

President U Min Aung Hlaing, Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visit Royal Palace Museum in Luang Prabang

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and delegation members visited the Royal Palace Museum in Luang Prabang yesterday morning.

The President, his spouse and delegation members left Wattay International Airport in Vientiane for Luang Prabang. They were warmly seen off at the airport by Minister at the President's Office of Laos Mrs Phongsamouth Anlavan, senior officers from the Lao Government, and officials, along with the Guard of Honour.

On arrival at Luang Prabang International Airport, the President-led high-level Myanmar delegation was welcomed by

Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee Mr Bounleuam Manivong, his wife and officials. So also, the President and party were welcomed by scout youth along both sides of the red carpet by waving flags of both countries.

At the Royal Palace Museum, they were welcomed by officials. The President, his spouse and party paid homage to Laos' Buddha Image Phra Bang in the museum and offered oil light and flowers. They donated the golden lotus robes, a scale model of Maravijaya Buddha Image for public obeisance and the record book on the construction of the image to an official. They also visited the chamber of the Buddha Image.

SEE PAGE 4



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donate a scale model of Maravijaya Buddha Image for public obeisance at Wat Xieng Thong Temple in Luang Prabang, Laos, yesterday.



This photo features the Dawei Deep Sea Port project concept image.

Efforts continue to resume Dawei SEZ project, finalize port limits

ACCORDING to the Ministry of Commerce, the necessary procedures are being carried out in coordination with the project developer in accordance with the 2014

Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law, as efforts continue to resume the Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project.

SEE PAGE 3

Bago fish farmers step up flood defences ahead of storm season

FISH farmers in Bago Region have stepped up precautionary measures to protect fish ponds from flooding and overflowing water expected during July's heavy rains and storm season, according to the Bago Region Fisheries Federation.

SEE PAGE 7

BUSINESS PAGE 7



CBM sells over US\$590,000 to edible oil importers

Farmers can buy fertilizers at affordable prices through cooperative distribution

FARMERS can purchase the fertilizers they need at affordable prices through a cooperative bulk purchasing and distribution system, according to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development.

To ensure that farmers have access to fertilizers at reasonable prices, the

Urea Fertilizer Purchase, Distribution and Sales Steering Committee is distributing fertilizers based on the Yangon reference price, with transport and loading and unloading charges added to determine the selling price in each region.

SEE PAGE 7



A fish pond in Bago Region. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

NATIONAL

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 5 July 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at 5:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining the North Odisha-West Bengal Coast (India) has intensified into a depression. It is centered at about 375 nautical miles North-Northwest of Sittway (Myanmar), 35 nautical miles South-Southeast of Balasore and 45 nautical miles South-Southwest of Digha, India. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may cross North Odisha (India) between Chandbali and Digha close to the Balasore during next 24 hours. The monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 6 July 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Magway regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Madalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin and Mon states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and northern Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 July 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 July 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6 July 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Depression News, No 1, 2026

Issued at 2 pm MST on 5 July 2026

Depression Condition

According to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, the Well-Marked low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining the North Odisha-West Bengal Coast (India) has intensified into a depression. It is centered at about 375 nautical miles North-Northwest of Sittway (Myanmar), 35 nautical miles South-Southeast of Balasore and 45 nautical miles South-Southwest of Digha, India. It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may cross North Odisha (India) between Chandbali and Digha close to the Balasore during next 24 hours.

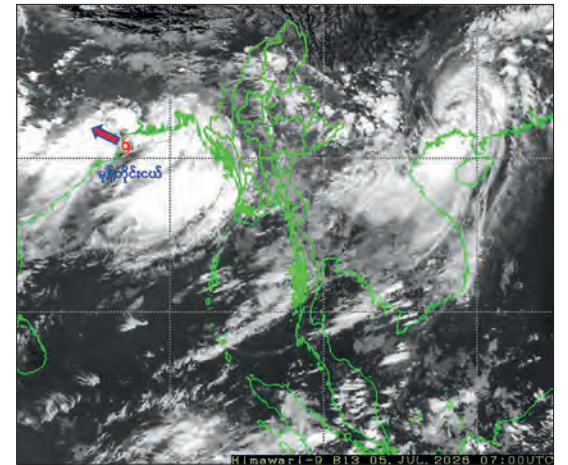
It does not intend to move towards Myanmar coasts at the present stage and therefore the depression is coded as yellow stage.

Position of Depression, centre pressure and wind

The depression is located at Latitude 21.1 degree North and Longitude 87.2 degree East, centre pressure of depression is 998 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 35 miles per hour at 12:30 pm MST today.

Next 24 hours forecast

It is likely to move West-Northwestwards and may cross North Odisha (India) between Chandbali and Digha close to the Balasore during next 24 hours. The frequent squalls with rough to very



rough seas are likely at times in off and along the Myanmar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 35-40 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 11-14 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strike, lightning, hails, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 6

Issued at 8:00 am MST on 5 July 2026

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

The frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas are likely at times in off and along the Myan-

mar Coasts. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 35-40 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 11-14 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

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

Dekkhinathiri holds environmental awareness talk

THE Department of Rural Development held an awareness talk to promote public knowledge of air pollution and environmental conservation among rural residents in Ywathit Village, Dekkhinathiri Township, on 4 July.

Daw Lae Lae Thin, Head of Dekkhinathiri Township DRD delivered a presentation on environmental conservation, highlighting measures to reduce smoke and

air pollution, proper waste management, environmental and indoor air pollution, and preventive measures against diseases associated with poor environmental conditions. Project staff clarified the benefits of reducing plastic bag consumption, different types of waste, and practical approaches to environmental protection. Village elders and residents raised questions during the interactive



Environmental awareness talks held along with demonstration.

session, which were answered by the officials.

The awareness programme was attended by township-level departmental officials, village elders, and residents from Ywathit Village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla arrive back from Lao PDR

The high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing and his spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla left the international airport in Luang Prabang yesterday afternoon.

The President of Myanmar, his spouse and party were seen off at the airport by senior officers from the Lao government led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Attendance Mr Thongsavanh Phomvihane and his spouse, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Aung Ko and

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

Meanwhile, the President of Myanmar and his spouse were warmly seen off by Lao scouts along both sides of the red carpet by waving miniature flags of both countries.

In the evening, the special aircraft carrying the President and his spouse landed at the Tatmadaw Airport in Nay Py Taw where they were welcomed by Vice-President U Nyo Saw and his wife, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha

Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe and his wife, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and his wife, Union ministers and their wives, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, and officials from the Lao Embassy and the Military Attaché office.

Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe and U Khin Maung Soe, Shan State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and deputy ministers who accompanied the President



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing is welcomed back by officials from the Lao Embassy and the Military Attaché office at the Tatmadaw Airport in Nay Py Taw yesterday.

and his spouse arrived back on the same flight.

During the State Visit, the President held meetings with the Presi-

dent of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the President of the National Assembly of Lao, and the Party Secretary of Luang

Prabang Province. He also visited the Lao micro and small industry, historic stupas and landmarks in Lao. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar, Laos Boost Tourism Links Between Luang Prabang and Key Myanmar Destinations

Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee Mr Bounleuam Manivong paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who was currently in Luang Prabang during his State Visit to Lao PDR, at the hotel where the President stayed, yesterday morning.

The meeting was also attended by Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the spouse of the President, and party. The Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee was accompanied by his wife and officials from the Luang Prabang Provincial Government.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the potentials for further strengthening friendly relations between the two countries through the State Visit of the Myanmar President and his



President U Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee Mr Bounleuam Manivong during the latter's courtesy call on the former.

spouse, strategic partnership cooperation between Myanmar and Laos, being sister cities between Luang Prabang City of Laos and Bagan City of Myanmar, the prospects of benefiting the tourism industry and intersection between Luang Prabang and Myanmar's Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan

and Kengtung, and further promotion of friendly ties and multiple sectors between the two countries.

The President of Myanmar and his spouse attended Laos' traditional Baci festival. The President and the Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee ignited the aus-

picious oil light and prayed in Lao tradition. The Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee and his wife, and members of the Luang Prabang Provincial government tied the hands of the President, his spouse and Myanmar delegation members with Sai Sin. **SEE PAGE 4**

Efforts continue to resume Dawei SEZ project, ...

FROM PAGE 1

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Win Myint Khaing made the remarks in response to a question raised by Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Maung Sein on the 12th day of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw.

The deputy minister said the Dawei Deep Sea Port and SEZ project are strategically important for the Thailand-Indian Ocean trade route. He added that, following the termination of the project agreement with the previous investor, ITD Company, in 2020, the government is working to restart the project.

