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Sunday, 5 July 2026

President U Min Aung Hlaing, Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visit Phonthong Handicrafts Cooperation and Cama Crafts, Patuxai (Victory Gate) in Vientiane



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing observes the traditional method of making soap from local fruits in Vientiane, Laos, yesterday.

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, currently in Vientiane, Laos, on a State visit, visited the Phonthong Handicrafts Cooperation and Cama Crafts, which is a micro and small-sized enterprise industry in Laos, yesterday morning.

The President observed handwoven textiles and silk products crafted by Lao micro and small enterprises (MSEs), alongside the traditional method of making soap from local fruits. During the visit, he participated in moulding the natural soap solution and engaged with local artisans to learn more about their techniques.

After viewing the documentary photos depicting the production of silk wares and prize-winning works, the President and party observed silkworm farming, production of fibres, dyeing and production of silk wares at traditional looms. Officials presented the traditional natural soap moulded by themselves to the President. The President signed the guest book of Phonthong Handicrafts Cooperation and Cama Crafts.

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NATIONAL PAGE 2



Ayeyawady River rises in Minbu

NATIONAL PAGE 11



MRCS assists K400K per household, totalling K53.6M

MRF joins World MSME Day commemorative event

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) participated in the World MSME Day commemorative event and MSME Product Exhibition, organized by the Central Committee on the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, held on 27 June at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

A total of 149 exhibition booths were set up, including those from central committees and working committees, various ministries, regional and state MSME product displays, small-scale industrial and handicraft exhibits, and booths.

SEE PAGE 7

Myanmar Showcases Culture and Charm on Seoul's Global Stage



This photo features the Myanmar booth showcased by the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul at the exhibition concurrently held with the forum.

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar participated in the 2026 Global Security Outlook and International Defence Cooperation Forum in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, where it showcased a Myanmar booth.

The forum, along with a reception honouring military attachés, was held on 30 June 2026 at the Royal Park Convention Hall of the War Memorial of Korea in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

SEE PAGE 2

သွားဆရာဝန်များ၏ ထောက်ခံချက်ရရှိထားပါသည်။

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NATIONAL

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 5

Issued at 8 am MST on 4 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong to vigorous monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha-West Bengal Coast rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls during today's morning to 12 July 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface

wind speed in a squall may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

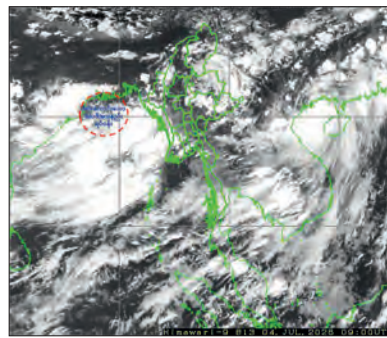
Advisory

People should be aware of the strong to vigorous monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and the low-pressure area over the Northwest the Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha-West Bengal Coast, such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH

Well-Marked Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 4 pm MST on 4 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 3:30 pm MST today, the well-marked low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha-West Bengal Coast (India) persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may cross into North Odisha and North Chhattisgarh (India) during the next 72 hours. — DMH



Myanmar Showcases Culture and Charm on...

FROM PAGE 1

The forum was organized by the Korea Defence Diplomacy Association (KDDA) and brought together military attachés, diplomats and representatives of defence-related organizations to discuss the global security situation, the security outlook for the Korean Peninsula and international defence cooperation.

An exhibition held alongside the forum featured Korean technology and defence companies, as well as food and commercial booths. At the invitation of the KDDA, the Myanmar Embassy in Seoul participated in the exhibition by setting up a Myanmar booth.

The Myanmar booth displayed Pawsan rice, pulses, coffee, tea, Myan-

mar Beer, avocado extra virgin oil, dried seafood products, ready-to-eat foods, wood pellets and biomass products, lacquerware, rattan ware, Pathein umbrellas, traditional handicrafts and sculptures, as well as tourism promotional materials. Visitors showed strong interest in Myanmar coffee, dried tea leaves, ready-to-drink tea mix products, and tra-

ditional handicrafts. The exhibition also provided an opportunity for discussions on bilateral trade and tourism cooperation.

The ministry said Myanmar's participation in the event helped promote the country's products and highlight opportunities for economic cooperation among members of the international diplomatic community. — ASH/TH

Ayeyawady River rises in Minbu

WATER levels of the Ayeyawady River have risen significantly in Minbu (Sagu) Township over the past few days, with floodwater already reaching the outskirts of some low-lying villages, according to residents from Htonmagyi village.

Local authorities said the situation is not yet critical, but warned residents living along the riverbank to remain alert to seasonal flooding and riverbank erosion risks

during the monsoon period. Awareness activities and flood preparedness drills are carried out in cooperation with relevant departments and social aid groups.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the river level at Minbu stood at 1,393 centimetres at 12:30 pm on 4 July, below the 1,700 centimetres at danger level. Officials noted that flooding in low-lying areas typically begins



Volunteers from social aid groups are seen at the river bank of the Ayeyawady River in Minbu (Sagu) Township. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG (MINBU)**

when the river exceeds 1,500 centimetres. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KZL

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday 4 July 2026

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the well-marked low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha-West Bengal Coast (India) persists. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and may cross into North Odisha and North Chhattisgarh (India) during the next 72 hours. The monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. **SPECIAL FEATURES:** According to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, the Tropical Storm "MAYSAK" over the Gulf of Tonkin moved northwards and intensified into a Severe Tropical Storm "MAYSAK". It is likely to move northwards and may cross over the Northern Coastal areas of Vietnam and the Southern Coastal areas of China during the next six hours.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 5 JULY 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay and lower Sagaing regions, fairly widespread in Magway Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states, with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin, Mon and Shan states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Shan states. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds' movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur, and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in a squall may reach 35-40 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 11-14 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 JULY 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 JULY 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 JULY 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing, Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and delegation members visit That Luang Stupa in Vientiane

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, currently in Vientiane, Laos, during a State Visit, paid homage to the That Luang Stupa yesterday morning.

The President, his spouse and delegation members were warmly welcomed by officials with the Lao's traditional music. The President and his spouse offered oil lights, water, fruits and flowers to the Buddha image at the That Luang Stupa.

They viewed around ancient Buddha images in the stairway of the stupa and the paintings illustrating the maintenance of the

stupa in successive eras.

At the Dhamma Hall, the President and his spouse paid homage to the Buddha image with flowers, water and oil lamps.

They also paid their respects to Lao Buddhist Association Chair and Sangharaja of Laos Maha Ahjan Yai Mahaved Menenai and 106-year-old Most Venerable Noi Sangvalo of Laos and donated copies of Tipitaka scriptures and monastic requisites. The Sayadaw gave back Dhamma gifts. Delegation members also donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

The President and his spouse offered a small-scale Maravijaya Buddha Image and the documentary book on the construction of the image to be kept at the Dhamma Hall of the That



President U Min Aung Hlaing views around the That Luang Stupa in Vientiane, Laos, yesterday.

Luang Stupa to the Sayadaw.

The That Luang Stupa in Laos was originally constructed in the early 13th

Century under the leadership of King Jayavamon VI. Five monks who had studied in Rajagriha, India, brought back a relic of the

Buddha's lower collarbone to be enshrined as the sacred relic within the stupa. The original structure was built in the form of a cave-

like stupa. Later, in 1560 AD, King Setthathirath relocated the capital from Luang Prabang to Vientiane and rebuilt the stupa, enveloping the original structure within a larger stupa. In the Lao Language, it is called That Luang Stupa, which means "Great Stupa". It is a historically significant monument that has been revered by successive Lao kings. The image of That Luang Stupa is also featured on the national emblem of Laos. The annual That Luang Festival is held on the full moon of the Lao lunar month Fakhay (corresponding to Myanmar's Tazaungmon Full Moon Day). The festival attracts large numbers of pilgrims from across the country, making it a major national religious celebration. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar, Laos to enhance relations to strategic partnership

Chairman of the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Seneamatmontry Chanthavong paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, during his State Visit to the Lao PDR, yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Laos, plans to enhance the relations to the strategic partnership, the role of friendship associations of the two countries, efforts of both governments to beef up friendly ties and cooperation and needs of both associations to participate in endeavours of the governments, efforts of friendship associations to promote friendly relations between the peoples residing border regions through



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing receives Chairman of the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr Seneamatmontry Chanthavong in the Lao PDR yesterday.

bilateral trade via the Myanmar-Lao friendship bridge, need to improve the role of youth to participate in the friendly relation programmes of both countries, and promotion of fraternal cooperation based on religious, economic, health-

care, education and social sectors.

