

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Fostering a Sense of Ownership to Empower Cooperative Economies

We must not only strengthen the cooperative system through active rural initiatives but also utilize this system to drive and prioritize overall rural development.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing sent a message to the ceremony for the International Day of Cooperatives, which falls on 4 July 2026, and the World Rural Development Day, which falls on 6 July 2026. The full text of the translated message is as follows: - **SEE PAGE 5**



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing and Lao President Mr Thongloun Sisoulith acknowledge the Guard of Honour during the State welcoming ceremony.

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing receives Guard of Honour at Presidential Palace in Vientiane during State Visit to Laos

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is on a State Visit to Laos, was welcomed by President Mr Thongloun Sisoulith of the

Lao People's Democratic Republic with a Guard of Honour at the Presidential Palace in Vientiane yesterday morning.

Subsequently, the two Presidents held bilateral talks, accompanied by

members of their respective delegations. During the meeting, President Mr Thongloun Sisoulith warmly welcomed the Myanmar delegation led by President U Min Aung Hlaing. He said the visit

would further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two countries, elevate bilateral relations, and serve as an important milestone in both diplomatic relations and eco-

conomic cooperation, while expressing confidence that the friendship and cooperation between the two nations would continue to grow during his presidency.

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YR govt invites open tenders for solar water pumping projects

THE Yangon Region government called an open tender for six solar-powered water pumping projects to be implemented in six lots funded by the regional government's capital expenditure for the current 2026-2027 financial year.

The six projects are Kinponchon solar water pumping system installation (600 kW) and Sitpin solar water pumping system installation (90 kW) in Hlegu Township, Aingkalaung solar water pumping system installation (500 kW) and Taungyetzeegon solar water pumping system installation (70 kW) in Taikkyi Township, Auksu (Myitkyoe) solar water

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Literary group set to mark 27th anniversary



NATIONAL PAGE 11

Myanmar Women's Day 2026 celebrated

Govt to Strengthen Legal Protections for 6M+ Overseas Myanmar Workers

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi stated that relevant ministries must collaborate and establish policies to ensure effective legal protection for the over six million Myanmar citizens working abroad.

He made these remarks during a meeting

with the Committee on Domestic and Overseas Workers held on 2 July.

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A view of a Certificate of Identity (CI) issuance centre in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



NATIONAL

Myanmar President Begins State Visit to Laos to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

MYANMAR President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla departed Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning for a State Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the invitation of Lao President Mr Thongloun Sisoulith.

The President and the high-level Myanmar delegation were seen off at Tatmadaw Airport by Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, and officials from the Lao Embassy and Military Attaché's Office to Myanmar.

Accompanying the President and Spouse are Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung



The Myanmar President and his spouse walk the red carpet flanked by the Guard of Honour on their arrival in Laos.

Swe and U Khin Maung Soe, Shan State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe, senior military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers and other government officials.

During the visit, President U Min Aung Hlaing is scheduled to hold talks with the President of Laos, meet the President of the Lao National Assembly, the Lao Prime Minister and provincial governors, and discuss ways to further strengthen friendship and cooperation between

the two countries. He is also expected to visit Laos' cultural heritage sites, historic landmarks and other places of interest.

The Myanmar high-level delegation arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane at 9:15 am local time, where they were welcomed by Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Attendance Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane and his wife, senior Lao government officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Aung Ko and his

wife, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Yazar Tun and his wife, and other officials.

In keeping with the tradition for welcoming visiting heads of state, an honour guard lined the red carpet while two Lao children presented bouquets to the President and his wife. As the delegation departed the airport, Lao scouts waved the national flags of both countries to welcome the visiting Myanmar delegation. — MNA/ST

13th-century mural paintings discovered at Mahabodhi Pagoda

NEW evidence of 13th-century mural paintings has been discovered at the Mahabodhi Pagoda, No 1670, an ancient building in Bagan, during the preservation project by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

ASI has carried out structural repair and cleaning of floral architectural designs at the pagoda and examined 13 sample spots of the wall located on the upper floor.

They found wall paintings in three spots- one was clearly seen on the eastern wall, the next was seen faintly on the southern wall, and another faded one was seen on the northern wall.

Following their report, the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) director led the field investigation and confirmed it.

Among 3,837 pagodas in Bagan, 416 were recorded as having mural painting previously, and now the Mahabodhi was being recorded as having 13th-century mural painting.

Currently, the Mahabodhi pagoda is being planned to submit to the World Heritage list as a transitional serial nomination, and respective departments have now managed to continue working on the discovery of mural paintings at the pagoda. — TWA/ZS



New evidence of mural painting at the Mahabodhi pagoda.

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Nationwide top arts-science combinant honoured with K100M prize

THE KBZ Foundation said it supported K100 million to Ma Ni Ni Kyaw, who achieved first place nationally in the Arts and Science combination stream in the 2026 matriculation exam, to continue her education and realize her future goal.

Ma Ni Ni Kyaw outstandingly passed the exam with her steadfast effort amid challenges, and her efforts and strong determination are admirable for next-generation students, it said.

The KBZ Foundation believes that education is a significant force to change lives, wishing Ma Ni Ni Kyaw, who gave a lot of effort to learning amid challenges, to obtain further achievement along her continued learning journey and to be a person who can support the country and society.

Ma Ni Ni Kyaw from Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, achieved first place with five distinctions and a score of 530.

She lives with her



The KBZ Foundation donates K100 million to Ma Ni Ni Kyaw.

mother and sister and studied at a basic education high school. Her sister supported her learning by working as a factory worker in the industrial zone. — MT/ZS

Literary group set to mark 27th anniversary

THE healthcare group of the Layangon Literary Community will hold its 27th anniversary ceremony and a merit-making event dedicated to deceased member writers in September 2026.

Founded in 1999, the group was established by veteran writers, including Hsinbyukyun Aung Thein, Nanda Moe Kyel and Maung Khit Htun, to provide healthcare support for members of Myanmar's literary community.

Reorganized in 2022, the group continues to



This photo captures the Layangon Literary Group. PHOTO: MI LU THWAY

support its members by collecting a monthly contribution of K1,000 from each member and providing financial assistance of K50,000 to members who are admitted to the hospital for medical treatment upon submission of sup-

porting medical records.

In addition to its welfare activities, the group published Saragon Volumes I and II in 2023. Organizers said donations towards the anniversary and merit-making event are welcome. — TWA/KZL

NATIONAL

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing receives Guard of Honour at Presidential Palace in...

FROM PAGE 1

Afterwards, President U Min Aung Hlaing said he was pleased to make his first State visit to Laos among ASEAN member states since assuming office and expressed his appreciation to President Mr Thongloun Sisoulith for the invitation to undertake the goodwill visit. He added that he also highly appreciated the recent visit to Myanmar by Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane. He said the purpose of his visit was to further strengthen the long-standing friendship between the two countries and elevate their strategic, multifaceted cooperation, and noting the deep-rooted historical ties, and that with both countries having formed new governments following their respective elections, the present period offered an important opportunity to open a new chapter of cooperation between the two governments.

The Myanmar President also discussed political developments and transitions in Myanmar, including the successful

holding of a free and fair multiparty democratic general election, the ongoing implementation of the NCA pathway for internal peace, and the invitation extended to all ethnic armed organizations to participate in peace dialogues and for self-proclaimed PDF terrorist groups to return to the legal fold, as well as Myanmar's commitment to prioritizing cordial relations not only with neighbouring countries but also with other nations in its foreign policy.

Continuing the discussion, the Lao President commended the government led by President U Min Aung Hlaing for making steady progress in advancing Myanmar's political reforms. He said he had consistently worked to strengthen bilateral relations between Myanmar and Laos, noting their historical similarities, simultaneous accession to ASEAN, and close and friendly ties, and reaffirming Laos's continued support as Myanmar's trusted partner, while expressing his desire to further enhance relations as a positive example within ASEAN and globally, and



A signing ceremony takes place in the presence of the two Presidents.

describing the State Visit to Laos, following earlier visits to China and India, as diplomatically significant in both South-East Asia and the wider region.

The Lao President said he believed the Myanmar Government led by President U Min Aung Hlaing would achieve normal engagement with ASEAN in the near future, noting that member states are expected to maintain friendly relations under the ASEAN Charter, and expressed confidence in Myanmar's ability

to do so, while reaffirming Laos's continued support and close friendship, expressing a desire to deepen bilateral ties to a strategic partnership, and pledging support for Myanmar's national development and strengthened cooperation.

The two Presidents, together with members of their respective delegations, then held bilateral talks and exchanged views on various areas of cooperation, including the long-standing friendship, mutual understanding and

trust between successive leaders of both countries; the establishment of the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Association and Laos-Myanmar Friendship Association to promote bilateral cooperation; the enhancement of inter-parliamentary relations and bilateral trade; the promotion of trade, cargo transport and people-to-people exchanges through the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge; cooperation in defence, tourism, manufacturing, education, health, electric-

ity and energy sectors; the improvement of livelihoods in border areas and maintenance of border stability; efforts to crack down on online gambling, including the destruction of seized assets and demolition of illegal structures; and the further elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

Following the meeting, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) exchange ceremony between the two countries was held. The MoUs on tourism cooperation between Myanmar's Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture and Laos' Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and on the establishment of sister-city relations between Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar, and Vientiane, the capital of Laos, were exchanged by officials of the two countries in the presence of the presidents of both countries.

Later, Union Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi presented 640 vials of Myanmar-manufactured snake antivenom, donated by Myanmar, to Laos. The donation was received by a Lao Government official. — MNA/TH

Myanmar SEZ Central Body reviews progress and investment plans

THE Central Body for Myanmar Special Economic Zones, chaired by Vice-President U Nyo Saw, held a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw to review progress on the Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and discuss measures to accelerate implementation and attract further investment.

At the meeting, the Vice-President highlighted the role of SEZs in creating jobs, boosting manufactur-



Vice-President U Nyo Saw chairs the coordination meeting of the Central Body for Myanmar Special Economic Zone yesterday.

ing and exports, attracting foreign investment, and increasing foreign exchange earnings. He also stressed

the need to strengthen linkages between domestic micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

(MSMEs) and businesses operating in the Thilawa SEZ.

Officials from the management committees of the three SEZs presented updates on project progress, land compensation, expansion plans and ongoing business operations. Relevant officials also reviewed legal, regulatory and contractual matters to support the effective implementation and timely completion of the projects. — MNA/KZL

Pyithu Hluttaw welcomes student delegation from Naypyitaw State Academy



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi welcomes more than 400 teachers and youth,

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met more than 400 teachers and students from Naypyitaw State Academy, who visited the 18th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw.

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NATIONAL

Myanmar, Lao PDR to initiate strategic partnership countries

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, on his State Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, held talks with President of the National Assembly of Laos Dr Xaysomphone Phomvihane at the Lao National Assembly Office yesterday afternoon.

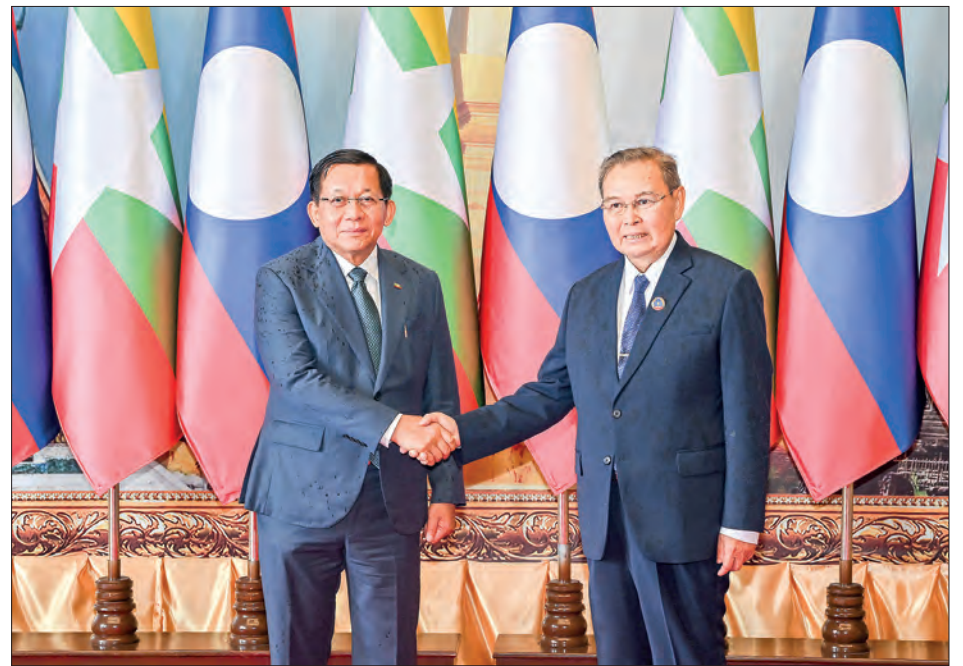
At the talks, they frankly discussed the first State Visit of President U Min Aung Hlaing to Laos among ASEAN member states, Myanmar's efforts to hold the free and fair multi-

party democratic general election successfully, and State responsibilities being served by the Hluttaw and the government elected by the people, enhancement of the women's role in the sectors of development, peace and stability for the State.

They also exchanged views that a general election has been held in Myanmar and a new government is carrying out the responsibilities of the State. Similarly, a general election was recently held in Lao PDR, and a new government is also performing its national duties. There-

fore, there are prospects for further strengthening cooperation between the two governments and the two legislatures.

Their discussions focused on the bilateral cooperation between Hluttaws to contribute much to the development of both countries, strenuous efforts of the Myanmar government for national development, improvement of international relations, mutual support and encouragement between the two countries as Myanmar and Laos joined ASEAN at the same time, and the



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing and President of the National Assembly of Laos Dr Xaysomphone Phomvihane exchange handshakes during their meeting.

plan to cement bilateral cooperation between the two Hluttaws and improve Myanmar and Laos as the strategic partnership countries.

As the President left the Lao National Assembly

Office, the President of the Lao National Assembly saw him off cordially.

The meeting was also attended by Union ministers, the Shan State chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of

the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers the Myanmar Ambassador to Laos, and officials. The President of the Lao National Assembly was accompanied by officials of the Lao National Assembly. — MNA/TTA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets observers from Chin State

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe met the observer team led by the Speaker of the Chin State Hluttaw at the meeting room of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker emphasized the division of legislative, executive, and judicial sections at the Pyidaungsu



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe receives the observer team led by the Chin State Hluttaw Speaker.

level as much as possible, the division of the three sections of power and the positive coordination of each in the mutual con-

trol, and the situation of the parliamentary system at the regional/state level, but the legislative and executive sections based on

this system.

Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Jeng Phang Naw Taung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office were also present on the occasion.

The observer team will learn the parliamentary processes of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, as well as visit the Yangon Region Hluttaw and Mandalay Region Hluttaw. — MNA/MKKS

Pyithu Hluttaw welcomes...

FROM PAGE 3

Welcoming the delegation, U Khin Yi said that visits to Hluttaw help young people gain a better understanding of democratic institutions and the legislative process. He explained that Hluttaw is responsible for enacting, amending and repealing laws, electing key state leaders, coordinating with the executive and judiciary, and representing public interests.

He also said the Pyithu Hluttaw was working to enact an anti-online fraud law to support efforts to combat online scams linked to narcotics, gambling and human trafficking. He further briefed participants on Hluttaw affairs and matters relating to the population census.

U Khin Yi encouraged students to use Hluttaw as a platform for learning and proposed organizing youth forums and discussions to promote knowledge, skills and civic awareness.

The delegation exchanged commemorative gifts with the Speaker and took part in a question-and-answer session on Hluttaw procedures and education. Afterwards, Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn greeted the teachers and students.

Earlier that day, U Khin Yi also met a study delegation from the Myanmar Mobile Industry Association, which visited Hluttaw to observe the legislative session. — MNA/KZL

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

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NATIONAL

Myanmar, Lao PDR to further boost friendly ties, bilateral cooperation

Leaders of Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic decided to cooperate in efforts for drug eradication and combatting online scams and gambling activities.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, currently in the Lao People's Democratic Republic on his State Visit, held a meeting with Prime Minister of the Lao PDR Mr Sonexay Siphandone at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the long-lasting diplomatic relations between the two countries, forging diplomatic, military and ASEAN member state re-

lations between both countries, their activities as the CLMV group, the Greater Mekong Sub-Region group and the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) group in the ASEAN, and the close cooperation of Myanmar in the measures benefiting the region.

Their discussions featured the good neighbourliness of Myanmar and Laos, the plan to hold the Myanmar-Lao Joint Commission meeting to further strengthen friendly



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Lao Prime Minister Mr Sonexay Siphandone yesterday in Vientiane.

relations and cooperation between the two countries, the development of border trade and the implementation of the cross-border commodity transport via the Myanmar-Lao friendship bridge, plans to cooperate in labour affairs and enhancement of the tourism sector, establishment of the sister city relations between Nay Pyi Taw of

Myanmar and Vientiane of Laos, promotion of cooperation in multiple sectors including education, health, culture and defence sectors, and implementation of the hydropower projects along the Mekong River to develop the electricity sector between the two countries.

Furthermore, the two leaders emphasized discus-

sions on the situations to cooperate in reduction of Myanmar-Thailand-Laos transboundary haze pollution, peace, stability and security in border regions, cooperation in efforts for drug eradication and combatting online scams and gambling activities, Myanmar's efforts on the path of multiparty democracy, endeavours of Myanmar

government to restore internal peace and carry out development, and efforts of the Lao government for development of the nation.

They also frankly exchanged views on prospects for further strengthening bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and the Lao PDR, as they are friendly and trusted neighbouring countries.

After the meeting, the President left the Prime Minister's Office of the Lao PDR and was cordially seen off by the Lao Prime Minister.

Also present at the meeting were Union ministers, the Shan State chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, the Myanmar ambassador to Laos, and officials. The Lao Prime Minister was accompanied by ministers of the government of Lao PDR, deputy ministers and officials. — MNA/TTA

Fostering a Sense of Ownership to Empower..

FROM PAGE 1
Esteemed national brethren,

On the occasion of International Day of Cooperatives, observed today, 4 July 2026, and World Rural Development Day, which will be observed on 6 July 2026, I extend my warm greetings and heartfelt best wishes to all officials serving in the cooperative and rural development sectors, members of the cooperative family, and our national brethren living in rural communities. May you all enjoy good health, happiness, and prosperity, and may all your noble aspirations and wishes be fulfilled.

As part of recognizing the collective economic strength of grassroots communities in countries around the world, including Myanmar, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) was established as early as 1895. Since 1923, the International Day of Cooperatives has been officially observed, and commemorative events have been held annually. The cooperative movement is founded on the fundamental principles of self-reliance, democratic governance in accordance with the collective will of its members, equality, and solidarity, embodying these meaningful and enduring values.

Today, the International Cooperative Alliance has been formed with 106 member countries, representing more than one billion members. Cooperatives provide employment to more than 820 million people, accounting

for 10 per cent of the global workforce. The fact that the number of people employed in cooperative societies is about 20 per cent higher than the total workforce employed by the world's largest multinational corporations combined clearly highlights the immense strength and significance of the cooperative system.

The primary beneficiaries of this vast and powerful cooperative movement are the rural areas where large segments of the population reside. For decades, countries around the world have made sustained efforts to improve the living standards of rural communities, promote their economic development, and narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas. In recognition of these efforts and to encourage continued commitment with renewed vigour, the United Nations General Assembly designated 6 July each year as World Rural Development Day. This designation reflects the strong recognition by world leaders of the vital importance of rural areas to sustainable global development.

The theme for this year's International Day of Cooperatives is "Cooperatives for a peaceful world!" This theme underscores that the cooperative system not only promotes economic cooperation but also strengthens social cohesion and possesses great potential to help build peaceful societies. Similarly, the theme for this year's World Rural Development Day is "Towards

Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities." These two themes are closely interconnected. Taken together, they convey that greater prosperity can be achieved only through a cooperative economic system in which the people actively participate, and that only with prosperity can people enjoy happier and more fulfilling daily lives. These themes are also consistent with the national objectives set by the government of promoting national prosperity and food security. Therefore, I would like to urge all stakeholders to intensify efforts to ensure the success of the cooperative system and to accelerate the comprehensive development of rural areas.

As a democratically elected government chosen by the people, the Union Government is responsible for fully and effectively implementing the will and genuine needs of the public. In order to successfully build a democratic system, political stability is required, as well as strong and resilient economic foundations. Since "national development depends on rural development," the government has been prioritizing and implementing strategic measures to improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities. Only through such efforts can the development gap between urban and rural areas be narrowed, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability and stability of a modern and developed nation.

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NATIONAL

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pay tribute at Laos' Monument of the Unknown Soldier

A HIGH-LEVEL Myanmar delegation led by President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, who are on a State Visit to Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, laid a wreath and paid tribute at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier yesterday morning.

The Myanmar delegation led by the President and his spouse arrived at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier and were welcomed by senior officers of Laos. Flanked by two officers carrying the wreath, the President and his spouse, senior officers from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and members of the Myanmar delegation marched to the place of the wreath-laying ceremony.

The President then laid a wreath at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier, accompanied by the music of the Lao People's Army.

The President and his spouse cordially greeted senior officers of Lao People's Army. — MNA/MKKS



President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla lay a wreath at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier to pay their respects.

Fostering a Sense of Ownership to Empower..

FROM PAGE 5

Esteemed national brethren,

With the cooperative system as a foundation, it is necessary to firmly establish policies and implement them effectively to promote the development of systematic agriculture, livestock breeding, and value-added production activities; to strengthen group-based organizations; to develop rural infrastructure; and to ensure the long-term sustainability of rural economic enterprises. Accordingly, efforts should be made to promote the rural development sector as well as the agriculture, livestock, and production sectors through the effective implementation of these policies.

Both developed and developing countries also apply the cooperative system, and it can be seen that cooperatives are successfully growing and contributing to the socioeconomic development of the people. In Myanmar, cooperative activities were also initiated as early as 1904, and the Central Cooperative Society of Myanmar became a member of the International Cooperative Alliance in 1993. Cooperative enterprises have demonstrated the ability to withstand and overcome difficult periods such as financial crises and natural disasters, and have shown greater resilience and stability than conventional enterprises, enabling them to continue operating successfully.

Furthermore, cooperative organizations are actively engaged in a range of roles, including the preservation and protection of the environment and mitigation of climate change impacts; creating employment opportunities for the public; supporting food safety and sufficiency; providing financial capital assistance to local organizations; and fostering moral and ethical values. In undertaking such active participation, the most important component is a "systematic agriculture and livestock sector based on the cooperative system".

To carry out agricultural and livestock production

activities, the necessary land, raw materials, capital, inputs, technology, and human resources may face various difficulties and constraints if undertaken individually. However, if these activities are systematically carried out through a cooperative group system, operations can become easier and faster, wastage and losses can be reduced, and agricultural and livestock products can be further processed into high-quality value-added products more effectively.

Through the cooperative system, rural communities can achieve greater economic prosperity, enabling the successful implementation of rural development initiatives. It is therefore necessary not only to strengthen the cooperative system based on rural development activities, but also to prioritize rural development through the effective use of the cooperative system.

In formulating and implementing rural development programmes, it is essential to prioritize the development of villages that are green, clean, modern, and equipped with effective environmental conservation and public health systems, as well as villages that practice systematic and modern agriculture and livestock farming. Today, rural communities are among those most severely affected by the impacts of climate change. Therefore, it is necessary to place special emphasis on environmental conservation, tree planting and forest rehabilitation, and proper waste management in rural areas. Only through such efforts can villages be transformed into Clean, Green and Smart Villages capable of utilizing advanced technologies. From there, it is encouraged that such development be expanded and connected into a network, advancing toward the establishment of Smart Cities across major urban areas throughout the country.

In order to become modern model villages, it is essential to prioritize the provision of clean drinking water and an adequate supply of water for general use. To prevent

the depletion of groundwater caused by climate change, surface water should be given priority for use, and support should be upgraded towards better service levels through small-scale solar-powered irrigation systems, ensuring improved access to agricultural water resources.

Similarly, it is necessary to place special emphasis on ensuring convenient, smooth, and reliable rural transport and communications. Transport infrastructure is extremely important for rural development. Only when all-weather rural production roads and production bridges, as well as well-connected village roads, are in good condition can people easily access education and healthcare services. In addition, farmers' production activities and economic enterprises will be able to develop more rapidly within a short period of time.

Efforts to expand access to electricity, including rural electrification through renewable energy sources, should be accelerated. Access to electricity not only directly improves the living standards of rural communities but is also essential for the expansion of modern production activities. Therefore, I would like to urge that efforts be made to develop and implement electricity supply systems based on natural and renewable energy sources that are appropriate to local conditions.

Education and health sectors are critically important for rural development. Efforts must be made to promote both the educational attainment of rural populations and the improvement of healthcare services in a balanced manner. For a country to develop, a strong base of educated human resources is essential. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that every child has access to at least KG+9 education and to create opportunities for vocational education and training. Although industrial and agricultural high schools have been established to produce the human resources required for the agriculture

SEE PAGE 7

NATIONAL

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse attend State Dinner in Lao PDR

LAO President Mr Thongloun Sisoulith and Spouse Mrs Naly Sisoulith hosted a gala dinner for a high-level Myanmar delegation led by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, who are currently in the Lao People's Democratic Republic for a State Visit, at the Presidential Palace yesterday.

On arrival at the Pres-

idential Palace, President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla were warmly welcomed by the Lao President and his wife. During the dinner, the national anthems of the two countries were played, and the two Presidents extended greetings. President U Min Aung Hlaing and his spouse had dinner together with the Lao President and his spouse and other attending dignitaries. During the



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing speaks at the gala dinner hosted by the Lao counterpart.

event, the Lao cultural dance troupe performed with the songs and music of the two countries.

After the dinner, the President and his spouse presented a flower bouquet and cash awards to the Lao dance troupe.

President U Min Aung Hlaing and his spouse left the Presidential Palace and were cordially seen off by the Lao President and Spouse. — MNA/KTZH

Fostering a Sense of Ownership to Empower...

FROM PAGE 6

and livestock sectors, enrollment remains low. Hence, efforts should be made to encourage and promote participation in vocational education and training. In the health sector, as well, as the saying goes, "Nothing is more important than life". In addition to expanding hospitals and clinics, it is also essential to promote a healthy living environment by giving special attention to personal hygiene and environmental sanitation.

As education, health, and other basic sectors develop, it is necessary to emphasize strengthening the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in order to increase local incomes through more robust production activities. Since MSMEs are a key driving force of the national economy, traditional industries should be upgraded, and value-added products based on locally produced agricultural and livestock raw materials should be developed. The State will provide support and assistance in terms of financial capital, technology, inputs, and market linkages for agriculture, livestock, and MSMEs. Relevant departments are also required to ensure the continuous provision of vocational and livelihood support training programs to enhance the capacity of rural communities.

Esteemed national brethren,

Based on rural areas as a foundation for national development, it is essential to ensure the steady progress and success of cooperative-based and collectively implemented rural economic development activities. People-centred rural development initiatives, as well as village development programmes that are managed by the people themselves, should be implemented across the entire country. By involving the public in planning, decision-making, and implementation, such projects can foster a sense of ownership among the people and help ensure that development outcomes are sustained in the long term.

By implementing such a balanced and comprehensive approach across all sectors, it will be possible

to move toward achieving this year's World Rural Development Day theme: "Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities". It is widely recognized that such efforts cannot be achieved by the government alone. Only through the coordinated and harmonious collective strength of the government, the private sector, civil society organizations, and the entire rural population working together in unity can these goals be accomplished.

As our government has already committed to improving the socioeconomic lives of rural populations, it will continue to support and facilitate efforts to strengthen rural production, create a successful and dynamic economic environment, and increase public incomes to promote greater socioeconomic well-being. From this foundation, I would like to reiterate that we will work toward building a peaceful and stable society with improved socioeconomic conditions, ultimately achieving a happy and prosperous community without fail.

In conclusion, in line with the conviction that the strength of the nation lies within, efforts must be made to systematically utilize the country's rich natural resources and human resources in order to advance national development and enable the nation to stand on equal footing with the international community. In doing so, and in accordance with the themes highlighted by this year's International Day of Cooperatives and World Rural Development Day, I hereby send this message, urging all responsible officials and the entire public to work together with strong national spirit and unity toward the success of the cooperative system, the improvement of rural socioeconomic conditions, and the emergence of clean, green, and modern towns and villages from rural areas to urban centres.

*Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri
Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing
President, the Republic of the Union of
Myanmar*

MNPIFER Union Minister receives Vietnam-based Belarusian Ambassador



The Belarusian Ambassador calls on Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe.

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received Mr Uladzimir Baravikou, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw on the morning of 3 July 2026.

The two sides cordially exchanged views on matters related to the continued implementation of the activities included in the Roadmap for Enhancing Cooperation between Myanmar and Belarus (2026-2028), the progress in implementing the decisions made by the Myanmar-Belarus Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, as well as the strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation by collaborating in the areas of trade and investment. Directors-general and senior officials from the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, as well as representatives from the Belarus Embassy, were also present at the meeting. — MNA

YR govt invites open tenders...

FROM PAGE 1

pumping system installation (900 kW) and Kyunngu solar water pumping system installation (70 kW) in Htantabin Township.

Tender forms will be available for purchase starting on 3 July at the Yangon Region government office

at the corner of Pyay Road and Ahlon Road. The deadline for tender submission is 15 July. Interested individuals can make enquiries in person at the department during office hours, according to the Tender Accepting and Evaluation Committee. — NN/KK

OPINION

Forge strengthening cooperative societies

THERE is a Myanmar proverb that says: "What cannot be achieved by one person can be achieved by ten thousand." This saying means that while a task may be difficult and exhausting if done by a single person, it can be completed easily and smoothly when many people work together in unity.

Cooperatives refer to the collective undertaking of various activities that would be difficult for an individual to carry out alone, through an organization formed by members working together. It also means sharing the benefits gained from such activities equally among the members. From its early beginnings to the present day, cooperative enterprises have been widely recognized as a form of activity that consistently relies on the strength of collective effort.

Cooperatives are based on the principles of self-help, self-responsibility, democratic governance, equality, equity, solidarity, and adherence to ethical values such as honesty and openness.

The success of cooperatives around the world, along with the adherence of cooperative associations worldwide to the principles established by the International Co-operative Alliance, has enabled cooperatives to effectively contribute to human welfare and environmental conservation, and their progress continues to advance steadily. Cooperatives demonstrate that the success of collective strength is present in every step of their development.

Cooperatives around the world operate across diverse economic sectors, and during times of crisis, they have faced challenges directly and demonstrated greater-than-usual resilience. Cooperatives engage in business activities, help protect the environment from degradation and climate change, promote decent employment opportunities, support food security, provide financial capital within local organizations, foster value systems aligned with ethical standards, and improve people's physical needs and safety. Through these efforts, they contribute to genuine peace and continue to promote and strengthen such initiatives.

In 1993, the Central Cooperative Society became a member of the International Co-operative Alliance. Since the first Saturday of the first week of July 1995, Myanmar's cooperative community has held International Cooperative Day celebrations yearly. The International Co-operative Alliance sets themes each year for International Cooperative Day and issues calls to cooperatives worldwide. The 2026 theme of the United Nations International Day of Cooperatives, "Cooperatives for a peaceful world," affirms the contribution of cooperative enterprises to social justice, inclusion, and solidarity.

The success of cooperatives around the world, along with the adherence of cooperative associations worldwide to the principles established by the International Co-operative Alliance, has enabled cooperatives to effectively contribute to human welfare and environmental conservation, and their progress continues to advance steadily. Cooperatives demonstrate that the success of collective strength is present in every step of their development.

They also emphasize social responsibility and care for others. This people-centred economic model, which embodies the core values of the cooperative movement, seeks to make the world aware of how such systems operate. The invitation extended to cooperative members around the world to promote and share this understanding is a contribution towards building a better world.

Cooperatives around the world operate across diverse economic sectors, and during times of crisis, they have faced challenges directly and demonstrated greater-than-usual resilience. Cooperatives engage in business activities, help protect the environment from degradation and climate change, promote decent employment opportunities, support food security, provide financial capital within local organizations, foster value systems aligned with ethical standards, and improve

WHEN the topic of cigarettes and many other tobacco products is presented as a subject for serious discussion, the foremost question that arises is why their use has become universally widespread. The consensus is that smoking after initiation ultimately progresses to addiction, by which it is next to impossible to quit and rid oneself of this unhealthy habit. When the reason for the inability of users to easily stop using them is looked for, it is identified that the nicotine contained in the tobacco is the culprit.

Nicotine is an alkaloid compound that occurs naturally in the tobacco plant. It stimulates the central nervous system of the users by promoting the production of dopamine, which in turn creates a feeling of pleasure, a euphoric sensation. Although the feeling of well-being and calm caused by nicotine is merely an artificial sensation, the body, with nicotine entering the bloodstream, experiences muscle relaxation and the disappearance of anxiety and worry, resulting in feelings of satisfaction and well-being. However, nicotine is an addictive chemical substance. The body becomes dependent on and addicted to this substance, and if the nicotine supply is cut off, withdrawal symptoms occur.

Nicotine is the content that really matters in getting users hooked to tobacco products, and it is usually found in large quantities in cigars, cheroots, various types of cigarettes and betel quid.

Smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes where nicotine is still an ingredient (apart from their other ingredients having their own health hazards), heated tobacco products, electronic vapourizers (vapes), and water pipes (hookah, shisha) also cause users to face the same problem of nicotine addiction and trying to quit, which will bring about the adverse effects and painful symptoms of nicotine withdrawal. They are thus not the answer to quitting the habit of smoking as advertised and claimed by the industry to hoodwink people.

Of no less importance is secondhand smoke. For smokers, their having to pay for their indulgence is fair, but for those living and sharing the same supply of air with them, to suffer the adverse effects and impact of diseases similar to those afflicting smokers, is

Smokeless tobacco products – a health risk to youths

not fair at all.

For the tobacco products mentioned above, whether they are burned or heated electronically, to begin using them by simply pressing a button activates a microprocessor to work with the tobacco-containing liquid (e-liquid) and additives to produce varying amounts of vapour/smoke for the user to inhale. As for smokeless tobacco products, although they are used without the production of vapour, there is absorption of nicotine into the system, and as such are still harmful to human health.



Dissolvable Tobacco Products

Since awareness of smokeless tobacco products, apart from the betel quid, is still insufficient among the public, the following information is presented regarding these products, their types, methods of use, health impacts, and potential adverse effects in the hope of improving the situation and helping motivate the initiation of their control.

1) CHEWING TOBACCO

Chewing Tobacco is one type of smokeless tobacco. It is consumed by placing it between the cheek and gum. Unlike cigarettes or other smoked tobacco, it does not require combustion to produce smoke, and there is no inhalation of poisonous smoke/vapour. However, the nicotine and other chemicals harmful to human health present in the tobacco still enter the body either through absorption by the mouth lining

and/or direct ingestion of juice produced by chewing.

Chewing tobacco can be found in various forms.

(a) **Loose Leaf:** dried tobacco leaves are processed with sweeteners and flavours.

(b) **Plug:** dried tobacco leaves are compressed into small squares or brick-shaped pieces.

(c) **Twist:** dried tobacco leaves are twisted into a rope-like shape for use.

This category of Chewing Tobacco also encompasses Snus, although Snus is commonly described as a separate type of

smokeless tobacco product. Chewing tobacco typically contains tobacco leaf, nicotine, sweetening agents, flavouring agents, and other chemical additives. Notably, it contains tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs), which are primarily responsible for causing various oral cancers and other cancers.

Adverse health effects are various oral cancers, gum disease, tooth decay, development of white patches inside the mouth (Leukoplakia), nicotine addiction and increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Although this smokeless tobacco does not produce smoke, it is as harmful as smoking tobacco.

2. BETEL QUID

Betel quid is a prepared substance chewed for its stimulating effects, often rooted in tradition. It is most commonly consumed



by people in Asia and the Pacific region. Typically, the areca nut (betel nut) is sliced, combined with slaked lime (calcium hydroxide), and wrapped in a betel leaf (Piper betel) for chewing. Based on regional variations, additional ingredients like Ninety-Two, Forty-Five (flavoured tobacco products) and pickled tobacco-based liquid may also be used. Betel quid chewing is a commonly observed tradition in Myanmar, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Taiwan Province of China, and Pacific Island nations. Myanmar ranks top among these countries in the world for the highest rates of betel quid use. Offering betel quid to guests is a traditional practice and a symbol of respect and hospitality. By tradition, it remains a customary item offered in religious ceremonies, initiation to monhood, weddings, and other social events.

The chemical arecoline found in the areca nut not only stimulates alertness, increasing energy, readiness, and heart rate, but also significantly increases saliva production. A betel quid thus renders not only the effect of the areca nut but also that of tobacco contained in the preparation. There is also a high probability of developing oral cancer, submucous fibrosis (a precancerous condition in the oral cavity), gum disease, dental caries, and oesophageal cancer.

(3) DISSOLVABLE TOBACCO

Dissolvable tobacco is also a type of smokeless tobacco product, designed to dissolve inside the mouth. Using this dissolvable tobacco, it dissolves in the mouth, releasing nicotine. It does

not require spitting out like betel quid chewing, nor does it produce smoke like cigarettes or other smoked tobacco. These products are often advertised and marketed as alternatives to traditional tobacco products.

Dissolvable tobacco products are manufactured in various forms, such as lozenges, strips and pellets.

Lozenges: compressed pieces of tobacco formed into small tablets, resembling lozenges. They are held in the mouth and allowed to dissolve slowly.

Strips: thin, paper-like sheets that can be placed on the tongue for use.

Pellets: made into the form of small pellets that dissolve slowly in the mouth.

All forms of dissolvable tobacco contain powdered tobacco, nicotine, flavourings, sweeteners, and binding agents such as starches. Like other tobacco products, they contain chemicals harmful to the human body, with tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) being the most dangerous. Although they do not produce smoke, dissolvable tobacco products are harmful to human health. Those can cause nicotine addiction, increased risk of oral health problems, high risk of oral cancer and oesophageal cancer and possible raised heart rates and blood pressures.

Dependence on and nicotine addiction are unavoidable consequences of these products. Furthermore, once addiction is established, an attempt to discontinue will invite withdrawal symptoms. It is a mistake to believe that using these new products is safe and does not pose increased health risks. Special attention must be paid to the marketing strategies, advertising, and the practice of adding flavours and fragrances designed to attract new users, especially adolescents and youth.

Dissolvable tobacco, due to its nicotine content, is a harmful product. Addressing its misuse

By Soe Moe

requires public education and regulatory control.

As is only to be expected, the tobacco industry keeps on introducing novel products to continue making profits, and the latest that they have come up with are tobacco pouches.

(4) SNUS

Snus is typically made from ground tobacco mixed with salt and water and may include flavourings such as mint, moist and soft. To use it, one takes a portion with their fingers (pinch) and places it behind the upper lip. Although Snus is referred to as a less harmful alternative to smoking tobacco, it still poses risks to the human body and has addictive properties inherent to tobacco. This product originated in Sweden



Chewing Tobacco

as early as the 18th Century.

Types of Snus are as follows. (a) **Loose Snus:** This product is made from ground tobacco. This moist, soft substance can be shaped by hand and placed behind the upper lip, in front of the upper gums, for use.

(b) **Portion Snus:** This is ground tobacco pre-packaged in small sachets, similar to coffee grounds or tea leaf powder.

(c) **White Portion Snus:** This is a type of Snus with a dry surface. (d) **All White Nicotine Pouches:** These are small sachets containing nicotine but do not contain tobacco leaves.

As Snus is a smokeless nicotine product containing nicotine, it has a significant effect on the brain and central nervous sys-

tem, leading to strong addiction. Immediate health impacts caused by Snus are suppression of appetite, increased heart rate, elevated blood pressure, dizziness and headache for new users, irritation of the gum, and development of nicotine dependence, occurrence of oral lesions and increased risk of pancreatic cancer, according to research in the long term and also can harm brain development in younger people. Compared to smoking, the risk of lung cancer is significantly lower; as there is no inhalation of tar and smoke.

Cessation of use leads to nicotine withdrawal symptoms. Chemical Substances Found in Snus are nicotine, tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs), heavy metals, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

(4) Nicotine Pouches

Nicotine pouches are also a new product category resulting from the interference of the tobacco industry. These pouches contain nicotine powder or nicotine salts and come in the form of small, white, pillow-shaped sachets. They primarily contain highly addictive nicotine, various flavourings, sweeteners, and plant-based fibres. By placing these small pouches between the gum and the upper lip, nicotine is absorbed through the oral mucosa into the bloodstream, delivering the effects of nicotine.

The nicotine powder used in these pouches is mainly derived from tobacco. Over 90 per cent of these products are manufactured using nicotine extracted from tobacco leaf, while the remaining small percentage is made with synthetic nicotine produced in laboratories. As a highly profitable global tobacco industry, manufacturers constantly seek loopholes in laws, regulations, and bans, regardless of where or how they are enacted, to pursue their interests. In response to growing international concerns over health risks and dangers, regulations have been tightened on the production, use, import, possession, storage, sale, distribution, and advertising of cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, heated tobacco products, and electronic shisha. As a result, nicotine pouches, which are made from non-tobacco-derived nicotine, are now being aggressively advertised, imported, and marketed. Policymakers should pay close



Nicotine Pouches

attention to this development.

Nicotine pouches can lead to addiction comparable to that caused by cigarettes and electronic smoking devices. They can impair brain development in young people, contribute to high blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases, and, since most contain tobacco-specific nitrosamines, are certain to increase the risk of various cancers.

In conclusion, the tobacco and tobacco product industry, driven by enormous profit margins, continuously exploits loopholes and weaknesses in laws, prohibitions, and regulations enacted by countries worldwide, regardless of regional contexts. They persistently strive to expand their markets and increase consumer bases to maximize profits. Therefore, state administrators, legislators, relevant authorities, and responsible citizens must remain vigilant against the tactics of the tobacco industry. With a focus on safeguarding the future and health of the public, especially young people, concerted efforts must be made through all available means to protect against the dangers of smokeless tobacco products. This is a matter of serious urgency.

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ARTICLE

NATIONAL

People urged to empower Myanmar women's role

Women are being appointed and entrusted with responsibilities as community leaders and peace-builders in the decision-making role.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered a video inauguration speech at the ceremony marking Myanmar Women's Day 2026, which falls on 3 July 2026. The full text of the translated speech is as follows: -

Everybody, Mingalaba!

First and foremost, I would like to extend my greetings and wish all the distinguished guests attending today's 2026 Myanmar Women's Day ceremony good health, happiness, and every blessing of peace, prosperity, and good fortune.

The Myanmar National Committee on Women was established on 3 July 1996. Accordingly, today's Myanmar Women's Day also marks the 30th anniversary of the Committee's establishment. On this occasion, I would like to express my great pleasure in recognizing the capabilities, dedication, and contributions of Myanmar women who have been actively serving in important sectors for the country's development. As this is also a day to honour outstanding women, I am delighted to extend my sincere recognition and appreciation to them.

Today's ceremony is not only an opportunity to reflect on the achievements made over the past 30 years in advancing the development of women, but also a reaffirmation of our commitment to further promoting the rights, equality, and empowerment of women and girls. Since ancient times, Myanmar women have stood shoulder to shoulder with men in contributing to the well-being of their families, the development of their communities, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the progress of the nation. From rural villages to urban centres, women's participation in education, healthcare, economic development, and peacebuilding has been a vital force contributing to the country's development.

At the global level, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, identified 12 critical areas of concern for the advancement of women. Till today, it continues to serve as an important guiding framework for the international community in promoting women's development.

Countries, including Myanmar, that are signatories



to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) are implementing measures to eliminate discrimination against women and to ensure equal rights for women. In addition, efforts are currently being made to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) of the United Nations, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Despite these efforts, challenges faced by women around the world continue to persist. According to the "2025 Gender Snapshot Report on Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals" published by UN Women, it is estimated that by 2030, around 351 million women and girls worldwide, representing 8.2 per cent of the global population, may still be living in extreme poverty. In addition, the report finds that one in eight women aged between 15 and 49 has experienced domestic violence. These challenges must be collectively addressed and reduced through coordinated global efforts.

As of 1 January 2025, the participation rate of women representatives in parliaments worldwide has reached 27.2 per cent, representing an increase of 4.9 per cent compared to 2015. According to global data, further efforts are still needed to enhance the meaningful participation and leadership roles of women at all levels of decision-making

processes.

Within the ASEAN region, emphasis is also being placed on the promotion of women's rights, protection and welfare, the advancement of gender equality, and the empowerment of women. In doing so, efforts are being made to enhance experience-sharing among member states, formulate and implement policies and programmes, strengthen capacity building, and expand regional cooperation.

In Myanmar, a key strategic plan for promoting women's development and advancing gender equality — the "National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2023-2032)" — is being implemented in accordance with the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Education, as one of the key components of the strategic plan, not only shapes the future of individuals but also serves as the most fundamental and important sector driving national development. According to the 2024 Population and Housing Census Union Report, Myanmar has a population of over 51 million, with women making up about 53 per cent. However, the literacy rate among people aged 15 and above shows that males account for 93.5 per cent, while females account for 90.9 per cent. In addition, female literacy rates stand at 94.2 per cent in urban areas, compared to only 88.7 per cent in rural areas, indicating that disparities in education between urban and rural regions still exist. In particular, in less developed regions such as Kayah, Shan and Rakhine states, literacy rates are significantly lower than the national average.

These findings indicate the need to place greater emphasis on ensuring women and young women have access to education and opportunities for capacity development in the education sector. Therefore, I would like to call for collective efforts to reduce the educational gaps between urban and rural areas, as well as among regions and states, and to expand access for women to quality education and training opportunities. In particular, efforts should be made to ensure that all school-age girls in rural areas are able to attend school and receive at least KG+9 level education. It is also important to

SEE PAGE 11

Myanmar First Lady visits Traditional Lao Silk Residence, Lao Art Museum

DAW KYU KYU HLA, Spouse of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, currently on a State Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic with the President, visited the Traditional Lao Silk Residence and Lao Art Museum yesterday.

The First Lady, accompanied by the wife of the Myanmar Ambassador to Laos and responsible officials, arrived at the Traditional Lao Silk Residence, where she was warmly welcomed by



Myanmar First Lady Daw Kyu Kyu Hla tours the Traditional Lao Silk Residence.

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Govt to Strengthen Legal ...

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He added that to ensure these workers receive rights and legal protections more effectively, relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Immigration and Population, should meet periodically to discuss and implement collaborative policies.

Furthermore, at a press conference held by the President's Office on 30 June, Spokesperson Dr Khine Khine Soe explained that the government is issuing Certificates of Identity to undocumented Myanmar workers in countries such as Thailand and Malaysia so that they can obtain legal documentation.

According to the 2014 Population and Housing Census, out of Myanmar's population of over 51 million, an estimated six million people are working abroad. The government is currently continuing to work with relevant countries through Memoranda of Understanding to ensure that overseas workers can work legally. — TWA/ZN

NATIONAL

People urged to empower Myanmar women's role

FROM PAGE 10

establish small village libraries to promote reading, learning, and access to knowledge.

Nationwide, the labour force participation rate for people aged 15 and above shows that males account for 63.8 per cent, while females account for only 34.1 per cent. In addition, it is observed that the female labour force participation rate remains lower than that of males not only between urban and rural areas, but also across regions and states, with these gaps continuing to persist. Based on these findings, I would like to urge coordinated efforts across all relevant sectors to enhance women's economic empowerment and to ensure their full participation in national development processes.

Myanmar women have actively contributed to the national interest with equal dedication alongside men not only in political, economic, social, academic, and artistic sectors, but also in national defence and administrative systems. In this regard, the progress of participation rate of women representatives in various Hluttaws has increased from 4.8 per cent in the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to 10.5 per cent in the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and further to 14.6 per cent in the current Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

In the field of the rule of law, the participation of women at the level of Sub-Inspector of Police and above has increased from 12.87 per cent in 2021 to 17.56 per cent in 2024. It is also encouraging to observe that women's representation in positions at and above Deputy Township Law Officer, as well as Deputy Township Judge, exceeds 53 per cent, indicating a high level of female participation in the rule of law sector.

In the 2025-2026 financial year, out of 15,522 appointed ward and village-tract administrators across Nay Pyi Taw, regions, and states, 109 are women. These figures show that women are being appointed and entrusted with responsibilities as community leaders and peacebuilders, and are actively serving in decision-making roles at the local level.

Therefore, under the leadership of the Myanmar National Committee for Women, efforts should be made to further strengthen policies and institutional mechanisms for the advancement of the women's sector. In addition, accountability and implementation of gender-related initiatives should be enhanced, and efforts should be made to encourage men and young people to actively participate in promoting gender equality initiatives.

As this year marks the 30th anniversary of the es-

tablishment of the Myanmar National Committee for Women, the Ministry of Women's Affairs has also been formed in order to accelerate efforts for the advancement of women in this significant year. In order to continue implementing international commitments and to accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), the Steering Committee for the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2023-2032) has been upgraded and formed under the leadership of the Second Vice-President. Therefore, I would like to urge collective efforts to effectively implement the plan's activities, ensure the safety and security of women and girls, build a society that upholds dignity and equal rights, and especially promote the development of rural women.

In conclusion, since women make up more than half of Myanmar's population, only when they are developed and empowered across all sectors can families, communities, and the nation as a whole also develop. Therefore, I would like to urge everyone to join hands in promoting the advancement of the women's sector so that Myanmar women can enhance their capacities and move forward toward equality, peace, and sustainable development.

Thank you all.

Myanmar Women's Day 2026 celebrated

THE Myanmar Women's Day 2026 ceremony was held yesterday morning at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw, led by the Myanmar National Committee on Women.

The ceremony was attended by Daw San San Aye, who is the wife of the Vice-President 1 and Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Vice-President 2 Nan Ni Ni Aye, who is Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the wife of the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the wife of the Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Union ministers and their wives, the Auditor-General of the Union, the wife of the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), the wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the wife of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the wife of the chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the wife of the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council,



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye presents the Disabled Women's Sports Award to Ma Nan San Yadana Htun.

the wife of the chief minister of Shan State, the wife of the chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Wives of senior military officers, deputy ministers and their wives, women of the same rank as deputy ministers, wives of the chairman of the Revenue Appeals Tribunal, the chairman and wife from the Women's Committee of the Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw, heads of departments, donors, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and officials from the women's groups, and winners of sectoral awards.

Singers May John and Mya Nandar first performed

the song "Myanmar National Committee on Women".

President U Min Aung Hlaing then delivered an opening speech via video message. (The opening speech of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing is published separately on page 10.)

Afterwards, Union Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin, who is also Chairperson of the Myanmar National Committee on Women, clarified the activities related to women's development, promotion of women's rights, and prevention of violence against women in various forms.

Next, a video clip of the women's development activities during the 30 years since the establishment of the Myanmar National Committee on Women was screened.

Wife of Vice-President 1 and Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw San San Aye presented the National Honorary Awards to the Honorary Patrons of the Myanmar Esports Federation, Daw Nang Leng Kham and Daw Nang Kham Nawng, as well as the Best Military Parade Award to 2nd-Lt Daw Yin Min Thant, the Outstanding Maritime Literature Award to 2nd-Lt Daw Chit May Zin and Award of Praise and Honour to Captain Htet Wutyi Soe.

Vice-President 2 Nan Ni Ni Aye, who is an honorary patron of the MWAFF, also presented the Outstanding Female Police Officer Award to IP Myint Myat Thu, the Outstanding Red Cross Award to district superintendent Daw Htet Ei Wai and the Disabled Women's Sports Award to Ma Nan San Yadana Htun.

SEE PAGE 12

Myanmar First Lady visits Traditional Lao Silk Residence, Lao Art Museum

FROM PAGE 10

Mrs Naly Sisoulith, Spouse of the President of the Lao PDR, and officials from the museum.

They observed the museum, and the relevant officials of the museum explained the silkwares on display.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla signed the guest book of the museum and exchanged commemorative gifts with the museum officials.

The museum is an important cultural heritage museum and exhibition hall in Vientiane. It was officially opened in October 2024 under the leadership and support of Mrs Naly Sisoulith, Spouse of Lao President Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, through the Traditional Lao Handicrafts Association. The museum building combines French colonial architectural design with traditional Lao architecture and allows visitors to comprehensively study the silk culture of various ethnic groups across Laos in one place.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party then visited the Lao Art Museum, and they observed the museum.

She signed the guest book of the museum and exchanged commemorative gifts with the museum officials.

The Lao Art Museum, opened on 5 January 2025, displays artworks from different periods of Lao history, including paintings and sculptures in one place. It features works ranging from senior artistes to young emerging creators, including traditional Buddha statues as well as modern imaginative sculptures, oil paintings, watercolour paintings, and other artistic creations arranged by category. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw stages Q&A session

THE 18th-day meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday replied to seven questions on the road paving, farmland, establishment of two check gates and resumption of dam projects.

Regarding the question raised by Daw Khin Than Myint from the Ngaputaw Constituency, on whether there are plans to upgrade the Labutta (Kyaukpyalay)-Thongwa-Ottwin-Hteikhson Road in Ngaputaw Township into an all-weather road, Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant replied that, during the 2026-2027 financial year, the section between Mileposts 23/1 and 23/5.5, located between Yaypawgyi Village and Thekkethaung Village, will be upgraded into a 12-foot-wide asphalt road over a distance of 4.5 furlongs using Union budget. The severely damaged sections of the road between Yaypawgyi Village and Ottwin Village, which experience the highest traffic volume, will be repaired in phases on a priority basis using the 2026-2027 maintenance budget. Priority sections will also continue to be implemented in the following financial year.

The Union minister clarified that the Hinggokepin-Wedaung-Padaukhin road is managed by the Bago

Region government, responding to an enquiry from Ottwin Constituency MP U Win Myint. The road consists of one mile of concrete pavement, two miles and three furlongs of gravel road, six furlongs of hard road, and eight miles and three furlongs of earth road, with a total length of 12 miles and four furlongs. Arrangements are being made to put in the budget of the Bago Region government for these roads to be upgraded step by step, starting from the 2027-2028 financial year.

For the query from Myanaung Constituency MP U Aung Win Swe on whether there are plans to pave the Kanaung-Tangasone section of the Kanaung-Inpin Road in Myanaung Township with concrete, Union Minister U Myo Thant replied that the Kanaung-Inpin Road is under the management of the Ayeyawady Region government. Kanaung-Saphyusu (Tangasone) section is a gravel road measuring five miles and five furlongs in length. Starting from the 2027-2028 financial year, the construction of a 12-foot-wide concrete road along this section will be proposed for inclusion in the Ayeyawady Region government's annual budget. The project will be implemented in phases,



The 18th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi.

subject to the availability of funds.

Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tint Tun for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation replied to the query from Pobbathiri Constituency MP U Hla Swe. He said that the Farmland Management Committees of Ottarathiri Township and District have not yet been able to issue Form-7 certificates for the nine villages located within the Moeswe, Thayettaw, and Minging village-tracts because these areas still fall within protected land areas. However, Form-7 certificates have already been issued for farmland outside that area, including 2,890 acres in three villages of Thayet Taw village tract, 1,830 acres in eleven villages of Taungnyo village-tract and 2,164 acres in ten villages of Minging village-tract, to-

talling 66,884 acres.

When removing the nine villages of Ottarathiri township from the list of forest reserve, it needs to be uniform with the land-related departments, and so it will take time, as GPS boundary points must be re-surveyed, maps must be georeferenced and digitized using GIS software, and accurate coordinate data must be verified. Moreover, if revisions are to be made to the original work already completed, the Nay Pyi Taw Council and the relevant ministries must first submit the matter to the Office of the President for policy approval. Upon receiving approval, the ministry will proceed in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

He added that Nay Pyi Taw Council will have to submit to the Ministry of

Home Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation to issue and amend the 617.683 acres of nine villages in Ngalaik forest reserve with the newly measured 684.17 acres. Once approval is granted, the successive levels of the Farmland Management Committees will be able to proceed with issuing Form-7 Land Use Certificates under the Farmland Law and rules.

Regarding the enquiry from Kawhmu Constituency MP U Aung Myo Than on whether there are plans to construct two sluice gates (check gates) to prevent flooding of monsoon paddy fields in Thaminchan, Tatike, and Thayet village-tracts in Kawhmu Township, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

U Bo Bo Kyaw stated that a location has been identified for constructing the Pakauk Check Gate to protect more than 2,000 acres of monsoon paddy fields from flooding and to enable expansion of 250 acres of summer paddy cultivation.

He added that the proposed site for the check gate was inspected on the ground together with village administrators and farmers. Accordingly, funding required for the construction of the Pakauk checkpoint will be submitted in the 2027-2028 financial year budget of the regional government, and implementation will depend on budget availability.

He also replied to the question of U Myint Zaw Lin from Pyu Constituency, saying the Kunchaung Dam on the Kunchaung in Pyu Township was originally constructed in 2012 by the Department of Hydropower Implementation to generate 60 MW of electricity using three 20 MW turbines. The water released from the dam was intended to support irrigation for about 35,000 acres in the Kyauktaga Township to increase crop production, and the Kunchaung Dam and irrigation system were implemented starting in the 2011-2012 financial year by the Department of

SEE PAGE 13

Reconstruction efforts reviewed in Falam

RECONSTRUCTION and rehabilitation in Falam Township were reviewed at a coordination meeting attended by officials, local religious leaders, community elders and government departments.

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint also visited the No 2 Basic Education High School (Falam) to discuss the school's needs, observe learning conditions, encourage teachers and present gifts.

The delegation also reviewed the Ministry of Im-



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint greets local community leaders in Falam, Chin State.

migration and Population's Lamin Project, which issues national registration cards and UID cards to students, and distributed ID cards.

At the meeting, officials

stressed the need to accelerate reconstruction through coordinated efforts, emphasizing that peace and stability are essential for regional development. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar Women's Day 2026 celebrated

FROM PAGE 11

The wife of the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the wives of the Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the wives of the Union Ministers and the Union Minister for Women's Affairs also presented awards to the winners of the Business Excellence Awards.

Later, singers Han Htoo

Zen and Nway Nway Chit Phwe performed the song "Kaba Ti Thaywae" with artistes from the Department of Fine Arts.