He further said that a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) on investment cooperation in the Dawei SEZ and its surrounding areas was signed during the fifth meeting of the Myanmar-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in February 2025.

The deputy minister also told the Hluttaw that the Ministry of Commerce is coordinating with the Ministry of Transport and Communications to formally define and approve the port limits of the Dawei SEZ Deep Sea Port, adding that the process has reached its final stage. — TWA/TH



The photo shows a road sign to Dawei deep seaport project and Thailand.

NATIONAL

President U Min Aung Hlaing, Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visit Royal Palace Museum in Luang Prabang

FROM PAGE 1

The Phra Bang Buddha Image is located to the right of the entrance to the Royal Palace Museum. It was cast in Sri Lanka in the 1st century and was presented by the Khmer king to his son-in-law, the Lao King Fa Ngum, as a gift in 1359. The temple housing the Buddha image was first constructed in 1963. However, construction was interrupted by the civil war and resumed in 1990 before the temple was officially inaugurated in 2006.

The President, his spouse and party viewed around the royal regalia used by ancient Lao kings displayed at the Royal Palace Museum.

The Royal Palace Museum is situated on

the bank of the Mekong River and has been preserved as one of the country's most revered sites. Originally, the palace was constructed entirely of teak. During its reconstruction, however, teak was replaced with brick, incorporating a blend of French Beau-Arts design and traditional Lao architectural styles. Following the Lao takeover in 1975, the monarchy was abolished, and the royal family was required to leave the palace. It was subsequently converted into the National Museum. In 1995, UNESCO officially designated the entire city of Luang Prabang as a World Heritage Site. As part of that designation, the Royal Palace Museum was recognized as a key



Youth scouts warmly welcome President U Min Aung Hlaing, his spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party at Luang Prabang International Airport in Lao PDR.

component of the city's historic heritage core zone. The museum received this distinction for its outstanding fusion of French colonial architecture and traditional Lao artistic craftsmanship.

In the afternoon, the

President, his spouse and party paid homage to Wat Xieng Thong Temple.

They also paid homage to the Buddha Image in the temple and offered oil light, flowers and golden lotus robes and donated a scale model of Mara-

vijaya Buddha Image for public obeisance and the record book on construction of the image.

Wat Xieng Thong Temple was built during the reign of King Saya Setthathirath in the 16th century and was completed in

1560. It is regarded as one of the most remarkable examples of traditional Lao craftsmanship and architecture. The temple is particularly renowned for its gilded mosaic mural depicting the Tree of Life and the distinctive roof design of its ordination hall. It is widely believed that those who visit and pay homage at Wat Xieng Thong while in Luang Prabang Province will be blessed with good health, happiness, prosperity, and success. With its intricately gilded façade and colourful gold-and-glass mosaic decorations, the temple is considered one of the most beautiful Buddhist temples in Asia and attracts large numbers of tourists from around the world. — MNA/TTA

MPT trains around 3,000 engineering students through workplace learning programme

MPT has trained around 3,000 students through its workplace learning and training programme, which aims to help engineering students apply their theoretical knowledge in real working environments, according to the company's head office in Yangon.

From April to June this year alone, 82 final-year students from 11 technological universities across six regions and states took part in the programme, which was launched in 2018.

MPT said the initiative aims to nurture young en-



Engineering students are seen in practical training under workplace learning programme of MPT. PHOTO: KO LWIN

gineers and bridge the gap between academic learning and industry experience,

helping students prepare for careers in the telecommunications sector.

The programme also provides free e-learning resources for young people through MPT's online education platform, which is accessible via its official website, mobile app and chatbot services.

A final-year student from West Yangon Technological University who took part in the programme said the internship had given her a practical understanding of network systems beyond classroom learning, boosting her confidence as she prepares to enter the workforce. — Oktha/KZL

Myanmar, Laos Boost Tourism Links Between...

FROM PAGE 3

The President and his spouse attended a luncheon hosted by the Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee and his wife. The Party Secretary extended greetings while the President expressed thanks.

The President and his spouse had lunch together with the Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee and his wife, along with attendees.

After the luncheon, the President and his spouse cordially greeted the Secretary of the Luang Prabang Provincial Party Committee and his wife and members. — MNA/TTA

Gold Market Rate as of 5 July 2026

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

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NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends Iranian state funeral, holds bilateral talks in Tehran

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister at the President's Office U Tin Aung San visited Iran from 1 to 5 July at the invitation of the Iranian government to attend the state funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.



Union Minister U Tin Aung San attends the state funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in Tehran on 3 July 2026.

The delegation arrived in Tehran on 2 July, where they were welcomed by senior officials from Iran's Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During discussions at the airport, both sides exchanged views on Iran's current situation and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral friendship, expanding economic cooperation, and enhancing collaboration

on regional and international issues for mutual benefit. On 3 July, the Myanmar delegation attended the state funeral at Imam Khomeini Mosalla Mosque in Tehran. They were received by Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref, the President's Chief of Staff, and the Interior Minister.

During the ceremony, the Union Minister

paid his respects to the late Ayatollah alongside Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian and met senior Iranian leaders, including the Speaker of Parliament, the Chief Justice, and the Foreign Minister. On behalf of the Government of Myanmar, he conveyed condolences and sympathy over the former Supreme Leader's passing.

The state funeral was

attended by presidents, prime ministers, parliamentary speakers, foreign ministers, senior representatives and religious leaders from more than 100 countries.

The Myanmar delegation returned to Yangon yesterday evening, where they were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by regional ministers and government officials. — MNA/ST

Ayeyawady Region supports farmers in 3 townships with loans and agricultural inputs



Farmers work in a paddy field of Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 5 July 2026.

A ceremony to support agricultural development, featuring a product exhibition, a technology showcase and the Rice Export Zone Programme for monsoon paddy cultivation, was held yesterday morning at the GBS Agricultural Service Station in Kyonpyaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw and officials opened the product exhibitions, delivered addresses, and presented agricultural loans and farming inputs to farmers from Kyonpyaw, Nyaungdon and Pantanaw townships.

They later attended a seed production planting ceremony at a farmer's field in Kyonpyaw Township and inspected rice seed production activities at Monethida Seed Production Company. — Region IPRD/KZL

Deputy Minister inspects progress of reconstruction sites in Falam

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint and members of the rehabilitation and reconstruction committee inspected the Falam Township municipal market and Surbung Airport in Chin State on 3 July.



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint inspects Surbung Airport in Falam, Chin State, yesterday.

At the market, the Deputy Minister instructed officials to maintain cleanliness, orderliness and food safety standards. He also inspected the registration and screening of returnees to Falam and coordinated with relevant

officials.

He later inspected the Falam-Reed road and directed authorities to

promptly repair roads and bridges damaged by past conflicts, ensure proper drainage during the rainy

season, and take preventive measures against landslides and road blockages.

At Surbung Airport, officials reported that although the runway remains in good condition, key aviation equipment and parts of the airport buildings, including the control tower, were damaged. They said restoring the airport would improve transport access to Chin State and support rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. — MNA/KZL

Taninthayi Region holds disaster response drill



Health staff and members of Myanmar Red Cross Society take part in disaster response drill in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, yesterday. PHOTO: REGION IPRD

A storm disaster response drill was held yesterday morning on the Dawei River near Kamyawkin Bridge in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, under the supervision of the Taninthayi Region Disaster Management Committee.

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Zaw Naing Oo, the Regional Chief Justice, officials from the Coastal Region Command, regional ministers and departmental officials attended the exercise.

The drill demonstrated coordinated emergency response procedures, including public warning, evacuation, search and rescue operations, and healthcare services to strengthen preparedness for floods, storms and other natural disasters. — Region IPRD/KZL

TWP Co Ltd donates K30M to MMPO

TWP Company Limited donated K30 million to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization to support the livelihood of film industry professionals, according to sources. The donation ceremony was held on 4 July at Suniram Park in Yankin Township, Yangon Region.

At the event, film industry members were hosted to a lunch and received commemorative gifts from

donor U Thein Tun of TWP Co Ltd.

The donor said the contribution was intended not only as financial support but also as an opportunity to meet directly with members of the film community.

The ceremony saw MMPO Chairman U Kyi Soe Tun, Vice-Chairman U Aye Kyu Lay, Patron U Aung Lwin, and several actors and filmmakers including Yan Aung, Khant



Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization officials receive K30 million donation from TWP Co Ltd.

