

Green Cards Greenlit for Trained Private Teachers

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein announced that, starting next year, Green Cards will be issued to those who complete a nine-month training course to improve the quality of teachers in private schools.

Speaking in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 July, the Union minister briefed private and international school representatives on the new directives.

The Union minister noted that some private schools do not meet established standards and emphasized the need for them to make necessary preparations. She stated that this year is designated as a preparation period, and by the coming years, schools must complete these preparations. Furthermore,

SEE PAGE 3



The meeting with the Private School Supervisory Body.

Myanmar VP Leads Delegation to China for Himalayan Forum

A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye departed Yangon by air yesterday afternoon to attend the Fifth China-Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation in China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, to be held in Nyingchi. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, regional ministers, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, and other officials.

The Vice-President was accompanied by Dep-



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye and Myanmar delegates are seen before leaving for China yesterday.

uty Ministers U Naing Min Kyaw and Dr Thaung Naing Oo, departmental heads, and officials.

The forum will be held from 16 to 18 July, aiming to deepen international cooperation in the Himalayan region and promote regional and international collaboration for shared development. — MNA/TH

Government warns against F2 hybrid cotton seeds, offers mechanization support

TO promote the development of Myanmar's cotton sector and improve the production of quality cotton, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has issued a warning urging cotton farmers, seed producers and distributors not to distribute, sell, or replant F2 hybrid cotton seeds.

The ministry stated that cultivating F2 hybrid cotton seeds does not produce satisfactory results and can significantly reduce both crop yield and quality. Furthermore, under the Seed Law (2015),



This photo features farmers on a cotton farm.

the distribution and sale of unregistered seeds are strictly prohibited. When marketing high-yielding foreign hybrid cotton va-

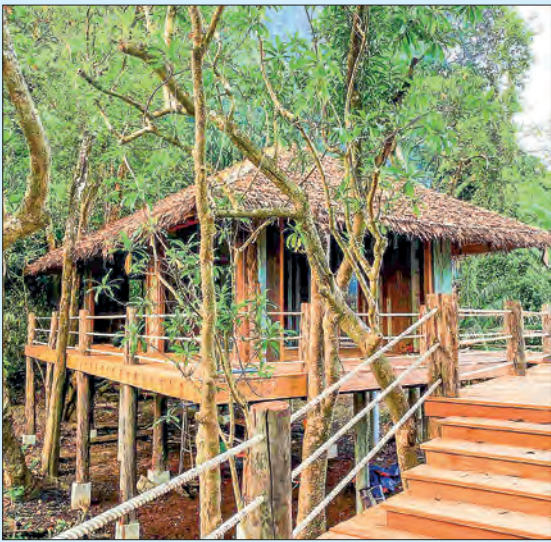
rieties, only legally registered F1 hybrid seeds may be distributed and sold.

Directives prohibiting the distribution and sale

of F2-grade cotton seeds have already been issued to cotton seed producers. Meanwhile, the relevant departments have also conducted awareness campaigns urging farmers not to purchase or cultivate these seeds.

The government is currently providing multifaceted support to cotton farmers. To help modernize and develop the cotton sector, the Agricultural Mechanization Department will provide the necessary machinery and equipment.

SEE PAGE 3



Wah Ale Resort awaits higher European tourist arrivals this season

THE tourists visit Wah Ale Resort, located within Lampi Marine National Park, an ASEAN Heritage Park, every year, and it is also expected to receive more arrivals of European tourists during the upcoming travel season, according to the resort.

The eco-friendly resort is scheduled to reopen in November. Around 20 foreign visitors from Russia, the United States, Switzerland, Germany, Australia and other countries are expected to arrive at the start of the season. To accommodate the anticipated increase in guests, the resort is also preparing 21 nature-based villas. **SEE PAGE 2**



NATIONAL PAGE 5

Myanmar-China Song Competition marks 76th anniversary of diplomatic ties



NATIONAL PAGE 10

Gold traders face 6-month renewal deadline

NATIONAL

Public Notice: Digital Payments and Online Tax Assessment Now Live for Vehicle Ownership Transfers

1. Effective 16 July 2026, tax assessments for the transfer of ownership of motor vehicles registered under individual names at the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) will be conducted using the Vehicle Automatic Valuation System (VAVS).
2. Taxpayers can log into the Vehicle Automatic Valuation System (VAVS) using their phone numbers at <https://vavs.ird.gov.mm> and enter the vehicle registration number along with the required information. The system will then automatically assess the vehicle's value, calculate the applicable tax, and enable taxpayers to pay the tax due through the online payment system.
3. Tax payments can be made through the IRD's Tax Payment Hub, which is integrated with the VAVS, using an MPU Debit Card. Payments may also be made by scanning the MMQR code with KBZ Pay, AYA Pay, CB Pay, uab Pay, A Plus Wallet, Citizen Pay, OK\$, Wave Money, Trusty Pay, Zego Pay, M-Pitesan, GTB Pay, or MoMoney, as well as through the mobile banking services of uab Bank, Shwe Bank, and A Bank.
4. Upon successful payment of the tax, taxpayers can print a clear copy of the Electronic Tax Clearance Certificate (e-Tax Clearance Certificate) QR Form generated by the VAVS and use it to complete the vehicle ownership transfer at the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD).
5. Matters regarding initial vehicle registrations, ownership transfers under company names, and declarations of sources of income will continue to be processed at the respective offices in accordance with existing procedures.
6. For further details, enquiries can be made during office hours by dialling the Call Centre at 1515, emailing techsupport.vavs@ird.gov.mm and callcenter.vavs@ird.gov.mm, or contacting the following offices: Tax Service Branch (Yangon) at 01 8389311 and 01 8389322; Tax Service Office (Nay Pyi Taw) at 067 3430522 and 067 3430544; Tax Service Office (Mandalay) at 02 4030637 and 02 4030638; and e-Service Help Desk Centre at 01 8378371, 01 8370195, and 01 8379021. In addition, the public may visit their nearest Regional, State, or Township Internal Revenue Offices in person during office hours.

Internal Revenue Department

Public Notice for Martyrs' Day Visitors to Mausoleum

1. Ballpoint pens, mobile phones, flags, handbags, cameras, lighters, flower wreaths, bouquets, baskets, vinyl, bottles, sticks, and flagpoles are strictly prohibited within the compound of the Martyrs' Mausoleum.
2. All the visitors are required to wear masks systematically without fail.
3. All visitors must thoroughly wash their hands at the designated stations and use the provided hand sanitizers before entering.
4. For temperature screening and medical checkups at Link Road in Bahan Township, individuals are required to present a Citizenship Scrutiny Card, employee card, student ID, or another valid identification card, along with personal details such as name, ID number, address, and phone number.
5. Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in compliance with the Ministry of Health's social distancing guidelines. Anyone displaying suspicious symptoms, such as a high temperature (38°C/100.4°F), cough, breathing difficulties, or fatigue, will be required to follow the instructions of the relevant authorities.
6. They have to follow the arrangements of those serving duties at the mausoleum.
7. Those paying tributes must queue at least six feet apart, with only ten people permitted at a time. Inside the mausoleum, they are also required to maintain the same sixfoot distance.
8. All the visitors must strictly follow the COVID-19 health notices and information released by the Ministry of Health.
9. Elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are not allowed to visit.
10. Those suffering from fever, cough, difficulty breathing or fatigue are not allowed to visit.
11. For group tributes, a time limit of no more than ten minutes is recommended.

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



FROM PAGE 1

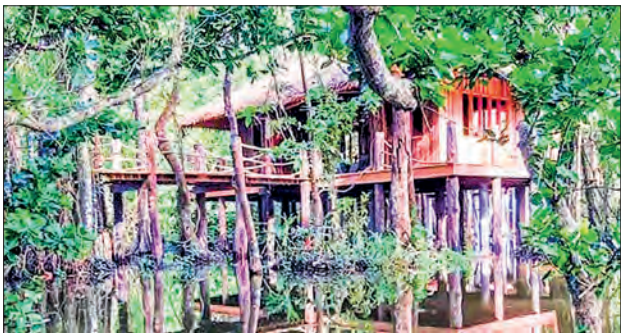
“Wah Ale Resort has preserved its natural eco-system in its original state, which is one of the main reasons why international visitors choose to stay here. Compared with visitors from Asian countries, more tourists come from Europe because they appreciate the island's untouched natural environment. While the resort is currently closed, we are making preparations for the upcoming season. As global temperatures continue to rise, we are installing several solar-powered air-conditioning units in addition to fans to improve guest comfort. Since many

Wah Ale Resort awaits higher European tourist arrivals this season

visitors travel with children, we are also building an environmentally friendly freshwater swimming pool that will not affect the surrounding ecosystem. Because Lampi Island's natural beauty has been carefully preserved, we expect to

receive more tourists this season than last year,” said U Aung Zin Latt, general manager of the resort.

The foreign visitors usually spend their first day enjoying kayaking and snorkelling along the beach. On the second day, they explore



Images showcase tourists kayaking at the Wah Ale Resort, located within Lampi Marine National Park and a tourist attraction site(above). **PHOTO: KANU**

the mangrove forests by kayak, while the third day is devoted to trekking through the forest to observe its rich

plant life and biodiversity. During the remainder of their stay, visitors relax while enjoying the scenic beauty of the island and the

Longan Island.

