

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Coastal Resource Strategy Anchors Green, Blue, Circular Economies

It is necessary to implement the integrated coastal management (ICM) approved in 2024 in Myanmar with the concepts of the green economy, the blue economy and the circular economy, said Vice-President U Nyo Saw, who chairs the National-Level Coastal Resources Management Central Committee.

The Vice-President said so at the first meeting of the central committee at the Forest Department in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Consequently, the Vice-President continued that the integrated coastal management will effectively initiate the environmental conservation, the



Vice-President U Nyo Saw presides over the first meeting of the National-Level Coastal Resources Management Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, 17 July 2026.

economic growth and socioeconomic improvement of the people.

The Vice-President underlined that, as coastal resources are of great importance to ensure food security of the nation, along

with the development of the national economy and the long-term development of the nation, efforts are being made to sustain these important resources for future generations.

He stressed the need

to emphasize harmonious management for national development and environmental conservation in order to achieve success in the sustainable development goal of the nation.

SEE PAGE 3

MTF, CB Bank partner to boost digital tourism payments

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) and CB Bank held a meeting on 14 July regarding digital transformation and collaboration on digital payment systems for the tourism sector.

The Chair and members of the Federation's Members Affairs Committee hosted Daw Ohnma Aye, CB Bank's Senior Deputy General Manager and Head of Integrated Marketing Department and another official.

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NATIONAL PAGE 11

Yangon Launches Pilot Project to Assess Structural Disaster Risks



NATIONAL PAGE 12

YGN palm oil wholesale reference prices show downticks

MSME Development Fund to support cotton industry

THE MSME Development Fund will provide loans to develop the cotton industry, and loan proposals can be submitted to the MSME agencies in Nay Pyi Taw, regions and states, according to an announcement by the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection under the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development.

Those who want to establish and expand cottonseed oil extraction machines and yarn-making machines can seek loans. Interested business entities can enquire through the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection (Head Office), Office 37 in Nay Pyi Taw, at 0673408395 and 09401224998. During the State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee Coordination

Meeting 1/2026-2027 held on 14 July, Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein for Cooperatives and Rural Development discussed the implementation of monsoon paddy, summer paddy, winter crops, and cotton cultivation. Union Minister Dr Charlie Than for Industry and MSME Development also discussed the disbursement of MSME development loans and



This image shows the Toepwagyi cotton ginning mill in Yamethin Township executing cotton production, ginning, and cottonseed oil processing and sales. **PHOTO: ZAW WIN AUNG**

oil mill development loans to regions and states. The State Economic Promotion Fund Management Committee, in collaboration with regional and state governments and self-administered region and zone administrative bodies, is systematically supervising the effective and beneficial utilization of state-provided funds. — TWA/KK

A Bank provides K100B to MSMEs in Ayeyawady Region

THE Ayeyawady Region Government has announced that A Bank has provided K100 billion in financial support to develop agriculture- and livestock-based Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within the region.

Expressing deep appreciation, the statement notes that this financial support will provide local farmers, livestock entrepreneurs, and producers of agriculture- and livestock-based value-added products with the necessary working capital promptly.

According to a statement released by A Bank on 16 July, the bank, partnering with local entrepreneurs, participated proudly in the "Ayeyawady Region Agriculture and Livestock-Based MSMEs Development Workshop", held at the Patheingyi Hotel



The Ayeyawady Region MSMEs Development Workshop in progress on 14 July at the Patheingyi Hotel.

in Patheingyi on 14 July. This initiative aims to practically address the primary challenge of working capital faced by local MSME entrepreneurs.

There are over 5,500 MSME businesses in Ayeyawady Region. A Bank stated that it focused its discussions on providing financial support and market opportunities for agriculture- and livestock-based

MSMEs in this new digital era.

The discussions concluded that the bank would systematically arrange loan services using a "new specialized collateral model" to benefit MSME entrepreneurs. True to its motto, "A Right Hand to Hold", the bank will continue to provide close support to local entrepreneurs, it stated. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names after the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Professor Dr Kyaw Tint	Rector University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health
(2) U Myint Zin Htoo	Director-General Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Ladies and Gentleman who Come as Martyr's Mausoleum

Taking drones to museum and flying around the museum highly prohibited



" Notice for those who come to Martyr's Mausoleum"
You are respectfully requested not to carry along the Following items into the Martyr's Mausoleum

Mobile Phones	Flower bouquet, Flower Wreaths and flower baskets
Various kinds of Flags	Vinyls
Various kinds of Bags	Bottles and Cans
Cameras	PVC and Steelpipes used as poles for Flags
Matches / Matchboxes	Ball Pens

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 mau-soleum.
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 infor-mation 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 recommend-ed.

9th 47-member SSMNC holds first-day session of 5th meeting

THE first-day session of the fifth plenary meeting of the Ninth 47-Member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was administered at the Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

Present at the occa-sion were members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Thanlyin Min Kyaung Pahtamapyan Monastery, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Union Minis-ter for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin and other



The fifth plenary meeting of the Ninth 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee administers its first-day session in Yangon.

relevant officials.

The Union minister offered the Dhamma Cak-ka Mahatika and the book on belle-letter about Bud-dha's residing donated by the President and family to Sayadaws.

Union Minister U Tin Oo Lwin reported on

religious affairs-related matters.

Afterwards, Sayad-aws reported on Vinic-chaya, religious affairs and educational matters. Sayadaws discussed Vin-icchaya affairs and con-cluded the first session.

The Vinicchaya af-fairs and religious-re-lated matters were dis-cussed by the Sayadaws at the second session at 1 pm.

Senior General Than Shwe (Rtd) and his wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing do-nated alms to the Sayad-aws. — MNA/KTZH

Citizenship scrutiny cards and UID cards issued in Bahan

IMMIGRATION Depart-ment under the Ministry of Immigration and Pop-ulation issued Citizenship Scrutiny Cards (CSC) and provided Unique Identifica-tion Number (UID) cards to those who already possess CSC across the regions and states through the Lamin campaign.

A team led by the head of the Bahan Township Immigration Department conducted a field service

at Basic Education Middle School No 2, Bahan, Yan-gon Region, yesterday. A total of 70 students were issued CSCs and UID cards during the field service.

Chairman of the Ba-han Township Manage-ment and Administration Committee, along with township-level departmen-tal personnel, attended to the needs of the students and employees at the school. — Yan Lin (IPRD)



An official presents a Citizenship Scrutiny Card and Unique Identification Number (UID) card to a student at the BEMS No 2, Bahan, Yangon, yesterday.

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

Coastal Resource Strategy Anchors Green, Blue,...

FROM PAGE 1

Regarding the coastal resources management measures, the Vice-President unveiled that the vessel monitoring system (VMS) is being implemented along with setting the non-fishing season and areas in order to reduce illegal fishing. Moreo-

ver, the Myanmar Coast Guard was formed, the water pollution law was drafted, and the research and education sectors were improved. Furthermore, efforts were made to achieve success in the activities of plastic and waste management as well as the expansion of

mangrove forests along the coastal areas.

In conclusion, the Vice-President urged all members of the Central Committee to strive for conservation of coastal and marine resources and development undertakings in connection with the regional programmes,

inviting them to discuss their efforts in sustainable and harmonious development of coastal and marine resources at the meeting.

The director-general of the Forest Department reported on the duties and functions, along with the progress of coastal

resources management. Central Committee member Union Ministers, chief ministers and deputy ministers discussed the accomplishments of relevant departments and regions for the management.

The meeting came to an end with the remarks of the Vice-President.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo, deputy ministers and directors-general. — MNA/TTA

VP urges stronger regional biodiversity cooperation at Fifth China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye attended the opening ceremony of the Fifth China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation in Nyingchi (Linzhi), Xizang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, yesterday, where she called for stronger regional cooperation in biodiversity conservation, green development, and sustainable economic growth across the Himalayan region.

