

Vice-President Receives Acting UN Humanitarian Affairs Chief

VICE-PRESIDENT U Nyo Saw received a delegation led by Mr Indrika Ratwatte, Acting UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides exchanged views on strengthening cooperation and mutual understanding in disaster management, post-earthquake recovery efforts in Myanmar, prospects for enhanced cooperation in delivering humanitarian assistance, the government's humanitarian relief programmes, the successful and transparent holding of the 2025 multi-



Acting UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr Indrika Ratwatte calls on Vice-President U Nyo Saw.

party democratic general election, and political developments in Myanmar. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe and other relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Embassy hosts CABI meeting for London-based embassies



Participants attending the meeting.

THE Myanmar Embassy in London hosted a meeting between the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) and London-based embassies on 16 July, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chargé d'Affaires highlighted the importance of agriculture to food security and economic development, noting global challenges such as climate change, crop pests, crop diseases and the growing importance of the One Health approach.

CABI Chief Executive Officer Dr Daniel Elgar outlined the organization's strategy and objectives, **SEE PAGE 2**

Water supply restoration underway in Falam

WATER supply restoration works are underway in Falam after pipelines distributing water from the Lai-va dam to the town were damaged during a terrorist attack. Under the supervision of the Minister for Chin State Development Affairs, the repair works were carried out, and as of Monday, water had reached the town's four main reservoirs, each with a capacity of 100,000 gallons, and efforts are continuing to distribute water to urban areas.

SEE PAGE 3



The restoration efforts of water supply are in progress in Falam, Chin State.

OPINION

Produce competent nursing and midwifery professionals

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

NSPNC, NCA-S EAOs review peace processes

PAGE 3



NATIONAL

PDFs explode Tower No 338 of 132-kV main transmission line in Pakokku

PAGE 10



MFVP strives to promote floriculture



The group documentary photo of the "Floriculture Development Training Course" in China.

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) is working to raise the standards of Myanmar's floriculture sector by introducing new technologies alongside its efforts to develop the country's fruit industry.

Daw Chan Mya Nye-in, an audit committee member of the MFVP's administrative board and a member of the Flower Sector Development Working Committee, along with representatives of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), attended the "Floriculture Development Training Course" from 20 May to 9 June in Kunming, China. During a 21-day visit, she had the opportunity to learn how advanced technologies are transforming flower cultivation in China.

Under the theme of integrating modern floriculture with tourism, **SEE PAGE 3**

NATIONAL

China-Myanmar joint excavations ongoing at Thatbyinnyu Temple

CHINA-MYANMAR joint archaeological excavations are underway to the south-west, south and west of the Thatbyinnyu Temple in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Area, according to the Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

The latest excavations, which began in July 2026, focus on the temple's enclosure wall and entrance gate. Building on investigations carried out in 2017 and 2023, archaeologists have uncovered sections of brick walls, brick



This photo features China-Myanmar joint excavation research underway at the Thatbyinnyu Temple.

structures, sandstone foundations, brick floor-

ing and roof tiles, providing further evidence of the temple complex's original layout.

Myanmar and China signed a memorandum of minutes (MoM) in 2017 and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in 2022 to restore and conserve the Great Thatbyinnyu Temple, which was damaged in the 2016 earthquake. Under the MoU, the two countries are also jointly studying the temple's architectural remains, including its enclosure walls, courtyard walls and possible additional entrance gates. — ASH/MKKS

Taungpyone Buddha Pujaniya Festival & ritual ceremonies to kick off in Aug

THE Buddha Pujaniya Festival of Sutaungpyae Pagoda and Sutaungpyae Pagoda, located at Taungpyone village in Mandalay Region's Madaya township, and the ritual ceremonies in honour of the two spirits of Taungpyone will be held in August, according to the festival organizing committee.

The historic event will be celebrated for eight consecutive days from 21 to 28 August; opening ceremony and the ritual ceremony on the first day, 21 August, the ritual showers of the two spirits on 24 Au-

gust, crossing the stream and hare hunting on 27 August and alms offering to Sutaungpyae Pagoda on 28 August.

Every year, a massive influx of visitors comes to enjoy the festival, and the organizing committee said it has made sure of proper security arrangements this year. The organizing committee said the security across the Taungpyone area has been stable.

"In cooperation with relevant organizations, we've made preparations specifically for security and disciplinary works, for



The celebration of the Taungpyone Festival in the previous year.

visitors from distant areas and sellers to participate safely and peacefully," said a member of the organizing committee.

It said stalls selling traditional foods, souvenirs and other products will be arranged systematically. — TWA/ZS

Traditional Myanmar Marionette Talk Show held



This image displays the "Traditional Myanmar Marionette Talk Show".

TO ensure the long-term sustainability of the traditional Myanmar marionette art form, a "Traditional Myanmar Marionette Talk Show" was held on 20 July at the Governor's Residence on Tawwin Road, Dagon Township, Yangon.

The discussion panel featured several distinguished experts, including Daw Ma Ma Naing, chairperson of the Myanmar Marionette Committee; U Aung Soe Oo, U Hein Latt, and U Myat Soe Hlaing from the committee; and U Ye Htut, former department head at the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon).

"I have been thinking about how to begin making people interested in marionettes again," said Daw Ma Ma Naing. "As the traditional performing arts are progressing rapidly, our marionette art has been struggling to gain recognition. Many great masters have passed away; only U Shwe Kyi and I remain as the oldest. I thought that by starting with a talk show, people would remember marionette art."

She further noted that because marionette was once a highly respected form of entertainment, she wants today's youth to know and cherish it. Therefore, performances have been held at schools in Mandalay Region. She added that those interested in learning the art of puppetry can contact the committee for training and requested that business leaders collaborate and provide support so that Myanmar marionettes can rise in prominence. — MT/ZN

Myanmar Embassy hosts CABI meeting for London-based ...

FROM PAGE 1

while other officials briefed participants on CABI's support for member countries, its projects in South and Southeast Asia, and the PlantwisePlus programme, which promotes agricultural technologies.

CABI representatives answered questions from diplomats, and separate discussions with the Myanmar Embassy focused on future cooperation to benefit Myanmar's farmers.

Myanmar has cooperated with CABI since 1993 to strengthen farmers' knowledge and skills and support the development of the agricultural sector. — ASH/KNN

Weather

Flood Warning

Issued at 2 pm MST on 20 July 2026

ACCORDING to the 12:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Chindwin River at Homalin is observed as about 1.5 feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next 36 hours.

According to the 12:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Chindwin River at Phaungpyin is observed as more than 1.5 feet below its

danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Homalin and Phaungpyin Townships, to take precaution measure and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker urges stronger laws for youth, women, children and tourism development

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met members of the Committee on Youth, Women, Children and Elderly Rights and the Committee on Hotels, Tourism and Culture yesterday to discuss their duties, ongoing activities and plans.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. Committee chairpersons Daw Win Maw Tun and U Htin Aung Shein briefed the Speaker on their committee structures, responsibilities and current work.

Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn said the Hluttaw was providing necessary support to lawmakers and committees, including capacity-building talks and training programmes, to help representatives effectively carry out their



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the meeting with members of the Committee on Youth, Women, Children and Elderly Rights and the Committee on Hotels, Tourism and Culture yesterday.

duties.

Speaker U Khin Yi highlighted the important roles of both committees in supporting national development and improving the social and economic well-being of citizens. He urged the committees to review existing laws and propose new legislation or amendments where

necessary.

He called for closer coordination on youth-related issues, including education, drug prevention and sports development, and stressed the need for legal frameworks such as a National Youth Development Law and Youth Volunteer Service Law.

The Speaker also emphasized the importance of developing human resources through education and vocational training. He said programmes such as free education from kindergarten to Grade 9 and youth talent development initiatives were valuable and should receive legal support.

SEE PAGE 4

Water supply restoration underway in Falam

FROM PAGE 1

Chin State Development Affairs Minister U Aung Kyaw Htay, who is also a member of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Working Committee, inspected the completed water storage at the four 100,000-gallon main reservoirs supplied from the Laiva dam near Talanzar Village, about 20 miles from Falam. He also checked the distribution of water from the main reservoirs to ward-level storage tanks, and the completion of pipeline works to deliver water to residential areas across the town. — District IPRD/KTZH

MFVP strives to promote floriculture

FROM PAGE 1

participants studied China's systematic flower cultivation practices and how the floriculture industry contributes to tourism development. They also learned how to transform raw flowers into value-added products to increase the market value,

Under the category of research, technology, and international property rights, participants

learned how the Chinese government, along with relevant industry associations and universities, collaborates to produce research papers and secure international property rights for new genetic varieties and floral technologies. They also discussed regional networking and cultural exchange initiatives aimed at fostering long-term partnerships. — NN/KK

NSPNC, NCA-S EAOs review peace processes

THE meeting to review the peace processes between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the NCA-Signatory EAOs took place at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, NSPNC Chair Lt-Gen Yar Pyae highlighted the current status of invitations for the peace talks, future peace initiatives to be undertaken, planned discussions with NCA-Signatory ethnic armed organizations, engagement with organizations that have withdrawn from the NCA, efforts to unite NCA signatories to prioritize regional stability and development, the outcomes of bilateral



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the NCA-Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations hold talks on ongoing peace process.

meetings with NCA signatory organizations, and matters relating to possible amendments to the 2008 Constitution.

