assistance and integrating it with regional development and peacebuilding efforts, securing the cooperation of relevant NCA-S EAOs in organizing community-based discussions and forums in regions and states, obtaining domestic and international technical support, and continuing informal and bilateral meetings.

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Dy C-in-C attends ceremony marking 99th ...

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The Chinese ambassador and military attaché later hosted the guests at a commemora-

tive dinner.

The event was attended by senior military officers from the Office of the Com-

mander-in-Chief and their wives, the Yangon Command commander and his wife, foreign ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, military attachés from foreign missions in Yangon, and other distinguished guests. — MNA/ST

Myanmar Poultry Body Launches Direct Egg ...

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Affordable Daily Nutrition” at markets managed under the Yangon City Development Committee on a rotation basis, starting from the morning of 20 July.

Eggs are a nutrient-dense food, rich in protein, and reasonably priced. Livestock farms are continuously producing these eggs for the market.

Vaccine shortages and feed raw material inputs elevate production costs for livestock products. There was a mismatch between layer chick production and demand in the previous years. Disease outbreaks in recent months, coupled with increased demand for eggs during the school season, have widened the gap between supply and demand, triggering price fluctuations in the retail market.

The MLF and its member associations and groups are working not only to ensure a steady supply of eggs from layer

farms but also to prioritize affordability for consumers. Therefore, they initiated this program to sell eggs directly from farms to consumers.

Eggs will be sold at K550 per egg on the morning of 22 July at the Padamya Market in Shwepyitha Township, Nandawun Market in South Okkalapa Township, Pazundaung Market in Pazundaung Township, Yadana Theingyi Market in North Okkalapa Township, Sanpya Market in Thingangyun Township, Dagon Shwe Pyi Market in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Tamway Tax-free Market in Tamway Township, Bogale Market in Botahtaung Township and Htaukkyant Market near Htaukkyant Junction.

While implementing this programme to benefit consumers, the authorities will also take special care to ensure continued poultry production without disruption and avoid losses for layer farmers. — NN/KK

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw weighs ordinance continuation...

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He unveiled that becoming a signatory to the agreement on the establishment of the organization would help advance Myanmar’s AI development to a considerable extent. It would also contribute to the country’s socioeconomic development in various ways. Myanmar would be able to benefit from the assistance of international experts in promoting AI technology, while also receiving significant support for the development of human resources. In addition, it would enable Myanmar to cooperate in a balanced and coordinated manner with the international community to prevent and combat

the misuse of AI technology, its adverse consequences, and transnational crimes.

The deputy minister explained that the Ministry has established the National Artificial Intelligence Development Department and is vigorously and effectively implementing measures to accelerate the development of AI technology. The deputy minister expressed gratitude to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and lawmakers who approved the signing of the agreement successfully. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the proposal.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue its ninth-day session on 23 July. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Mandalay Region develops new cotton varieties through cross-breeding research



A locally cultivated cotton plantation.

THE Cotton Crop Research and Technology Development Farm (Lun Kyaw) in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, is conducting cross-breeding research between Uzbek's cotton varieties and local varieties to develop new cotton varieties with higher yields and better quality than the currently cultivated Shwetaung-8 and Shwetaung-10 varieties.

The cross-breeding programme began in the

pre-monsoon season of 2023-2024, and the new cotton varieties are expected to be distributed to farmers for commercial cultivation within the next two years.

In the breeding process, Uzbek cotton varieties with advantages such as large bolls, high ginning percentage, longer cotton fibres, strong upright growth and suitability for close planting are being used as parent varieties. However, as these varieties have low resistance to bollworms and sucking pests, they are being cross-bred with local varieties, including Shwetaung-10 and Ngwechi-6, which are more resistant to these

pests.

The newly developed cotton varieties and their parent varieties will be tested and demonstrated in comparative field trials. The new varieties will be distributed only after farmers have seen and accepted through practical experience that they perform better than the parent varieties. The Cotton Crop Research and Technology Development Farm (Lun Kyaw) continues to carry out cotton breeding and research activities to develop high-quality varieties superior to local ones and improve the livelihoods of cotton farmers. — ASH/KNN

Cotton and cottonseed expansion meeting held

THE plan to expand the production of cotton and cottonseed from the cotton plant was discussed in a meeting held on 20 July in Aunglan Township, which owns more than 60,000 acres of cotton plantations, according to the Department of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

During the meeting at Aunglan District General Administration Department, cotton ginners, cottonseed oil manufacturers and officials from the Magway Region Cooperative Department made their discussion.

As part of the plan

to expand cotton gins in the region, the meeting also discussed establishing a cooperative society of mills to help ensure weaving raw materials are available on a large scale.

The head of the regional cooperative department head, the district administrator, and the township agriculture department's staff officer attended the meeting. They discussed how establishing a cooperative society of cotton gins could streamline the proposal-submission process to reflect business needs.

— MT/ZS



The Magway Region Cooperative Department officials met cotton ginners and cottonseed oil manufacturers in Aunglan Township.

Yamethin's VRFP funds disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse funds under the Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) in Kadaung Village, Yamethin Township, yesterday.

Yamethin Township Department of Rural De-

velopment Head Daw Aye Aye Win explained the objectives, implementation and benefits of the Village Revolving Fund Project. Officials then briefed participants on project activities, loan conditions, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed. They handed over K38.8

million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation committee.

Kadaung Village is implementing small-scale agricultural, livestock and household business activities using K38.8 million from the Village Revolving Fund Project. Under the supervision of the town-

ship department, members of the project committee disbursed the seventh round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 53 beneficiaries from the village, including 13 people engaged in systematic agriculture, 25 in systematic livestock breeding, four in production businesses, five in trading businesses and six in livelihood enterprises. — Karan (Rural)

NSPNC, NCA-S EAOs hold second-day meeting

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NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing also delivered remarks on the outcomes of the two-day discussions. He elaborated on continuing the implementation of the peace process based on the principles of the NCA, building mutual trust, facilitating the participation of ethnic armed organizations that have not yet signed the NCA as well as those that have signed but later moved away from the NCA process

for various reasons, and pursuing continuous dialogue alongside practical measures to advance the peace process.

Following the two-day negotiations, the common agreements reached during the discussions were formally recorded and signed. Concluding remarks were then delivered by RCSS Secretary 1 Sao Sai Ngin, who is also Head of NCA-S EAOs negotiation team, and NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. — MNA/TH

Hsihseng's spring water supply project inspected



Officials oversee the completed spring water supply system and water storage tank in Hsihseng Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of a spring water supply system and water storage tank construction project in Nar-

mun Village, Hsihseng Township.

Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lwin Lwin Oo, Hsihseng Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thein Nwe Oo and engineering staff inspected the completed works, which include a one-mile-long spring water pipeline from the water source to the village and a 5,000-gallon water storage tank. She met local villagers to emphasize the importance of systematically installing water meters and maintaining the system to en-

sure long-term durability, and coordinated necessary measures based on the community's needs. The water supply project was implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year with K44 million allocated from the union budget under the supervision of township DRD officials and residents. With the project now 100 per cent complete, local residents of Narmun Village, have gained year-round access to clean drinking water and overcome seasonal water shortages during the summer. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

NATIONAL

Tourists stream to
Buu Pagoda Riverside for
scenic wall, sunset glow

THE riverside area of the Buu Pagoda, located in the Bagan ancient cultural zone, a place rich in Myanmar's cultural heritage, has become crowded with tourists during public holidays due to the beauty of the retaining wall and sunset views, according to the Buu Pagoda Board of Trustees.

A retaining wall was constructed at Buu Pagoda to prevent damage to the pagoda caused by riverbank erosion along the Ayeyawady River. Construction of the wall at the base of the pagoda was completed at the end of December 2025, and painting work was completed in April 2026. The newly transformed beauty of the Buu Pagoda riverside has

attracted visitors through word of mouth, including foreign tourists, and the site has become especially crowded with leisure travellers during public holidays in the current rainy season.

"More travellers visit during public and school holidays. Many enjoy sitting by the riverside to admire the beauty of the Ayeyawady River and watching the sunset from the hilltop of Tantkyi Pagoda. Previously, people mostly viewed the sunset from Buu Pagoda, but now many relax and watch the sunset while sitting along the walkway of the riverbank protection wall at Buu Pagoda. We are glad to see traveller numbers increasing after a quiet period. As



Holidaymakers enjoy their time at the Buu Pagoda Riverside. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

Bagan is a World Heritage Site, we expect more domestic and foreign travellers to visit during the open season," said U Htay Lwin, chair of the pagoda board of trustees.

The retaining wall at the foot of the Buu Pagoda was constructed with a length of 250 feet and a width of 100 feet, extending

to the pagoda's platform. It is planned to continue construction of an additional 120-foot-long and 100-foot-wide section of the retaining wall in 2026.

The Buu Pagoda has become increasingly popular owing to the beauty of the Ayeyawady River, Tantkyi Mountain Range and sunset scenery. The

pagoda is open from 6 am to 8 pm. Visitors can pay homage to the Buu Pagoda through the entrance road, where an ancient Buddha image is housed inside the meditation hall. After leaving the hall, visitors reach the pagoda platform and thereby descend the stairs to the retaining wall, where they enjoy views of

Bagan's landscape and the Ayeyawady River, particularly between 5 pm and 7 pm.

During 2024-2025, a river channel about 10 feet wide developed near the riverside area at the foot of the Buu Pagoda. Sandbags were used to control the water flow, and the riverbank protection wall was constructed in cooperation among the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, the Department of Archaeology and relevant departments. There is also a boat jetty at the Buu Pagoda riverside for travelling to Tantkyi Mountain on the opposite bank of the Ayeyawady River. The government constructed a riverbank protection wall to prevent damage to the pagoda from river erosion, and the area has become a popular recreational destination attracting public interest and tourists. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Mongla hosts environmental
conservation, smoke haze
awareness talk



An environmental conservation and smoke haze reduction awareness talk is in progress in Mongla, eastern Shan State, on 21 July 2026.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held an awareness talk on environmental conservation and smoke haze reduction in Panhote

(Lower) Village, Mongla Township, yesterday.

At the event, Mongla District Department of Rural Development Acting Head Daw Aye Su Mon delivered a talk on basic knowledge of envi-

ronmental conservation, covering measures to reduce smoke haze, proper waste disposal, air and indoor pollution, as well as preventive measures against infectious diseases caused by environmental pollution.

Mongla Township Department of Rural Development Head U Thet Nyi Nyi discussed the benefits of reducing plastic bag usage, waste categorization and environmental conservation practices. Officials then answered questions and addressed concerns raised by attending village elders and residents. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

MMPO to provide school supplies
to industry's offspring on 25 July



This photo shows the ceremony providing school uniforms and stationery to the offspring of Myanmar's film industry in the previous year.

THE Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization (MMPO) will provide educational grants, school uniforms and stationery to the children of film industry members on 25 July, according to MMPO

Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay.

The programme will be held at 9 am on 25 July at the MMPO's Golden Jubilee Hall in Yangon. Children of MMPO members enrolled in the

2026-2027 academic year will receive educational stipend, school uniforms and stationery.

"We provide educational stipend to the children of our members every year. With support from donors, the association also provides school uniforms and stationery. This year, we will continue to offer the same level of assistance as in previous years and expect to support more than 100 students," said U Aye Kyu Lay.

The assistance package will include notebooks, pencils, pens, rulers, pencil sharpeners, compasses, umbrellas and school uniforms. — ASH/MKKS

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

Invest in bamboo processing for export

MYANMAR is endowed with underground and aboveground natural resources. Among the varieties of natural resources, valuable timbers such as teak and ironwood, rubber dubbed as white gold and bamboo as green gold are available in jungles and systematically established forests. In fact, forest plantations provide various forest products to nearby local communities.

With regard to bamboo plantations and bamboo products, approximately 21 bamboo genera and 102 bamboo species are found across Myanmar. Most bamboo plantations can be seen on the Rakhine mountain ranges, Bago mountain ranges and other hilly areas

The Head of State himself has frequently encouraged and supported citizens and ethnic entrepreneurs to operate bamboo product industries. It can be seen that even foreign entrepreneurs have established businesses in Myanmar and are earning income by engaging in bamboo production industries. Therefore, local entrepreneurs should make efforts to mobilize technology, capital, and skilled labour resources, and successfully utilize Myanmar's abundant bamboo resources to generate income for the country.

Some Myanmar entrepreneurs are engaged in the production of household utensils and souvenirs made of bamboo. Bamboo and bamboo products have been exported to countries including India, Pakistan, Singapore, Italy, and China. From the 2021-2022 financial year to the end of May of the 2026-2027 financial year, bamboo products such as split bamboo, bamboo poles, bamboo mats, incense sticks, and bamboo blinds were exported, generating total earnings of US\$2,456,346.30.

Bamboo product industries are being operated in relevant industrial zones. Depending on the strength of workforces, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises are focusing on the manufacturing of personal goods made of bamboo so as to attract international travellers as well as to generate remarkable incomes. Currently, foreign investors eye on production of bamboo products in Myanmar for export purposes.