After the meeting, the President of Myanmar and the Lao-Myanmar Friendship Association Chairman exchanged commemorative gifts. Also present at the meeting were Union min-

isters, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to the Lao PDR, the chairman of Myanmar-Lao Friendship Association and officials. — MNA/TTA

President U Min Aung Hlaing, Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visit Phonthong...

FROM PAGE 1

The Phonthong Handicrafts Cooperation and Cama Crafts emphasizes supporting the livelihoods of rural communities in Laos while helping to revive and preserve traditional Lao handicrafts, on the other hand. They also provide handicraft training courses and assist artisans in accessing market opportunities. Its vision is to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote environmentally and culturally appropriate practices within the communities they serve. Founded in 1976 by ten local women who resided in Phonthong Village, Vientiane, the Phonthong Handicraft Cooperative (PHC) began as a collective effort to market and sell traditional village crafts.

In the evening, the President, his spouse and delegation visited Patuxai (Victory Gate) in Vientiane.

Patuxai (Victory Gate), located in Vientiane, is one of Laos' most iconic landmarks. Construction of the monument began in 1957 and was completed in 1968. Patuxai was built to honour Laos' independence and commemorate the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the nation. While its architectural design was inspired by France's Arc de Triomphe, the monument is adorned with traditional Lao Buddhist and Hindu artistic motifs. Inside Patuxai, visitors can admire decorative sculptures of fairies, kinnaris, and floral designs on the walls and ceilings. The monument's top-level observation deck offers panoramic views of Vientiane, making it one of the country's most popular attractions for both domestic and international tourists. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Myanmar to promote national development, despite existing challenges

Myanmar and Laos have always maintained their long-standing friendly relations and are expected to continue preserving this good relationship in the future, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing during his State visit to the Lao PDR at the meeting with families of the Myanmar Embassy, the Military Attaché Office and scholarship trainees at the Myanmar Embassy to

Laos yesterday evening. The President said that Laos has developed and changed significantly compared to the past. The country has achieved political stability and has also been able to promote economic growth.

He highlighted that the two countries maintain particularly good relations, and those serving in the embassies and military attaché offices are encouraged to work toward further strengthening bilateral relations during

their tenure. Efforts are also being made to elevate the two countries to the level of a strategic partnership.

The President stated that Myanmar is on the path to multiparty democracy. The free and fair election was held in Myanmar successfully.

He underscored that the Hluttaw has been convened with elected representatives chosen by the people, and the elected government is now actively carrying out the re-



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing meets staff and family members of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché Office, and Myanmar scholarship trainees in Laos yesterday.

sponsibilities of the State. However, some countries, concerned that their own interests may be affected, do not wish to accept the governance of a government formed by the people

in Myanmar. Nevertheless, the Myanmar government will continue to exert full effort to promote national development, despite the existing challenges.

He revealed that Laos,

among ASEAN member countries, has accepted the political developments of Myanmar and therefore extended an invitation for a state-level goodwill visit.

SEE PAGE 5

Myanmar, Laos sign joint agreement on feasibility study for Mekong hydropower project

DURING the State Visit of the President to Laos, a joint agreement on a feasibility study was signed yesterday to explore the implementation of a hydropower project along the Mekong River on the Myanmar-Laos border, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the electricity sector between the two countries.

The signing ceremony was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Vientiane, Laos.

At the event, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce of the Lao PDR Dr Manothong Vongsay said the project is a sign of Myanmar-Laos friendship, and it brings benefits not only to the border



The signing ceremony of a joint agreement on a feasibility study to explore the implementation of a hydropower project in progress in Vientiane, Laos, yesterday.

areas of the two countries but also to the Greater Mekong Subregion. The government will support completing the feasibility study as quickly as possible and implement the project.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw said the project is of special significance for strengthening friendship

and cooperation between the two countries. Once completed, it would help meet regional electricity demand and contribute to ASEAN's renewable energy targets. Since the Mekong is a border river shared by both countries, the project must comply with the customs, traditions, laws and proce-

dures of both Myanmar and Laos. He added that the Myanmar government would provide maximum supervision and guidance to ensure the project's success.

Then, Primus Sapphire Power Co Ltd assigned by Myanmar, and Phongsupthavy Group Sole Co Ltd assigned by Laos, signed the agreement and exchanged it in the presence of the two deputy ministers.

The hydropower project is expected to have an installed capacity of up to 2,790 megawatts. The Myanmar and Lao companies will jointly carry out the feasibility study, which is scheduled to be completed within 34 months. — MNA/KTZH

Opening of departmental offices in Falam inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, along with members of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee in Chin State, inspected construction materials provided by the National Disaster Management Committee for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Falam Township on 2 July.

The deputy minister and his party then inspected the opening of offices of the district- and township-level General Administration Department, Rural Road Development Department, Urban and Housing Development Department, Information and Public Relations Department, District Public Library, Falam Myoma Police Station, Agriculture Department, Law Office, Highways Department, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Cooperative Department and Myanmar Economic Bank, while observing the work of each department.

During the inspection, he met departmental personnel and stressed the need to strictly follow the laws, rules and procedures governing their duties, avoid any conduct that could damage the reputation of the ministry and the Union government when interacting with the public, work closely with religious leaders, local leaders and relevant organizations in implementing rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, and continue carrying out their responsibilities with dedication, after which responsible officials coordinated matters raised during the staff's presentations. — MNA/MKKS

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar marks 2026 International Day of Cooperatives and World Rural Development Day

THE Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development celebrated the 2026 International Day of Cooperatives and World Rural Development Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein read out the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thray Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Min Aung Hlaing.

The Central Cooperative Society Limited member, Myanmar Women's Development Cooperative Federation Director Daw Thinzar Win, read out the message sent by the International Cooperative



Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein views the booths displayed at the event of 2026 International Day of Cooperatives and World Rural Development Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Alliance. The celebration featured a video showcasing various cooperative activities.

Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein and Union Minister for Agriculture,

Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung and relevant officials presented awards to the excellent cooperative societies for their best performance, Mya Sein Yaung village project, vil-

lage management, access to water for the village and cleanliness.

The Union minister and officials toured the photo exhibition showcasing rural development activities carried out by the respective ministries, exhibition and sales booths displaying products, consumer goods, and food items from cooperative societies of the respective regions and states in commemoration of the International Day of Cooperatives.

The booths of the regions and states' cooperative associations will be open from 3 to 5 July, and anyone can visit freely. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar to promote national...

FROM PAGE 4

He noted that Myanmar continues to faithfully implement and uphold the agreements reached within ASEAN in a spirit of mutual respect and good faith.

The President urged officials of the embassy and the military attaché office to take care of and support them as far as possible.

After giving guidance, the President fulfilled the needs of scholarship officer trainees.

The President presented foodstuff and cash awards for families of the embassy and the military attaché office and the trainees through the Ambassador, the Military Attaché and the trainees.

The President inspected the progress in the construction of the new embassy building in Laos and gave necessary guidance.

The President inspected the office of the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) and attended to the needs. — MNA/TTA

KBZ Chair, Vice-Chair awarded top national accolades by MNCW

THE KBZ Foundation chair and vice-chair 1 received the National Honorary Award presented by the Myanmar National Committee on Women (MNCW).

Daw Nang Leng Kham, chair of the KBZ Foundation and patron of the Myanmar Electronic Sport Federation (MESF) and Daw Nang Kham Nong, vice-chair 1 of the KBZ Foundation and patron of MESF, were awarded on Myanmar Women's Day, which falls on 3 July.

Daw Nang Leng Kham and Daw Nang Kham Nong are young women entrepreneurs who have led the KBZ Bank and Kanbawza family business group and are founders of KBZPay, which has more than 22 million subscribers. They could lead women participants in the financial sector, nearly 51 per cent of the total subscribers are women, and from a major role, they have helped the facilitation of the development of women-led businesses and MSMEs by using digital payment.

They could promote esports to step up to the world level and give tactical guidance to the Myanmar esports team to achieve the World Cup Champion in the 2025 Esports World Cup, and through MESF, they have encouraged more women participants in esports. They have also received many honour awards presented internally and externally for their contributions in education, health, environment and social sectors for the good of the country and the people without discrimination on race, religion and region.