The opening ceremony was held at the Nyingchi Rui Crown Hotel. The forum aims to deepen international cooperation in the Himalayan region while promoting regional and global partnerships for shared development.

Addressing the forum, the Vice-President said the event serves as an important platform for enhancing regional cooperation and advancing the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye speaks at the Fifth China Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation in Nyingchi (Linzhi), China.

Framework (KMGBF). She noted that Myanmar has long worked closely with international organizations and academic institutions on biodiversity conservation.

She highlighted the ongoing collaboration between Myanmar's Forest Department and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, under which researchers from both countries have conducted extensive biodiversity studies in northern Myanmar, leading to the discovery of numerous new species of plants, fish, spiders, and crustaceans.

The Vice-President

also noted that Myanmar and China are founding members of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and said Myanmar continues to cooperate with Himalayan member countries on scientific research supporting socioeconomic development, environmental conservation, and evidence-based policymaking.

She said Myanmar is prioritizing green development and green economy policies through a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach. She called for greater invest-

ment in nature-based solutions, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and the sustainable use of natural resources to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss throughout the Himalayan region.

Emphasizing the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the Vice-President reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to expanding its participation in projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) together with other trans-Himalayan countries. She expressed confidence that the forum would further strengthen international cooperation while promoting harmony between people and nature.

The forum brought together ministers, heads of delegations, representatives, experts, officials from relevant organizations, university professors, and students from more than 50 countries. — MNA/TH

DIPLOMACY

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Indian Ambassador to Myanmar



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi.

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Abhay Thakur in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Speaker noted that Myanmar and India have similar parliamentary structures, saying that the Pyithu Hluttaw has established 22 committees, referred to as "mini-parliaments", and briefed the delegation on the Hluttaw's ongoing activities.

He expressed Myanmar's interest in enhancing cooperation between the two parliaments to strengthen the lawmakers' capacity and develop human resources. He also said Myanmar wishes to study India's federal system and expand parliamentary engagement, building on the existing friendly relations between the two governments. The Speaker added that both sides should deepen cooperation across all parliamentary areas, including the legislative process. He described the ongoing workshop in Myanmar on India's Constitution and federal system as an important part of parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur mentioned that he was pleased to meet the Speaker and Deputy Speaker again, noting that they had established cordial relations previously. He reaffirmed India's commitment to continuing cooperation on capacity-building programmes for Hluttaw MPs and to supporting closer engagement between the Hluttaws of the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, International Relations Committee Chair Dr Pwint San, Bill Committee Member Lt-Col Myo Htet Win, International Relations Committee Member Daw Aye Mya Mya Kyaing, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. The Indian delegation included Acting Deputy Director-General of the Indian Council of World Affairs Mr N J Gangte and officials from the Embassy of India. — MNA/KTZH

MTF, CB Bank partner to boost digital tourism...

FROM PAGE 1

The discussions primarily focused on enabling members to easily pay membership fees and other services, using the MMQR system and integrating payment systems into the Federation's online platforms.

CB Bank officials presented their offer of fairer service fees for members, along with faster checkpoint systems for organizations and methods to facilitate

the auditing process. They also discussed matters on issuing credit cards for MSME tourism entrepreneurs and providing insurance and loan services.

Furthermore, both sides agreed to organize webinars on digital payments and to hold in-person technical information sessions for the Federation's affiliated associations. This collaboration aims to establish a better and more convenient payment system for Myanmar's tourism sector. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Briefed on MSME Growth, Key Infrastructure Progress

THE 25th day of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where lawmakers raised 10 questions covering value-added agricultural production, MSME and industrial zone development, road and bridge upgrades, government staff housing, and land compensation. Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn chaired the sitting.

Responding to questions from Hluttaw representatives, Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development Dr Charlie Than said the government is promoting value-added agricultural products



The 25th-day sitting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session is underway in Nay Pyi Taw, 17 July 2026.

through exhibitions, training and digital marketing, including the eMart Myanmar online platform. He said a K170 billion MSME Development Fund has been established, with

K150 billion already disbursed as loans since October 2024 and the remaining K20 billion allocated for non-loan development initiatives. The ministry is also working

to strengthen legal protections for MSMEs and improve industrial zones by expanding electricity supply, developing skilled workers and enhancing production capacity.

Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant said the government would continue upgrading roads and bridges in phases, subject to funding. He said the Htugyi-Shwegyin road in Ayeyawady Region would be improved in stages, while Dagon Myothit District would continue to be developed under Yangon's master plan as a sub-centre, with no plans to build a separate ring road or designate it as a special development district.

The Union minister also said repairs to the damaged main cables of the Myittha Suspension Bridge in Kalewa would

be prioritized during the 2026-2027 financial year following damage caused by terrorist attacks in 2023. He added that upgrading the Mogaung-Kamine-Hpakant road is currently impossible due to security conditions but would be considered once the situation improves. Plans for staff housing in Kalaw will depend on land availability and future budget allocations, while the upgrading of a concrete submersible bridge into a new 240-foot reinforced concrete bridge between Taungdwingyi and Myothit townships is scheduled to begin in the 2027-2028 financial year.

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Myanmar delegates attend 5th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting in India

U Tin Aung San, National Security Adviser and Union Minister at the President's Office, led a Myanmar delegation to India from 13 to 17 July to attend the 5th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting held in New Delhi. The delegation returned to Yangon yesterday evening, where they were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region ministers and officials from the Embassy of India to Myanmar.

On 16 July, the Union minister attended the 5th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting and discussed coopera-



NSA and Union Minister U Tin Aung San joins the group documentary photo session during the 5th BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs' Meeting in India, 13-17 July 2026.

tion in addressing security challenges, including counter-terrorism and transnational crime prevention, maritime security, cybersecurity, food security, energy security and other related security issues.

On the evening of 15 July, the Union minister joined the dinner event

hosted by Indian National Security Advisor Mr Ajit Doval.

During the visit from 15 to 16 July, the Union minister met with Indian National Security Advisor Mr Ajit Doval, Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Mr Sampath Thuyacontha, Secretary-General of

Thailand's National Security Council Mr Chatchai Bangchud and Defence Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Dr AKM Shamsul Islam, and exchanged views on bilateral security cooperation, border security, boundary affairs, illegal migration, information exchange, humanitarian assistance, technology exchange, bilateral trade and border trade, and cooperation across various sectors.

The high-level gathering brought together delegates from the seven member nations of the BIMSTEC. — MNA/KTZH

DIPLOMACY

MoFA Union Minister receives UNOPS Country Director & Representative



The UNOPS Country Director and Representative to Myanmar calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Country Director and Representative of UNOPS Myanmar, who has completed her mission and will depart soon, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on matters related to cooperation between Myanmar and UNOPS during her term in Myanmar, as well as further activities of the UNOPS.

Also present at the meeting were respective officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MoFA

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NATIONAL

DIPLOMACY

MNPIFER Union Minister receives UNOPS Country Director & Representative

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Country Director and Representative of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UNOPS team at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides frankly discussed the ongoing cooperation programmes in Myanmar and the plans between Myanmar and UNOPS.

Senior officials from the ministry and representatives of UNOPS were also present at the meeting. — MNPIFER



The UNOPS Country Director and Representative calls on Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe.

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HLUTTAW

Amyotha Hluttaw Continues Heated Parliamentary Debates

THE debates of law-makers continued at the 18th-day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw at its convention hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

MP Daw Mya Mya Thet from the Rakhine State Constituency 9 asked whether a plan is set to pave concrete roads with more than 80,000 feet in total length in Mingan Ward of Sit-tway and build a market in the same ward. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Win Moe Khaing stated that earthen roads with about 30,000 feet in length have been concreted, depending on the financial allocation up to the 2025-26 financial year. Priority will be given to upgrading the roads in the coming financial years. Moreover, coordination meetings have been conducted with shopkeepers to upgrade the Mingan market.