To help MSME products gain access to domestic and international markets, linkages have been established with economic attachés abroad as well as domestic retail and wholesale distributors. With the support of regional authorities and relevant ministries, efforts are being made to ensure the availability of necessary industrial raw materials, machinery and equipment, and access to overseas markets for value-added bamboo products.

The Head of State himself has frequently encouraged and supported citizens and ethnic entrepreneurs to operate bamboo product industries. It can be seen that even foreign entrepreneurs have established businesses in Myanmar and are earning income by engaging in bamboo production industries. Therefore, local entrepreneurs should make efforts to mobilize technology, capital, and skilled labour resources, and successfully utilize Myanmar's abundant bamboo resources to generate income for the country.

Beyond Laziness: A Battle Within the Brain

For centuries, procrastination has been dismissed as laziness, weak willpower, or poor discipline. Modern neuroscience tells a far more compassionate story. What appears to be “putting things off” is often a contest between emotional survival mechanisms and rational decision-making within the brain.

The question is not simply why people procrastinate. The more interesting question is: **Who is in charge at that moment?**

The Emotional Bodyguard and the Executive Officer

At the centre of this struggle is the **amygdala**, an almond-shaped structure deep within the brain. It evolved long before modern civilization and serves as our emotional alarm system. Its task is simple: detect danger and keep us alive.

Unfortunately, the amygdala cannot distinguish between a charging tiger and an unfinished

Who Is Really in Charge? The Neuroscience of Procrastination Through the Lens of Buddhism

By U Khin Maung Myint

tax return. Fear of failure, criticism, uncertainty or embarrassment may trigger the same defensive response – avoidance.

Opposing this is the **prefrontal cortex**, located just behind the forehead. This is the brain's chief executive officer. It plans, organizes, evaluates consequences, suppresses impulsive reactions and keeps long-term goals in focus.

When faced with an unpleasant task, the amygdala says, “Escape now”. The prefrontal cortex replies, “Finish first; relief will follow.”

Productivity depends on which voice prevails.

The Brain Is a Team, Not a

Duel Neuroscience now shows that procrastination involves an entire network rather than a single brain region.

The **anterior cingulate cortex** acts as a referee, detecting conflict between intention and action. The **hippocampus** retrieves memories of previous failures or successes, influencing our emotional reactions. The **basal ganglia** convert repeated behaviours into habits, meaning procrastination itself can become automatic.

Meanwhile, the **insula** amplifies feelings of discomfort and boredom, encouraging escape from unpleasant emotions. The **nucleus accumbens** and the

brain's dopamine reward pathways tempt us towards immediate pleasures – checking social media, browsing the internet, or making yet another cup of tea – rather than pursuing rewards that lie further in the future.

In other words, procrastination is less a failure of time management than a challenge of **emotion regulation and executive control**.

When the Boss Loses Authority

Stress, anxiety, poor sleep, depression, chronic fatigue and constant digital distraction all weaken the influence of the prefrontal cortex while allowing the

amygdala and reward circuits to dominate.

This explains why intelligent, capable people often procrastinate the most. The issue is rarely lack of knowledge. It is temporary loss of executive control.

The encouraging news is that the brain remains plastic throughout life. Neuroplasticity allows the prefrontal cortex to strengthen with repeated practice. Breaking work into smaller tasks, exercising, sleeping adequately, reducing distractions and simply beginning for five minutes all reinforce the neural circuits responsible for self-control.

Motivation often follows action – not the other way round.

It is the deliberate cultivation of awareness before reaction. In neuroscientific terms, mindful attention appears to strengthen executive control while reducing automatic emotional reactivity. One learns to notice fear without obeying it.

The Buddha's teaching on the **Middle Way** also offers practical guidance. Neither harsh self-criticism nor endless indulgence leads to progress. Steady, balanced effort – *Viriya*, one of the factors of enlightenment – builds lasting discipline.

Who Should Be the Boss?

Imagine the brain as an orchestra. The amygdala is the

fire alarm, the hippocampus the historian, the basal ganglia the musicians playing familiar tunes, dopamine the applause that attracts attention, and the anterior cingulate the stage manager. Standing before them all is the prefrontal cortex – the conductor.

The orchestra does not perform well if the fire alarm conducts the music.

Likewise, life functions best when emotions inform our decisions but do not govern them. Buddhism would call this wisdom over impulse; neuroscience calls it executive function.

Both traditions arrive at the same destination through different paths.

The victory over procrastination is therefore not won by waiting for inspiration. It begins the moment we recognize our emotional impulses, return to the present, and allow wisdom – rather than fear – to take the baton. In both neuroscience and Buddhism, true freedom begins when the mind learns to govern itself.

The Cornerstone of National Development

By Junior Thin



cal and infrastructural barriers. These colleges serve as pipelines to systematically develop human capital for these specific territories, ensuring that development is not centralized but equitably distributed.

Elevating Socioeconomic Standards: Education is the ultimate equalizer. By providing accessible higher education to ethnic youths, the state enables them to elevate their own socioeconomic standing, uplift their families, and bring modern knowledge back to their respective communities.

Cultivating a Sense of Patriotic Responsibility: Knowledge without a conscience can be hollow. Therefore, these colleges prioritize the cultivation of civic duty and patriotism. Students are taught to view their education not merely as a personal asset for self-advancement, but as a collective asset dedicated to the peace, stability, and sovereignty of the state.

Human Resource Development in Remote Frontiers: For decades, border regions and remote areas have faced developmental lag due to geographical

through Higher Education: By offering advanced academic curricula and research opportunities, the institutions encourage ethnic youths to pursue diverse professional fields, ranging from science and technology to social sciences, thereby broadening their intellectual horizons.

The Philosophy of “Root” and “Fruit”

To understand the trajectory of national development, one must appreciate the relationship

between cause and effect, or metaphorically, between the **“root”** and the **“fruit”**.

As the globally acclaimed adage dictates:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the nation.”

In this philosophical framework, **Education represents the Root**. It is hidden beneath the surface, requiring immense effort, resources, patience, and nurturing to grow. It demands qualified educators who teach with

passion, visionary administrators who manage with integrity, and a conducive environment that encourages critical thinking.

Conversely, **National Progress and Prosperity represent the Fruit**. Just as a tree cannot bear sweet, nourishing fruit without a deep, healthy, and resilient root system, a nation cannot achieve genuine stability, economic wealth, or social harmony without a robust and inclusive education system. If the root is neglected, the tree of statehood will inevitably wither. Therefore, investing in the education of youth – particularly those from border regions – is akin to watering the very roots of the nation's future.