RCSS Secretary 1 Sao Sai Ngin, who is also Head of NCA-Signatory EAOs negotiation team, said the meeting evolved from previous informal discussions.

He noted that within the first 100 days of the new government, the coordination committee made greater progress on peace efforts than expected and demonstrated a strong commitment to dialogue. He expressed hope that both sides would engage in open and constructive

discussions to enable all relevant stakeholders to participate in the peace process. He expressed optimism that the discussions would yield positive outcomes for lasting, sustainable peace.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing then explained the progress and

legal standing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and elaborated on the committee's future peace initiatives.

Participants also exchanged views and made recommendations on establishing an inclusive peace process based on the NCA, developing peace policies, procedures and mechanisms in a systematic manner, implementing trust-building measures, encouraging broader participation by all stakeholders, ensuring continuous dialogue, formulating interim arrangements, maintaining regular communication channels to improve the effectiveness of discussions, organizing

SEE PAGE 4

Daily newspapers available online

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



NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw holds 26th-day meeting, discusses infrastructure and digital tax reform

THE 26th day of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and parliament members.

During the session, lawmakers raised and answered 10 questions concerning road and bridge repairs, riverbank protection, waterway dredging, dam construction and school upgrades. One proposal was discussed and approved, while one bill was submitted.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Tun Lu responded to questions on riverbank erosion affecting villages west of Pakokku Township, saying that



The 26th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

protective measures were being carried out along the Ayeyawady River, including the use of sandbags, geo-bags and steel wire embankments. He said a 200-foot-long steel wire river protection structure

was completed between Kyunmyogyi, Mayogon and Myinkyun villages with a budget of K215 million in the 2025-2026 financial year. Similar protection projects will continue in the coming years.

Regarding the dredging of Sarkyin Creek in Labutta Township, the deputy minister said detailed surveys and assessments of costs and benefits must be carried out before dredging work begins, as silting

could return due to tidal conditions.

He also explained that riverbank erosion prevention measures in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, would be implemented gradually through future budgets, including retaining walls and river control structures.

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing said requests to upgrade several basic education schools in Bago and Mandalay regions could not yet be approved because they did not meet requirements such as student numbers, school land ownership and distance from higher-level schools. However, they would be reconsidered when the required conditions are fulfilled.

The meeting also discussed the upgrading of rural roads in Bago and Ayeyawady regions. The Union Minister for Construction said several road improvement projects would be carried out through regional government budgets, depending on available funding.

Regarding the damaged Tangar Bridge in Madaya Township, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant said the bridge had been damaged by terrorist groups in October 2025. A temporary Bailey bridge has been installed to maintain transport links, and reconstruction work on the damaged sections is underway, with completion expected by the end of 2026.

SEE PAGE 6

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker urges ...

FROM PAGE 3

He encouraged lawmakers to help expand access to education for children who are out of school and promote Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes to create more employment opportunities for young

people.

Regarding women's and children's rights, U Khin Yi called for stronger legal protection against domestic violence, sexual violence, psychological abuse and online harassment. He also urged further efforts to strengthen laws related to elderly

care and protection.

The Speaker concluded by calling on the committees to work closely with relevant ministries, review current laws and develop necessary legislation to contribute to national progress and improve the lives of citizens. — MNA/ST

NSPNC, NCA-S EAOs review ...

FROM PAGE 3

joint study programmes, carrying out regional development projects so that local communities in conflict-affected areas can benefit from the peace process, se-

curing international assistance for peace efforts, and selecting appropriate venues that would enable the participation of all stakeholders. The second day meeting will be on 21 July. — MNA/KTZH

DIPLOMACY

MSWRR Union Minister meets UNOCHA delegation



Union Minister Dr Soe Win holds talks with Mr Indrika Ratwatte, Acting UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, yesterday.

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received a delegation led by Mr Indrika Ratwatte, Acting UN As-

sistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, at the Ministry's meeting room yesterday afternoon.

Both sides discussed disaster management issues, cooperation with the Ministry during the Mandalay earthquake response, the provision of humanitarian assistance, arrangements for the repatriation of displaced persons, cooperation between the AHA Centre and the Ministry, mine awareness activities, and the implementation of activities under the Letter of Agreement (LoA) signed between the Disaster Management Department and UNOCHA. — MNA/MKKS

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

www.gnlm.com.mm



CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

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

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com,
newsroom@gnlm.com.mm
www.gnlm.com.mm

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.

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.

HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw MPs continue debates on agriculture, irrigation and healthcare sectors

LAWMAKERS of the Amyotha Hluttaw continued their debates in agriculture, irrigation and healthcare sectors in addition to emphasizing discussions over amendments to the farmland rules at its 19th-day session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MP Daw Aye Chan Mon from the Mon State Constituency 6 asked about the ways of addressing the farmland disputes. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun replied that disputes concerning farmland cultivation rights shall be decided by the relevant Farmland Management Body at each level, and that the decision of the Nay Pyi Taw, Region or State Farmland Management Body shall be final. However, if a dispute arises not over



The 19th-day sitting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

farmland cultivation rights themselves but over the inheritance of farmland cultivation rights, the parties are entitled to seek a ruling from the relevant court.

MP U Thein Myint from the Mon State Constituency 11 raised a ques-

tion about a plan to build a sluice gate near Petkalet canal and another canal beside Sabegu road in Kalaikanaing Village of Kyaikmaraw Township.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw responded that the con-

struction of a sluice gate on the Petkalet Canal will be proposed under the 2027-2028 State Budget and will be implemented subject to the availability of funds.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win replied to the questions raised by MP U Rak-

wi Pung from the Kachin State Constituency 1 and MP U Saw Thwin from the Magway Region Constituency 9, saying that due to the lower use of beds, there are no plans to upgrade PutaO People's Hospital (100-bed) to a 300-bed facility and Ywathaya Village-tract Station Hospital (16-bed) in Minbu (Sagu) Township to a 25-bed facility.

MP U Aung Min Naing from the Chin State Constituency 9 asked about the plans to conduct Emergency Care Training and Basic Life Support courses for doctors and nurses to improve their capacity. The Union Minister responded that the Emergency Care Training & Basic Life Support (BLS) Training will be conducted continuously and plans to extend more training courses in accord with the human resource development.

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

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced that further discussions of remaining MPs for the motion, replies of Union-level dignitaries and seeking the decisions of the Hluttaw will be carried out on 22 July.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue on 22 July. — MNA/TTA

Installation of solar lights in Falam inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint inspected the installation of solar lighting systems at public facilities in Falam Township, Chin State, yesterday and instructed officials to maintain and use the systems effectively.

Under the Chin State government's plan, solar systems are being installed at the temporary people's hospital, General Administration Department office, Myanma Economic Bank and Township Education Office. The deputy minister also inspected solar street lights in Falam town and urged officials



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and officials inspect the installation of solar lights in Falam Township.

to install lights at priority areas and public service offices.

In Tiddim and Tonzang townships, diesel generators are being used to supply electricity to residents and govern-

ment offices, with key facilities receiving a 24-hour power supply. The Chin State government is continuing efforts to expand solar lighting and improve electricity access in the region. — MNA/MKKS

China, Myanmar conduct initial assessment for Village-Level Poverty Reduction Project

A Chinese delegation, in cooperation with the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IP-RCC) and the Department of Rural Development of Myanmar, conducted an initial assessment for the Village-Level Poverty Reduction Demonstration Project (Phase II) in two selected villages.

The team visited Nophahtaw Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, and Anyasu Village in Zalun Township, Ayeyawady Region, from 6 to 14 July to discuss local needs in socioeconomic development, education, healthcare and environmental conservation, inspect conditions on the ground and review proposed development activities.



An initial assessment for the Village-Level Poverty Reduction Demonstration Project (Phase II) is underway.

From 15 to 17 July, the delegation also studied completed projects under Phase 1 in Aye-echanthar Model Village, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, conducted market research for infrastructure development and held discussions with officials from the Department of Rural Development.

The assessment was carried out under bilateral cooperation based on an Exchange Letter signed by China and Myanmar on 21 December 2022 to continue implementing Phase II of the project in the two selected villages. — MNA/KNN

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw holds 26th ...

FROM PAGE 4

The Hluttaw also discussed a proposal submitted by Dr Shwe Pyi Soe from the Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Constituency calling for a digital taxpayer card system using bar-

codes and modern electronic payment methods to improve tax collection.

Lawmakers said a digital tax system could increase transparency, reduce tax evasion, improve revenue collection

and make tax payments easier for citizens. They also suggested lowering taxes on essential goods while increasing taxes on luxury and harmful products.