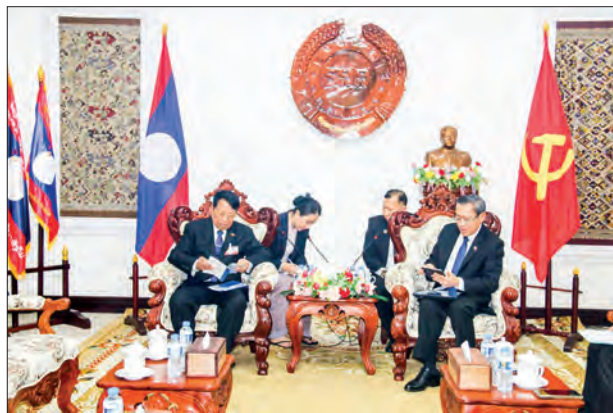
Recently, the KBZ Foundation offered financial support worth K100 million to Ma Ni Ni Kyaw, who outstandingly passed the 2026 matriculation exam and received first place nationally in the Arts and Science combination stream. — MT/ZS

Myanmar and Lao Labour Ministers meet

UNION Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe, who is accompanying President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing on a State goodwill visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, met Lao Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr Phoxay Sayasone at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare yesterday.

They discussed the

issuance of Certificates of Identity for undocumented Myanmar workers in Laos, ongoing cooperation between the two ministries to ensure that workers receive the rights and protections to which they are entitled, the protection of workers in line with the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by the two ministries, and the convening of high-level meetings. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe meets Lao Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Mr Phoxay Sayasone in Laos yesterday.

Rice export zone to cover over 340,000 acres

THE 2026-2027 monsoon paddy Rice Export Zone Programme will be implemented across the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Bago Region, Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region, covering more than 340,000 acres, according to the first 2026 meeting of the Union-level Rice Export Zone Supervisory Committee.

The programme will provide participating farmers with financial as-



The first 2026 coordination meeting of the Union-level Rice Export Zone Supervisory Committee in progress on 3 July.

istance of K750,000 per acre, comprising K300,000 from the Myanmar Agri-

cultural Development Bank, K200,000 from participating exporting com-

panies and K250,000 from the State Economic Promotion Fund.

The committee, jointly chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Myanmar Rice Federation, is responsible for policy guidance, oversight, financing arrangements and resolving disputes between exporters and farmers. The meeting was held online. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Authorities demolish cyber-scam compounds, levelling 9-storey stronghold

AUTHORITIES have continued dismantling illegal buildings used for online fraud and illegal gambling activities in Shwe Kokko, according to official reports.

The government said joint departmental teams are carrying out demolition work in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas to prevent the continued use of illegal structures for online scam operations. Equipment used in such activities has also been systematically destroyed, and the illegal buildings are being completely demolished.



Images show the update before and after the demolition of the nine-storey scam hub.

During the latest phase of the crackdown, authorities used heavy machinery to demolish a nine-storey residential building serving as an online scam hub. The struc-

ture is among 77 target locations slated for removal, which include 57 earmarked for heavy machinery demolition and 20 designated for explosive demolition.

Officials said 68 buildings have been demolished so far. The remaining nine illegal structures will be dismantled in the next phase. — MNA/MKKS

Quad quakes jolt Yangon, neighbouring urban centres

ACCORDING to statements from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), a series of minor earthquakes has occurred within Myanmar over the past few days, affecting Yangon, Sagaing regions, and Shan State.

At 12:13 pm on 4 July, a magnitude 3.0 earthquake hit a location 16 miles west-northwest of Kani. Earlier that morning, at 6:51 am, a magnitude 3.5 earthquake struck near Yangon, in the vicinity of the Hmawwun Bridge in Kyauktan. The epicentre was located approximately six miles from Yangon at



DMH's announcement on the earthquake that occurred in Kani.

a depth of 10 kilometres. At 8:09 pm on 3 July, an earthquake of magnitude 2.9 occurred with its epi-

centre approximately nine miles from Kyaukmyaung, Sagaing.

"I had just woken up

early this morning when there was a noticeable tremor. It was strong enough to make the furniture in my house shake," said Ko Min Min, a resident of Thanlyin Township.

Additionally, the DMH announced that an earthquake occurred in eastern Shan State at 3:39 pm on 3 July.

There have been no reports of injuries or structural damage at this time. However, experts advise residents living near seismic fault lines to remain constantly vigilant and prepared for natural disasters. — TWA/ZN

Tatmadaw troops recapture strategic villages in Indaw



Victorious Tatmadaw troops are seen following the recapture of Meza and Nanthae villages.

TATMADAW columns have reportedly recaptured Meza and Nanthae villages, which were temporarily controlled by what authorities described as armed terrorists groups, according to an official statement.

The statement said security forces conducted coordinated counter-terrorism and clearance operations in the area following earlier control of nearby settlements. Several villages along the Indaw-Meza route were also said to have been retaken in the late June operations.

Authorities stated that the latest opera-

tions involved multiple engagements, with weapons, vehicles, drones and ammunition seized. Terrorists reportedly withdrew after sustaining losses.

The statement added that terrorist groups had disrupted transport routes, extorted civilians and restricted movement in the area, affecting local trade and livelihoods.

Security forces said they will continue stabilization, reconstruction and public service restoration activities alongside ongoing security operations in the region. — MNA/KZL

Gold Market Rate as of 4 July 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,950,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

YGN palm oil wholesale reference prices show gradual decline

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market constantly decreased to K7,245 per viss, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The regulated prices

were set at K7,255 per viss last week ending 2 July and K7,285 during the week ending 25 June.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely ob-

serving the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly. Despite the reference price, the market price is

still high. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal

action under the Essential Goods and Services Law. The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

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

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

28 June

World MSME Day observed

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony to mark the World MSME Day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

29 June

2026 matriculation exam results released

The results of the 2026 Matriculation Examination and the 2026 Industrial, Agricultural, and Livestock Matriculation Examination were officially released yesterday morning. A total of 255,228 candidates sat for the matriculation exam, with 133,673 passing, resulting in a pass rate of 52.37 per cent. For the industrial, agricultural, and livestock matriculation exam, 3,364 candidates sat, with 1,672 passing, giving a pass rate of 49.70 per cent.

30 June

President of the Republic of Belarus to pay a Working Visit to Myanmar

At the invitation of His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, will pay a Working Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.

Head of State meets chief ministers of regions and states

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing gave guidance to the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and chief ministers of regions and states at the President's Office.

1 July

President and Spouse to make State Visit to Lao PDR

At the invitation of President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic His Excellency Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla will pay a State Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the near future.

2 July

Costume Show, Entertainment Gala Mark Myanmar Women's Day 2026

As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women's Day, which falls on 3 July 2026, under the leadership of the Myanmar Women's Committee, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAF) staged the Pearl Jubilee Myanmar women's costume show and entertainment at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw.

3 July

Myanmar, Belarus hold talks

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing held talks with President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko and his delegation members at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall.

4 July

Message sent to International Day of Cooperatives, World Rural Development Day

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.

Myanmar President welcomed in Vientiane

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.

Myanmar President holds talks with National Assembly President, Prime Minister of Lao PDR

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing held talks with President of the National Assembly of Laos Xaysomphone Phomvihane at the Lao National Assembly Office and Prime Minister of the Lao PDR Sonexay Siphandone at the Prime Minister's Office.

Head of State delivers video message to Myanmar Women's Day

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. — GNLM/TTA

People's Military Service Training 3/2024 graduates return home, welcomed by families and residents



Images show the third batch graduates of People's Military Service receiving a warm welcome from families and residents.

MEMBERS of People's Military Service Training Course 3/2024, in accordance with the People's Military Service Law, have completed their duties under the required service period and served in various battalions and units in national defence and regional peace and stability alongside regular military personnel.

As a result, certificates of completion of People's Military Ser-

vice, the People's Military Service Medal and letters of commendation were presented at ceremonies held at relevant military headquarters on 1 July, after which the servicemen returned to their families and respective homes.

Scenes of families and residents welcoming returning citizens who had completed their service, with wreaths, medals and certificates

of honour, were widely shared on social media. Images of the returnees expressing pride in their service, joy at reuniting with their families and gratitude for the warm reception were also circulated on social media.

The servicemen carried out national defence and security duties assigned by the State and the Tatmadaw during their service period, as well as rescue and relief

operations in natural disasters, alongside regular military personnel.

The State and Tatmadaw should therefore ensure that they receive appropriate benefits and allowances during their service period. In addition to salaries, food and other entitlements, those who have completed their service may continue to serve in the Tatmadaw if they wish. Company employees will be reinstated

to their previous or similar positions, and they will also receive appropriate benefits granted by the State.

Furthermore, regarding employment opportunities for those who have completed their service period, the Employment Management Committee for Military Veterans is working with relevant ministries, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and overseas employment agencies to facilitate access to vocational training, government employment, and self-employment opportunities in their communities. — MNA/MKKS

MRF joins World MSME Day ...

FROM PAGE 1

The exhibitions featured locally produced food products, clothing and consumer goods, traditional Myanmar handicrafts, agricultural machinery and farming equipment, fertilizers, seeds, and a wide range of other products manufactured by domestic MSMEs.

MRF also showcased the current status of MSME rice mill operations, the progress of value-added products from rice and rice-based materials, and the production of rice bran oil from bran.

Moreover, the federation will continue to implement and work towards the directives and the President's guidance regarding the development of Myanmar's rice industry. — NN/KK

OPINION

The time has come to develop the country

It is necessary to ensure that areas which have fallen behind for various reasons do not experience development gaps. Some regions, although not remote or border areas, are still underdeveloped. Therefore, efforts must also be made to promote the development of these areas.

Lack of peace and stability cannot help carry out development undertakings. Due to the bitter legacy, areas where ethnic people reside without peace and stability lag in development. Hence, it is necessary to extend an invitation to ethnic groups to talk peace, while efforts must be made to emphasize development measures. Primarily, these regions should be facilitated with human resources which can help improve education, healthcare services, and the socioeconomic lives of the people.

It is necessary to further improve transport and communication systems beyond the current level. While the Union Government is working to ensure the availability of required human

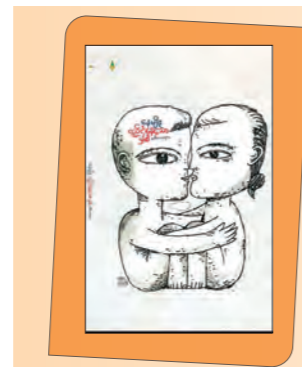
resources for education and healthcare, the respective regions and states should make efforts to do so. It is necessary to enhance the knowledge and improve the health of all people in ethnic areas. Local authorities should also promote production in their respective regions and ensure food sufficiency in terms of consumer goods.

When the country achieves nationwide peace and stability, development activities for all ethnic people across the country will be able to be implemented smoothly and rapidly, and the momentum of national progress will further accelerate. Therefore, the time has come to end and overcome conflicts and difficulties and work collectively towards building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous nation, where all people live in harmony and unity.

Agriculture and livestock farming are matters of national importance. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure the emergence of skilled professionals in the agriculture and livestock sectors in these regions. Ethnic students who have attended the University for Development of National Races of the Union and degree colleges should, upon completion of their studies, be able to take up relevant regional development responsibilities within their own areas.

For the 2026-2027 financial year, funds amounting to K1,397 billion have been allocated for seven border area development subcommittees, and K643.68 billion has also been approved for nine regional project committees. It is stated that project implementation will be successful only when activities across relevant sectors are carried out in a balanced manner in accordance with established standards. To achieve success, leaders of relevant areas, authorities, and all ethnic people must work together in cooperation.

When the country achieves nationwide peace and stability, development activities for all ethnic people across the country will be able to be implemented smoothly and rapidly, and the momentum of national progress will further accelerate. Therefore, the time has come to end and overcome conflicts and difficulties and work collectively towards building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous nation, where all people live in harmony and unity.



Book Title - Essays of a Courting Year
 Author - Nay Myo
 Publishing House - The Leaf House
 Publication Date - March 2026 (1st Edition)
 Price - K12,000

Essays of a Courting Year

TALKING about the author Nay Myo, art runs in his genes. He grew up surrounded by artistic influence. His father is the renowned Ywasagyi Sein Tin Han from Mandalay, who wrote the book titled Hsaing Thama (traditional orchestra player/conductor).

He was also famous for his article titled Bate Theik Pyaing (consecration competition) and for composing the classic song Htanywet Padee (palm leaf beads). Nay Myo's elder brother, Sein Nay Win, is also a musician and serves as the secretary of the Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central).

Born in Mandalay, the author studied at the State School of Fine Arts, where he specialized in applied painting. Nay Myo is an artist who works across multiple disciplines, creating short stories, essays, poetry, cartoons, and

paintings. He held a solo painting exhibition titled 'Moe Ta Pyaut Pyaut' (The Sound of Rain) at the Attributive Gallery in Yangon from 20 to 24 June.

Nay Myo is a prolific essayist. He produces a large volume of high-quality essays which blend daily life with deep reflections, observations and personal experiences. They are light and easy to read, yet carry a profound philosophical meaning.

The newly published book titled Essays of a Courting Year is a collection of 20 essays written for the Daily Eleven newspaper.

Regarding this book, the author writes in his preface that "I was pleased to receive an agreement from The Leaf House to publish Essays of a Courting Year. What made me even happier was that I was also allowed to create the illustrations and cover art for these 20 essays. I have always

The summer breeze carried the fallen leaves. Trains would pass by the old station. Sometimes, we would hear the sound of a cuckoo call. During those days of courtship with Ma Win May, hardship was overshadowed. I smoked back then. I would offer my cigarette to Win May, and she would take a puff or two. She would tell me, "Don't smoke." And so, I stopped.

We spent those long summer days in the sweetness of love. New leaves began to sprout on the tree. I could see their tender, beautiful green colour. The crow perching on the treetop seemed to be chanting in Pali, Okasa (Aw-gatha) proclaiming the union of the world of space and the world of beings. Sankhara (the world of conditioned phenomena) arises, alters and vanishes from moment to moment in the entire physical universe. Love transforms empty routines into a profound journey of purpose, true abundance and fulfilment. Ma Win May was someone who trusted me. Most importantly, she guided and taught me. She allowed me to stay by her side. This is what I wish to write about that courting year."

Readers will encounter Saya Nay Myo's distinctive writing style, his unique perspectives, and his life experiences through his essays.



Book Title - A Duck on the Wide River
 Author - Maung Yint Mar (Kyaunggon)
 Publishing House - Mya Wahyon
 Publication Date - July 2026 (1st Edition)
 Price - K25,000

A Duck on the Wide River (Memoirs of A Judge)

THIS week, I would like to introduce a book that states, "A man who became a judge because he could not become a lawyer. Having lived through three different eras and three different judicial systems, he recounts the cases he decided, the truths and mistakes, his opinions, moments of courage and cowardice, personal prejudices, memories, painful sorrows, and even the memories he wishes he could forget but cannot, sharing as much as he can, and as far as he is permitted.

This is the new book by Saya Maung Yint Mar (Kyaunggon), one of Myanmar's foremost essayists. The book is titled A Duck on the Wide River.

In fact, besides being a writer, the author (Maung Yint Mar - Kyaunggon) also earned his living as a judge. Since the book is a collection of his life experiences, it bears the subtitle Memoirs of A Judge.

The author says, "This is not an autobiography. It is a collection of the memories, experiences, reflections, and observations of a judge who spent nearly thirty years serving in the judicial circle. The book Trials in Burma by the British judge Maurice Collis, translated into Myanmar by Ludu Daw Amar as Cases Tried in Burma and by Saya Kyaw Aung as Experiences in Burma, inspired me to write this book. Moreover, A View from

the Bench by American judge Joseph A Wapner, translated by Saya U Khin Maung Sein as A View from the Bench (Tayagwin Paw Hma Shumyinchat in the Myanmar Language), and Men, Years and Life by great Russian writer Ilya Ehrenburg, translated by Saya Mya Than Tint as 'Lumya, Thekkaritmya, Bawa'. These two books gave me the strength to continue whenever I felt discouraged and almost decided to abandon this work.

I named it A Duck on the Wide River. It is the name of a short story by Sayagyi Myat Thin published in the March 1971 issue of Myawady magazine. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Saya for graciously allowing me to use

it as the title of this book.

In the preface of Saya Thet Naing Zaw, it reads, "Now, Saya Maung Yint Mar (Kyaunggon) has sent me his 'duck': a work that recounts the memories of his life as a judicial officer and judge. The duck, after all, swam across a vast river. The river was so wide that the duck could never have explored every corner of it. Yet, it vividly recalls the waves it encountered, the currents it navigated, the gentle breezes it felt, and the riverbanks where it came ashore. It depicted everything it touched, experienced, felt, and remembered."

Saya Maung Yint Mar (Kyaunggon) has made every effort to portray his experiences of Myanmar's judicial system across three different eras. Some scenes are painted with bold strokes. Others are gentle ones. Some are vivid and striking. Others are subtle and understated. His account encompasses not only courtroom proceedings and criminal cases but also the interactions, frictions, conflicts, and relationships between superiors and subordinates within the judiciary, and his reflections on judicial administration and management.

A Text to My Belle

By Min Min Zan

What words cannot describe,
Are better left for the heart;
Where silent dreams survive,
And hidden feelings start.

Upon its walls they're scribed,
In letters soft and bright;
By tender love prescribed,
They gently glow at night.

From thence they dance and fly,
Like stars across the skies;
No tongue can tell them why,
Yet truth within them lies.

Explosive Philosophy of the Neglected ပန်တော်ကျ၏ပေါက်ကွဲမှု ဒဿနိက

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

Not the very beauty
A piece of torn paper
Is believed to be a golden picture.

Although it is the real beauty,
On the roadside grass,
Being dropped and trodden black,
Quite the unusable flower
Still has a delicate flavour.

An insane man, grief-stricken,
Seeing the life of the flower,
By comparison with the beauty broken,
Is still chortling with derisive laughter;
All on the ground, endless beauty
Will be flowering, but nothing
In the zero world, on the beauty

searching
He does not indulge himself
And the flower covered in mud -
His heart goes out to it, crying,
Then he crumples it very easily.

Oh, the beauty is
Deep down, painfully enjoying it;
In the heart it is rooted -
By whom can it be excavated?

အင်မလီ ဒစ်ကင်ဆင် ရဲ့ ကဗျာ အမှတ် (၃၀၁)

ဘာသာပြန်သူ - မြင့်စံ

ကျမ စဉ်းစားတယ်
၁၀၀ (မြေကြီး) ဟာ
တို့တောင်းတယ်
စိတ်ဖြူဖြူခြင်းက အပြည့်
လူများစွာလည်း နာကျင်ကြ
ဒီတော့ ဘာဖြစ်လဲ

ကျမ ဆင်ခြင်တယ်
လူတွေ သေရမယ်ပေါ့
ကျန်းမာ ရှင်သန်ခြင်း ဟာ
ပျက်စီး ယိုယွင်းမှု ကို
မကျော်လွှားနိုင်
သို့ပေမယ့် ဘာဖြစ်လဲ

ကျမ တွေးမိတယ်
ကောင်းကင်ဘုံမှာ

တစ်နည်းနည်း နဲ့တော့
ညီမျှ သွားမှာ ပဲ
ညီမျှခြင်း အသစ်
ပေးအပ်ခံရပြီပေါ့
ဒါလည်း ဘာဖြစ်လဲ။

I reason, Earth is short -
And Anguish - absolute -
And many hurt,
But, what of that?

I reason, we could die -
The best Vitality
Cannot excel Decay,
But, what of that?

I reason, that in Heaven -
Somehow, it will be even -
Some new Equation, given -
But, what of that?

NATIONAL Entertainment



Donations made for MMPO members

ACADEMY Lwin Moe and his family donated K1 million, and actress Hla Myo Thinzar Nwe and her family donated K500,000 for the 18th donation event of MMPO on 30 June, according to academy Kyi Soe Tun, chairman of MMPO.

"We have been providing rice, cooking oil, and food supplies to members of the film industry since the COVID-19 pandemic, and this is now the 18th donation. In fact, we have been supporting Myanmar film artistes as much as we can since 1995. For this donation drive, many film industry members and generous donors have continued to contribute financial assistance," he said.

The 17th donation event was from 22 to 24 January 2026, and it provided foodstuffs to each stratum of film industry members. — ASH/KTZH

New sanctuary for the elderly inaugurated to uplift seniors



THE opening ceremony of Khine Hnin Wai Home for the Aged took place in Amarapura Township of Mandalay on 29 June.

Marking the opening ceremony, the actress also organized a merit-making event, including conveyance of an ancient Buddha statue of Mon Empress Shin Saw Pu and a Waso robe donation event together with the elderly.

"I want to take care of the elderly like parents. We carefully select and admit only those who are truly in need, aged 70 and above. I did not expect that so many people would apply, so the current facility is already feeling insufficient. Elderly people have experienced many hardships in life. When they pray at the Buddha, they send me loving-kindness, and I receive that compassion in return," actress Khine Hnin Wai said sincerely, explaining her intention.

At the centre, the elderly people are accepted without any fees and are provided with completely free, loving care. In addition, to ensure comfortable living, the facility provides 24-hour water, electricity, and full air-conditioning. Healthcare, daily necessities, new clothing, and necessary medicines are also fully provided without any shortage. A senior artiste also made a positive comment highlighting the goodwill of the actress. —TWA/KTZH

Filming of 'Khet Kywe' begins

THE launch ceremony for the 'Khet Kywe' film took place at the Eaindawya Pagoda in Yangon on 3 July.

ARK Film Production produces it, and the film is arranged by AKH, with story and plot by Aung Khant Zaw (Saint Paul), Maung Myat

Swe, and director Steel will direct it.

Cast members are Academy Myint Myat, Thuta Aung, Bhone Shan, Zwe Naing Win, Academy Soe Myat Thuzar, Academy Aye Myat Thu, Mya Yar and other artistes. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Brothers in arms: captivating photo radiates pure bond

MYANMAR theatrical male dancers San Yay Moe and Aung Zabu performed at the entertainment marking the Myanmar Women's Day.

The two dancers shared their lovely photos with their fans. Their fans were also

satisfied with their unity without a competitive mindset, instead showing their strong desire to see their duel performance. The fans also urged each other to continue supporting the two young dancers without discrimination. — TWA/KTZH

'The Memories of a Pencil' art expo held

'THE Memories of a Pencil' Student Art Exhibition took place from 4 to 6 July, according to the gallery. The exhibition will be held at Good Mood Gallery, located in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region. It is a Group Art Exhibition featuring works by graduates of YYH Art Class,

showcasing around forty students' diverse artworks, including watercolour, oil, and acrylic paintings, and various themes and styles.

"The Student Art Exhibition titled 'The Memories of a Pencil' will be displayed at the Good Mood Gallery from 10 am to 9 pm on 4-6 July.

We warmly invite art lovers to come and visit the exhibition," said Ingyin Khine, a student participant in the exhibition.

The artworks to be displayed come in various sizes, including 24 by 24 inches, 36 by 24 inches, 18 by 24 inches, and 18 by 18 inches. — ASH/KTZH



Rising stage starlet defies odds with fierce dedication to her craft

TRADITIONAL Myanmar theatrical actress May Myat Noe Khin, of the Aung Zabu Thabin troupe, stated that she welcomes constructive criticism as a tool for growth and remains committed to perfecting her craft.

As an artiste, she noted

that she not only receives praise from social media and the public but also faces criticism and suggestions. She added that she will move forward with strong determination to gain greater recognition and appreciation from both her troupe and her fans.

The young actress, affectionately known by fans as Noe Sein, emphasized her commitment to the path she has chosen.

She is the daughter of performer Palin Sein of the Palin Sein, Phan Khwat Sein and Amyee Sein Thabin of Mon State. — TWA/KTZH

'Ghost Hotel' premiere unlocks night of cinematic chills

THE premiere show for the horror-comedy film "Ghost Hotel" was held at Nawaday Cinema in Mayangon Township, Yangon.

The film's story was written by director Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt), while Moe Set Wyne and Thura Tha Wah co-authored the screenplay, with Moe Moe directing.

"The story of Ghost Hotel is an original work written by my mentor,

Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt). It is not copied from any other film. I only learned from screenwriter Aung Gyi that there are some connections between my previous film 'U Myo's Thu Taw Thasay and Ghost Hotel. We filmed this movie in PyinOoLwin during the winter season and did our best to make it visually impressive. Since it combines horror with comedy, I hope audiences



will enjoy and support it when it is screened," said director Moe Moe.