The Dynamic Transition – From Classroom to Community

The true test of an educational system does not take place within the safe confines of a classroom or during graduation ceremonies; it begins the moment students

step out into the real world. Upon completing their academic journeys, the graduates of the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges experience a profound transformation. They transition from being the recipients of knowledge to becoming the creators of value.

These young graduates return to their respective native towns and villages, not as tourists, but as active leaders and public servants. They are integrated into various sectors of public administration, regional development, and social services. This is the precise moment where **“Education” seamlessly elevates into “Duty”**.

This transition represents a sacred social contract between the individual and the state. The knowledge, skills, and ethical training accumulated during their college years are now mobilized to solve real-world problems: improving local infrastructure, upgrading healthcare awareness, enhancing regional governance, and inspiring the next generation of children in their villages to pursue learning.

Embracing the Sacred Duty for a Brighter Future

When education matures into duty, it ceases to be a burden and

instead becomes a noble privilege. The responsibilities bestowed upon these ethnic youths are monumental. They are tasked with maintaining local peace, bridging cultural gaps, and executing development projects that align with the national vision.

The article highlights that this responsibility is twofold:

Individual Accountability: Each graduate must maintain personal integrity, discipline, and a continuous desire for self-improvement, avoiding complacency.

Collective Solidarity: They must work hand-in-hand with local populations, respecting regional traditions while guiding them towards modern, progressive perspectives.

In brief, the journey from education to duty is the definitive path toward building a modern, peaceful, and developed democratic nation. By translating theoretical knowledge acquired in lecture halls into impactful, practical actions on the ground, these ethnic youth effectively become the sturdy pillars and architects of tomorrow. They prove that when a state empowers its youth through education, those youth will, in turn, safeguard and elevate the state through their unwavering dedication to duty.

NATIONAL

Returning Tatmadaw personnel welcomed home in Tachilek



Triumphant Tatmadaw troops are pictured receiving warm welcome at the Triangle Region Command Headquarters.

A ceremony honouring and welcoming back frontline Tatmadaw personnel who had returned after carrying out security duties for national stability and regional peace was held at the local battalion in Tachilek Town-

ship, Shan State (East).

Myanmar Police Force, members of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, members of the People's Militia and residents.

The commander and attendees warmly welcomed back the returning personnel by offering them sprigs of Eugenia and honouring them with traditional ethnic music and dance performances. Afterwards, the commander delivered a congratulatory speech and presented cash awards to the victorious frontline troops. The commander and officials later shared a special luncheon with the returning troops. — MNA/KZL

Returning Tatmadaw personnel receive warm welcome in Hpa-an

A welcome ceremony honouring Tatmadaw personnel returning from frontline security duties was held at a local battalion in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, yesterday morning.

The event was attended by officials from the

South-East Command, departmental officials, members of the Myanmar Police Force, war veterans, local militia members and residents.

The returning personnel were honoured for carrying out operations related

to state stability and regional peace. An official from the command welcomed them back with a congratulatory speech and presented cash awards to them. The attendees later shared a special lunch with the returning troops. — MNA/KZL

MPC rolls out Better News Writing programme

A training course titled “Better News Writing”, organized by the News Media Development Committee of the Myanmar Press Council, was held on 20 July at the Myanmar Press Council Office in Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region.

The course is being conducted as News Media Training Course 8/2026. The training covers basic and advanced news writing, news photography and editing, and feature writing.

The News Media Training Course 8/2026 is



This photo features the opening ceremony of the News Media Training Course 8/2026.

being held from 20 to 24 July, with 28 trainees attending in person and 95 participants from the Information and Public Re-

lations Department, along with two from the Media Development Department, joining online via Zoom. — ASH/TH

Pobbathiri disburses Emerald Green funds



An Emerald Green fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Pobbathiri Township on 21 July 2026.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held the ceremony for the 11th round of re-disbursement of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project Revolving Fund at Ywadow (South + North) Village in Pobbathiri Township on the morning of 21 July.

Daw Soe Soe Oo, Head of the Department of Rural Development,

observed in the loan disbursement process. He handed over K69.6 million in project funds to the members of the Village Project Committee of Ywadow (South + North) Village.

Afterwards, the Village Project Committee disbursed K11.6 million to 50 members engaged in agriculture, K15.3 million to 85 members engaged in livestock breeding, K30.2 million to 129 members engaged in trading, K12.2 million to 59 members engaged in livelihood businesses, and K0.3 million to one member engaged in manufacturing. In total, the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Revolving Fund, amounting to K69.6 million, was disbursed at a concessional interest rate to 324 members. — Naw Lu (Rural)

Shwedaung’s MSY village project activities inspected

OFFICIALS from the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection of the implementation status of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Yemyet and Hlehmu villages in Shwedaung Township on the morning of 20 July.



District Head Daw Khine Shwe Wah of the Department of Rural Development, Pyay District, and Township Head U Aung Khine Zaw of the Department of Rural Development, Shwedaung Township, together with departmental staff and members of the Village Project Committees, inspected the implementation of agricultural and livestock breeding activities financed by the project fund in Yemyet and

opportunities for rural residents and increase household incomes, revolving funds amounting to K38.2 million have been disbursed under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project to a total of 112 members, including K34 million for 98 members engaged in agriculture and K4.2 million for 14 members engaged in livestock breeding. — Set Lu (Rural)

Thai Expo Mandalay 2026 to showcase Thai products at MCC from 2 to 4 Oct

THAI Expo Mandalay 2026, which is scheduled to take place from 2 to 4 October (9 am to 5 pm) at Mandalay Convention Centre (MCC), will feature high-quality products of Thailand and local businesses and explore business networking for business leaders from Mandalay.

It will also bring B2B matchmaking and networking opportunities to connect with Thai distributors, buyers and brands.

The expo will showcase products and services from the food and beverage,

cosmetics and beauty, household and home-ware, machinery and tools, education and training, healthcare and wellness, fashion and lifestyle, electronics and home appliances, real estate, and travel and tourism sectors.

Interested individuals can enquire for further details of the expo through 09 970733234, 09 254277355, 09 790614713, 09 450045003, 09 777773929, 09 777737923 and Ms Sarapee Sripankaew (Thailand): +66 61 961 6587. — NN/KK

Investors Eye Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Solar Projects

PRIVATE investors are showing more interest in solar projects along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway than in other places, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The ministry invited private businesses to undertake solar projects across the country. Investors eye areas along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway where the National grid is available (Meiktila, Thazi, Nay Pyi Taw, and Tatkon). Nonetheless, the availability of power grids along the Yangon-Pyay route cannot win their interest.