The Lampi Marine National Park, Myanmar's first marine national park, comprises about 75 per cent marine habitats. The park is home to evergreen forests, mangrove forests and spits, supporting a rich diversity of terrestrial, forest and marine wildlife. Ongoing conservation efforts include keeping beaches free of litter, protecting coral reefs, conserving amphibians and marine species, and promoting sustainable nature-based tourism to ensure the long-term preservation and development of the national park. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

Myanmar Hosts
Workshop to
Accelerate National
Solar Energy Shift

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy held a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to promote greater use of solar energy as part of the country's electricity supply and strengthen long-term energy security.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at Horizon Lake View Resort, Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin said reliable electricity is essential for national development and improving people's livelihoods. He noted that Myanmar's power generation still re-

the discussions would help accelerate the implementation of effective solar energy projects and improve the efficient use of solar power.

The workshop featured presentations by experts, panel discussions on accelerating solar energy development while maintaining the stability and reliability of Myanmar's electricity system, and interactive question-and-answer sessions.

In his closing remarks, U Ko Ko Lwin



The Workshop to Accelerate National Solar Energy Shift in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

lies heavily on hydropower and natural gas, while climate change and volatile global energy prices pose growing challenges to energy security.

He said the ministry is developing an optimal electricity generation mix based on domestic energy resources. Given Myanmar's abundant solar potential and the relatively short construction period for solar projects, the government is encouraging both large-scale grid-connected solar power generation and the wider adoption of solar home systems by households and communities.

He urged participants to identify practical solutions to technical and management challenges facing the sector, saying

expressed hope that Myanmar would fully harness its abundant solar resources to build a greener future and achieve greater energy self-sufficiency.

The event was attended by 475 participants, including Union Advisory Council Member U Ko Ko Hlaing, deputy ministers, senior officials from the ministry, representatives of government agencies, the Myanmar Engineering Council, the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), local and international companies, guests and other stakeholders. — MNA/ST

MoE makes presentation at
capacity-building training for MPs

THE Joint Coordination Committee on Parliamentary Development (JCC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, held a briefing session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the session, the Ministry of Education presented "Measures Undertaken to Enhance the Nation's Education Sector" as part of efforts to strengthen the capacity of the MPs.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe delivers a speech at the yesterday's event in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the event, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe said the briefing jointly organized by the JCC and the government was intended to enhance parliamentarians' understanding of national education reforms and strengthen their legislative capacity. He emphasized that education is the foundation of sustainable national development and said similar information-sharing sessions with other ministries would continue.

He added that sustainable development depends on the development of human resources, with education serving as the key means of nurturing them. Education, he said,

is essential not only for individual advancement but also for national economic and social development, human resource development, poverty reduction, democracy, social justice, and adapting to technological and global changes. Therefore, investment in education is an investment in the country's future.

He added that education is a foundation for the sustainable development of a nation and that disparities in education remain one of the key differences between developing and developed countries. As future national leaders emerge from classrooms,

leaders have consistently prioritized educational development. He also noted that parliament plays a vital role in national development and expressed confidence that the discussion would contribute to enhancing the knowledge and capabilities of lawmakers. He urged representatives to apply the knowledge gained from the session for the benefit of their constituencies and continue striving to become competent representatives trusted by the people.

Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Myint then delivered a presentation on the Ministry of Ed-

ucation's efforts to enhance the education sector including the ministry's policies, reform strategies and ongoing initiatives, including school expansion, teacher recruitment, education cost reduction for parents of students, ethnic language and monastic education support, higher education development, digital education, AI integration, distance and lifelong learning, curriculum reform, infrastructure investment, and international cooperation, and so on.

The MPs coordinated the discussion, and the deputy minister replied to the questions. — MNA/KTZH

Green Cards Greenlit for Trained Private Teachers

FROM PAGE 1

she stated that starting next year, the "Double Shift" teaching system will no longer be permitted.

She also directed that private schools must not

reduce or omit subjects such as ethics, civic education, and life skills. Schools are also required to conduct salutes to the State Flag and the singing of the National Anthem and the

Patriotic Song. Additionally, school enrolment lists must be submitted on time to the respective Township Education Officer offices in accordance with set regulations.

Furthermore, she added that arrangements are underway for students from international schools to apply for admission to domestic universities. — TWA/ZN

Government warns against F2 hybrid cotton seeds, offers mechanization support

FROM PAGE 1

To reduce costs and improve efficiency throughout the cotton production supply chain, the transition to a mechanized farming system is essential. This includes systematic land preparation using heavy machinery, as well as the use of cotton seed planters,

inter-row cultivators, backpack cotton pickers, and cotton harvesters.

The President has directed that the government place special emphasis on supporting cotton farmers by providing not only the necessary inputs and technology but also assistance in transitioning to mechanized

farming. Interested farmers who wish to cultivate cotton using mechanized farming methods and require support with machinery and equipment may contact the Agricultural Mechanization Department in Nay Pyi Taw at 0673431215 for further information.

— ASH/TH

NATIONAL

Lawmakers Link Road, Bridge Deficits to Population Growth

THE Pyithu Hluttaw discussed six infrastructure-related questions and a proposal to establish a National Population and Development Commission during the 23rd-day of its second regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn chaired the meeting.

Most parliamentary questions focused on road and bridge upgrades in constituencies across Myanmar. Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant responded that many of the requested projects would be implemented in phases, subject to budget allocations.

U Kaung Thet San, MP for the Hsipaw Constituency, asked whether the Lawkhun-Mulay-Teinkham-Faikkan road in Hsipaw Township could be upgraded to a concrete

road. The union minister said one mile of the road is planned to be upgraded to a gravel road in the 2027-2028 financial year using Shan State government funds, with further upgrades to a 12-foot-wide concrete road to follow as funding becomes available.

U Ko Ko Oo, MP for the Chanmyathazi Constituency, requested construction of a concrete bridge over the Panyantaw Creek on 109th Street in Mandalay's Chanmyathazi Township. The union minister said the project has been included in the 2027-2028 budget.

Daw Ohnma Moe Moe Zaw, MP for the Thaegon Constituency, sought improvements to a three-furlong section of road west of the Inma Creek Bridge leading into Inma town. The ministry said the work is scheduled for the 2027-2028 financial year.

U Myint Zaw Lin, MP



The 23rd-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

for the Phyu Constituency, asked about upgrading the village access road west of Kanyutkwin to a concrete road. The union minister said the first phase will see one mile upgraded to a gravel road under the Bago Region government's 2027-2028 budget, with concrete paving planned later depending on available funding.

U Ye Htut Aung, MP

for the Minhla Constituency, asked when six internal roads in Ward 7 of Minhla Township would be upgraded. The ministry said Roads 1 and 2 are scheduled for construction in 2027-2028, while Roads 3 to 6 are planned for the 2029-2030 financial year.

U Maung Maung Soe, MP for the Thaboung Constituency, asked about accelerating the completion

of the Thaboung-Yenantha road. The union minister said maintenance work would begin in 2026-2027, followed by phased upgrades to all-weather gravel roads from 2027-2028, subject to funding.

The House also debated a proposal submitted by Dr Htein Win, MP for the Kyaunggon Constituency, urging the Union Government to establish

a National Population and Development Commission to manage census data systematically and support evidence-based national development policies.

During the debate, U Soe Paing (Wuntho Constituency) argued that strengthening existing coordination mechanisms would be more effective than creating a new commission. In contrast, U Aung Ko Latt (Tamu Constituency), Dr Htay Win (Ingapu Constituency), Dr Kyaw Swe (Taungdwingyi Constituency), U Moe Tin (Setoktara Constituency) and Dr Hla Tint (Bahan Constituency) supported the proposal, saying better use of census data would improve policymaking, workforce planning, social services and budget allocation. Discussion on the motion will continue when the Pyithu Hluttaw reconvenes on 16 July. — MNA/ST

Kyaukpadaung's VDP concrete road project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, NyaungU District, Mandalay Region, conducted a field inspection yesterday

to review the completion of a concrete village road constructed under the Village Development Plan (VDP) Project in Paukthit Village, Kyaukpadaung Township.

Kyaukpadaung Town-



Officials from the Department of Rural Development inspect the completion of a concrete road in Kyaukpadaung Township.

ship Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Aye Thet and staff inspected the completed concrete road construction work. She also met village elders and villagers and discussed the need to collectively maintain and use the concrete road sustainably, while coordinating necessary measures to meet the village's requirements.

Paukthit Village is implementing village development activities using K15 million allocated under the Village Develop-

ment Plan (VDP) Project and contributions from locals. With technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Township Department of Rural Development, the construction of a concrete road measuring 356 feet in length, 12 feet in width and six inches in thickness was carried out by local villagers themselves during the 2026-2027 financial year, and has now been completed 100 per cent to improve year-round rural transportation. — Karan (Rural)

YR Chief Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and his cabinet received Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim at the Yangon Region Government Office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they held friendly discussions on trade and investment, friendship between Myanmar and Pakistan, and regional development. — Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)/MKKS



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu meets Pakistani Ambassador Mr Tariq Karim at the Yangon Region Government Office yesterday morning. **PHOTO: ZWE HTET KO (IPRD)**

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CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

(+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 255597511

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm

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

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Relief and health services in Falam inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, accompanied by members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, attended a relief distribution ceremony for displaced people in Falam, Chin State, yesterday.

The deputy minister and committee members distributed 72 bags of rice and 273 visses of cooking oil to 233 displaced people.

The deputy minister also inspected the Maternal and Child Health Unit of the Public Health Department, where he was briefed on vaccination programmes for pregnant women and children under five, encouraged patients, and provided financial assistance.