Deputy Minister for

Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung said electronic tax payment systems have already been introduced, including online taxpayer registration and e-payment services for domestic taxes and

customs duties. He added that taxpayer identification numbers (TINs) can now be applied for online through the Internal Revenue Department's electronic registration system.

The Hluttaw agreed to record the digital tax proposal and continue monitoring its implemen-

tation. It also received the "Seventh Amendment to the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Bill" submitted by a member of the Union Election Commission.

The 26th-day session was concluded, and the 27th-day session will be held on 22 July. — MNA/ST

Kanma's gravel surfacing work inspected

THE Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kanma Township, inspected the ongoing gravel surfacing work on the Gyuntaung (Kanma-Pyay) village-to-village connecting road, which is being implemented with the Regional Government Capital Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year. The inspection was conducted on 19 July, according to reports.

During the field inspection, Acting Chairman U Thet Lwin Oo of the Kanma Township Administration and Management Committee, committee members, and responsible officials inspected the progress of the gravel surfacing work on the Gyuntaung (Kanma-Pyay) village-to-village connect-

ing road. Acting Chairman U Thet Lwin Oo instructed that the project should be carried out in accordance with the prescribed standards and specifications and completed on schedule.

The Gyuntaung (Kanma-Pyay) village-to-village road project involves crushed stone surfacing over a length of three furlongs, a width of 16 feet, and a thickness of six inches. The project is being implemented by the Department of Rural Road Development with a budget allocation of K126 million from the Regional Government Capital Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year. Construction commenced in the third week of June 2026, and the project has now reached 50 per cent completion, according to reports. — Naw Lu



Officials are seen alongside the ongoing road construction in Kanma Township, Magway Region.

Public Talk on "Drug Abuse Prevention and Awareness" held in Bahan

THE Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), in collaboration with relevant departments, held a Public Talk on "Drug Abuse Prevention and Awareness" yesterday morning in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

Bahan Township administrator U Kan Win made an opening remark, and Assistant Director of IPRD Daw Aye Aye Khine clarified the intention of the Public Talk.



This image displays attendees to the public talk yesterday.

Yangon Region Constituency 1 MP Daw Yi Yi Tin, Constituency 2 MP Daw Khine Su Yi Zaw, Police Major Thein Lwin, township Law officer

Daw Aye Myat Noe Oo, and IPRD Assistant Director Daw Aye Aye Khine discussed the nature of narcotic drugs, the dangers of drug abuse,

and the legal penalties for drug-related offences. The students attending the event raised questions about what they wanted to know, and the relevant officials replied.

A total of 150 participants, including Regional Hluttaw representatives, township administration and management committee chairpersons and members, departmental officials and students attended the talk. — Thin Thin Soe (IPRD)/KTZH

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday 20 July 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Weather has a few clouds over the South Andaman Sea and is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 21 July 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Magway and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Lower Sagaing Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The Cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Bago, Magway and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States. In the area along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be

aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 July 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 July 2026: Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 July 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:



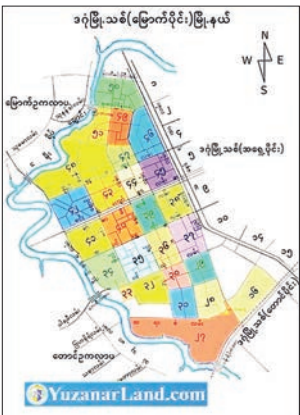
09 454237515, 09 255597511

Landowners yet to receive compensation may reapply, says Union Construction Minister

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant has said that landowners whose farmland was confiscated for the development of urban area in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region, but who have not yet received compensation, may reapply to the relevant committee.

The Union minister made the statement in response to a starred question from U Tint Wai, Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency, during the 25th day of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw on 17 July.

U Tint Wai asked whether there were plans to provide compensation or replacement land for farmland confiscated from four villages for the Dagon Myothit Project. In response, U Myo Thant said that the relevant ministries submit annual budget demands for



A map of Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

compensation and that affected landowners who

have not yet received compensation may apply to the Yangon Region Farmland and Other Lands Confiscation Scrutiny Committee.

The four villages, including Toekyaunggyi and Toekyaungkalay, were incorporated into the Dagon Myothit Project in 1989-1990. Since the project began, replacement land has been allocated in Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (South) townships.

— TWA/MKKS

Monghsat's MSY project activities inspected



Officials oversee the progress of household income-generating activities in Monghsat Township, eastern Shan State.

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

Monghsat District Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Aung Myo Htet, Township DRD Head U Sai Soe Htay and project staff visited the village to inspect the progress of systematic agricultural, livestock breeding and trading activities. They also met members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee to examine whether the monthly

financial records had been properly completed and urged committee members to expand household income-generating activities while ensuring systematic management of the revolving fund to prevent any loss or misuse.

At present, a total of K28.1 million in revolving funds from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project has been disbursed at concessional interest rates to 21 project members in Winekaung Village, including K7.6 million to six members engaged in agriculture, K9 million to seven livestock breeders and K11.5 million to eight traders, all of whom are successfully operating their household livelihood businesses with support from the project funds. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

ATOM awards 3 more lucky-draw winners of K100M

ATOM, Myanmar's provider of 4.5G services, has officially announced the three winners for the second quarter of its year-long 'Kan Htu Yin Kan Myu' Lucky Winners campaign.

The award ceremony was held on 16 July at the ATOM Head Office at Sule Square. With this latest draw, ATOM has awarded a total of six winners during the first half of the year. The campaign, which runs from 15 January to 31 December, will award a total prize pool of K1,200 million.

From the lucky draw entries collected between April and June, the three

grand prize winners are Ko Khaing Khant Kyaw, a ninth-grade student from Madaya, U Maung Htay, a betel nut trader from Toungoo, and Ma Win Sanda, a sales staff member from Kawhmu. In addition to these winners, hundreds of other users were awarded mobile top-up card prizes.

"We are committed to creating great opportunities that truly change and improve people's lives, and we promise to enhance the quality of life for the people of Myanmar," said ATOM CEO Mr Ahmad Abdallah. He added, "This campaign



ATOM presenting awards to the three second-quarter lucky-draw winners.

is not just a reward programme; it was created to bring hope, create positive change, and unlock new opportunities for our customers and their families."

Starting from mid-July, ATOM introduced a system

where users can receive lucky draw tickets immediately upon using daily digital services, and this campaign will continue to run until 31 December. — MT/ZN

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 20 July 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,647.00~3,669.00	555.30~558.50	125.30	43.60
Trading amount in the market	22,220,728.49	5,968,654.53		
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE volume of the foreign currency traded in the market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, wheat, animal feed, car/motorcycle spare parts, and construction materials. Of the CMP sector revenue, US\$6.24 million was sold to the edible oil sector; US\$0.01 million to the CMP sector; and US\$7 million to the LNG sector. — MNA

Advertise
with us / Hotline

09 454237515
09 255597511

Produce competent nursing and midwifery professionals

NURSES and midwives are healthcare professionals who provide the closest and most compassionate care to patients. Their dedicated efforts, compassionate healthcare services, and warm, caring smiles provide strength and encouragement to patients and their families who are experiencing suffering and serve as the best support for their recovery and relief from illness.

The humanity, loving care, and compassion demonstrated by nurses and midwives cannot be replaced by any other material things or equipment. Therefore, nurses and midwives themselves should never forget that their professional service

The State has carried out comprehensive efforts to upgrade the healthcare sector based on the principle that “nothing is more important than human life,” and will continue to further enhance the sector in the future. Therefore, nurses and midwives are required to faithfully perform their duties and responsibilities in accordance with their dignity, professional ethics, and code of conduct.

midwifery training schools, 15 schools have recently been upgraded to Institutes of Nursing.

The institutes of nursing in Nay Pyi Taw, regions, and states have now become important healthcare education centres not only for the development of the nation’s healthcare system but also for the further development of the country’s healthcare human resources by producing qualified and compassionate nurses and midwifery professionals.

Whenever the country has faced pandemics, natural disasters, and other emergencies, nurses and midwives have served as frontline responders, selflessly and courageously carrying out their duties to protect and safeguard the lives and health of the people without placing their own safety and hardships above their responsibilities. Therefore, institutes of nursing and training schools need to provide a strong foundation and systematic training to nurture future nurses and midwives to become truly knowledgeable, competent, and outstanding nursing and midwifery professionals.

The State has carried out comprehensive efforts to upgrade the healthcare sector based on the principle that “nothing is more important than human life,” and will continue to further enhance the sector in the future. Therefore, nurses and midwives are required to faithfully perform their duties and responsibilities in accordance with their dignity, professional ethics, and code of conduct.

is “The Art of Nursing,” and they should take pride in, respect, and value their noble profession.

The State is implementing policies to promote the health and well-being of the entire nation and to improve the healthcare sector. In doing so, emphasis is being placed on providing healthcare services that directly benefit the people and ensuring Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that is accessible to everyone, regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas and irrespective of their economic status.