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing from the Kachin State Constituency 4 responded to the queries



The 18th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw, 17 July 2026.

raised by MP Daw Mie Mie Kyaw Tun from the Kachin State Constituency 4, saying that a dangerous school building will be demolished at Hukaung Basic Education Post-Primary School in Tanai along with the construction of a two-storey RC school building based on financial allocation in 2027-28 FY. He also replied that there are no plans to upgrade the BEMS Branch in Kinsara Ward of Tanai to the BEMS due to the relevant criteria of the school. In addition, the deputy minister responded that a dangerous school building will be dismantled at BEPPS in Dukaung Ward of Tanai with the plan to construct a two-storey RCC school building in 2027-28 FY.

MP Daw Khin Swe from the Magway Region Constituency 12 tabled a motion, urging the government to enact the law/rules establishing an Insurance Guarantee Fund and a transfer protection mechanism to ensure that the rights and benefits of policyholders are not lost when insurance companies suspend operations or withdraw from Myanmar. MP Daw Mary Ah Mu from the Kayah State Constituency 12 seconded the motion.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced that the MPs wishing to discuss the motion can list at the director-general of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its 19th-day meeting on 20 June. — MNA/TTA

HLUTTAW

Pyithu Hluttaw Briefed on MSME Growth, Key ...

FROM PAGE 4

Road improvement and widening work on the Mongkai and Panketu- Kehsi routes will also be

implemented in phases under the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 financial years.

On land compensation, Union Minister U

Myo Thant said replacement plots had already been allocated for farmland acquired during the development of Dagon

Myothit (North) Township in 1989-1990. Outstanding compensation claims will continue to be paid at the rates set

in 2017, and there are no plans to provide compensation based on current market prices.

The Pyithu Hluttaw

adjourned its 25th-day sitting and is scheduled to reconvene for the 26th day of the session on 20 July. — MNA/ST

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

- 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.
- All the visitors are required to wear masks systematically without fail.
- All visitors must wash their hands thoroughly at the designated stations and use the provided

- hand sanitizers before entering.
- 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 at the entrance of the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office).
- 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.
- They have to follow the arrangements of those serving duties at the Secretariat (formerly the Ministers' Office).
- Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in accordance with the set numbers, and maintain the same distance while inside.
- All the visitors must strictly follow the COVID-19 health notices and information released by the Ministry of Health.
- Elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are not allowed to visit.
- Those suffering from fever, cough, difficulty breathing or fatigue are not allowed to visit.

NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C overviews Myanmar-Russia Joint Exercise (Tiger-2026)

COMMANDER-In- Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo inspected the Myanmar-Russia Joint Exercise (Tiger-2026) at the training ground of the local training depot in Ot-tarathiri Station of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

Officials reported to the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief on the arrangements for the exercises. The General gave the necessary instructions.

Myanmar and Russian troops participated in the exercises under the programmes.

The Drone Unit conducted reconnaissance within the enemy area using surveillance drones. Assault teams carried out helicopter-borne insertions, while the Sniper Unit engaged enemy small groups with sniper fire. FPV and heavy drones were used for pre-emptive



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo inspects the Myanmar-Russian Joint Exercise in Nay Pyi Taw, 17 July 2026.

strikes, and the units carried out training in accordance with the offensive operation plan. The forces then penetrated towards their respective objectives in accordance with each phase of the combat operation, engaged and destroyed enemy positions, and successfully occupied the designated objectives.

The General and attendees watched a video clip on preparation to conduct the Myanmar-Russia Joint Exercise (Tiger-2026)

between troops of Myanmar and the Russian army. Two Quadcopter drones hanging flags of Myanmar and Russia flew over the venue as part of the successful completion of the exercise.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Nosulev Mikhail Yakovlevich expressed his firm belief that the joint training activities between the Myanmar and Russian armies will continue to become stronger in the future, while also

serving as mutually beneficial partnerships and creating new opportunities to further enhance relations between our two countries.

In his speech, General Ye Win Oo stated that along with the combat operations, they also had the opportunity to observe the rapid and timely evacuation and transportation of injured personnel from the operational area using unmanned robotic ambulances, which were deployed to rescue wounded troops

from dangerous combat zones under enemy fire.

He unveiled that they were able to study and observe the capabilities and combat employment of drones and FPV systems, which are features of modern warfare and can be effectively used on contemporary battlefields to inflict significant losses on enemy forces.

He stated that the friendship and cordial relations between Myanmar and the Russian Fed-

eration have continued to develop and strengthen over many years up to the present. The relations between the two countries have been cherished, nurtured, and maintained with close and warm ties to this day. Bilateral military cooperation between the two countries has also been progressing annually, with reciprocal visits by the chiefs of the two armed forces and senior military officers taking place regularly.

The exercise was the first-ever joint exercise conducted between the Myanmar and Russian armies. The opportunity to receive hands-on training and operate the military equipment brought by Russia for use in the exercise will further deepen the friendship, trust, and partnership cooperation between the two armed forces of the two countries.

SEE PAGE 10

Tangyan's Mya Sein Yaung village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Peinnin Village, Tangyan Township, on 17 July.

Tangyan Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw May Nwe Tun explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project to create employment opportunities and increase family incomes for rural residents, as well as implement village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials then explained project activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed



A fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Tangyan Township, 17 July 2026.

over K49.8 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Peinnin Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K49.8 million from the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Village Project. Under the supervision of

the township head, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the seventh round of revolving loans to 36 members from the village, including 19 people engaged in agricultural activities and 17 in trading. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Inbound tourist survey launched at Myawady border



Officials conducting an inbound tourist survey at the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge I in Myawady Township.

THE Directorate of Hotels and Tourism launched its first inbound tourist survey on 13 July at the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge I in Myawady Township, Kayin State.

The survey aims to collect tourism-related information from foreign visitors entering Myanmar in 2026, including their purpose of travel, length of stay, expenditure, travel arrangements and experiences

of tourism services.

Officials also conducted online surveys using QR codes for inbound tourists staying at hotels. The survey was carried out in Thailand from 13 to 16 July.

According to the department, the survey will gradually be expanded to other major international border checkpoints and ports across the country. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Unity in its real essence

Unity must have a common interest, a common sense of working together and a common objective, for the independence of the whole country and the interests of the whole populace. Unity must work for the people so that they can enjoy shared well-being and shared cause in working together. It is not enough just to say that we want to be united. Labour must be shared, and interests must be shared. Our objective must be the same. Only this kind of effort is worth calling "Unity".

(Excerpt from the speech addressed by Bogyoke Aung San at the AFPFL Conference on 23 January 1946)



Mandalay Commercial Complex provides one-stop service for exporters



A briefing session on the One-Stop Service system is underway at Myitnge Dry Port on 17 July 2026.

THE Mandalay Commercial Complex at Myitnge Dry Port of Mandalay provides one-stop service to exporters, according to the Export/Import Office (Mandalay) under the Department of Trade.

A briefing session on the One-Stop Service system was held at the port on 17 July and was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Myo Aung.

In addition, the chief

minister inspected the access of goods entry, storage and transport at the general warehouse of the Dry Port.

During the meeting, officials talked about the Mandalay Region's exporters' export potential and capacity, the possibility of exporting maize and sugar directly overseas, and the methodical rail connection of containers from Myitnge to the Dry Port in Yangon and other ports. — MNA/MKKS

MoC invites EOI for joint operation of CAD's laboratories

THE Product Testing and Quality Management Division under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, is located beside the Yangon-Bago Highway in Kyunkalay Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

The division's laboratories conduct quality tests on agricultural products for export, as well as on edible oils produced domestically and imported from abroad, and issue test reports based on the results.