To date, vaccination and health education programmes in Tiddim, Tonzang and Falam have reached 15,802 pregnant



Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint presents essential commodities to a displaced person in Falam, Chin State, yesterday.

women and 7,780 children under five, with the government continuing to provide the necessary vaccines and medical supplies. — MNA/MKKS

Myanmar-China Song Competition marks 76th anniversary of diplomatic ties



Participants of the Myanmar-China Song Competition to commemorate the 76th anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations.

THE Myanmar-China Song Competition was held at Yunnan Minzu University in Kunming,

China, on 13 July to commemorate the 76th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The competition was jointly organized by the Consulate-General of Myanmar in Kunming and Yunnan Minzu University.

Chinese students proficient in Myanmar and Myanmar students

studying in China performed Myanmar songs. The Consul-General of Myanmar in Kunming presented prizes and souvenirs to the winners.

At the event, Myanmar Consul-General in Kunming U Thwin Htet Lin and Yunnan Minzu University Vice-President Mr Xiao Weicheng delivered opening remarks and exchanged souvenirs. — ASH/MKKS

Aunglan's rural production road construction inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Aunglan District, Magway Region, inspected the construction progress of a rural production road and related work in Maukhon Village yesterday. The project is being implemented to help farmers transport agricultural produce from their farmlands to markets at a lower cost.

Aunglan District Department of Rural Development Head U Win



Officials from the Department of Rural Development inspect the progress of a rural production road in Aunglan yesterday.

Naing and engineering staff inspected the construction of a four-fur-long-long, 12-foot-wide, and nine-inch-thick ru-

ral production road, and two slab culverts measuring six feet in length, 20 feet in width and six feet in height in Mauk-

hon Village. He also met members of the village road committee and discussed the need to give priority to completing the work within the prescribed period.

The rural production road and related projects are being implemented with K97 million provided under the Union Fund. The project was launched in the third week of June this year, and about 20 per cent of the work has now been completed. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Pobbathiri's Mya Sein Yaung Project funds disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Pobbathiri Township, Zeyathiri District, the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, held the 11th disbursement ceremony of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project Revolving Fund at the monastery in Kyantaesu Village, Phyatkhwe Village-Tract, on the morning of 14 July.

District Deputy Director Daw Soe Soe Oo of the Department of Rural Development, Zeyathiri District, met village elders and members of the village committee. She explained that the revolving fund was being provided to help reduce rural poverty and enable local people to engage in small-scale agricultural and livestock farming activities, thereby improving their livelihoods.

U Ko Ko, Township

Senior Officer of the Department of Rural Development, Pobbathiri Township, explained the guidelines contained in the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Manual, as well as the rules and regulations to be followed in the utilization and repayment of the loans. He then officially handed over K51.5 million to the Village Project Management Committee.

Subsequently, the committee disbursed the revolving fund to 108 beneficiaries in Kyantaesu Village, including K32.6 million to 64 agricultural households, K16.1 million to 38 livestock breeders, K1.5 million to three traders, and K1.3 million to three small-scale manufacturing entrepreneurs. A total of K51.5 million was disbursed on the same day under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project at a concessional interest rate. —

Naw Luu (Rural)



A Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Revolving Fund disbursement ceremony is in progress in Pobbathiri Township.

EPS centre releases Samsung insurance claims eligibility list

ACCORDING to statistics released by the EPS Centre in Myanmar on 15 July, more than 50 Myanmar EPS workers are eligible to file the Samsung insurance claim.

It doesn't concern illegal stays, but all workers with insurance cover are eligible, said the EPS Centre.

The list contains the names, passport numbers, and claim amounts of 56 eligible EPS workers, who are urged to verify their inclusion.

Among workers who have returned to Myanmar after working in South Korea, those who haven't yet filed for repatriation and gratuity insurance are urged to contact the EPS centre.

For more information about the insurance claim, workers are requested to dial 09 426217648 between 9 am and 5 pm. — MT/ZS

NATIONAL

Myitkyina's VDP potable water well project inspected



Officials from the Department of Rural Development inspect the completion of a hand-dug drinking water well in Myitkyina Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of a hand-dug drinking water well, which was constructed under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Mawhpawng (Zone 7), Myitkyina Town-

ship. Myitkyina Township Department of Rural Development Head U Nay Thu Yein Sein Hla and staff inspected the completed hand-dug well construction work. They also met village elders and villagers and discussed the need to collectively maintain and use the water facility sus-

tainably, while coordinating necessary measures to meet the village's requirements. Mawhpawng (Zone 7) Village is implementing village development activities using K15 million allocated under the Village Development Project (VDP). With technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Township Department of Rural Development, the construction of a hand-dug potable water well measuring four feet in diameter and 40 feet in depth was carried out by local villagers themselves during the 2026-2027 financial year and has now been completed 100 per cent to ensure year-round access to safe drinking water. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

PyinOoLwin's MSY 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 Letpangon North Village, PyinOoLwin Township, yesterday.

PyinOoLwin District Department of Rural Development Head U Set Naing Tun, PyinOoLwin Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Khin Mon Kyaw and staff observed the small-scale agricultural activities underway by loans

from the project's revolving fund. They also met members of the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project committee to check whether monthly financial records had been properly completed and coordinated necessary measures to address any requirements.

The Emerald Green

Village Project was launched in Letpangon North Village, enabling the revolving fund to grow to K53 million, which has been lent at concessional interest rates to 90 members, all of whom are successfully operating local income-generating activities with support from the project. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



This photo shows the field inspection of officials from the Department of Rural Development in PyinOoLwin Township yesterday.

Announcement on Road Closure on Martyrs' Day

1. The commemoration of the 79th Martyrs' Day will take place at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, Yangon. From 4 am until the event concludes, the following roads will be closed on 19 July 2026: West Shwegondine Road from old Yedashe Road, Shwegondine Road from the Dhammazedi-Shwegondine intersection, Martyrs' Road from West Shwegondine to U Htaung Bo Road, and U Wizara Road from U Wizara Roundabout to the U Wizara-Dhammazedi intersection.
2. Natmauk Road will be temporarily closed from the Wingaba intersection and from the Pho Sein intersection. Bogyoke Museum Road will be closed from the Ngahtetgyi Pagoda intersection and from the Saw Maha intersection. Bo Cho Road will be closed from the Shwe Kyat Yat intersection from 5 am to 6 pm on 19 July 2026.
3. During the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Secretariat from 5 am to 6 pm on 19 July, the following roads will be closed: Theinbyu Road from Bogyoke Junction to Merchant Road intersection, Anawrahta Road from Bo Myat Tun Junction, Maha Bandoola Road from Pansodan Junction, Bo Aung Kyaw Road from Merchant Junction.
4. The public is advised to use alternative roads during the off-road diversion during the commemoration event.

Yangon Region Government

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 16

Issued at 8 am MST on 15 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and a Low-Pressure Area may form over the North Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal, India- Bangladesh coasts, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from today morning to 21 July 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the My-

anmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and a Low-Pressure Area may form over the North Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal, India- Bangladesh coasts, such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH

Public Notice to Visitors: Secretariat (Former Ministers' Office)

1. Any kind of ballpoint pens, mobile phones, flags, handbags, cameras, lighters, flower wreaths/ flower bouquets/flower baskets, vinyl, bottles, sticks, and pipes that are used in carrying flags are not allowed to be brought into the compound of the Martyrs' Mausoleum.
2. All the visitors are required to wear masks systematically without fail.
3. All visitors must wash their hands thoroughly at the designated stations and use the provided

- hand sanitizers before entering.
4. The inspection will be conducted not to bring ten prohibited items at the junction of Maha Bandoola Road and the junction of Theinbyu and Anawrahta Roads in Botahtaung Township, and it is required to bring Citizenship Scrutiny Cards or employee cards or student ID cards or certain carts to identify the personal data while mentioning the personal information including name, ID card number, address and phone number for temperatures screening and medical checkups at the entrance of the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office).
5. Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in accordance with Ministry of Health distancing guidelines. Anyone showing symptoms, such

- as fever (38°C/100.4°F), cough, breathing difficulties, or fatigue, will be required to follow the instructions of the relevant authorities.
6. They have to follow the arrangements of those serving duties at the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office).
7. "Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in accordance with the set numbers, and maintain the same distance while inside.
8. All the visitors must strictly follow the COVID-19 health notices and information released by the Ministry of Health.
9. Elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are not allowed to visit.
10. Those suffering from fever, cough, difficulty breathing or fatigue are not allowed to visit.

NATIONAL

Myanmar's solar energy share stands at 4% of total electricity generation

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin stated that solar energy currently accounts for only about four per cent of Myanmar's total electricity generation during the "Solar Energy Workshop" held yesterday at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister stated that the workshop would greatly

contribute to increasing the share of solar energy in Myanmar's power generation mix, as the country's electricity generation sector currently remains heavily reliant on hydropower and natural gas as its primary energy sources.

The workshop was attended by relevant officials from the Ministry of Electricity and En-

ergy, experts from various fields, and representatives from solar technology companies. Discussions focused on procedures and practical experiences related to solar power plant projects, the integration of solar power into the national grid and associated challenges, the status of Solar Home Systems, which are vital for rural areas, and measures

to maintain the stability and reliability of the power system while accelerating solar energy development in Myanmar.

The outcomes and recommendations from the workshop are expected to provide important support for promoting Myanmar's renewable energy sector and ensuring an adequate electricity supply. — TWA/TH



This photo features Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin speaking at the Solar Energy Workshop.

Hpa-an's completed solar-powered water supply project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, inspected the completion status of the solar-powered water supply project implemented in Mukkadi Village in Hpa-an, Kayin State with Union Budget funds for the 2026-2027 financial year during a field inspection conducted yesterday.

