

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Japan Ranks Ninth in Myanmar Investment as INGO PEACE Joins Business Forum Push

President U Min Aung Hlaing has urged Japanese investors to expand their participation in Myanmar’s key sectors, including agriculture, livestock and agro based industries, renewable energy, education and healthcare, as well as technology and digital services.



President U Min Aung Hlaing looks into exhibits on display at yesterday’s Myanmar-Japan Business Forum in Yangon.

JAPAN accounted for 4.38 per cent of Myanmar’s total trade, making it Myanmar’s sixth-largest trading partner, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum at the Myan-

mar Convention Centre (Yangon) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday. The forum, jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Association of Myanmar Japan Socio-Economic Development Cooperation, and INGO PEACE of Japan,

underscored efforts to deepen bilateral ties and drive comprehensive socioeconomic growth. The President unveiled the Myanmar-Japan business forum. Speaking at the forum, President U Min Aung Hlaing reported that Myanmar-Japan bilateral

trade totalled US\$1,334.8 million in the 2023-2024 financial year, declined to US\$1,194.4 million in 2024-2025, and rebounded to US\$1,343.7 million in 2025-2026, according to official trade statistics. He noted that in the 2024-2025 financial year, **SEE PAGE 3**

Myeik Cashews Crack into Export Markets

CASHEW nuts from Palaw, Taninthayi, Kyau-su, and Bokpyin townships in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, are increasingly supplied to Yangon and Mandalay, from which they are shipped to foreign markets. There is a good yield in cashew cultivation this year. High demand elevated the price to K60,000 per viss, up from K45,000 per viss registered in the corresponding period last year. The traders forecast a higher price in the upcoming weeks, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs. Cashew nuts are utilized in ice cream, traditional Myanmar snacks (Htoemont), cakes, jam, and biryani. Cashew nut oil is rich in Vitamin E, making it a popular additive in modern cosmetic formulations. **SEE PAGE 2**

4 tankers dock at Thilawa as MOEE properly secures local fuel supply

FOUR fuel tankers docked at the Thilawa International Port in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region on 26 July. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is carrying out inspections along the supply chain, monitoring fuel bowzers, and taking enforcement actions. The imported fuel oil has been inspected and verified to meet the required quality standards. Offloading operations are now underway to transfer the fuel into storage tanks at the respective terminals. **SEE PAGE 6**



A fuel tanker loaded with a 15,950-MT cargo of fuel being anchored at Myat Myitta Mon Terminal.

OPINION

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UMBEEA Leaders Shine in Asia’s 50 Under 50 CEO Awards



NATIONAL

Myanmar-China excavation reveals new archaeological remains at Thatbyinnyu Temple



Excavation of the Mahayan wall and bricks of the west side of Thatbyinnyu and the arched structures on the west side (L). External view of the Thatbyinnyu Temple in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Area (R).



THE Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum has announced the discovery of bricks from an enclosure wall and the remains of a western gateway at the Thatbyinnyu Temple in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Area.

The discoveries were made

during the Myanmar-China joint excavation and research project around the temple. Since July 2026, archaeologists have excavated the south-west corner of the enclosure wall and the western gateway using trenches measuring up to six metres wide, uncovering sections of the gateway and brick wall. Excavation

continues to identify the temple's south-west corner and the remains of its southern enclosure wall. Earlier trial excavations in 2017 and further excavations in 2023 uncovered the north-west corner of the enclosure wall, brick structures and walls, sandstone blocks, brick floors and roof tiles. — ASH/MKKS

Depression News, No 6, 2026

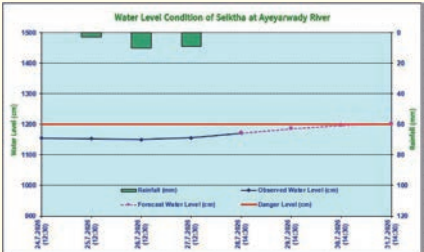
Issued at noon MST on 28 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 10:30 am MST today, the Depression which crossed between the West of Haldia, west Bengal and the east coast of Digha, India, has moved west-northwestwards and reached over the North Odisha. It is likely to move further west-northwestwards and may cross the North Odisha, South Jharkhand and North Chhattisgarh, India and then gradually weaken. — DMH

Flood Warning

Issued at 2 pm MST on 28 July 2026

ACCORDING to the 2:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha is observed as about one foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next three days. It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Seiktha, to take precautionary measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH



Myeik Cashews Crack ...

FROM PAGE 1

Furthermore, cashew nut shells serve as a valuable industrial raw material, providing a high-energy source of renewable biomass. Of fruit exports, konjac and cashew nuts topped the list with the highest export volume and earnings in the previous financial year, according to Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association. Myeik region is the agricultural hub driven by plantations of rub-

ber, cashew nuts, oil palm and areca nuts. This year, areca nut prices are in a downward trend. The areca nut from Taninthayi Region is distributed to other regions and states, especially Yangon and Mandalay Regions. China prefers soft and moist areca nuts rather than dried ones. To cut production costs, many farm owners prefer to sell soft, green, and moist areca nuts during harvest rather than dry them first. — KK

International Youth Day

12 August 2026 (Wednesday)

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

2026
DIFFERENT
CONTEXTS,
COMMON
ASPIRATIONS

“ Different Contexts,
Common Aspirations

Dawbon launches school nutrition and health screening programme

A school nutrition and health screening programme was carried out at Basic Education Primary School No 7 in Dawbon Township, Yangon, on 27 July under the guidance of the Ministry of Health's Public Health Department and the supervision of the Yangon Region Public Health Department.

The programme was led by Township Public Health Department Head Dr Myo Myo Khaing and health staff, with support from township authorities and the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

The initiative aims to improve students' health,

encourage healthy lifestyle habits, and promote proper nutrition to support children's physical growth and cognitive development through government-funded school health services. As part of the programme, officials demonstrated proper handwashing before meals and correct tooth-brushing techniques, provided basic eye care services, and conducted health screenings for kindergarten students, including height and weight measurements. Health education talks were also delivered to raise awareness of good hygiene and healthy living practices. — Chit Su Wai (IPRD)/ST



This photo features the ceremony to present outstanding awards and donate school fees, stationery and uniforms to children at BEPS No 7 in Dawbon Township.

EARTHQUAKE

Issued at 9:20 pm MST on 28 July 2026

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.3(M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 10 miles southeast of Falam), latitude 22.84°N, longitude 93.81°E, depth 71 kilometres, about 19 miles northeast of the Haka Seismological Observatory was recorded at 21 hours four minutes 11 seconds MST on 28 July 2026. — DMH

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NATIONAL

Farmers urged to embrace modern agricultural & livestock technologies



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye chairs the plenary meeting 1/2026 of the Steering Committee on Protection of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Benefits.

EFFORTS must be made to develop reliable rural credit and financial systems so that farmers can easily invest in and adapt new technologies for agricultural production and livestock breeding, said Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, who leads the Steering Committee on Protec-

tion of Farmer Rights and Enhancement of Benefits, at its plenary meeting 1/2026 at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. In her speech, the Vice-President stated that it is necessary to provide all farmers with informa-

tion and knowledge on domestic and international markets, as well as modern information technology services, so that they can gain access to markets. Moreover, she added that assistance must also be provided to small farmland-owning farmers

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DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Pakistan seek stronger parliamentary, bilateral cooperation

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi received Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tariq Karim and his delegation at the Pyithu Hluttaw building yesterday afternoon.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker highlighted the long-standing diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Pakistan, which were established on 1 August 1947, and called for stronger cooperation in areas including pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, culture, women's affairs and tourism.

He also expressed interest in forming a Parliamentary Friendship Associations between the two countries' legislatures to further enhance cooperation in



Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi.

legislative affairs, committee relations, and exchanges among women and youth parliamentarians. Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim welcomed the proposal, saying that strengthening parliamentary ties alongside government relations

would help expand cooperation between the two countries. He also invited Myanmar people to visit Taxila, a region known for its Buddhist cultural heritage, and pledged support for closer people-to-people and parliamentary relations. — MNA/KZL

Japan Ranks Ninth in Myanmar Investment as INGO ...

