

# Golden Lotus Robes Offered to Maravijaya Buddha Image

The Maravijaya Buddha Image underwent its second ceremonial cleansing, coinciding with the third anniversary of its consecration.

A ceremony to offer golden lotus robes to the Maravijaya Buddha Image marked the second cleansing of the whole Maravijaya Buddha Image and the third anniversary of the consecration of the Buddha image yesterday morning. President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu



President U Min Aung Hlaing attends the gala ceremony of the second cleansing of the whole Maravijaya Buddha Image and its third anniversary of the consecration.

Hla attended the gala ceremony. The President and his wife offered alms in the emerald alms-bowl, fruits, flowers, water and oil lights to Maravijaya Buddha Image and offered golden lotus robes. Disciples conveyed the golden lotus robes onto the scaffolding of the image. The President himself offered golden lotus robes to the Maravijaya Buddha Image and sprinkled scented water on it. The President and his wife, who led the congregation, shared merits gained. The President and his wife beat the Saddhadhipati Bell on the platform of the image nine times to share merits gained. Also present at the ceremony were Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi and his wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, deputy ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA



**WORLD DAY AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING  
IN PERSONS  
30 JULY**

American Centre to host anti-trafficking 'Lives Behind Scam' campaign

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## Myanmar Gears Up for Honey Exports to Saudi Arabia

MYANMAR has been arranging honey exports to Saudi Arabia, and Myanmar's honey has been registered with Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

**SEE PAGE 7**



This photo shows the Myanmar Beekeeping Processing facility. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



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NATIONAL

LONELY Planet’s Best in Travel 2015 spotlighted Bagan’s sunrise and sunset as among the world’s premier proposal settings, and the destination continues to earn international acclaim as one of the finest places to make a marriage proposal.

In the Best in Travel 2015 travel media feature published during 2014-2015, Bagan’s sunrise was included among the world’s best places for a marriage proposal. The list featured Bagan (Myanmar), Trolltunga (Norway), New York (United States), NamibRand (Namibia), the Amalfi Coast (Italy), and Udaipur (India), and Bagan ranked first.

Later in 2015, many other destinations also gained worldwide recognition as ideal places for marriage proposals. These include the illu-

Bagan’s sunrise and sunset crowned among world’s most romantic proposal moments



Sunrise and sunset over the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone—hailed among the world’s premier proposal settings.

minated Eiffel Tower in France, Santorini Caldera in Greece, renowned for its whitewashed houses overlooking the blue sea at sunset, Bora Bora in French Polynesia, famous for its crystal-clear waters and overwater bungalows;

Grand Canyon National Park in the United States, offering spectacular sunrise and sunset views over dramatic canyons, the Venice Canals in Italy, where couples can enjoy romantic boat rides beneath historic bridges, Mount Fuji in

Japan, admired during the cherry blossom season and winter months, Iceland’s Northern Lights, celebrated for their breathtaking natural beauty, Maui in the United States, known for its Hawaiian sunsets and waterfalls; Neuschwanstein

Castle in Germany, which resembles a fairy-tale castle, Banff National Park’s Lake Louise in Canada, famous for its turquoise lake and snow-capped mountains, and Bagan, Myanmar, where visitors can enjoy historic pagodas

and temples alongside the beauty of hot-air balloons. International tourists visit Bagan every year to admire its ancient cultural heritage, including its temples, pagodas, stupas, and the scenic Ayeyawady

River. The region’s spectacular sunrises, sunsets, and hot-air balloons continue to make Bagan one of the world’s most romantic and highly recommended destinations for marriage proposals. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred; Appointment of Head of Service Organization confirmed; Head of Service Organization appointed

- The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred and appointed the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

| Name                                                                                                                | Appointment                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) Dr Chit Sein<br>Rector<br>University of Mawlamyine<br>Department of Higher Education<br>Ministry of Education   | Rector<br>Dagon University<br>Department of Higher Education<br>Ministry of Education         |
| (b) Dr Yi Yi Oo<br>Rector<br>Sittway University<br>Department of Higher Education<br>Ministry of Education          | Rector<br>University of Mawlamyine<br>Department of Higher Education<br>Ministry of Education |
| (c) Dr Aye Aye Thant<br>Rector<br>Yenangyoung University<br>Department of Higher Education<br>Ministry of Education | Rector<br>Taunggyi University<br>Department of Higher Education<br>Ministry of Education      |
- The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr Thuza Shein as Director-General of the Department of Teacher Education under the Ministry of Education after the one-year probationary period.
- The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Dr Win Pe, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Alternative Education and Lifelong Learning, as Rector of Haka University of the Department of Higher Education on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Myanmar businesspeople invited to exhibit at 41<sup>st</sup> Trade Expo Indonesia

MYANMAR business owners have reportedly been invited to participate and exhibit at the 41<sup>st</sup> Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) 2026, Indonesia’s largest international trade exhibition to be held from 14 to 18 October at the Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE) BSD in Tangerang, Indonesia.

Indonesian Embassy in Yangon held a briefing themed: “The Ultimate Hub for Global Sourcing” on 23 July, and representatives from the Indonesian Ministry of Trade provided detailed explanations about TEI 2026. During the briefing on the exhibition’s programmes, they introduced key sectors to exhibit, buyer registration procedures, business matching, fo-



This image captures the awareness event for the 41<sup>st</sup> Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI 2026).

rum and opportunities to sign trade cooperation agreements. The event reaffirmed ongoing support for further strengthening trade relations between Indonesia and Myanmar. Discussions emphasized fostering partnerships between business owners from both nations and encouraging participation from Myanmar buyers at TEI

2026. The awareness event was attended by Myanmar business owners from various sectors, including trade and manufacturing, healthcare services, food and beverage, agriculture, furniture and Import businesses. They also actively discussed matters of the exhibition. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

# Union Government offers Waso robes to venerable Sayadaws

The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held a Waso robe-offering ceremony for 2026 at the Ag-gadhipati Sasana Beikman building in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, yesterday morning, attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla.

The President paid homage to the Maravijaya Naungdawgyi Buddha image in the building and offered meals, fruits, flowers, water and oil light.

The President, his wife

and the congregation took the Nine Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Thinlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Ag-gamaha Pandita Aggama-ha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Candima Bhi-vamsa while members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The President and his wife donated Waso robes and offerings to the Chairman Sayadaw.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife offered Waso robes and offerings to SSMNC Secretary Mandalay's Masoeysin Taikthit Presiding Patron Dhamma Thameikdi Mon-astery Sayadaw Aggamaha



President U Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer Waso robes and offerings to the Thanlyin Minkyaung Sayadaw.

Pandita Aggamaha Sad-dhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahu-janahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha Bhivamsa. Pyithu and Amyotha

Hluttaw Speakers and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and his wife, the Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the Chairman of the Union Election Commission, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, (Army), the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Union ministers donated Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon while the congregation shared merits for donations. The President, his wife and officials offered day meals to members of the Sangha.— MNA/TTA

## VP reviews development projects at 3 universities in Yangon Region

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye, accompanied by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and regional ministers, visited Yangon University of Economics, Dagon University, and West Yangon University yesterday afternoon.

The Vice-President and her team first arrived at Yangon University of Economics in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, where officials briefed them on the construction of a recreation centre for students' physical fitness and relaxation, as well as the proposed site for a campus ring road.

In response, the Vice-President instructed officials to supervise the construction to ensure that it meets quality standards and is completed within the



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye (C) is pictured during her inspection tour of the universities in Yangon Region.

designated timeframe. She also emphasized that the recreation centre should serve as a valuable facility supporting students' physical and mental well-being alongside their academic development and stressed the need to equip it systematically with the necessary sports and recreational facilities. She then inspected the university campus.

Afterwards, they arrived at Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, where officials showed them around and briefed them on the renovation of the Padamya Roundabout and the football field, as well as the ongoing use of machinery to improve drainage across the campus.

The Vice-President in-

structed officials to enhance the campus environment by improving its appearance and cleanliness in accordance with university standards. She also emphasized ensuring that the football field is constructed to the required quality standards and that the sports grounds are managed and maintained systematically. She then inspected the campus.

From there, the Vice-President and her team proceeded to West Yangon University in Htantabin Township, where officials briefed them on campus beautification efforts and the proposed site for a new convocation hall. The Vice-President instructed officials to expand the campus ring road and construct a perimeter fence in coordination with the relevant authorities. — MNA/TH

### HLUTTAW

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives private high school founders



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets the delegation of private high school founders at the Pyithu Hluttaw building.

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U Khin Yi received a delegation of private high school founders who observed the 29<sup>th</sup> day of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw as observers at the reception hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building yesterday.

The private high school founders introduced themselves individually and then briefed the Speaker on the current operations of private schools.