To improve the health and well-being of the entire nation and enhance the healthcare sector, it is necessary to sufficiently increase, train, and develop healthcare human resources to ensure that all people have access to healthcare services. Therefore, among the nursing and

THE bilateral relationship between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation has entered a new stage of development, expanding from traditional diplomatic engagement into comprehensive strategic economic cooperation. Guided by the principles of mutual respect, sovereignty and shared development, the two countries continue to strengthen collaboration across the fields of energy, investment, trade, infrastructure and advanced technology.

Following his election as President by the Presidential Electoral College at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, President U Min Aung Hlaing has emphasized the importance of broadening Myanmar’s international economic partnerships. In this context, cooperation with the Russian Federation, together with closer engagement with the Eurasian region, is expected to contribute to Myanmar’s industrial modernization, energy security and sustainable economic development.

Energy cooperation remains

Myanmar-Russia Economic Cooperation Enters a New Stage of Strategic Development

By Dr Kyaw Linn Htun – Public Administration

one of the principal pillars of Myanmar-Russia economic relations. Recognizing the importance of reliable energy supplies for national development, the two countries have accelerated the implementation of several major cooperative initiatives. In April 2026, Myanmar’s Ministry of Electricity and Energy signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Russia’s Investment Development Fund, RC Investments, during an official visit to Moscow led by Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin. The agreement establishes a framework for the long-term supply of crude oil, refined petroleum products, liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and fertilizers to Myanmar. The cooperation is expected to help ensure stable domestic supplies while support-

ing national energy security and agricultural production.

Beyond commodity trade, bilateral cooperation has expanded to include strategic infrastructure development. Technical and economic consultations with Russian organizations, including Inter RAO, have focused on projects designed to strengthen Myanmar’s electricity sector and industrial capacity. Among the priority initiatives is the development of the Dawei Deep Seaport and Special Economic Zone (SEZ), where discussions have covered the construction of a power plant, an oil refinery and LNG terminal facilities. The two sides have also explored opportunities to upgrade existing gas turbine facilities in Myanmar, strengthen technical maintenance programmes and expand professional training for

Myanmar engineers.

Cooperation in science and technology has also continued to advance. Through collaboration with Russia’s State Atomic Energy Corporation, Rosatom, Myanmar has been promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology. The Nuclear Technology Information Centre in Yangon serves as a platform for scientific cooperation, public awareness and human resource development. Discussions have also included the potential application of small modular reactor (SMR) technology and complementary renewable energy systems to support Myanmar’s future energy requirements.

Investment cooperation is another important area of bilateral

engagement. Myanmar and Russia are advancing negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which aims to provide a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of investments and the promotion of long-term commercial cooperation. At the same time, Myanmar has expanded its engagement with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the executive body of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), whose member states are Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

During the Myanmar-EEC Joint Working Group meeting held on 2 June 2026, officials from both sides discussed measures to promote investment, industrial cooperation, manufacturing and

digital trade. Enhanced institutional cooperation with the EAEU is expected to create greater opportunities for Myanmar’s agricultural, fisheries and garment exports while encouraging increased investment from Eurasian partners into Myanmar’s industrial sector.

Trade facilitation has also become an important focus of bilateral cooperation. Relevant ministries are studying the establishment of dedicated Myanmar-Russia Trading Houses to further promote commercial exchanges between the two countries. In parallel, financial authorities have continued discussions on expanding the use of direct kyat-rouble settlements and strengthening cooperation

between national payment systems to facilitate bilateral trade and reduce transaction costs for businesses.

The continued expansion of Myanmar-Russia economic cooperation reflects the shared commitment of both countries to promoting mutually beneficial development. By combining Russia’s strengths in energy, technology and industrial expertise with Myanmar’s strategic geographical location and economic potential, the two nations are laying a stronger foundation for long-term cooperation. As bilateral relations continue to deepen, this growing partnership is expected to contribute to Myanmar’s industrial development, energy security and broader economic progress while further strengthening the enduring friendship between the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

References

Myanmar International Television. (3 April 2026). Presidential election: U Min Aung Hlaing elected as President. Myanmar International Television. (28 April 2026). Energy sector: Myanmar and Russia sign energy cooperation agreement at Moscow meetings. Mizzima News. (9 June 2026). Myanmar seeks deeper economic ties with the Russia-led Eurasian bloc. Russia’s Pivot to Asia. (18 April 2026). Russia and Myanmar sign energy cooperation agreement: Analysis. The Irrawaddy Business Report. (25 June 2026). Moscow agrees to build a power plant for Myanmar’s stalled Dawei SEZ. Yangon Media Group. (7 May 2026). Myanmar President says his government was elected by the people’s representatives.

Building Effective Paragraphs and Organizing Ideas for Successful Writing

By Maung Maung Aye

EFFECTIVE writing begins with effective paragraph writing. Whether writing an essay, an article, a report, or a story, a writer must present ideas clearly, logically, and engagingly. A well-written paragraph is more than a collection of sentences; it is a carefully organized unit in which every sentence focuses on only one main idea.

The foundation of every effective paragraph consists of five essential elements: the hook, the topic sentence, supporting sentences, the concluding sentence, and appropriate word choice. These elements work together to make writing interesting, coherent, and meaningful.

A writing **hook** draws readers into the paragraph and encourages them to continue reading. Since first impressions are important, an effective hook makes the opening memorable and creates curiosity. Depending on their purpose, writers can use four main types of hooks: (1) a thought-provoking question that encourages readers to reflect on the topic, (2)a famous quotation that introduces a meaningful idea,

(3) A brief historical background that provides useful context, and (4) presenting a surprising fact or statistic that attracts interest immediately. Selecting the most suitable hook depends on both the topic and the intended audience.

After engaging the reader, the writer introduces the **topic sentence**, which presents the main idea of the paragraph. This sentence functions as a key by informing readers what the paragraph will discuss. It also helps the writer remain focused on one main idea throughout the paragraph. A clear topic sentence prevents unnecessary digressions and makes sure that every supporting sentence contributes directly to the main point. Without a strong topic sentence, a paragraph can easily become confusing or disorganized.

The **supporting sentences** develop the topic sentence by providing explanations, examples, facts, reasons, evidence, or descriptions. They add depth, clarity, and credibility to the paragraph. They help readers understand the writer’s message more completely. Every supporting sentence

should relate directly to the topic sentence so that the paragraph maintains unity and coherence. Well-developed supporting details transform a simple statement into an informative, convincing, and engaging discussion.

The **concluding sentence** provides a satisfying sense of ending. It summarizes or restates the main idea in different words and reinforces the main message. A concluding sentence reminds readers of the paragraph’s key point while preparing them for the next paragraph. Without an effective conclusion, a paragraph may appear incomplete or end too abruptly.

Apart from the essential paragraph structure, effective writing also depends greatly on **careful word choice**. Good writers understand that communication is influenced not only by what they say but also by how they express their ideas. Three common types of words frequently used in writing are **neutral words**, **emotive words**, and **descriptive words**.

Neutral words present information objectively without expressing strong personal feel-

ings. They are commonly used in academic essays, research papers, reports, textbooks, and news articles because they emphasize accuracy, fairness, and clarity. Neutral language allows readers to focus on facts rather than emotions, thereby making the writing more reliable and professional.

Emotive words express feelings and appeal to readers’ emotions. Words such as *inspiring*, *heartbreaking*, *remarkable*, and *courageous* create emotional responses and make writing more memorable. These words are especially useful in speeches, opinion essays, narratives, advertisements, and persuasive writing. However, emotive language should be used carefully in academic writing, where objectivity and balanced discussion are generally more appropriate.

Descriptive words can create vivid mental images by appealing to the senses. By means of words such as *golden*, *peaceful*, *magnificent*, *fragrant*, and *towering*, etc., readers can see people, places, objects, and events in their minds’ eyes. Descriptive language is valuable in travel articles, descriptive

essays, narratives, biographies, and cultural writing. It can bring scenes to life and enrich the reading experience.

Skilled writers know how to balance these three types of language. Topic sentences are usually written with neutral words to introduce the main idea clearly and objectively. Supporting sentences often include descriptive words to make explanations more vivid and interesting. When writers wish to persuade or inspire readers, they may carefully incorporate emotive words without overwhelming the writing. Finally, concluding sentences generally return to neutral language to summarize the discussion, although a carefully chosen emotive word can sometimes leave a lasting impression.

Idea organization implies arranging thoughts, supporting details, and evidence so that readers can easily understand the writer’s message. It creates a natural flow from one sentence to another and from one paragraph to the next, resulting in coherent, unified and

meaningful writing.

In paragraph writing, idea organization begins with the topic sentence, continues through logically arranged supporting sentences, and ends with a concluding sentence. Each sentence should connect smoothly with the next so that readers never lose track of the writer’s purpose. Every detail should support the same central idea to ensure unity throughout the paragraph.