FROM PAGE 1 Myanmar's exports to Japan were valued at US\$1,058.6 million, while imports from Japan stood at US\$135.8 million. The total bilateral trade between the two countries during that period reached US\$1,194.4 million. The President explained that Myanmar's major export products to Japan include garments, footwear, pulses and beans, pearls, and electrical equipment. The main import products from Japan are textiles, transport equipment, electrical machinery, machinery and mechanical appliances, and lace and lace fabrics. So, the President expressed his hope

that the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum will further promote bilateral trade between Myanmar and Japan to a greater extent than before. The President noted that Japan has invested billions of dollars across Myanmar's industrial zones, manufacturing, logistics, energy, and service sectors. He emphasized that contributions from more than 50 Japanese companies account for 29.92 per cent of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone project, representing the largest share of foreign investment. The President highlighted that Japan plays a leading role in the Thilawa Special Economic

Zone project, accounting for the largest share of investment at 29.92 per cent. He added that from 2014 to March 2026, a total of 126 companies from Myanmar and 21 foreign nations, including Japan, invested more than US\$2.3 billion in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone. The President stated that efforts are underway to ensure stability of electricity supply for factories operating within the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and to facilitate smoother, more convenient business operations, including through the provision of One-Stop Service. He emphasized that

Japan is Myanmar's ninth largest investor, with 127 projects currently underway totaling US\$1,869.1 million. Around 300 Japanese companies are operating in the country, while more than 1,500 Japanese nationals reside in Myanmar. The President welcomes investments in agriculture, livestock breeding and agro-based manufacturing industries, renewable energy production, education and healthcare, as well as technology and digital service businesses. Japanese investors are also invited to invest in the Yadanabon Cyber City Project in Myanmar's hilly areas.

The President noted that if Myanmar's advantages, including its natural resources, agricultural sector, young population, and labour force, are combined with the advanced technologies, capital, management experience, and technical expertise of Japanese businesspeople, a stronger mutually beneficial win-win business environment can be built for both sides. Mr Nakazawa Hiroyuki, Japan's INGO PEACE Chair, expressed his delight at the creation of opportunities for future cooperation between the two countries under the Myanmar-Japan bilateral cooperation programme. The Chair expressed

hope that Myanmar and Japan would join hands to foster future initiatives endowed with anticipation and prosperity. The INGO PEACE Chair presented a commemorative gift to the President. Students from the National University for Arts and Culture (Yangon) danced with a companion to the Japanese song 'Sakura'. The President and party visited the exhibition booths at the forum. Also present at the ceremony were Union ministers, State dignitaries, officials from Japanese companies and organizations as well as Myanmar companies. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

President Calls for Modernization and Higher Standards in Myanmar's Railway Sector

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing yesterday inspected the Myanma Railways' Diesel Locomotive Factory (Mahlwagon) under the Ministry of Transport in Yangon, accompanied by senior officials, including the Yangon Region chief minister and the Yangon Command commander.

During a briefing, Union Minister for Transport and for Digital Development and Communications U Mya Tun Oo outlined the factory operations and ongoing

efforts to modernize Myanmar's railway system. He highlighted upgrades to railway tracks, freight wagon construction, staff training abroad, preparations for producing electric locomotives, and the operation of BEL locomotives on the Yangon-Mandalay route. He also reported on the conversion of RBE trains to Battery Electric Multiple Units (BEMU), currently operating on the Bago-Toungoo and Toungoo-Nay Pyi Taw routes, as well as preparations for future electric rail services on the



President U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the Myanmar Railway's Diesel Locomotive Factory (Mahlwagon) in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon-Mandalay railway. He also briefed the

President on operations of diesel locomotives and

DEMU locomotives, locomotive maintenance,

passenger demand, and ongoing repair and inspection programmes.

The President instructed railway authorities to continue research aimed at producing high-quality locomotives domestically while ensuring that locally manufactured equipment meets high standards of durability and workmanship. He also stressed the need to improve staff housing, complete construction projects on schedule, preserve and restore steam locomotives, strengthen railway tracks,

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Farmers urged to embrace ...

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who are unable to access markets, enabling them to form farmer groups and engage in collective selling, purchasing, and production activities.

She said that the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank is providing increased agricultural loans in accordance with the appropriate periods and amounts required. Through the establishment of the State Economic Promotion Fund, farmers are provided with essential fertilizers for rice and oilseed production under a system that allows repayment after the harvest.

The Vice-President stressed that efforts must be made to develop reliable rural credit and financial

systems so that farmers can easily invest in and adopt new technologies for agricultural production and livestock breeding.

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye stressed that it is necessary to help farmers study market and trade-related information provided by ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), as well as trade policies issued from time to time, so as not to suffer losses due to major market fluctuations when their agricultural products reach the production stage.

She underlined that Myanmar needs to adapt its agricultural and livestock production systems in line with globally changing food systems. In doing so, it is necessary to formulate

and implement appropriate policies not only to ensure food security, but also to achieve balanced and adequate nutrition, food safety, increased productivity, and sustainable long-term development.

Steering Committee Secretary and Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung reported on the duties and functions of the steering committee, work committee and task forces, as well as the work progress.

Steering Committee members presented the implementation of farmers' rights protection and promotion of their benefits, and the meeting ended with remarks by the Vice-President. — MNA/TTA

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar, Pakistan to promote Religious Tourism

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin received Mr Tariq Karim, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides discussed promoting religious tourism, strengthening close cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, religious affairs, and culture, advancing Religious Tourism initiatives, visits to the ancient city of Taxila in Punjab Province, enhancing bilateral trade and other economic activi-



The Pakistani ambassador calls on Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin.

ties in conjunction with the tourism sector, facilitating visa issuance and other necessary assistance for

visitors from Pakistan, and further promoting friendship between the two countries. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves tax exemption for Diesel (HSD 500 ppm) and LNG, Anti-Online Scam Bill

THE second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the 11th day of meetings at its convention hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

With regard to the exemption for specific goods tax and commercial tax over the diesel HSD (500 ppm) and the commercial tax over Liquefied Natural Gas, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung stated that the amount of tax exemptions granted by the State on Diesel (HSD 500 ppm) from 1 April to 30 June 2026, covering the Special Goods Tax and Commercial Tax, was approximately K84 billion.



The 11th-day sitting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In addition, the amount of Commercial Tax exemptions granted on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from 1 May to 30 June 2026 was approximately K5 billion.

Therefore, the total value of tax exemptions granted amounted to approximately K89 billion.

He explained that, in accordance with Sec-

tion 37 of the 2026 Union Tax Law, approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is respectfully sought to extend for a further two months, from 1 July to 31

August 2026, the exemptions from the Special Goods Tax and Commercial Tax on Diesel (HSD 500 ppm), as well as the exemption from Commercial Tax on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

MP Dr Banyar Aung Moe from the Mon State Constituency 7 seconded the motion urging the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the proposal. After voting for the proposal, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the proposal.

Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee MP U Zin Min Htet from the Bago Region Constituency 7 of the Amyotha Hluttaw submitted each controversial section of the An-

ti-Online Scam Bill between the two Hluttaws while Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe sought approval from the Hluttaw.

The Speaker announced that the bill, including the sections and subsections approved identically by both Hluttaws in accordance with their respective approvals, and the sections and subsections on which the two Hluttaws had differed in accordance with the decisions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, was approved in its entirety.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue for the 12th day meeting on 31 July. — MNA/TTA

President Calls for Modernization and Higher ...

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and carry out regular maintenance on both active and inactive rail lines to ensure they are ready for future operations.

He further emphasized the importance of inspecting locomotives according to maintenance schedules, maintaining punctual train services, and keeping passenger coaches clean, safe and comfortable to improve the travel experience.

Discussing the long-term development of Myanmar's railway network, the President said the

country should prepare for wider use of battery-powered and electric trains as electricity generation expands. He encouraged the domestic production and installation of battery-powered train systems on suitable routes and called for the construction of more railway overpasses at busy crossings to improve traffic safety.

He also urged officials to begin planning for an underground railway system in Yangon and to consider future technological requirements when building rail

infrastructure and manufacturing train carriages. In addition, he called for continued efforts to develop locally designed DEMU train sets and to learn from international railway manufacturing technologies to strengthen the country's capabilities.

Following the meeting, the President inspected DEMU train sets undergoing routine maintenance at the Mahlwagon factory and gave further instructions after receiving updates from railway officials. — MNA/ST

Rehabilitation Policy Aims to Rebuild Stronger

A policy is set to conduct rehabilitation activities restoring the affected areas to conditions better than before, said Chin State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsun Thang at the coordination meeting on rehabilitation and reconstruction for Chin State held at the State government meeting hall yesterday morning.

He said that rehabilitation is a difficult and delicate process, and the government has already allocated funds for rehabilitation and reconstruction and will provide additional financial support where necessary. Therefore, all should work together in accordance with the adopted policy to rebuild the affected areas to a standard better than before.

The participants re-



The coordination meeting on rehabilitation and reconstruction for Chin State is underway yesterday.

ported on ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction processes in Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang, collaboration work plans, formation of a working committee on rehabilitation and reconstruction for Chin State, arrivals of government staff and locals in Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang, reopening of schools and hospitals, acceptance, distribution of relief items, funds received and usage and other rehabilitation processes.

Based on the presentations, Planning, Economics and Finance Minister Dr Lyan Zakhote, Social Affairs Minister U Sein Tun Hla, Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Minister U PaO Zalan, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Minister U Win Zaw Oo, State Advocate-General U Kat Talun and working committee secretary U Kyaw Zaw Lin coordinated the discussion. — District IPRD/KTZH

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NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses bridge access, education, healthcare and public services

THE Third Pyithu Hluttaw convened on the 31st day of its second regular session yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and lawmakers in attendance. During the session, MPs raised eight questions covering transport, legal affairs, land administration, education, healthcare and public services.