Cast members of the film screened on 3 July

include Academy Kyaw Kyaw Bo, Min Bhone Myat, Sit Naing, May Myint Mo, Wai Lar Yi and other artistes. — ASH/KTZH

NATIONAL

AML/CFT awareness seminar and advanced real estate training launched

THE opening ceremony of the AML/CFT Awareness Seminar and Advanced Real Estate Training 1/2026, jointly organized by the Anti-Money Laundering Central Committee, the General Administration Department, and the Taw Win Unity Real Estate Services Association, was held on 4 July at the Sky Star Hotel in Yangon.



Officials attending the opening ceremony of the AML/CFT Awareness Seminar.

At the ceremony, Dr May Than Nwe, the Yangon Region's minister for planning, economy, and finance, delivered the opening remarks and U Nay Myo Aung, chairman

of the association, stated: "This training aims to prevent real estate agents from being used in money laundering processes, ensuring members understand and comply

with anti-money laundering procedures."

He noted that the registration application was submitted to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

on 8 May 2024, and it was granted on 30 March 2026. Furthermore, an MoU has already been signed with the Mandalay Region Real Estate Agents Development Association to cooperate on joint initiatives.

The event also included the acceptance of new members, training for members on AML/CFT financial investigation, a jackpot programme by Jade Property, and lectures by relevant officials on topics such as tax awareness, urban land law, and how to become a professional real estate entrepreneur. — TWA/ZN

PyinOoLwin offers free vocational electric welding training



This photo shows training materials and equipment of electric welding.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held the opening ceremony of a free vocational electric welding training course for the 2026-2027 financial year at the department's meeting hall in PyinOoLwin on 1 July.

PyinOoLwin Township Constituency 1 Mandalay Region Hlut-taw Representative U Win Zaw delivered the opening remarks, and PyinOoLwin District Department of Rural Development Head U Set Naing Htun explained that the training was organized with the aims of creating new employment opportunities, increasing household incomes, and addressing the shortage

of skilled workers in the local area. PyinOoLwin Township DRD Head Daw Khin Mon Kyaw presented training materials and equipment to a trainee representative on behalf of all participants.

The free four-week vocational course, running from 1 to 31 July, is being attended by 20 trainees from Ward 19, Ward 20, Naungkhamgyi, Ngayantchaung, Pein-negon (South), Pein-negon (North), Namkat, Naungwae, and PanOotaung villages. Experienced external instructors will conduct both theoretical and practical sessions to enable participants to establish small-scale businesses. — Karan (Rural)

MRCS assists K400K per household, totalling K53.6M

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has provided cash assistance totalling K53.6 million to 134 households in Pinlaung Township, southern Shan State, at K400,000 per household, the MRCS said.



This photo features the Myanmar Red Cross Society providing cash to households in Pinlaung Township affected by the severe earthquake.

The assistance is part of the MRCS's ongoing social assistance programme to support the rehabilitation of residents affected by the severe earthquake.

With support from the Danish Red Cross, the MRCS distributed cash assistance totalling

K53.6 million to 134 earthquake-affected households in Yinhmi Ward, Zeytan Ward, Minbu Village-Tract, Pinlaunggyi Village-Tract, Yongwin Ward, Koekhaung Ward and Sintaung Ward in Pinlaung Township, at K400,000 per household.

Before distributing the assistance, the MRCS conducted field visits and carried out needs assessments in the affected communities. — ASH/MKKS

Writer Ma Aye Pwint celebrates book launch and birthday

WRITER Ma Aye Pwint (Khin Tint Wai of the Yangon City Development Committee) launched her fourth book, Kyonya Soneya Phyittat Thahmya Apyo Sin Bawa (Encounters, Meetings and Everything That Happens in a Virgin Life), at the Community Centre of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township on 3 July.

The event also marked the author's birthday. Guests were served birthday cake, and do-

nations of K100,000 each were presented to the Bahan Township Information and Public Relations Department and the 'Hmya Tu Hmya' group.

The launch was attended by prominent figures from Myanmar's literary and music communities, including the chair of the Myanmar Writers Association (Central) and the chair of the Myanmar Library Association. Musical performances were also presented.



Writer Ma Aye Pwint presents K100,000 donations each to the Bahan Township Information and Public Relations Department and the 'Hmya Tu Hmya' group during the event.

Published by the Min Nae May Publishing House, the book is priced at K7,000. — TWA/KZL

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ECONOMY WORLD

Japan to link Narita, Haneda airports by new limited express train in 2030s

The rail link simplifies airport transfers for inbound tourists travelling across Japan.

A new limited express train service directly linking Narita and Haneda airports is expected to start operating in the 2030s and should reduce the current travel time of about 90 minutes between the two, sources close to the matter said Friday.

The move aims to make it easier for inbound tourists arriving at Narita airport in Chiba Prefecture to transfer to domestic flights at Tokyo's Haneda airport and travel onward to destinations across Japan.

Keisei Electric Railway Co plans to introduce a new limited express service in fiscal 2028 between Narita Airport Station and Oshiage Station in Tokyo's Sumida Ward, before extending it in the 2030s through the Toei



The current 90-minute travel time between the two airports will be shortened.

PHOTO: TRAVEL AND TOUR WORLD

Asakusa and Keikyu lines to Haneda airport.

The project also calls for the construction of a new elevated station and tracks for Keisei's Narita Sky Access Line at Narita airport, which links the airport with central Tokyo.

The plan aims to increase transport capacity by adding a second

track to single-track sections on the Keisei and East Japan Railway Co, or JR East, networks, allowing trains to pass each other.

With the new station and additional track, the number of limited express trains per hour is likely to nearly double, the sources said.

Narita International

al Airport Corp, the transport ministry, and railway and airline operators have been discussing upgrades to Narita airport facilities, including the construction of a new terminal. They are expected to finalize the project's overall framework in the near future.

— Kyodo

Greek expats returning home in increasing numbers: OECD

AN ever-growing number of expatriate Greeks have been returning to their country, which has largely recovered from

a decade-long economic crisis, according to an OECD study released Friday.

In 2023, for the first

time since the crisis, the number of Greeks returning to their country exceeded the number of those leaving with 46,000 returns and 37,000 departures, the OECD reports.

According to Eurostat, 773,000 Greek citizens left the country between 2010 and 2024, while 473,000 returned during the same period.

Starting in late 2009, Greece required a series of bailouts from its European Union partners, who imposed several packages of tough spending cuts and economic reforms. Greece's unemployment

rate peaked at 26 per cent in 2012 but has since fallen back to eight per cent.

Greece's labour ministry credits the return of expats to modernisation measures including the digitization of public services, cutting red tape, reducing income tax for those returning from abroad, and the recognition of medical qualifications obtained abroad.

However, more than 800,000 people born in Greece still live in OECD countries, the majority of them in the United States, Australia, Canada and EU countries. — AFP



Ellinikon is a southern suburban town in the Athens agglomeration in Attica, Greece. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Italy waterways in 'critical state' from drought: authority

SEVERAL waterways in northern Italy are in a "critical state" due to drought, and the weather forecast bodes ill for the coming days, the Po River Authority (ADBPO) said Friday.

"The grip of drought continues to tighten on northern Italy," the institution monitoring Italy's longest river said in a statement.

Light rainfall brought a drop in temperatures on Wednesday and Thursday but the authority said that if there was no more rain measures such as limiting irrigation would be needed.

The body said that Lake Maggiore at the foot of the Alps was losing four centimetres (1.6 inches) per day and was now only 48 per cent full. — AFP



Lake Maggiore is the second largest lake in Italy and is a popular tourist site. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

US must "accept existing realities" on trade

IRANIAN Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has said that the United States must accept that realities have changed following the Israeli-US conflict with Iran, during his meeting with Uzbekistan's speaker of parliament, as reported by Al Jazeera.

"Conditions have improved compared to the past, and post-war developments have caused Americans to accept existing realities," Ghalibaf said, as cited by Al Jazeera. "In such an environment, trade relations can be expanded further, and we hope that the groundwork for lifting sanctions will also be prepared." — ANI

Summit highlights immigrant founders' innovation role

A summit highlighting the contribution of immigrant entrepreneurs to the US innovation ecosystem will be held in San Francisco in October, at a time when H-1B visa registrations have declined sharply and immigration restrictions are tightening in the United States.