The department plans to cooperate with local businesses under a Joint Operation system to obtain international accreditation (ISO/IEC 17025), enhance laboratory testing services for import and export products, and ensure commercial viability.

Interested companies may download the Expression of Interest (EOI) form from www.doca.gov.mm and submit their applications by 31 August 2026 during office hours to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Office 52, Nay Pyi Taw, or by email to itqmconsumer@gmail.com.

Companies submitting EOI applications must include the following documents:

- A letter expressing interest in the project alongside a work and budget plan.
- A valid company registration certificate.
- Company information, including details of any foreign technical partner (if applicable).
- Details of business experience and relevant supporting documents, including recommendations from governmental departments or organizations, where applicable.
- Financial documents, including audited financial reports for the previous three years issued by a certified audit firm.

The contact person's name, position, Citizenship Scrutiny Card (CSC)/passport number, address, telephone number and email address.

For further information, contact 067 3430459 or 067 3430510.

Department of Consumer Affairs

Taunggyi's water supply project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of a drinking water supply project in Konlon Village, Taunggyi Township.

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win, Taunggyi Township Department of Rural Development Head U Zaw Win and engineering staff inspected the completed construction of a 10,000-gallon capacity

concrete water storage tank measuring 20 feet long, 15 feet wide and six feet high. He met with residents and discussed the importance of establishing a systematic village water management committee and carrying out continuous operation and maintenance for the long-term sustainability of the water supply facilities.

The project was implemented using K17 million allocated by the Union Government fund under the 2026-2027 financial year to solve annual dry-season water shortages.

All construction work has now been completed 100 per cent under the technical assistance of the Department of Rural Development, enabling 180



Officials oversee the completed potable water supply project in Taunggyi Township.

households with a population of 1,006 in Konlon Village to enjoy an adequate supply of safe drinking water year-round. — Karan (Rural)

National Flag to be hoisted at half-mast on 79th Martyrs' Day

ON the 79th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, the public is urged to fly the Myanmar National Flag at half-mast and observe a siren-sounding ceremony in tribute to the fallen leaders.

The President's Office has informed all government offices and organizations nationwide to fly the Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at half-mast as a mark of mourning. MRTV will sound sirens at 10:37 am to pay tribute to the fallen leaders. During this time, vehicles on the roads are required to stop and sound their horns. — MNA/MKKS

MRTV to Broadcast 79th Martyrs' Day Ceremony Live

THE 79th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day ceremony will be held on 19 July at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon.

The ceremony will be broadcast live starting at 7:40 am on MRTV HD Channel, MRTV News Channel, MRTV Parliament Channel, MRTV NRC Channel, MITV, MWD HD, MWD Variety HD and affiliate channels such as Readers' Channel, Sky Net Up to Date Channel, Channel 9, Channel K, Hey Play Sports Channel, M Channel, UNI TV, Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Entertainment Channel and Channel 24, as well as Myanmar Radio, Shwe FM, Padamyia FM, Pyinsawady FM, Mandalay FM, Cherry FM, FM Bagan, Thazin FM, Star FM. Live streaming will also be broadcast on the MRTV Website, MRTV app and online. — MNA/KZL

OPINION

Drive export growth in quality and volume

IT IS essential to take measures to increase domestic production. Only when production of goods is expanded and increased can export products be generated, and consequently, the earned foreign currency can be spent to prioritize the import of essential goods urgently needed for the country.

Ministries and regional and state governments need to make dedicated efforts to increase production. In order to produce a greater quantity and wider range of export products that meet prescribed quality standards, relevant ministries must encourage and support business owners and provide the necessary assistance. The State Government has been implementing the National Export Strategy

Only by sustainably and consistently increasing the production and export of goods can the country's economy achieve steady growth. To further expand exports, depending on market conditions, benefits can also be generated for the country by integrating measures such as importing raw materials or semi-finished goods from abroad, manufacturing finished products domestically, and re-exporting them to overseas markets, as well as conducting re-export activities within the export sector.

cal progress needed to raise product quality and strengthen market competitiveness. Efforts must also be made to produce and export value-added finished products instead of exporting raw materials such as agricultural products, livestock products, forest products, and industrial raw material crops.

Only by sustainably and consistently increasing the production and export of goods can the country's economy achieve steady growth. To further expand exports, depending on market conditions, benefits can also be generated for the country by integrating measures such as importing raw materials or semi-finished goods from abroad, manufacturing finished products domestically, and re-exporting them to overseas markets, as well as conducting re-export activities within the export sector.

In order to overcome the challenges currently facing the country domestically, it is essential to increase domestic production. Therefore, concerted efforts must be made to place greater emphasis on enhancing production across all sectors.

The Myth of the Perfect Accent

For many Myanmar learners, speaking English is often judged by one visible feature: pronunciation. A strong Burmese accent is sometimes mistaken for poor English, while a near-native accent is admired as the hallmark of fluency. Yet this perception overlooks an important truth. In the real world, effective communication depends far less on accent than on vocabulary, fluency, and the ability to express ideas clearly.

Language is like building a bridge. Vocabulary provides the bricks, grammar the supporting pillars, fluency the roadway, and intonation the guide rails that carry meaning and emotion. Pronunciation gives the bridge its appearance. A beautiful bridge is of little value if it does not carry people safely across. Likewise, the purpose of English is not to sound impressive but to connect minds.

What Neuroscience Tells Us

Neuroscience explains why pronunciation becomes more difficult with age. Young children

Beyond Accent: The Real Measure of English Proficiency

By U Khin Maung Myint

Vocabulary Is the Currency of Communication

Words are the currency of every language. Without vocabulary, grammar has little to organize and pronunciation has little to express. A rich vocabulary enables speakers to explain, persuade, negotiate, comfort, and inspire.

Fluency is equally important. Conversation is like a flowing river; when words come naturally, communication becomes effortless. Constant hesitation interrupts that flow, no matter how accurate the pronunciation may be.

Importantly, adults do not lose the ability to learn a language. Rather, they rely more on reasoning, memory, and deliberate practice than on the effortless imitation seen in childhood. Although acquiring a native accent becomes less likely with age, adults often excel in understanding ideas, expanding vocabulary, and communicating with confidence.

The Music of English

English is not merely spoken; it is performed. Stress, rhythm, and intonation give life to words. They signal questions, emphasis, humour, emotion, and sincerity.

Even perfectly pronounced words can sound unnatural if delivered without appropriate rhythm.

A good teacher, therefore, offers more than vocabulary and grammar. Learners imitate the speech they hear. Clear pronunciation, natural intonation, and expressive delivery provide a model that the brain gradually adopts. As the proverb reminds us, "As the twig is bent, so grows the tree".

Accent Is Not Ability

International communication proves this point every day. Doctors, engineers, scientists, academics, airline pilots, and business leaders across the world speak English with recognizable national accents. Yet they collaborate successfully because their speech is intelligible and their ideas are clear.

An accent tells listeners where we have come from – not

how intelligent we are. It reflects identity, not competence.

One Important Exception: Proper Names

There is, however, one important exception. The pronunciation of people's names, towns, cities, and countries deserves particular care. A proper name is more than a collection of sounds; it represents identity, history, and culture.

Mispronouncing an ordinary word may cause temporary confusion. Mispronouncing a person's name, however, can unintentionally diminish dignity or convey a lack of respect. Healthcare professionals, teachers, diplomats, broadcasters, and business people therefore make a conscious effort to learn unfamiliar names correctly.

This is not about acquiring a perfect accent. It is about showing courtesy. Respect often begins by

calling people by the names they recognize as their own.

A Practical Goal for Myanmar Learners

For Myanmar adults learning English, the objective should not be to sound British or American. That pursuit can become a mirage — always visible yet never fully attainable.