One of the key discussions focused on reopening Hsipaw Bridge in northern Shan State. Responding to the question, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu said the bridge remains temporarily closed because of ongoing security concerns. Although government forces have regained control of Hsipaw Township, authorities said armed groups

continue to operate in areas east of the bridge. Residents have been advised to use the Namlan-Kyaukgu-Yaksawk route until the security situation improves.

The deputy minister also answered a proposal to restore several repealed laws and reintroduce stricter narcotics legislation. He said the current legal framework is sufficient to prosecute offenders and that relevant laws have already been amended where necessary. Lawmakers were reminded that they have the constitutional right to submit new legislative proposals if needed.

Other discussions included land lease permits in Yangon's Insein Township, where the deputy minister said applications would continue to be processed according to existing de-



The 31st-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

velopment affairs laws after ownership verification. In another question, the deputy minister also announced plans to include funding for the construction of a new fire station in Nabu Hnit-cha Village, Kayin State, in the 2027-2028 financial year budget.

In the education sector,

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing reaffirmed that Myanmar's education system follows a bilingual approach, using both Myanmar and English. He said mother-tongue explanations are encouraged to improve students' understanding, but replacing bilingual education with in-

struction solely in the mother tongue is not considered appropriate. The ministry also stated that there are currently no plans to expand monastic schools to higher education levels, although students completing available grades can transfer to nearby public schools.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun also addressed requests to upgrade Mohnyin Hospital in Kachin State from 100 beds to 200 beds. He said the current bed occupancy rate does not justify an expansion at this time, although additional doctors and nurses have recently been assigned to strengthen healthcare services. Meanwhile, a proposal to build a traditional medicine hospital in Shwetaung, Bago Region, was also discussed, with the ministry saying there are no immediate construction plans because a nearby hospital in Pyay already provides such services.

The Pyithu Hluttaw adjourned the 31st-day sitting and announced that the 32nd day of the session will be held on 30 July. — MNA/ST

Myanmar-Japan Business Forum highlights investment, business opportunities



MoU signing ceremonies underway at the second session of the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum.

THE second session of the Myanmar-Japan Business Forum continued yesterday afternoon at the Myanmar Convention Centre (MCC) in Yangon, where participants discussed investment prospects and business opportunities in Myanmar.

During the forum, U Kyaw Swe Lin, Per-

manent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, presented on Myanmar's agricultural sector, investment potential, and business opportunities, whereas U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Director-General of the Department of Labour under the Ministry of Labour, explained the services that

the ministry will provide to Japanese businesses planning to invest in Myanmar. Dr Htein Lin, Director-General of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization under the Ministry of Commerce, outlined export and import sectors, U Min Zaw Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) under the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, discussed Myanmar's investment environment and opportunities, U Wai Phyto, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), spoke on

Myanmar's business environment and economic prospects, U Thurein Aung, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Thilawa Development Ltd, highlighted investment opportunities in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Mr Akihito Sato of Japan's Eco System Collaborator Earth Co Ltd briefed a presentation on investment-related matters.

Myanmar Rice Federation President U Ye Min Aung served as moderator for the panel discussion.

Japanese business representatives took part in discussions, followed by the signing ceremony of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between

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4 tankers dock at Thilawa as MOEE secures...

FROM PAGE 1

The ministry is working to ensure a continuous supply of imported fuel and to prevent shortages at fuel stations, supervising the distribution channels and scrutinizing fuel stations to verify real demand and authentic purchase orders. Furthermore, the ministry is reviewing sales records and approving purchase

orders by using technology such as QR codes and barcodes. GPS tracking installed on fuel transport vehicles is being

The ministry is also monitoring the fuel bowlers equipped with GPS tracking to oversee transport routes from the terminals in Thilawa to designated fuel stations and businesses. — ASH/KK



A tanker berths at Jetty Max Terminal, awaiting cargo unloading.

NATIONAL

Yaksawk holds livestock management, environmental conservation awareness talk

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, organized an awareness talk on systematic livestock management and environmental conservation in Sanyayoo Model Village, Yaksawk Township, yesterday.

The programme aimed to help rural communities prevent and control seasonal livestock diseases, improve livestock production, and enhance public awareness of environmental conservation.

At the opening ceremony, an official explained the objectives and benefits of the programme. Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Head Dr Min Zaw presented on the prevention and control of livestock diseases, systematic live-

stock breeding techniques using improved breeds, and Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), while distributing informational pamphlets to participants. Township Forest Department Head U Zaw Win Htike gave a detailed talk on the sustainable management of forest resources, the establishment and maintenance of village demonstration plantations, and measures to promote environmental conservation.

The awareness talk was attended by around 100 villagers from Sanyayoo Model Village, who received information and participated in discussions on livestock disease prevention, Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), and environmental conservation. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



An awareness talk on systematic livestock management and environmental conservation in progress in Yaksawk Township.

Myanmar-Japan Business Forum ...

FROM PAGE 6
Dr Soe Tun of Wakema Trading Co Ltd and Mr Abe Hideyuki of Japan's Fruit World Foundation PTE Co Ltd. Also present at the event were Union Ministers U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Charlie Than, U Khin Maung Soe and U Tun Ohn, directors-general of ministries concerned, the UMFCCI President and officials, Myanmar business people, Japan INGO PEACE Chair Mr Nakazawa Hiroyuki and Japanese business people. — MNA/KTZH

Ltd and Mr Yano Kensuke of Japan's Fruit's World Foundation PTE Co Ltd. Also present at the event were Union Ministers U Aung Kyaw Hoe, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Charlie Than, U Khin Maung Soe and U Tun Ohn, directors-general of ministries concerned, the UMFCCI President and officials, Myanmar business people, Japan INGO PEACE Chair Mr Nakazawa Hiroyuki and Japanese business people. — MNA/KTZH

President's Office spokesperson responds to media queries on Myanmar-Japan Business Forum

THE Myanmar-Japan Business Forum was held on the morning of 28 July at the Myanmar Convention Centre (Yangon) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region. Below are the responses provided by Dr Khine Khine Soe, Deputy Minister and Spokesperson for the President's Office, to media enquiries regarding the forum.

Question: First of all, could you please tell us about today's Myanmar-Japan Business Forum?

Answer: Today's Myanmar-Japan Business Forum was jointly organized by the Association of Myanmar Japan Socio-Economic Development Cooperation (AMJSEDC), INGO PEACE from Japan, and Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Commerce. The main objective was to enhance the existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar, as well as to promote trade and investment.

Question: The President also honoured today's forum with his presence. Could you please share what benefits and positive prospects this could bring to both countries?

Answer: The peoples of Japan and Myanmar have



President's Office Spokesperson Dr Khine Khine Soe.

shared a long-standing relationship built on friendship and mutual respect over many years. Furthermore, in terms of economic cooperation, Japan is one of Myanmar's major partners, ranking sixth in trade and ninth in investment. Additionally, Japan's investment in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has reached 29.92 per cent. Therefore, economic and friendly cooperation between Japan and Myanmar remains strong.

Therefore, in recognition of this long-standing relationship, the President himself attended today's business forum. He extended an invitation to further promote investment, trade, and friendly relations between the two countries. The President also stated in his speech that, if investments are made in Myanmar, a favourable environment will be created to

facilitate such investment activities.

Question: An invitation for investment was extended again today. Could you also share the number of Japanese business leaders who attended the forum?

Answer: Today's business forum was attended by 94 business leaders from Japan, along with more than 300 participants from Myanmar.

Question: Could you also share the positive outcomes that are expected to result from the friendly relations between the two countries?

Answer: Today's business forum consists of an opening ceremony in the first part, followed by plenary discussion sessions in the second part. During these sessions, we will discuss our policies, procedures, and the support

we will provide investors with Myanmar's economy, trade, and investment. Afterwards, four MoUs will be signed. Through these discussions, we hope to boost trade with Japan, enhance business-to-business (B2B) economic cooperation between people and companies, and further strengthen friendly relations between the two countries.

Our country has abundant natural resources and vast agricultural land. As our economy mainly relies on agriculture and livestock farming, cooperation can also be promoted in these sectors.

Another factor is that our country has an abundant young workforce, which is one of our country's strengths. On the other hand, Japan's strengths lie in its advanced technology and capital. Therefore, if Japanese companies come and invest in our country, combining Myanmar's strengths with Japan's strengths will create a win-win situation for both nations. I would also like to emphasize that this will make a significant contribution to the socioeconomic development of our people.

The News Team

U Maung Maung Soe presents Credentials to President of Republic of Belarus

U Maung Maung Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Belarus, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, on 28 July 2026, at the Palace of Independence in Minsk. — MNA



Ambassador U Maung Maung Soe (R) is pictured during his Credentials presentation to the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Dhammacakka Day: The Birth of the Four Noble Truths

TODAY is the Dhammacakka Day (Full Moon Day of Waso) of 1388 Myanmar Era. The Full Moon Day of Waso is an auspicious day marking significant events in the life of the Lord Buddha and is a highly important religious occasion. Those who respectfully contemplate and pay homage to the remarkable events associated with Buddhism on this day will gain greater merit and be blessed with prosperity and good fortune.

Therefore, the Full Moon Day of Waso is an auspicious day marking many significant events: the day when the Bodhisatta was conceived, the day He renounced worldly life and departed from the palace, delivered the Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta,

While members of the Sangha spend the three-month Buddhist Lent peacefully engaging in meditation and spiritual practice, laypeople also show respect for the monastic disciplines observed by the monks. During the period, they observe religious precepts, cultivate wholesome virtues, and perform acts of charity and merit. By supporting and honouring the monks who observe the Lent in this manner, laypeople help create a strong foundation for the flourishing and continuation of virtuous practices, thereby contributing to the emergence of a peaceful and prosperous society.

Moreover, the Full Moon Day of Waso is highly significant for Buddhists, as it marks the beginning of the three-month Buddhist Lent, during which Buddhists make special efforts to perform meritorious deeds and monks and members of the Sangha strictly observe their moral precepts and monastic disciplines. Lay Buddhists observe Uposatha precepts on each Uposatha day and make special efforts to refrain from prohibited activities and practise wholesome conduct.

While members of the Sangha spend the three-month Buddhist Lent peacefully engaging in meditation and spiritual practice, laypeople also show respect for the monastic disciplines observed by the monks. During the period, they observe religious precepts, cultivate wholesome virtues, and perform acts of charity and merit. By supporting and honouring the monks who observe the Lent in this manner, laypeople help create a strong foundation for the flourishing and continuation of virtuous practices, thereby contributing to the emergence of a peaceful and prosperous society.

IN MYANMAR society, there is a distinctive way of social interaction in which people speak and behave with consideration for one another's feelings and circumstances. This kind of behaviour is one of the admirable qualities of the Myanmar people, who show respect to those who are older, courtesy to their peers, and kindness and compassion towards those who are younger.

In interacting and communicating with one another, people are expected to base their conduct on an understanding of the three conditions. Since these three conditions are expressed in Pali, it is evident that they are derived from the teachings of Buddhism. Therefore, when associating not only with individuals but also with groups, a person should be guided by the principles of Mukha Chāyā, Vacana Chāyā, and Kāla Chāyā.

• Mukha Chāyā

Mukha in Pali means face, and Chāyā is defined as the shade or shadow. As such, Mukha Sāyā refers to the principle that, in dealing with others, a person should observe another person's facial expressions and demeanor before interacting with or speaking to them. Whenever speaking or acting, one should be able to gauge the other person's mood and reactions rather than simply saying whatever one wishes.

Before expressing one's thoughts, one should consider whether the other person is interested in listening or whether the conversation might upset or offend them. By carefully assessing the other person's state of mind, one should speak only as

much as is appropriate.

On the other hand, speaking insistently without regard for the other person's feelings or circumstances not only fails to persuade or engage them but can also become tiresome and irritating. If taken too far, it may even provoke anger. Persisting in speaking when the other person has no desire to listen can leave them feeling frustrated, annoyed, or even contemptuous towards the speaker.

• Vacana Chāyā

Vacana in Pali is defined as utterance, word, saying, a term, and an expression. Hence, the second principle called Vacana Chāyā can be described as follows: in any conversation between two people, one should listen attentively to what the other person is saying. By giving careful attention, the other person will feel satisfied and develop a favourable impression of you.

Moreover, attentive listening enables you to understand the other person's views clearly. It also helps you discern whether they are speaking sarcastically, offering praise, or speaking in an impatient tone. By carefully observing the manner and tone of the other person's speech, you should exercise sound judgment and mindfulness in deciding how



This AI-generated image shows a scene of public relations.

to respond appropriately.

By listening to what the other person says, you can gain the information and insights you need. Listening carefully also allows you to prepare an appropriate

response in return.

In reality, everyone tends to want to take the lead in a conversation and express their own views. People often become upset when they are not given a chance

Three Specific Conditions of Society to Uphold Relations with Each Other

to speak. Therefore, when a person sees that their conversation partner is listening to them with genuine interest, they feel satisfied and tend to view positively whatever the listener says or does. This can become the first step toward building successful relationships and achieving success.

• Kāla Chāyā

Kāla means time. The final one is the principle of Kāla Chāyā. Its meaning is that, in order to live and establish oneself successfully in the place where one resides, one should also be able to observe and understand the conditions of the surrounding environment and the appropriate timing.

One should examine whether the place where one is living or working is suitable for the activities one intends to carry out. One should also be able to assess whether the time chosen to undertake a particular task is appropriate and favourable.

In matters such as business, social affairs, and religion, one should carefully consider the circumstances and timing, and be able to make wise decisions on whether a particular action should or should not be taken at a certain time and place. Inappropriate actions should be avoided, while those considered beneficial and necessary should

be pursued with determination and effort. Only then can one reduce the number of competitors and adversaries.

• Analyze three conditions

When carrying out tasks, one should consider the timing and location and strive to achieve the best possible outcome. To do so, the advantages and disadvantages of the three conditions should be thoroughly analyzed before taking action. Only through such careful consideration can one achieve success with confidence and overcome difficulties.

The main point is that, not only in speaking but in all forms of conduct, communication, and action, one should not focus solely on one's own wishes and interests. It is important to understand the wishes, perspectives, and actions of others as well, and to allow them to express themselves. If a person speaks only what they want to say without considering anyone else's feelings, and continues speaking without understanding or appreciating the wishes of others, it will be difficult for them to get along well in society. Whatever one does, success in all aspects can be achieved only by maintaining a fair balance of give-and-take and mutual consideration with others.

If people around you no longer appreciate your behaviour

or the way you speak, and they have grown tired of listening to you, the best course of action is to bring it to a close as quickly as possible. If the topic you are talking about is something that everyone already knows well, you should consider whether to present it in a fresh and engaging way or, since it is already familiar to everyone, to keep it brief and conclude it quickly.

We all know, from our own experience, that when someone delivers a long-winded speech, everyone—including ourselves—becomes bored and restless. Knowing this, we should avoid taking too much time when it is our turn to speak. Instead, we should speak concisely and to the point, and include something memorable, humorous, or engaging so that others can listen with interest and enjoyment.

Likewise, when working together with many people to successfully accomplish a task, we must make every effort ourselves to avoid negligence and to maintain a good image and reputation in the eyes of others. If we act with empathy and consideration in all matters, our words, manners, and behaviour within society will become harmonious and balanced with those of others.

In today's era, people are familiar with the use of modern

electronic devices and various internet-based technologies. As they have little time to spend on listening to or observing lengthy communications and activities, they have become accustomed to acting and responding quickly. They also do not have much time to thoroughly study information from the media and various social networking platforms.

Therefore, when presenting news and information, various media outlets have begun to provide concise, clear, and engaging content that meets the preferences of users. In other words, as information is now being presented in a way that appeals to audiences, unnecessary exaggeration, lengthy speeches, and overly elaborate writing should be avoided. Likewise, everyone should pay attention to managing their time efficiently and make every effort to save time in all their activities and daily conduct.

As such, everyone should keep in mind and carefully consider the three points mentioned above in order to ensure that their words, actions, and conduct do not appear inappropriate or unpleasant in the eyes of others. As a result, they will be able to maintain a proper and faultless manner of speaking, living, and working within their social environment.

Non-Judgemental Love: Growing Up with an Unwavering Mother

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

IN A world where parent-child relationships are so frequently defined by friction, high expectations, and emotional conflict, finding absolute peace at home can feel like a rare gift. Millions of people navigate adulthood burdened by the pressure to live out someone else's expectations,

constantly bracing for judgement from the very people who brought them into the world.

Yet, against this backdrop of generational tension, some mothers offer something entirely different: unconditional refuge.

A Safe Harbour in a Stormy

World

To have a mother who never gives you grief—who refuses to make home a battleground – is like carrying a secret superpower. While society demands constant proof of success, a truly supportive mother asks only for your happiness.

Instead of imposing rigid

maps on your life, she holds open the door to your own potential. When you come to her with wild ideas, ambitious career changes, or unconventional paths, her response isn't scepticism or hesitation. It is simple, steady encouragement.

"A supportive mother doesn't just watch you pursue your

dreams; she acts as the quiet foundation that allows you to reach for them without fear of falling."

Why is this kind of love so extraordinary?

No Hesitation: When you express a passion, she doesn't delay her support or wait for external validation before believing in you. Her trust in your vision is immediate.

Zero Judgement: She creates a space where failure isn't met with "I told you so," but with a warm cup of tea and a gentle reminder of who you are.

Freedom to Grow: Because you aren't spending energy de-

fending your life choices at home, you have full freedom to channel that energy into achieving your goals.

Beyond Duty: A True Partnership

Many parents believe their primary role is to guide through control. But a mother who steps back to let you lead your own journey – offering a hand only when you ask for balance – practises a higher form of love. She trades authority for understanding, and rules for genuine connection.

In a life filled with noise, doubt, and external pressure, having a mom who stands consistently in

your corner changes everything. It gives you the courage to dream bigger; try harder, and face the world with confidence, knowing that no matter how difficult the day gets, you always have a place of total acceptance to call home.

Conclusion: A Personal Dedication

Every word written above isn't just an abstract reflection on motherhood – it is the exact reality of my life. It was written about my mom.

In a world where so many people struggle to find understanding under their own roof, I was given the extraordinary privilege

of growing up with a mother who chose peace over conflict, and trust over judgment. She never gave me grief, never hesitated to stand behind my aspirations, and never made me feel like I had to prove my worth to earn her love.

Because of her, my dreams were never weighed down by fear of disappointment. Her quiet, steady belief gave me the space to discover who I am and the courage to pursue what I truly want.

To say I am lucky is an understatement. To have a mother like her is to carry a sanctuary inside your heart wherever you go – and for that, I am endlessly, deeply grateful.

By April Son

NATIONAL

Confiscated goods to be sold through competitive auction

CONFISCATED items held as state property will be sold through competitive bidding, according to the Bago Auction Sales Committee.

The Bago Township Department of Customs will auction off goods from seven cases held as state property, including clothing, food items, televisions, dietary supplements, and general merchandise. Moreover, goods from two cases held at the Nyaung-khashay Permanent Checkpoint, including car tyres and used mobile phones, will be sold to the public on their present conditions through competitive bidding. The public is invited to participate in bidding.

The auction will take place at 9:30 am on 31 July at the Bago Township Department of Customs, located at Plot 131, Natkinkwin, Monsu Road, Ward 1, Phayagyi, Bago Township. Auction forms, including terms and conditions and lists of items, are available for purchase at K10,000 at the Bago Township Customs Office until 30 July.

Bidders who purchase auction forms are entitled to inspect the items. They need to pay the security deposit in accordance with the auction terms and conditions during office hours by 30 July. Interested individuals can enquire about details at the department in person. — NN/KK

Lewe’s rural water supply project surveyed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Lewe District, conducted a pre-construction field survey yesterday for a rural water supply project in Myaungthaya Village, Lewe Township. The project is being implemented to ensure year-round access to safe drinking water for rural residents.

Lewe Township Department of Rural Development Head U San Yu Hlaing and engineering staff surveyed and measured the proposed sites for the construction of a 2,400-gallon elevated water tank, installation of a water pump and related equipment, and construction of a perimeter fence in Myaungthaya Village. He also met residents to

explain the implementation plan and discussed the need to give priority to completing the work within the prescribed period and in compliance with required quality standards, while coordinating issues raised by local communities.

A 400-foot-deep tube well was completed in Myaungthaya Village during the 2025-2026 financial year. In the 2026-2027 financial year, follow-up works, including the installation of the pump and related equipment, construction of a 2,400-gallon elevated water tank and fencing, will be implemented using K60.884 million provided under the Union Fund. Upon completion, the project will provide residents with a reliable supply of safe drinking water throughout the year. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

CBM sells over US\$9M to edible oil, LNG, and CMP firms

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$4.36 million to edible oil importing companies, five million dollars to LNG importing companies and over \$9,000 to companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis on 27 July.

CBM also injected over \$2.44 million to edible oil importing companies and over \$119,000 to CMP companies on 24 July, and over \$2.7 million to edible oil importing companies and over \$17,000 to CMP companies on 23 July, respectively.

In June, the Central Bank of Myanmar injected over \$35 million, sourced from CMP companies, into the foreign exchange market, following May’s intervention of more than \$51 million and 1.2 million baht. CBM sold over \$70 million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the forex market to regulate currency devaluation. According to a Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) notification issued on 15 March 2024, the bank has been working with law



Greenbacks are seen at the money changer counter.

enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute attempts to manipulate the currency market under existing laws. CBM also authorized private banks to freely conduct online foreign exchange trading at market rates, based on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Putao’s VDP project initiated with committee formation

AN introductory meeting for the Village Development Plan (VDP) project and the formation of a village committee was held on the morning of 27 July at the preschool in Mondung-2 Village. The initiative is being implemented under the support fund for the 2026-2027 financial year by the Department of Rural Development, Putao District, Kachin State, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

Putao District Department of Rural Development Head Daw Khin May Nyunt first delivered the opening introductory remarks.

The Putao Township Department of Rural

Development head then explained the objectives and benefits of the Village Development Plan (VDP), the procedures to be carried out, eligible sub-projects, as well as the duties and rights of villagers as stipulated in the Rural Development Law.

Following this, the VDP project officer and staff detailed the criteria for selecting village committee members from the project manual and outlined their duties and responsibilities. A 9-member Village Development Committee was then democratically elected through voting based on the villagers’ consensus, and the community selected the spe-



An introductory meeting on Emerald Green village development project and formation of committee is underway in PataO, Kachin State, on 27 July.

cific sub-projects to be implemented.

According to the Head of the Putao District Department of Rural Development, the project in Mondung-2 Village will be directly implemented by the villagers themselves during

the 2026-2027 financial year. It will be funded by a VDP project grant of K15 million alongside community contributions, supported by technical assistance from the Department of Rural Development. — Chit Oo Ko (Rural)

Ethnic Rights Protection Dept seeks tender for construction project

THE Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights under the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs invited interested developers to carry out construction works for the Ethnic Affairs and Vocational Training Centre (Toungoo) Project located at No 20, Myogi Ward in Toungoo, Bago Region, with allocated capital expenditure funding for construction under the

2016-2027 financial year. Tender forms will be available for purchase by 7 August at the department located at Office 14 in Nay Pyi Taw. The deadline for submitting

tenders is 7 August. Interested individuals can enquire about the tender through the Tender Committee of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs at 067 409548. — NN/KK

NATIONAL



A ceremony is underway to introduce rural development activities in four villages in Kyaukse Township.

VDP debuts in 4 villages in Kyaukse

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, will implement rural development activities in four villages during the 2026-2027 financial year under the Village Development Plan (VDP).

The project will be carried out in Yebawlay Village, Yegyí Village, Yaykyi Village, and Dan Village. During the second week of July, officials from the Kyaukse Township Department of Rural Development conducted field visits to these villages to introduce the project and facilitate the formation of Village Development Committees.

During the project introduction and committee formation meetings, officials explained the project's objectives, implementation procedures, expected benefits, the roles and responsibilities of residents, the project guidelines, and the duties of the Village Development Committee. With the agreement of the villagers, a seven-member Village Development Committee was formed in each village.

Under the VDP, the villagers themselves selected village concrete road construction as their priority development activity. The implementation of these works will be carried out with active participation from the local community, while the Department of Rural Development will provide close technical supervision and support throughout the project, according to Daw Myat Su Aung, Head of the Kyaukse Township Department of Rural Development. — Ah Htwe (DRD)

UMBEEA Leaders Shine in Asia's 50 Under 50 CEO Awards

ACCORDING to the Union of Myanmar Bamar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (UMBEEA), its members have won awards at the Asia Prestige 50 Under 50 CEO Excellence Award 2026, which honours outstanding business leaders in the ASEAN region.

The event was held on 3 July at the Shangri-La Hotel in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Over 500 attendees, including business leaders, CEOs, investors, diplomats, and government representatives from across Asia, gathered to celebrate business excellence, leadership, innovation, and international cooperation.

At this ceremony, UMBEEA's members: Daw Nang Thinzar Aung (CEO Excellence Award), Daw Yin Yin Myat (CEO Excellence Award), Daw Su Hlaing Win (CEO Excellence Award), Daw Thu Zar Win (CEO Excellence Award), and Daw Marlar Myint (CEO Excellence Award) received the CEO Excellence Award 2026.



Myanmar awardees are seen together with other attendees at the Asia Prestige 50 Under 50 CEO Excellence Award 2026.

UMBEEA stated that these awards recognize the recipients' outstanding business management, leadership skills, innovative thinking, and efforts towards the development of Myanmar's business sector. Achieving such international recognition showcases the capability and quality of Myanmar's entrepreneurs on the global stage.

UMBEEA has announced that it will continue its efforts to develop MSMEs in Myanmar, enhance the capacity of entrepreneurs, and expand international business networks. — MT/ZN

Mongton's Mya Sein Yaung income-generating activities inspected

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

Mongton Township Department of Rural Development Head U Min Oo and staff observed the agricultural activities being carried out with loans from the project's revolving fund. He also met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee to check whether monthly financial records had been properly completed and urged committee members to expand household income-generating activities while ensuring systematic management of the revolving fund to prevent any loss or misuse.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was launched in Tarkwan Village during the 2015-2016 financial year. At present,



Officials oversee an Emerald Green village plantation project in Mongton Township, Shan State (East).

concessional revolving loans totalling K37 million have been disbursed to 25 project members, all of whom are successfully operating local income-generating agricultural activities with support from the project. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



Officials inspect a village plantation project in Laikha Township.