Si Thu, Thu Htoo San, Khine Hnin Wai, Chan Tha Kyi Soe, and director Aung Awba. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Ancient murals discovered at Bagan's Mahabodhi Temple during restoration



Images show ancient temple and mural in Bagan region.

PREVIOUSLY unknown ancient wall paintings have been discovered at the historic Mahabodhi Temple in Myanmar's Bagan ancient cultural zone during ongoing restoration work carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The discovery was made while the ASI team was conducting structural conservation

and cleaning decorative plasterwork at the 13th-century temple. As part of the restoration, 13 small test sections were opened beneath thin layers of plaster inside the upper Gandhakuti chamber to determine whether original murals remained hidden.

The inspection revealed three sections containing mural paint-

ings: one well-preserved painting on the eastern wall and two faded paintings on the southern and northern walls.

Following the report, a conservation team led by the Director of the Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum carried out an on-site inspection and confirmed the presence

of the ancient murals.

Bagan is home to 3,837 historic monuments. Previously, 416 structures were officially recorded as containing wall paintings. The discovery at the 13th-century Mahabodhi Temple adds another monument to that list, highlighting the site's growing archaeological significance.

Authorities plan to continue uncovering and conserving the newly discovered murals as part of preparations to nominate the Mahabodhi Temple for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List through a transnational nomination. — Dipa Linn/ST

Nyaungshwe hosts Shan State Vinayadi Nuggaha examinations award ceremony



This photo features activities from the 86th Shan State Vinayadi Nuggaha Written Examination and the 89th Oral Recitation Examination.

to 4 July 2026, after a six-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 2,699 monks sat for the examinations across seven levels, from primary to sixth grade, including five monks who completed and passed the scriptures at the lecturer level. Of the total candidates, 2,146 passed the examinations. One distinctive feature of the examinations is that the answer scripts are reportedly graded and the results announced within a single day.

THE award and certificate presentation ceremony, together with the merit-sharing ritual, for the 86th Shan State Vinayadi Nuggaha Written Examination and the 89th Oral Recitation Examination, both of which are held annually in Nyaungshwe, Shan State, was held on a grand scale at noon on 4 July.

The examination festival was held again over nine days, from 26 June

With the festival resuming successfully this year, large numbers of pilgrims attended the event. Along the procession route, the successful monks were welcomed by well-wishers and received donations as they strolled along the pathway lined with a variety of flowers reaching about knee height, in keeping with the long-standing traditions of the Inntha ethnic group. — TWA/TH

Sewing operator training opens to boost rural incomes in Magway Region



Participants attend opening of basic and advanced sewing operator training in Minbu. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG

A basic and advanced sewing operator training course to promote small-scale produc-

tion and increase rural household incomes opened on 4 July at a Dhamma hall in Kanyay

Village, Minbu (Saku) Township, Magway Region.

At the opening ceremony, officials from the District Department of Small-Scale Industries outlined local livelihood development initiatives, while the village administrator explained the course's objectives and distributed raw materials to the trainees.

Organized by the Department of Small-Scale Industries in Min-

bu District, the 45-day course has 15 trainees and will run until 20 August, combining theory and practical training.

Officials said five outstanding trainees intending to start their own businesses would each receive equipment worth about K1.8 million and support with business registration to help them become small-scale entrepreneurs. — Maung Maung (Minbu)/KZL

Authorities in Thongwa Township disburse K45M under VRFP

A ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) in Uyintaw Village, Thongwa Township, on 4 July. The programme is intended to provide much-needed capital for smallholder farmers, agricultural and livestock producers, and small-scale entrepre-

neurs. Head of Thongwa Township Department of Rural Development Daw Khin Hnin Cho talked about the objectives of the Village Revolving Fund Project and the purpose of providing the revolving funds, outlining project guidelines, interest rates, repayment periods,

and regulations governing the loan programme. The revolving funds was handed over to the Village Revolving Fund Project Supervisory Committee.

The committee members disbursed K45 million of the revolving funds at low interest rates to project members. Of the total amount, K45 million

was provided directly to 103 project members in Uyintaw Village engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding, and trading activities, all of whom are operating and expanding their income-generating activities and other livelihood activities with support from the project funds. — Karan (Rural)



Officials hand loan from village revolving fund to residents in Uyintaw Village of Thongwa Township.

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.

Myanmar rice export exceeds 520,000 tonnes in Q1

MYANMAR sent over 529,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries by sea in the first quarter Q1 of the current financial year 2026-2027, beginning 1 April, bagging US\$167 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar's rice export volume is registered at 169,559 tonnes worth \$51 million in April, 136,262 tonnes valued at \$42 million in May and 223,714 tonnes, earning \$74 million in June.

Myanmar's rice exports in the financial year 2025-2026 exceeded 2.7 million tonnes, bagging \$861 million, MRF's data showed. Myanmar generated income of over \$1.129



Freight workers load bags of rice on truck at the warehouse.

billion from 2.48 million tonnes of rice and broken rice exports in the financial year 2024-2025.

Ministry of Commerce is working together with the the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers

of Commerce and Industry, the Myanmar Rice Federation, the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, the Myanmar Industries Association,

the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, and the Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association to meet monthly export targets and facilitate exports. — NN/KK

Farmers can buy fertilizers at affordable prices through...

FROM PAGE 1

The committee also monitors fertilizer quality and oversees the market to prevent hoarding and speculation.

In addition, under the committee's supervision, the Myanmar Fertilizer, Seed and Pesticide Entrepreneurs Association (MFSPEA) is selling the two primary types of fertilizer required by farmers at the designated reference prices. — ASH/KNN

Bago fish farmers step up flood defences ahead ...

FROM PAGE 1

The preparations follow severe flooding caused by storm-driven high tides and swollen rivers in 2023, which damaged many fish ponds, including those in Bago Township. The government later provided fingerlings to help affected farmers resume production. Although floodwaters reached several low-lying areas in 2024 and 2025, no fish farms were damaged.

Bago Region Fisheries Federation Chairman U Tun Tun Naing said regional authorities had instructed fisheries officials and farmers to prepare in advance for possible flooding during the rainy season. Many farmers have already reinforced pond embankments, while officials are closely monitoring the situation to minimize any losses.

Bago Region has more than 30,000 acres of commercial fish ponds producing species such as carp, tilapia, catfish and other freshwater fish for domestic consumption and export. Freshwater fish caught from rivers, lakes and streams are also supplied to markets in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw from September to March.

To reduce the risk of flood damage, farmers have stockpiled sandbags, repaired protective nets, moved fish feed to higher ground, gathered bamboo poles and ropes, and ensured boats are ready for emergency use. — Thitsa (MNA)/ST



A fish farm in Bago Region. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

CBM sells over US\$590,000 to edible oil importers

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$595,500 to edible oil-importing companies on 3 July.

CBM sold 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.

CBM injected over \$836,800 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$14,700 to CMP com-



Cooking oil bottles are neatly arranged for sale at a department store.

panies on 30 June, over \$287,300 to edible oil-importing companies and \$122,000 to CMP companies on 29 June, and over \$379,500 to edible oil-importing companies and

\$952 to CMP companies on 25 June.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market and the edible oil and fuel oil import sector, with a view to curb-

ing instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation and maintaining market stability. 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

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



OPINION

Grasp chance to enjoy secure and sustainable future

COUNTRIES around the world have devoted decades of effort to improving the living standards of rural communities, creating better economic opportunities, and narrowing the development gap between urban and rural areas. In recognition of these efforts and to encourage their continued pursuit with renewed commitment, the United Nations General Assembly designated 6 July each year as World Rural Development Day.

When formulating and implementing rural development plans, priority must be given to building villages that are green, clean, and modern, with effective environmental conservation systems and strong public health systems, as well as villages that apply modern and systematic agricultural and livestock farming practices.

To develop modern model villages, priority must be given to ensuring access to clean drinking water and sufficient water for daily use, which is the most fundamental requirement. Similarly, special emphasis should be placed on improving rural transport and communication networks, which are crucial for rural development. Only when all-weather rural production roads, production bridges and inter-village roads are in good condition will rural people easily access education and healthcare services. This will also enable farmers' production activities and economic enterprises to develop more rapidly within a short period of time.

Only through such efforts can villages become clean, tidy, green, and prosperous, and be transformed into model villages such as clean, green and smart villages that effectively utilize modern technologies. From there, it is necessary to strive toward enabling nationwide connectivity and expansion, extending even to major cities to develop into smart cities.