A more realistic and rewarding goal is to build a broad vocabulary, develop fluent speech, master English rhythm and intonation, and speak with confidence. Clear communication will always carry greater value than flawless imitation.

Conclusion: Build Bridges, Not Mirrors

There is an old proverb: "Empty vessels make the most noise." In language learning, the opposite is often true. Those who communicate most effectively are

rarely those with the most polished accents, but those whose words carry knowledge, clarity, humility, and respect.

English should never become a mirror in which learners constantly compare themselves with native speakers. It should become a bridge, connecting cultures, sharing ideas, opening opportunities, and building friendships.

The finest English is not the one that sounds the most native. It is the one that enables people to understand one another. An accent may reveal where we were born; our words reveal who we are.

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A Land of Traditions and Heartfelt Kindness

By Kyaw Ye Aung

THE country I live in today is my absolute dreamland. It is a place where you can truly experience a meaningful and beautiful family life. The traditional culture here is incredibly rich and unlike anywhere else in the world. People here are content with what they have. Most of them are honest, polite, and genuinely warm-hearted. They love to help others, and they will gladly lend a hand to a stranger without expecting anything in return. To them, the simple act of giving is what matters most.

While family love is important all over the world, the bond in our society is uniquely deep. Parents

selflessly raise and guide their children, no matter how old they get. In return, children take care of their parents when they grow old, looking after them until their very last days. This is the purest form of love between parents and children. It is a beautiful connection that words cannot easily describe, and you really have to see it for yourself.

This is a land where everyone should experience living, mostly because of our strong and lasting cultural traditions. In our society, every single person is valued — whether they are young or old, rich or poor, healthy or sick. This comes from a long history of mutual respect. To be honest, we live by the teachings of Lord Buddha. This helps us understand that nothing in life lasts forever. By accepting this, we believe that being happy with what we have is the real key to a peaceful life.

There is a famous saying,

"Honesty is the best policy," and this is very true for our country. We might not be as modern or industrially developed as some other countries, but we are incredibly rich in honesty, kindness, and goodwill. Because of this, we can live our daily lives with a peaceful mind. On top of that, our land is blessed with beautiful nature and breathtaking views. It is no surprise that so many tourists visit us and leave with unforgettable, warm memories.

In conclusion, we must love our country and help build a modern, disciplined nation through the strength of our youth. By doing this, we can proudly stand as Myanmar citizens in the global community. We should protect and cherish our special values — our hard work, our generosity, and the deep respect we show to our elders. At the end of the day, I am incredibly proud to be Burmese.

Destination

By Thihathayna

With all our might,
We've rowed the boat,
Using all the sails and oars

Reached there,
Yet still rowing

Was it lost?
Or has it shifted over and over?

One certain thing
Is
Never-ending.



Today and Tomorrow

By Min Min Zan

I live my life from day to day,
And try to walk the proper way.
Tomorrow may be bright and gay,
Or take my happiness away.

The future comes with mystery,
No one can read its history.
It may bring joy for all to see,
Or write a sad new story for me.

So I will cherish every hour,
And use my time with all my power.
Today may bloom like a lovely flower,
For tomorrow may change its colour and power.



NATIONAL

Defence Services C-in-C overviews ...

FROM PAGE 6

The General presented fruit baskets for the troops who participated in the exercise.

The General and party had documentary photos taken together with Myanmar and Russian troops.

General Ye Win Oo hosted a lunch in honour of the leader of the Russian army delegation, Lt-Gen Nosulev Mikhail Yakovlevich, and party.

The exercise was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Com-

mander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, Union Minister for Defence General Tun Aung, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Ko Ko Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win, Commander-in-Chief (Air)

Lt-Gen Tun Win, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

The exercise was conducted at the train-

ing ground of the Special Operation Task Force of the local training depot in Ottarathiri Station starting from 6 July. Russian and Myanmar instructors shared their experience on engineering, drone operation, sniping, medical treatment, communications, jungle warfare, and hilly warfare with troops, and they took practical and theoretical exercises

yesterday.

While in Myanmar, the instructors and troops of the Russian Armed Forces visited the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw, the Defence Services Museum and other landmarks in addition to conducting the friendship sports events.

— MNA/TTA

MNHRC inspects Mington Labour Camp

AN inspection team from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, led by Commission members U Than Win and U Ohn Khaing, conducted an inspection visit to the Mington Labour Camp in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, on 17 July 2026. The inspection was carried out under Sections 43 and 44 of the Commission's Law.

During the visit, the team conducted interviews with prisoners in their dormitories to assess matters related to prisoners' fundamental rights, including living and food arrangements, the availability of health-care services, and medical treatment protocols for workplace injuries. Further inspections were ongoing



Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission are seen during their inspection tour.

regarding the availability of sufficient purified drinking water, the arrangements for physical exercise and sports activities on rest days, and the measures taken to facilitate access to the camp library. The team also verified the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion, family visitation rights and the receipt of items issued by the camp

and those sent by family members. Furthermore, the team examined workplace practices, specifically looking for evidence of discriminatory task assignments, any instances of torture, and assessing overall occupational safety conditions. Additionally, private and confidential interviews were conducted with three prisoners who

had requested separate meetings, and their statements were recorded.

Following the interviews, the inspection team conducted a physical tour to inspect the camp's various facilities, including the dormitories, the medical clinic, the library, the kitchen, the food warehouse, water purifiers, utility reservoirs, and the sanitation of both internal and external sewage systems. The Commission also donated knowledgeable books for prisoners to read and study.

The findings and recommendations from the inspection visits will be sent to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission's law. — MNHRC

Aunglan's earth embankment widening and laterite surfacing work inspected



Officials inspect the village road construction project in Aunglan Township.

THE Department of Rural Road Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Aunglan Township, Magway Region, is implementing the earth embankment widening and laterite surfacing work on the Kanyithnasint-Yenangyi inter-village road with funding from the Union Capital Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year (FY). Responsible officials conducted a field inspection of the ongoing works yesterday.

During the inspection, Assistant Director (Civil) U Thet Aung Thant of the Thayet District Department of Rural Road Development, Staff Officer (Civil) U Soe Min Naing of the Aunglan Township Department of Rural Road Development, and other responsible

officials inspected the progress of the earth embankment widening and laterite surfacing work on the village connecting road. They also gave necessary instructions to ensure the work is completed on time and in compliance with prescribed standards and specifications.

The Kanyithnasint-Yenangyi village connecting road is two miles and four furlongs long. The project involves widening the earth embankment and laying an 18-foot-wide and eight-inch-thick laterite surface. The work is being implemented by the Department of Rural Road Development with funding from the Union Capital Budget for 2026-2027 FY and commenced in the first week of July 2026. — Naw Lu (Rural)

Public Notice to Visitors: Bogyoke Aung San Museum

- 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.
- All the visitors are required to wear masks systematically without fail.
- All visitors must thoroughly wash their hands at the designated stations and use the provided hand sanitizers before entering.
- "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.
- "Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in compliance with the Ministry of Health's social distancing guidelines.
- "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.
- They have to follow the arrangements of those serving duties at the museum.
- 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.
- All the visitors must strictly follow the COVID-19 health notices and information released by the Ministry of Health.
- Elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are not allowed to visit.
- Those suffering from fever, cough, difficulty breathing or fatigue are not allowed to visit.

NATIONAL

Yangon Launches Pilot Project to Assess Structural Disaster Risks

THE Myanmar Earthquake Committee launched a pilot project to assess the earthquake and natural disaster risk of buildings in Yangon Region.

The Myanmar Earthquake Committee, Yangon City Development Committee, and Yangon Institute of Technology launched a pilot project in early July to assess earthquake and natural disaster risks for buildings in the Yangon Region.

The pilot project selects three wards across three

Yangon townships for structural earthquake and natural disaster risk evaluations. Project officials have met with local administrators and village chiefs to outline objectives, review local hazard conditions, and address potential field challenges.