The Speaker stated that education is the most fundamental and vital element for national development. He noted that the government prioritizes ensuring that all school-age children receive basic education while also working to enable those outside the formal school system to continue their studies. He added that private schools play a crucial role in advancing the education sector and that the Hluttaw has established an Education Promotion Committee to coordinate with relevant ministries in promoting educational development.

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# NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

## Third Pyithu Hluttaw enters 29<sup>th</sup> sitting of its second regular session

THE Third Pyithu Hluttaw held the 29<sup>th</sup> day of its second regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with lawmakers raising 10 questions on public administration, security, education, telecommunications and local development.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu responded to several questions, including the operation of One-Stop Service (OSS) offices or public service centres. He said the committee overseeing the centres had been dissolved following a notification issued by the National Defence and Security Council Office, and no new committee had been formed. As a result, government departments

are continuing to provide services directly through their respective offices in accordance with existing laws and procedures.

Responding to concerns over security in Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, the deputy minister said security forces, police and local militias were continuing operations against armed groups. He claimed the security situation had gradually improved and that efforts were ongoing to restore stability and enable displaced residents to return home.

The Home Affairs Ministry also said a new township fire station for Machanbaw Township in Kachin State is planned under the 2027-2028 financial



The 29<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

year budget. On complaints of illegal payments at security checkpoints along the Mandalay-Myitkyina highway, the ministry said five joint inspection checkpoints operate on the route

and that authorities have introduced CCTV monitoring, public complaint mechanisms and disciplinary action to prevent unauthorized collections.

Deputy Minister for

Digital Development and Communications U Thet Win Aung told the Hluttaw that internet users who receive services below contracted standards should first report the issue

to their service provider and, if unresolved, file complaints with the Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications or the Consumer Affairs Department. He said providers that fail to comply with regulations could face legal action.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo said previous approvals had already removed thousands of acres of village land from reserved forest areas in Kunhing Township, Shan State. He added that any further requests would require policy approval before being reviewed under existing laws and procedures.

**SEE PAGE 5**

## Union Chief Justice-led Myanmar delegation attends 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council of ASEAN Chief Justices

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay, attended the "13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices" held in Thailand from 21 to 24 July 2026 at the invitation of Mr Adisak Tantivong, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Thailand.

The Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) Meeting has been convened annually since 2013 and was attended by the Chief Justices and heads of the judiciaries of ASEAN Member States.

On 22 July 2026, the Myanmar delegation led by the Chief Justice of the Union attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Council of ASEAN Chief Justices



A group commemorative photo session at the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices held in Thailand.

(CACJ) Meeting, hosted by the Supreme Court of Thailand at the InterContinental Bangkok. During the meeting, Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay delivered opening remarks together with the other ASEAN Chief Justices and heads of delegation. Then CACJ Working Groups on the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal, Civil Proceedings, Case Management and

Court Technology, Judicial Training and Education, Cross-border Disputes Involving Children, Conduct of Video Conferencing Hearings, ASEAN + Meetings and the Climate Justice presented their reports regarding the activities undertaken by each Working Group, the achievements made and proposals for future work, which were

submitted to the Council for consideration and approval. During the meeting, Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay also participated in discussions on matters relating to Myanmar's judiciary. Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Chief Justices and heads of delegation of the ASEAN Member States jointly signed and adopted the Bangkok Declaration, which represents the outcome document of the 13<sup>th</sup> Council of ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting.

The meeting was attended by the Union Chief Justice together with officials from the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar. — SCUM

HLUTTAW

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives private high school founders

FROM PAGE 3

He further mentioned that nine laws currently exist in the education sector. The committee is reviewing these laws to ensure that they are in line with current conditions and will gradually amend, supplement, or repeal them as necessary. In

closing, he urged private schools to cooperate with the government and Hluttaws to help advance the nation's education sector.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA/TH

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# NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

## Parliament Weighs Election Bill, Farmland Rule Amendments

THE Amyotha Hluttaw continued its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Complex in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw replied to the queries raised by MP U Win Tint from the Sagaing Region Constituency 4 and MP U Sein Shwe Min from the Magway Region Constituency 4. He stated that depending on the prevailing security situation in each area, departmental staff are carrying out meter reading, delivering electricity bills, arranging for the distribution of electricity bills with the assistance of local community leaders, and collecting electricity charges. The department will continue its efforts to ensure that actual meter readings accurately correspond to the electricity charges billed.

The Sagaing Township Electrical Engineer Office has opened three payment counters daily (including public holidays) to collect electricity charges. In addition, electricity bills can be paid through officially registered mobile financial service providers such as KBZ Pay, UAB Pay, CB Pay, and OK\$ Pay starting from 13 June 2025.

He explained that the Minbu Township Development Affairs Committee will prioritize and submit a proposal for the installation of a 56-kilowatt solar power system at the Aungmyay water pumping station of the Kyaungtan Water Pumping Station, with an estimated cost of K336 million, to be implemented in the 2030-2031 financial year, subject to the availability of funds in the respective financial years.

Lawmakers discussed the seventh amendment to



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Bill. They emphasized discussions that the automatic invalidation of the election of a proportional representation (PR) Hluttaw representative upon the dissolution of a political party is controversial and would be unfair if the representative concerned has not personally committed any violation of the law.

Revoking the right of Hluttaw representatives to retain their positions under the Political Parties Registration Law is inconsistent

with the rights of small ethnic parties and the legislative authority derived from the support of voters.

A new provision should be added after Section 8 (c) of the original law as Subsection (d), stipulating that a candidate contesting for election as a Hluttaw representative must have been continuously residing in the constituency in which he or she will contest for at least one year before the election.

As there are still some townships that remain under emergencies at pres-

ent, the proposed law's qualifications for Hluttaw representatives are not in line with the current circumstances. Therefore, it is requested that the provisions remain as stipulated in the original law.

During the election campaign period, the term "political parties" stated in the heading of Section 30-a of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law be replaced with the term "members of political parties" to provide a more precise reference. As such, the provision should not be restricted only to central executive committee members of political parties.

The Speaker stated that the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee will hear discussions of the Hluttaw Representatives.

Lawmakers also discussed the seventh amendment to the Region or State

Hluttaw Election Bill. The Speaker announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee will hear discussions of the Hluttaw Representatives.

Lawmakers continued their debates on the motion submitted by MP U Myo Thant from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 6, urging the government to amend Rules 103, 104, 106 (a), (b) and (f), and Rule 112 (a) of Chapter XII of the Farmland Rules, 2012, issued under Notification 2/2012.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe stated that the 22<sup>nd</sup> day meeting will feature the discussions of remaining lawmakers, replies of Union-level organization members and decisions of the Hluttaw on 27 July.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue on 27 July. — MNA/TTA

## NSPNC, LDU discuss peace process

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Central Committee, led by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, believes that it is particularly necessary to end armed conflicts and resolve political issues through political means in the implementation of the peace processes. The committee released Announcement 1/2026 on 21 April 2026, inviting them to the talks.

According to the invitation, the discussion between NSPNC and LDU took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Committee Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said that discussions had already been held collectively with the NCA-Signatory EAO negotiation team. He explained that bilateral meetings were being conducted to address the specific aspirations and challenges of each organization while advancing the peace process. The ethnic armed organizations could



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the Lahu Democratic Union meet in Nay Pyi Taw.

pursue peace through any available channel, whether within or outside the framework of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). He emphasized that the door remains open to all ethnic armed organizations to work together toward regional stability, development, and lasting peace. He further stated that the negotiation committee is also coordinating with relevant organizations to address requests and needs in accordance with existing laws, including matters requiring legal coordination.

LDU Chair Kya Solomon welcomed the peace in-

itiative launched by the Government and the NSPCC, noting that the invitation to dialogue without preconditions was a positive step, and the LDU would openly present the needs and concerns of the region.

Participants then exchanged views on plans for the future of the Lahu ethnic community, regional development, socioeconomic development of Lahu communities in the Kengtung-Panwai-Waili area of eastern Shan State, Arabica coffee cultivation, improvement of transportation infrastructure, access to electricity and water,

technical assistance from coffee experts, the supply of seeds and agricultural inputs, and measures to prevent involvement in narcotics-related activities and online scam operations.

NSPNC secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing briefed that the proposals concerning regional development, education, agriculture, liaison offices for organizations, and welfare-related matters would be coordinated with the relevant ministries, and the issues that can be addressed under existing laws would be handled through cooperation with the relevant ministries.

The two sides signed the points discussed as a record. The LDU chairperson expressed words of gratitude, and the NSPNC chairperson made concluding remarks, followed by exchanging commemorative gifts and concluding the meeting. — MNA/KTZH

HLUTTAW

## Third Pyithu Hluttaw enters 29<sup>th</sup> sitting of ...

FROM PAGE 4

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing announced that, as a special measure this academic year, the age limits for out-of-school education placement tests will be temporarily expanded in border areas and some regions and states to allow more children to resume their studies. He also said teacher shortages in Hkamti Township would continue to be addressed through volunteer teachers until

newly qualified graduates are appointed. In addition, the ministry plans to strengthen digital safety education, encourage parental involvement and introduce school rules governing students' use of mobile phones and online platforms.

