

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



Pilgrims are seen at the Shwezigon Pagoda in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone on the Full Moon Day of Waso.

Devotees Throng Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Area for Waso Full Moon Day

THE Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Area was bustling with pilgrims from across Myanmar and residents performing meritorious deeds on Second Waso Full Moon Day, also known

as Dhammacakka Day. From the auspicious day, devotees from across the country flocked to the Shwezigon Pagoda to offer alms, pay homage and practise meditation. The surge of visitors

yesterday also brought increased business for horse-cart drivers, e-bike rental operators, mini-van services, local tour guides, food vendors, souvenir sellers and guesthouse operators.

The ancient pagodas of Bagan were filled with tourists, pilgrims and devotees taking part in religious activities, creating a vibrant atmosphere across the historic cultural area. — MNA/MKKS

Yedashe Celebrates 118-Year-Old Woman

ACCORDING to records from the Department of Immigration and National Registration, Daw Phata Mar was born on 23 February 1909, to U Naba Arli and Daw Amar in Ngakhonmachaung Village, Thagara, Yedashe Township. She officially reached the age of 100 on 23 February 2009, and was honoured with a commemorative certificate by the President on 23 July 2015. She currently resides in Myohla, Yedashe Township.



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win presents honorary donations to Daw Phata Mar, a Supercentenarian.

28 July, Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win visited Daw Phata Mar, a 118-year-old resident of Myohla, Yedashe Township in Toungoo District. During

his visit, he engaged with her and arranged for the assistance and support she required. Daw Phata Mar's large family includes 48 grandchildren, 84 great-grandchildren, and 18 great-great-grandchildren. According to records for the 2025-2026 financial year, there were 59 individuals aged 100 and above in Toungoo District. By June 2026, this number had decreased to 42 centenarians in the district. — MNA/KTZH

MR Sets Nine Passenger Rules, Warns of Penalties

MYANMA Railways (MR) has issued nine rules that passengers must follow to ensure safe and smooth train travel. It warned that anyone who breaches the regulations may face up to three months' imprisonment, a fine of between K10,000 and K100,000, or both. The rules prohibit the misuse of emergency equipment on trains, damage to or interference with communication systems and equipment, boarding or alighting

from trains while they are departing or before they have come to a complete stop, and travelling on train roofs, footboards, between carriages or in unauthorized areas. Passengers are also prohibited from engaging in behaviour or speech that disturbs other passengers, obstructing railway staff in the performance of their duties, and smoking in non-smoking station areas or train carriages.

SEE PAGE 5



This photo depicts passengers travelling on a Myanmar Railways train.

OPINION

Strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons

PAGE 8

NATIONAL

PAGE 4



Falam regains safe drinking water from Laiva Dam

NATIONAL

PAGE 7



Monghsu's MSY income-generating activities inspected

NATIONAL

Pilgrims throng Shwedagon and Yangon pagodas

THE Full Moon Day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day), an auspicious Buddhist occasion, was observed yesterday, with the Shwedagon Pagoda and other pagodas in Yangon crowded with pilgrims observing the Sabbath and performing meritorious deeds.

As part of the celebrations, the Shwedagon Pagoda Treasurer's Committee organized morning alms offerings, the presentation of golden lotus robes, and the observance of the Precepts at designated areas of the pagoda from 5 am. The ceremonies were attended by pilgrims, trustees, religious organizations, donors, and Yangon



Devotees are seen performing prayers and meritorious deeds. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and regional ministers, who offered alms, flowers, water, oil lamps, fruits, Waso

robes and donations. Similar Waso robe offerings and religious ceremonies were held at major pagodas and Bud-

dhist sites across Yangon on the same day, attracting pilgrims from across the country. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/MKKS

CCC in Yangon to offer Chinese classical dance class



A poster for the classical Chinese dance class.

THE China Cultural Centre in Yangon, in partnership with the Yuanyi

International Dance Academy (YIDA), is offering a Chinese classical dance class, with applications now open.

With a well-structured design, the dance class will be led by experienced dance instructors and even those who don't know basic dance techniques can join. The duration is 14 days from 18 to 31 August, and it will run daily from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Those interested in Chinese classical dance and aged between 16 and 35 are eligible to join.

The class is free, though a de-

posit of K50,000 is required upon enrolment. The full amount will be refunded to participants who maintain at least 75 per cent attendance.

Applicants may register in person at the China Cultural Centre in Yangon's Ahlon Township, with a copy of their ID.