“There are major substations in Taungdwingyi



A solar project underway in Myanmar.

and Aunglan, Shwedaung, Okpo, Myanaung, Minhla, and Myaungtika. Although these transmission lines exist, investors are not that interested in those areas. So, we would like to ask them to invest in those areas as well. Many areas in the upper part of the

country, including Monywa and the western side of Sagaing Region, remain without grid access. In Ayeyawady Region, the grid only reaches around Kyaukse and Patheingyi and the rest is not covered. Those areas with no grid are precisely where solar has its

advantage. We encourage entrepreneurs to invest in those areas to build local grids, or develop mini-grid systems to generate electricity from solar,” said an official of the ministry.

Some areas of the country remain unconnected to the National Grid, where minigrid systems or local grid connections can be introduced.

At present, domestic electricity is generated from 32 hydropower plants, 24 natural gas plants, two coal-fired plants, and 12 solar projects, with a total generation capacity of 6,725 MW. Of them, solar contributes only about four per cent of total generation. — ASH/KK

Kunhing’s MSY 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 Namkham Village, Kunhing Township, yesterday.

State Hluttaw Representative U Win Hlaing delivered opening remarks. Kunhing Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw Hein and project staff explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents in Namkham and Weinlon villages, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased re-



A village representative receives the Mya Sein Yaung village project fund at the disbursement ceremony in Kunhing Township.

volving funds. Officials then explained project activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K59.5 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Namkham and Weinlon villages are implementing family income-generating activities using K59.5 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the

State Hluttaw Representative, the township DRD head and officials, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the 12th round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 27 members from the villages, including K40.9 million to 18 people engaged in systematic agricultural activities and K18.6 million to nine people engaged in systematic livestock breeding activities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 21 July 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,663.00~3,668.00	557.00~557.80	125.60~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	22,306,674.02	3,578,317.02	6,818,697.27	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

The volume of the foreign currency traded in the market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, wheat, fertilizers, car/motorcycle spare parts, construction materials, packaging materials, and consumer goods for import. Of the CMP sector revenue, US\$4.01 million was sold to the edible oil sector and US\$0.14 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

Myanmar deports undocumented Namibian entrant

MYANMAR deported one Namibian, involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayah State, via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II yesterday.

Myanmar authorities officially handed the deportees the necessary legal documents to ensure their smooth repatriation.

Between 30 January 2025 and 21 July 2026, a

total of 14,731 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 13,812 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries.

Among the remaining 919 individuals to be deported, there are 713 who were charged under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency) Provisions

Act section 3 (1)/13(1) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 206 individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

ECONOMY WORLD

Itochu to recover critical minerals from used IT devices in Japan

ITOCHU Corp will launch a business in November to recover critical minerals from used smartphones and computers and resell the materials, sources close to the matter said Tuesday, as Japan seeks to strengthen domestic resource recycling.

The move comes amid growing concern about rare earth supplies due to China's export controls as well as rising demand for semiconductor materials amid rapid growth in artificial intelligence.

To launch the business, Itochu unit Belong Inc. and a major US IT equipment recycler set up an equal-stakes joint



This photo taken in April shows a used smartphone recycling plant being prepared by an Itochu Corp affiliate in Zama, Kanagawa Prefecture, ahead of its planned opening in November. **PHOTO: KYODO**

venture in April. The venture will begin operating a recycling plant in November at Belong's operations centre in Zama, southwest of Tokyo.

The plant will handle

the entire process, from collecting used devices and wiping stored data to shredding and sorting them, with the recovered materials to be sold to materials manufacturers as

raw materials.

Discarded electronic devices are often described as "urban mines" because they contain valuable metals that can be recovered and returned to the supply chain.

Japan's latest annual economic and financial policy guidelines, the first under Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, call for greater recycling of critical minerals to help secure stable supplies. Itochu established Belong in 2019. The company buys used smartphones from businesses and resells them through its Nicosuma online store to corporate customers in Japan and overseas. — Kyodo

Ethiopia earns US\$128 mln from annual livestock exports despite Middle East instability

THE Ethiopian government has announced that the country exported 24,200 tonnes of processed livestock products during the recently concluded financial year, despite challenges posed by ongoing Middle East conflicts.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement issued Monday that the country generated US\$128.4 million in export revenue from processed livestock products during the 2025/26 Ethiopian financial year, which ended on 7 July.

The country had initially planned to export about 25,900 tonnes of live-

stock products during the reported period. Data from the ministry also showed that more than 2.4 million goats and sheep were supplied to export slaughterhouses during the financial year. Middle Eastern countries have historically been the primary destinations for Ethiopia's processed livestock products. Recent data from the Ethiopian Livestock Development Institute (LDI) indicated that the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar were among the top importers of the country's livestock products during the concluded financial year. — Xinhua

S&P expects Malaysia to triple data centre capacity by 2030

MALAYSIA is well positioned to become one of South-East Asia's largest data centre hubs by 2030, despite facing execution and funding challenges as the industry transitions towards more sustainable growth, S&P Global Ratings said on Monday.

In a report, the ratings agency said Malaysia could nearly triple its data

centre capacity by 2030, supported by its proximity to Singapore, strong digital connectivity and expanding power and water infrastructure.

"Malaysia is slowing down to get ahead in data centres. The country's data centre sector is in a reset mode — from rapid expansion toward a model that aims for sustainable

growth," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Spencer Ng.

He added that the shift would provide time for the country to expand critical power and water resources needed to support long-term industry growth.

However, S&P cautioned that Malaysia must overcome significant exe-

cution risks, warning that any delays in the planned power or water rollouts could constrain growth.

The agency also highlighted funding as a key challenge, estimating that data centre developers will require around US\$20 billion over the next three years for powered shells and equipment alone. — Xinhua

China's intl passenger air routes reach 177 cities in 80 countries

CHINA'S airlines operate regular international passenger air routes connecting 177 cities in 80 countries across five continents, according to Han Jun, deputy head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Han presented the data at a press conference on Tuesday, adding that China's airlines now operate more than 1,000 regular international routes in total. During the first half

of the year, passenger trips on international air routes exceeded 40 million, representing a year-on-year increase of 5.7 per cent. In a related development, the C919, China's domestically developed large passenger aircraft, is set to make its international debut. Air China recently announced that the C919 will enter service on the Beijing-Ulaanbaatar route starting 12 August. — Xinhua



Flight CA893 passes through a water gate at the Manas International Airport in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 17 July 2026. Air China's inaugural direct flight between the capitals of China and Kyrgyzstan officially launched on Friday after flight CA893, departing from Beijing Capital International Airport, successfully landed at Manas International Airport in Bishkek. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

S Korea's exports surge 52.3% in 20 days of July

SOUTH Korea's exports surged in double digits in the first 20 days of July due to soaring demand for locally-made semiconductors, customs office data showed Tuesday.