The One Way Summit, scheduled for 28-29 October, is expected to bring together more than 1,000 founders, investors and technology leaders to discuss the role of immigrant entrepreneurs in driving innovation and business growth. — ANI

Official “Gundam” store opens in London, drawing long queues

AN official store selling plastic model kits from Japan’s robot anime “Mobile Suit Gundam” series opened Friday in London, becoming the second “Gundam Base” outlet in Europe after Germany.

About 200 products were on display inside the shop and customers holding boxes of “Gunpla”, as Gundam plastic model kits are known, formed queues to purchase them. Some waited for hours outside before the shop opened.

“There’s so many kits I found here that I didn’t expect to see,” said a 22-year-old man who had waited with his sister for about five hours.

The Gundam anime series became a huge

hit after its first title was aired in 1979, spawning a successful franchise including sequels, movies, comics, video games and plastic toys.

The story revolves around Gundam giant robots known as “mobile suits” fighting wars in space and on Earth.

The Japanese anime series began to take off in Britain as more English-language episodes became available following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Kazuichi Kojima, an executive at Bandai Namco Amusement Europe Ltd, which operates the store. Kojima expressed hope that the new store will make Gundam even more popular in Britain. — Kyodo



Shoppers in costumes pose for a photo at an official store selling plastic model kits from Japan’s robot anime “Mobile Suit Gundam” series in London on its opening day on 3 July 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

China seeks public feedback on draft amendment to e-commerce law

CHINA’S State Administration for Market Regulation and the Ministry of Commerce began soliciting public opinions on a draft amendment to the country’s e-commerce law Saturday.

The draft amendment contains 20 provisions, including those aimed at broadening the law’s regulatory scope. In addition to platforms and in-platform merchants, it would further clarify the rights and obligations of other participants in the platform economy.



A live-streamer is seen selling women’s shoes in a live broadcast room at the e-commerce centre of Shapingba District, Chongqing, China, 18 June 2025. PHOTO: CGTN

It highlights the need to improve the liability framework for platforms,

calling for a wider range of regulatory tools and stronger support for rou-

tine oversight.

Targeting cross-sector operations in the platform economy, the draft amendment calls for stronger coordination among regulators. Measures include applying consistent oversight to both online and offline businesses and strengthening cross-department collaboration. To tackle serious illegal practices in the e-commerce sector, the draft amendment would revise relevant provisions in response to public concerns. — Xinhua

German auto supplier Continental to sell unit

GERMAN auto supplier Continental announced Saturday a four-billion-euro (\$4.6-billion) deal to sell a division to a US investment group, the latest move in a major restructuring.

Continental, which has been struggling amid a crisis in the wider European auto sector, has been slimming down its operations to focus on its traditional tyre business.

The group has signed an agreement to sell its ContiTech division, which makes plastic and rubber products for industrial clients, to private equity firm Lone Star Funds, according to a statement.

As well as the four-billion-euro sale price, Continental could receive up to 250 million euros more in coming years, depending on the business’s performance.

“With the planned sale of ContiTech, Continental is completing its strategic realignment,” it said. — AFP

Sri Lanka amends sugar colour-code label rules

Sri Lanka has introduced amendments to regulations governing colour-code labelling for sugar-containing liquid food products, setting out updated requirements for the design and display of red, amber and green sugar-level logos on product packaging, local media reported Friday.

The amendments were issued under the signature of Minister of Health and Mass Media, Nalinda Jayatissa, in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee. They were published in an Extraordinary Gazette dated 23 June. Under the amended regulations, the sugar content per 100 millilitres represented by the red colour has been reduced from 11 grammes to eight grammes. Liquid food products containing 2.5 grammes to eight grammes of sugar per 100 millilitres must carry an amber label, while those containing less than 2.5 grammes of sugar per 100 millilitres should display a green label. — Xinhua

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MSC FOTRONE F VOY.NO. (SB626A)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC FOTRONE F VOY.NO. (SB626A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-7-2026 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2609N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC QIUMING VOY.NO. (2609N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-7-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0052N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS SUSANNA VOY.NO. (0052N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-7-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For:</p> <p>(ONE) OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS LINE</p>
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WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

JULY 4

Pope urges Europe to protect migrants in visit to island frontier

POPE Leo XIV on Saturday pressed Europe to do more to protect and integrate migrants as he visited Italy's Lampedusa island, a major port of call for those risking the perilous crossing from Africa.

His trip to the migration frontline was a stark message to both EU and US leaders in a period of both growing intolerance and indifference.

The Catholic Church's first US pope,

who has clashed with President Donald Trump's administration over its treatment of migrants, chose to mark 4 July the United States' 250th anniversary of independence, at a migration hotspot.

Leo's visit also comes just two weeks after the European Union's approval of new migrant rules allowing much broader detention powers and the creation of deportation centres outside the bloc. — AFP



Pope Leo XIV has made the defence of migrants one of the pillars of his papacy. PHOTO: AFP

JULY 3

Wildfires cancel western US fireworks

A national incident report issued Friday said 41 uncontained large fires remained nationwide, with the country at its second-highest wildfire preparedness level.

Utah Governor Spencer Cox issued a temporary statewide restriction on fireworks in response to wildfire conditions, his office said. The order allows local governments

to designate limited areas where fireworks may still be used through 5 July.

State drought data show 94 per cent of Utah was in severe or extreme drought. — Xinhua

JULY 1

Trump takes first flight on new jet

US President Donald Trump said Wednesday he was thrilled to make his first flight aboard his new Air Force One plane, thanking Qatar for the controversial gift of the luxury jet.

Trump said the United States "couldn't build a plane like this" — despite the fact that the heavily modified Boeing 747-8 air-

craft was originally made there.

"To be honest with you, I'm excited about the first flight. Nobody's ever seen anything like it," Trump told journalists travelling with him, including an AFP photographer, ahead of a trip to North Dakota.

The 80-year-old president is due to attend an

event at the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library as part of celebrations for the 250th anniversary of American independence.

Critics have raised a host of ethical, constitutional and security concerns about the gifting of an aircraft worth hundreds of millions of dollars by a foreign power like Qatar. — AFP

JUNE 29

Afghanistan says hit by Pakistani airstrikes

AFGHAN government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on X early Monday that eastern areas of Afghanistan bordering Pakistan had come under Pakistani airstrikes the previous night, resulting in casualties.

According to Mujahid, the Pakistani military carried out airstrikes on

Gayan District in Paktika Province, Tsamkani District in Paktia Province, and Manogai District in Kunar Province.

He said the strikes caused dozens of civilian casualties, including women and children.

Mujahid also strongly condemned what he described as a "cowardly

act of aggression", calling it "a crime and an act of brutality".

Twenty-nine terrorists were killed after Pakistan launched a ground operation and airstrikes against outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists and its splinter group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar. — Xinhua

JULY 2

Ireland begins EU presidency

IRELAND on Wednesday formally began its six-month presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) as it hosted an opening ceremony at the Dublin Castle, pledging to strengthen Europe's economic competitiveness, security and resilience at a time of mounting geopo-

litical challenges.

The ceremony featured a flag-raising by the Irish Defence Forces and performances of the Irish and EU anthems.

"We are proud that Ireland has become a beacon of hope to others for the transformative potential of Europe," Mi-

cheal Martin, Taoiseach of Ireland or the Irish Prime Minister, said in his speech.

The Irish government has structured its six-month legislative agenda around three core operational pillars: Competitiveness, Values, and Security. — Xinhua

JUNE 30

Over one million migrants apply in Spain

MORE than one million undocumented migrants in Spain have sought legal status under a scheme that has defied a European crackdown on irregular immigration, the government said on Tuesday, the final day for submissions.

The vast scheme was predicted to benefit around 500,000 people, most from Latin Amer-

ica, when the left-wing government launched it in April. "The more than one million applications submitted... show how necessary this recognition of rights and responsibilities was," Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told an event in Madrid.

Sanchez has become a standard bearer of more open immigration policies

as his European neighbours — including some Socialist peers — toughen measures in response to pressure from ascendant far-right parties.

He has long argued that immigrants are needed to sustain the economy, the welfare state and pensions as Spain's population ages and people leave rural regions. — AFP

JUNE 28

C909 marks 10 years of commercial service

CHINA'S homegrown C909 regional jet has marked 10 years of commercial operation, becoming a mainstay of the country's regional aviation market and expanding its footprint overseas.