Assistant Director (Technical) U Zeya Lin from the Kayin State Department of Rural Development, Head of Technical Section Daw Khine Thazin Nyo from the Hpa-An Township Department of Rural Development, together with responsible officials and members of the village water supply committee, inspected the completed solar-powered water supply project in Mukkadi Village. The assistant director (Technical) also urged the committee and residents to

work together to ensure the long-term sustainability and maintenance of the completed project.

The project included the drilling of a 4.5-inch diameter, 200-foot-deep tube well, installation of a 7.32 kW solar power system, and construction of a 120-foot-long perimeter fence. The project was implemented under the committee-based implementation system of the Department of Rural Development with a Union Budget allocation of K38 million for the 2026-2027 financial year. Work commenced in the fourth week of April 2026, and all project activities have now been completed.

With the successful completion of the project, it is expected to provide significant benefits for irrigation on 53 acres of farmland cultivated by 12 local farmers in Mukkadi Village, according to reports. — Soe Lwin (Rural)



Officials oversee the completed solar-powered water supply project in Hpa-an Township.

Helon Smart Village mobilizes for mass cleanup drive

A community waste collection activity was carried out on the morning of 14 July at Helon Smart Village in Mohnyin Township, Mohnyin District, Kachin State. The initiative, aimed at ensuring village cleanliness and aesthetics in line with standard village characteristics, was implemented by the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, as part of the ongoing Smart Village project. The cleanup involved departmental officials, village committee members, and residents.

During the cleanup,

District Head U Mya Thein Win of the Mohnyin District Department of Rural Development, along with Mohnyin Township Department of Rural Development Head U Htay Myint, staff members, village project committee members, and residents, joined forces to collect waste along the roadsides of the main village thoroughfare and within residential compounds. The gathered waste was then systematically disposed of and incinerated at the designated village dumpsite.

According to District Head U Mya Thein Win of the Mohnyin District



A community cleanup campaign takes place in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.

Department of Rural Development, the waste management system in Helon Smart Village was launched in the 2023-2024 financial year. To maintain the cleanliness and beau-

ty of the area in compliance with the criteria of a model village, residents continue to conduct these community waste collection drives every month. — Chit Oo Ko

Public Notice to Visitors: Bogyoke Aung San Museum

1. The following items are not permitted within the grounds of the Martyrs' Mausoleum: ballpoint pens, mobile phones, handbags, cameras, lighters, vinyl, bottles, flags, flower arrangements (wreaths, bouquets, or baskets), and any associated flagsticks or pipes.
2. All the visitors are required to wear masks systematically without fail.
3. All visitors must thoroughly wash their hands at the designated stations and use the provided hand sanitizers before entering.
4. "Inspections will be conducted at the junction of Natmauk Street and Bogyoke Museum in Bahan Township to prevent the entry of ten prohibited items. Visitors are required to present a Citizenship Scrutiny Card, employee card, student ID, or other valid identification, along with personal details, including name, ID number, address, and phone number, for temperature screening and medical checkups at the museum entrance.
5. "Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in compliance with the Ministry of Health's social distancing guidelines.
6. "Visitors showing symptoms, such as fever (38°C/100.4°F), cough, breathing difficulties, or fatigue, must comply with the instructions of the relevant authorities.
7. They have to follow the arrangements of those serving duties at the museum.
8. All the visitors will have to queue at least six feet apart from each other in line with the set numbers, and stay at least six feet apart from each other while inside.
9. All the visitors must strictly follow the COVID-19 health notices and information released by the Ministry of Health.
10. Elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are not allowed to visit.
11. Those suffering from fever, cough, difficulty breathing or fatigue are not allowed to visit.

OPINION

Disaster risks we can no longer ignore

ACCORDING to the forecasts of mathematical modelling systems from international meteorological agencies, a moderately strong El Niño condition is expected to persist during July 2026, and it is projected that the condition may develop into a very strong “Super El Niño” by the end of 2026.

Although the El Niño phenomenon occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts are generally observed worldwide in the form of abnormal rainfall patterns, irregular storm occurrences, higher daytime temperatures during upcoming summer periods, droughts, and other extreme weather events. Although El Niño remains moderate, abnormal rainfall patterns in the Eastern Hemisphere could trigger heavy downpours, strong winds, and cyclonic storms.

Natural disasters include both those that can be forecast in advance and those that are difficult to predict. Regarding predictable hazards, people are urged to pay close attention to and follow the weather information and warnings issued in a timely manner by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. This notice is issued to raise public awareness and encourage everyone to take preventive measures against heavy rainfall and natural disasters.

may occur. Therefore, people living near hilly and mountainous areas need to remain alert to the risk of landslides, while those living near small rivers and streams need to be aware of the risk of flooding and inundation. Domestic air transport services, as well as coastal and offshore fishing vessels and ships operating along the Myanmar coastline and in the open sea, also need to take necessary precautions in advance.

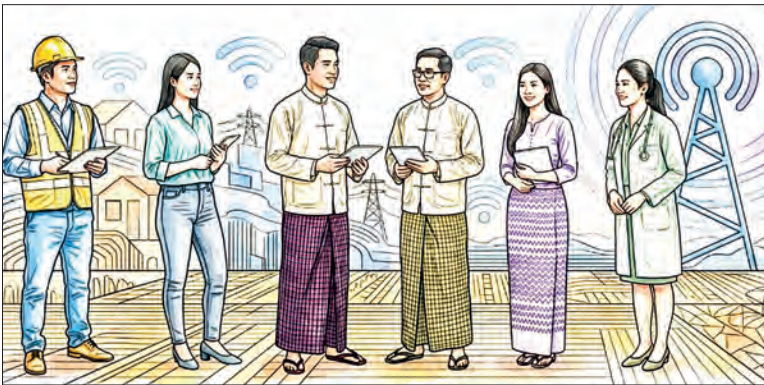
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MYANMAR'S future depends not only on the policies of its government but also on the collective efforts of its people. No country can achieve sustainable development through the work of government alone. Citizens, civil society, the private sector, and the media all have important roles to play in building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous nation. Progress is most likely when these stakeholders share a commitment to the national interest while respecting the rule of law and the well-being of all citizens.

An informed public is essential to national development. In today's digital age, social media has transformed the way people receive and share information. While this has increased access to news and public debate, it has

National Development in Myanmar Requires Responsible Citizenship and Ethical Media

By Soe Khant Lin



Myanmar's current information environment illustrates the importance of media literacy among citizens.

also created new challenges. Information can spread rapidly

before it has been independently verified, making it easier for misinformation and disinformation to influence public opinion. This challenge is not unique to Myanmar but is one faced by many countries around the world.

For this reason, media organizations have an important responsibility to uphold professional standards of journalism. Accuracy, fairness, impartiality, accountability, and verification should remain fundamental principles of news reporting. Regardless of editorial perspective

or ownership, responsible journalism should prioritize facts over speculation and evidence over rumour. Publishing inaccurate or misleading information can undermine public confidence, intensify social polarization, and complicate efforts to promote national stability and development.

At the same time, governments also have a responsibility to communicate openly, respond to legitimate public concerns, and remain accountable for their decisions. Constructive criticism is an essential compo-

nent of good governance when it is based on verified information, presented respectfully, and intended to improve public policy rather than inflame social tensions. Responsible media, therefore, serve an important public function by highlighting both achievements and shortcomings in ways that encourage informed discussion and accountability.

Myanmar's current information environment illustrates the importance of media literacy among citizens. As people are exposed to a wide range of infor-

mation from traditional media, online platforms, and social media, they should evaluate reports carefully by considering the credibility of sources, seeking corroborating evidence, and distinguishing verified facts from opinion or speculation. Developing critical thinking skills enables citizens to make informed judgements rather than reacting solely to emotionally charged or unverified content.

National unity and development are strengthened when citizens participate responsibly in public life. Trust between the government and the public cannot be built through misinformation or hostility, nor can it be sustained without transparency, accountability, and respect for differing opinions. Lasting confidence grows when governments govern responsibly, me-

dia organizations uphold ethical standards, and citizens engage thoughtfully and peacefully in national affairs.

Ultimately, Myanmar's long-term prosperity will depend upon cooperation among all sectors of society. Governments must pursue policies that serve the public interest. Media organizations should strive for accuracy, fairness, and professionalism. Citizens should remain informed, think critically, and contribute constructively to national development. By working together with mutual respect and a shared commitment to the country's future, Myanmar can strengthen its institutions, promote social cohesion, and create greater opportunities for future generations.

IN AN increasingly interconnected world, translation is more than the conversion of words from one language into another. It is a bridge between cultures, civilizations, and generations. Through translation, readers gain access to the ideas, philosophies, histories, and artistic achievements of peoples beyond their own linguistic boundaries. For young people in particular, translated literature provides a gateway to global knowledge while strengthening intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and cultural understanding.

Translation is the art of conveying the meaning, tone, and purpose of a text from its original language into another without losing its essence. It requires not only linguistic competence but also cultural sensitivity, literary judgment, and creative expression. Because no two languages are perfectly equivalent, translators must carefully balance accuracy with readability, ensuring that the translated work feels both faithful to the original and natural to its new audience.

The tradition of translation dates back thousands of years. The ancient Greek concept of metaphrasis emphasized faithful translation, while paraphrasis encouraged freer interpretation. Across Asia, particularly in India and China, translation played a vital role in the spread of religious texts, philosophical thought, and administrative knowledge. Bud-

dhist scriptures, for example, travelled across linguistic and cultural borders through generations of dedicated translators, shaping civilizations far beyond their places of origin.