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Moreover, rural development also depends on electrification. Even if the rural areas do not have access to national grids to electrify themselves, they need to use solar energy on a self-reliant basis, which cannot cost much. If they do so, their socioeconomic life will improve more and more.

The theme for the second annual World Rural Development Day in 2026 is "Rural Empowerment, Global Impact". The day, established by the UN General Assembly to address global poverty, highlights the vital roles rural communities play in food systems, poverty reduction, and climate resilience. As such, authorities and local people have to march towards the goal with great efforts so as to enjoy a secure and sustainable future.

Today, rural communities are among those most severely affected by the impacts of climate change. Therefore, it is essential to place special emphasis on environmental conservation in rural areas, the cultivation and nurturing of trees and forests, and the proper management of waste disposal systems.

Her simple observation exposes a deep truth about contemporary society: we increasingly believe that technology can solve every human dilemma. However, real-life problems cannot be

coded away. As Apple co-founder Steve Jobs famously remarked, "Technology is just a tool." An iPad can magnify text at the touch of a finger, but the weeds in a garden still demand that we roll up our sleeves, bend down, and pull them out by hand.

Technology acts merely as a pair of "fancy glasses". While it can dramatically improve our vision and grant us access to vast reservoirs of information, it lacks the agency to clear away the literal and metaphorical thorns in our yards. The grandmother's weeds represent our daily real-world duties. Human beings must remain

masters of their labour rather than allowing their machines to master them. When we rely too heavily on digital shortcuts, technology morphs into "poisoned honey" — an alluring convenience that ultimately breeds psychological and physical laziness.

The Paradox of Technology
Today, technology gives us incredible power. With just a single

A HEARTWARMING interaction between a grandson and his grandmother serves as a profound parable for our modern digital age. While learning to use an iPad, the grandmother misplaces her reading glasses. Promptly, her grandson demonstrates the intuitive "pinch-to-zoom" gesture, stretching the words across the glass interface. "Grandma, don't look for your glasses," he tells her. "Look at this! If you stretch the words like this, they become very big."

The grandmother's response is both witty and layered with sharp sarcasm: "Oh wow, what a smart machine! By the way, can I also stretch and delete the weeds in my front garden like this?"

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Convenience limits human potential through technology

By Augustin

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The Limitations of "Zooming In"

In our hyper-connected digital world, "zooming in" on data or magnifying our view is effortless. Yet, we cannot simply "zoom out" or swipe left to escape the unavoidable responsibilities of

physical reality. No matter how advanced our operating systems become, the fundamental rule of human existence remains unchanged: true accomplishment requires physical effort and sweat.

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The "Google Effect"

The "Google Effect" (also known as digital amnesia) is the tendency of our brains to forget information that can easily be found online using a search engine.

Instead of remembering the actual fact, our brain prioritizes remembering where or how to

find that fact. Because we can look up anything instantly, our brains are changing. Studies show that we no longer bother remembering facts; we only remember how to find them. We treat search engines like an external brain. Just like a muscle or a metal blade gets weak and rusty when it isn't used, our natural memory and thinking skills are dulling from lack of practice.

The Dopamine Loop
Social media and applications (apps) are designed to hook us by giving us instant rewards. Every time we get a like, share, or notification, our brain releases a feel-good chemical called dopamine. While this feels good for a moment, it harms our focus over time. It breaks our attention span into tiny pieces, leaving us mindlessly scrolling through screens instead of working on our real, meaningful life goals.

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Another important element of language mastery is intercultural competence, the ability to communicate effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds. Language users need to understand cultural norms, values, and communication styles so that they will be able to avoid misunderstandings and show respect. In an increasingly

globalized world, intercultural competence helps speakers build successful relationships and communicate more effectively across cultures. It complements both linguistic and communicative competence by helping speakers adapt their language and behaviour in diverse cultural settings.

The importance of balancing linguistic and communicative competence becomes clear when one is missing. A person with strong linguistic competence but weak communicative competence may produce grammatically perfect sentences but struggle in social interactions. Such a speaker may sound overly formal,

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Physical Health Risks

Technology allows us to buy groceries, manage our homes, and work without ever getting out of our chairs. While this is highly convenient, it is quietly ruining our health. We move so little now that the World Health Organization (WHO) has named physical inactivity as one of the top ten leading causes of death worldwide.

Human diligence

Ultimately, while technology reshapes the landscape of human capability, it cannot alter the core human condition. Digital tools should amplify our capacity to live, not replace the vital, sweat-inducing effort required to maintain our health, our minds, and our surroundings. You can swipe away a notification on a glass screen, but real-world challenges must still be confronted with the timeless, irreplaceable weapon of human diligence.

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The Importance of Both Linguistic and Communicative Competence for the Mastery of a Language

By Maung Maung Aye

To master a language, both linguistic competence and communicative competence are important. Neither one alone is sufficient. Linguistic competence provides the knowledge of language. By means of communicative competence, that knowledge can be used effectively in real-life situations. A useful analogy is learning to drive a car: linguistic competence is the engine, and communicative competence is the driver. A powerful engine is useless without a skilled driver, and a skilled driver cannot travel far with a faulty engine. True language mastery requires both working together.

The concept of linguistic competence refers to a speaker's internalized knowledge of a language's rules and structures. This knowledge includes several key areas. Phonology deals with the sound system of a language, morphology focuses on how words are formed, syntax con-

cerns the arrangement of words into sentences, and semantics examines the literal meanings of words and sentences.

The primary goal of linguistic competence is accuracy. By means of this skill, speakers can distinguish between correct and incorrect language forms. For example, a proficient speaker knows that "I went to the store" is correct, while "I goed to the store" is not. This knowledge forms the foundation of language learning. Without a solid understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure, it becomes difficult to express ideas clearly. And he will fail in understanding complex messages.

Communicative competence is the ability to select and use language that suits a particular situation. It involves several interconnected skills. Sociolinguistic competence refers to understanding social conventions, cultural norms, levels of polite-

ness, and appropriate language choices. For instance, a person may greet a friend with "What's up?" but would likely say "Good morning" to a company director. Both expressions are grammatically correct. But only one is appropriate in a formal context.

Another component is discourse competence, the ability to connect ideas smoothly and coherently in conversations, speeches, or written texts. It ensures that communication flows naturally and logically. Strategic competence involves solving communication problems, such as paraphrasing a forgotten word, asking for clarification, or rephrasing an unclear statement. Together, these skills help speakers communicate fluently and effectively in real-world situations.

An often-overlooked aspect of successful communication is the imaginative scheme, which allows speakers to use language creatively. Through metaphors,

similes, storytelling, humour, and symbolism, language becomes more vivid and emotionally engaging. For example, the sentence "The weather is very hot" communicates information, but "The sun burned like fire across the sky" creates a stronger image and emotional response. Likewise, saying "My heart is a lonely bird" conveys sadness more powerfully than a simple statement of feeling.

The imaginative scheme enriches communication in everyday life. Teachers inspire students through memorable metaphors, leaders motivate people with vivid visions, and friends strengthen relationships through stories and humour. Creative language not only enhances expression but also develops critical thinking and confidence. Learners who experiment with language become more flexible, expressive, and authentic communicators.



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NATIONAL

Call for entries: 2026 Quarterly Photography Competitions



Winning photographs (Colour/Landscape) of the 2026 First Quarter Competition.

THE Myanmar Photographic Society has issued an invitation to participate in its 2026 quarterly photography competitions.

The association will

hold its regular photography competitions, which are scheduled to take place four times throughout the year. At the end of the year, scores will be tallied to

award first, second, and third prizes, along with three consolation prizes.

These awards contribute toward the association's photography art titles. Any member of the association is eligible to enter, and those who are not yet members may apply for membership to participate. Competition entries must be submitted via email in 8x12 inch, 300 dpi format to mps1950domain@gmail.com.

Submission categories and deadlines are: First Quarter (Completed) — Colour category: Landscape; Black &

White category: Portrait; Second Quarter: Deadline is 30 June — Colour: Flowers; Black & White: Daily Life; Third Quarter: Deadline is 30 September — Colour: Ethnic; Black & White: Human and Animal; Fourth Quarter: Deadline is 31 December — Colour: Festival; Black & White: Human and Work.

Detailed regulations can be viewed on the society's Facebook page, and further inquiries can be directed to the competition organizing committee of the association. — MT/ZN

Day meal offering to 700 monks held to mark 29th birthday of film director

AS the celebration of 29th birthday of a film director Min Thant Maung Maung, a ceremony of offering day meal to 700 monks and novices was held at the Mahabodhi Monastery in Yankin Township on 3 July.