Income-generating activities inspected in Laikha

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of household income-generating activities financed through the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Wansan Village, Laikha Township.

Laikha Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Naing Win and staff inspected the progress of seasonal crop cultivation and other income-generating agricultural activities being carried out with loans from the project's revolving fund. He also met members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee to examine whether the monthly

financial records had been properly completed and urged committee members to expand household income-generating activities while ensuring systematic management of the revolving fund to prevent any loss or misuse, and to continue implementing village development activities using the interest earned from the project fund.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was launched in Wan San Village during the 2019-2020 financial year. At present, concessional revolving loans totalling K39 million have been disbursed to 38 project members, all of whom are successfully operating local income-generating agricultural activities with support from the project funds. — Karan (Rural)

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Village Project was launched in Wan San Village during the 2019-2020 financial year. At present, concessional revolving loans totalling K39 million have been disbursed to 38 project members, all of whom are successfully operating local income-generating agricultural activities with support from the project funds. — Karan (Rural)

ECONOMY
WORLD

Visit Malaysia 2026 sees increased Chinese tourist arrivals, says official

INCREASED arrivals of Chinese tourists have been recorded thanks to the policies implemented as part of the Visit Malaysia 2026 (VM2026) campaign, coupled with measures to facilitate travel to the country, according to a Malaysian official.

This momentum is expected to be sustained beyond the duration of the campaign as Malaysia has proven its attractiveness as a standout destination within the ASEAN region and has seen an increase



Visitors take pictures with clowns during an event as part of the national launch of Visit Malaysia 2026 in Kuala Lumpur on 3 January 2026. PHOTO: AFP

in Chinese arrivals, especially during this year's summer holiday season, Lee Thai Hung, deputy di-

rector-general (Promotion II) of Tourism Malaysia, told Xinhua on the sidelines of a recent media networking event. "Tourist exchanges between Malaysia and China continue to grow, and the existing policy measures have now been largely implemented and are yielding tangible results. The mutual visa exemption policy jointly promoted by the leaders of Malaysia and China continues to generate positive benefits," he said. — Xinhua

German business morale rises in July for third straight month

GERMAN business sentiment rose for a third consecutive month in July, especially in the struggling industrial sector, and pessimism eased despite the Middle East war.

The Ifo institute's closely watched confidence barometer rose to 86.6 points in July, up from 85.7 points in June.

Analysts surveyed by FactSet had expected the indicator to remain flat.

This rise is driven by "a significant improvement in expectations", with less pessimism regarding the "uncertain situation" in the Middle East, Ifo said in a statement.

However, Philipp Scheuermeier of KfW bank noted that some companies responded to the Ifo

survey while a ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran was still in effect.

The outlook brightened notably in the manufacturing sector, where the index climbed from -12.5 points to -9.6 points over the month.

"Demand picked up and material shortages eased," the statement noted.

A similar trend emerged in services, trade and construction, the other three sectors analyzed by Ifo.

Conversely, the assessment of the current business situation, another component of the indicator, was less positive, particularly in industry and services. — AFP

Cambodian economy remains resilient in face of crises: central bank chief

CAMBODIA'S economy remained resilient despite domestic and global headwinds, National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) Governor Chea Serey said here on Monday.

The Middle East conflict, online scams, and a prolonged border dispute with Thailand have hin-

dered national growth, Serey said, explaining that the Middle East crisis has driven up global fuel prices, impacting international trade and travel.

The central bank projects Cambodia's economic growth will ease to 3.9 per cent in 2026, she said,

adding that this forecast stems from an estimated 3.5 per cent expansion in the first half of the year, to be followed by a modest acceleration to 4.3 per cent in the second half.

"Growth is driven by robust exports in garments, non-garment manufacturing, and agri-

culture, alongside steady foreign direct investment inflows," Serey said during the NBC's mid-year review meeting.

Meanwhile, Serey pointed out that the tourism sector has contracted, while construction and real estate remain weak. — Xinhua

EAC central bank governors reaffirm commitment to single currency by 2031

THE East African Community (EAC) Monetary Affairs Committee (MAC) has reaffirmed its commitment to introducing a single East African currency by 2031, pledging to deepen regional financial integration.

According to a statement issued on Monday by the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, the commitment was made during the committee's 29th ordinary meeting, held on 24 July in Kampala, Uganda, which brought together central bank governors and senior officials from EAC member states.

The committee said

the region's economy remains resilient despite global uncertainties, with growth projected at 5.2 per cent in 2026, above the sub-Saharan African average of 4.3 per cent.

The meeting reviewed progress towards the 2031 single-currency target, citing advances in monetary policy reforms, regional payment systems and institutional capacity building. However, the committee noted uneven progress in meeting the macroeconomic convergence criteria, urging partner states to strengthen policy coordination and accelerate reforms. — Xinhua

Alaska sees oil resurgence as Japan, others look to US state amid war

ALASKA is seeing a resurgence in oil development as Japan and other nations heavily dependent

on Middle Eastern oil look to the northernmost US state as part of efforts to diversify their energy sources.

Japan's need to secure alternative oil supplies has gained urgency during the US war against Iran, after Tehran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, a major waterway for global energy shipments.

The monthslong closure and the continuing uncertainty over who should control the strait have raised significant concerns over stable supplies of crude oil to Japan and other resource-poor countries.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi expressed hope during her meeting with President Donald Trump in Washington in March that the two countries will work together to expand the production of US-sourced energy.

Trump at the time called Japan a "tremendous purchaser" of oil and gas from the United States, "in particular Alaska", acknowledging the shorter shipping route across the Pacific. — Kyodo



This photo taken from a plane in June 2026 shows Nuiqsut, a village populated by the Inupiat, one of the major indigenous groups in Alaska. PHOTO: KYODO

KDDI launches AI app using content of Japanese media, publishers



This photo taken on 28 July 2026 in Tokyo shows a smartphone screen displaying an artificial intelligence-powered app called Buffmee launched by KDDI Corp. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant KDDI Corp said Tuesday it has launched an artificial intelligence-powered app with about 30 media and publishing partners that answers users' questions by citing sources from articles and other content. The service aims to boost reliability and expertise, while partners can earn revenue based on usage frequency and gain

touchpoints with readers who follow citations back to original works. The app is called Buffmee and is free of charge, in principle, while paid plans unlock limited content. Users can search recipes by popular cooks, run bulk searches of data from railway magazines, and generate practice questions for qualification exams. — Kyodo

Iraq exports over 32 mln barrels of crude oil in May, June amid regional crisis

IRAQ exported over 32 million barrels of crude oil, including condensates, during May and June, generating revenues exceeding US\$2.33 billion, the Iraqi Oil Ministry said in a statement Tuesday. Citing statistics from Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization, the ministry said 20.23 million barrels were shipped from southern fields during the period via the Basra oil terminals, Iraq's primary export hub for crude. — Xinhua

Unilever lifts outlook amid turnaround efforts

BRITISH consumer goods giant Unilever on Tuesday upgraded its full-year outlook as it slims down and refocuses on its core home and personal care business. Profit after tax fell more than five per cent to 3.3 billion euros (\$3.8 billion) compared with the first half of 2025, said the maker of products including Dove soap and Cif surface cleaner. Unilever reported increases in both volume of sales and prices in the first half. Under chief executive Fernando Fernandez, the company is undergoing a turnaround to boost its performance, including cutting jobs and spinning off its food and ice cream divisions. Fernandez highlighted a "strong volume-led performance in the first half, with a significant step-up in the second quarter". "The macroeconomic environment remains uncertain, but... we are well positioned to deliver our

upgraded full year outlook," he said in an earnings statement. Higher inflation, triggered by a surge in energy costs linked to the Middle East war, has weighed on consumer confidence, dampening the outlook for spending. The group now expects underlying sales growth of between four to six per cent this year, having previously forecast growth at the bottom end of that range. Shares in the company rose five per cent in early deals on London's top-tier FTSE 100 index. Second quarter sales growth was spurred by its emerging markets division, including India, where Unilever has focused on expanding sales. Underlying price growth was lower in the second quarter due to promotions during the football World Cup and competition. Unilever agreed a multibillion-dollar deal in March to spin off most of its food business. — AFP

Cambodia's banking sector reports 4.6% year-on-year loan growth as of June

CAMBODIA'S banking and financial institutions recorded modest credit growth in the first half of 2026, primarily slowed by a sluggish recovery in the construction and real estate sectors, according to the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) biannual report released Tuesday. By June 2026, out-

standing loans rose 4.6 per cent year-on-year to US\$64.2 billion, while customer deposits grew 4.4 per cent to \$64.4 billion, the report said. However, asset quality weakened, with the banking system's Non-Performing Loan (NPL) ratio rising to 9.6 per cent, up from 8.4 per cent in June 2025, it added. Total assets in the kingdom's banking and financial system expanded by 2.5 per cent year-on-year, reaching \$99.8 billion, the report said. NBC Governor Chea Serey said that the Cambodian banking system remains resilient despite navigating severe domestic and external economic uncertainties. Growth in assets, loans, and deposits continues to reflect the vital role of the banking sector in supporting economic activity, while capital and liquidity remain well above regulatory thresholds, she said. — Xinhua

China-Europe freight train trips exceed 130,000

CHINA-EUROPE freight trains have made more than 130,000 trips and transported goods with a total value exceeding US\$520 billion, latest official data showed Tuesday. By June 2026, the loaded container ratio of the China-Europe freight trains had remained at 100 per cent for 46 consecutive months. In terms of transport efficiency, the full journey from Xi'an of China to Duisburg of Germany has been reduced to as short as 11 days, according to Liang Linchong, an official with the National Development and Reform



An aerial drone photo taken on 13 July 2026 shows China-Europe freight trains waiting for transshipment at a yard of Suifenhe Station in Suifenhe, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Commission (NDRC). As a flagship project and a landmark brand of the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Europe freight train service, also referred to as the "steel camel caravans", has established a comprehensive logistics network across Eurasia. This June marks the 10th anniversary of the

China-Europe freight train service adopting the unified brand of China Railway Express. Liang told a media conference on Tuesday that the freight train service also reported an average annual growth rate of over 30 per cent over the past decade in terms of annual trips, from 1,702 trips in 2016 to 20,022 trips in 2025. "Currently, the number of trips in a single month already equals the total annual figure for 2016, demonstrating strong development resilience and growth potential," Liang said. — Xinhua

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

HIV progress in 'real danger' as global funding plummets

THE science has never been better, but political will has reached a new low: AIDS experts warned Monday that the fight against HIV was in real danger as funding fell by a fifth last year.

A major international AIDS conference got underway in Rio de Janeiro for the first time since the United States began to dramatically slash foreign aid following Donald Trump's return to the White House last year.

European nations including France, Germany and the UK followed suit.

"Never has donor funding fallen so far, so fast, and those most vulnerable are already paying the price," said Beatriz Grinsztejn, president of the International AIDS Society (IAS), warning that the gathering was taking place at a time of "real danger" for the battle against HIV.



General view of the media briefing ahead of the 26th International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 27 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Once a fatal and terrifying diagnosis, scientific breakthroughs and massive funding efforts have transformed HIV into a manageable disease for millions of people.

"The end of AIDS is no longer limited by science. The scientists have done their part. It's limited by inequality. Science has done its job, now politics must do its job," said UNAIDS chief Winnie Byanyima.

She said the world was living through "one of the most exciting moments in the history of HIV science", with prevention medicines that have almost vaccine-like effectiveness.

But millions still do not have access. "When prevention disappears, infections rise. When treatment is interrupted, people die. We know how this story ends if we fail to act," warned Byanyima.

Developing nations 'step up'

International financing for HIV in developing countries fell by 18 per cent in 2025 alone, according to a UNAIDS report released at the 26th International AIDS Conference.

Since 2011, HIV funding from European countries has fallen by 58 per cent, according to the report. As the European contribution decreased, the US share of the funding rose.

This meant that despite the sweeping cuts by the Trump administration last year, the United States still provides 74 per cent of funding given by donor governments, the report said. Developing countries with the highest HIV rates — many of which are in sub-Saharan Africa — are meanwhile "stepping up", UNAIDS deputy executive director Angeli Achrekar told AFP. — AFP

Russia-US contacts on Ukraine settlement continue steadily at working level – Kremlin

THE contacts between Russia and the United States on the Ukrainian settlement are constantly continuing in a working order, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

"As for the Ukrainian track, contacts are constantly ongoing and continued to be carried out," Peskov told reporters, commenting on the topic of contacts between Russia and the United States on the Ukrainian settlement.

There has not yet been a request from Washington for a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the spokesman added.

The United States has not dropped the Ukrainian settlement track, they have well-known priority problems that need to be addressed, Peskov also said. The terrorist threat coming from Ukraine must be prevented and finally eliminated, Peskov said. — SPUTNIK

Hitachi speeds cyber threat testing with Anthropic AI

HITACHI Ltd said Tuesday it has used US startup Anthropic's Claude Mythos Preview artificial intelligence model to assess cyber threats to its products and software, reducing the time needed to prepare simulated attack scenarios from several weeks to a few hours.

The Japanese industrial conglomerate said the model also improved vulnerability detection accuracy and substantially reduced the workload of developers.

Hitachi tested Mythos in more than 100 social infrastructure cases, including those in the energy sector. The company said the trials showed the AI could rapidly analyze large volumes of software, while human experts remained essential for final assessments and decisions on security risks. — Kyodo

M7.1 quake rocks southwestern Japan, several injured

AN earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.1 shook southwestern Japan on Tuesday, the weather agency said, with several people likely

injured.

Tsunami advisories were issued for the Ariake and Yatsushiro seas after the quake and were later lifted for both seas.



This photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows an Aeon Mall complex in Kashima, Kumamoto Prefecture, that was extensively damaged following a powerful earthquake that struck the region on 28 July 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The focus of the 4:27 pm quake was in Kumamoto Prefecture at a depth of about 10 kilometres, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The quake in the prefecture in the centre of the island of Kyushu registered the maximum 7 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale in Uki and Hikawa and upper 6 in surrounding areas.

The agency defines seismic intensity 7 as a level at which people cannot remain standing or move without crawling and may be thrown through the air.

The intensity of 7 was registered for the first

time since January 2024, when a powerful quake struck the Noto Peninsula in central Japan.

The Uki Fire Department in Kumamoto Prefecture said it has been receiving continuous emergency calls, with multiple people possibly injured. It added that firefighters were assessing the situation after a fire broke out. Several people were believed to have been injured in the quake, while a power outage affected about 48,000 households in the prefecture, according to the local fire department and power company. — Kyodo

El Niño could lift electricity demand, threaten food supply, warns Malaysian official

EXTREME weather brought about by the El Niño phenomenon could drive up electricity consumption as hotter weather further increases energy demand, particularly from households, with the use of cooling equipment rising, Malaysian Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir has warned.

The El Niño phenomenon could also disrupt food supply chains and add to inflationary pressures, Akmal told a press briefing on Monday.

"Changes in weather conditions are another area that we need to monitor closely," he said. "Any disruption to the food supply chain would have implications for inflation and related issues." — Xinhua

SPORTS

Real Madrid in negotiations to buy Leipzig's Diomande: source

REAL Madrid are in talks with RB Leipzig to buy Ivorian winger Yan Diomande, a source at the German club confirmed to AFP on Tuesday.

The source said negotiations with the Spanish giants were ongoing but dismissed media reports an agreement had already been reached.

Diomande, 19, is under contract until 2030 in Leipzig but has become one of European football's hottest properties, particularly after starring for Ivory Coast at the World Cup.

In June, a source at Paris Saint-Germain told AFP that the European champions were interested in signing Diomande. The French club later pulled



Yan Diomande (11) is defended by Martin Odegaard (10) of Norway during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Round Of 32 match between Cote D'Ivoire and Norway at Dallas Stadium on 30 June 2026 in Arlington, Texas. **PHOTO: STACY REVERE/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

out after reported concerns about the size of the transfer fee.

Liverpool were also pursuing Diomande but reportedly had a bid rejected in June.

Leipzig supervisory chairman Oliver Mintzlaff told Sky Germany in April that Diomande would not be for sale "regardless of the asking price".

German tabloid Bild reported on Monday that Leipzig could bank upwards of 120 million euros (\$136 million) for the teenager.

The Abidjan-born Diomande spent a few months in 2025 at Spanish club Leganes, then in La Liga, and made his debut against Real.

He signed with Leipzig ahead of the 2025-26 season, where he scored 12 goals and laid on eight assists in the Bundesliga.

— AFP

Hyundai Cup: Myanmar thrash Philippines 4-1



Myanmar and the Philippines compete during their 2026 ASEAN Hyundai Cup Group B match. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR bounced back in style with a commanding 4-1 away victory over the Philippines in their second Group B match of the 2026 ASEAN Hyundai Cup on 28 July.

After losing their opening match to Malaysia, Myanmar revived their hopes of reaching the knockout stage with an impressive display under head coach Anderson.

The win also avenged their heavy defeat to the Philippines in a three-nation invitational tournament held in the country earlier this year.

Myanmar took the lead in seven minutes when Kyaw Min Oo headed home from a corner.

Than Paing doubled the advantage in the 28th minute after being set up by Maung Maung Lwin, giving Myanmar a 2-0 lead at half-time.

The Philippines pulled one back through Gayoso in 68 minutes, but Myanmar responded strongly.