Writers can organize ideas in several different ways depending on their purpose. **Chronological order** presents events according to time and is especially useful for narratives, biographies, and historical writing. **Spatial order** describes people, places, or objects according to physical location, making it suitable for descriptive essays. **Order of importance** arranges ideas from the least important to the most important, or vice versa, and is often used in persuasive writing.

Cause-and-effect organization explains reasons and results,

while **comparison-and-contrast organization** examines similarities and differences between two or more subjects. Selecting the appropriate organizational pattern helps writers communicate their ideas more effectively.

A good idea organization offers many benefits. It improves clarity by presenting information in a logical sequence, making the writer’s message easier to understand. It strengthens coherence by creating smooth connections between sentences and paragraphs. It maintains unity by making certain that every idea supports the central purpose. Logical organization also increases persuasiveness because readers are more likely to accept arguments supported by clear reasoning and well-arranged evidence. Moreover, organized writing is more enjoyable to read because it flows naturally and maintains readers’ interest from beginning to end.

In contrast, poor organization can weaken even well-researched writing. Randomly arranged ideas, unnecessary repetition, irrelevant details, unrelated sentences and abrupt shifts between topics

confuse readers and reduce the effectiveness of the message. When ideas lack logical connections, readers may lose interest before reaching the conclusion.

Luckily, writers can improve idea organization through careful planning. Before writing, they should brainstorm ideas, select the most relevant points, and prepare an outline. During drafting, they should arrange ideas logically so that each paragraph will be able to develop only one main idea, and use transition words such as *first*, *next*, *however*, *therefore*, and *finally* to create smooth connections. Revising the draft further improves coherence by doing away with unnecessary information and strengthening the overall structure.

In conclusion, these elements, as mentioned above, are combined with careful idea organization and smooth transitions, and writers produce paragraphs and essays that are coherent, persuasive, engaging, and professionally organized. By means of mastering these fundamental principles, their ideas can be communicated with confidence by writers and leave readers with a clear, meaningful, and lasting impression.

NATIONAL

PDFs explode Tower No 338 of 132-kV main transmission line in Pakokku

AS the electricity sector plays a vital role in a country's economic development, improving living standards, and ensuring socio-economic stability, the government has been prioritizing the development of the power sector. However, the PDF terrorists, together with some ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), have been carrying out attacks on electricity infrastructure and other development projects through various means.

At 7:30 pm on 19 July, the PDF terrorists detonated explosives at Tower No 338 of the 132-kV main transmission line near Paunglaung Lake Village in Pakokku Township, damaging the tower and causing power outages on transmission lines supplying electricity to Pa-

kokku, Yezagyo, Myaing and Kanma towns.

The destruction of the transmission tower also affected the stability of the 132-kV power grid in Magway Region, resulting in voltage drops and occasional power interruptions in other towns and villages across the region.

Security force members, together with officials and staff from the Township Electrical Engineer's Office, arrived at the damaged Tower No 338 to carry out emergency repair work. While electricity workers have been striving to restore power as quickly as possible, terrorists have allegedly obstructed repair operations and planted landmines along access routes, resulting in the deaths, injuries and per-



A power tower brought down by a blast perpetrated by terrorists.

manent disabilities of some personnel, thereby causing the loss of valuable human resources.

PDF terrorists exploited the country's political developments under the pretext of protecting regional interests and public security while carrying out activities against the government. They also threatened and extorted peaceful ci-

vilians, collected illegal taxes and committed arbitrary arrests and killings.

Residents strongly condemn the destruction of electricity transmission infrastructure, which is essential for socio-economic development, and that security forces, in co-operation with the public, are intensifying security measures to arrest them.

— MNA/KTZH

Kengtung's MSY project activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of systematic agricultural activities financed through the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Pangwine (Lower) Village, Kengtung Township.

Shan State (East) Department of Rural Development Head U Myo Min Thant, and officials inspected the ongoing agricultural activities in Pangwine (Lower) Village. They met members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee to examine whether the monthly financial reporting forms had been properly completed and urged committee members to expand household income-generating activities while ensuring systematic management of the revolving fund to prevent any loss or misuse.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was implemented in the village during the 2015-2016 financial year. At present, a total of K4.8 million in revolving funds has been disbursed at low interest rates to 52 project members engaged in systematic agricultural activities, all of whom are successfully operating their household livelihood businesses with support from the project funds.

— Sein Lwin (Rural)

Thayet rural road repaved with laterite

THE Department of Rural Road Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Thayet Township, conducted a field inspection yesterday of the laterite surfacing work on the Oatshitgon-Thabyesann from the Kyitaing-Nyaungzit Road. The project is being implemented with the Regional Government Capital Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year, according to reports.

During the field inspection, the Project Inspection and Quality Control Team from the head office of the Department of Rural Road Development and officials inspected the existing earthen conditions where the laterite surfacing work on the road connecting Oatshit-



Officials are seen at a road construction project in Thayet Township.

gon-Thabyesann from the Kyitaing-Nyaungzit Road will be carried out.

The project will involve widening the existing earth embankment and constructing laterite surfacing on a one-mile section of the road connecting Oatshitgon-Thabyesann from the Kyitaing-Nyaungzit Road, with a road width of 18 feet and a laterite layer thickness of eight inches. The project will be implemented by the Department of Rural Road Development with an allocation of K144 million from the Regional Government Capital Fund for the 2026-2027 financial year, the report stated. — Set Lu (Rural)

Rural concrete road construction completed in Taunggyi

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of a village concrete road in Samchaung (Ah) Village, Taunggyi Township.

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win and officials inspected the completed concrete road. They met members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee and residents, urging them to collectively maintain the road for its long-term durability and to keep the project's monthly financial records systematically and accurately.

The Mya Sein Yaung



Officials and locals are seen alongside the completed concrete road in Taunggyi Township.

Village Project was implemented in Samchaung (Ah) Village during the 2016-2017 financial year, with current revolving funds of K34.8 million provided to 204 project members. Using K5 million allocated from the project's interest earnings alongside community contribu-

tions, a village concrete road measuring 1,000 feet long, 12 feet wide and seven inches thick was constructed. The completed road now improves year-round rural transport for 212 households with a population of 686 in the village. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Migration, investment growth drive rise in Nay Pyi Taw real estate transactions

AS a result of a growing number of migrants and investors, prices of real estate in Nay Pyi Taw have risen, according to local real estate service agencies.

Transactions have happened in all five townships of Nay Pyi Taw; in particular, Pobbathiri and Dekkhinathiri townships are the most popular among buyers, according to estate agents.

“Transactions are happening for vacant land plots as well as properties with buildings. Rather than apartment rooms, most of the transactions have been seen in land and separate houses. The growth in the domestic migrant population and in investors is a major factor in this development. Of

the five townships, Pobbathiri and Dekkhinathiri are the most favourite among buyers. Of buyers, some are buying for living, and people are buying for investment purposes, and among investors, many are from Mandalay,” said an estate agent.

At current market prices, high-end estates are valued at up to K1 billion. However, most transactions involve 40-by-60-foot residential properties priced below K500 million.

As transaction volumes have increased, property prices have risen by nearly 30 per cent compared with last year. Meanwhile, the rental market has remained stable, as most buyers prefer to live in their own homes.

— MT/ZS



A 60-by-80-foot plot of land with a house worth K1.03 billion located in Pobbathiri Township.

MSCA: Global sugar demand slowdown to weigh on exports



Sugar sacks are neatly organized in a factory.

MYANMAR Sugar and Cane Related Association stated that declining global prices and weak international demand might severely pressure Myanmar’s sugar exports.

Consequently, bearish sentiments can result in a decline in domestic sugar prices.

Myanmar’s annual sugar production is estimated at only 400,000 tonnes

according to data as of May of the 2025-2026 Sugarcane Crushing Season. The output showed over a 10 per cent drop compared to that of the previous Sugarcane Crushing Season.

Domestic sugar consumption is annually around 300,000 tonnes. Therefore, 100,000 tonnes are left for export beyond self-sufficiency. Myanmar exported over 90,000 tonnes of sugar in 2025. The association forecasts the possibility of low exports this year, tracking global market conditions.

“Myanmar’s sugar industry might face challenges amidst the market downside to sugar prices. Therefore, the global price drop might influence the domestic sugar market,” a trader shared his observations.

International sugar prices are down by US\$50 per tonne from \$450 to \$400 this year compared with last year,

Sugar producers and traders are heavily relying on domestic consumption and observing the transition as sugar export markets head higher. — TWA/KK

MFVP announces new pesticide residue rules for green gram, chilli powder exports to Japan

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) notified members to comply with pesticide residue monitoring regulations for exporting Myanmar’s green gram and chilli powder to Japan.

MFVP declared member companies so that they could be aware of and prepare for new regulations regarding pesticide residue monitoring for Myanmar’s green gram and chilli powder exports to Japan, following a report sent by the Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce.