The outbound shipment jumped 52.3 per cent from a year earlier

to US\$54.93 billion in the 1-20 July period, according to the Korea Customs Service.

The daily average export spiked 62.9 per cent to \$3.79 billion in the 20-day period.

Semiconductor exports skyrocketed 180.6

per cent to \$22.11 billion, but automotive shipments sank 10.6 per cent to \$3.24 billion.

Exports of oil products mounted 33.4 per cent on expensive crude oil, caused by the renewed Middle East tensions.

Computer shipments

shot up 231.9 per cent to \$2.04 billion thanks to solid demand for solid-state drives, driven by expanded demand for artificial intelligence infrastructure.

Those for steel products, ships and mobile devices posted a double-digit expansion. — Xinhua

General Motors lifts 2026 outlook despite hit from electric retreat

GENERAL Motors raised its full-year profit forecast on Tuesday after reporting solid quarterly results on strong vehicle pricing that offset a hit from costs tied to winding down electric vehicle investments.

The big US automaker reported \$1.3 billion in profits, down 31 per cent from the year-ago period. Revenues rose almost two per cent to \$48 billion.

North American auto sales fell during the period, although strong pricing translated into higher profit margins.

The company said results in North America — by far its biggest market — were boosted by “record” sales of full-sized pickup trucks. Fleet sales were also strong, supported by robust demand from commercial and government customers. But results were dented by \$2.3 billion in costs related to GM’s EV retreat following shifts in US environmental policy under President Donald Trump. GM also accounted for \$177 million in China restructuring costs. — AFP

China’s central SOEs step up share buybacks to steady market

SEVERAL Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) directly administered by the central government have recently announced share buyback plans or disclosed that their major shareholders will increase their stakes, sending a strong signal of confidence in their valuations and the broader equity market.

China Three Gorges Renewables (Group) Co Ltd said its controlling shareholder, China Three Gorges Corporation, plans to increase its stake in the company over the next 12 months through open-market purchases. The total amount will range between



This file photo shows an exterior view of the Shanghai Stock Exchange in Shanghai, east China. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

1.5 billion yuan (about US\$220.86 million) and three billion yuan, funded by the shareholder’s own capital or self-raised funds.

Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd said

between 1 and 20 July, it repurchased over 25 million H-shares, equivalent to 0.125 per cent of its total issued shares.

China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation said that since launching its A-share buyback on 18 June, it had repurchased about 77.9 million A-shares by 17 July, accounting for 0.06 per cent of its total issued shares, at a total cost of 365.41 million yuan.

The moves by these SOEs come as regulators step up efforts to better reflect market sentiment and foster a stable, healthy capital market. — Xinhua

New Zealand annual inflation hits 2-year high of 4.1%

NEW Zealand’s annual inflation rate hit a two-year high of 4.1 per cent in the 12 months to the June 2026 quarter, official data showed on Tuesday.

The 4.1-per-cent rise, driven mainly by sharply higher fuel prices, followed a 3.1-per-cent increase in the 12 months to the March 2026 quarter, and moved above the Reserve Bank of New Zealand’s target range

of one to three per cent, Stats NZ reported. Petrol prices rose 27.5 per cent over the period, making the largest contribution to annual inflation, the statistics department said in a statement. “Higher petrol prices accounted for almost a quarter of the 4.1 per cent annual increase,” Stats NZ prices and deflators spokesperson Nicola Growden was quoted as saying. — Xinhua

Egypt tops Africa in attracting FDI for 4th straight year

EGYPT remained Africa’s leading destination for foreign direct investment (FDD) for the fourth consecutive year in 2025, attracting US\$15.5 billion in inflows, the Egyptian cabinet said on Tuesday, citing a UN report.

Egypt’s inflows help “North Africa remain the continent’s largest recipient sub-region despite a sharp decline from the exceptional 2024 level”, according to the World Investment Report 2026 by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), cited by the cabinet. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT003)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT003)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNI ACCORD VOY.NO. (0401W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (ASIA) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (178N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (178N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3613S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3613S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

“Space factory” mass produces satellites in east China

INSIDE a dust-free, noise-free smart workshop beside Taihu Lake in east China’s Jiangsu Province, technicians in anti-static suits assemble satellites on automated production lines. Home to Jiangsu’s largest and most intelligent satellite mass-production base with a total investment of 1 billion yuan (about US\$147 million), Guoyu Starry Sky Technology Co Ltd in the city of Wuxi, a fully-owned subsidiary of Beijing Minospace Technology, can churn out more than 150 satellites annually.

The satellites each weigh 200 to 500 kilograms, covering optical remote sensing, SAR radar, low-orbit communication and navigation enhancement models. “Previously, developing a customized satellite took three to six months. On our flexible pro-



Journalists take photos of a thermal vacuum simulator at Guoyu Starry Sky Technology Co Ltd in the high-tech zone of Wuxi, east China’s Jiangsu Province, 20 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

duction line, a mass-produced satellite can be finished in merely 20 to 25 days,” said Shi Changfu, deputy general manager of Guoyu Starry Sky.

Robotic arms installed along the production frames automatically apply thermal conductive grease and mount precision components, boosting assembly

accuracy and efficiency.

The whole plant runs on an integrated intelligent system empowered by AI and digital twin technology, separating satellite platforms from mission payloads like a smartphone body matching different apps. Different types of satellites can be manufactured on one single line

without full redesign.

A full set of space environment simulation test equipment stands beside the assembly area, including huge thermal vacuum chambers and mechanical vibration tables. Every satellite undergoes rigorous tests to replicate extreme temperature, vibration and electromagnetic conditions in orbit.

SAR satellites manufactured here can detect millimetre-level ground deformation around the clock, supporting disaster prevention, geological monitoring and urban management, according to on-site engineers. A milestone came on 13 June, when six Huantian Constellation satellites rolled off the production line, including four SAR radar satellites and two optical satellites. — Xinhua

IEA says Mideast fighting increases energy concerns

THE head of the International Energy Agency said Tuesday that renewed fighting in the Mideast increases concerns over energy supplies but that the market still has cushions to absorb the impact.

“The escalation in hostilities affecting the Strait of Hormuz and energy infrastructure in the region increases security of supply concerns and

uncertainty over the market outlook,” IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said in a statement.