Based on the information obtained from the pilot project, earthquake resilience and disaster preparedness plans for buildings in Yangon will be more effectively developed and implemented. — ASH/MKKS



Field assessment of earthquake and disaster conditions of buildings in a township of Yangon. PHOTO: MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE COMMITTEE

Basic & refresher sewing training opens in Minhla

THE Department of Small-Scale Industries, under the Ministry of Co-operatives and Rural Development, held the opening ceremony of the Basic and Refresher Sewing Training in Pantawpyin Village, Minhla Township, on the morning of 16 July.

Minhla Township Administration and Management Committee Chairman U Than Tun Aung first delivered the opening remarks. Daw Moe Moe Htwe, Assistant Director of the Department of Small-Scale Industries, Thayet District, then explained the purpose of opening the Basic and Refresher Sewing Training.



The opening ceremony of the sewing training is in progress in Minhla Township, 16 July 2026.

Afterwards, the chairman of the Minhla Township Administration and Management Committee and the chairperson of the

Women's Affairs Organization presented training materials and raw materials to the trainees.

A total of 15 trainees from villages within Minhla Township are attending the training. The Basic Sewing Training will be conducted from 16 July to 14 August 2026, while the Refresher Sewing Training will be conducted from 19 August to 2 September 2026. The total training period will be 45 days, during which both theoretical and practical lessons will be provided. — Set Lu (Rural)

Seminar on electric power technology for rice mills to be held

FOR the efficiency in the application of electric power in rice mill and rice product manufacturing, a seminar on electric power technology will be held on 25 July, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF)'s research and development committee.

It has been planned to hold at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) at 1:00 pm.

The seminar aims to ensure electricity safety, cost-effective methods from the efficient energy application and exchange energy-saving methods and high-tech knowledge.

Rice mill owners, rice product manufacturers and interested parties can join and MRF has requested to submit registrations in advance for the seating arrangement. — TWA/ZS



Rice Export Zone (REZ) project.



This photo features a brochure promoting the youth development programme within the Taninthayi Nature Reserve landscape.

Youth invited to apply for capacity-building programme in Taninthayi Nature Reserve landscape

A joint initiative by international and local organizations has begun accepting applications for a capacity-building programme designed to empower youth and community volunteers to undertake environmental conservation and research within the Taninthayi Nature Reserve landscape.

The programme is a collaborative effort between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Friends of Wildlife (FOW). It aims to equip young people and community volunteers with the knowledge, practical skills, and confidence needed to carry out environmental restoration activities and develop sustainable livelihood plans within the Taninthayi Nature Reserve landscape.

The six-month youth empowerment programme will run from August 2026 to

January 2027. It will include capacity-building workshops, project proposal development, and field research and is open to applicants aged 18 to 30. The first phase, which focuses on capacity-building workshops, and the second phase, which covers project proposal development, will be held in Dawei, Kaleinaung, and Michaung Hlaung (Ywathit), with each training session lasting three days.

Teams that successfully submit project proposals during the training period will receive small grants to implement their projects within the Taninthayi Nature Reserve. Young people aged 18 to 30 who are interested in environmental conservation and research are eligible to apply.

Applications are free of charge, and the deadline for submission is 24 July 2026. — ASH/TH

NATIONAL

City Taxi Campaign launched to promote discipline in Yangon



The “City Taxi Campaign” is being conducted in Yangon Region.

ACCORDING to the Yangon Region Public Transport Committee (YRTC), a “City Taxi Campaign” aimed at ensuring disciplined taxi operations in the region will be held every week starting 17 July.

Following the instructions of the Yangon Region Road Safety Council, relevant authorities—including the Yangon Region

Traffic Police Force, the District General Administration Department, and the YRTC – collaborated to launch the campaign. The inaugural session was held at 10 am on 17 July at the Sanpya Market bus stop on Laydauntkan Road.

“This campaign aims to ensure that City Taxis follow traffic rules and operate in a way that does not cause traffic congestion. Often, taxis stop at bus stops, leaving no room for buses to pull in, resulting in double or triple parking and congestion. We want to prevent this. City Taxis must dis-

play their taxi boards as required. They must not place commercial advertisements on their vehicles,” said U Lian Cing Mang, Joint Secretary of the YRTC.

There are over 56,000 registered City Taxis in Yangon Region. The campaign will be held weekly to ensure these vehicles adhere to traffic laws and operate systematically.

Under Section 96 of the Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Management Law, anyone found guilty of violating any traffic rules is subject to a fine not exceeding K30,000. — MT/ZN

YGN palm oil wholesale reference prices show downticks

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market decreased to K7,220 per viss during the week ending 23 July, showing a small decrease from those of the previous weeks, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

The regulated prices were set at K7,245 per viss in the week ending 9 July and K7,230 per viss in the week ending 16 July.

The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

Despite the reference price, the market price is still high. To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline in late August. The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person

who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers’ Association and cooking oil-importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

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

The domestic consumption of palm oil is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK



Hlegu’s MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village (Emerald Green) Project in Kanyingon Village, Hlegu Township, yesterday.

Hlegu Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thanda Soe explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of



The fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Hlegu Township, 17 July 2026.

creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as im-

plementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials then explained

project activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K40 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Kanyingon Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K40 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the 12th round of revolving loans to 91 members from the village engaged in agricultural, livestock breeding and trading activities. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Yaksawk’s water supply project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completion of a spring water supply project in Inpya Village, Yaksawk Township.

Yaksawk Township Department of Rural De-

velopment Head U Ye Min Aung and officials inspected the completed spring water transmission pipeline measuring one mile in length and the construction of a 5,000-gallon capacity concrete water tank. He also met village elders and villagers and discussed the need to collectively maintain and use

the water supply facilities sustainably, while coordinating necessary measures to meet the village’s requirements.

Inpya Village implemented the spring water supply project using K44 million. With technical assistance and close supervision from officials of the Township Department

of Rural Development, water supply facilities were built by local villagers themselves starting from the first week of May 2026, and has now been completed 100 per cent to solve drinking water scarcity during the dry season and ensure year-round safe drinking water. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



Officials and locals are seen following the completion of the spring water supply project in Yaksawk Township.

US tariffs on Brazilian goods amplify uncertainty

THE US government's latest 25 per cent tariff on Brazil's exports is concerning for Brazilian industry and amplifies uncertainty among companies in both countries, the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI) said Thursday.

Responding to the US tariff announcement made earlier in the day, the industry group issued a release saying the added duty exacerbates a situation that was already putting pressure on Brazilian exports. "The impacts of the US tariff increases are being felt more and more by Brazilian industry: 20 of the 27 states saw a decline in exports to the US market in the first half of the year," CNI President Ricardo Alban said. "In light of today's announce-

ment, the situation is likely to worsen, further eroding the competitiveness of Brazilian industry. We must spare no effort to reverse this trend and restore the relationship that Brazil and the United States have built," he added. Bilateral trade is already feeling the effects of US tariffs imposed since 2025, as Brazil's exports to the US market fell by 13 per cent, equivalent to US\$2.6 billion.