As trainee numbers are limited, registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The office is open from 9 am to noon, Tuesday to Saturday. For further information, enquiries can be made via 01 2302631 and 01 2302632. — TWA/ZS

International Youth Day

12 August 2026 (Wednesday)

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY

2026
DIFFERENT
CONTEXTS,
COMMON
ASPIRATIONS

“Different Contexts,
Common Aspirations

Dhamma preaching on Waso Full Moon Day

THE trustee board of the Botahtaung Pagoda urged Buddhist devotees to attend Dhamma talks by venerable Sayadaws on the Full Moon Day of Second Waso (Dhammacakka Day), which that fell on 29 July.

On the full moon day, the venerable Sayadaw

from the Detmee Monastery in Botahtaung Township gave the chanting of precepts at 9:30 am, and two Dhamma talks were held from 1 pm to 2:30 pm and from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Devotees to came, and food donations were arranged for the audience. — MT/ZS



This image features Venerable Sayadaws who delivered Dhamma preaching on Dhammacakka Day.

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.

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 29

Issued at 8 am MST on 29 July 2026

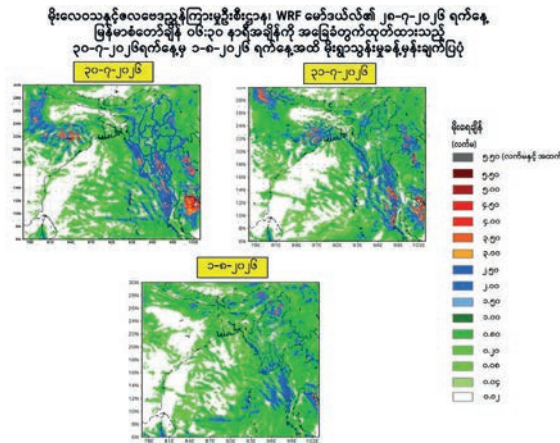
ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and due to the convective clouds, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from today morning to 3 August 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and

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

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the Depression area over the West Bengal Coast near west Haldia, India, and such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



NATIONAL

Maravijaya Buddha Image completes 2nd full cleansing

THE second full cleansing of the Maravijaya Buddha Image has been completed, and a ceremony marking its completion and the consecration of the Buddha image was held yesterday at Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was attended by Presiding Sayadaw of the Thiri Mingalavegyi Pariyatti Monastery, Abhidhaja Maha Ratthaguru Bhaddanta Ardessavamsa, leading Sayadaws, and the Sayadaws conducted the consecration ceremony as per the procedures.

After the ceremony, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than, council members, pagoda board of trustee members, religious teams, guests and relevant officials donated offertories to the Sayadaws.

They also donated alms in the emerald alms bowl, fruits, flowers, water and golden lotus robes to the Buddha Image. — MNA/KTZH



The consecration ceremony of the Maravijaya Buddha Image is held at Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.



The golden lotus robes offering ceremony in progress at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Golden lotus robes offered to Uppatasanti Pagoda

THE 18th ceremony to offer golden lotus robes to the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw was held yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin donated golden lotus robes, alms, fruits, flowers and water to Maha Manimaya Gautama Buddha Pandita Buddha Image in the east, whereas Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Tun Tun to Kakusandha Buddha Image in the south, Deputy Minister U Lin Aung to Konagamana Buddha Image in the west, the permanent secretary to Katthapa Buddha Image in the west. — MNA/KTZH

SSID holds policy talk show at Cooperative University, Thanlyin



This image shows the Policy Talk of the Small-Scale Industries Department.

IN today's era, digital transformation and artificial intelligence are rapidly transforming manufacturing industries; therefore, technological application capabilities, digital skills, innovation capacity, and life-long learning have become essential competencies for youth, stated Dr Yi Yi Win, Rector of the University of Cooperatives and Management (Thanlyin) during the "Policy Talk of the Small-Scale Industries Department", which was held at the university yesterday.

She also added, "Today's global economic competition is no longer an era of competing for resources, but has become a Knowledge-Based Economy era. A country's economic development largely depends on the quality and competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Developing small-scale industries means both developing individual businesses and creating job opportunities.

The success of today's universities is no longer measured solely by the number of graduates they produce, but also by their graduates' employment rates, entrepreneurial capabilities and contributions to value creation within the community. Knowledge of technological development, product quality improvement, packaging, branding, market linkages and business advisory services is essential for students as they prepare for their future careers.