Afterwards, the Honorary Patrons of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation posed for the group photo with the attendees. They also toured the product displays of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, domestic service schools, and women's associations to commemorate Myanmar Women's Day 2026. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Amyotha Hluttaw Debates Dawei SEZ Revival, Rural Development and Jobs for Graduates

THE Amyotha Hluttaw devoted much of the 12th day of its Second Regular Session to discussions on economic development, rural infrastructure and employment, as MPs questioned the government on the stalled Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ), road construction projects, affordable fertilizer for farmers and job opportunities for university graduates. Lawmakers also accepted a proposal calling for stronger tax collection and anti-corruption measures.

Opening the question-and-answer session, U Maung Sein, representative from Taninthayi Region Constituency 3, asked whether the government intended to restart the long-delayed Dawei Deep Seaport project in Nabule, Yebu Township. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Win Myint Khaing replied that Myanmar and Russia had discussed expanding economic cooperation during the fifth Myanmar-Russia Intergovernmental Commission meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw in February 2025, where both sides signed a Memorandum of Intent on investment cooperation in and around the Dawei SEZ. He said the Dawei SEZ

Management Committee was updating the project's master plan, negotiations on the port boundary were nearing completion, and procedures required under the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law were being carried out with investors to enable work on the project to resume.

The Hluttaw then turned to rural development issues. Nang Woe Sein, representative from Shan State Constituency 12, asked whether an earth road linking Panmaw village with neighbouring communities in Mongpyin Township could be upgraded into a motorcycle-accessible road. Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Theik Soe said a narrower 10-foot-wide road would provide a faster and more cost-effective solution than building a standard rural road. He added that the first five-mile section would be proposed for funding in the 2027-2028 financial year, while the remaining sections would be implemented depending on budget availability and development priorities.

U Khin Maung Myint, representative from Shan State Constituency 7, also raised concerns over transport infrastructure,



The 12th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is in progress yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

asking for farm access roads to serve more than 320 acres of farmland in Yaksawk Township. Deputy Minister U Thaik Soe said preliminary engineering work, including surveys, road design and cost estimates, would begin during the 2026-2027 financial year before the project is considered for funding.

Agricultural support was another key topic. U Sein Lwin Oo, representative from Kachin State Constituency 11, asked whether farmers could buy fertilizer at government-supported prices to improve rice production and farm incomes. The deputy minister said fertilizer was being distributed through a consortium

system without profit margins, with only transport and handling costs added. He noted that the Kachin State Government had requested 5,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer, part of which had already been delivered, while the remaining quantity would be supplied as required. Authorities were also monitoring fertilizer quality and preventing price manipulation to ensure farmers received affordable supplies.

The Assembly also continued debating a proposal submitted by U Yan Naing Oo, representative from Yangon Region Constituency 9, urging the Union Government to review recruitment criteria for graduates applying to

Union ministries, particularly age limits that many lawmakers argued had become outdated following education reforms and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supporting the proposal were U Myo Thant, representative from Ayeyawady Region Constituency 6, who called for greater employment opportunities for graduates with disabilities; U Nyan Tun, representative from Taninthayi Region Constituency 9, who argued that education reforms and the pandemic had delayed graduates and justified relaxing age restrictions; Daw Theingi Win Shwe, representative from Sagaing Region Constituency 9, who said

better employment opportunities would help retain skilled young people; U Pe Thant Zaw, representative from Magway Region Constituency 11, who urged transparent recruitment and advance vacancy announcements; U Kyi Lin Htet, representative from Yangon Region Constituency 8, who supported temporarily easing age limits; and U Kyaw Zin Tun, representative from Sagaing Region Constituency 8, who said merit-based recruitment would strengthen the country's human resources and public administration. Debate on the proposal will continue at the next sitting on 6 July.

Before adjourning, the Hluttaw accepted for future debate a motion submitted by Daw Soe Soe Myint, representative from Mon State Constituency 12, urging the Union Government to strengthen tax collection and implement more effective anti-corruption measures. The proposal, seconded by Daw Khin Than Oo, representative from Ayeyawady Region Constituency 12, argues that transparent taxation and clean governance are essential for economic development and public confidence. — MNA/ST

Pyithu Hluttaw stages Q&A session

FROM PAGE 12

Irrigation and Water Utilization Management.

He further explained that by 2014-2015, 8.41 per cent of the Kunchaung diversion weir project had been completed. The project was approved for implementation with an Indian loan, but both the consultancy and loan agreements have since expired. It has now been included in the 2026-2031 five-year plan and the 2027-2028 state-

owned investment programme. Construction is scheduled to resume from the 2027-2028 financial year, subject to the availability of funds.

Regarding the question raised by Dr Htein Win from Kyaunggon Constituency, on how to manage and restore natural streams and waterways in the Ayeyawady Region that have become silted and degraded, including the Ngawun embankment,

Panhlaing embankment, seawater-freshwater sluice gates, and island protection embankments, the Deputy Minister stated that the region currently has eight major flood protection embankments, 22 island protection embankments, 15 saltwater barrier embankments, 19 other minor embankments, with a total of 64 embankments and 209 water gates protecting more than 1.7 million areas. He further explained

that the major embankments, including Ngawun, Ayeyawady-Hinthada, east Ayeyawady, Myanaung, Kyangin, Nyaungdon island, Tawa-Palay-Kokkawa, and Maubin island embankments, were built about 140 years ago, while saltwater barrier embankments and other flood protection embankments were constructed about 40 years ago.

Maintenance and reconstruction of these em-

bankments, islands, and saltwater barriers are being carried out based on available funding and priority needs. Dredging of silted waterways is being implemented annually to reduce flooding risks. In the 2026-2027 financial year, the plan includes 141 embankment repair projects, 40 sluice gate repair projects, and 67 drainage excavation projects.

Dr Htein Win from Kyaunggon Constituency

tabled a motion to form a national population and development commission, and U Maung Maung Soe from Thaboung Constituency seconded it.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sought approval from the Hluttaw and urged those who want to debate that motion to register.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue its 19th-day meeting on 6 July. — MNA/KTZH

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS/AD

Russia still ranks among top EU gas suppliers

RUSSIA remains one of the leading gas exporters to the EU — primarily through seaborne LNG shipments — even as its pipeline gas volumes have plummeted since 2022, according to a new analysis by the Bruegel think tank in Brussels.

However, overall LNG imports to the EU have recently declined due to lower US supplies and a partial halt in Middle Eastern deliveries.

Europe's gas reserves are currently at 49 per cent capacity, below the typical seasonal average, the latest figures show.

In the first five

months of 2026, Russian pipeline gas imports climbed seven per cent and LNG imports surged 11 per cent year-on-year, according to analysts at the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) — a sign that Russian energy flows to Europe may be experiencing a temporary revival.

Despite this uptick, Russian gas still accounts for about 12 per cent of total EU consumption. By comparison, the US is now the bloc's largest LNG supplier, holding more than 60 per cent of the market share. — SPUTNIK

Will Britain's 7th prime minister in a decade break the cycle of instability

Burnham proposes "No 10 North" to decentralize London's power.

BRITAIN is preparing for its seventh prime minister in a decade following Prime Minister Keir Starmer's resignation amid mounting political pressure and declining parliamentary support.

Andy Burnham, former mayor of Greater Manchester, is currently the only declared candidate for the Labour leadership and is widely regarded by the British media as the frontrunner to succeed Starmer.

In his first major leadership speech on Monday, Burnham proposed decen-



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivers a speech outside No 10 Downing Street in London, Britain, on 22 June 2026.

PHOTO: XINHUA

tralizing power away from London and establishing a "No 10 North", framing the idea as part of his broader "Manchesterism" agenda.

Yet analysts say he would inherit a political system already shaped by a decade of instability.

Britain's rapid lead-

ership turnover since 2016 is widely seen as a consequence of the Brexit referendum and its long political aftermath.

David Cameron resigned after Britain voted to leave the European Union, Theresa May struggled to deliver a withdrawal agreement, Boris Johnson's premiership ended amid scandal, Liz Truss triggered financial market turmoil, and Rishi Sunak failed to reverse prolonged economic stagnation. Starmer's resignation now extends this pattern of instability. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (248N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (248N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-7-2026** 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (624W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC SHENZHEN VOY.NO. (624W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S MAERSK A/S.

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OF MARINE ADMINISTRATIN Open Tender Notice

1. Department of Marine Administration under the Ministry of Transport hereby invites sealed bids from qualified local or international suppliers for the procurement of simulators and associated equipment for the project of Simulator Based Training, Assessment and Examination System for Seafarers. Bids shall be submitted in **United States Dollars (USD)**.

No	Particular	Project Site
1.	Procurement of Simulator and associated equipment (for the supply, delivery, fabrication, installation, and commissioning of simulator equipment and software licensing, as well as the provision of operational training and professional contracting services.)	Department of Marine Administration Dawbon Shipyard compound, Dawbon, Yangon, Myanmar.

2. For participation in the open tender, bids shall be submitted only in the prescribed tender forms. Late submissions received after the prescribed deadline shall be rejected. The tender forms may be purchased during office hours in accordance with the schedule set out below.

Date of Commencement of Sale of Tender Forms - (06-07-2026) (10:00) (Monday)

Closing Date and Time for Sale of Tender Forms - (17-07-2026) (15:00) (Friday)

Date of Pre-Bid Meeting - (20-07-2026) (10:00) (Monday)

Deadline for Submission of Bids - (31-07-2026) (15:00) (Friday)

Date of Bid Opening - (03-08-2026) (Monday)

Venue for Bid Opening - Department of Marine Administration, The corner of Merchant Road and Theinbyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Non-Refundable Fee for Tender Documents - (200,000/-) MMK

3. For further clarification, prospective bidders may contact the Planning Division, Department of Marine Administration, No. (363/421), Corner of Thein Phyu Road and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, in person or by telephone at (+9595169258) and (+959250115876) during office hours.

Tender Acceptance and Evaluation Committee

Thai nurse defies custom, saves monks

A nurse in Thailand challenged Buddhist customs when she stepped in to treat the victims of a car accident that killed 10 monks.