Continued monitoring on chilli powder and dried chilli exports will be carried out. Imports of foods containing Myanmar-origin chilli pods and dried red chilli, including chilli powder, will be monitored by Japan.

Regarding Aflatoxin testing, the total Aflatoxin content (total of B1, B2, G1, and G2) will continue to be tested in accordance with the methods specified under Japan’s Food Safety Order 0816-2, to ensure consumer safety.

Under Japan’s Notification 0331, Appendix II, there are certain restrictions on imports of foods containing Myanmar-origin chilli pods and dried red chilli.

For detailed information, stakeholders can visit the official website of Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_73856.html.

Thus, MFVP has urged member traders to pay special attention to ensuring that their products comply with Japan’s established standards and regulations. — NN/KK

CAD calls for EOI for collaboration on laboratories

THE Department of Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce has invited Expressions of Interest (EOI) for collaboration on the laboratories at the Commodity Testing and Quality Management Centre,

The Commodity Testing and Quality Management Centre under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, is located near the Yangon-Bago Highway, Kyunkalay Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. The laboratories at the facility are currently conducting quality testing on agricultural products for export and edible oil produced locally or imported from abroad, issuing test reports on the results. The department is now planning to operate these laboratories through a Joint Operation system with domestic entrepreneurs to obtain ISO/IEC 17025 international accreditation, support the testing of exports and imports, and ensure commercial viability.

Interested companies can download the EOI form via www.doca.gov.mm. Submissions must be made by 31 August 2026 to the Department of Consumer

Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Office 52 in Nay Pyi Taw, by post or by email to itqmconsumer@gmail.com.

Companies need to submit the following supporting documents together with the EOI: a letter of interest clearly stating the intention to participate, along with a work plan and budget plan; a valid company registration certificate;

proof that the proposing company is a domestic company; if there is a foreign technology partner, details of that company must also be submitted jointly; relevant work experience of the investing company (if there is prior experience collaborating with a government department or organization in Myanmar; a recommendation from that department/organization; if there is international experience, supporting documents must be provided); financial status documents of the investing company (audited reports from a certified auditing firm for the previous three years); and contact person details, including name, position, national verification card number, address, phone number, and email address.

Individuals can enquire about EOI details through the department at 067 3430459 or 067 3430510. — NN/KK

ECONOMY

WORLD

Number of swimming beaches in Japan down 30% over 30 years



This photo taken on 18 July 2026 shows the Hakotsukuri swimming beach in Osaka Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

THE number of approved swimming beaches open during the summer in Japan has fallen by around 30 per cent over the past three decades, a study by a travel association shows, as municipalities are increasingly choosing not to operate them due to fewer visitors amid the scorching heat and shoreline retreat.

According to the Japan Travel and Tourism Association, the number of such beaches totalled 1,379 in 1993 and remained steady in the 1,300s until the early 2000s before declining. The

number fell below 1,000 for the first time in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and stood at 969 in 2024.

Japan has been experiencing scorching summers in recent years, prompting people to refrain from going to the beach to avoid sunburn and heatstroke.

Under Japanese legislation, local governments and beach management associations formed by beach-hut operators must apply each year to prefectural governments for approval to open swimming

beaches.

The association's figures are based on data it collected from prefectures and municipalities. As it did not analyze the causes for the decline, Kyodo News conducted interviews to ascertain why fewer beaches are being opened.

Among reasons cited by local authorities are a shortage of lifeguards, and poor profitability for operators amid a decrease in beachgoers due to the avoidance of sunburn and the diversification of indoor leisure activities. — Kyodo

Vietnam's GDP forecast to grow 9.5% in 2026: Standard Chartered

VIETNAM'S gross domestic product (GDP) is forecast to grow 9.5 per cent in 2026 and 11 per cent in 2027, the Vietnam News Agency reported, citing a report released Monday by Standard Chartered Bank.

The bank also lowered its inflation forecast to 4.4 per cent this year and 3.3 per cent next year, while expecting the policy interest rate to remain unchanged

to support economic growth and keep inflation under control, the report said.

Tim Leelahaphan, senior economist for Thailand and Vietnam at Standard Chartered, said Vietnam's economy demonstrated strong resilience in the first half of 2026, with growth driven by manufacturing, services and investment and supported by pro-growth policies. — Xinhua

Cambodia-RCEP trade exceeds US\$24 bln in H1 2026

CAMBODIA'S trade volume with Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member states surged 24 per cent year-on-year to US\$24.4 billion in the first half of 2026, according to a Ministry of Commerce report released Monday.

During the January-June period, the kingdom's exports to RCEP members grew 11.8 per cent to \$5.63 billion. Meanwhile, imports climbed 28 per cent to hit \$18.8 billion, the report said.

The mega-free trade pact remains Cambodia's dominant market, accounting for 63.9 per cent of its \$38.2-billion total global trade volume in the first six months of the year, it added.



An aerial drone photo taken on 11 September 2024 shows a container terminal at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS) in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China, Vietnam, Singapore, Japan, and Thailand emerged as Cambodia's top five trading partners within the bloc, according to the report.

Penn Sovicheat, a secretary of state and spokesperson for Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce, said that the

world's largest free trade agreement continues to drive Cambodia's economic expansion.

"The RCEP serves as a primary catalyst for Cambodia's long-term export expansion and a powerful incentive for foreign direct investment," he told Xinhua. — Xinhua

UAE non-oil foreign trade hits record in H1 2026 despite regional tensions

THE non-oil foreign trade of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reached a record 1.937 trillion dirhams (about US\$527.4 billion) in the first half of 2026, up 13.1 per cent from a year earlier, while non-oil exports also hit an all-time high of 452.8 billion dirhams, a 23.9 per cent increase, the official news agency WAM reported.

Compared to the same periods in 2024, 2023, and 2022, non-oil foreign trade grew 39.6 per cent, 54.5 per cent, and 78.8 per cent, respectively, reflecting sustained growth, official data released Sunday and cited by WAM showed.

Non-oil exports were the main driver of the trade growth, with their share of total non-oil foreign trade rising to 23.4 per cent from 21.3 per cent a year earlier, according to the report.

Statistics showed that China remained the UAE's largest non-oil trading partner in the first half of the year, followed by Switzerland. — Xinhua

Thailand holds inaugural trade event for content creative industries

THAILAND opened its first international content trade event here on Monday, aiming to generate at least two billion baht (about US\$59.45 million) in economic value and push the country's creative industries into global markets. Thailand Content Market 2026, organized by the Department of International Trade Promotion alongside the Creative Economy Agency and private-sector partners, will run through Wednesday, connecting Thai content producers with global investors, buyers, and streaming platforms.

Banjongjitt Angsusingh, adviser to the commerce minister,

underscored that Thailand's creative economy is worth about 1.44 trillion baht (about \$42.80 billion), or more than eight per cent of its gross domestic product, generating over \$12 billion in exports annually and employing nearly 1 million people.

In her opening remarks, Banjongjitt said the figures reflect Thailand's potential to leverage its "creative capital".

Sunanta Kangvalkulkij, director-general of the Department of International Trade Promotion, noted that the trade fair gives Thai entrepreneurs a stage to showcase their work to worldwide customers

with systems in place to facilitate direct transactions. According to the department, Thailand Content Market is a fully integrated content marketplace covering the entire industry value chain, spanning film, television and series, games, animation, characters, books and e-learning, and art toys, among others. In a statement, organizers said more than 2,000 business-matching appointments are expected during the three-day gathering, along with pitching sessions, seminars, workshops, and a public marketplace area where visitors can experience Thai content up close. — Xinhua

Malaysia's exports jump 27.5% on E&E demand in H1

MALAYSIA'S exports rose 27.5 per cent year-on-year to 971.59 billion ringgit (about US\$237.58 billion) in the first half of 2026, driven by robust demand for electrical and electronic (E&E) products, the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) said on Monday.

The strong performance reflected Malaysia's resilience in manufactured exports, particularly E&E products, whose export value increased by nearly 140 billion ringgit during the period. The growth was supported by sustained global demand, technological advancements and the continued adoption of digital technologies across key markets, it said in a statement.

Other manufactured products that recorded strong growth included petroleum products, optical and scientific equipment, as well as metal manufactures.

Mining exports also contributed to the expansion, led by higher shipments of metalliferous ores, metal scrap and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

By market, export growth was underpinned by strong demand from major trading partners, including ASEAN, China, the United States and the European Union, all of which posted significant increases. Exports to free trade agreement (FTA) partners also expanded, supported by higher shipments to Hong Kong, South Korea, Mexico, India, Australia, the United Kingdom, Japan, Pakistan, Canada and New Zealand. — Xinhua



An angler fishes as a cargo ship is docked at Malaysia's North Klang port in Port Klang, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur on 6 April 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Boeing gets order for 100 737 MAX jets from leasing company SMBC



The logo for the Farnborough International Airshow 2026 is pictured in front of a Boeing 777-200 (L) for shipping giant DHL and GE Aerospace Boeing 747 (back R), on the opening day in Farnborough, south-west of London, on 20 July 2026. PHOTO: AFP

US aircraft maker Boeing said Monday that it has received an order for 100 of its 737 MAX jets from leasing company SMBC Aviation Capital.