At the conclusion of the sitting, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi announced that the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the second regular session will be held on 27 July. — MNA/ST

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# NATIONAL

## Myanmar ranks 7<sup>th</sup> globally in mangrove forest area ownership



The commemorative ceremony of 2026 International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is underway yesterday, addressed by Deputy Minister Dr Thaung Naing Oo.

MYANMAR has the seventh-largest mangrove forest area in the world, covering around 1.26 million acres, and ranks third among ASEAN countries in terms of mangrove coverage, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and

Environmental Conservation Dr Thaung Naing Oo said.

He made the remark at a ceremony to mark the 2026 International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, held at the Forest Department

yesterday.

He said mangrove forests are important carbon sinks that absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and play a vital role in disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation.

The 2026 International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem was held under the theme “Raise Awareness of the Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Sustainable Conservation, Management and Use”.

After the ceremony, attendees viewed commemorative posters displayed for the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem. In the afternoon, a discussion session on mangrove plantation development and conservation activities was held under the theme “Plant and conserve mangroves to combat climate change, prevent natural disasters and promote socioeconomic development”. — MNA/KZL

### DIPLOMACY

## MoFA Dy Minister receives UNFPA Representative to Myanmar



The UNFPA Representative to Myanmar calls on Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw.

U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Jaime Nadal Roig, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on matters of UNFPA's work plans and its activities in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were the respective officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MoFA

## Mindon's MSY village project funds disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, disbursed the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Revolving Fund in Saidoe Village, Mindon Township, on the morning of 24 July.

Township Head U Khup Mun Lian of the

Department of Rural Development, Mindon Township, met village elders and project members and explained the objectives and benefits of providing loans under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Revolving Fund.

The project officer then explained the instructions contained

in the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Manual and the rules and regulations to be followed when obtaining loans. The township head handed over the revolving fund amounting to K43.4 million to the Village Project Implementation Committee.

Afterwards, the Village Project Implementation Committee disbursed K1.5 million to three agricultural borrowers, K41.1 million to 63 livestock breeders, and K0.8 million to one trader. In total, 67 members received K43.4 million under the current round of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Revolving Fund on the same day. — Naw Lu (Rural)



Village representatives receive the Emerald Green Village project funds in Mindon Township.

## Loikaw's rural production road construction inspected



Officials oversee the rural production road construction project in Loikaw Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the construction progress of a rural production road and related work in Lelhtwe (old village) Village, Loikaw Township, yesterday. The project is being implemented to help farmers transport agricultural produce from their farmlands to markets at a lower cost.

Kayah State Department of Rural Development Head U Myint, Loikaw District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Ei Ei Khin, Township Department of Rural Development Head U Nya Rel and engineering staff inspected the construction of a 3.04-furlong rural production road and its related work in Lelhtwe Village. They also met representatives of Six-Rays Company and members of

the village road committee, and discussed the need to give priority to completing the work within the prescribed period and in accordance with required quality standards, while coordinating issues raised by local communities.

The rural production road and related projects are being implemented by Six-Rays Company with funding provided under the State budget, under the technical supervision and close monitoring of the township department. The project was launched in the second week of July this year. Upon completion, the road will benefit 178 households with a population of 771 people and improve access to 120 acres of farmland. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

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NATIONAL

Myanmar Gears Up for Honey Exports to Saudi Arabia

FROM PAGE 1

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is currently working to facilitate exports of livestock products to meet the quality and food safety requirements of importing countries, to obtain bilateral agreements and Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certifications.

“The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has already signed 12 agreements with the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC), including phytosanitary protocols and animal and fisheries disease prevention and control agreements. Agreements on the export of live cattle, exports of wild-caught fishery products, farmed aquatic products, and live edible aquatic animals are also included,” said an official of the ministry.

“The National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP) has drafted a

plan to expand honey exports. NRMP provides support to help producers obtain Good Manufacturing Practices, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, and FSC certificates. We have already undertaken the GACC registration process to be able to export Myanmar’s honey to China. For exports to Saudi Arabia, we have registered with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority and are currently working to commence shipments. Furthermore, we are also preparing for natural and farmed bird’s nests to be exported to China, and efforts are underway to further negotiate with GACC,” said a representative of the NRMP.

Myanmar honey is primarily exported to Japan, Thailand, and Taiwan Province of China. Myanmar exported approximately 1,000 tonnes of honey to international markets in the 2025-2026 financial year (April-March). — ASH/KK

American Centre to host anti-trafficking ‘Lives Behind Scam’ campaign

FROM PAGE 1

The US Embassy in Yangon and the International Organization for Migration (IOM Myanmar) will jointly hold the “Lives Behind Scam” campaign at the American Centre in Yangon on 30 July to mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

The campaign will run from 10 am to noon on 30 July, with participants able to attend either in person at the American Centre or online.

At the event, diplomats and technical experts

will lead live educational discussions on topics including human traffickers’ deceptive recruitment tactics, the mechanics of online scam operations, regional cooperation and awareness initiatives, and measures to protect victims of forced criminality and other vulnerable groups.

Organizers have advised those wishing to attend the event in person at the American Centre Yangon to register in advance, as seating is limited. — TWA/TH

26 Myanmar seamen repatriated from India

THE 26 Myanmar seamen, fully verified as Myanmar nationals, departed from Port Blair, India, and arrived in Yangon on 23 July.

In facilitating this repatriation process, the Embassy of Myanmar in New Delhi and the the Consulate-General in Kolkata closely coordinated with the Indian officials. Necessary approvals were sought for the repatriation of the Myanmar seamen, and Certificates of Identity (CI) were issued for



Repatriated seamen welcomed home at Yangon International Airport.

their return journey. The relevant officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Immigration and Population welcomed them back at the Yangon International Airport.

The government has been placing special emphasis on addressing the affairs of its citizens living abroad. Through Myanmar embassies and consulates abroad, necessary consular assistance and support are being continuously provided to Myanmar nationals who face difficulties and hardships in foreign countries for various reasons, including assistance, rescue, and arrangements for their safe return to Myanmar. — MNA/KTZH

Pakokku, Yazagyo reconnected as power restored



Repair works underway on the collapsed 132kV Nyaungbingyi-Buddhagon Tower 338, destroyed in a terrorist bomb blast.

RECOGNIZING the electricity sector’s pivotal role in economic growth, improved living standards, and socioeconomic stability, the government has made power development a national priority. However, PDF terrorists are carrying out attacks on

electricity infrastructure and other development projects through various means. They exploded Tower No 338 of the 132-kV Nyaungbingyi-Buddhagon transmission line near Paunglaungkan Village in Pakokku Township on 19 July. As a result of the

attack, the transmission tower collapsed.

Such a destructive act caused a sudden power outage affecting innocent civilians in Pakokku, Yazagyo, Myaing, and Kamma townships, creating numerous difficulties for residents in their daily lives and socioeconomic activities.

After the incident, electrical staff from the Gangaw and Ohntaw Transmission Line Offices, the Buddhagon Main Substation, and the Township Electrical Engineer’s Office under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, in cooperation with the relevant security forces, worked day and night con-

tinuously for four days to restore the damaged infrastructure and ensure the earliest possible resumption of electricity supply. On 23 July, repairs to the damaged Tower No 338 were completed, enabling electricity transmission to resume to the affected areas in Pakokku and Yazagyo townships.

The destruction of major power lines caused disruptions to people’s daily lives. With government guidance and the combined efforts of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy staff and civic-minded citizens, electricity supply was swiftly restored, bringing relief and joy to local communities. — MNA/KTZH

55 arrested in Muse for alleged online scam

SECURITY forces arrested 55 people allegedly involved in online scams and illegal gambling in Muse, northern Shan State, and seized computers and other equipment.

The arrests were made during a search operation in Swansaw Ward, Muse, where 44 suspects, including Chinese and Myanmar nationals, were detained.

Officers seized 33 mobile phones, 38 all-in-one computers, one laptop, one Starlink device and eight motorcycles.

A further 11 Myanmar nationals were arrested at another location in the same area, where officers also seized 33 all-in-one computers, three CPUs and five UPS units.

Authorities said further investigations would



Map shows site where online scammers were arrested, along with seized scam-related materials in Muse.

be conducted and legal action taken against those involved in accordance with the law. — MNA/KZL

Efficiently generate solar energy for the State

ALL the people need to promote the use of solar energy to improve socioeconomic development. Electricity is an indispensable source of energy not only for industrial, agricultural, trade and service sectors, but also for the daily lives of the people.