Approximately 1,400 people attended the talk, including the rector, pro-rector, professors/department heads, faculty members, staff, and students of the University of Cooperative and Management (Thanlyin). — Htun Htun/ZN

Nay Pyi Taw pagodas packed for Waso Full Moon Day

PAGODAS in Nay Pyi Taw were bustling with those who did good deeds on the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day). The pilgrims donated Waso robes, flowers, and observed the Sabbath.

Similarly, the Maravijaya Buddha Image, monasteries and other pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw attracted large numbers of pilgrims, who offered prayers and performed meritorious deeds.

The full moon day of Waso is a public holiday, and the recreation-



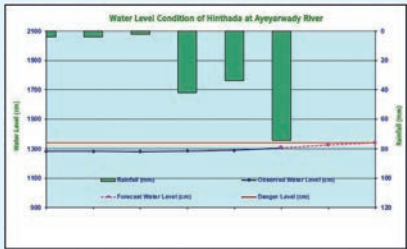
This photo shows devotees embarking on pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

al sites in Nay Pyi Taw were packed with people who were having fun and relaxing. — MNA/KTZH

Flood Warning

Issued at 2 pm MST on 29 July 2026

ACCORDING to the 12:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Ayeyawady River at Hinthada is observed as more than one foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.



It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada Township, to take precautionary measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

NATIONAL

Falam regains safe drinking water from Laiva Dam



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo inspects the installation of MEC TEL telephone lines at the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) at automatic exchange office in Falam, Chin State.

WATER pipelines supplying drinking water from Laiva Dam to Falam's storage tanks through a syphon system were damaged in terrorist attacks, while water pumps and related equipment were either destroyed or went missing. During the rehabilitation and reconstruction period, officials carried out restoration work to re-establish the water supply. Drinking water is now being distributed to

residents through four main storage tanks, each with a capacity of 100,000 gallons.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo, accompanied by Chin State Development Affairs Minister and members of Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, inspected the drinking water distribution processes in Falam yesterday.

They also inspected the installation of MEC TEL telephone lines at the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) automatic exchange office in Falam, which has been set up to improve telecommunications services for locals. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar-Japan business meeting held in Yangon



The Myanmar-Japan Businesspeople's Meeting in progress in Yankin Township, Yangon, yesterday.

THE Myanmar-Japan Businesspeople's Meeting was held yesterday at the Myawady Media Centre on Mogaung Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. The meeting was organized by the Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue Or-

ganization and attended by U Tin Ko Ko, a member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission; U Wunna, Chairman of the Interfaith Friendship Organization (Central) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; and Mr Nakazawa Hiroyuki, Chairman of the INGO PEACE of Japan.

The Japanese business leaders visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening and made cash donations. — MNA/MKKS

Prominent librarian and scholar Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung passes away at 89

SITHU Dr Thaw Kaung, a prominent library expert in Myanmar's library and literary communities and a patron of the Myanmar Library Association (MLA), passed away on 29 July.

Dr Thaw Kaung passed away at the age of 89. He dedicated his entire life to advancing library studies in Myanmar and to the long-term preservation of ancient palm-leaf manuscripts, folded-paper manuscripts (Parabaik), and other valuable literary heritage materials.

"When we were studying postgraduate library studies at Yangon University, our teachers included Saya Zawgyi, Saya Tite Soe, U Maung Maung, U Tun Aung, Daw Nyunt Myint, Daw Khin Khin Ohn, and U Thaw Kaung. Among them, U Thaw Kaung was the youngest. Yet by his early forties, he had already become the university's Chief Librarian. He was a teacher who never became angry and was always smiling.

Later, when he chaired the National Literature Award Selection Committee, I also had the opportunity to work under him. Since he devoted his entire life to serving Myanmar's literary and library communities and was truly irreplaceable, to say that we miss him and deeply regret his loss would be a profound understatement," said writer Hein Latt.

The Myanmar Li-



Librarian Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung.

brary Association (MLA) issued an official statement expressing its profound grief over Dr Thaw Kaung's demise and extending its deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

Dr Thaw Kaung was born in Yangon on 17 December 1937, to Sithu U Kaung, who was noted for signing currency notes as 'Maung Kaung', and Daw Thein. He was the eldest of three children.