This decline was driven by an 8.7 per cent drop in sales of industrial goods, particularly semi-manufactured iron and steel products, crude cast iron, chemical wood pulp made from non-coniferous materials, petroleum oils and semi-manufactured products made from other steel alloys. — Xinhua



The port of Santos, the largest port complex in Latin America and one of the largest in the world, in Santos, Sao Paulo state, Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU forces Google to share data

THE European Commission on Thursday issued two rules under the Digital Markets Act (DMA), requiring US tech company Google to allow rivals' access to key artificial intelligence (AI) functions on its Android operating system and share search data with competing search engines. According to the Commission, the rules are legally binding. The first rule requires Google to offer third-party

AI assistants equal access to features on Google's Android devices, so that they can fairly compete with Google's own AI services, such as Gemini. The second rule requires Google to share Google Search data with eligible rival search engines. The Commission said such data sharing would help competing search providers develop and improve their services, fostering innovation in

the digital market. The Commission asked Google to begin sharing search data with eligible third-party search engines from January 2027, while Android users are expected to benefit from the changes from July 2027. European Commission Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera said in a statement that the measures would help smaller competitors,

search engines, or AI assistants compete and provide diverse choices, as well as protect the user's privacy. The Commission opened specification proceedings on the two measures on 27 January under the DMA. Following a series of investigations and consultations with stakeholders, it adopted the final binding specification decisions. — Xinhua

Japan frozen food giant Nichirei resumes operations after cyberattack

MAJOR Japanese frozen food maker Nichirei Corp on Friday resumed operations at refrigerated warehouses after supply chains were disrupted due to a cyberattack.

The attack led to the failure of the industry leader's systems and had a widespread impact, ranging from frozen food shortages at supermarkets to changes in school lunch menus. The company said it aims to have operations at affected sites fully return to normal within next week.

Nichirei manages product storage and delivery for retailers and the food service industry, including working with



This photo shows a signboard at a Nichirei Corp logistics centre on 16 July 2026, in Funabashi, Chiba Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO**

competitors, and has approximately 5,000 related business partners. The incident affected the company's frozen shipments and inbound and outbound

operations at the warehouses. Kentucky Fried Chicken Japan Ltd was forced to take measures such as shortening business hours

due to delivery disruptions. Supermarkets operated by subsidiaries of retail giant Aeon Co are experiencing continued shortages, with Aeon considering redistributing items with uneven inventory levels across stores. Hiday Hidaka Corp, the operator of the Hidakaya Chinese restaurant chain, has suspended sales of menu items such as Japanese-style fried chicken and spring rolls at some outlets with low inventory levels.

Nichirei has informed Hiday Hidaka that the products will arrive at its facilities on Saturday and will be delivered to stores on Sunday. — Kyodo

Horror film 'Obsession' shatters profit records

LOW-COST horror movie "Obsession" from first-time director Curry Barker is on track to become one of the most profitable films of all time, with the cinema sensation piling up global revenues of more than \$400 million.

After premiering at the Toronto Film Festival last year and releasing at the beginning of May, it has become a word-of-mouth phenomenon over the last two months with fright-loving Gen Z audiences in particular.

Its success has catapulted 26-year-old Barker from a YouTube video creator into Hollywood's A-league with a first feature-length film that cost just \$750,000 to \$1 million to make. "In terms of the ratio between the world-

wide box office and the production budget, 'Obsession' is going to be the biggest success of all time, which is extraordinary," Bruce Nash, founder of industry-tracking website The Numbers, told AFP. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2609N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC HUIMING VOY.NO. (2609N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **18-7-2026** 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.

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M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD.

GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



PM Modi flags off India’s first Hydrogen train

PRIME Minister Naren- dra Modi today flagged off India’s first hydro- gen-powered train be- tween Jind and Sonipat at Jind railway station in Haryana.

The launch of the first Hydrogen- powered train marks an important step towards the adop- tion of clean and sus- tainable mobility in the railway sector.

On the occasion, Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation as well as lay the founda- tion stone of National Highway projects worth over 124.7 billion rupees in Haryana. Mr Modi dedi- cated the 157-kilometre long Delhi-Amritsar-Ka- tra Expressway.

The Greenfield cor- ridor forms part of the 667-kilometre Delhi-Am-

ritsar-Katra Expressway. The expressway will re- duce travel time between Delhi and Katra from about 14 hours to near- ly six hours, while cut-

The launch of the first Hydrogen-powered train marks an important step towards the adoption of clean and sustainable mobility in the railway sector.



A decorated hydrogen-powered train is seen in Jind, Haryana. PHOTO: X/@RAILMININDIA

ting the Delhi-Amritsar journey from about eight hours to four hours.

Addressing the gathering, Prime Minis- ter Modi said that over the past twelve years Indian Railway has wit- nessed major transfor- mation. He noted that Haryana has witnessed a new phase of devel- opment in recent years and has moved forward on the path of progress. Mr Modi added that the launch of the country’s first hydrogen train has given Jind a special place in India’s history. — ANI

Israel dissolves parliament, set Oct elections

ISRAEL’S Knesset, the country’s parliament, on Friday voted unanimously to dissolve itself, paving the way for general elec- tions scheduled for 27 October.

From then until the elections, the government will operate as a caretaker government, with limited authority to advance ma- jor policy initiatives except for broadly supported leg- islation, routine regulatory matters and measures re- quired for security needs.

Under Israeli law, general elections for par- liament are held every four years. This will mark the first time since 1988 that elections have been held after a full four-year term. — Xinhua

US, Iran trade attacks in return to full-blown war

THE United States and Iran traded attacks on Friday, with Tehran tar- geting American assets across the Middle East in the biggest escalation since the two foes re- turned to outright war.

A month after the two sides agreed a memo- randum of understand- ing aimed at ending the conflict that began in Feb- ruary, Iran accused US forces of hitting civilian and energy infrastruc-

ture on Friday including an airport, a railway sta- tion and two bridges, with state media reporting at least eight dead and 20 wounded in overnight at- tacks. — AFP

Iranian strike damages Kuwaiti power and desalination plant

KUWAIT said Friday that an Iranian attack struck a power generation and water desalination plant, causing extensive dam- age to the facility.

In a statement post- ed on social media plat- form X, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy said the attack also triggered a fire at the plant.

Firefighting teams had brought the blaze un- der control, while techni- cal crews were working to repair the damaged units and restore them to service, said the ministry.

It added that author- ities were continuously monitoring the stability of the national electricity grid as restoration work progressed.

The ministry urged residents to conserve electricity during what it described as an “ex- ceptional period”.



An Iranian attack struck a power generation and water desalination plant, causing extensive damage to the facility. PHOTO: NEWS OF BAHRAIN/FACEBOOK

China protects its wild Asian elephants

CHINA has expanded its conservation efforts for wild Asian elephants

through habitat protec- tion, ecological restoration, early-warning systems

and rescue programmes, according to a report re- leased Thursday by the Xinhua Institute, a think tank affiliated with Xinhua News Agency.

The report, titled “Liv- ing in Harmony with Na- ture: The Ecological Civiliza- tion Behind China’s Wild Elephant Sanctuary,” said sustained conservation efforts and science-based management have con- tributed to the steady growth of China’s wild Asian elephant population. — Xinhua



Elephants appear in thermal imaging captured by a ranger’s drone in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan province. PHOTO: CHINA DAILY

The latest escalation came after the United States carried out fresh strikes on Iranian mili- tary and infrastructure targets.

In response, the Iranian armed forces said Friday they had launched retaliatory strikes against US bases and facilities in Syria, Ku-

wait, Bahrain and Oman.

The renewed hos- tilities unfolded despite a peace memorandum of understanding signed on 18 June under which Washington and Tehran were expected to hold negotiations within 60 days aimed at reaching a final agreement. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Morocco back coach Ouahbi after World Cup exit

WORLD Cup quarterfinalists Morocco gave coach Mohamed Ouahbi a vote of confidence on Thursday to continue with his deal in the run up to the 2030 World Cup on home soil. While the Moroccan football federation has not specified the length of the contract, Ouahbi, who is 49, said after he was hired in March, that his deal ran until 2030, when Morocco will cohost the World Cup with Spain and Portugal.