Myanmar has its own distinguished tradition of translation. Evidence of multilingual scholarship can be traced to the Bagan era, while earlier Pyu civilizations are believed to have translated texts from Sanskrit and Pali. The celebrated Myazedi Inscription, commissioned by Prince Rajkumar, stands as one of the world's earliest examples of multilingual translation, presenting the same text in Burmese, Mon, Pyu, and Pali.

During the Konbaung Dynasty, increasing contact with Britain and France expanded the scope of translation from European languages into Burmese. Under the British education system, numerous academic works were translated for local students. Between the 1920s and the 1940s, books on anti-colonial struggles and international political movements introduced Myanmar readers to ideas that influenced the country's own independence movement.

Following the Second World War, the translation of world classics accelerated significantly. A landmark moment came in 1947, when General Aung San called for the advancement of knowledge through translation. His vision inspired the establishment of the

Beyond Borders: Why Young People Should Read Translated Literature

By Maung Maung Myint Thein (RIT)

Burma Translation Society on 26 August 1947. The Society sought to translate important works into Burmese while introducing Myanmar literature to international readers through foreign-language translations. Its mission reflected the belief that translation is essential to national education, cultural development, and intellectual progress.

For any nation, translation is not merely a literary pursuit but an investment in human development. It enables societies to exchange knowledge, share cultural values, and participate in global intellectual life. As translation flourishes, so too does a nation's capacity for innovation, education, and cultural dialogue.

Young readers stand to benefit enormously from translated literature. World classics introduce them to different civilizations while encouraging empathy, reflection, and intellectual maturity.

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, beautifully translated into Burmese by the distinguished writer Tint Te, offers timeless insights into social class, personal integrity, and human rela-

tionships. Through such works, Burmese readers gain an understanding of nineteenth-century British society while recognizing universal human values that transcend time and geography.

Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, translated into Burmese under the title *Myaw Ta Lin* by Shwe U Daung and later by Maung Htun Thu, follows the moral and emotional journey of the young protagonist Pip. Beyond its compelling narrative, the novel enriches readers' vocabulary, deepens their appreciation of literary style, and explores themes of ambition, humility, and personal growth.

Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, translated into Burmese as *Lay Htan Kone* by Min Kyaw, presents one of English literature's most powerful explorations of love, obsession, revenge, and human psychology. The novel demonstrates the enduring complexity of human emotions while exposing readers to sophisticated literary expression.

William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* remains one of the greatest studies of ambition, guilt,

and political power. Long included in higher education curricula, its Burmese translation has enabled generations of students to appreciate Shakespeare's profound understanding of human nature without language becoming a barrier.

Young readers interested in history and politics should also explore Leo Tolstoy's monumental *War and Peace*, masterfully translated into Burmese by the renowned scholar Mya Than Tint, who received the National Literary Award for his translation in 1972. Set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars, the novel examines leadership, war, morality, and the resilience of ordinary people amid extraordinary historical events.

For readers seeking philosophical depth, Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, translated by Nat Nwe, offers profound reflections on morality, faith, justice, and human responsibility. Its intellectual richness challenges readers to think critically about ethical dilemmas and the complexities of the human condition.

Translated literature is not limited to fiction. Non-fiction works also play a transformative



role in shaping young minds. U Nu's translation of *Mittabala Tika* remains an important contribution to Burmese intellectual life. Likewise, Dale Carnegie's internationally acclaimed *How to Win Friends and Influence People* has introduced millions of readers worldwide to practical principles of communication, leadership, and interpersonal relationships. The book encourages readers to avoid unnecessary criticism, express sincere appreciation, inspire others through genuine interest, and cultivate habits that strengthen both personal and pro-

myanmar National Literary Award for Translation in 1983. Drawing on Cronin's own experience as a physician, the novel explores medical ethics, professional integrity, social reform, and the conflict between idealism and materialism. More than a medical novel, it is a compelling examination of human character and moral responsibility.

The enduring value of translated literature lies in its ability to broaden perspectives while nurturing emotional intelligence and ethical awareness. Through unforgettable characters and richly

imagined worlds, young readers develop empathy, resilience, and the capacity to understand lives different from their own.

Classics such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Great Expectations*, and *Jane Eyre* teach lessons about personal character, responsibility, ambition, love, and integrity. They reveal how social structures, moral choices, and individual determination shape human destiny. American classics, including *The Old Man and the Sea*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Invisible Man*, likewise encourage perseverance, courage, justice, and self-discovery while offering insights into the social and historical experiences of another nation.

For today's generation, translated literature is far more than entertainment. It expands intellectual horizons, strengthens critical thinking, encourages cultural appreciation, and inspires lifelong learning. In an era defined by globalization, young people who engage with translated works are better equipped to understand both their own heritage and the wider world.

A nation that invests in translation invests in its future. By encouraging young people to read translated literature, Myanmar can cultivate informed citizens, thoughtful leaders, and globally minded individuals who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to both national development and international understanding.

Gold traders face 6-month renewal deadline

HOLDERS of mineral (gold) trading service business licences must be renewed six months in advance of the expiry date, according to the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association. When renewing the licence, applicants can use the MyanGold application to apply for a new business licence online. Those who do not like to use the MyanGold application can also submit their applications to the relevant preliminary screening teams. Once the licence is approved, it can be

collected from the No 2 Mining Enterprise in Nay Pyi Taw. Gold shops are required to submit their daily gold trading records before midnight each day if they use the MyanGold application. The Business Licence Screening Team will open the Gmail accounts for the gold shops to use the MyanGold Application and provide each shop with a username and password. The team will form a Viber group and provide training via Zoom on how to use the system. — ASH/KK



Gold ornaments are seen being organized for sale at a gold trading shop.

GRGI calls for tenders to purchase rice husk pellets

GRAND Royal Group International Co Ltd (GRGI) invited interested suppliers and companies to submit a tender for the procurement of rice husk pellets. GRGI called for SME manufacturers, companies, rice millers, rice husk pellet owners, and those interested in supplying rice husk pellets to participate in bidding. Tender application forms can be obtained from 14 to 17 July at Sweet Home Living Mall & Office Tower, No 2-A, 1/16 G, 8th Floor, East Horse Race Course Road, Man Aung Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon. The deadline for submitting tender propos-

als is 27 July, and the sealed tender envelope must be addressed to the Tender Committee, with Tender GRG/003-25-26. Interested entrepreneurs and suppliers are required to submit their business profile, production capacity, relevant work experience, along with a copy of the company registration, a copy of the company update extract or a municipal business licence copy, and a rice husk fuel pellet sample of two kilogrammes together with the tender proposal. Individuals can enquire about details through the Tender Committee by dialling 09 421124840 and 09 425308385. — NN/KK

No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise seeks tenders for cotton purchase

THE No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry invited qualified suppliers to submit a tender for the procurement of 650,000 viss of A-grade long-staple cotton, 600,000 viss of A-grade cotton and 200,000 viss of C-grade cotton for the 2026-2027 financial year for its state-owned cotton ginning and spinning mills. Tender proposals are now being invited. The deadline for the tender submission is 14 August 2026. Individuals can enquire about de-



Farm workers pick cotton wool on the plantation.

tails through the contact numbers of the production department of No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise located at Office 37 in Nay Pyi Taw at 067 3408138, 067 3408439, and 067 3408492.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation issued a warning for cotton farmers and cotton seed sellers to comply with regulations. Only high-yielding quality F1 hybrid cotton

seeds must be distributed. The F2 seeds obtained from harvesting F1 crops must not be distributed. Farmers are also advised not to use F2 hybrid seeds for replanting, and awareness efforts have been carried out among cotton farmers. F2 hybrid seeds will not yield some crops, and the Seed Law 2015 also prohibits the sale of seeds that are not registered. Thus, cottonseed sellers and farmers are advised not to distribute, sell, or use F2 hybrid seeds for cultivation. — NN/KK

MFVP, MILS meet to explore collaboration in Myanmar Agri-Food Week 2026

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) and Myanmar Innovative Life Sciences (MILS) held a meeting on 14 July to discuss potential collaboration for the Myanmar Agri-Food Week 2026 (MAW 2026). Officials of Myanmar Innovative Life Sciences (MILS) visited the MFVP to discuss whether the association could participate and collaborate at MAW 2026 to be held on 12-16 October 2026.

MFVP expressed its interest in participating in Myanmar Agri-Food Week 2026 and discussed the role and partner-led activities that align perfectly with the members' interests, the association's objectives and further coordination. Myanmar Agri-Food Week 2026 is an event aimed at fostering knowledge exchange between businesses, partner associations, research and technology institutions and creating business connections and promoting the long-term



The discussion between the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association and Myanmar Innovative Life Sciences is in progress on 14 July 2026. sustainable development of Myanmar's agri-food sector among stakeholders. MFVP also stated that it will continue to work closely with relevant or-

ganizations to develop Myanmar's fruit, flower, and vegetable sector, expand markets, and enhance international cooperation. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 15 July 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,662.00~3,665.50	557.80~558.60	125.40~125.50	43.60
Trading amount in the market	10,896,887.53	14,609,440.00	15,749,457.15	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

The foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of

edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials,

construction materials, wheat, agricultural materials, fertilizers, packaging materials and

consumer goods. Of the CMP sector revenue, US\$6,843.04 was sold to CMP Company. — MNA

Ancient Mayan astronomer’s name finally deciphered

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have transcribed mural symbols from Mayan ruins to learn the name of an astronomer and mathematician from the ancient civilization for the first time, Guatemala’s Ministry of Culture said Monday.

The name “White-chested Fox” was found in drawings dating from 400 BC to 900 AD at the San Bartolo-Xultun archaeological site on the Mexican border.

Culture minister Luis Mendez told reporters researchers at Xultun unearthed a “com-

plete mathematical and astronomical formula” authored by Sak Tahn Waax, which translates to White-chested Fox.

Mendez said it’s the only work of its kind attributed to a mathematician from the Maya Classic period, considered the peak of the Mesoamerican civilization.

The discovery was “made possible by the epigraphic analysis of more than 50 mathematical and astronomical microtexts written on the wall,” the ministry said in a statement. — AFP

Aged-75+ care partnerships reach Japan record



The number of people aged 65 or older living alone also reached a record high of more than 9.33 million.
PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

IN a record 37.1 per cent of Japanese households providing care at home, both the care recipient and primary caregiver were aged 75 or older in 2025, government data showed Wednesday, as the country’s population continues to age.

The figure rose 1.4 percentage points from the previous survey in 2022 and was nearly double the 18.7 per cent reported in 2001, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare’s survey on people’s lives.

The number of people aged 65 or older living alone also reached a record high of more than 9.33 million.

Japan is facing growing pressure on its care system as members of the postwar baby boom generation, born between 1947 and 1949, enter their late 70s.

Meanwhile, in 61.9 per cent of households providing care at home, both the care recipient and primary caregiver were aged 65 or older, down 1.6 percentage points from 2022. — Kyodo

Russian Haaland lookalike says viral video felt ‘like a dream’

Haaland has been the social media sensation of the World Cup, with now counting 68.8 million followers on social media.

FRIENDS and family have for a few years told Russian model Anastasia Kostromina that she looked like Norwegian striker Erling Haaland, but it was not until he became the World Cup’s superstar that she decided to take that online.

Earlier this month, she posted a video on Instagram highlighting the resemblance to Haaland — both in looks and mimicking some of his now-trademark mannerisms and distinctive facial expressions.

It soon spiralled and gathered 6.4 million likes. “At first, I did not even know what was happening, it felt like a dream,” Kostromina told AFP in Moscow, saying



Friends and family have for a few years told Russian model Anastasia Kostromina that she looked like Norwegian striker Erling Haaland. PHOTO: AFP

she “never expected” the video to go so viral.

“But I’m happy about it anyway,” the 24-year-old added.

Haaland, 25, has been the social media sensation of the World Cup, with the Man-

chester City player now counting 68.8 million followers on social media.

Haaland sparkled at the tournament scoring seven times — including a double against Brazil in their last 16 match — as Norway reached the

quarterfinals only to lose 2-1 to England.

Kostromina had mixed feelings when she was first told she looked like the towering male footballer — but has now embraced it.

“At first, to be honest, I didn’t even understand how I could possibly resemble a male football player. But then I started to take it with a sense of humour and now I’m completely fine with it.”

Naturally, she was supporting Norway in the World Cup and was sad when they lost.

“I was really rooting for them and was on the edge of my seat,” she said of their last game in the competition. — AFP

Writers union sues to block US Paramount deal

THE Writers Guild of America (WGA) filed a lawsuit Tuesday to block Paramount Skydance’s proposed takeover of Hollywood studio Warner Bros Discovery, arguing the \$110 billion acquisition would violate federal antitrust law and harm writers.

This latest hurdle comes a day after California and 11 other states launched separate suits to block the merger.

With Tuesday’s lawsuit, one of Hollywood’s powerful labour unions hopes to undo the US Department of Justice’s approval.

Many fear the merger will result in massive job cuts in an industry that has been under siege from

consolidations and layoffs.

“The proposed Paramount-Warner Bros merger threatens the economic and creative health of the American entertainment industry,” the WGA complaint said, adding the merger “would eliminate competition for buying

film and television writing, resulting in suppressed compensation, worse deal terms, and reduced programming volume and diversity.”

The owners of Paramount Skydance, the Ellison family, are close to US President Donald Trump

and the deal would give them control of CBS News and CNN, along with film studios Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros, and streaming platforms Paramount+ and HBO Max. “With fewer competitors, the merged Paramount-Warner Bros entity would have both the incentive and the ability to lower costs by suppressing writers’ wages and reducing output. Writers will be paid less and have fewer employment opportunities,” the Writers Guild said in its complaint.

Paramount engaged in a bidding war against Netflix to land Warner Bros, and argues the deal will create a strong rival to Netflix, Amazon and Apple. — AFP



Warner Bros is the legendary 103-year-old studio lot in Burbank, California, responsible for physical film production, theatrical distribution, and TV syndication. PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/EXPEDIA

Jharkhand displays six GI-tagged handloom products at Bharat Tex 2026

Bharat Tex 2026 offers an important platform to connect Jharkhand's traditional textile products with national and global markets.

JHARKHAND Minister for Industries Sanjay Prasad Yadav inaugurated the Jharkhand Pavilion at Bharat Tex 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Tuesday. The pavilion showcases six Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged handloom products, highlighting the state's rich textile heritage, traditional craftsmanship, and the skills of its artisans to national and international buyers.

The pavilion features Tassar Silk, Kuchai Silk, Bhagaiya Saree and Fabric, Tumka Chadar, Bhoya Saree and Fabric, and Pancho Saree and Fabric, which represent Jharkhand's cultural identity and longstanding weaving traditions.

On the occasion, Yadav stated, "Our identity should extend beyond the



Jharkhand displays six GI-tagged handloom products at Bharat Tex 2026. **PHOTO: ANI**

boundaries of our state and reach national as well as global markets. By showcasing Jharkhand's rich handloom and textile heritage on international platforms, we aim to create greater employment opportunities within the state so that our youth do not have to migrate in search of livelihoods.

More employment will accelerate the economic growth and overall development of Jharkhand." The Minister added that Bharat Tex 2026 offers an important platform to connect Jharkhand's traditional textile products with national and global markets, create new business opportunities

for weavers and artisans, and integrate the state's textile sector into the global value chain.

According to the release, Bharat Tex 2026 has become a premier global platform for business, investment, innovation, policy dialogue, and strategic partnerships across the textile and apparel value chain.

The event highlights India's growing global leadership in textiles, fashion, sustainability, technological innovation, investment, and international trade.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Vishal Sagar, Director of the Department of Industries; Preeti, Additional Secretary of the Department of Industries; and other senior department officials. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

NZ exports grow despite record-worst conditions

New Zealand exporters are reporting sales growth overseas despite facing the "toughest trading conditions on record", according to a survey released Wednesday. The ExportNZ survey found that all measured barriers to exporting worsened over the past year, including higher transport costs, tariff uncertainty and rising geopolitical tensions. Despite this, 45 per cent of exporters reported they had grown exports in the past 12 months, while 57 per cent expected further growth in the year ahead. The survey also found that 45 per cent of exporters are absorbing higher freight costs, while only nine per cent are fully passing them on to customers, reflecting efforts to protect long-term customer relationships by keeping prices as competitive as possible. — Xinhua

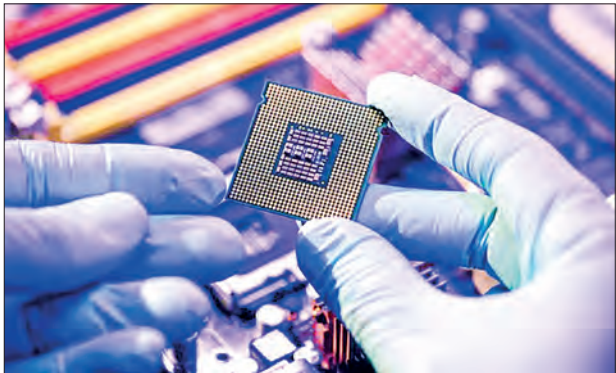
US imposes new sanctions against Iran

THE U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on Tuesday issued General Licence Z and imposed new Iran-related sanctions.

The licence, titled "Authorizing Wind Down Activities, Limited Safety and Environmental Transactions, and the Offloading of Cargo Involving Certain Persons or Vessels Blocked on 14 July 2026," was signed by OFAC Deputy Director Lisa Palluconi. It does not authorize the entry into any new commercial contracts involving the property or interests in property of any blocked persons, nor does it authorize any transactions or activities prohibited by the executive order titled "Imposing Sanctions With Respect to Additional Sectors of Iran" signed on 10 January 2020, including any transaction or activity involving Iran, the government of Iran, or Iranian-origin goods or services that is prohibited by the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations. — Xinhua

Israel's Tower Semiconductor to boost Japan output capacity with sidies

ISRAELI chipmaker Tower Semiconductor Ltd said Tuesday that it will spend about 600 billion yen (\$3.7 billion) to ramp up production capacity at two chip plants in Japan, backed by



A semiconductor chip. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

the government's subsidies of approximately 160 billion yen.

The semiconductor foundry will boost the capacity to make optical communication semiconduc-

tors at a plant in Myoko, Niigata Prefecture, and another in Uozu, Toyama Prefecture, to meet rapidly growing customer demand.

Semiconductors for optical communications enable faster data transmission while reducing power consumption. The company will begin shipments from the expanded facilities in May 2027.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will provide subsidies to the Israeli chipmaker in exchange for allocation priority when supply tightens. — Kyodo

ECB shortlists 36 firms for digital euro trials

THE European Central Bank (ECB) on Tuesday shortlisted 36 payment service providers from across the eurozone to participate in trials of the digital euro. Analysts said that this move marks a key step in the bloc's efforts to introduce a central bank digital currency.