“For the moment, crude oil markets continue to benefit from several cushioning factors,” he added, pointing to increased exports from several countries and Saudi and United Arab Emirates oil reaching markets by alternative routes. — AFP

Japan to disburse \$10 mln to ADB fund aimed at providing clean water

THE Japanese government said Tuesday it will contribute \$10 million to an Asian Development Bank fund aimed at providing clean water to developing countries, saying the support is essential for sustainable economic growth and stronger energy and food security.

Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katay-

ama, who announced the commitment at a meeting with ADB President Masato Kanda in Tokyo, said she hopes a project under the fund will be formulated before Japan hosts the ADB’s annual meeting in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, in May next year, marking the country’s first time hosting the event in a decade. — Kyodo

Global hunger progress remains fragile amid mounting challenges: UN report

GLOBAL hunger declined for a third consecutive year in 2025, but progress remains fragile, uneven and insufficient to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030, according to a United Nations report released on Tuesday.

The 2026 edition of

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World estimates that 7.8 per cent of the world’s population, or about 645 million people, faced hunger in 2025, down from 8.1 per cent in 2024 and 8.6 per cent in 2022.

Recovery has been uneven across regions, the report underlines. Asia, to-

gether with Latin America and the Caribbean, has recorded steady improvements, while Africa now has the largest number of people facing hunger: around 309 million people in 2025. More than half of Africa’s population, or 56.6 per cent, also experienced moderate or severe food insecurity, far above the levels in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America and Europe.

The Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Chief Economist Maximo Torero told the media that declining global hunger proves that progress is possible. However, although hunger in Africa has begun to stabilize after years of increases, he said the pace of improvement

needs to accelerate.

Torero also warned that geopolitical tensions and climate-related shocks could jeopardize recent progress. He said the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz could push up food inflation through higher energy and fertilizer prices, while potential weather extremes such as El Nino may further affect agricultural production and food security in the coming years.

The report warned that recent gains remain vulnerable. The 2026 Middle East conflict, together with weather extremes and reductions in official development assistance and humanitarian funding, could undermine progress in ending global hunger, it said. — Xinhua



Residents receive aid from World Food Programme (WFP) at Al-Omada neighbourhood of Omdurman, the twin city of Khartoum on 11 March 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

‘Godzilla’ actress Kaylee Hottle, 18, dies in US car crash

KAYLEE Hottle, an 18-year-old actress who appeared in two “Godzilla” films, died early Tuesday in a car accident in the US state of Maryland, police said.

Hottle and another passenger were in a 1995 Honda Accord driven by a 19-year-old man when it veered off a two-lane highway and struck a culvert, according to Frederick County Sheriff’s Office.

“Excessive speed is believed to be a contributing factor in the collision,” said the force,

which responded to the scene around 2:52 am (0652 GMT) Tuesday and is investigating the crash.

Hottle was transported to a hospital where she was later pronounced dead, police said. The driver sustained injuries not believed to be life-threatening, while the other passenger declined medical treatment.

The actress, who is deaf, played the major role of “Jia” in “Godzilla v Kong” and the sequel “Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire”. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar to hold equestrian qualifier for SEA Games 2027



Equestrian athletes compete during a previous event.

MYANMAR will hold the FEI 1 Endurance Qualification (40-kilometre) event in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 September to select the national

equestrian team for the XXXIV SEA Games 2027 in Malaysia, according to the Myanmar Equestrian Federation.

The competition will begin at 6 am at the Nay Pyi Taw Equestrian Centre in Ottarathiri Township, with a technical briefing scheduled for 5 September. Applications must be submitted to the federation by 24 August, and participating horses and riders must arrive by 2 September.

Under the competition rules, horses must be at

least four years old, in good health and have a resting heart rate of below 40 beats per minute. Riders must be aged 14 or above, physically fit for endurance riding and registered with the Myanmar Equestrian Federation. The combined weight of the rider, horse and saddle must be at least 70 kilogrammes, and rider-horse combinations cannot be changed during the competition. Participants must also comply with all federation regulations or face disqualification. — ASH/KZL

Yangon Galacticos ready to defend PUBG Mobile World Title at EWC 2026

YANGON Galacticos (YG), the Myanmar PUBG Mobile team that won the world championship title at last year's Esports World Cup (EWC) in Saudi Arabia, is fully prepared to compete as the defending champion at EWC 2026 in Paris, France.

Before departing for the tournament, YG held a "Return of the Champions" fan event at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon on 19 July.

During the event, the team unveiled the 2025 world championship trophy and officially introduced their new "YG World Champion In-Game Suit", featuring unique Myanmar traditional designs, which



Yangon Galacticos PUBG Mobile Myanmar (YG PUBGM) team returning to Yangon International Airport on 7 August 2025, after winning the championship title at the PUBG Mobile World Cup 2025 and bringing pride to Myanmar.

they will wear during EWC 2026.

YG CEO Dr Kaung Myat Tun said the team is making the best preparations in terms of mindset and strategy to retain the world championship title and proudly represent My-

anmar esports on the global stage.

The event also included awards for Super Fan Programme winners, meet-and-greet sessions with players, and PUBG Mobile commemorative gift presentations. — TWA/ST

Bhone Myint Kyaw finishes runner-up at Heyball Masters Tour

MYANMAR'S Bhone Myint Kyaw finished runner-up at the 2026 Heyball Masters Tour, held in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China, from 1 to 17 July.

Bhone Myint Kyaw progressed from the qualifying rounds to the final after defeating leading players from the Philippines, the United Kingdom, India, South Korea and host China. He finished second after a closely contested final against a Chinese opponent.

The tournament featured eight Chinese competitors. China claimed both the title and the joint



Bhone Myint Kyaw receives a warm welcome upon his return to Myanmar after winning the runner-up title at the 2026 Heyball Masters Tour.

third-place finishes, while Myanmar secured second place. Bhone Myint Kyaw returned to Myanmar on Sunday evening. He was welcomed at the airport by officials from the Ministry

of Sports, the Department of Sports and Physical Education, the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation, and trainees from sports academies. — Bala/KZL

MGF to host President's Cup tournament

THE Myanmar Golf Federation will hold the 2026 President's Cup Amateur and Senior Golf Tournament at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon) from 3 to 6 August.

The tournament will feature Amateur and Senior categories. The men's Amateur event is open to players with a handicap of 0-12, while the Senior Amateur event is open to golfers aged 55-75 with handicaps of 0-18, competing in age-group divisions.

Players must pay an entry fee of K30,000 and register by 2 pm on 1 August. Amateur participants are also required to submit a World Handicap System (WHS) Handicap Index Card recognized by the Myanmar Golf Federation together with a handicap certificate issued by their golf club. — Ko San/KZL



This image displays a poster for the event.