Therefore, the Government is making efforts through various means to ensure sufficient electricity supply, which is crucial for the development of the nation and the improvement of

Myanmar is a country with excellent potential for solar energy due to its geographical location. Therefore, the Government is encouraging the implementation of solar power projects that are compatible with the country's natural resources, with the aim of increasing the contribution of solar power to the national energy sector. The Government is implementing solar power projects to integrate appropriate solar power systems into the national grid and enable individuals or communities to install and use Solar Home Systems according to their own plans.

As solar energy is an inexhaustible renewable energy source, it is also an important option for ensuring future energy security.

Myanmar is a country with excellent potential for solar energy due to its geographical location. Therefore, the Government is encouraging the implementation of solar power projects that are compatible with the country's natural resources, with the aim of increasing the contribution of solar power to the national energy sector. The Government is implementing solar power projects to integrate appropriate solar power systems into the national grid and enable individuals or communities to install and use Solar Home Systems according to their own plans.

A workshop on solar energy, aimed at ensuring that solar power systems make a significant contribution to the country's electricity consumption, was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 July. During the workshop, participants discussed and sought solutions to the technological limitations and management challenges currently being encountered. As a result, effective measures and projects will be implemented rapidly.

As solar energy is an important resource for the country's energy security, long-term sustainable development and the improvement of socioeconomic conditions, the private sector and the public are encouraged to work together, under the leadership of the State, to promote the wider utilization of solar power.

the socioeconomic lives of the people. Currently, Myanmar's electricity generation mainly relies on hydropower and natural gas. While climate change has posed challenges to hydropower generation, instability in global energy prices has also become a matter of concern for the country's energy security. Therefore, it is necessary to further develop renewable energy sources to ensure long-term energy security.

The use of solar energy derived from sunlight can not only meet electricity demand but also plays an important role in environmental conservation, reducing fuel consumption and lowering carbon emissions. In addition, solar power systems have advantages such as low operating costs, ease of maintenance, and accessibility in rural areas where the national power grid has not yet reached. Therefore, they can contribute to improving the socioeconomic lives of the people and supporting regional development.

THERE is a saying that true wealth is not measured by what we own but by the freedom we have to make our own decisions. It is a simple idea, yet one that becomes more meaningful as we grow older. Many of us spend years believing that saving money is only about collecting wealth. In reality, saving is about something far more valuable. It is about collecting choices – the freedom to decide what is best for our lives, no matter what challenges come our way.

When we are young, life often feels endless. We believe there will always be another opportunity, another paycheck, or another person willing to help us. We tell ourselves that happiness is the most important thing. When we buy something expensive, we say we are rewarding ourselves. When we stay out late enjoying life, we believe we are making the most of the present. Even when we remain in relationships that hurt us, we comfort ourselves by hoping that patience will eventually fix everything.

These thoughts are understandable, but they are often beautiful illusions.

As time passes, life quietly teaches us lessons that no textbook ever can. Responsibilities

grow, unexpected problems appear, and the future no longer feels as distant as it once did. By the time many women reach their forties, they begin to see that financial security is not about luxury. It is about freedom.

The greatest problem for a woman without savings is not that she cannot buy a designer handbag or travel whenever she wants. Those things are pleasant, but they are not what truly matter. The real difficulty comes when life demands an important decision, yet she suddenly realizes she has no choice at all.

The most painful part of having no savings is not seeing a small number in a bank account. It is losing confidence, courage, and the strength to stand on our own feet.

We may be treated unfairly at work, but we feel unable to resign because we need the salary. We may stay in relationships that drain our happiness because we fear starting over. Our bodies may tell us to rest, but we continue working because taking a break feels impossible. In those moments, we finally understand that what breaks people is not always a lack of money.

It is a lack of choices. One of the most inspiring ide-

Beyond the Bank Account: The Freedom to Choose

By Laura Htet (UDE)



as is the concept of an "Account of Choices". Instead of thinking only about a savings account, we can imagine that every wise decision we make is a deposit into an account that gives us greater freedom in the future.

Every time we save even a small amount of money, we make a deposit. Every time we learn a skill that can support us throughout our lives, we increase its value. Every time we stop ourselves from making an unnecessary purchase, we strengthen our future. Every time we walk away from a relationship that steals our peace and self-respect; we invest in our emotional well-being. Little by little, these choices become our greatest source of strength.

Life will never remain peaceful forever. Every family, every career, and every individual will face unexpected storms. We may lose a job, experience illness,

encounter financial difficulties, or watch carefully made plans suddenly change. During those moments, kind words from others may comfort us, but they cannot solve our problems. What truly matters is whether we have prepared ourselves.

Do we have the confidence to walk away from unhealthy situations? Do we have the knowledge and skills to begin again? Can we look ahead without fear because we know we still have another choice? These questions define our real security far more than the balance in our bank account.

As we grow older, we also begin to understand that maturity is not measured by how much pain we can endure. For generations, many women have been praised for sacrificing everything for others. While kindness and love are admirable qualities, endless sacrifice should never come at the

cost of our dignity or our future.

A truly mature woman is someone who takes responsibility for her own life. She understands that savings are not merely numbers. They represent inner strength, self-respect, and the ability to protect herself when life changes unexpectedly. They become healthy boundaries that allow her to say "No" to unfair treatment and "Yes" to new opportunities.

The encouraging news is that we do not need to become wealthy overnight to build this freedom. Every journey begins with small, consistent steps.

We can spend less on impulse purchases and more on our future. We can slowly build an emergency fund instead of waiting for the perfect time to start. We can spend less energy trying to please everyone around us and invest more time in improving our skills, knowledge, and confidence. These simple habits may seem ordinary today, but over time they create extraordinary results.

Every dollar we save, every book we read, every skill we learn, and every wise decision we make becomes another brick in the strong foundation of our future. Eventually, those quiet efforts give us something priceless – the

confidence to stand firm and say, "No, I will not accept this. I will not give up my values. Because I have a choice."

Perhaps a woman's greatest security is not knowing that someone will always love or protect her. Life is unpredictable, and circumstances can change in an instant. True strength comes from knowing that, whatever tomorrow brings, we have prepared ourselves to face it with wisdom, courage, and independence.

Saving money is therefore never just about money. It is about protecting our dignity before it is tested, preparing for opportunities before they arrive, and creating a future where fear does not make our decisions for us.

May we continue building our freedom to choose, one thoughtful step at a time. Not to prove how successful we are or to impress the world, but so that when life's storms arrive, we remain strong enough to protect ourselves, wise enough to make our own decisions, and brave enough to choose the life we truly deserve.

Because in the end, the greatest wealth we can ever build is not found in what we own – it is found in knowing that no matter what life brings, we still have the freedom to choose.

NATURALLY, people are born in white, which figuratively means that they have no greed or frustration when being so young. Of course, in their childhood, they are almost always content to get what they have owned; if they are full with a piece of cake, they will eat only one piece, not two, three or four. Except that child sometimes pester their parents to buy some toys and snacks, they hide no worries behind an air of insouciance. They like to play while in play as well as sleep while in sleep. Additionally, they do not have any avarice at all by the time they are children. But when they grow up as a man, they have become totally different from the past as usual; they have changed a lot as always. They like to show themselves in their true colours when reaching adulthood. These colours are nothing but pride, ego, and cupidity.

In the main, people, particularly those who are over 20 years of age, have been educated in a field of studies, wealthy in the

world of economics or successful in a position of authority for some reason or the other. An overly educated person mostly thinks himself to outperform the uneducated critically and rationally in the educational sphere. Even some educated people tend to have a finger in every pie; they look like those who have nothing that they do not know. Similarly, rich people, no matter whether they are born with a silver spoon in their mouths, appear to be better off than others under the illusion that they come from blue blood. They often wrongly think that there is nothing which cannot be resolved with money. Some wealthy people, who are rolling in money, are given to spending money like water for nothing. In the same way, someone in authority is likely to try to show their

power in public in one way or another. Usually, they like seeing each of their subordinates in the flesh more than online or on the phone in all cases. In actual fact, all of them are consciously or unconsciously proud of their existence in real life situations.

Everybody has their egos no matter whether they are young or old. In reality, a person's ego technically means that whatever he does, says or thinks is always right; even though it is not true, he generally assumes that his idea or opinion is better than that of others. Egocentrism can occur among children, adults and even adolescents from all walks of life. Hardly do children share their snacks, seats and other possessions to a greater or lesser degree; this is just their mild ego. On the other side, adults have

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

the biggest ego of their words in particular since they have passed through more kinds of life than young children and adolescents. Hence, every word that adults have said is believed completely right all by themselves. The worst of all is an adolescent's ego, I should think. This is probably because teenagers are able to easily do whatever they wish with their youthful physique and full strength. Therefore, youths have nothing which they dare not so as to fight back against their elders or answer back for their reasoning or even rationalization.