In the first major order to be announced at the Farnborough Air Show that opened in the UK on Monday,

The head of Boeing's Commercial Airplanes division, Stephanie Pope, said that the order "reflects the strong demand we are seeing for the 737 MAX family's efficiency, reliability and versatility".

Following production quality issues, lawsuits, and an overhaul of its gov-

ernance, the US company plans to stage a major comeback at Farnborough, just outside London.

The green light from the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in October 2025 to lift the cap on production of the single-aisle 737 MAX, its best-selling aircraft, is seen as an important milestone.

It is also awaiting the certification — after several years of delays — of its three new aircraft.

SMBC's order, the value of which has not been disclosed, covers 60 737-10 aircraft and 40 737-8 aircraft.

"Our partnership with Boeing goes back more than two decades, and this order reflects market momentum, as our airline and investor customers look to increase capacity with the 737-10," said SMBC chief executive Peter Barrett.

"This order will support their growth ambitions well into the next decade and reflects our strong confidence in the Boeing 737 MAX and sustained demand for fuel-efficient, technologically advanced narrowbody aircraft," he said.

The company, based in Dublin, Ireland, and described as the world's leading aviation finance platform, manages a fleet of 1,700 aircraft for more than 170 airlines worldwide.

Boeing also announced Monday that Saudi carrier Riyadh Air is exercising options for 28 787 Dreamliners from an order placed in 2023, and will convert 20 options to the largest variant of this aircraft. — AFP

Oil price gains ease after Iran points to mediation

OIL prices hit one-month highs Monday before scaling back as Iran said diplomatic exchanges with the United States were ongoing via mediators to dial back renewed conflict in the Middle East.

That helped give a positive tone to sentiment on Wall Street, while European equity markets largely stabilized.

However, Asian stock markets ended the day mostly lower under the weight of higher oil prices which briefly shot above \$91 per barrel, alongside lingering concerns that the AI sector may be overbought.

"The Iran war has escalated and driven oil prices back above \$90 a barrel," noted Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

"That means inflation fears are back on the table."

Crude futures surged over the past week as Washington and Tehran traded fire, raising fears of a sustained disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, through which around one fifth of the world's oil normally passes. The benchmark international crude contract, Brent North Sea, rose above \$91 a barrel Monday, its highest price since 11 June. — AFP

Honda, GAC extend China joint venture until 2038

HONDA Motor and China's Guangzhou Automobile Group Co, Ltd (GAC Group) on Monday agreed to extend their joint venture partnership until 2038, as the Japanese carmaker seeks to strengthen its position in the world's largest auto market. The ownership structure of the China joint venture, GAC Honda, will remain unchanged under the agreement, while the venture will accelerate its shift towards new energy vehicles and work to rebuild its competitiveness, according to the company.

The extension comes as foreign automakers face intensifying competition in China, where domestic manufacturers have advanced rapidly in electrification and intelligent technologies. Honda and GAC Group said they would fully leverage their respective technologies and resources to offer products tailored to the diverse needs of customers. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (105W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BAL XIAMEN VOY.NO. (105W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ANEMOS VOY.NO. (03/2026)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ANEMOS VOY. NO. (03/2026)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **21-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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 WILSELSEN PORT SERVICES (S) PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Andy Burnham officially becomes British prime minister

BRITISH Labour Party leader Andy Burnham officially became Britain's prime minister on Monday after King Charles III invited him to form a government.

He succeeded Keir Starmer, who earlier tendered his resignation to the king.

Burnham later delivered his first speech as prime minister outside 10 Downing Street. Noting that he was the seventh British prime minister since 2016, he acknowledged that politicians had "not been good enough" and pledged to do better, while promising "a new political model and a new economic model".

"We will take power



King Charles Britain's King Charles III poses with Britain's incoming Prime Minister Andy Burnham, during an audience at Buckingham Palace, London, where he invited the leader of the Labour Party to become Prime Minister and form a new government, on 20 July 2026. **PHOTO: AARON CHOWN / POOL / AFP**

out of here and carry it into every postcode in the land," he said, pledging to reindustrialize Britain and bring essential services under stronger public control.

Burnham previously served as culture secretary, health secretary and mayor of Greater Manchester. After unsuccessful bids for the Labour leadership in 2010

and 2015, he returned to the House of Commons by winning the Macclesfield by-election on 19 June and was elected Labour leader on 17 July.

Labour suffered heavy losses in local elections in May, prompting growing calls within the party for Starmer to step down. On 22 June, Starmer announced that he would resign as Labour leader and step down as prime minister once a successor had been chosen. British media said Burnham faces major challenges, including weak economic growth, strained public services, a high cost of living and an increasingly fragmented political landscape. — Xinhua

Russia open to dialogue with European countries, never curtailed relations – Kremlin

RUSSIA is open to dialogue with European countries and has never initiated the curtailment of relations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

"Russia continues to be open to dialogue. We have never initiated the curtailment of relations [with European countries]," Peskov told reporters.

Russia hears a lot of discussions among politicians in Europe on resuming dialogue with it, but they are not projected onto real politics, the spokesman added.

Also there were no practical steps taken by Berlin to establish ties with

Moscow, the Peskov said.

Russia will only welcome a possible meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Earlier in the day, Rubio said he was ready to meet with Lavrov, as well as Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit.

Russia has had no contact with US representatives in recent days, the official said, adding that technical contacts are being conducted through diplomatic agencies. — SPUTNIK



A general view shows the Saint Basil's Cathedral and Kremlin's Spasskaya Tower on a sunny autumn day, in Moscow, Russia. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

China's space crew assesses emergency choices, emotions in long-stay study

CHINA'S Shenzhou-23 space station crew has completed emergency decision-making assessments and tests on emotional states, as part of a broader effort to study how long-duration spaceflights affect

behaviour, the country's manned space agency said Monday.

The trio, including one female member from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, have been aboard the Tiangong

space station for nearly two months. One of them will stay in orbit for one year to conduct China's first space human research programme and collect data on the longer-term flight of astronauts.

In a recent weekly video released by the China Manned Space Agency on Sunday, the crew members were seen wearing sensors and VR headsets for brainwave monitoring. — Xinhua

NEWS IN-BRIEF

Rainy season over in Tokyo, mercury hits 35 C as "extremely hot" day logged

THE rainy season has likely ended in regions including Tokyo and Nagoya, the weather agency said Monday, with the Japanese capital marking the first "extremely hot" day of the year as the mercury hit 35 C.

Most of Japan was placed on heatstroke alert on the final day of a three-day weekend. Temperatures had reached 35 C or higher at more than 250 of the country's 914 observation points as of 6 pm Monday, the highest number this year, the weather agency said.

The mercury hit 39.4 C in Koshu, Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, while 36.1 C was logged in central Tokyo, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The rainy season came to an end about 22 days later than last year in the Kanto-Koshin region, including Tokyo, and 23 days later in the Tokai region centring on Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture.

The announcement came after the rainy season was declared over in the Kyushu region in southwestern Japan on 13 July.

High temperatures are expected to continue Tuesday, according to the agency. — Kyodo

Greece faces first summer heatwave, emergency services on high alert

GREECE is bracing for its first heatwave of the summer, with temperatures expected to soar to as high as 42 degrees Celsius, according to the latest forecast from Greek national broadcaster ERT on Monday.

Exceptionally high temperatures are forecast to persist across much of the country through Wednesday, with highs expected to locally reach 42 degrees Celsius in Thessaly, eastern Central Greece and the Peloponnese, ERT reported.

The Hellenic Red Cross has urged the public to take precautions against the extreme heat, including avoiding prolonged exposure to the sun, staying well hydrated, and paying special attention to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, young children and outdoor workers.

The Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection convened its Risk Assessment Committee on Sunday, warning that temperatures would exceed 40 degrees Celsius in many mainland areas through Wednesday. The ministry said emergency services would remain on heightened alert throughout the heatwave and urged the public to avoid activities that could trigger wildfires. — Xinhua

Death toll from floods, landslides in N Vietnam rises to 5

THE death toll from torrential rains, flash floods and landslides that battered northern Vietnam over the past week has risen to five, with three people still missing and 10 others injured, the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority said on Monday.

All the casualties were reported in Lai Chau province, according to the authority. The severe weather, which affected the region from last Wednesday to Sunday, caused widespread damage.

A total of 427 houses were destroyed or damaged, while about 140 households were urgently evacuated from high-risk areas. Total economic losses were estimated at 362.46 billion Vietnamese dong (about US\$14.3 million). — Xinhua

SPORTS

Scaloni proud despite
Messi era ending in defeat

ARGENTINA manager Lionel Scaloni admitted that Spain deserved to win the World Cup, saying his team had been outplayed in Sunday's final.