The C909, formerly known as the ARJ21, made its first commercial

flight on 28 June 2016. Since then, the aircraft has carried more than 37 million passenger trips, according to the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, Ltd (COMAC).

COMAC said 186 C909 aircraft have been delivered to more than 10 customers. The jet ac-

counts for about 70 per cent of China's domestic regional jet fleet, operates on more than 860 routes and serves more than 180 cities, with over 500 flights a day.

Recent developments point to the aircraft's broader role. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar beat Hong Kong in U20 friendly

MYANMAR U20 defeated the Hong Kong U20 men's football team 2-0 in their first international friendly ahead of the 2027 AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre on 4 July.

After a goalless first half, Myanmar secured the win with two second-half goals. Thura Min

Thant opened the scoring in 58 minutes after being set up by Kaung Khant Kyaw, before Kaung Khant Kyaw doubled the lead three minutes later.

The two teams will meet again in a second friendly at 4 pm on 7 July at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL



Myanmar U20 and Hong Kong U20 compete during their international friendly at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. **PHOTO: MFF**

World Cup serves up Wimbledon dilemma: football or tennis?

WIMBLEDON organizers were clear: there would be no broadcasting of World Cup matches on the tennis site's screens. Yet the football is everywhere, from fans' phones to player press conferences.

When Harry Kane equalized for England with 15 minutes left against the Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, a huge roar followed by applause emanated from Centre Court and No 1 Court.

"I thought it was for us," joked Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic, who defeated French Open champion Mirra Andrejeva in their second-round match.

Many spectators had their phones in their laps, switching their attention between grass-court tennis in southwest London and England's nerve-jan-



Spectators relax on the hill outside No1 Court at the 2026 Wimbledon Championships. **PHOTO: AFP**

gling win 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometres) away in Atlanta.

Wimbledon began on 29 June and finishes on 12 July, running smack bang in the middle of the month-long World Cup taking place in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

On Wimbledon's first day, chief executive Sally Bolton said no football

would be shown there, neither on the giant screens on the outdoor hill where fans gather to watch the tennis action, nor in the players area.

"Clearly if people have got their phones then we're not going to prevent people from watching the football," she explained.

But isn't it frustrating for organizers of the

prestigious Grand Slam to see spectators with their eyes glued to their phones?

"I think there's some things you can control and some things you can't control, and sometimes it creates some nice, light-hearted moments around people," tournament director Jamie Baker told reporters Friday. — AFP

Cape Verde celebrates heroic World Cup defeat

APPLAUSE erupted, drums began to beat and car horns honked: Cape Verde's narrow loss to Argentina was cause for celebration early Saturday in Praia as the Blue Sharks' World Cup dream run came to a sad but

brilliant end.

The African archipelago of just over 500,000 people progressed to the knockout stages in their first ever World Cup after drawing with European champions Spain, Uruguay and Saudi Arabia

in the group stage.

However after an epic last-32 contest in Miami where Cape Verde pushed Argentina to the brink, the reigning world champions snatched a 3-2 win to move on, and the rank outsiders' journey was over.

"We lost the match, but we feel like we achieved a victory because we held our own against the world champions," fan Adilson Soaresz told AFP. "Cape Verde was magnificent".

The Atlantic island nation has become one of the fairytale stories of this year's expanded 48-team tournament, confounding expectations. — AFP



Cape Verde defender Sidney Lopes Cabral celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's second goal against Argentina in Miami. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ghana falls quiet after exit from 2026 FIFA World Cup

THE streets of Ghana's capital, Accra, and the surrounding areas fell quiet after the country's men's football team, the Black Stars, was eliminated from the World Cup in the early hours of Saturday.

The usual wild jubiliations on the streets, in pubs, restaurants, and various homes that characterized matches were nonexistent at the end of Ghana's round of 32 encounter with Colombia.

Football fans who had to stay awake to watch the Black Stars from 01:30 am GMT left the streets and retreated to their beds after the defeat.

According to some



Colombia's Jhon Arias celebrates his goal against Ghana in the World Cup round-of-32 match in Kansas City. **PHOTO: AFP**

fans, the win by the South Americans over the West Africans was a well-deserved one since the Colombians were better on the night.

Mustapha Iddrisu said: "I think Ghana didn't do much to win the match, and that had it not been Lawrence Ati-Zigi,

the situation could have been worse."

Another fan, George Otabil, who was quite dejected, said: "Even though I am disappointed Ghana lost, I think the Colombians were better than us and deserve to progress to the next stage of the World Cup." — Xinhua

Cracking open a can of cannabis

Americans swap beer for cannabis drinks, driving a booming market.

THIS Fourth of July, many Americans are swapping beer for cannabis-infused drinks at barbecues and brunches, marking a sharp cultural shift from marijuana's old "stoner" image to a more mainstream, socially acceptable buzz.

THC-infused beverages — often sold in sleek bottles at regular supermarkets — are replacing wine and beer for some professionals and families. In North Carolina, small business owner Cecilia Pfaff served a hemp-derived "Social Tonic" with 170 milligrammes of THC (10 milligrammes per serving) alongside mimosas and quiches at a friends' gathering.



THC-infused drinks, like Willie's, are a more socially acceptable way to consume marijuana-related products in the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

Guests like pharmaceutical salesman Pat Clougherty say they now reach for these drinks at night instead of red wine or beer, noting they enjoy the relaxation without heavy hangovers.

National trends back this up. Gallup polling in 2025 found only 54 per cent of Americans drink alcohol, the lowest level since 1939. Meanwhile, cannabis beverage sales are surging. — AFP

Comfort concerns drive Japanese women's kit changes

FEMALE footballers in Japan are driving changes to kits long treated as one-size-fits-all, pushing teams and manufacturers to address concerns over transparency, menstruation and fit.

As breathability and lightness have become priorities for athletes regardless of gender, some teams and manufacturers are rethinking designs

Japanese female footballers drive kit changes to enhance on-field comfort.

that for years differed little from those worn by men.

New kits feature less transparent fabrics, cuts tailored to women's body

shapes and darker colors aimed at helping players feel more comfortable during menstruation.

At Fujieda Junshin High School in Shizuoka

Prefecture, a powerhouse in girls' football, concerns about transparency and menstruation prompted changes to the team's kits.

A Japanese women's football team changed its practice and match kits after players complained that the new white, quick-drying fabric was too transparent, especially during menstruation. — Kyodo



This photo shows WE League women's football shirts designed by B's International in Tokyo on 9 April 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

'Not a museum': Slovak UNESCO village strains under tourism

“Private property. No entry”, “No photography” read the signs on a gate set up in front of a traditional log house in Vlkolinec, a UNESCO-listed Slovak village visited by tens of thousands of tourists a year.

“Are we in a zoo or something?” 68-year-old pensioner Anton Sabucha protested to AFP, nodding to the signs outside his house. Tourists are “going wherever they want, taking pictures and peering around” every day, he complained. He said he and other villagers felt like extras on a film set and he wanted Vlkolinec's UNESCO World Heritage status removed.

Sabucha, the oldest resident, is one of just 17 people who live year-round in the village, struggling to preserve its authenticity and its inhabitants' privacy in the face of the tourism boom. Vlkolinec, which comprises some 45 wooden houses, attracts around 100,000 tourists a year according to official estimates. They wander among the

Slovak village residents seek UNESCO status removal due to overtourism.



Vlkolinec attracts around 100,000 tourists a year. **PHOTO: AFP**

houses — painted mostly in shades of white, yellow or brown — and go biking or hiking in the surrounding hills of central Slovakia. UNESCO recognized

Vlkolinec in 1993. Two other sites with traditional log houses also have heritage status in neighbouring Hungary and Czech Republic. — AFP

INDIA: Premium long-form conversation platform

CONVERSATIONS That Matter has officially launched as a premium long-form conversation platform hosted by entrepreneur and actor King K Porwal. Designed for audiences seeking authenticity and depth, it

moves beyond headlines and soundbites to explore the stories, decisions, challenges, and defining moments behind public success.

The show brings together entrepreneurs, investors, athletes, artists,

innovators, policymakers, and industry leaders for open, thoughtful discussions on leadership, resilience, innovation, ambition, culture, and personal growth.

Powered by FACE Magazine and part of Face

Media Networks' expanding intellectual-property portfolio, FACE 2 FACE aims to build a knowledge-sharing ecosystem where meaningful dialogues educate, inspire, and challenge assumptions. — ANI