According to the ECB, the participants, including traditional banks, digital banks and payment companies, were selected from more than 50 applicants. They will work with the ECB and 19 euro-area national central banks, ex-



According to the ECB, the participants, including traditional banks, digital banks and payment companies, were selected from more than 50 applicants. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

cluding Bulgaria and Malta, in a 12-month testing phase scheduled to begin in the second half of 2027. The ECB said the pilot will

focus on validating technical functions, streamlining operational processes and improving the user experience. — Xinhua

Historic UK-India Free Trade Agreement comes into force

THE UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA), one of the biggest trade deals of modern times, came into force on Wednesday.

UK-India total trade, worth £48 billion in 2025, is set for an immediate boost, with consumers now enjoying cheaper, quicker, and easier access to the best of British and Indian products and services across both countries, as per an official release.

To celebrate this historic occasion, a special package of select British goods arrived at the British Deputy High Commis-



A cargo ship loading at the Southampton Docks in England on 16 April 2026. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

sion in Mumbai aboard a British Airways flight. The package was unveiled by Harjinder Kang, Trade Commissioner for South Asia, and David Wright, British Airways' General Manager in India, to signal the arrival of new oppor-

tunities unlocked under the agreement for both countries.

The package contained goods from the UK benefiting from reduced tariffs, including cosmetics, food products, and alcoholic beverages. — ANI

PayPal shares jump on reported \$53 bln Stripe takeover bid

SHARES in PayPal surged as much as 13 per cent on Wall Street Wednesday after reports that payments firm Stripe and private equity group Advent International had made a joint offer to buy the digital payments pioneer.

US media said the deal would value PayPal at about \$53 billion, with the offer of \$60.50 a share – a premium of some 28 per cent over Tuesday's closing price – made this month.

The offer nevertheless comes in far below where PayPal traded just a year ago, after a bruising 12 months for the stock.

The deal would still rank among the largest fintech acquisitions ever, uniting Stripe's payments infrastructure – widely used by online businesses – with PayPal's massive consumer and merchant base. Stripe, founded in 2010 by Irish brothers Patrick and John Collison, is one of Silicon Valley's most valuable private companies, most recently valued at around \$159 billion. — AFP

System failure disrupts supply chains

A system failure caused by unauthorized access to major Japanese frozen food maker Nichirei Corp has begun disrupting supply chains, with some restaurants and retailers telling customers certain items are out of stock as of Wednesday. "We are continuing our investigation," a Nichirei public relations official said, after the incident began affecting the company's frozen food shipments and inbound and outbound operations at refrigerated warehouses. The company, which has around 5,000 business clients, announced the system failure on Monday. It said it would gradually restart operations from Friday, but did not disclose when it expects to return to full functionality.

Nichirei also reported the possibility of a personal data breach, but did not elaborate further. On Tuesday, Kentucky Fried Chicken Japan Ltd, which outsources deliveries of ingredients to Nichirei, said it may temporarily close some stores and that some items on its menu could become unavailable. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (289N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (289N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

The following pesticide distributed by First Start Co.,Ltd and here we would like to pesticide trade name change advertising. Anyone who would like to object or inquiry about new trade name contact within 14 days to Joint- Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon. First Start Co.,Ltd Tel:09-401573814

Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No.
1.	Max Kway Sinn	Lu Fan King	Emamectin benzoate 10% + Lufenuron 40% WDG	P2025-6776

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Shandong Topagri Limited have registered the following product in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Topagri Myanmar Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Yazt Pone Thee Co.,Ltd". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Yazt Pone Thee Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Red Shark 5 WDG	Emamectin benzoate 5% WDG	F2024-4608

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of Qingdao Ernest Chemical Co.,Ltd have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Yazt Pone Thee Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Topagri Myanmar Co.,Ltd". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Topagri Myanmar Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Pyouk Kyar	Lufenuron 5% + Profenofos 50% EC	P2025-6796
2.	Wang Bayin	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 7.5% EC	P2025-6831

PESTICIDE TRADE NAME CHANGE ADVERTISING

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Sr.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Reg. No.
1.	TH-Min Thar 75 WG	Lat Swel Taw	Tebuconazole 50% + Trifloxystrobin 25% WG	F2025-4683
2.	TH-Aung Myin 30 EC	Mercury	Difenoconazole 15% + Propiconazole 15% EC	F2025-4779
3.	TH-Super 32.5 SC	Kinn Sin	Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenoconazole 12.5% SC	F2025-4877

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of ZIBO NAB Agrochemicals Limited have registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "Topagri Myanmar Co.,Ltd", to new distributor name "Yazt Pone Thee Co.,Ltd". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. Yazt Pone Thee Co.,Ltd. Ph-09401573814

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	NAB-QB 36 WP	Bensulfuron-methyl 3% + Quinclorac 33% WP	F2021-3252
2.	NAB-Done Pyan 10 SC	Chlorfenapyr 10% SC	F2023-4076
3.	NAB-Phalan 72 WP	Chlorothalonil 64% + Metalaxyl 8% WP	F2023-4230
4.	NAB-Boss 25 EC	Pyraclostrobin 25% EC	P2021-4502
5.	NAB-Duro	Chlorfenapyr 19% + Lufenuron 5% SC	P2024-5351
6.	NAB-Nest	Bispyribac-sodium 5% + Cyhalofop-butyl 15%SC	P2024-5390

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Trump threatens to bomb Iran’s power plants, bridges

Trump threatened to destroy all their power plants and bridges unless they negotiate.

US President Donald Trump said American strikes on Iran will continue until he personally decides they should stop.

“They’ll continue until I say it’s enough,” Trump said.

He added that the US will keep hitting Iran “very hard” this week, while openly threatening to expand attacks to civilian infrastructure next week if Iran refuses to negotiate.

“Next week comes the power plants. Next week comes the bridges. We’re



This image depicts the Caspian Combined Cycle Power Plant located in Nowshahr, Iran. **PHOTO: MAPNAGROUP/FILE**

going to knock out all their power plants. We’re going to knock out all their bridge-

es, unless they get to the table and negotiate,” Trump declared.

The statement marks another direct escalation by the US, with the US openly using threats to bomb civilian infrastructure as leverage against Iran.

In addition, Trump avoided giving a direct answer when asked whether he still intends to “take” Iran’s Kharg Island, but refused to rule it out. “As far as taking it is concerned, if we degrade them far enough and deep enough back, I would do that,” US President Donald Trump declared. — SPUTNIK

JR East to operate Japan’s 1st hydrogen hybrid train at end of FY 2027

A hydrogen hybrid train will enter service on some lines at the end of fiscal 2027, marking the first deployment in Japan of this type of environmentally friendly vehicle, operator East Japan Railway Co. said Tuesday.

Equipped with fuel cells and storage batteries, the “Hybari” train is powered by electricity generated through the chemical reaction of hydrogen and oxygen, emitting no carbon dioxide in the process. It can travel about 70 kilometres on a single hydrogen refill.



File photo taken in February 2024 shows the “Hybari” hydrogen hybrid train. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The train will run on the Tsurumi and Nambu lines in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo, the operator known as JR East said, adding that further details will be announced later.

JR East has been testing the train’s performance and operational stability since 2022 as it aims to increase the use of renewable energy and cut CO2 emissions. — Kyodo

Thai cabinet approves visa policy revision

THAILAND’S cabinet has approved a further revision of Thailand’s visa-exemption measures and visa privileges to prevent misuse of visa privileges, a government spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Deputy Government

Spokesperson Ploytalay Laksameesangchan said the objective is to ensure that travel facilitation for foreign tourists reflects the current circumstances and adheres to the principle of “one country, one entitlement”. — Xinhua



Tourists take a selfie at Phi Phi Islands national park in Krabi, Thailand, 16 February 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bushehr targeted again by US strikes

FRESH US strikes hit Iran’s southern port city of Bushehr, home to the country’s only civilian nuclear plant, state news agency IRNA reported on Wednesday.

“The American enemy attacked three locations in Bushehr today,” the city governor, Mohammad Mozafari told IRNA, the day after another attack as Washington and Tehran stepped up their military confrontation. — AFP

Colombia’s new president to be sworn in at military base

COLOMBIA’S right-wing president-elect Abelardo de la Espriella said on Monday he would be sworn in at a military facility in the country’s south, despite opposition from outgoing leader Gustavo Petro.

Petro ordered on Sunday that “no military establishment be used” for the 7 August swearing-in. The law stipulates that the ceremony must be held before Congress in Bogota.

De la Espriella said on social media he would be sworn in “at a military garrison in the south of the country to pay a solemn tribute to the heroes of the homeland and to the military personnel who protect democracy, freedom, and institutional stability.” — AFP

Hamas condemns Israel’s West Bank housing plans

PALESTINIAN movement Hamas criticized the agreement between Israeli authorities and the Civil Administration for Judea and Samaria to build 12,000 new housing units in Jewish settlements.

“The agreement between the extremist Zionist occupation government and the so-called Council of Settlements in the northern West Bank to construct 12,000 new colonial-settlement units, in addition to allocating eight billion shekels [\$2.6 billion] to develop settlement infrastructure, is a dangerous, criminal, Judaizing agreement and an escalation in the occupation’s cruel war and its attempts to take control of the West Bank, seize its lands, and displace its residents,” the movement said in a statement on Tuesday. — SPUTNIK

Norwegian tanker attacked off coast of Oman: company

A Norwegian tanker was hit by an explosion caused by an unidentified device off the Omani coast early Tuesday, a crisis response company said.