With a lovely com-

ment, Min Thant Maung Maung replied "One day, I'll send you your grandchild". His father Zin Yaw Maung Maung made birthday wish "wish to have a wife", that went viral on the social media.

— TWA/ZS



Film Director Min Thant Maung Maung's birthday donation was celebrated.



MAB Mel Doh Savings advert

MAB launches Mel Doh Savings for a bright future for every woman

FOR a bright future for every woman, it launched a new savings account Mel Doh Savings, according to the Myanmar Apex Bank (MAB).

In commemoration of the Myanmar Women's Day, it is exclusively designed for women who like savings. In addition, Lady's Credit Card (Classic and Platinum) can be applied as a privilege for women.

As exclusive privileges, the new savings account offers 9.50 per cent annual interest and

eligibility to apply Lady's Credit Card (Classic/Platinum) with annual deposit exemption, eligibility to use by paring with MAB MPU-UnionPay Platinum Debit Card, Mobile Banking and Internet Banking.

Account can be easily opened at nearest MAB branches and details about Mel Doh Savings can be searched at <https://bit.ly/MelDohSavings> or at nearest MAB branches or MAB 24/7 Call Centre number 01-8610612. — MT/ZS

China offers full scholarships for Myanmar Sepak Takraw athletes

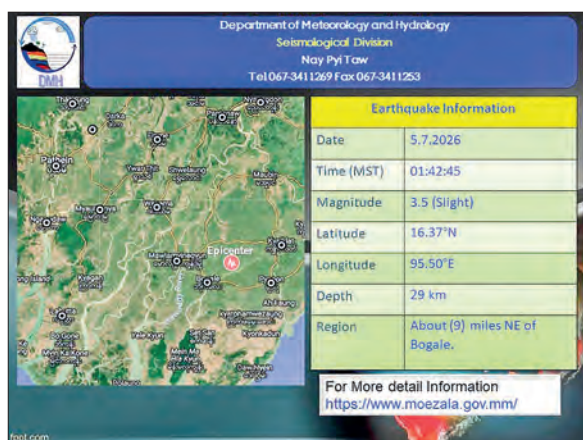
CHINA'S Guangxi University for Nationalities will offer full scholarships to two Myanmar Sepak Takraw athletes, covering tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses, according to sources.

Applicants must have passed Grade 12, be active players in a registered Sepak Takraw club, and demonstrate strong playing ability.

Selected students will receive structured Chinese language training from beginner level and may also choose other academic subjects of interest during their studies.

The scholarship covers tuition and accommodation fees until graduation, provides a monthly food allowance, and includes support for sportswear and clothing. Additional financial assistance may also be available to athletes from low-income families to ensure they can pursue their education and training without difficulty. — ASH/KZL

Minor earthquake strikes near Mawlamyinekyun and Bogale



This photo shows an infographic from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology on the minor earthquake near Mawlamyinekyun and Bogale townships.

A minor earthquake struck near Mawlamyinekyun and Bogale townships in Ayeyawady Region early on 5 July, causing brief panic

among local residents.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the earthquake occurred at 1:42:45 am on 5 July. The epicentre was located about 58 miles southeast of the Pathein Seismological Station, roughly nine miles northeast of Bogale and about nine miles from Mawlamyinekyun.

The earthquake was recorded as a minor tremor with a magnitude of 3.5 on the Richter scale. Its epicentre was at a depth of 29 kilometres,

at latitude 16.37°N and longitude 95.50°E.

Regarding the earthquake, U Hla Win, a resident of Bogale, said: "I woke up in a panic last night while sleeping because I heard a loud noise and the house shook. The intensity wasn't very strong, but because it happened in the middle of the night, people were more frightened. There was no damage."

Similarly, Ma Thanda, a local woman from Mawlamyinekyun, shared her experience:

"At around 1:30 am, the ground suddenly jolted with a loud thud. The vibration was noticeable. Since it lasted only a brief moment, nothing happened. We rarely experience earthquakes around here, so when one happens, there is naturally some anxiety."

There were no casualties or property damage caused by the earthquake, and local residents have continued their daily routines as normal, according to reports. — TWA/TH

Swift-Kelce wedding details emerge from “garden inside Garden”

A performance from Stevie Nicks, personal vows, high school friends and a “garden inside the Garden”: details are slowly emerging about Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce’s star-studded wedding in New York.

The pop superstar and the three-time NFL Super Bowl champion, both 36, tied the knot on Friday at the storied Madison Square Garden under heavy security, with the 1,000 or so attendees reportedly required to sign non-disclosure agreements.

The singer’s publicist Tree Paine confirmed the marriage took place in a short statement and gave a few details, such as the couple’s choice of

ensembles from Christian Dior, shoes from Christian Louboutin and Cartier jewelry.

But nuggets of information surfaced on Saturday, starting with the anchors of ABC’s “Good Morning America” news broadcast — Robin Roberts, George Stephanopoulos and retired NFL legend Michael Strahan — describing their experience at the party.

Stephanopoulos, a onetime aide to former president Bill Clinton who pivoted to journalism more than two decades ago, said the ceremony was “as intimate as it could possibly be, given that it was Madison Square Garden” — the iconic sports arena. — AFP

Disney taps back catalogue — again — for live-action ‘Moana’



The original “Moana” from 2016 follows a young Polynesian girl who sets off on an adventure across the ocean, accompanied by the demigod Maui, to save her people and their atoll.

PHOTO: DISNEY

DISNEY’S reliance on its back catalogue of characters and franchises will be underlined again next week with the release of

a live-action version of “Moana”, a remake of the Polynesian-themed animation hit that is only a decade old.

The original “Moana” from 2016 follows a young Polynesian girl who sets off on an adventure across the ocean, accompanied by the demigod Maui, to save her people and their atoll.

A sequel came out in 2024 and a third animated instalment is in the works, while the new live-action version starring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson will hit screens worldwide from Wednesday.

It is a shot-for-shot rehash of the original, with the same songs and similar dialogue, directed by Thomas Kail of “Hamilton” fame. — AFP

Anime “Crayon Shin-chan” characters featured on manhole covers near Tokyo

Kasukabe installs colorful Crayon Shin-chan manhole covers featuring wisteria flowers.

MANHOLE covers featuring characters from the popular manga and anime series “Crayon Shin-chan” were unveiled Sunday in Kasukabe, Saitama Prefecture, near Tokyo, where the story is set.

The Kasukabe city government said the manhole covers, which come in two designs and are approximately 60 centimetres in diameter, feature the city’s symbol, wisteria flower, along with vividly colored illustrations of the main character, Shinnosuke Nohara, and his family.

Crayon Shin-chan, which started airing on TV in the 1990s, follows the adventures of 5-year-



Photo taken in Kasukabe, Saitama Prefecture, on July 5, 2026, shows manhole covers featuring characters from the popular manga and anime series “Crayon Shin-chan.” PHOTO: KYODO

old Shinnosuke, nicknamed Shin-chan, and his family and friends in the city. The anime series has also been broadcast elsewhere in Asia, including

South Korea, and parts of Europe.

Five covers have been installed around Kasukabe Station, operated by Tobu Railway

Co., according to the city government.

During an unveiling event held on Sunday at the city hall, a mascot resembling Shin-chan made an appearance and posed for photographs with children who were present.

Kasukabe Mayor Kazuhiro Iwaya said in an address to the crowd, “I hope you can get a real sense of Kasukabe, the town where Crayon Shin-chan lives.”

Aoi Arai, 9, who participated in the photo session, said, “I was surprised to see the colorful drawings of Shin-chan. They are impressive.” — Kyodo

At the foot of Mount Olympus, a return to ancient Greek heritage

AT the foot of Mount Olympus, the Prometheia Festival brings ancient Greek mythology to life through torchlight processions, hymns, and ceremonial gatherings. Held each summer for four days, the event draws hundreds of people who worship ancient Greek deities and wish to reconnect with traditions they believe are rooted in antiquity. The festival is organized by the association “Prometheus, the Fire Bringer”, named after the Titan who, in Greek mythology, stole fire from Zeus and gave it to humankind.

Participants say the festival is not only a religious observance but

also a cultural revival. Many take on names inspired by ancient figures, wear white robes, and join symbolic rituals near the archaeological site of Dion. They also gather along the River Enipeas to honour nature and invoke mythological beings such as

the Nymphs and the Nereids. According to organizers, the purpose is to preserve Greece’s historical heritage and reconnect with values they see as part of their ancestral identity.