Barcelona president Laporta says Adeyemi signing to be official on Wednesday

FC BARCELONA president Joan Laporta said on Tuesday that the club will officially announce the signing of German forward Karim Adeyemi from Bundesliga giant Dortmund on Wednesday, when the player will also be presented to fans and the media.

Laporta confirmed the news upon his arrival at Barcelona airport after attending the World Cup final. His trip to New York was the main reason for the delay in announcing Adeyemi's signing after the 24-year-old arrived in Barcelona last week. — Xinhua

World Cup winner Spain overtakes Argentina to reclaim top spot in FIFA rankings

SPAIN returned to the top of the FIFA rankings on Monday after going unbeaten at the 2026 World Cup, where it won seven matches and drew one en route to its second world title.

FIFA said Spain collected 1,995.88 points to reclaim the No 1 position, replacing Argentina, which dropped to second after losing 1-0 to Spain in the final after extra time.

Spain had previously held the

top ranking before April.

France and England remained third and fourth, respectively, despite England defeating France 6-4 in the third-place playoff at the World Cup. There was significant movement elsewhere in the top 10 following the tournament.

Brazil climbed one place to fifth, while Morocco moved up one spot to sixth. Both benefited from Portugal's fall to seventh after the

European side failed to reach the quarterfinals. Belgium moved above the Netherlands into eighth, while Mexico returned to the top 10 for the first time since March 2022.

Germany dropped out of the top 10th to 12th, with Colombia moving up to 11th. Switzerland made the biggest jump among the leading teams, rising five places to 14th, while Japan remained Asia's highest-ranked team at 17th. — Xinhua

"Space factory" mass produces satellites in east China

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WORLD

Kuwait says Iranian attacks hit desalination plants; Jordan intercepts drones, missiles

KUWAIT and Jordan came under renewed Iranian missile and drone attacks on Monday night and Tuesday, as Tehran continues its retaliatory strikes against US bases and assets in regional countries.

Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy said in a statement that several power generation and water desalination plants in Kuwait were attacked on Monday evening, triggering fires at multiple facilities.

As a precaution, several electricity generating units were taken offline to protect equipment and maintain the stability of the country's electricity and water supply systems, the ministry said, adding that damage assessment, repair and rehabilitation work are underway.

The ministry did not specify the number or loca-

tions of the affected plants, nor did it report any casualties.

Recent strikes on Kuwait have targeted some vital infrastructure, including oil facilities and power and water desalination plants, according to Kuwaiti authorities.

On Tuesday, the Jordan Armed Forces said its air defence systems intercepted and shot down three Iranian missiles. It said in another statement that it "neutralized" five drones launched from Iran overnight and Tuesday morning. No casualties or damage were reported, the statements said.

The United States has launched waves of air strikes on Iran's southern provinces over the past week, saying they were aimed at "degrading Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping" in the Strait of Hormuz. — Xinhua

Japan startup starts breeding gene-edited pigs for kidney transplant trial

A JAPANESE startup and a hospital aiming to begin clinical trials of pig kidney transplants in humans as early as 2028 said Tuesday they have begun breeding genetically modified pigs for the procedures.

PorMedTec, a Meiji University venture company, plans to submit its clinical trial plan to the authorities in the next fiscal year starting April. If approved, the trials would likely be the first of their kind in Japan.

"We want to advance this as a treatment option for patients with severe kidney failure alongside human-to-human transplantation and dialysis," Genjiro Miwa, president



Genjiro Miwa, president of PorMedTec, holds a press conference at Shonan Kamakura General Hospital in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture, on 21 July 2026.

PHOTO: KYODO

of the startup, said at a joint press conference with Shonan Kamakura General Hospital in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture, one of the two hospitals where the

trials will be conducted.

The other hospital is the Hokkaido University Hospital in Sapporo, northern Japan.

Facilities for procuring kidneys from pigs

will be established near hospitals by the end of financial 2027. The startup aims to obtain conditional approval for pig-to-human kidney transplants as a regenerative medicine product in 2030, with the goal of making the procedure a standard treatment by 2033.

PorMedTec, based in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, imports genetically modified pig cells developed by US biotechnology company eGenesis Inc and breeds pigs with the same genetic traits in Japan.

The pigs have 69 genetic modifications designed to prevent their organs from being rejected by recipients' bodies. — Kyodo

DR Congo Ebola cases top 2,400 amid continued transmission

CONFIRMED Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have risen to 2,423, including 967 deaths, health authorities said in an update.

It said 734 patients remained in quarantine or treatment as of 19 July, while 469 people had recovered since the outbreak began.

Health authorities also reported a newly affected health zone, Adja, in Ituri province, bringing the total to 47 across five provinces, of which 46 remain under active transmission.

The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo ebola-

virus, was declared on 15 May. It has since spread to five provinces. Population movements, insecurity, artisanal mining activities and cross-border exchanges with Uganda and South Sudan continue to facilitate transmission.

As of 19 July, the outbreak has also infected 121 frontline health workers in Ituri province, including 36 deaths. Meanwhile, the DRC and Uganda conducted a joint technical assessment of a mobile laboratory in Kasenyi near the border to strengthen cross-border surveillance. — Xinhua

Tanzanian president hails Chinese firms' role in infrastructure development

TANZANIAN President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Monday thanked Chinese enterprises for their contributions to the country's development efforts aimed at benefiting its people.

Hassan made the remarks after presiding over the groundbreaking ceremony of the Chinese-built sixth section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), connecting Tabora to Kigoma.

The project is being constructed by a joint venture of China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

Hassan underscored the vital role Chi-

nese companies play in developing Tanzania's transport and logistics infrastructure, while also highlighting the positive impact expected from the railway upon completion, including shortened travel times, reduced trans-

port costs, and job creation.

"This project demonstrates our commitment to expanding modern transport infrastructure to open up trade, reduce costs and connect our people and businesses

to domestic and international markets," she said.

Transport Minister Makame Mbarawa said the SGR expansion is part of a broader strategy to integrate rail, ports and aviation, positioning Tanzania as a competitive regional logistics hub.

Zhang Junle, deputy general manager of CCECC, said Tanzania's SGR is a core backbone project of the Central Development Corridor in East Africa. Upon completion, it will drive the coordinated development of industries such as agriculture, trade, and tourism along the line, injecting strong momentum into regional economic integration in East Africa. — Xinhua



Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan (5th R) presides over the groundbreaking ceremony of the Chinese-built sixth section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), connecting Tabora to Kigoma, in Kigoma, Tanzania, 20 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA