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Research Drives Export Growth Surge

Rising commodity prices, driven by supply imbalances and high production costs, are undermining national development.

President U Min Aung Hlaing presides over the Union government meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The government in its tenure needs to analyze the prospects of peace and stability of the State and development of the nation, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the meeting of the Union government at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, the President noted that the government has to take responsibility for the development of the nation with utmost effort. In doing so, the country needs the restoration of peace and stability.

In highlighting the role of the State economy, the President stated that high commodity prices pose major challenges to the State's efforts for national development, resulting from supply and demand imbalances and increased production costs.

He urged relevant ministries to systematically supervise the production of a larger export volume. He also invited local businesspersons to put their investments in manufacturing agricultural products for export purposes, including paddy bran oil production for domestic consumption. They need to emphasize the increase in rice export volume.

The President underlined that as facts and figures are of great importance in formulating the plans and projects for boosting the State economy, the data mentioned in relevant sectors must be aligned with the on-ground situation.

SEE PAGE 3

MoE works to ensure school access for unenrolled children

This image highlights students learning in a rural classroom. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing stated that the ministry is actively collecting data on children across Myanmar who have not yet enrolled in school, prioritizing efforts to ensure their return to the classroom.

He provided this response on 6 July during the 19th day of the second regular session of the third Pyithu Hluttaw, in answer to a question posed by Daw Swe Swe Thin, the Hluttaw representative for the Paungde constituency. The question concerned efforts to collect data on five year old children to support their enrolment and classroom attendance, amid concerns that displaced children may be excluded from educational opportunities.

SEE PAGE 7

Fuel Price Caps Plunge as Market Pressures Mount

THE regulated fuel price caps further declined by K445 per litre compared to the previous week.

The reference prices were set at K3,360 for Octane 92 and K3,410 for Octane 95, K3,090 for diesel and K3,800 for premium diesel during the week ending 9 July. The prices set during last week ending 2 July declined to K3,615 for Octane 92 and K3,695 for Octane 95, K3,535 for diesel and K4,190 for premium diesel.

SEE PAGE 4

An LNG tanker discharges cargo while berthed at Yangon Port.

NATIONAL PAGE 6

"AI, Digital Tools Power Traditional Medicine University

NATIONAL PAGE 10

Yangon Region grows over 600,000 acres of monsoon paddy

NATIONAL

Amendment to Budget Preparation and Submission Bill (2006) released

THE Amendment to the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Bill (2006) and the Amendment to Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Law (2026), which will be discussed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, was released for public observation and review. The reviews and recommendations can be sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Amendment to Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law (2026)

(Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law ..., 2026)

... 1388 ME
(... 2026)

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law.

1. This law shall be called the Amendment to Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law (2026).
2. The expression "the Ministry of Planning and Finance" mentioned in the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "the Ministry of Finance and Revenue", respectively.
3. The expression "before 15 July" mentioned in Section 2 of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "before 15 January".
4. The expression "before 31 July" mentioned in Section 3 of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "before 30 January".
5. The expression "before 21 August" mentioned in Section 4 (a) and (b) of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "before 15 February", respectively.
6. The expression "before 30 April" mentioned in Section 5 of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "before 31 October".
7. The expression "before 10 May" mentioned in Section 6 of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "before 7 November".
8. The expression "before 24 May" mentioned in Section 7 (a) and (b) of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "before 15 November", respectively.
9. The expression "no later than the last week of May" mentioned in Section 18 of the Union Budget Preparation and Submission Law shall be replaced with "within October".

Amendment to Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Law (2026)

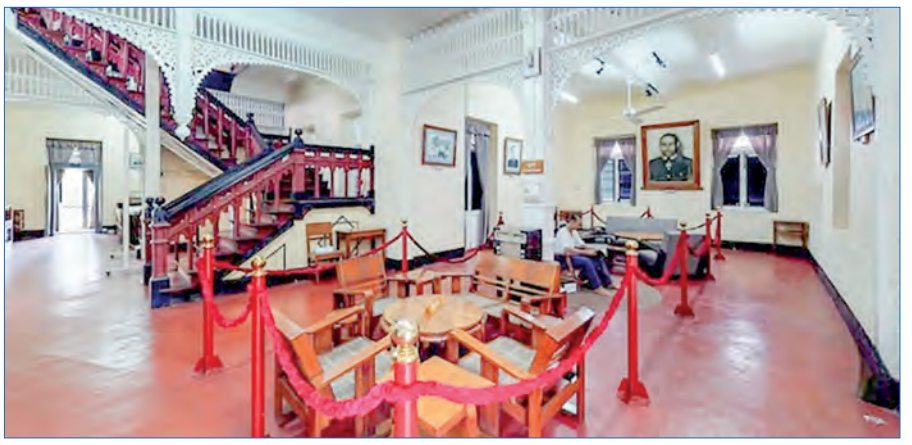
(Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law ..., 2026)

... 1388 ME
(... 2026)

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law.

1. This Law shall be called the Amendment to the Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Law (2026).
2. In Section 3 of the Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Law:
   the expression "The Budget Department of Region or State" shall be replaced with "Region or State Budget Department"; and the expression "7 March" shall be replaced with "7 September".
3. In Section 17 of the Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Law, the words "1 February" shall be replaced with "1 August".
4. In Section 21 of the Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Law, the words "the last week of May" shall be replaced with "the last week of November".
5. In Section 23(a), of the Region or State Budget Preparation and Submission Law, the words "Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry" shall be replaced with "Ministry of Finance and Revenue".

Bogyoke Aung San Museum Restored to Glory



The Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) during its major restoration, which preserved its original architectural features.

THE Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon) in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, has completed 100 per cent of its major restoration work while preserving its original architectural features, according to the National Museum (Yangon).

The restoration project began in November 2025 and was undertaken in preparation for a special exhibition marking the 79th Martyrs' Day, which falls on 19 July 2026.

The project was implemented out by the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture and the Ministry of Construction, with the original design and architectural features carefully preserved. The Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies and the Myanmar Architects Council also participated in the restoration. — ASH/KNN

Books and Buzz: Dawbon Students Dive into Reading Drive

Dawbon Township students eager for literary competitions.

A reading promotion event featuring a literary talk, quiz competitions, and educational games was held yesterday morning at Basic Education Middle School No 3 in Dawbon Township, Botahtaung District.

The event was jointly organized by the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) and the Department of Basic Education.

During the programme, IPRD Staff Officer Daw Chit Su Wai delivered a talk titled "The Benefits of Reading", explaining the differences between non-fiction and literary works and highlighting the educational and personal benefits of regular reading.

Students also took part in a variety of competitions, including a knowledge quiz, a proverb-completion game, and a paper cup stacking contest. Winners received prizes from event organizers.

The event also showcased educational wall displays and a book exhibition organized by the IPRD, which drew keen interest from both students and visitors as they explored the materials. — Chit Su Wai (IPRD)/ST

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NATIONAL

Research Drives Export Growth Surge

FROM PAGE 1

The President outlined that it is necessary to seek ways to reduce the import of fuel and edible oil. Moreover, he noted that relevant ministries, region, and state authorities have to implement the plans to generate electricity from coal-fired power plants.

In the transport sector, the President revealed that the schedules of rail transport have been expanded for public transport and commodity transport to reduce the fuel consumption rate.

The President stressed the need to conduct research in the agriculture and livestock activities as well as the supply chain of internal and external markets to bolster production.

Regarding the trade sector, he stated that as illegal trade brings loss to the State economy, it is necessary to inspect and supervise the trade process to be legalized.

The President gave guidance on operating the comprehensive assembly of electric cars at home to create job opportunities for the people.

The President instructed regional and state ministers to actually work in their respective sectors dutifully for the sake of the regional and national interests.

Union ministers and chief ministers from regions and states participated in the discussions in relevant sectors.

In the concluding speech, the President underscored that it is necessary to consider security, beautification and smooth transport in addition to food supply, accommodation and services in efforts to develop the tourism sector.

In carrying out efforts for national development, the President urged all meeting attendees to learn lessons from previous events and experiences that occurred in the country and continuously analyze and seek solutions on how to improve and perform better during the period in which responsibilities are being undertaken.

The meeting was also attended by Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and officials, together with chief ministers of regions and states through videoconferencing. — MNA/TTA

Key points from the speech delivered by the President at the Union Government meeting

1. Local businesspersons must be invited to invest in manufacturing the agricultural products for export purposes, including paddy bran oil production.
2. It is necessary to seek ways to reduce the import of fuel and edible oil.
3. The country needs the restoration of peace and stability to carry out national development.

Reception held to commemorate 74th National Day of Egypt

A reception marking the 74th National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt was held at the Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening, attended by Union Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe.

Egyptian Ambassador Mrs Aya Saad Mohamed Abdelkarim and officials welcomed the Union minister and guests. The ceremony began with the national anthems of Myanmar and Egypt, followed by speeches from the ambassador and the Union minister, who conveyed congratulatory remarks.

The Union minister and the ambassador then cut a commemorative cake, after which the Ambassador hosted a dinner for guests. The event was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu, Yangon Mayor U Myo Myint Aung, foreign ambassadors, chargés d'affaires, UN representatives and invitees. – MNA/MKKS

Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe attends the 74th National Day of Egypt reception, held in Yangon yesterday.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues debate on ASEAN Five-Point Statement

At the eighth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday morning, Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe submitted the message sent by the President on amendments and additional points to the Constitution (2008) and recorded it.

He also sought the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the formation of the Joint Coordinating Committee on Parliamentary Development (JCC).

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued with the debates of Hluttaw representatives over the motion tabled by Dr Nanda Hla Myint from the Kalaw Constituency, urging the Union government to necessarily review the ASEAN Five-Point Statement that undermines Myanmar's equality within ASEAN and is inconsistent with ASEAN's fundamental principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a member state in addition to the non-alignment with the ASEAN's fundamental principles and Myanmar's current actual political situation.

The eighth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

The Hluttaw representatives discussed that ASEAN exerted pressure at the United Nations meetings to impose sanctions and prevent most countries around the world from recognizing the State Administration Council. Regrettably, such actions disregarded ASEAN's traditional principles of unity, mutual respect, and adherence to common agreements.

Such actions have created hope among groups opposing the government, resulting in the further escalation of violence and unrest within the country and causing greater destruction. At present, the country is facing its most challenging period, with severe economic and security risks and turbulent circumstances. Despite these difficult conditions, the country's leaders have continued their efforts with determination and awareness to prevent the nation from collapsing.

At present, the country is being administered in accordance with the 2008 Constitution through the separation and exercise of the three branches of state power — legislative, executive, and judicial powers. Hence, the ASEAN Five-Point Statement should be reviewed and reconsidered.

The ASEAN Five-Point Statement was adopted because Myanmar's political crisis is not merely an internal matter but has affected regional stability, humanitarian issues involving refugees and displaced persons fleeing to neighbouring countries, and transnational crimes. However, the implementation of the statement went beyond the role of mediation and became a form of intervention in Myanmar's internal affairs.

According to Article 20 (a) of Chapter VII of the ASEAN Charter, as a fundamental procedure of ASEAN, all decisions must be made through the "consensus" of all 10 member states. Although Myanmar is currently proceeding in accordance with its Constitution, ASEAN member states need to respect Myanmar's democratic process and its constitutional government.

It is regrettable to observe that the ASEAN Five-Point Statement appears to have been adopted based on external pressures, without taking into consideration the actual situation on the ground in Myanmar, the country's legal positions, and national security challenges.

SEE PAGE 5

NATIONAL

Seminar on Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, Myanmar's Strategic Future and Hluttaw Role held in Nay Pyi Taw

A seminar on "Geopolitics, Geoeconomics, Myanmar's Strategic Future and the Role of Hluttaw" was held yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw as part of capacity-building training for Hluttaw representatives.

In his remarks, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Joint Coordinating Committee on Hluttaw Development (JCC) Chair U Maung Maung Ohn said this seminar was the very first activity of the JCC, as its objective is to enhance the dignity and standards of Hluttaw while further strengthening the knowledge and capabilities of Hluttaw representatives. He encouraged participants to examine Myanmar's current situation alongside global developments and discuss how Parliament should contribute to addressing these challenges. He also called for interactive discussions between experts and representatives, expressing the hope that such capacity-building seminars would enable the representatives to work together more effectively for the benefit of the Hluttaw and the nation.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn speaks at yesterday's seminar in Nay Pyi Taw.

Three experts discussed under different topics regarding geopolitical changes, geoeconomics and international affairs, and the Hluttaw representatives raised questions about what they wanted to know.

Following this, the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and JCC Chairman reviewed and commented on the key issues discussed during the seminar.

The Deputy Speaker and JCC Chairman presented honorariums to the experts who delivered the lectures. — MNA/KTZH

Fuel Price Caps Plunge as Market Pressures Mount

FROM PAGE 1

The prevailing prices continue to fall for the sixth consecutive month. The prices set during the week ending 4 June were K4,550 for Octane 92, K4,620 for Octane 95, K4,595 for diesel and K5,550 for premium diesel.

Fuel prices are directly influenced by fluctuations in the kyat-US dollar exchange rate. The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in South-East Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the market to ensure a stable price and secure supply. Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are overcharging. Authorities are taking action against fuel station retailers found overcharging beyond the set reference rate under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law of 2017.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. "The State is guiding the market to offset losses faced by importers, retailers, and energy consumers, while working to distribute oil at reasonable prices compared with regional standards.

While some countries impose higher taxes and fuel prices than Myanmar, Malaysia's oil sector benefits from government subsidies, keeping prices about 60 per cent lower. Each nation adopts different policy approaches to regulate fuel costs, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage, and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

Public Notice for Martyrs' Day Visitors to Mausoleum

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

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NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues the debate on ASEAN...

FROM PAGE 3

The principles and equality of ASEAN are the fundamental standards that recognize all member states as sovereign and equal nations, while guaranteeing equal rights and equal responsibilities.

However, the ASEAN Five-Point Statement emphasizes specific political actions designated for Myanmar, which has resulted in the perception that ASEAN is attempting to directly influence the internal affairs of a member state. This issue raises questions regarding the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and equality among member states as stated in Part II of the ASEAN Charter.

It is urged that ASEAN acknowledge and accept the factual assessment that the current situation in Myanmar is significantly different from the circumstances in 2021.

Although countries around the world have recognized, welcomed, and accepted Myanmar's ability to achieve a political transition through democratic elections, it is regrettable to observe that ASEAN's views and stance toward Myanmar have remained unchanged to date.

The statements and actions of ASEAN member states in this regard disregard Myanmar's democratic political transition. They not only overlook the election process but also make disparaging remarks against the various legislative bodies formed through the elections and the government selected and entrusted with responsibilities by the legislatures.

Such actions are a violation of ASEAN's fundamental principles enshrined in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, including the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states and respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, and national identity of each country.

The ASEAN Five-Point Statement is inconsistent with ASEAN's fundamental principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a country and does not align with the actual situation in Myanmar.

The ASEAN Five-Point Statement is unnecessary for Myanmar and represents a clear violation by ASEAN of the rules and principles that member states are required to follow. The Five-Point Statement, which was unilaterally adopted while interfering in internal affairs, undermines Myanmar's equality and is not consistent with the realities of the country's current political situation.

Myanmar should demonstrate its initiative and proactive engagement toward ASEAN. In order to allow ASEAN to make a graceful and amicable exit from the current situation, the government and the parliament should jointly establish an ASEAN Five-Point Statement Special Committee and implement direct engagement with ASEAN within the coming five months.

It should be noted that following the successful completion of the Myanmar President's visits to India and China, Western media outlets, including The New York Times and Investigate Asia, have begun launching anti-government and anti-Myanmar media campaigns. This issue should not be addressed only through domestic media.

State-level officials, responsible authorities, and parliament representatives, with genuine concern for the country, need to respond boldly, actively, and effectively through international media outlets and social media platforms.

The ASEAN Five-Point Statement on Myanmar issued by the alternate ASEAN Chair, as a statement of the rotating ASEAN Chair, has gone beyond the powers granted under Myanmar's Constitution and attempted to interfere in the country's internal affairs. Moreover, as it directly affects Myanmar's equality and status within ASEAN, the time has come for the Union Government to take appropriate measures and respond accordingly.

A free and fair multiparty democratic general election was held in accordance with the 2008 Constitution, resulting in the establishment of legitimate legislatures and a newly elected government through the choice of the people. Therefore, ASEAN should review the actual situation in Myanmar and, through building trust based on equality and friendship, enhancing mutual respect, and strengthening cooperation, work together to promote peace and stability in the region.

The Speaker announced that a plan was set to continue the discussions of remaining Hluttaw representatives at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session to be held on 9 July.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue on 9 July. — MNA/TTA

Chin State reviews rehabilitation and reconstruction progress

A coordination meeting to review progress on rehabilitation and reconstruction in Chin State was held yesterday at the State Government Office in Haka. It was attended by Chin State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsun Thang, Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, state ministers, committee members and departmental officials.

A coordination meeting convened to review the progress of rehabilitation and reconstruction measures currently being implemented in Chin State.

The chief minister said rehabilitation efforts had accelerated with the deputy minister's on-site supervision and expressed confidence that continued cooperation would ensure the successful completion of reconstruction work.

The deputy minister said that 110 government offices had reopened in Tiddim, Tonzang and Falam, staffed by 3,443 civil servants. A total of 279 basic education schools had resumed classes, while public hospitals had treated 13,098 patients with 278 medical personnel. Myanma Economic Bank branches and municipal markets had resumed normal operations, and electricity and telecommunications services were gradually being restored. He added that reopening Surbung Airport would improve transport links and speed up the delivery of materials needed for rehabilitation and reconstruction. — MNA/KNN

Mongnai marks World Rural Development Day

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held a rainy season tree-growing ceremony yesterday along the village production road at Narkham Village in Mongnai Township to commemorate World Rural Development Day. State Hluttaw Representative U Sai Kyaw Win spoke on the opening occasion.

Mongnai Township Department of Rural Development Head U Maung Khine then explained that the tree-planting campaign was organized to promote environmental conservation, create a greener landscape, and help maintain a balanced climate. Officials also distributed saplings for planting along both sides of the village production road.

Following the ceremony, the Shan State Hluttaw representative, departmental officials, and local villagers jointly planted 120 shade trees at designated locations along the road. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Electric bus service rolls out in Nay Pyi Taw

A Yaza Min electric bus operating in Nay Pyi Taw.

AS part of the government's policy to promote electric vehicles (EVs) and reduce environmental pollution, the Yaza Min bus line began operating electric buses in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 July to improve transport for residents and government employees.

The EV buses operate on the city's main routes, running four return trips daily between the Myoma Market and Bawgathiri Bus Terminal. A flat fare of K1,000 is charged per passenger, regardless of travel distance. — ASH/KNN

A community tree-growing activities are in progress yesterday in Mongnai Township.

NATIONAL

"AI, Digital Tools Power Traditional Medicine University

Students attending classes at the University of Traditional Medicine.

THE University of Traditional Medicine is teaching research methodology, artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalization alongside traditional medicine, according to Rector Dr Thein Zaw Lin.

The university aims to shift traditional medicine from experience-based practice to evidence-based medicine. In addition to traditional medicine, students study the same basic modern medical subjects taught at medical and medicine-related universities.

Established on 9 January 2002 under the National Education Promotion Four-Year Plan, the university offers a five-year programme comprising four years of academic and practical study followed by a one-year internship. It has produced 1,875 graduates with a Bachelor of Myanmar Traditional Medicine (BMTM) and 133 with a Master of Myanmar Traditional Medicine (MTMM). A PhD in Myanmar Traditional Medicine (PhD MTM) programme was introduced in 2025.

Located at the foot of Mandalay Hill in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, it is Myanmar's only university dedicated to traditional medicine. — ASH/KNN

Judges, Lawyers Bridge Divide Through Training

THE Supreme Court of the Union will expand comprehensive educational programmes on the Code of Conduct and joint training programmes for judges and lawyers to strengthen mutual respect and trust between the two professions further, Supreme Court Judge U Thaung Naing told the Pyithu Hluttaw in response to a question from Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Nay Lin Aung of North Okkalapa Constituency.

U Nay Lin Aung discussed the need to strengthen trust and respect between judges and lawyers in the judicial sector by expanding education on the Code of Conduct and increasing joint training programmes both professions can participate in.

"In accordance with the Judicial Strategic Plan (2023-2027), training courses on judicial ethics and service delivery have been conducted annually for judges," the Supreme Court Judge said.

Union Supreme Court Judge U Thaung Naing addresses queries raised during the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw.

He added that training apprentice lawyers – the backbone of the profession – in legal ethics, professional conduct, and modern anti-money laundering practices ensures a cleaner judicial sector. — TWA/TH

City Rewards points to convert into MPT mobile data at shopping centres

MPT and City Mart Holding Co Ltd (CMHL) jointly launched a digital service that allows customers to convert City Rewards points into MPT Mobile Data at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

"This is the first step for MPT customers to convert points earned at retail outlets into MPT Mobile Data packages. We will continue to provide better services," said Mr Mikinori Naito, Chief Executive Officer of MPTJO.

MPT customers can redeem City Rewards points at the rate of K1 per point and 1 MB, and the newly redeemed data amount will be combined with the MPT-City Rewards data amount and will be automatically increased according to the longest validity period of the package.

"We are introducing a new service where customers can exchange data used on MPT for City Rewards points at shopping centres. After shopping, when customers earn additional gift points, they can exchange one point for MPT data megabytes at the rate of K1. We will also continue to provide MPT packages and shopping centres for use," said Ko Phyo Kyaw, Consumer Insight Manager of City Mart Holding Co Ltd.

The programme will initially provide MPT users with a service to exchange gift points earned from shopping centres for MPT data points, and in the second phase, MPT will continue to provide a service to exchange data points at shopping centres. — Oktha/MKKS

A ceremony to launch joint digital services by MPT, the telecom provider, and City Mart Super Centre. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

Public Notice to Visitors: Bogyoke Aung San Museum

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

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.

NATIONAL

MoE works to ensure school access for unenrolled children

FROM PAGE 1

The deputy minister explained that the ministry is collaborating with the relevant regional and state governments to supervise this, and schools are accepting late enrolments until the end of August.

According to the Ministry of Education, efforts will continue, both through non-formal education programmes and under the supervision of the relevant regional and state governments, to ensure that children unable to attend regular schools do not lose their right to education. — TWA/ZN

10 Rogue Travel Agencies Sanctioned Over Compliance Failures

U Nay Min Tun, Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs of the Yangon Region government, said action had been taken against ten licensed tour companies for failing to meet their responsibilities.

The statement was made during the Yangon Region government's response to Hluttaw representatives' questions on 6 July, which highlighted recent fraud cases involving the misuse of licensed travel companies' names. Representatives called for stricter supervision of tourism licence issuance and stronger action against online and in-person scams targeting customers of prepaid travel services. — TWA/MKKS

The convening of the second regular session of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw.

MFSPEA invites member companies to import fertilizer for Q3

THE Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) called for companies that want to import fertilizer and distribute it under a competitive pricing system for the third quarter (July-September 2026).

MFSPEA will organize the importation of DAP-based 15-15-15 compound fertilizer of good quality by practising competitive pricing for the third quarter of the next year under the guidance of the Urea Fertilizer Purchasing and Distribution Steering Committee.

Interested companies can contact the committee by 2 pm on 13 July 2026 through email: ureacommittee@gmail.com, info@mfspea.com, vicepresident-1@mfspea.com, vicepresident-2@mfspea.com, generalsecretary@mfspea.com to import compound fertilizer. Individuals can enquire about details through the MFSPEA at 09 988539360. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US$1.4M on 6 July

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US$1.4 million, purchased from CMP companies, to edible oil-importing companies and over $11,400 to CMP companies on 6 July.

CBM sold over $595,500 to edible oil-importing companies on 3 July and over $114,400 to edible oil-importing companies and $39,600 to CMP companies, along with $3,700 worth of non-trade transactions on 2 July.

CBM also sold $3.3 million to edible oil-importing companies and over $21,228 to CMP companies on 1 July.

Cooking oil bottles are neatly arranged inside the super centre.

CBM injected over $35 million, purchased from CMP companies, into the foreign exchange market in June.

CBM pumped over $51 million and 1.2 million baht into the foreign exchange market in May. CBM transacted over $70 million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injected over $35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in the foreign exchange market in February and over $43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026. CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market to regulate currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

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

1. Any kind of ballpoint pens, mobile phones, flags, handbags, cameras, lighters, flower wreaths/flower bouquets/flower baskets, vinyl, bottles, sticks, and pipes that are used in carrying flags are not allowed to be brought into the compound of the Martyrs' Mausoleum.
2. All the visitors are required to wear masks systematically without fail.
3. All visitors must wash their hands thoroughly at the designated stations and use the provided hand sanitizers before entering.
4. The inspection will be conducted not to bring ten prohibited items at the junction of Maha Bandoola Road and the junction of Theinbyu and Anawrahta Roads in Botahtaung Township, and it is required to bring Citizenship Scrutiny Cards or employee cards or student ID cards or certain carts to identify the personal data while mentioning the personal information including name, ID card number, address and phone number for temperatures screening and medical checkups a the entrance of the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office).
5. Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in accordance with Ministry of Health distancing guidelines. Anyone showing symptoms, such as fever (38°C/100.4°F), cough, breathing difficulties, or fatigue, will be required to follow the instructions of the relevant authorities.
6. They have to follow the arrangements of those serving duties at the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office).
7. "Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in accordance with the set numbers, and maintain the same distance while inside.
8. All the visitors must strictly follow the COVID-19 health notices and information released by the Ministry of Health.
9. Elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are not allowed to visit.
10. Those suffering from fever, cough, difficulty breathing or fatigue are not allowed to visit.

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OPINION

Join peace talks to end conflicts

ONLY those who live in areas without peace and stability can truly understand the value of peace and stability. The lives of people in such unstable regions are extremely pitiful. People in these areas are deprived of their human rights and suffer from hardships in meeting their basic needs, including food and shelter.

The Union Government is working to establish peace and stability in various regions. However, stability cannot be achieved in areas where political conflicts and armed conflicts are ongoing. As a result, people in conflict-affected areas are unable to benefit from the fruits of development. Their lives, blood, and sweat are lost meaninglessly. These regions also lag in many sectors such as education, health, economy, and social development. Therefore, those who wish to see development in their regions must work towards peace and stability by ending armed conflicts and implementing positive and constructive processes.

Political disagreements in the past may well have been considered correct at that time, as people tended to emphasize their own perspectives and regarded them as the truth. However, the negative legacies of the past have left behind regions that are now deprived of peace and stability. Therefore, past events remain in history, and it is the responsibility of the present generation to build peace and stability for the future.

The currently elected democratic government has announced that it will make every possible effort to achieve peace in the country within five years. The government has also issued invitations for peace. Regarding the peace proposal put forward by the government, all ethnic armed organizations have been invited to come and engage in peace talks without any preconditions. Therefore, the time has come to negotiate and reach agreements for lasting peace for the benefit of all regions of the ethnic people.

Political disagreements in the past may well have been considered correct at that time, as people tended to emphasize their own perspectives and regarded them as the truth. However, the negative legacies of the past have left behind regions that are now deprived of peace and stability. Therefore, past events remain in history, and it is the responsibility of the present generation to build peace and stability for the future.

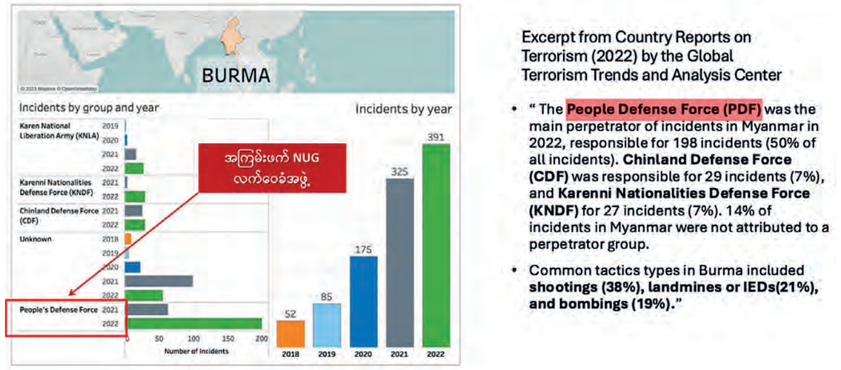
By implementing regional development activities, local ethnic people will achieve socioeconomic development, gain mutual understanding and trust, and experience greater peace, stability, and rule of law. By building trust, all ethnic citizens together must construct a peaceful and prosperous Union. Only when hatred, resentment, desire for revenge, and oppressive practices are eliminated, and when ethnic groups build a fraternal relationship, will national stability and peace be achieved.

Everyone can see that neighbouring countries without political and armed conflicts are developing. Myanmar citizens, if they truly work together, can undoubtedly build a stable and peaceful nation. For themselves, for the people, and for the country, everyone should collectively build a peaceful, stable, and developed nation with unity of mind and purpose.

ARTICLE

Open Letter to the UN Secretary-General (2)

By Min Khant



Excerpt from Country Reports on Terrorism (2022) by the Global Terrorism Trends and Analysis Center

- " The **People Defense Force (PDF)** was the main perpetrator of incidents in Myanmar in 2022, responsible for 198 incidents (50% of all incidents). **Chinland Defense Force (CDF)** was responsible for 29 incidents (7%), and **Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF)** for 27 incidents (7%). 14% of incidents in Myanmar were not attributed to a perpetrator group.
- Common tactics types in Burma included **shootings (38%), landmines or IEDs(21%), and bombings (19%)."**

The 2022 Violence Index Report, part of which was retracted

Dear Mr Secretary-General of the United Nations,

I have the honour to present my second open letter as a direct follow-up to my previous correspondence. In my first letter, I clearly pointed out the misguided actions of Ms Julie Bishop, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar. This second communication directly addresses the United Nations regarding the critical issue of state representation. It serves as a letter of recommendation for the seating of a legitimate Permanent Representative to Myanmar.

Following the political transitions of 2021, the UN General Assembly's Credentials Committee suspended the delegation of power regarding Myanmar's representation. Consequently, Myanmar has been left without an official representative in formal UN bodies since 2021.

Although a formal replacement has not yet been accepted due to procedural actions within the Credentials Committee, Kyaw Moe Tun, who remains at the UN as an official fugitive, continues to represent the violent National Unity Government (NUG) in informal UN meetings and is actively executing policies aimed at destroying the nation's peace and stability.

Kyaw Moe Tun was originally appointed more than five years ago by the Previous (NLD) government, which subsequently fell due to widespread voter fraud. Because the administration that originally accredited him to the UN no longer exists, he can no longer be considered a legitimate state representative, acting instead as an agent for the exiled NUG.

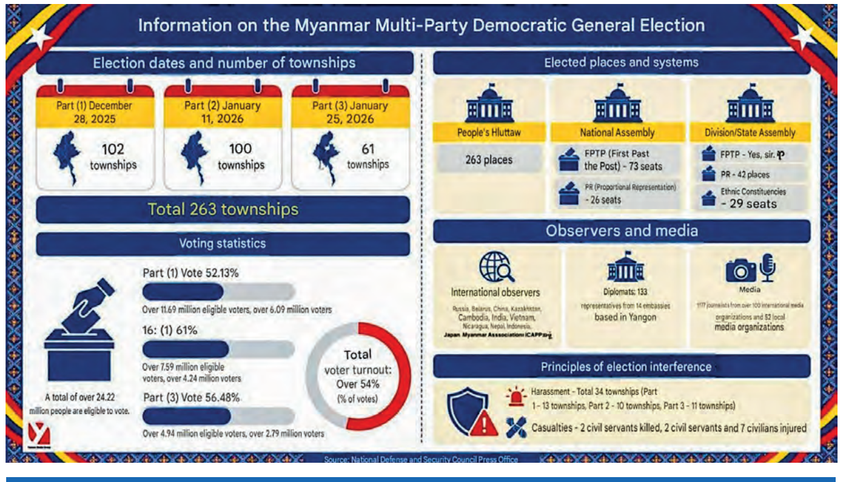
The NUG is a terrorist group that violates state laws and practices a new style of terrorism that threatens the 21st-century global political scenario. Driven purely by political and personal interests, this group aims to destroy the entire country and its society rather than acting as a legitimate governing body. They systematically carry out targeted assassinations of civil servants, state workers who serve as the pillars of the state, and local ward and village administrators. Under their doctrine of "whoever does not support us is our enemy," they perpetrate extrajudicial killings of innocent civilians, mass bombings in public places, and the deliberate destruction of non-military infrastructure.

Most egregiously, the NUG's PDF terrorists, born from their policy of 'Utter Devastation,' deliberately target the education and healthcare sectors to create social chaos and demoralize the population. Turning a blind eye to this ongoing domestic violence, the fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun exploits the United Nations to frame legitimate counter-terrorism operations and the suppression of violent crime as oppression against the people. It is deeply disappointing that he manipulates unresolved procedural gaps within the Credentials Committee to speak at informal meetings as if he represents the country. This situation raises critical questions: **Is the UN Security Council devolving into a platform for supporters of terrorism? Is the United Nations Secretariat acting as an institutional enabler, facilitating the proliferation of a new form of global terrorism?**

According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) published by the Global Terrorism Trends and Analysis Centre, Myanmar has reached its highest level of violence in the region since 2022. The reason for this increase was explained in their 2022 GTI report, which stated that the main perpetrators of these violent acts were NUG-founded terrorist groups such as the KNLA, KNDF and CDF, as well as the PDF group. However, due to pressure from some international organizations seeking to cover up their violent acts politically, the report retracted these statements. However, the records of the statements at that time remain. These indicators are strong evidence that the international community has designated the NUG as a terrorist organization.

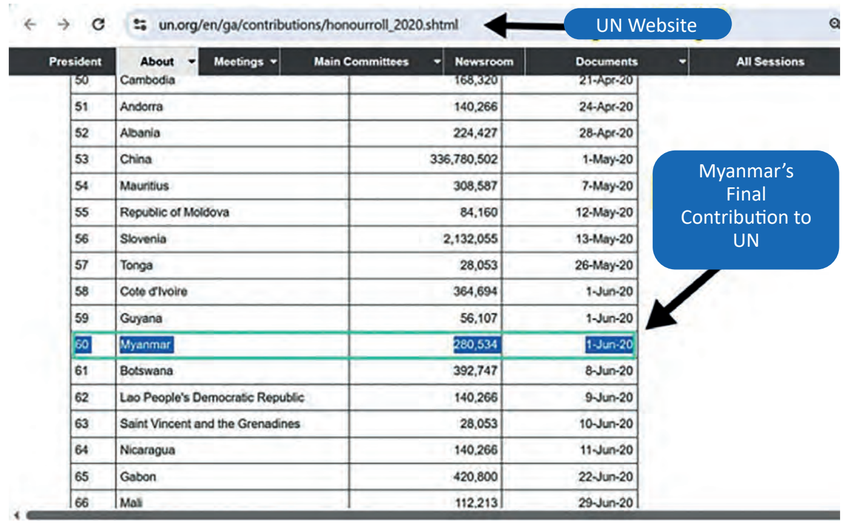
The position of Ambassador to the United Nations is reserved strictly for civil servants submitted by a legitimate national government. Following his gross violations of civil service regulations, Kyaw Moe Tun was officially dismissed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Having acted on behalf of an armed insurgent group targeting the state, his citizenship has been officially terminated, legally establishing his status as both a traitor and a fugitive.

Furthermore, undeniable evidence of financial corruption has emerged involving over US$2.6 million from the national treasury, which was deposited at the Bank of America for the use of the Myanmar Embassy in New York. These funds were stolen and used without clearing the accounts, despite originally being intended for embassy salaries, operational expenses, and Myanmar's annual contributions to the United Nations.



Infographic of Myanmar Multiparty Democratic General Election

According to UN records, although Myanmar paid its annual assessed contributions in 2020, its payments fell into arrears from 2021 to 2026.



Reports indicate that the fugitive Kyaw Moe Tun claimed on social media to have made three separate payments for the annual assessed contributions since 2021: one from the existing national budget (i.e., $300,000) and two from NUG budgets (i.e., $600,000). In an effort to retain his UN voting rights, the outlaw Kyaw Moe Tun allegedly defrauded the NUG by falsely claiming the funds were required for official annual assessed contributions. Significantly, he misappropriated $2.6 million in national treasury funds deposited at the Bank of America for his own personal gain, as he has failed to provide a detailed accounting of these cash assets. It must be clearly stated that on the national stage, Kyaw Moe Tun is widely condemned, carrying a notorious reputation as a traitor, an outlaw, a fraudster, and a thief.

The current newly elected government of Myanmar stands ready to engage in constructive cooperation on the UN stage, pursuing every right of a full-fledged sovereign member of the organization, especially with the annual UNGA approaching soon. In strict adherence to Chapter 1, Article 2, Paragraph 1 of the United Nations Charter, Myanmar affirms that all nations possess inherent sovereign equality, and no external entity, including the United Nations itself, has the authority to intervene in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

Myanmar and its citizens have suffered severe disadvantages because the post of Permanent Representative to the United Nations has remained vacant since 2021. This deprivation is directly attributable to the 2021 political transition.

In truth, the 2021 transition was precipitated not by a military coup but by the extraconstitutional and illicit manoeuvres of political actors seeking to seize state power. Therefore, the Myanmar Military temporarily stepped in to exercise sovereign authority, acting in full compliance with the country's constitutional legal framework. Due to the reckless actions of political actors who opted to challenge national sovereignty through armed insurgency and terrorism instead of utilizing established political channels, public peace and state stability have been disrupted in various regions, undermining the future of the nation's youth.

Notwithstanding these regional disruptions, the Myanmar Military, temporarily exercising sovereign authority, remained fully committed to its core mandate, namely the Three Main National Causes. In fulfilment of this commitment, it successfully executed a free and fair multiparty democratic general election in three distinct phases, reflecting the true will of the citizens of Myanmar.

The state administration established during the 2021 political transition has fulfilled its mandate by organizing the transparent, free and fair 2025-2026 general elections. Characterized by the highest standards of transparency and a complete absence of electoral irregularities, this voting process was fully observed and validated by international experts and observers.

Regarding Electoral legitimacy, the recent national election saw 57 political parties compete, including 40 parties formed under the previous democratic government, while the NLD chose to boycott registration.

SEE PAGE 12

NATIONAL

Yangon Region grows over 600,000 acres of monsoon paddy

A vast stretch of emerald-green paddy field during the monsoon season. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

A total of 627,996 acres of monsoon paddy had been cultivated in Yangon Region as of the end of June, out of the target of 1,148,222 acres, according to the Yangon Region Department of Agriculture.

Across the region's nine districts, 14 high-yield rice varieties designated for export are being cultivated on 39,400 acres during this monsoon season. Moreover, six premium varieties such as Ayamin, Pawsan Hmwe, Pawsan Yin, Inma Yebaw, Basmati and Hmawby-2, and six local varieties: Zeeya, Medone, Ngakywe, Ngasein, glutinous rice and Yahnintun are also under cultivation. Planting will continue until the end of the cultivation season in late October to meet the planned acreage.

This year, the export-oriented cultivation zones are being implemented to achieve targeted yields, support farmers with production inputs, ensure adequate fertilizer application, encourage greater investment in rice cultivation, develop internationally competitive rice-based agricultural production, promote the effective application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through balanced use of organic and chemical fertilizers, and strengthen cooperation among companies, rice millers and farmers to produce safe, high-quality and sustainable rice for export.

"This monsoon season, 14 high-yield rice varieties are being grown in export-oriented cultivation zones. The cultivated area will be further expanded next year. For example, the Pawsan variety, which has strong international demand, was grown on 16,570 acres in six townships last year, but this year cultivation has been expanded to 10 townships. Since high-quality rice will be produced for export this year, farmers will also benefit. Technical training on soil fertility improvement and pest and disease management has been provided, while farmers have also been educated on the combined use of chemical and organic fertilizers. Therefore, rice quality is expected to improve, and farmers are eagerly looking forward to this year's harvest," said U Myo Myint, deputy director of the department.

In the export-oriented cultivation zone, the varieties such as Sinthukha, 90-day, Aungnaingtoe, Yadanatoe, Hnankauk, Theehtet Yin, Hmawby-2 and -3, Kayinma, Tunpu, Ngasein Yakyaw, Pawsan, Ayamin and GW-11 are being grown.

Yangon Region cultivated 1,006,205 acres of monsoon paddy in 2023, 1,148,222 acres in 2024 and 1,142,155 acres in 2025. For 2026, the regional government has targeted the cultivation of 1,148,222 acres. To improve yields, the government has distributed 5,640 bags of urea fertilizer produced by Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise to farmers in the first phase this year. It also plans to distribute an additional 60,000 bags of urea fertilizer and 30,000 bags of compound fertilizer. — Thitsa (MNA)/ KTZH

Kayan commemorates World Rural Development Day

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held a rainy season tree-growing ceremony on the morning of 6 July along the village production road in U Phaw Lone Village of Kayan Township to commemorate World Rural Development Day.

Kayan Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Htar Htar Naing first explained that the tree-planting campaign was organized to promote environmental conservation, create a greener landscape, and help maintain a balanced climate. Officials then distributed saplings for planting along both sides of the village production road.

Following the ceremony, township-level departmental officials and local villagers jointly planted 205 shade trees at designated locations along the village production road in U Phaw Lone Village. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

A group photo session of the tree-planting activities in Kayan Township.

Applications open for Caregiver Scholarship Programme

This image highlights an announcement for the programme.

THOSE who have sat the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) and have difficulty studying in Japan on their own can apply for the Care Giver Scholarship Programme, said the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

It allows working a part-time job during their studies, a concrete job opportunity in Japan after studying, a long-term residence permit in Japan, as well as the right to live with family in Japan by the Kaigo Fukushi-shi Certificate.

Those aged between 18 and 27 years, who passed Grade 12 or Grade 10 in the old system and are studying for a university education for one year or above, have JLPT N4- N2 levels (who sat the JLPT in July 2026) and are interested in caregiver work and able to work for the long term are eligible to apply.

Those who passed the final interview will have to deposit the processing fees of K2.5 million, said MAJA.

A seminar which will give a detailed introduction about the scholarship programme by officials from a Japanese university has been scheduled to be held at MAJA Education Centre at 1 pm on 14 July, and a Zoom session has also been planned for students outside Yangon. Registrations can be made to the Google Form Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmkijaiBq5_s_sHZhVVXmQ8iqnO35m0aNcJ_p3DUWPkDskyA/viewform?usp=publish-editor. — MT/ZS

MGMA basic mechanic training course set for this month

ORGANIZED by the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MAGA), a basic mechanic training course will open this month.

It has been planned to start from 20 to 24 July at the Myanmar Garment Human Resource Development Centre (MGHRDC).

The course will include practical and theoretical lessons about the single needle lockstitch machine and the overlock machine, and those who want to work as a garment factory mechanic should apply.

The training time is from 9 am to 4 pm, and the fee is K100,000 for MGMA members and K150,000 for non-members. Interested applicants can register by 14 July and can contact the following numbers: 09 795405583, 09 940858350 for inquiries, said MGMA. — MT/ZS

MGMA basic mechanic training course is announced.

NATIONAL

Magway offers training on natural fertilizer and EM Solution

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, opened a training course on producing natural fertilizer and EM (Effective Microorganisms) Solution yesterday in Natkan Village, Magway Township, for the 2026-2027 financial year.

Magway Region Hluttaw Speaker Dr Maung Maung Htay delivered the opening remarks.

U San Nyunt Aung, Magway Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry, and Transport, urged the trainees to study fertilizer production methods systematically and to apply them effectively in their practical field work.

Magway Region Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw Zaw Hein also explained the objectives of the training. The Region Hluttaw Speaker and other officials then observed the training proceedings. The training is being attended by 20 participants from villages within Magway Township. Expert trainers will provide instruction over three days (free of charge) through both theory and practical sessions. The curriculum covers the benefits of natural farming, the functions and roles of beneficial microorganisms, how the use of natural fertilizers contributes to the ecosystem, and methods for producing natural fertilizer and EM solution, according to U Kyaw Zaw Hein. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

The opening ceremony of the training on producing natural fertilizer and EM Solution in Magway Township.

Sagaing Hill restores iconic Japan Pagoda and Peace Pillars following quake

The original Japan Pagoda (World Peace Prayer Pagoda).

THE Association of Myanmar-Japan Socio-Economic Development Cooperation (AMJSEDC) is currently implementing plans to restore the historic "Japan Pagoda and Peace Pillars" on Sagaing Hill to their original state after they were damaged and collapsed during a major earthquake in Mandalay.

The AMJSEDC has taken the lead in the restoration project and has already begun initial fundraising efforts. While the project has commenced using contributions from association members, it has issued a public notice stating that further support and donations from the public are needed to ensure the restoration is completed within one year.

It is intended to promote long-term friendship between Myanmar and Japan and to help preserve historical heritage. The public is invited to participate in it with donation information: Bank Name: UAB on Nguwah Steet in Ahlon, Account No: 0481 0601 0000 4428, Name: Association of Myanmar Japan Socio-Economic Development Cooperation, Account Type: Special Call. For further inquiries, people may contact the following numbers: 09 785151512 or 09787865510. — MT/ZN

Homalin's tree planting marks World Rural Development Day

TO commemorate World Rural Development Day, which fell on 6 July 2026, a mass tree-planting event was held on the morning of 6 July. The event took place along both sides of the rural production road in Htonmarte Village, where a road project was previously implemented by the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region.

Community tree-planting ceremonies take place in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region.

The commemorative mass tree-planting event was attended by Daw Tin Yu May, Head of the Homalin District Department of Rural Development, along with her staff. Personnel from the Township Department of Rural Development and the Department of Rural Road Development also participated, alongside members of the Rural Production Road Committee, village elders, and residents. Together, they planted around 100 saplings, including Mahogany, Cassia siamea, Gangaw, and Flame Tree species. — Chit Oo Ko (Rural)

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

ARTICLE/NATIONAL

9 foreigners involved in telecom fraud handed over

Immigration officials oversee the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

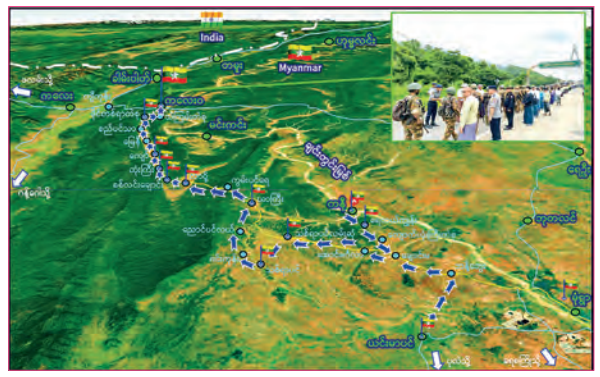
NINE foreign nationals involved in online gambling, telecom fraud and other crimes in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area of Kayin State were handed over to their respective countries through Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in line with legal procedures.

The group included three Filipinos, three Ethiopians, one Nepali, one Ugandan and one Russian national. They had illegally entered Myanmar through border routes and were involved in criminal activities.

From 30 January 2025 to 7 July 2026, a total of 14,731 illegal foreign entrants were detained in Myawady Township, with 13,572 already repatriated through Thailand. The remaining individuals are being processed for transfer or legal action. — MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw recontrols Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa route

TATMADAW columns yesterday regained full control of the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa road, a key transport route that had been under the temporary control of insurgent groups. The route is regarded as a vital corridor for India-Myanmar cross-border trade, linking the Tamu-Kalay border trade route with Kalewa, Monywa and central Myanmar, including Mandalay.



The map and its inset detail the Tatmadaw's counter offensive columns deployed to retake the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monya road.

On 1 July, Tatmadaw columns regained Myayni village; on 2 July, Sibintha village; on 3 July, Minetaya Taesu village; on 6 July, Thaegyan Taesu village; and on the evening of 7 July, they cooperated with Kalewa security troops to regain full control of the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa route. Therefore, people can travel along the Kalewa-Kalay-Falam-Haka-Thantlang, Kalewa-Kalay-Tiddim-Tonzang-Cikha, and Kalewa-Monywa-Myinmu-Sagaing-Mandalay, while India-Myanmar cross-border trade and regional freight transport are expected to proceed without disruption.

Yesterday, the Tatmadaw columns arriving in Kalewa were welcomed by departmental officials and residents with flowers and garlands. — MNA/KTZH

This photo shows a local school. Since 21 June, Tatmadaw columns have carried out counter-terrorism operations, causing the groups to retreat with casualties and seizing ammunition and equipment.

Troops target PDF using schools as bases in Magway Region

TATMADAW columns conducted attacks against PDF terrorist groups using schools in villages of Chauk Township, Magway Region, as temporary military bases.

The groups had allegedly threatened teachers and occupied schools, forcing some schools to suspend classes. Since 21 June, Tatmadaw columns have carried out counter-terrorism operations, causing the groups to retreat with casualties and seizing ammunition and equipment.

Authorities said efforts would continue to remove the terrorist groups from schools and reopen schools while ensuring security for students and teachers. — MNA/KZL

Open Letter to the UN Secretary-General (2)

FROM PAGE 9

Some illegal groups labelling this election as a sham simply because a single party abstained show complete contempt for the millions of citizens who voted. Despite threats of violence intended to disrupt the election, over 13.12 million citizens cast their votes out of 24.22 million eligible voters, representing a turnout of 54.22 per cent. Therefore, the current Myanmar government, having held the election in strict accordance with the democratic process and the existing constitution, stands as a genuine, elected administration. Having secured the support and recognition of numerous nations, the newly elected government is advancing with significant momentum to strengthen cooperation with international partners and regional powers. These efforts are firmly directed toward enhancing diplomatic relations, maintaining regional peace and stability, and fostering sustainable development.

On the ground, personnel from various United Nations agencies continue to engage constructively with national authorities, maintaining mutual understanding to execute UN programmes despite the protracted vacancy of Myanmar's permanent representative seat at UN headquarters. To facilitate this cooperation, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe met with UN representatives in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June to discuss internal developments, plans, and cooperation under a policy of political neutrality and non-interference. Rather than having representatives like Ms Julie Bishop amplify political challenges under the guise of UN authority, Myanmar requires practical development assistance to build long-term resilience for its economy and people.

Dear Mr Secretary General,

Under the United Nations Charter, the sovereignty of every nation is paramount and must be respected. Myanmar possesses a clear desire to continue working in multilateral cooperation with the United Nations with responsibility and accountability.

The time has come for the United Nations to formally acknowledge Myanmar's concerted efforts toward peace, stability, development, and the preservation of democracy. **The credentialing of a legitimate representative proposed by the state is imperative to ensure meaningful cooperation between Myanmar and the international community, including the United Nations itself.**

It remains utterly unacceptable that an unlawful individual, a fugitive and a thief stripped of all legal standing, is permitted to exploit informal UN platforms to act as a spokesperson for terrorist entities. On behalf of the citizens who desire peace and stability, I urge the United Nations to address this issue immediately, uphold the principle of equal opportunity for all member states, and reinstate the official, accredited Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar.

It is my sincere belief that the credibility and reputation of the United Nations will be profoundly reinforced when the principle of sovereign equality for all member states is strictly observed, and the inherent rights of sovereign nations are respected in full compliance with the UN Charter.

Microsoft to cut about 4,800 jobs globally

US technology giant Microsoft said on Monday it is eliminating about 4,800 positions worldwide, or around 2.1 per cent of its global workforce, as part of its latest restructuring efforts.

The company confirmed the job cuts in an internal message to employees, saying the move comes as the business adapts to rapid changes in the technology industry and seeks to streamline operations.

The layoffs will primarily affect its commercial sales division and Xbox gaming business, the company added.

Amy Coleman, Microsoft's executive vice president and chief people officer, said in a message to employees that the company's business is changing amid the rapid evolution of technology and customer demand, and the organization must adapt accordingly. She stressed that the layoffs are not a direct result of artificial intelligence (AI) replacing workers.

Microsoft said it will provide severance packages, healthcare benefits and career transition assistance to affected employees. The company also noted that a voluntary retirement programme introduced earlier this year helped reduce the scale of the layoffs. — Xinhua

Toyota to invest $3.6 bln in Texas, move production from Mexico

JAPANESE auto giant Toyota said Tuesday it will shift production of its mid-size Tacoma pick-up truck from Mexico to the United States as part of a $3.6 billion investment in its Texas plant.

The announcement comes just days after Washington declined to renew a North American trade pact with Mexico, as well as Canada, fuelling uncertainty for businesses.

Toyota said in November it planned to invest as much as $10 billion in the United States over the next five years.

The world's largest automaker by vehicle sales, Toyota plans to build a second assembly line at its San Antonio factory, creating more than 2,000 jobs and increasing annual production capacity at the plant by 150,000 units, the company said in a statement Tuesday.

"The investment is aimed at further enhancing Toyota's locally rooted and competitive production system," the company said, adding that the new line is expected to become operational in 2030.

Toyota and other major automakers are shifting production to the United States, as President Donald Trump raises tariffs on automobiles, steel and aluminium, among other items.

Global automakers — including US car manufacturers — have in the past produced in Mexico, among other countries, to benefit from various trade deals including the existing US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). — AFP

Vehicles sit in a showroom at a Toyota car dealership in Brooklyn on 8 May 2026 in New York City. **PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

MYANMA Port Authority
"NOTICE of High Tide"

EXCEPTIONALLY high spring from 20.01 feet to 20.70 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of 14 July to 18 July 2026. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MTT SAPANGER VOY.NO. (625W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MTT SAPANGER VOY.NO. (625W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/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 MAERSK A/S.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2611N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC YUANMING VOY.NO. (2611N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2026** 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.

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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B81ZS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HE SHUN VOY.NO. (0B81ZS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (164W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (164W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Eastchem Co.,Ltd,** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **LionChem (Myanmar) Pte.Ltd** to **Terra Max Solutions (TMS) Agribusiness Co.,Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Clinger 10 EC	Cyhalofop-Butyl 10% EC	Full Registration	F2020-2669
2	Director 120 SC	Chlorfenapyr 100g/l + Emamectin Benzoate 20g/l SC	Provisional Registration	P2023-5219

Terra Max Solutions (TMS) Agribusiness Co.,Ltd. Tel: 09-250406611

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

NATO summit opens in Ankara as new defence deals fuel militarization concerns

THE NATO leaders' summit opened in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Tuesday with a Defence Industry Forum, unveiling major defence industry initiatives aimed at accelerating weapons production and procurement, amid growing concerns over the alliance's expanding militarization.

Marking its first inclusion in a NATO summit, the forum brought together senior NATO officials and representatives from major Western defence companies to discuss efforts to integrate military supply chains across member states.

A child walks past a billboard of NATO Summit in Ankara, Türkiye, 29 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

At the event, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte launched the Drone Edge Initiative aimed at strengthening counter-drone capabilities, saying member states would commit more than US$40 billion to the sector over the next five years.

He also unveiled a new Front Door platform designed to facilitate private defence companies' access to alliance contracts, and a 2.8-billion-dollar industrial cooperation initiative under which US defence companies, including Lockheed Martin, could partner with European firms to produce US-designed weapons, such as Abrams tanks and ATACMS missiles, in Europe. — Xinhua

UN officials visit Afghanistan

TWO United Nations officials concluded a joint visit to northern Afghanistan on Monday, during which they visited projects supporting Afghan returnees and called for sustained international support for the country. UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Alexander De Croo and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Barham Salih toured a UNDP-supported dry fruit factory and a UNHCR-supported carpet weaving and processing centre in Balkh Province, where they met business owners, artisans and returnees benefiting from employment and vocational training programmes. At the dry fruit factory, the delegation learned how UNDP grants had helped expand production, retained about 400 jobs and created another 100 while prioritizing employment opportunities for returnees. The officials also exchanged views with factory representatives on private sector development and economic recovery.

Female returnees work at a UNDP-supported dry fruit factory in Balkh Province, Afghanistan, 6 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

At the carpet centre, they observed carpet weaving, washing, dyeing, finishing and quality control processes, and met workers engaged in the traditional industry. Supported by UNHCR, the centre provides vocational training, employment opportunities and improved market access for returnees while helping preserve Afghanistan's carpet-weaving heritage. — Xinhua

4 dead, 8 missing after torrential rain hits south China's Guangxi

RECORD-BREAKING rainfall and the ensuing floods in parts of Nanning, capital city of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, have left four people dead and eight others missing as of 10 am Tuesday, according to a press conference on flood prevention and disaster relief held in Nanning.

Hengzhou City and Binyang County, both currently under the jurisdiction of Nanning, recently experienced rainfall that broke local 24-hour meteorological records. The reported casualties were all in Hengzhou.

In Hengzhou, a total of 84,700 residents have been affected by the disaster, with 53,808 evacuated. The relocation of another 660 people requiring evacuation is underway. In Binyang County, 8,606 have been affected, and all 8,150 requiring evacuation have been relocated. Guangxi upgraded its flood alert to the highest-level red warning at 7 am on Tuesday. — Xinhua

Rescuers evacuate stranded residents in Hengzhou of Nanning City, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 6 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Remnants of Typhoon Maysak cause widespread damage in N Vietnam

HEAVY rain and landslides triggered by the remnants of Typhoon Maysak damaged homes, farmland and infrastructure in Vietnam's northern provinces of Lao Cai and Cao Bang from 4 to 6 July, with no casualties reported, the Vietnam News Agency reported Monday.

In Lao Cai province, preliminary losses were estimated at nearly 6.3 billion Vietnamese dong (about US$250,000), with 73 houses affected, more than 67 hectares of crops inundated, hundreds of livestock and poultry lost, and multiple landslides disrupting traffic, the report said. – Xinhua

Portugal's wildfire-burned area nearly quadruples year on year amid extreme heat

THE area burned in Portugal has nearly quadrupled compared with the same period last year, as extreme heat and elevated fire danger fuelled a surge in rural fires across the country, according to official data released on Monday. Data from Portugal's Rural Fire Integrated Management System (SGIFR), obtained by Lusa news agency, showed that 4,592 wildfires have been recorded nationwide so far this year, burning 30,155 hectares, more than half of the total burned area recorded between Wednesday and Sunday alone.

Compared with the same period in 2025, the burned area has nearly quadrupled, reaching its highest level for the period since 2017. The number of wildfires has also increased by about 70 per cent year on year, marking the highest figure for the period since 2022. – Xinhua

Bountiful beech nuts eyed for fall in Japan areas hit by bear attacks

FOUR northeastern Japan prefectures are forecast to have a bountiful supply of beech nuts this fall, the primary food source for bears, local forest authorities said Tuesday, after the region saw a surge in bear attacks last year when the harvest was lean. In the forecast based on visual surveys of beech trees flowering in five prefectures between April and June, the prefectures of Akita, Iwate, Miyagi and Yamagata are projected to have a "bountiful" harvest, while Aomori is expected to have an "average" yield. – Kyodo

SPORTS

Myawady earn first win in Myanmar Women's League

MYAWADY secured their first win of the 2026-2027 Myanmar Women's League season with a 1-0 victory over Yadanabon in Matchweek 4 at Padonma Stadium on 7 July.

Yadanabon, featuring Myanmar national team striker Win Theingi Tun and three Philippine players alongside local youngsters, suffered an unexpected defeat. Myawady, three-time champions of the league, had lost their opening three matches of the season but finally ended their losing streak with a late goal.

Although Yadanabon controlled much of the match and created several attacking opportunities, they failed to finish their chances. Myawady's Mya Hnin Wai scored the decisive goal in 78 minutes to give her team a 1-0 win.

Mya Hnin Wai was named the AYA Pay Player of the Match and received a trophy along with K500,000 in prize money.

The final day of Matchweek 4 will be held on 8 July, with Thitsa Arman facing Yangon City at YUSC Stadium and Zwegabin United meeting Ayeyawady at Thuwunna Stadium. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

Yadanabon and Myawady players compete during the match. **PHOTO: MWL**

Ronaldo bids farewell to World Cup with clear conscience

Lamine Yamal (R) of Spain commiserates Ronaldo after the match. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's pursuit of the FIFA World Cup title finally came to an end on Monday.

Portugal's 1-0 defeat to Spain in the FIFA World Cup round of 16 brought the curtain down on the 41-year-old's sixth and final World Cup, ending a journey that began in Germany in 2006.

Hours earlier, Ronaldo had led Portugal out for the pre-match warm-up, wearing the captain's armband and his iconic No 7 shirt. As his image appeared on the giant screen, cheers mixed with boos echoed around the packed Dallas Stadium.

Ronaldo described the game as "a very balanced match".

"It could have gone either way. Spain had that little bit of luck to score in the final moments, but that's football. Overall, it was a well-contested game."

His best chance came in the first half when he stretched to meet Joao Felix's header across goal, only to see his effort saved by Spain goalkeeper Unai Simon, who extended his World Cup shutout streak.

When Spain scored in stoppage time, Ronaldo immediately collected the ball from the net and carried it back to the centre circle, urging his teammates to make one final push.

After the final whistle, he stood quietly near midfield before turning towards the Portugal supporters, who chanted his name. Moments later, he lowered his head and wiped away tears.

In the mixed zone, Ronaldo confirmed that his sixth World Cup had indeed been his last. — Xinhua

De Ketelaere leads Belgium into FIFA World Cup quarters as US exits

CHARLES De Ketelaere scored twice and set up another goal as Belgium advanced to the FIFA World Cup quarterfinals on Monday with a 4-1 win over the United States.

De Ketelaere scored either side of Malik Tillman's free kick before the Atalanta midfielder combined with Hans Vanaken for Belgium's third.

Substitute Romelu Lukaku put the result beyond doubt in stoppage time as Belgium set up a clash with Spain in Los Angeles on 10 July.

Belgium seized the initiative from the kickoff as Timothy Castagne forced Matt Freese into an early save before the European side took the lead in the ninth minute.

Leandro Trossard's cross caused problems in the United States area, allowing Nicolas Raskin to gather the loose ball and square for De Ketelaere, who finished from close range.

The United States struggled to create clear openings as Belgium continued to threaten, although Amadou Onana's first-half departure through injury disrupted its rhythm.

Mauricio Pochettino's side equalized in the 31st minute when Tillman's free kick deflected off the wall and wrong-footed Thibaut Courtois.

Belgium restored its advantage two minutes later as Trossard reached the byline and crossed for De Ketelaere to head in from close range. The United States almost replied before halftime, but Courtois raced off his line to deny Folarin Balogun. — Xinhua

Charles De Ketelaere (C) of Belgium vies with Matt Freese (R), goalkeeper of the United States, during the round of 16 match between the United States and Belgium at the 2026 FIFA World Cup at Seattle Stadium in Seattle, the United States, 6 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Argentina produce epic World Cup fightback to beat Egypt, reach quarters

ARGENTINA staged a stunning comeback from 2-0 down to avoid crashing out of the World Cup at the hands of Egypt on Tuesday, as Lionel Messi played his part in a 3-2 win to reach the quarterfinals.

The holders looked down and out when goals from Yasser Ibrahim and Mostafa Ziko, either side of Messi having a penalty saved, put the Pharaohs in sight of a historic victory in Atlanta.

However, Cristian Romero's header sparked the comeback as Argentina struck three times in the final 11 minutes plus stoppage time.

Messi smashed home the equalizer to score for a ninth consecutive World Cup game and retake the lead for the Golden Boot with eight this tournament.

Enzo Fernandez completed the turnaround with a superb header two minutes into stoppage time.

At the end, Messi shed tears of joy as he embraced his teammates.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said: "I'm really emotional right now. What a group of players, man."

Egypt goalkeeper Mostafa Shoubir, who had an inspired game, was heartbroken. "We were so close to victory," he said. "Small details make the difference in the big games. We're sad because we had the match in our hands." — AFP

NATO summit opens in Ankara as new defence deals fuel militarization concerns

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WORLD

Iran's FM says talks with US not to begin if threats continue

IRANIAN Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that negotiations between Iran and the United States on a final agreement will not begin if the US threats continue.

He made the remarks in a post on social media platform X one day after US President Donald Trump said the United States would either reach a deal with Iran or "finish the job", reiterating his earlier threats of targeting Iran's bridges and energy infrastructure.

"Negotiations on final Deal will not commence if threats continue. Honor your signature," Araghchi said, citing Paragraph 13 of the recently-signed Iran-US peace memorandum of understanding (MoU), which sets conditions for launching final agreement negotiations, including ending the war on all fronts including Lebanon.

On 28 February, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Iran. Tehran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region. — Xinhua

China's notification of submarine missile launch test shows openness, transparency: spokesperson

CHINA notified relevant countries in advance of the test launch of a nuclear submarine-based strategic missile, which demonstrates the openness and transparency of the Chinese armed forces, a defence spokesperson said on Tuesday. Chen Xi, a spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence, made the remarks in response to a relevant media query. He noted that the test launch was a routine arrangement of annual military training and complied with international law and international practice. — Xinhua

Russia's non-energy exports jump 9% to $22.3 bln – Putin

RUSSIA managed to increase the volume of non-primary non-energy exports by nine per cent in 2025 compared to 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday. "We know all the subjective and objective difficulties faced by our exporters, but nevertheless, with the support of the export centre, the entire export centre group managed to increase the volume of non-primary and non-energy exports by nine per cent in 2025 compared to 2024, which turned out to be 1.7 trillion roubles [$22.3 billion], which is decent," Putin said. Putin also called the support of Russian exports the priority for the country's authorities.— SPUTNIK

Indonesia, India announce long-range missile deal

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) shakes hands with Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto during his visit at the parliament building in Jakarta on 7 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

INDIA will supply Indonesia with long-range missiles, an Indian official said on Tuesday as their leaders agreed to deepen ties in defence, critical minerals and other areas.

President Prabowo Subianto is hosting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jakarta during a three-day state visit, with a deal on the BrahMos missile system topping the agenda.

An agreement for "cooperation on BrahMos System" was struck during the visit, Indian foreign ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

The two countries also reached an agreement on air-to-air missile cooperation that "enhances technology collaboration and defence capabilities", he said.

Details on the deal were not disclosed, and an Indonesian defence ministry spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

Modi touted the "growing trust" between Jakarta and New Delhi after his meeting with Prabowo, which he said underpinned cooperation in "defence, security and maritime affairs".

"Today, we reached an agreement to enhance defence exchanges, disaster management, and industrial cooperation," Modi told reporters.

The coast guards of the two countries will also work together on maritime safety and security in the Indian Ocean, Modi said.

Asia's two biggest democracies also agreed to work together on critical minerals — which Indonesia produces in abundance — and steel. "A new partnership between our companies is beginning in the field of stainless steel and rare earth magnets," Modi said. — AFP

This year's El Nino likely to become record-breaker: top expert

THE current El Nino weather phenomenon is expected to break records for its overall strength, a top expert said Tuesday, as regions face the risk of droughts, floods and other extremes linked to the event.

El Nino warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns.

It typically takes place every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months, and it can lead to droughts in some parts of the world and flooding in others.

This year's El Nino is unlike anything seen in more than three decades of tracking the phenomenon, with forecast models pointing to an "extreme" event, said Tim Stockdale, an El Nino expert at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), an intergovernmental organization.

A home along the Fox River watershed is surrounded by floodwater on 21 April 2026 in Antioch, Illinois. **PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES/AFP**

"I think it's absolutely true to say we've never had a forecast of an El Nino that was so strong and so consistent across (forecast) models," he said in a media briefing.

Stockdale said it would be "a very, very big surprise" if the event failed to be a record-breaker.

"I would expect it to break records," he said, while cautioning: "but no guarantees." — AFP