Because of a joint disorder in his youth, Dr Thaw Kaung had to continue his education at home under the guidance of his mother and private tutors, while nurturing his love of literature through the books collected by his father. In 1954, he passed the matriculation examination with distinctions in English and Geography. In 1959, he graduated from Yangon University with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English, receiving First Class Honours and winning the U Po Hnit Gold Medal.

Beginning in 1957, he worked part-time at the library of the English Faculty at Yangon University, and in 1959 he began serving at the Social Sciences Library under the guidance of Saya Zawgyi. He later earned a Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies from the University of London, as well as the AALIA (Associate of the Australian Library and Information Association) and the FLA (Fellow of the Library Association), which was then regarded as the highest professional qualification in library studies in the United Kingdom.

He played a key role in establishing the Faculty of Library Studies at Yangon University. He nurtured numerous library professionals and new generations of researchers, serving both as the Head of the University's Central Library and as a Patron of the Myanmar Library Association.

SEE PAGE 5

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NATIONAL

Action against coastal fishing vessels violating weather shelter rules



This photo features citizen-owned offshore fishing vessels engaged in fishing activities.

THE Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

has announced that action will be taken against inshore fishing vessels that use adverse weather conditions as an excuse to catch fish and shrimp in prohibited coastal areas. Designated weather shelters have been established for citizen-owned offshore and inshore fishing vessels, allowing fishing boats and seafarers to seek safe refuge during severe monsoon weather conditions.

The department has also issued instructions allowing citizen-owned offshore and inshore fishing vessels operating in Myanmar's waters to seek refuge from strong winds and waves during bad weather at designated locations in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region and Taninthayi Region. — ASH/KZL

MR Sets Nine Passenger Rules, Warns of Penalties

FROM PAGE 1

Myanma Railways had previously issued guidelines urging passengers to observe cleanliness on trains, refrain from spitting betel quid, avoid placing their feet on seats, use seats properly so that other passengers can also use them hygienically, avoid making loud phone calls, playing music or speaking loudly in ways that may disturb others,

and dispose of rubbish properly. Myanma Railways has been operating services with new, upgraded train carriages to provide passengers with comfortable, safe and affordable travel. However, some passengers have noted that the failure of a minority of travellers to follow the rules has caused inconvenience and disturbance to others. — TWA/KNN

Mohnyin's development projects accomplished



The Mohnyin District Rural Development Department opens basic sewing training course in Mohnyin Township.

UNDER the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Mohnyin District Rural Development Department has completed

two vocational training courses, a Village Development Project (VDP) and two water supply projects within 100 days of the 2026-2027 financial year. The Mohnyin District Rural Development Department has completed two basic sewing training courses in the Thayagon Modern Village in Mohnyin Township in 20 days. The department has

also reportedly accomplished the village water pipe extension project for drinking water in Kyainnsuzee 2 village, and the village sand and gravel paving project of a 1,100 feet long, 12 feet wide, and six inches thick road in Nyaungdaw village under the Village Development Project (VDP) project within 100 days of the 2026-2027 financial year with a budget of K104.826 million. — Chit Oo Ko

10th MSY village project funds disbursed

THE 10th MSY fund disbursement ceremony in Konglone+Pongyan Village, Yunnan Village-Tract, which has been implementing the MSY Village Project, was held on the afternoon of 29 July in Konglone Village, Mongkai Township, Loilem District, Shan State (South).

Village Project. Staff Officer U Aung Hlaing Tun then explained the interest rates and project period. The township head also explained the terms and conditions to be followed in the loan disbursement and handed over K28 million to members of the MSY Rural Village Project.

Township Head U Khun Kyaw Saeng of the Rural Development Department of Mongkai Township first engaged with members of the MSY Village Project Fund Supervision Department in Konglone+Pongyan Village and explained the objectives, benefits and project contents of the MSY

Afterwards, under the close supervision of the project managers, the MSY Rural Village Project members reportedly distributed a total loan of K28 million to 27 members/people engaged in agricultural activities in Konglone+Pongyan Village. — Tun Tun Lin (Rural)

Prominent librarian and scholar Sithu Dr ...