MTI Network said in a statement that shipping company Stolt Tankers

reported that at approximately 00:40 am local time (2000 GMT Monday) “its tanker vessel Stolt Magnesium while on passage in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Oman suffered from an explosion of an unidentified external device”. — AFP

SPORTS

Germany World Cup exit reveals structural failures, says Leverkusen boss



Bayer Leverkusen CEO Fernando Carro said structural problems are to blame for Germany's continued World Cup woes. **PHOTO: AFP**

GERMANY'S continued World Cup failures are a result of structural, political and cultural problems in German society, Bayer Leverkusen CEO Fernando Carro said on Wednesday.

Four-time winners Germany were eliminated by minnows Paraguay in the last 32 of the World Cup in June, having crashed out at the group stage of the 2018 and 2022 editions.

Having taken over Leverkusen in 2018, Carro helped guide the club to a first Bundesliga title in 2024 alongside lifting the German Cup in the same season.

"Germany still have outstanding individual players, but we surely need to look closely at where we are now – it seems like there are fewer players coming through to the top level," 61-year-old Carro told AFP.

"There needs to be greater investment in youth development, including a better integration of school and sports.

"A state of the art, modern infrastructure is a key figure as well... projects that improve these conditions are too often slowed down by bureaucracy and lengthy decision-making. — AFP

Top teams win in Myanmar Women's League Round 5

ALL of the league's top-ranked teams secured victories in Round 5 of the 2026-2027 Myanmar Women's League, held from 13 to 15 July.

ISPE edged Thitsa Arman 1-0, Ayeyawady defeated Myawady 2-1, Shan United thrashed Yangon City 5-0, Yadanabon beat Young Lionesses 2-1, and

Yangon United overcame Zwegabin United 3-0.

After five rounds, ISPE remain top of the table with 15 points, followed by Ayeyawady and Yangon United on 12 points each, Shan United on 10, and Yadanabon on nine. Yangon City remains at the bottom without a point after losing all five matches. — Ko San/KZL



Yangon United and Zwegabin United compete in a Myanmar Women's League Round 5 match. **PHOTO: MWL**

Live Football & Music: FIFA Fan Fest Hits Yangon



Fans gather at Thuwunna Stadium during the World Cup 26 Fan Festival Myanmar in Yangon.

THE World Cup 26 Fan Festival Myanmar is ongoing at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon from 14 to 19 July, featuring live screenings of the FIFA World Cup 2026 semifinals, the third-place play-off and the final.

The festival has already screened Spain versus France and will also screen England versus Argentina in their semifinal matches. The third-place play-off will be shown on 18 July, followed by the final on 19 July.

The event also features live performances by popular Myanmar singers, including Phyo Gyi, Tha Soe, Moe Moe, Paing Min Hein, May Khalar, Sandy Myint Lwin, Ni Ni Khin Zaw, Su Hlaing, May Myat Noe

Khin and DJ MasBeatz, as well as dance performances. Tickets are available in VIP and Gold categories, and complimentary beverages are provided to attendees. — TWA/KZL

France fireworks fizzle as Spain advance to World Cup final

FRANCE arrived in the World Cup semifinals hailed as the most scintillating attacking force to grace the tournament since Brazil's fabled 1982 side.

But like Zico, Eder, Falcao and Socrates before them, Kylian Mbappe and company found out the hard way that dazzling football is no guarantee of survival.

A hitherto sparkling French campaign full of offensive pyrotechnics fizzled out like a dud Bastille Day firework in a painful 2-0 defeat that is likely to tarnish the legacy of coach Didier Deschamps.

Between them, Mbappe, Ousmane Dem-

bele, Michael Olise, Bradley Barcola and Desire Doue had helped France rattle in 16 goals in six matches en route to Tuesday's semi-final.

But in a comprehensive Spanish masterclass at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas it took France's vaunted attacking arsenal more than 75 minutes to even register a shot on target. By that stage, Spain were on cruise control, leading 2-0 as Les Bleus' players grappled with the realisation that an arsenal is only as potent as its ammunition.

With the supply lines from midfield severed by Spain's talented triumvi-



Kylian Mbappe failed to score as France's dream of a third straight World Cup final was snuffed out by Spain. **PHOTO: AFP**

rate of Rodri, Dani Olmo and Fabian Ruiz, France were left firing blanks.

"We kept finding ourselves outnumbered 3-on-2 in midfield," Mbappe said. "And against Spain, that's a real problem...When you put it all together, the re-

sult is a defeat. It's a huge disappointment.

"I don't think we played the match we wanted to play — whether tactically, technically, or in terms of our overall performance level," Mbappe added. — AFP

Spanish royal family to attend World Cup final: palace

KING Felipe VI, Queen Letizia and their daughters, Princess Leonor and Princess Sofia, will attend Spain's World Cup final showdown in New

Jersey on Sunday, the royal palace said. Spain will face reigning champions Argentina or England after defeating France 2-0 in Tues-

day's semifinal in Texas to move a step closer to a second World Cup title. Felipe had travelled to Mexico in June to watch Spain defeat

Uruguay 1-0 in the group stage, cementing an improvement in relations between the two countries after years of tensions. — AFP



US companies lost \$200B exiting Russia over sanctions

AMERICAN companies have piled up losses of roughly \$200 billion over the past four years as a result of anti-Russia sanctions, said Robert Agee, CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Russia, speaking with Sputnik.

According to Agee, Western businesses in Russia were gripped by confusion and panic with the onset of the special military operation.

He acknowledged that some may have made emotionally driven decisions to exit the coun-

try amid the turmoil, but stressed that AmCham itself did not succumb to panic and instead advised companies not to make any hasty decisions and to remain level-headed. Agee noted that Western businesses were generally reluctant to abandon the Russian market, which he described as attractive, stable, and rapidly growing. He also highlighted promising opportunities for expanding business ties with Central Asian countries, using Russia as a strategic hub. — SPUTNIK



Robert Agee, CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Russia.

PHOTO: SPUTNIK/FILE

Japan lower house passes backup capital bill

JAPAN'S House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bill submitted by the ruling parties to set up a "second capital" to serve as a backup for Tokyo's core functions in times of disasters or other emergencies and promote decentralization.

The Liberal Democratic Party led by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and its junior coalition ally, the Japan Innovation Party, aim to enact the law during the current parliamentary session, which may be extended about a week beyond its end on Friday. In the lower house, where the

LDP-JIP bloc holds an overwhelming majority, the small tech-focused opposition party Team Mirai backed the bill, but it is unclear whether it will pass the House of Councillors, where the ruling camp remains a minority.

The bill to create a backup capital, part of the agreement under the coalition deal signed by the two parties on 20 October, could accelerate the JIP's drive to reorganize the western city of Osaka, where the party has a stronghold, into a metropolis like Tokyo by introducing special wards. — Kyodo

India approves \$13 billion semiconductor plan

THE Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Semicon 2.0, a new programme with a budget of Rs1.27 lakh crore (US\$13.17 billion) to strengthen India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem.

The scheme aims to support chip design, manufacturing, advanced packaging, research, talent development and the production of key equipment and materials needed for the industry.

The programme builds on the progress made under Semicon 1.0 and reflects the government's long-term commitment to making India a global semiconductor hub.

Semicon 2.0 is based on six key pillars.

The first pillar focuses on strengthening India's chip design ecosystem. The government said 105 startups are already developing semiconductor chips.

The new scheme will support semiconductor intellectual property (IP), chip designs and systems for strategic and commercial use to position India as a leading chip design nation.

The second pillar aims to develop the sem-

Semicon 2.0 is based on six key pillars.



This image depicts robotic arms performing precise manufacturing on a semiconductor wafer. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC

iconductor supply chain by supporting companies involved in manufacturing and research of semiconductor equipment, materials, chemicals and gases.

The government said this will help build a strong domestic ecosystem and improve precision manufacturing.

The third pillar focuses on expanding semiconductor manufacturing by encouraging investments in silicon fabs, compound semiconductor fabs, discrete component fabs and display fabs. The

government said global confidence in India's semiconductor strategy has increased, with the country's first semiconductor fabrication plant expected to be commissioned in 2028.

The fourth pillar aims to strengthen India's Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) and Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) ecosystem by promoting advanced packaging technologies.

The fifth pillar focuses on research and development to help India move

beyond existing semiconductor technology nodes through collaboration with leading research institutions in India and abroad.

The sixth pillar is dedicated to talent development. The government said 315 universities are using advanced Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools to train students, with around 68,000 students trained so far. Industry participation will also be expanded to develop specialized skills required for semiconductor manufacturing. — ANI

Australian PM says to enact laws to govern AI

AUSTRALIA will enact laws to regulate how artificial intelligence data centres use power and water, and to protect creative copyright, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Wednesday.

In a landmark speech setting out his government's policies, Albanese sought to allay public concern over AI, saying it



The new standards would set clear legal obligations for large data centres.

could be adopted in a way that enhanced the national interest.

The centre-left leader said he would meet Australia's state and territory leaders next month to discuss the proposed new laws, which would be introduced next year to build trust in AI and protect national security.

Australia had led other countries in imposing limits on social media use for children, but the

challenge to shape AI in Australia's interest was greater and demanded action now, he said.

"If we hang back and stand still this will just run right over the top of us," he said in the speech at the University of Sydney. "Our great country can be much more than a data warehouse for AI products made overseas." — AFP