One participant explained that the effort is about returning to their

roots after being separated from the literature, education, and thought of ancient Greece. Another said the gods of ancient Greece represent energies that live within people and that the goal is not to convert others. Instead, the festival emphasizes virtues such as courage, boldness, excellence, truth, and a fighting spirit.

The celebrations end with theatrical performances, traditional dances, and festivities in the forests around Mount Olympus. Together, these scenes show a modern attempt to revive a sacred past and keep ancient belief and culture alive in contemporary Greece. — AFP



Reenactors dressed as ancient Greeks perform a ritual at the foothills of Mount Olympus as part of the four-day Promitheia Festival. PHOTO: AFP

ECONOMY WORLD

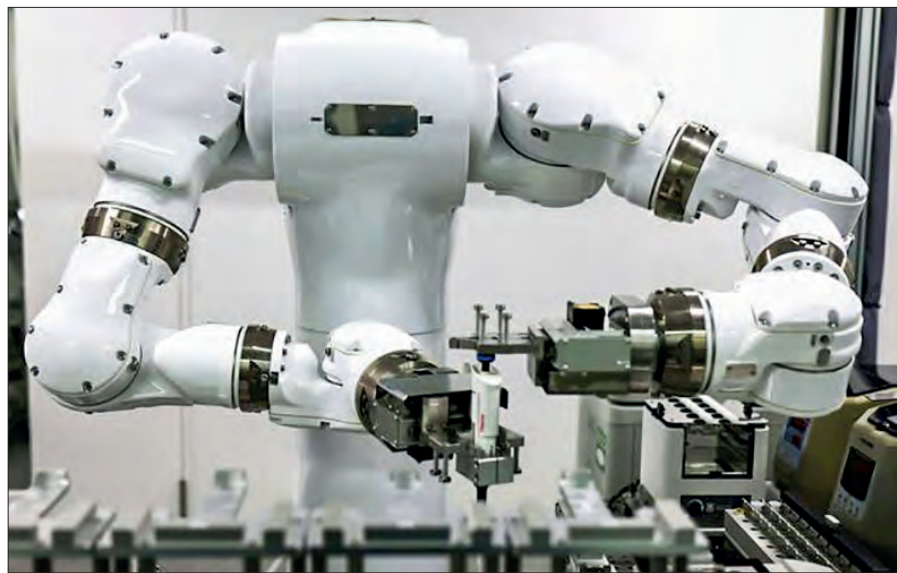
AI boom poised to help Japan firms log record profits for 6th year in FY 2026

AI data centre expansion drives global tech manufacturing growth through 2027.

MAJOR Japanese companies are expected to post record net profits for the sixth straight year in the current fiscal year, as a solid technology sector backed by booming artificial intelligence demand will more than offset higher input costs from the Middle East conflict, analysts at Japanese securities houses say.

The race to build AI data centers is likely to continue to drive growth in the makers of semiconductors, chip-manufacturing equipment and other electronic parts in the year through March 2027.

SMBC Nikko Securities expects the net profits of 250 major companies listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange to climb 19.3 per cent this fiscal year, led by companies related to the semiconductor industry.



This image shows a Maholo LabDroid dual-arm robot performing automated medical experiments at the Robotics Innovation Centre in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Nomura Securities projects that 242 major companies on the Tokyo bourse will see an average 5.9 per cent increase in net profit for fiscal 2026, while Daiwa Securities estimates 5.1 per cent growth in net profit for 210 firms listed on the bourse.

“AI and semiconductor-related companies are leading the climb (in profits) and are expected to continue growing as some negative factors, including high crude oil prices, are starting to settle,” said Hikaru Yasuda, chief equity strategist at SMBC Nikko Securities.

Crude oil futures spiked right after the launch of US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February disrupted oil supplies. The Strait of Hormuz is a key artery for global energy shipments, with Japan heavily reliant on crude oil imports from the Middle East. — Kyodo

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia ranks second in wealth growth

OVER the five years leading up to 2025, Russia climbed to second place globally in household asset growth, according to the 2026 UBS Global Wealth Report.

Wealth, as defined in the report, is the total value of financial and real assets minus all outstanding liabilities, with all figures adjusted for inflation and calculated in national currencies to reflect true purchasing power.

Russia posted a 37 per cent rise in inflation-adjusted wealth per adult during the period, placing it second globally. — SPUTNIK

Kiwi ruling party vows trade talks

NEW Zealand's major governing National Party on Sunday pledged to launch trade negotiations with more economies within five years if re-elected in the November general election, as part of a strategy to expand export markets.

The proposed negotiations would involve Brazil, Switzerland, Argentina, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Uruguay and the European Free Trade Association bloc, which also includes Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Current exports to these markets total about 1.8 billion NZ dollars (US\$1.03 billion), highlighting what it sees as growth potential, said the party's trade spokesperson Todd McClay while announcing the election trade policy in Auckland with party leader Christopher Luxon, targeting what they described as the country's “next billion customers”.

The National groups the targets into high-value European economies, large South American markets and fast-growing Asian and African economies. — Xinhua

Türkiye, Pakistan pledge to boost strategic, economic cooperation

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday pledged to boost bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and strategic sectors during talks in Istanbul.

Speaking at a joint press conference after their meeting, Erdogan said the two sides reviewed steps to expand economic ties and discussed cooperation in defence, energy, transportation, critical minerals and information technologies.

He described cooperation in defence industry



IT companies set up their booths at the 24th edition of the ITCN Asia Conference in Lahore, Pakistan on 19 April 2024. **PHOTO: QASIM ALI/X/FILE**

as a key pillar of bilateral economic ties, noting that collaboration was expanding through new projects.

Erdogan added that

the two countries were advancing plans to establish a special economic zone in Pakistan's Karachi for Turkish businesses. — Xinhua

Experts address anxieties over India's expanding E20 mandate

WITH the public debate over dropping fuel economy and potential engine damage gaining momentum, prominent energy industry veterans on Saturday stepped forward to clear up public confusion and address consumer anxieties regarding India's rapidly expanding E20 (20 per cent ethanol-blended) petrol mandate.

Speaking to ANI on the sidelines of a high-level media briefing in Mumbai, R Ramachandran, retired Director (Refineries) of

BPCL, and Raj Kumar Dubey, retired Chairman of IGL and Director of BPCL, systematically dismantled pervasive

myths surrounding the fuel by comparing empirical laboratory data against subjective roadside experiences. — ANI



Motorists have already been buying blended fuel like E20 for over a year without realizing it. **PHOTO: ANI**

Japan firm's plant-based soup stock helps meet halal, vegan demand

A company in western Japan has developed a plant-based dashi soup stock with chicken and seafood flavours to accommodate the growing demand for halal and vegan food amid booming inbound tourism.

Founded in 1950, Fuji Oil Co which operates a factory in Izumisano, Osaka Prefecture, commercialized "MIRA-Dashi" in 2023. The broth, made from plant-based oils and soybeans, is also used by the popular ramen chain Ippudo.

According to the Japan Halal Association, which certifies food products and services that comply with Islamic dietary laws, few Japanese companies produce plant-based broth that mimics

meat or fish flavours.

At "Pivot BASE", a cafe in Osaka's Dotombori district that caters to foreign tourists, pork bone-style "tonkotsu" ramen and "tantanmen" noodles using MIRA-Dashi are popular among visitors.

A vegetarian visiting from India with his family praised the flavourful broth as he slurped his ramen. Fuji Oil is expanding sales of its dashi to restaurants in tourist areas and hotels in the Tokyo metropolitan area. A long-established restaurant on Mount Koya in Wakayama Prefecture that serves "shojin ryori", the Buddhist vegetarian cuisine, offers ramen with a soup that combines the dashi with pressed sesame liquid. — Kyodo



Photo taken on 26 December 2025, shows a family from India enjoying "tonkotsu"-style ramen made with plant-based broth in Osaka, western Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO**

First shipment of Varanasi-made biscuits exported to Oman

INDIA has exported 40 metric tonnes (MT) of biscuits manufactured in Varanasi to Oman for the first time under the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, adding that the preferential trade pact is helping Indian food products become more competitive in overseas markets.

Sharing the development on X, Goyal said, "For the first time, 40MT of biscuits manufactured in Varanasi have been exported to Oman under the India-Oman CEPA, advancing PM Narendra Modi ji's vision of taking 'Made In India' products



For the first time, 40MT of biscuits manufactured in Varanasi have been exported to Oman under the India-Oman CEPA. **PHOTO: ANI**

to the world."

The minister also said an agreement has been signed to significantly expand exports of Indian biscuits to the Gulf region.

"An MoU has also been signed for the supply of nearly 700 MT of biscuits to Oman and other

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries during FY 2026-27," he said.

Highlighting the role of the trade agreement, Goyal said preferential tariff benefits under the India-Oman CEPA have enabled duty-free access for biscuits made in India.

"Preferential tariff benefits available under CEPA have allowed duty-free access for biscuits produced in India, making them more price-competitive in comparison to other key competitors in the Oman market," he said.

According to the minister, the tariff advantage is expected to improve export prospects for Indian manufacturers in the region.

"This is expected to translate into higher export volumes and repeat orders from importers in the region," Goyal said.

He added that the development would provide a boost to India's food processing sector through higher production and employment. — ANI

Kabul faces worsening drinking water shortage

THE United Nations has warned of a worsening drinking water shortage in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, saying the crisis poses serious challenges to the city's future development, local media TOLONews re-

ported on Sunday.

According to the report, declining groundwater levels, rapid population growth and climate change have significantly intensified pressure on Kabul's water resources, making

the city one of the worst-hit urban areas in the region.

Officials said efforts are underway to address the water shortage through several major infrastructure projects. Kabul has struggled with

drinking water shortages for years. Despite repeated efforts by the authorities to improve water supply, the problem remains a major challenge for the city's growing population, the report added. — Xinhua

Slovenia's registered jobless total falls

THE number of registered unemployed people in Slovenia fell to its lowest level since 1990 in June, reflecting the country's tight labour market, according to data released by the Employment Service of Slovenia.

A total of 42,245 people were registered as unemployed at the end of June, down 1.9 per cent from May and 0.4 per cent year-on-year. Employers reported 15,244 job vacancies during the month, up 17.1 per cent from May, with the strongest demand in education, manufacturing, health and social services, and construction.

Facing persistent labour shortages, Slovenia has stepped up efforts to attract foreign workers. In November last year, the Ministry of Labour introduced a fast-track employment scheme for workers from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to fill shortages in sectors including agriculture, construction, manufacturing, tourism, and health and social services. — Xinhua

Ethiopia earns record coffee exports

ETHIOPIA has earned a record US\$3 billion from coffee exports during the concluding 2025/26 Ethiopian fiscal year, according to Adugna Debela, director-general of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority. The director general made the remarks at a media briefing on Friday, attributing the highest revenue to the export of high-quality and specialty coffee that commanded better prices at the global market. "It is a pride for us to register such a remarkable result amid the conflict in the Middle East," said Debela, recalling that the conflict disrupted coffee shipments and logistic operations en route to the region and the Far East.

"During the year, one tonne of Ethiopian coffee was sold at US\$7,500 at the global market, up from US\$6,000 last year, while other coffee exporting countries received a 40 per cent lower price compared to last year," said Debela, noting that the global coffee price per kg has declined to \$2.4 this year from \$4 last year. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCL 9 VOY.NO. (29N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCL 9 VOY. NO. (29N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **YIGTL** 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 MAWLAMYINE CENTURY LOGISTICS
COMPANY LIMITED**

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Egypt's president inaugurates "Octagon" military HQ

Equipped with advanced secure communication and data systems, this new complex serves as a vital pillar for managing both military operations and national crises.

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi inaugurated on Saturday the State Strategic Command Headquarters, known as "the Octagon," in Egypt's New Capital east of Cairo, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

In a speech marking the inauguration, Sisi described the new command as "a towering national edifice" and said the complex marks "a significant leap" in Egypt's command, control, and operations management systems.

Equipped with advanced technological infrastructure, secure com-



Egyptian President inaugurated the State Strategic Command Headquarters, known as "the Octagon", in Egypt's New Capital east of Cairo. **PHOTO: INSTAGRAM**

munication systems, and enhanced capabilities in information gathering and analysis, the headquarters

is designed not only to manage military situations but also as "a fundamental pillar in the state's capacity to

confront challenges and exceptional circumstances", according to the Egyptian leader.

According to Egypt's official MENA news agency, Sisi signed the official inauguration charter and raised the Armed Forces flag over the facility.

The Octagon is the largest command center of its kind in the Middle East, serving as an integrated crisis management and control centre linking sovereign state institutions through advanced communication technologies and artificial intelligence, MENA said. — Xinhua

Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe flies by asteroid

JAPAN'S Hayabusa2 space probe made what is believed to be a close flyby of the asteroid Torifune on Sunday, the country's space agency said.

The flyby observation mission, which requires highly accurate navigation, was also aimed at testing technologies needed for planetary defense, or efforts to mitigate the risk of asteroids colliding with Earth, the Japan Aerospace Exploration

Agency said.

According to JAXA, a signal was received from Hayabusa2 after it was scheduled to pass closest to the asteroid, indicating that it was operating normally.

The plan was for the spacecraft to pass approximately 800 metres from the center of Torifune, far closer than most flybys.

Torifune, an elongated asteroid with an estimated diameter of



91 This image shows the Japanese Hayabusa2 spacecraft maneuvering near the asteroid 162173 Ryugu. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

450 metres, has an orbital period around the Sun of 383 days and is cur-

rently about 100 million kilometres from Earth. — Kyodo

Massive Albania protests hit Trump resort

TENS of thousands rallied on Saturday in the Albanian capital Tirana in the largest protest since a movement against a resort linked to US President Donald Trump's family be-

gan. The 35th consecutive daily protest was the biggest since rallies started in late May against the planned construction of a luxury hotel linked to Trump's daughter Ivanka

and her husband Jared Kushner in a nature reserve on the Balkan country's coast, AFP reporters said.

Opposition to the project has become a flash-

point for frustrations over perceived corruption, with protesters calling for Prime Minister Edi Rama to step down over what they describe as a lack of transparency. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hezbollah and Hamas attend Khamenei funeral

REPRESENTATIVES of Tehran-backed militant groups attended the funeral ceremonies of slain Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei on Saturday, with envoys from Hezbollah and Hamas meeting with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, state media reported.

Tehran has for years provided support to Palestinian Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi rebels — all designated terrorist groups by the United States and other Western nations, making Iran the target of international sanctions.

Iran has dubbed its anti-Israel network of allies, which also includes armed groups in Iraq, the "axis of resistance". The Hezbollah delegation to Tehran was headed by senior official and former minister Mohammed Fneish, and included officials and families of killed and wounded members, the group told Lebanese media. — AFP

Pakistan hosts US-Iran talks on 11 July

PAKISTAN will host the next round of negotiations between the United States and Iran on 11 July, Al Arabiya news channel reported on Saturday.

Citing unnamed sources, the report said the upcoming round will focus on US sanctions on Iran, Iranian frozen assets, and the Iranian nuclear file.

It added that the level of representation of the Iranian delegation will be decided after the funeral of late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

On 18 June, Iran and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on ending the war in the region on all fronts, including Lebanon.

On 22 June, technical negotiations between Iran and the United States were held in Switzerland following high-level consultations between Iranian and US delegations the previous day with the mediation of Pakistan and Qatar. — Xinhua

Kim Jong Un tests destroyer weapons

Kim Jong Un, top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on Friday oversaw a performance test of the weapon systems of the country's destroyer Kang Kon, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday.

The destroyer on Friday conducted "a test-fire of strategic cruise missile and a test of major weapon systems such as naval artillery, automatic machine guns and electronic warfare means", according to the report.

Kim, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, said it is necessary for the DPRK "to further speed up the projects to maintain and steadily expand the reliable war deterrent and capability to fight a war", according to the report.

Kim "gave an instruction to complete the trial process of the destroyer in a responsible manner and commission it for the Navy within two months", KCNA added. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar U12 team to compete in Japan's youth football tournament



Myanmar U12 team in action at a previous Junior Soccer World Challenge tournament. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR U12 national team will participate in the U12 Junior Soccer World Challenge 2026, an annual youth football tournament hosted in

Japan, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

A player selection programme for the formation of the team will

be held on 11 and 12 July at the National Football Academy (Yangon) and Myanmar Football Academy (Mandalay). Eligible youth players from across the country are invited to take part.

Registration must be completed by 9 July via email at zarni-ohnkhin@mff-ma.com or by contacting 09-4037 25425. Applicants must be born after 1 January 2014 and are required to bring a school recommendation letter, household registration, and birth certificate. The

federation's medical team will verify age eligibility.