Win Naing Tun scored in 81 minutes before Than Paing grabbed his second goal two minutes later to seal an emphatic 4-1 victory.

Myanmar now have three points from two matches, while the Philippines remain without a point after one game.

Myanmar's next Group B fixture will be an away match against Laos on 4 August.

— Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

Pedro bags three as Alonso starts Chelsea reign with 6-4 win over Western Sydney Wanderers

CHELSEA manager Xabi Alonso got his reign off to winning start on Tuesday in a dramatic 6-4 victory over Western Sydney Wanderers with Brazilian striker Joao Pedro scoring a nine-minute hat-trick late in the game to ensure victory.

The former Real Madrid coach, who took over on 1 July, is without many of his big guns for their pre-season tour and played 60 minutes with a side full of youth at Stadium Australia.

It was a seesawing affair, with Chelsea coming from behind three times.

Kazakh 17-year-old Dastan Satpaev lashed home on his debut in the sixth minute, but Chelsea then conceded twice with their defence run ragged before Portugal youth international Dario Essugo made it 2-2. — AFP



Chelsea's coach Xabi Alonso (R) gestures during the Sydney Super Cup match between Chelsea FC and the Western Sydney Wanderers at Stadium Australia in Sydney on 28 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Zidane's long road leads back to France helm

FRANCE'S favourite son, Zinedine Zidane, begins the latest chapter in his love affair with the national team after he was announced as Les Bleus' new coach on Tuesday.

The on-field architect of France's first World Cup triumph takes over the reins from Didier Deschamps, who captained the side in 1998 before coaching them to their second crown 20 years later.

The 54-year-old's appointment brings to an end the worst-kept secret in football — that France wanted 'Zizou', as he's affectionately known in his homeland, and that the feeling was mutual.

"The France job was the only one I wanted," Zidane said after his unveiling in Paris.

"I've had offers over these four or five years to take charge of a club and I



turned them all down for the French national team." Born in 1972 to Algerian parents near the Mediterranean port of Marseille, few would have imagined the young boy known to his friends as Yazid, who spent his days kicking a ball around the rough La Castellane housing estate, would one day grow up to become the face of football in the country.

Yazid would come to be better known by his first name, Zinedine, and, after coming through the ranks at Cannes before joining Bordeaux, his impeccable close control, imperious vision and tenacity would attract the attention of then-France boss Aime Jacquet.

From that first inter-

national call-up aged 22 in August 1994, Zidane went on to write football history.

Just four years later, he had moved to Italian powerhouses Juventus and Jacquet handed him the No 10 shirt for France as the country prepared to host the 1998 World Cup.

His two headers in the final at the Stade de France on 12 July ignited a new dawn in the country as the team dubbed 'Black-blanc-beur', in honour of the diverse ethnic make-up of its players, beat Brazil to win a first world title.

Euro 2000 glory and a then-world record transfer to Real Madrid, followed a year later by a stunning left-footed volley in the 2002 Champions League final which perfectly encapsulated the devastating beauty of Zidane's game, confirmed his status as one of the greats. — AFP



Antibiotic resistance rising among children worldwide, study warns

ANTIBIOTIC resistance in children is rising globally and will worsen over the next decade, threatening the effectiveness of life-saving antibiotics, an Australian-led study reveals.

The study, led by Australia's University of Sydney (USYD), found that antibiotic resistance increased in every region between 2004 and 2022, with babies and children in intensive care and those in lower-resource countries most affected, according to a USYD statement released on Tuesday.

Researchers from Australia, China and

the United States analyzed more than 106,000 infection samples from children aged up to 18 across 82 countries and regions.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria evolve to resist antibiotic treatment, making infections harder to treat. Children are especially vulnerable as they experience high rates of bacterial infections but have fewer antibiotic treatment options than adults, the researchers said, noting that about 840,000 deaths in children under five worldwide in 2021 were associated with AMR. — Xinhua

Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia call for joint efforts to secure Strait of Hormuz

IRAN, Oman and Saudi Arabia have called for intensifying joint diplomatic efforts to ensure the security of the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian foreign ministry said Tuesday.

The issue was highlighted in separate phone calls Monday night between Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and his Omani and Saudi counterparts, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi and Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, the ministry said in a statement.

The three ministers stressed the need to enhance cooperation and promote joint diplomatic

efforts to ensure regional stability and "eliminate the insecurity imposed on the Strait of Hormuz as a consequence of the US acts of aggression", the statement said.

The discussions came after Iran and Oman held talks in Tehran on Friday and Saturday on safe navigation through the strait, with the two sides exchanging views on the principles and mechanisms for managing shipping traffic while respecting the sovereign rights of coastal states, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said Sunday. — Xinhua

Xi holds talks with Slovak president in Beijing

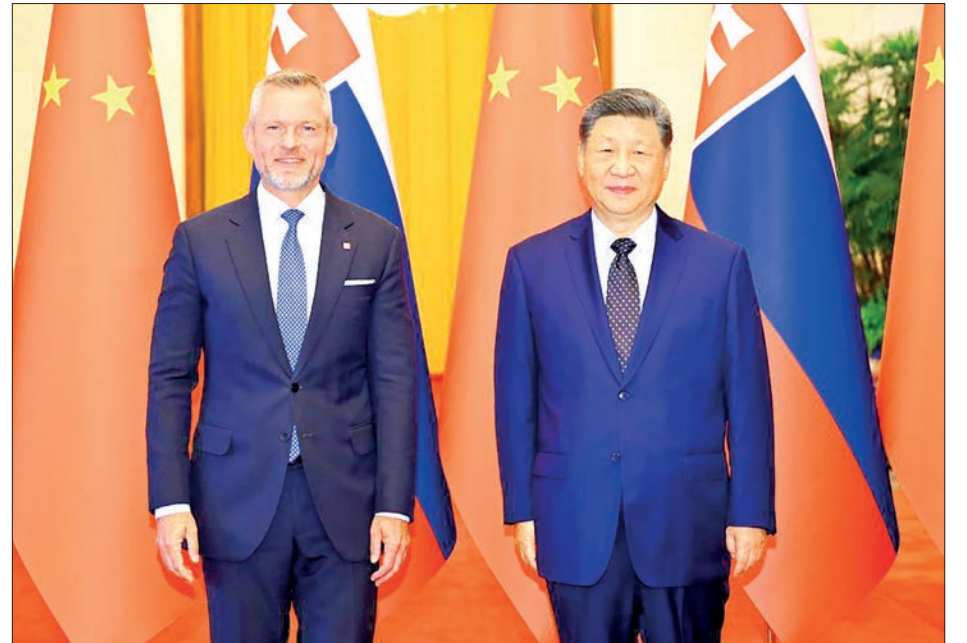
CHINESE President Xi Jinping held talks with Slovak President Peter Pellegrini in Beijing on Tuesday.

China stands ready to join hands with Slovakia in forging a strategic partnership that features mutual respect and trust, equality and mutual benefit, as well as stability and resilience, Xi told Pellegrini, who is on a state visit to China.

Xi stressed that mutual respect for each other's development paths and a firm commitment to friendship and cooperation have been the foundation for the sound and rapid growth of China-Slovakia relations.

China commends Slovakia for upholding the One-China principle and will continue to work with Slovakia to accommodate each other's core interests and major concerns, he said.

He called on the two countries to tap the potential for collaboration in emerging sectors and fron-



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds talks with Slovak President Peter Pellegrini, who is on a state visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 28 July 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

tier fields, including clean energy, digital economy, robotics and AI, to create new highlights in bilateral cooperation. The two sides should broaden cooperation in culture, sports, tourism, youth and subnational exchanges, and make it easier for people to travel between the two countries, he said.

Xi said China and Slovakia should safeguard the UN-centred international system and the international order underpinned by international law, jointly promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and contribute to building a

community with a shared future for humanity.

China has always viewed the EU as a partner and develops its ties with the EU with sincerity and goodwill, Xi said, calling on Slovakia to play a constructive role in promoting the sound and steady growth of China-EU relations. — Xinhua

Trump threatens "strong military action" if Iran talks fail

US President Donald Trump said Monday that he decided to pause US strikes on Iran in order to give negotiations another chance, while warning that he could order a restart of strikes if talks with Iran fail.

"We are in very deep talks with Iran. If they don't work out, we will go back to very strong military action," Trump said in an interview with US online news outlet Axios.

Asked how long he was willing to give diplomacy, he said, "Not much



People attend the funeral procession of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Mashhad, Iran, 9 July 2026.
PHOTO: XINHUA

time. Either it goes fast or not at all."

Trump said he decid-

ed to pause strikes on Friday because the countries that are mediating as well

as other countries in the region had asked him to give talks with Iran another chance.

Later, the president told reporters that Iran sought talks only after its military was battered by the US military.

"I think there's a good chance that something could happen," Trump said aboard Air Force One en route to an event in Michigan. "And if it does, good, if it doesn't, we go back to doing what we were doing two days ago." — Xinhua