As in pride and ego, grown-up people have cupidity to a noticeable feature, a strong desire for more wealth, possessions, power and so on than is necessary or needed. In most cases, adults have an unquenchable

thirst for life and survival unlike children. So, the saying "Enough is enough" is not for well-grown people but for well-developed ones. Specially in the field of economics, people are always struggling or fighting for profit like living in a den. For an increase in their own profits, people are competing against each other by the law of the jungle as if they were ferocious beasts in the wild, not considering whether they are biological brothers and sisters or someone like this. Actually, everyone should have got a reasonable amount of anything like money, material or energy. Wanting more than what is required will be no good deed in any time and circumstance. However, many people themselves get unaware of being too greedy at the time when they lust for something for the simple reason that they are indulging in the sense of cupidity at such a time, to say from the point of perspective of Pahtam Dhamma by Buddha.

Above all, it is natural that

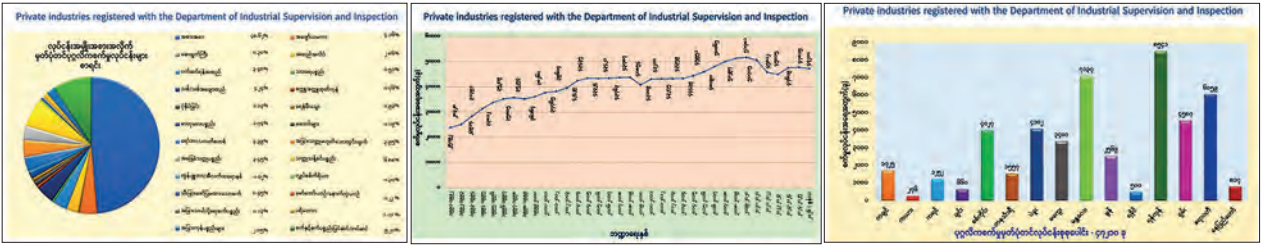
people are arrogant, egocentric and greedy simply because humans are humans only. As the human body consists of both physique and mind, human beings will be feeling these psychological emotions in the future, that is to say, pride, ego and cupidity, as long as the mind exists in the body. Being without feelings does not make the existence of a human in the world. All people have feelings, yet more importantly, their negative emotions must not influence or destroy others' lives in any bad way. Each person may encounter such their own feelings as pride, ego and cupidity, which cannot be

dodged by a man. Nothing will be nice if it becomes more than adequate.

Granted, all colours are beautiful, but if white gets stained, it will never be good-looking for certain.



# Private industries registered with DISI exceed 8,540 as of June 2026



PRIVATE industries registered with the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (DISI) as of June 2026 reached 8,541 in the commercial hub Yangon Region, followed by Mandalay Region with 7,137 and Ayeyawady Region with 6,059.

The registered private industries totalled 47,609 in the financial year 2023-2024, up from 45,015 registered in the 2022-2023 FY. A total of 206 industries were officially listed in the 2024-2025 FY, reaching a total of 47,815 private industries. Some were deregistered, and the

number of private industries registered with the DISI dropped. A total of 47,210 private industries have been registered with the DISI as of June 2026.

More than 48 per cent of the registered private industries are engaged in the food group. The lists of registered private industries are classified into 24 business groups; food, tobacco, clothing, wood and finished wood slabs, printing, chemical, rubber and plastic, basic mineral, computer and electronic device, unclassified machine, beverage, fabric, leather, paper and pa-

per products, charcoal, pharmaceuticals, non-metallic minerals, metal refining equipment, electronics, vehicle and trailer, furniture and machines and equipment repair and installation.

The DISI is providing services for small and medium enterprises to get access to technical assistance and funding, explore markets, register private industrial enterprises in accordance with existing laws and conduct safety inspections of boilers and electrical usage at worksites and environmental impact assessments. — KK

# YGN palm oil wholesale reference price remains unchanged

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market held steady throughout two weeks at K7,220 per viss during the week ending 30 July, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control over-



Oil mill workers are organizing cooking oil jerry cans for distribution and sale.

charging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee noti-

fied that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking

oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department, or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are imported through Malaysia and Indonesia annually to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

# PPD seeks open tenders for paper purchase

THE Department of Printing and Publishing of the Ministry of Information has called an open tender to purchase paper (1,000 metric tonnes of Woodfree Paper 28 1/4 inches (60 gsm)).

Open tender forms can be purchased at K50,000 per form from 9:30 am to 4 pm from 21 August to 4 September at the Department of Printing and Publishing, Ministry of Information, Office 7, Nay Pyi Taw.

Paper samples for testing must be submitted to the designated locations from 5 to 12 September between 9:30 am and 4 pm.

Open tenders must be submitted to the Domestic/Foreign Goods Purchase and Sales Committee, Department of Printing and Publishing, Ministry of Information, Office 7, Nay Pyi Taw, with contact numbers: 067 3412374 and 067 3412375. — NN/KK

mation on 14 September between 9:30 am and 4 pm, before the tender committee members. Late submission will not be considered.

As tender security, bidders must provide a Performance Bank Guarantee (PG) amounting to one per cent of the bid value from a bank recognized by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Individuals can enquire about the open tender forms and specifications at 067 412374 and 067 412375.

The address for submitting tenders is the Domestic/Foreign Goods Purchase and Sales Committee, Department of Printing and Publishing, Ministry of Information, Office 7, Nay Pyi Taw, with contact numbers: 067 3412374 and 067 3412375. — NN/KK

# Seized Goods at Ports, Airports Headed for Auction

GOODS that have been imported through ports and airports without a permit will be auctioned off, according to the Auction Sales Committee.

A public tender will be held at 11 am on 6 August 2026 to sell goods packed in 52 containers in their exact current condition at AWPT, MIP, and MITT ports. The

sale will be conducted through an open tender system.

Auction forms and terms and conditions can be obtained by 4 August at the Central Store of Myanma Port Authority, located on Strand Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon. Individuals can enquire about details in person at the same location. — NN/KK

Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

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## Sinbaungwe’s rural production road and bridge construction inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the construction progress of a rural production road and bridge in Sipinhla Village, Sinbaungwe Township, yesterday. The project is being implemented to help farmers transport agricultural produce from more than 235 acres of farmland to markets at a lower cost.

Aunglan District Department of Rural Development Head U Win Naing and engineering staff inspected the construction of a one-mile-and-one-furlong-long and 12-foot-wide rural production road featuring a two-foot earth embankment and a nine-inch sand-gravel base, as well as a pipe culvert bridge along the route in Sipinhla Village. He also met representatives of the contractor, Ye Htut Hlaing Company, and members of the village road committee, and discussed the need to prioritize completing the work within the prescribed period and in compliance with required quality standards, while coordinating issues raised by residents.

The rural production road, bridge and related projects are being implemented with K173.7 million provided under the Union Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year. The project was launched in the third week of July this year by Ye Htut Hlaing Company under the technical guidance and close supervision of district and township DRD officials. Upon completion, the road and bridge will benefit local farmers by improving access to over 235 acres of farmland. —Karan (Rural)



Officials inspect the road construction progress in Sinbaungwe Township.

## Yangon-Pyay DEMU train service to kick off on 31 July

MYANMA Railways, under the Ministry of Transport, will introduce modern air-conditioned DEMU express trains on the Yangon-Pyay-Yangon route from 31 July, expanding its upgraded passenger rail services to meet growing travel demand.

The successful introduction of air-conditioned DEMU express trains on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon, Yangon-Mandalay-Yangon and Yangon-Mawlamyine-Yangon routes, Myanma Railways has decided to extend the service to the Yangon-Pyay railway in response to strong passenger demand.

Under the new timetable, Train 73Up will operate from Yangon to Pyay, while Train 74Down



DEMU express train sets out on its journey.

will run from Pyay to Yangon. The trains will begin regular services on 31 July, offering passengers faster and more comfortable journeys in modern air-conditioned DEMU coaches.

The newly introduced modern air-conditioned DEMU passenger express trains, Train 73Up and Train 74Down, will each consist of two upper-class coaches and four first-

class coaches. The entire journey will take only six hours, allowing passengers to complete a round trip within the same day.

In addition, tickets for the existing air-conditioned passenger express trains (Train 71Up and Train 72Down and the newly introduced DEMU express trains (Train 73Up and Train 74Down on the Yangon-Pyay railway can be purchased through the Online Railways Ticketing and Payment (ORTP) system.

According to Myanma Railways, passengers can purchase tickets up to seven days in advance for the full route and up to five days in advance for intermediate stations. —MNA/KZL

Each train can accommodate a total of 290 passengers, including 66 upper-class passengers and 224 first-class passengers. Full-route fares are K20,000 for upper class and K15,000 for first class.

The trains will stop at Danyingon, Thawawady, Letpadan, Minhla, Gyobingauk, Nattalin and Paungde stations along the Yangon-Pyay-Yangon

| No | Train No     | From   | To     | Departure | Arrival  | Journey Time |
|----|--------------|--------|--------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| 1  | Train 73Up   | Yangon | Pyay   | 5:30 am   | 11:30 am | 6 hours      |
| 2  | Train 74Down | Pyay   | Yangon | 1 pm      | 7 pm     | 6 hours      |

## MRCS, IFRC launch community-based disaster risk management training course

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the International Federation of Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) jointly launched the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training course in Nay Pyi Taw, the Myanmar Red Cross Society Headquarters announced.

The training course was launched at the Myanmar Red Cross Society Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw. The training period will be six days from 22 to 27 July.

The course will be attended by 13 staff from Myanmar Red Cross Society Headquarters and a total of 38 Red Cross volunteers from 25 regions and states.

The opening ceremony of the training was attended by the Director of the Myanmar Red Cross Society’s Planning Department, Director of the Disaster Management Department, Deputy Director of the Finance Department, training instructors, staff from the Myanmar Red Cross Society’s headquarters who will be attending the training, and Red Cross volunteers. —ASH/MKKS

## Kyain-Seikkyi’s Emerald Green village project activities inspected

THE Township Department of Rural Development, along with project staff, met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Committee. They inspected the execution of project activities in Seikphugon Village, verified whether financial registers and accounting forms were systematically maintained, and ensured compliance with the instructions in the project manual, providing necessary guidance and recommendations where needed.

According to U Saw Tun Aye, Staff Officer (Technical) of the Kyain-Seikkyi District Department of Rural Development, a total loan of K87.1 million has been disbursed under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project to 157 members in Seikphugon Village, including 86 engaged in agriculture, 62 in livestock farming, and nine in trading. —Ko Ko Soe (Rural)

District Head U Min Wai Phyoo of the Kyain-Seikkyi District Department of Rural Development, along with project staff, met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Committee. They inspected the execution of project activities in Seikphugon Village, verified whether financial registers and accounting forms were systematically maintained, and ensured compliance with the instructions in the project manual, providing necessary guidance and recommendations where needed.



Officials oversee a Mya Sein Yaung village project in Kyain-Seikkyi Township.

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Global power demand to rise in 2026 and 2027: IEA report

*Electricity demand will rise through 2027, driven by tech, cooling, and vehicles.*

THE global power demand will rise faster in 2026 and 2027 than in 2025, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has said in its mid-year review. The outlook comes in the backdrop of electricity generation costs rising due to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The report said that electricity demand will grow by 3.6 per cent in 2026 and 3.8 per cent in 2027, up from three per cent in 2025. The report highlighted that the increasing demand from data centres, along with accelerating uptake of electric vehicles, air conditioning and heat pumps, will boost power consumption.

“As a result, global electricity consumption is set to reach 30,700 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2027, up from 28,600 TWh in 2025,” according to the



Global electricity consumption is set to reach 30,700 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2027, up from 28 600 TWh in 2025. **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

report.

The ongoing West Asia conflict could serve as a downside risk to the outlook as rising energy prices could weigh on the global economy and lead to an overall consumption slowdown.

The report further underscored the shift in fuel used for generation from natural gas to coal on account of elevated gas prices.

“The temporary loss of nearly 20 per cent of global LNG supply has triggered significant price volatility, pushing natural gas prices in both Asia and Europe to their highest levels since the 2022-2023 energy crisis. The elevated gas prices have, in turn, prompted fuel switching from natural gas to coal in several Asian and European countries,” the report

stated.

Rising share of renewable energy in the overall mix has “played a key role in diversifying electricity supplies, thereby supporting energy security and helping limit the impacts of the shock”.

Some of the world’s largest economies will see strong rises in electricity consumption. — ANI

## Singapore, Thailand central banks deepen cybersecurity cooperation

THE Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Bank of Thailand have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cybersecurity cooperation and combat digital fraud, as cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated across the region’s interconnected financial systems.

The agreement establishes a framework for co-operation across three areas, information sharing on cybersecurity and digital fraud, competency-building, and operational preparedness, the two central

banks said in a release on Friday.

The two sides will exchange regulatory and incident updates and threat intelligence affecting the financial sector, conduct joint training, study visits and research exchanges, and carry out cross-border cybersecurity and crisis management exercises.

“Cyber risks and digital fraud are key transnational threats confronting our region and call for closer collaboration to combat these risks,” said MAS Managing Director Chia Der Jiun. — Xinhua



Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Mexico reports progress in trilateral trade pact review

MEXICO said Thursday that the third round of talks on reviewing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) had made progress, and that a new US trade ruling would not change the effective tariffs paid by Mexican exports.

Mexico’s Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said that Mexico and the United States had worked to bring their positions closer based on their shared economic integration. The two sides agreed to hold a fourth round of talks in the first half of September.

Ebrard said the US

ruling, issued under Section 301, replaced a previous provision affecting about 60 countries, but did not change Mexico’s current trade treatment.

He said more than 80 per cent of Mexican exports that comply with USMCA rules of origin would remain excluded from the new provisions, while a 10-per-cent tariff on non-compliant products was already in place and only its legal basis had changed.

“In short, we do not see a change in the effective tariff that Mexico is paying today,” Ebrard said. — Xinhua

## US tariffs continue to weigh on German industry: ifo survey

US tariff policy continues to weigh on Germany’s industrial sector, with many manufacturers postponing investment and passing higher costs on to US customers, a survey by the Munich-based ifo Institute showed on Wednesday.

The survey, conducted among around 1,800 manufacturing companies in June, found that 62 per cent of firms said US tariffs had negatively affected their business. The share exceeded 70 per cent in the mechanical engineering and automotive industries.

“Even in the second year of Donald Trump’s presidency, US tariff pol-



People visit the exhibition zone of BMW at the Open Space of the 2025 IAA Mobility in Munich, Germany, 11 September 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

icy remains a significant burden for German industry,” the ifo Institute said.

Companies were also bracing for tariffs to remain high over the longer term, with 63 per cent expecting tar-

iff levels to stay elevated through the end of Trump’s term in office.

The uncertainty has also affected investment decisions. Nearly 40 per cent of firms said they had cancelled, postponed or relocated

investment projects in response to US trade policy. The impact extended to investment in Germany, with 16 per cent of companies with existing investment plans saying they had cancelled domestic projects as a result, nearly double the share reported a year earlier.

To cope with higher tariffs, companies were increasingly passing on the additional costs to customers. Among affected exporters, 34 per cent said they had passed on the full cost of the tariffs to US customers, while another 28 per cent had passed on more than half. — Xinhua

Nokia says AI, cloud boosted sales in second quarter

FINNISH telecommunications equipment maker Nokia said that demand for its AI and cloud services drove sales higher in the second quarter, but restructuring charges ate into earnings.

The second quarter “demonstrates our strategy is delivering results”, chief executive Justin Hotard said in a statement.

“Since we set out our plan late last year, Team Nokia has focused on maximising our opportunity in the AI supercycle. I am encouraged by the execution and progress we have made in a short period of time. We enter the second half with momentum,” he said.

Nokia booked profit of 5.0 million euros (\$5.7 million) for the period from April to June, down from 96

million euros a year earlier. Second-quarter sales, on the other hand, rose by eight per cent to 4.8 billion euros.

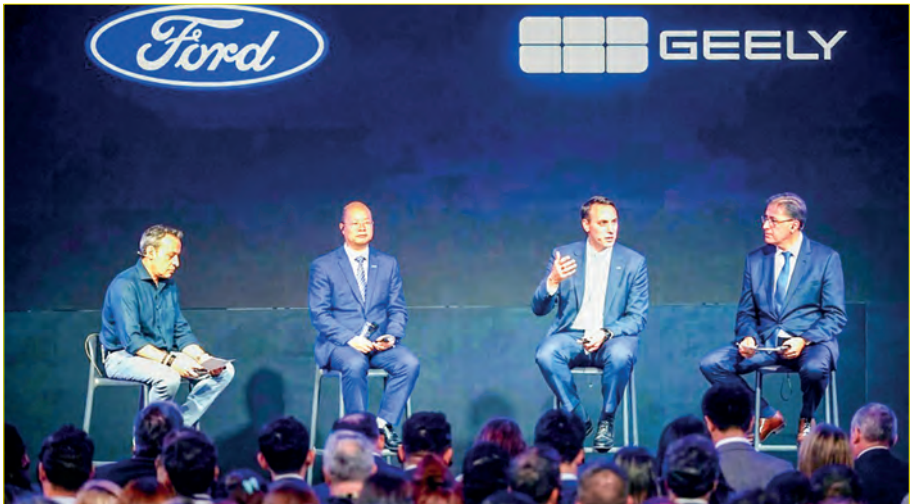
The group attributed the sharp drop in earnings to restructuring charges which are projected to amount to 800 million euros for the full year.

Underlying or operating profit — which strip out one-off factors — rose by 18 per cent to 434 million euros.

“In the second quarter, our AI and cloud order intake was 2.8 billion euros while sales more than doubled year-on-year,” said CEO Hotard.

“The strength was broad-based. We expect around half of these orders to convert to revenue over the next 12 months,” he continued. — AFP

Chinese automakers deepen integration into Spain’s auto industry



Nan Shengliang (2<sup>nd</sup> L), vice-president of Geely Auto Group, and Jim Baumbick (3<sup>rd</sup> L), president of Ford Europe attend an event to announce the deal in Valencia, Spain, 23 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINESE automaker Geely Auto and US automaker Ford announced a new cooperation agreement in Spain on Thursday, as Chinese automotive companies continue to grow in the country in

terms of vehicle sales, local production and mobility technologies.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez attended the event, held at Ford’s Almussafes plant in Spain’s coastal city of

Valencia, alongside three senior cabinet members, company executives, workers and union representatives.

Geely brings technological platforms, electrification capabilities,

rapid product development and global reach, while Ford contributes its knowledge of the European market, industrial capacity and brand strength, Sanchez said.

“Strategic alliances are a necessary condition to compete and to lead,” he said, noting that the automotive industry is undergoing major changes driven by electrification, digitalization and global competition.

Chinese automakers have seen their share of Spain’s passenger car market rise in recent years, supported by growing consumer acceptance and rising demand for electric and electrified vehicles. — Xinhua

Alphabet beats expectations with soaring cloud revenue

GOOGLE’S cloud business grew by more than 80 per cent, the company said on Wednesday, which exceeded investor expectations who are looking for signs that the company’s AI investments are

paying off.

CEO Sundar Pichai said in a statement that the successful quarter was due in part to growth of its AI model Gemini and AI search queries, as well as YouTube where more

than 1.7 billion unique viewers tuned in to videos related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

“Our AI investments are redefining what’s possible across every part of our business,” Pichai

said.

The company recorded more than \$119 billion in total revenue between April and June, up 24 per cent compared to the same period last year. — AFP

Autonomous fighter jets target Europe market at Farnborough airshow

AS Europe ramps up its rearmament drive, US aerospace giant Boeing is seeking a foothold in the emerging market for autonomous fighter aircraft, showcasing its capabilities at the Farnborough airshow this week.

Boeing’s MQ-28 Ghost Bat is an uncrewed aircraft, developed with the Royal Australian Air Force, to fly alongside crewed fighter jets carrying out electronic warfare and surveillance and to help multiply forces.

It belongs to a cate-



This image shows the Boeing MQ-28 Ghost Bat on static display at the Farnborough International Airshow 2026. PHOTO: AFP

gory of AI-enabled Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) which have risen to prominence as a new type of drone, as unmanned

systems dominate the battlefield in Ukraine.

Boeing hopes to win over the European market by partnering with local

defence companies.

In Germany, defence group Rheinmetall has teamed up with Boeing to integrate the MQ-28 into the German Air Force, with the capability expected to be available by 2029.

Such partnerships, however, have revived questions about the limits of Europe’s push for greater defence sovereignty.

“The key objective is to deliver capabilities quickly,” Pascal Fabre, a partner at advisory firm AlixPartners, told AFP. — AFP

MYANMA Port Authority  
“NOTICE of High Tide”

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.01 feet to 20.37 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2615E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2615E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **25-7-2026** 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 TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

# GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

### US will use “Iranian money” in its “possession” to pay for damage to ships, cargo: Trump

*Iran's Foreign Minister said US aggression will backfire on Washington.*

AMID continued hostilities between the US and Iran, President Donald Trump on Thursday said that any damages done to ships and cargo will be paid by the Iranian money in possession and control of Washington.

He made the remarks in a post on Truth Social and called it a “fair and equitable” step.

“Please let this statement serve to represent, until further notice, that from this point forth, any and all damages done to Ships, Cargo, or anything related thereto, will be paid for by Iranian Money that the United States has in its possession, and controls. These damages may be very substantial but, nevertheless, this is the fair and equitable thing to do. Thank you for your attention to this matter!” he said on Truth Social.

Meanwhile, according to a report by Al Ja-

zeera, Tehran has nearly \$100bn in assets frozen by other countries and beyond its control.

As the standoff continues between the two warring adversaries, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Thursday took a dig at officials in the US administration and said that the aggression being advocated by them will backfire.

He said on X, “Com-promised individuals in the US administration are burying their heads in the sand. They ignore the realities on the ground and seem focused only on 2028. The mindless aggression they advocate will only ensure that POTUS pays heavier price for deal he’s trying to achieve.”

The latest Truth Social post follows after Trump on Thursday reiterated his stance that Tehran cannot be allowed to have nuclear weapons



Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi speaks during an interview at the Iranian consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 7 March 2025. **PHOTO: CGTN**

and that Washington is doing “extremely well” as the conflict continues between the two adversaries.

The US President said, “We’re doing very well against the Islamic Republic of Iran — we’re doing extremely well. They would like to do something, but I say they’re not ready yet. They need more of the same. They’ve got some evil intentions. We cannot let them have a nuclear weapon.”

Trump said that Iran cannot be allowed to even consider acquiring nuclear weapons.

He added, “We cannot let them even think about having nuclear weapons and that is exactly what is happening. They will never have a nuclear weapon... This should’ve been done by other American Presidents or other countries. It didn’t have to be us but if we don’t do it nobody else will, but I will and nobody else has the capability to do it.” — ANI

### Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin resigns

BANGLADESH’S President Mohammed Shahabuddin has resigned from office, Bangabhaban, a reliable source told ANI.

The official announcement of the President’s resignation will be made at 5 pm Bangladesh time, the source added.

According to Bangladesh’s Constitution, if President Mohammed Shahabuddin resigns, the Speaker of Parliament will serve as acting president until a new president is elected.

A new president will then be chosen by the members of the Jatiya Sangsad, following the constitutional process.

Since the new presi-

dent’s term will be tied to the current parliament, the question of who becomes the next head of state has also gained significant political importance.

Mohammed Shahabuddin was sworn in as the President of Bangladesh on 24 April 2023. He was elected unopposed as the ruling Awami League’s nominee.

His five-year term was scheduled to end in April 2028.

The official announcement follows days of intense speculation across Bangladeshi media and independent disclosures indicating an imminent transition of power at Bangabhaban. — ANI



Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin has officially resigned from office. **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

### Houthis say Saudi Arabia’s allies to pay ‘heavy price’ for violating blockade



This is the Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker **Al Zubarah**, pictured loading at the Ras Laffan facility in Qatar. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

ABDULWAHID Abu Ras, Deputy Foreign Minister of Yemen’s Ansar Allah movement, also known as the Houthis, warned

of a “heavy price” for any party cooperating with Saudi Arabia in defiance of the Houthi ban on shipping from the kingdom’s

ports.

“Anyone who wishes to entangle themselves with the Saudi enemy - that is their concern,

and they will pay a heavy price for their wrong decision. We are acting in accordance with legitimate rights guaranteed to us by all customs, laws, and covenants,” Abu Ras told Yemeni news agency SABA, calling on all countries to require their companies to avoid Saudi ports until further notice.

On Wednesday, the Houthis said that they had struck two Saudi tankers with missiles and drones for violating its navigation ban in the Red Sea. On Thursday, Saudi Arabia’s General Transport Authority confirmed an attack on the tanker Encelia in the Red Sea, which resulted in a fire. — SPUTNIK

### Maldives enacts first comprehensive organ transplant law

MALDIVIAN President Mohamed Muizzu has ratified the country’s first comprehensive law governing human organ transplantation, PSM News, the Maldives’ state media, reported on Friday.

The Organ Transplant Act establishes a legal and regulatory framework for providing safe and high-quality organ transplant services. It defines transplant procedures and sets out the rights and responsibilities of donors, recipients and healthcare providers.

Under the law, an Organ Transplant Council appointed by the president

will formulate national transplantation policies.

An Organ Transplant Authorization Committee will assess and approve individual transplant applications to ensure that procedures comply with the law.

The legislation also establishes standards for organ transplantation and introduces offenses and penalties for procedures conducted in violation of the law. The government said the framework would help ensure that organ transplant services are conducted safely, ethically and in accordance with national standards. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Newcastle sign Monaco  
midfielder Bamba on  
five-year deal



Monaco's French midfielder Aladji Bamba has signed a five-year deal with Premier League club Newcastle. **PHOTO: AFP**

MONACO'S French mid-fielder Aladji Bamba has signed a five-year deal with Premier League club Newcastle, both teams confirmed on Friday.

The deal is reported to be worth 35 million euros (\$40m) with the Principality side to receive a percentage of the future sale of the 20-year-old.

"I was very excited when I heard Newcastle were interested in signing me," said Bamba, who becomes the club's fourth signing this summer.