Myanmar has been participating in the tournament annually since 2023 to gain international experience for young players, making this the fourth consecutive appearance. The competition features academy teams from Japan as well as youth sides from Europe, South America, and Asia, including well-known clubs such as Barcelona's academy. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

Julian Quinones, Mexico's not-so-secret World Cup weapon

WHEN England do battle with Mexico in the World Cup last 16 on Sunday, they will be wary of Julian Quinones, a forward with little international profile who has shown in this tournament he knows the way to goal.

A few weeks ago, England could have been forgiven for ignoring the threat from 29-year-old Quinones, whose entire career was spent at Mexican clubs until he joined Saudi outfit Al-Qadsiah in 2024.

In the 2025-2026 Saudi



Julian Quinones has been crucial to Mexico's progress at the World Cup it is co-hosting. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pro League season, Quinones was top scorer with 33 goals, one ahead of England's Ivan Toney, who will be on the bench

for the keenly-awaited game at the Estadio Azteca.

He announced himself to the wider world by

smashing in the opening goal of this World Cup as Mexico dominated South Africa 2-0 at the Azteca in the tournament curtainraiser.

He has since added two more goals, one in the win against the Czech Republic and another against Ecuador, when he was man of the match again.

On Sunday, the left-sided attacker could well be the main threat for Mexico down England's injury-depleted right flank. — AFP

Coach says Morocco no longer a surprise' after reaching World Cup quarters

MOROCCO coach Mohamed Ouahbi said "we're no longer a surprise" after reaching the World Cup quarter-finals on Saturday and hit back at "bold" claims by Canada's Jesse Marsch.

The north African side were not at their best but were clinical in

defeating Marsch's co-hosts 3-0 in Houston and will face France or Paraguay next.

Morocco made the semi-finals at the 2022 World Cup and won the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations, and Ouahbi said: "We're no longer a surprise today and that's a

great source of pride.

"I think this is only the beginning and I hope we'll keep producing this kind of run for many years."

Morocco lost to France in the last four at Qatar 2022, but the coach said revenge was not their motivation if

they clash next in North America.

"We want to go as far as possible and make our people proud," he said.

After Canada were the better team in the first half, Azzedine Ounahi scored twice for Morocco on 50 and 82 minutes to kill off the tie. — AFP

Spain faces Portugal in heavyweight World Cup last-16 showdown

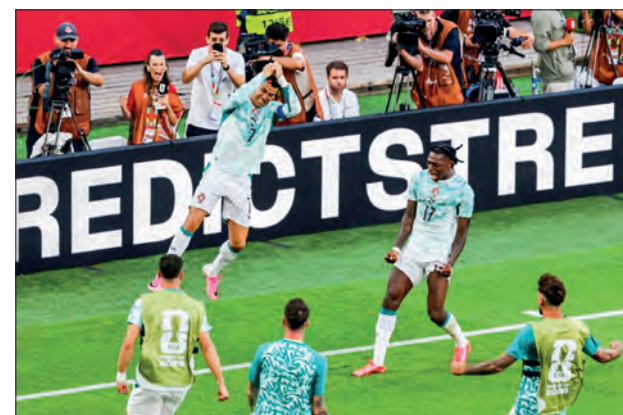
SPAIN and Portugal will renew one of international football's fiercest rivalries on Monday when they meet in a blockbuster World Cup round of 16 tie, with one of the tournament favourites guaranteed to make an early exit.

Spain remains among the leading contenders for the title after a comfortable 3-0 victory over Austria in the last 32 reinforced confidence in coach Luis de la Fuente's

side.

De la Fuente's team has scored eight goals in four matches, with Mikel Oyarzabal contributing four, while remaining the only team yet to concede in the knockout stage. Goalkeeper Unai Simon has now gone a World Cup finals record 519 minutes without allowing a goal.

"The record says more about the team than me," Simon told reporters on Sunday. — Xinhua



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates with team-mates after his second-half equalizer in a 2-1 defeat of Croatia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Osaka beats world number one Sabalenka in Wimbledon last 16

NAOMI Osaka stunned world number one Aryna Sabalenka with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/2) victory on Sunday as the Japanese star moved into the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the first time.

Osaka avenged a straight-sets defeat against Sabalenka in the French Open last 16 in June by eliminating her fellow four-time Grand Slam champion with a superb display on Centre Court.

It is five years since Osaka lifted her most recent Grand Slam trophy at the Australian Open.

Revitalised by coach Tomasz Wiktorowski, who mentored Iga Swiatek, the

28-year-old reached the semi-finals of the US Open last year and has carried that momentum into 2026.

Osaka is yet to drop a set across her opening four matches at Wimbledon.

Seeded 14th, she is finally finding her groove on grass, helped by the eye-catching outfits she arrives on court wearing.

Her walk-on costumes have included a kimono, a bomber jacket with a long train and a cloak that looks like an open kimono.

The 28-year-old believes all the talk about her haute couture has taken the pressure of her tennis. — AFP



China, Russia to hold joint naval exercise, maritime patrol

The joint military drill aims to safeguard regional peace and stability.



This photo taken on 5 July 2026 shows the Russian missile cruiser Varyag to participate in the "Joint Sea-2026" naval exercise docking at a military port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

CHINESE and Russian navies will hold the "Joint Sea-2026" naval exercise this month in waters and airspace near the Chinese port city of Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province, China's Ministry of National Defence

announced Sunday. Following the exercise, some forces from both sides will conduct a joint maritime patrol in relevant areas of the Pacific Ocean, the ministry said in a statement. The ministry said

the drill is part of the annual cooperation plan between the two militaries and is aimed at jointly responding to security challenges and safeguarding regional peace and stability. — Xinhua

ISRO conducts ground test for new sub-orbital solid motor-based test vehicle

THE first ground test of the SOLVE solid motor was carried out successfully at the Static Test Facility, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

The test was successfully conducted on 03-07-2026 at 10:00 hours and the motor performance parameters are as expected. The development of SOLVE vehicle provides flexibility in conducting Gaganyaan Test Missions simulating various conditions in the actual mission.

ISRO is developing a



The test was successfully conducted. **PHOTO: ANI**

solid motor based Sub-Orbital Launch Vehicle for Experiments (SOLVE) as a test platform to carry out Integrated Para-

chute Tests for validation of deceleration system of Gaganyaan Crew Module under various test conditions. — ANI

Qatar resumes maritime navigation after suspension

QATAR'S Ministry of Transport on Sunday announced the full resumption of maritime navigation for all types of marine vessels, effective immediately.

In a statement, the ministry urged all vessel

owners and operators to comply with applicable regulations and instructions, and to ensure the availability of all required equipment to guarantee the highest levels of safety and security during voyages.

The resumption follows the ministry's decision on Monday to temporarily suspend maritime navigation and marine activities for all vessel types as a precautionary measure to safeguard public safety. — Xinhua

Parisians and tourists soak in the Seine

PARISIANS and tourists dove into the joy of swimming in the Seine on Saturday as three free, supervised sites created for the 2024 Olympic Games reopened in a welcome respite after a record-breaking heatwave.

At the foot of the Eiffel Tower, swimmers were doing the breaststroke, chatting, or resting on their yellow floaters — mandatory because of the current — under the watchful eye of lifeguards in fluorescent T-shirts.

"It's better than the

pool; it's not quite the beach, but it gives you the feeling you're already a little bit on holiday," said Lauriane Fiorentino, an employee at a construction company.

Sunbathers dotted the riverbank, adding to City of Light's charm.

"Look at this water, with the Eiffel Tower in the background ... Honestly, can it get any more beautiful than this?" marvelled American Benjamin Doncan.

Paris sweltered in late June during a heatwave that roasted much



A tourist boat sails past swimmers enjoying a dip on the opening day of designated swimming areas along the Seine River in Paris on 4 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

of Europe, sending temperatures soaring to 40C and above in some corners of France, with

forecasters warning that another heatwave may be possible in coming weeks. — AFP

Maldives diving schools lead tourism growth

DIVING schools recorded the fastest growth within the Maldives' tourism sector, with revenue rising by 47.7 per cent in the latest reporting period, PSM News, state media of the Maldives, reported on Saturday, citing data from the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority.

The broader tourism sector generated US\$447 million in output tax during the reporting period from December 2025 to February 2026, up 20.5 per cent from \$371 million in the corresponding period a year earlier, PSM News said.

Revenue from diving schools rose to \$32.03 million from \$21.68 million a year earlier, making them the fastest-growing segment in the industry, the report said. Other marine recreation businesses also posted strong growth. Revenue from water sports centers increased by 49.2 per cent to \$12.37 million from \$8.2 million, while homestay guesthouses recorded 60.8 per cent growth, although their contribution to the wider tourism market remained relatively small. — Xinhua