Ouahbi took over from Walid Regragui, who led to the 2022 World Cup semifinals and to the final of the African Cup of Nations in January when they lost the match but were declared champions. Under Ouahbi, the Atlas Lions lost 2-0 to France in the quarterfinals of the 2026 World Cup last week. But on Thursday the Moroccan federation expressed their "confidence in him to continue in his role". — AFP



Mohamed Ouahbi led Morocco to the World Cup quarterfinals having only been appointed as coach in March. PHOTO: AFP

Neymar returns to Santos with questions hanging over his future

NEYMAR returns to his home club Santos Friday with only a few months left in his contract and questions over his future after indicating he would no longer play for Brazil following the country's World Cup disappointment. The injury-plagued Neymar was included in the World Cup squad almost three years after he last appeared for Brazil, and played only 37 minutes across two matches. — AFP

Inter-State & Region Karate Championship concludes in Yangon

THE final matches and prize-giving ceremony of the 2026 Inter-State and Region Karate Championship were held yesterday evening at the National Indoor Stadium I in Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.

Officials and guests attended the event, watched the final matches, and presented medals, cash prizes and trophies to the winners of various events, including the men's and women's Kumite categories, individual and team Kata events, and mixed team competitions.

Outstanding athletes



Female athletes compete in the Inter-State & Region Karate Championship match.

were also honoured with the Best Female Athlete and Best Male Athlete awards. The Yangon Re-

gion teams won the women's, men's and overall championship trophies. A total of 145 athletes from

14 men's teams and 14 women's teams competed in the championship. — MNA/KZL

FIFA introduces championship rings for World Cup winners

THE winners of the 2026 FIFA World Cup will receive championship rings in addition to the traditional trophy and gold medals, FIFA announced Thursday.

The rings will be presented to the champions after Sunday's World Cup final at New York New Jersey Stadium, where Spain and Argentina will compete for the title. The championship rings are part of a limited-edition collection of 2,026 individually numbered pieces commemorating the



The official 2026 FIFA World Cup championship ring. PHOTO: XINHUA

2026 tournament. 30 rings will be awarded to members of the winning team.

The remaining 1,996 will be released worldwide as officially licensed memorabilia.

Each ring features the FIFA World Cup trophy on one side, while the opposite side will be customized to reflect the identity of the tournament winner.

The introduction of championship rings adds a distinctly North American element to FIFA's awards presentation, reflecting the long-standing tradition in US professional sports of championship teams receiving commemorative rings alongside their trophies. — Xinhua

Pele's World Cup jersey fetches \$4.9 million at US auction

A jersey worn by soccer giant Pele in the first World Cup final ever won by Brazil sold for \$4.9 million at a US auction on Thursday. The Brazilian attacker nicknamed "The King" was 17 when he scored two goals in his country's 5-2 victory over host country Sweden in 1958. The blue shirt became the second most expensive jersey sold at auction after an anonymous buyer beat out four other bidders at Sotheby's in New York. The record of \$9.3 million is for a jersey worn by Argentinian star Maradona during a legendary quarter-final clash with England in the 1986 Mexico World Cup. — AFP



Pele wore the jersey in the 1958 final against World Cup host country Sweden. PHOTO: AFP / FILE

Spain PM Sanchez to attend World Cup final: govt

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will attend the World Cup final to see his country take on reigning champions Argentina, his government said Friday. Sanchez, a vocal critic of US President Donald Trump — who also plans to attend Sunday's final in New Jersey — will then travel to Algeria for an official visit, his cabinet told AFP. Spain's King Felipe VI, Queen Letizia and their two daughters will also attend the final, the royal palace has said. Argentine President Javier

Milei however plans to skip it, citing superstition. Socialist leader Sanchez has long had tense ties with Trump, refusing to let the US military use Spanish bases for its war in Iran and condemning the American operation that ousted Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro. Trump called Spain a "terrible partner in NATO" at an alliance summit in Turkiye earlier this month and said the United States did not "want to do any trade business with Spain anymore". — AFP



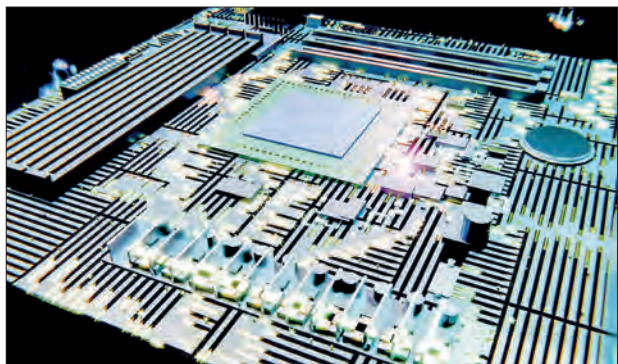
Thailand pushes to digital infrastructure projects

THAILAND has approved 34 data centre and data hosting projects worth 715.30 billion baht (about US\$21.34 billion) since 2025, as the government works to position the country as a regional digital infrastructure hub, a spokesperson said on Thursday.

Deputy government spokesperson Lalida Periswiatana said the administration of Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul is streamlining investment procedures

to support growth in the digital economy, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and future digital services.

Citing figures from the Board of Investment (BOI), Lalida said 27 projects worth 618.42 billion baht were approved last year, with seven more worth 96.88 billion baht cleared in the first quarter of 2026, reflecting investor confidence in Thailand's location, infrastructure and workforce. — Xinhua



This image is a conceptual illustration of a high-performance two-nanometre semiconductor chip, representing advanced packaging technologies. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/ UNSPLASH**

Laos charts roadmap to modernize media sector

THE first National Media Congress was held in Lao capital Vientiane, adopting a roadmap to advance the modernization of the country's media sector to improve its quality and effectiveness. The meeting, held from Monday to Wednesday under the theme "Strengthening Party Leadership and Developing the Media Toward a New Level of Quality", brought together senior leaders, media executives, editors, journalists, and communication professionals from across the country to discuss the future direction of the nation's media industry. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka dug South Asia's longest tunnel

EXCAVATION work on South Asia's longest irrigation tunnel was completed in Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

The 27.7-kilometre tunnel, with China State Construction Engineering Corporation as the general contractor, was excavated using two advanced tunnel-boring machines that began tunnelling simultaneously from opposite ends. The two sections met underground on Wednesday in what officials described as a major engineering milestone known as a tunnel breakthrough. — Xinhua

China to provide 5,000 AI training opportunities for developing countries: Xi

China will build global AI centres with six major international groups.

CHINA will provide developing countries with 5,000 opportunities for artificial intelligence (AI) training and seminars over the next five years, President Xi Jinping said Friday.

Xi made the announcement when delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance held in Shanghai.

He said China will develop international AI application cooperation centres with ASEAN, the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

China will help 30 countries utilize the AI-powered MAZU meteorological early warning



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2026 World AI Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai, east China, 17 July 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

system to protect people's lives and property around the world, Xi added.

In another development, twenty-nine countries on Thursday signed

an agreement in Shanghai on establishing the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO).

The WAICO will be

an independent intergovernmental international organization headquartered in Shanghai, according to the agreement. — Xinhua

Critical mineral demand grows strongly despite investment decline: IEA

GLOBAL demand for critical minerals continued to grow strongly in 2025, while investment in the sector posted its first substantial decline in five years, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Thursday.

According to the agency's Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2026 report, demand for key energy minerals, including copper, battery materials and rare earths, remained robust in 2025. Growth was driven by expanding use in ener-

gy technologies such as EV batteries and energy storage, electricity grids, wind turbines and solar photovoltaic systems,

as well as permanent magnets for high-performance applications.

The report said critical mineral prices

rebounded in 2025 and early 2026 after declining in recent years.

Despite strong demand, investment in critical minerals fell by nine per cent in 2025, marking the first substantial decline in recent years. The IEA attributed the drop largely to renewed market volatility in 2024 and 2025, which exposed structural uncertainties in critical mineral supply chains and complicated investment decisions. — Xinhua



This image shows wind turbine blades stored at the Siemens Gamesa factory in Hull, England. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**