"I know about the history of the club and I've visited the stadium already, which is amazing. I can't wait to be

on the pitch there and hope to have some great times with the fans.

"I'm excited to test myself in a new league, the biggest league in the world. I learned a lot last season and now I feel ready for this new opportunity. I will give my all for this club."

Bamba joined Monaco in 2021 but has played just 25 matches — 18 in Ligue 1, two in the French Cup and five in the Champions League. The Riviera outfit finished fifth in Ligue 1 last season.

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe welcomed the arrival of "another exciting, young signing who we're really looking forward to working with".

"Aladji adds depth and a range of qualities to our midfield options, with huge potential for growth," said Howe.

"His development since breaking through at Monaco has been really impressive and something we believe we can help him build on." Newcastle finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the Premier League last season. — AFP

Maresca says it's a 'privilege' to  
succeed Guardiola at Man City

ENZO Maresca said Friday it is a "privilege" to follow Pep Guardiola as manager of Manchester City.

Former Chelsea and Leicester boss Maresca was named as Guardiola's successor after the Catalan



Manchester City have appointed Enzo Maresca as their new manager. **PHOTO: AFP**

stepped down at the end of last season, having won 20 trophies during a superbly successful 10-year spell at the Etihad Stadium.

"First of all, I have to say that it's a privilege," said the Italian in his first press conference as City boss.

"I've said many times that I consider Pep probably the best coach in the world in the last 20, 25 years. But again, it's a challenge. It's nice. It's a privilege."

Many clubs

have struggled following the exit of serial trophy-winning managers, with City's local rivals Manchester United falling from the summit of the English game following the retirement of Alex Ferguson in 2013.

Maresca believes City are well set-up to continue as one of the leading powers in the Premier League.

"I think the organisation is the main thing," he said. "They (City) had three managers in 17 years. This is not normal, it doesn't happen often. "So this is probably one of the things that I'm confident that we can do a great job." — AFP

Myanmar face Korea in  
Asian Games women's football

THE Myanmar women's national football team has been drawn in Group B alongside South Korea, North Korea and Bangladesh for the women's football tournament at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

The draw was held at the Hilton Nagoya Hotel, with the 12 teams divided into three groups. Group A comprises Japan, Taiwan Province of China, Vietnam and Thailand, while Group C consists of China, the Philippines, Uzbekistan and Hong Kong SAR.

After the group stage, the top two teams from



Teams drawn in Group B alongside Myanmar.

each group, along with the two best third-placed teams, will advance to the quarterfinals.



This photo depicts the Myanmar women's football team that will compete in the women's football tournament at the 20<sup>th</sup> Asian Games 2026.

The women's football tournament will be held from 14 September to 2 October 2026, with matches taking place in Fukuoka, Osaka, Gifu, Nagoya and Kariya, Japan. — TWA/KZL

Colombia keeps Lorenzo after  
World Cup exit

THE Colombian Football Federation said Thursday it renewed the contract of national team manager Nestor Lorenzo for another four years.

The announcement came after Lorenzo led Colombia to the World Cup round of 16, where it was eliminated by Switzerland earlier this month.

In a statement, the federation said the decision reaffirmed its support for the "technical process" led by the Argentine. Lorenzo has guided Colombia to 31 wins, 12 draws and eight losses since taking charge in 2022. — Xinhua

Modric signs new contract with  
AC Milan

LUKA MODRIC will continue his playing career with AC Milan, as the Croatia veteran signed a new contract with the Rossoneri, the club confirmed on Thursday.

Modric, who turns 41 in September, joined AC Milan last year after 13 seasons with Real Madrid. His original contract had expired on 30 June.

He had previously stated he would make a decision on whether to stay at the club or retire after the 2026 World Cup, where Croatia lost to Portugal and exited in the round of 32. — Xinhua

Klopp handed task of reviving  
Germany's football fortunes



Jurgen Klopp has been tasked with restoring the German men's football team's fortunes. **PHOTO: AFP**

JURGEN Klopp has been named Germany coach, the former Liverpool manager given the task of rebuilding the struggling European giants, the national federation (DFB) announced on Friday.

Klopp's appointment was widely expected for weeks and his contract will see him through to the 2030 World Cup co-hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco, as well as the three centenary matches

planned for that year in South America.

The 59-year-old spoke publicly of his desire to take on the role after predecessor Julian Nagelsmann's resignation earlier in July.

Nagelsmann fell on his sword after a disappointing last-32 defeat at the hands of Paraguay, Germany's third consecutive early World Cup exit since winning the tournament in 2014.

As the German FA's preferred candidate, Klopp's willingness to take the job accelerated Nagelsmann's departure. — AFP



# Russia, China aim to double cargo traffic via Northern Sea Route by 2030: Rosatom CEO

Russia and China plan to collaborate on Arctic-class ship projects as the route navigates easier.



This image depicts the Russian Arc7 LNG carrier Christophe de Margerie, operated by Sovcomflot, navigating the Northern Sea Route. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

RUSSIA and China plan to double cargo traffic along the Northern Sea Route by 2030 at the latest, Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev said during a trip to Beijing on Friday. "Russia and China

are making ambitious plans to at least double total cargo traffic along the Northern Sea Route by 2030, but something tells me we will reach these figures much earlier," Likhachev told reporters. Demand for shipments along the Northern Sea Route has increased in recent months amid disruptions affecting southern shipping routes, he said. Russia and China want to capitalize on the Arctic route's potential as the icy waters become more navigable. Likhachev said they plan to work together on Arctic-class ship projects. "We have major joint plans for the development of Arctic shipbuilding. This is an area of mutually beneficial cooperation where each side stands to gain from a new stage and a new level of relations," Likhachev said. Russia benefits by working together with Chinese companies to unlock the Northern Sea Route, while China gains access to "a new route that is safe, shorter and economically advantageous, with Rosatom providing full icebreaker support guarantees," he underlined. — SPUTNIK

## Researchers develop chip predicting stroke risk

RESEARCHERS from Australia and China have developed an artery-on-a-chip that replicates patient-specific blood vessel structure and blood flow dynamics to help predict stroke risk. The study, published in the journal Cell Biomaterials, describes the device as a "physical twin" and suggests that the shape of blood vessels and local blood flow disturbances may be more important determinants of stroke risk than blood vessel narrowing alone, according to a summary of the study on the Australian Science Media Centre website on Friday. "We hope these tools will allow us to study drugs aimed at reducing the risk of stroke and to eventually provide personalized treatments for each patient based on their anatomy," said the study's first author Zhao Yunduo at Australia's University of Sydney. To test the platform, researchers reconstructed carotid arteries from six patients with different degrees of disease and used computational fluid dynamics to model blood flow, revealing marked differences in local blood flow despite similar levels of artery narrowing. — Xinhua

# Japan finds multiple rare earth elements in deep-water mining in Pacific

A Japanese project to secure critical minerals from deep waters off Minamitori Island in the Pacific has identified multiple types of medium and heavy rare earth elements that are integral to high-tech products, a government-affiliated research institute said Friday. Medium and heavy rare earth elements such as yttrium, gadolinium and dysprosium accounted for approximately 54 per cent of the total extracted from mud samples, while light ones such as neodymium made up the remaining 46 per cent. The Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology did not disclose the total amount of rare earth elements collected from the mud samples. Based on the results, the team plans to conduct a full-scale mining test in the same area for about a



Supplied photo taken in February 2026 shows bottles of mud containing rare earth elements from the ocean floor off the coast of Minamitori Island in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

month starting in February and the government will assess the costs and benefits of industrializa-

tion by March 2028. "It is extremely valuable for us to see yttrium especially, as its value has been soaring rapidly in the global market," project leader Shoichi Ishii of the Cabinet Office said at a press conference. Japan is seeking to domestically produce rare earths, which are critical in producing everything from electric vehicles and semiconductors to defence equipment. — Kyodo

# US imposes 12.5% tariffs on 60 trading partners

THE United States on Friday will impose new tariffs of either 10 per cent or 12.5 per cent on goods from its top 60 trading partners, including China, Japan and the European Union, officials said, citing their alleged failure to adequately ban the import of goods made with forced labour. Thursday's announcement came ahead of the expiration of the 10 per cent global tariff that President Donald Trump introduced in February

shortly after the Supreme Court invalidated his sweeping country-specific "reciprocal" duties, as well as fentanyl-related levies against products from China, Canada and Mexico. "President Trump recognizes that decades of moral suasion have not eradicated forced labor from global supply chains," US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in a statement. "The United States

has had a forced-labour import ban for nearly a century, and rigorously enforces it; it's well past time for our trading partners to do the same," Greer said. The targeted trading partners, also including Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Switzerland,

Taiwan Province of China and Thailand, account for about 99 per cent of US imports, according to the Office of the US Trade Representative. The tariff rates differ depending on the seriousness of forced labour allegations assessed by the administration. — Kyodo