An 11-year-old boy, who took his parents' pickup truck without permission, ploughed at speed into a procession of 35 monks and five lay followers in northeastern Thailand on Thursday.

Minutes later Wiwat Laonoi stepped in to help, despite the Buddhist taboo in which women cannot touch monks and vice versa.

"People told me, 'Wait, that's a monk!', but I said it doesn't matter, right now, this is a patient," she told AFP.

Wiwat, who has been a nurse for nearly four decades, said she was the first responder at the "massive" accident, adding that she had "never seen anything like it".

"No other responders (had) arrived yet, it was just me," the 61-year-old said adding that she "had to stay clear-headed". — AFP



'Inspired millions': Modric praised as World Cup career appears at end

CROATIA coach Zlatko Dalic and Portugal's Roberto Martinez paid tribute on Thursday to Luka Modric, who almost certainly played his last World Cup match.

After a gut-wrenching 2-1 loss to Portugal in Toronto, Croatia midfielder Modric, 40, shared a long exchange with 41-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo — two football greats nearing the end of their international playing careers.

"This was probably his last World Cup, and I'm sorry that it ended this way," said an emotional Dalic. "He has shown his quality and his character and of course he was leading

Croatia until the very end."

Martinez lauded the Croatian great for having "inspired millions of kids".

"His example is going to stay in the folklore of football forever," Portugal's coach told reporters, highlighting Modric's in-match thinking. It's not often that "we talk about that player that can put his foot on the ball and make a decision. I think Modric is the beautiful example of that.

"Depending on how the game goes, he finds the space, he makes the right call. It's incredible to see him play," Martinez said, praising Modric for playing "the game like a young man". — AFP



Luka Modric acknowledges the fans after Croatia were eliminated from the World Cup by Portugal. **PHOTO: AFP**

Attack gets headlines, but Spain's defence and record- breaker Simon are just as vital

SPAIN can look forward to a World Cup last-16 tie against neighbour Portugal in what promises to be another thriller at this summer's tournament. The last time the two sides met, Portugal emerged victorious on penalties in the 2025 UEFA Nations League final after a 2-2 draw over 120 minutes. Cristiano Ronaldo was on target from the spot again in Portugal's thrilling 2-1 win over Croatia on

Thursday, but his overall performance once again drew criticism, and coach Roberto Martinez even substituted him with just under 10 minutes of normal time remaining. Martinez may well have to make another bold call against the Spanish, because if Portugal is to reach the quarter-finals, it must achieve what no other side has managed this summer - score against Spain. — Xinhua

Klopp in 'talks' for Germany job after Nagelsmann exit: federation

JURGEN Klopp has told the German FA (DFB) he is "fundamentally willing" to take over as Germany coach after Julian Nagelsmann handed in his resignation, the DFB confirmed on Friday.

Nagelsmann, who had a contract until 2028, stepped down from the job on Friday, just four days after Germany's disappointing last-32 exit to Paraguay.

In a statement, the DFB said discussions would begin with Klopp, the former Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund manager, while thanking Nagelsmann for his almost three-year stint.



Jurgen Klopp is in negotiations to take over as Germany coach after Julian Nagelsmann's resignation, the German FA (DFB) confirmed on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Klopp, who led Liverpool to Champions League and Premier League honours, is currently under contract as Red Bull's head of global football, but Sky Germany

reports he has a verbal agreement which would allow him to leave to take up the Germany job.

Nagelsmann's resignation comes a day after the 38-year-old was called

into a three-hour meeting at DFB headquarters in Frankfurt to discuss his future.

German tabloid Bild reported the coach was offered a severance package of seven million euros (\$8 million), roughly one year's salary, to cut short his contract which was set to expire in 2028. "The decision was anything but easy for me," Nagelsmann said in a statement. "My top priority has always been the success of the team. After such a bitter disappointment, it deserves the chance of a new beginning." Nagelsmann apologized to fans for the early exit. — AFP

VAR 'taking joy' from football says Croatia coach Dalic after loss

CROATIA coach Zlatko Dalic said VAR is taking "the joy out of football" after seeing his team have a stoppage time equalizer disallowed in their 2-1 World Cup defeat to Portugal on Thursday.

Croatia's players thought they had grabbed an incredible equalizer when Josko Gvardiol prodded the ball into the net in 13 minutes of stoppage time in Toronto.

But VAR chalked off the goal after a chip embedded in the match ball detected that it had just brushed Croatia striker Igor Matanovic while Mario Pasalic was in an offside decision in the build-up.

Asked afterwards if he felt technology and VAR decisions in football had gone too far, Dalic broadly agreed.

"You were able to see to what extent emotions have been literally killed,

and altogether these decisions take you back and actually take the joy out of football," Dalic said in a press conference, according to a FIFA interpreter.

"I'm not saying that sometimes VAR can't be of help, but it kills the emotions, it kills everything within you, it kills what you are experiencing and it's not easy to deal with all of this."

The "connected ball" chip technology used to rule out Gvardiol's goal had already been deployed at this World Cup, during Sweden's group game with Tunisia last month.

On that occasion, Mattias Svanberg saw a goal ruled out for offside before VAR overturned the decision after determining the ball had

taken a slight touch by team-mate Alexander Isak which had played him inside.

Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said there was no debate around Croatia's disallowed goal.

"The message is very clear: The balls now they have a chip, and it's very clear and that's why the VAR intervened," Martinez said. — AFP



Josko Gvardiol's last gasp goal against Portugal was disallowed due to new technology which helped alert officials to an offside. **PHOTO: AFP**



China pushes unified global AI governance

CHINA will take the World Artificial Intelligence (AI) Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance as an opportunity to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with all parties to build a global AI governance system based on broad consensus, Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng said on Friday.

Han made the remarks when addressing the opening ceremony of the 14th World Peace Forum in Beijing, calling for strengthen-

ing governance in emerging fields like AI.

China has put forward the Global AI Governance Initiative, advocating a people-centred approach and the development of AI for the good of humanity, Han said. The world is undergoing accelerated transformation unseen in a century, with growing instability and turbulence, frequent geopolitical conflicts, and more prominent risks and governance deficits, Han noted. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka considers pharmacy drug tests

Sri Lanka is considering introducing drug test kits through pharmacies to allow parents to privately check whether their children are using narcotics, the President's Media Division (PMD) said. The proposal was discussed when the national council of the "A Nation United" anti-drug campaign, launched to eradicate the drug menace from the country, met at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday morning.

The meeting also discussed upgrading facilities at the Police Narcotics Bureau, improving the efficiency of the Government Analyst's Department, using modern technology to obtain forensic reports, and amending laws related to narcotics.

A bill on the rehabilitation of drug addicts has also been finalized and will be published in the government gazette soon, the PMD said. — Xinhua

Plastic bottles transformed into battery graphite

A plastic bottle thrown into a recycling bin could one day contribute to powering an electric vehicle, smartphone, or renewable energy storage system, according to a team of researchers at Penn State.

In a new study, researchers converted waste polyethylene terephthalate, or PET, into highly ordered synthetic graphite, a crystalline form of carbon.

The formed graphite exhibited large, well-ordered crystallites, or microscopic regions of

well-aligned carbon layers — indicating a highly organized crystal structure.

These properties exceeded those of commercial natural graphite samples, indicating that the PET-derived material had a more ordered crystal structure.

Such structural ordering is a key indicator of suitability for high-quality anode materials when compared to natural graphite commonly used as a benchmark in battery research. — ANI

India's eyes 7,000-km high-speed rail expansion

JAPAN has reaffirmed its commitment to extend all necessary cooperation to help India meet its target of commencing commercial operations on priority sections of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project by 2027.

The pledge came in a joint statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in New Delhi. The leaders endorsed the milestone goal and acknowledged plans to introduce E10 trains to the network.

The MAHSR project, India's first high-speed rail corridor, is being developed using Japanese Shinkansen technology and operational standards. It incorporates advanced systems for traction, electrification, track infrastructure and operations, and is viewed as a major step in



This image depicts the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor featuring advanced tunnel hood technology designed to manage air pressure and reduce noise for trains operating above 300 kilometres per hour. PHOTO: XINHUA

India's railway modernization to transform inter-city mobility and strengthen domestic capabilities.

Looking ahead, Modi invited Japanese companies to explore opportunities to participate in future high-speed corridors as part of India's broader vision for a 7,000-kilometre national high-speed rail network.

The leaders formal-

ized this transit alignment by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Next-Generation Mobility Partnership, intended to combine Japan's advanced mobility technologies with India's market potential and human resources.

Beyond rail infrastructure, the joint statement highlighted regional geopolitics and the strategic importance of India's

North Eastern Region (NER) for a resilient Indo-Pacific under the Act East Policy.

Japan pledged robust support for road networks, bridges and disaster risk reduction in the NER, and both countries committed to developing industrial value chains connecting the region with the Bay of Bengal and BIMSTEC partners. — ANI

Officials from over 100 countries attend funeral

IRANIAN leaders began paying their respects on Friday before the coffin of the country's late supreme leader Ali Khamenei, killed in the US-Israeli strikes that triggered the Middle East war, as Tehran prepared for a vast funeral.

Khamenei's body arrived at Tehran's Grand Mosalla on Friday ahead of ceremonies which are expected to draw millions.

A coterie of foreign dignitaries is also due to attend Saturday's official ceremony, with Tehran's



Motorists drive past a billboard bearing a picture of Iran's slain supreme leader Ali Khamenei, ahead of his funeral in Tehran on 3 July 2026. PHOTO: AFP

chief negotiator calling for a massive turnout to

avenge his death. Iranian Foreign Min-

istry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Thursday officials from more than 100 countries will attend the funeral ceremonies of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In an interview with state-run IRIB TV, Baghaei said the foreign guests would include heads of state, parliament speakers, foreign ministers, governments' special envoys as well as a large number of personalities and popular groups.

Baghaei said the late leader's farewell and funeral ceremonies are considered a "historic and very important" event for Iranian people. — Agencies