The defending champion had scored late goals to win each of its four previous knockout games but was unable to muster another dramatic escape at New York New Jersey Stadium.

"I feel sad," Scaloni said after the match. "One could say many things about how we got here, but it's not worth it. I just want to give my endless thanks to these players who once again took us to the final.

"They [Spain] were better; that's true, but I will have tremendous memo-

ries of what my players achieved. We are great in victory and must be so in defeat as well. Tonight, we show that we know how to lose. We lost, and we accept it.

"If they give everything the way they did today, it sets a great example for the people and for our country. You have to pick yourself up again. When you leave everything like that, it's very hard to find fault with anything."

Spain controlled possession and barely allowed Argentina into its attacking third. But despite its dominance, the reigning European champion didn't take the lead until substitute Ferran Torres scored in 106th minutes. — Xinhua



Lionel Scaloni, Head Coach of Argentina, speaks with his players during a hydration break in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Final match between Spain and Argentina at New York New Jersey Stadium on 19 July 2026 in East Rutherford, New Jersey. PHOTO: FLORENCIA TAN JUN/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Morocco to expand
hotel capacity ahead of
2030 FIFA World Cup

MOROCCO is expanding its hotel capacity ahead of the 2030 FIFA World Cup, with plans to add 60,000 hotel beds for the tournament it will co-host with Spain and Portugal.

According to Minister of Tourism, Handicrafts and Social and Solidarity Economy Fatim-Zahra Ammor, Morocco has added around 45,000 hotel beds over the past four years as international vis-

itor numbers and air connectivity have continued to grow.

The country welcomed a record 19.8 million tourists in 2025, up 14 per cent year on year, and aims to attract 26 million visitors annually by 2030. Tourism contributes about seven per cent of Morocco's gross domestic product and is a major source of employment and foreign exchange earnings. — Xinhua

Spain's World Cup heroes return
home ahead of victory parade



Captain Rodri (C) lifts the World Cup trophy after Spain beat Argentina in the final at New York/New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on 19 July 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

SPAIN'S newly crowned World Cup champions on Monday arrived back in Madrid, where a million fans are expected to greet them after a night of raucous celebrations across the country.

Spain captain Rodri held the World Cup trophy aloft at the top of the stairs as he descended from the Iberia plane that flew the team home from the United States after clinching their second

star.

Spain's 1-0 victory over Argentina in New Jersey on Sunday, secured by a Ferran Torres strike in extra-time, has sparked an outpouring of national pride in the football-mad country, whose only other World Cup triumph came in 2010.

Many younger supporters were not yet born when Andres Iniesta's extra-time goal against the Netherlands secured

Spain's first World Cup in South Africa 16 years ago.

On Monday morning, the Castellana, Madrid's main avenue, bore the marks of a boozy evening — the tarmac strewn with trash, beer cans and shards of glass.

Among the last remaining supporters, some slept with grins on their faces on the pavement or on benches, while others were still staggering home as cleaning crews

worked from the early hours to prepare the route for tonight's party.

"I didn't sleep much, because... (of) the celebration and then the tension of the match — I think it was a little more difficult for all of us to fall asleep," Madrid mayor Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida told RNE radio.

After landing the players will be received by King Felipe VI at Zarzuela Palace, on the outskirts of Madrid, according to the mayor.

The team will then be met by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez at the government headquarters, La Moncloa.

Spain's World Cup winners will enjoy an open-top bus parade, starting at Moncloa and heading to Cibeles square, the central government's representative in Madrid, Francisco Martin, told Spanish public television.

A ceremony involving the players will then be held at the square, the traditional gathering point for celebrations by the Spanish national team and its supporters. — AFP

Japan's Masuda beats countryman Higa for
WBA bantamweight title

RISING star Riku Masuda defeated veteran compatriot Daigo Higa by split decision to capture the vacant WBA bantamweight "regular" world championship in Tokyo on Monday.

Coming in as the strong favourite, the 28-year-old Masuda was put to the test by 30-year-old former world champion Higa, who returned to the ring after announcing his retirement last July.

The all-Japanese showdown was the main event in a boxing world title tripleheader at Ryogoku

Kokugikan arena. Japan's Kenshiro Teraji earlier beat Mexico's Israel Gonzalez by unanimous decision to secure the vacant WBO super flyweight belt and become a three-weight world champion.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to hold a title again after a year," said the 34-year-old Teraji, who lost the WBC flyweight belt last July. "I went back to basics, focusing on my jab and keeping my opponent from finding his range."

In the night's first title match, Japan's Shokichi



Japanese boxer Daigo Higa (L) fights countryman Riku Masuda for the WBA bantamweight world title in Tokyo on 20 July 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

Iwata successfully defended his WBC light flyweight crown with an 11th-round

technical knockout against Erik Badillo of Mexico. — Kyodo



Iranian president says his country in “full-scale war” with US

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that his country is engaged in a “full-scale war” with the United States, stressing the importance of maintaining economic stability during wartime.

“Today’s war is not a war of merely missiles. The enemy has come to the conclusion that it cannot force the Iranian nation to surrender with military strikes,” Pezeshkian said at a meeting of the High Council of the Judiciary in Tehran, according to a statement published on the website of his office.

He said that the “enemy” has waged a “hybrid war” against Iran, describing the economy and the people’s livelihood as the most important areas of confrontation with the “enemy”, and highlighting the necessity to maintain economic stability and protect social assets as two pri-

orities of “the system of governance during wartime”.

Pezeshkian added that his government “fully protected” Iran’s national rights and interests in negotiations with the United States, including in the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on 18 June.

The United States has launched multiple strikes on Iran’s southern provinces over the past week, saying they were aimed at “degrading Iran’s ability to threaten commercial shipping”.

Iran has responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting US military bases and facilities in regional countries, including Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan.

The escalation comes as the two sides, under their MoU, were scheduled to hold negotiations within a 60-day period to reach a final agreement. — Xinhua

Pandemic treaty talks roll on into Sept



This general view shows delegates at the opening of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva on 18 May 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

COUNTRIES failed to find a breakthrough after a seventh round of talks aimed at finalizing the missing piece of a pandemic treaty, the World Health Organization said on Monday.

Wealthy countries and developing nations are at loggerheads over how the agreement, adopted last year as a framework to

handle future Covid-like pandemics, will work in practice.

Though the treaty was agreed in May 2025, how its key mechanism would operate was left out to get the deal over the line.

The agreement’s Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system covers how to

share access to pathogens with pandemic potential, then sharing benefits derived from them such as vaccines, tests and treatments.

It was meant to be finalized by May 2026, but progress has been agonizingly slow, and another two weeks of talks at the WHO headquarters in Geneva

wrapped up on Friday having produced only some incremental progress.

The eighth round of talks will be held from 14 to 18 September.

WHO member states “advanced negotiations” on the PABS annex, “while agreeing that continued discussions are needed to finalize a framework that supports a faster, more effective and equitable response to future pandemics”, the UN health agency said in a statement.

The talks streamlined the draft text and focused on technical aspects like the contracts underpinning the framework, the laboratory networks responsible for handling and sharing pathogens and their sequences, and the definition of benefits arising from pathogen sharing, the WHO said. — AFP

Brunei’s legislative council to convene 2nd meeting on 3 Aug

THE Legislative Council of Brunei will convene its second meeting of the year beginning 3 August, according to official media Pelita

Brunei on Monday.

The meeting will focus on queries, ministerial statements and motions covering a range of issues

of national interest, it said.

The session will examine matters related to policy, governance and national development in line with

the country’s current priorities, with the aim of supporting Brunei’s continued progress and the well-being of its people. — Xinhua

Chinese premier holds talks with Thai PM

CHINESE Premier Li Qiang held talks with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Anutin Charnvirakul in Beijing on Monday.

Noting China and Thailand are close neighbours with a long history of friendly exchanges, Li said that under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, the building of China-Thailand community with a shared future is constantly deepening and solidifying, opening up broader prospects

for bilateral cooperation.

Li said China is willing to further carry forward traditional friendship with Thailand, consolidate political mutual trust, strengthen mutual support, promote mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields to a higher level, and continuously enhance the well-being of the two peoples.

China stands ready to strengthen the synergy of development strategies with Thailand, pursue

high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, maintain sound growth momentum of bilateral trade, expand cooperation in emerging fields, and work together to promote common prosperity, Li added. He expressed the hope that Thailand will provide a sound business environment for Chinese enterprises, adding that the two sides should further strengthen cooperation in law enforcement and security.

Anutin, who is on his



Chinese Premier Li Qiang holds talks with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Anutin Charnvirakul, who is on an official visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, 20 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

first official visit to China, said that the two heads of states’ meeting last year has injected new impetus into bilateral relations, add-

ing that Thailand is willing to maintain close high-level exchanges with China, make good use of dialogue mechanisms, promote co-

operation in a variety of fields, and strive for more practical achievements in bilateral partnership. — Xinhua