FROM PAGE 4

Dr Thaw Kaung received numerous honorary awards in recognition of his internationally acknowledged contributions, including:

- 1983 – Honorary Fellow of the Library Association (Hon FLA), United Kingdom
- 1999 – Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa), University of Western Sydney, Australia

- 2005 – Fukuoka Academic Prize, awarded by the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize Committee, Japan
- 2008 – Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement
- 2010 – National Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature
- 2012 – Excellent Performance for Arts

Field (Second Class) medal and the title of Sithu

- 2015 – Thuta Swesone Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement
- 2016 – Tun Foundation Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement and Sayawun Tin Shwe Literary Award for Lifetime Achievement

Guided by the motto to "Warmly Assisting

Those in Search of Knowledge", the distinguished scholar Sithu Dr Thaw Kaung devoted himself selflessly to helping others in their pursuit of knowledge. As the only library scientist to follow in his father's academic footsteps, he left behind a vast and invaluable legacy for Myanmar's library and literary communities. — TWA/TH



The fund disbursement ceremony is underway in Mongkai Township, Shan State (South), 29 July 2026.

Daily newspapers available online

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News and Periodicals Enterprise

NATIONAL

32 AA, PDFs reintegrated into society under peace programme



The photo depicts a handover ceremony held in the South-West Command yesterday as former PDF members rejoined the legal fold.

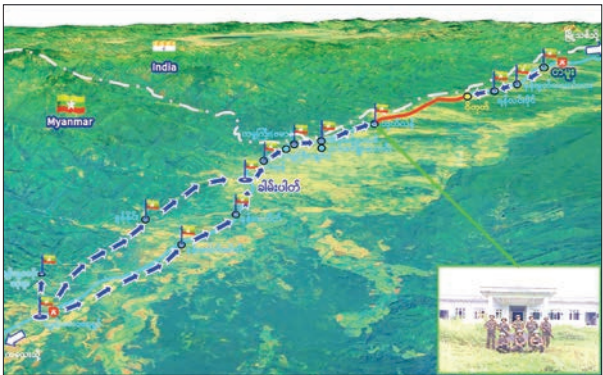
A total of 32 members of the AA and PDF groups have returned to the legal fold with weapons and ammunition after accepting the government's and Tatmadaw's peace programme, according to official reports. The group comprised

20 AA members and 12 PDF members from Rakhine State, Chin State, Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region. They were formally welcomed at a ceremony held at Ayeyawady Hall of the South-West Command before being reunited with their parents or guardians. During the ceremony, the returnees surrendered 13 firearms, including MA-1, MA-2, BA-63, Type-81, M-22, LM-16 and AK-47 rifles, along with six hand grenades, 456 rounds of ammunition and 20 magazines. Authorities provided a total of K76.4 million in incentives, including rewards for surrendered weapons and financial assistance for the returnees, before the handover to their families. Officials said those wishing to return under the peace programme could contact their nearest military or police station, where they would receive assistance and incentives in accordance with the programme. — MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw recaptures Boatkan Village on Kalay-Tamu link

TATMADAW columns have recaptured Boatkan Village in Tamu Township, which had been under the temporary control of terrorist insurgents, as part of ongoing operations to reopen the Kalay-Tamu Road.

The military announced that coordinated counterterrorism and security operations had enabled advancing columns from both Tamu and Kalay to reclaim a string of towns



The map shows the reopening of the Kalay-Tamu road.

and villages along the strategic route. After retaking New Htinzin and Old Htinzin on 26 July, troops secured Boatkan Village yesterday.

Operations are continuing to fully reopen the Kalay-Tamu Road and restore security in the area. Authorities said efforts were also underway to repair homes, public buildings and infrastructure damaged by attacks, clear landmines, and support the restoration of education, healthcare and other public services in cooperation with relevant agencies and residents. — MNA/KZL

Taunggyi's village concrete road project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Taunggyi District, Shan State (South), conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completed village concrete road project in Maetaung Village, Taunggyi Township.

The project was implemented to improve rural transportation and provide all-weather road access for local communities. Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win, Township Department of Rural Development Head U Zaw Win, engineering staff, and village committee members examined the completed concrete road in Maetaung Village, measuring 330 feet

long, 12 feet wide, and seven inches thick. They also met village elders and residents to emphasize the need to maintain the road for long-term sustainability through community cooperation, while coordinating issues raised by local communities. The concrete road project was implemented using K19.8 million allocated from the State Supplementary Budget for the 2026-2027 financial year, under the technical guidance and close supervision of township DRD officials together with local participation. Upon completion, the road will benefit 138 households and 613 residents in Maetaung Village, providing reliable year-round access. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials oversee the ongoing construction of a village entrance concrete road in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State.



A village representative receives the fund disbursement in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, on 29 July 2026.

Pyinmana's MSY village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Pyinmana District, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Thayasu Village, Pyinmana Township, yesterday. Pyinmana Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nay Chi

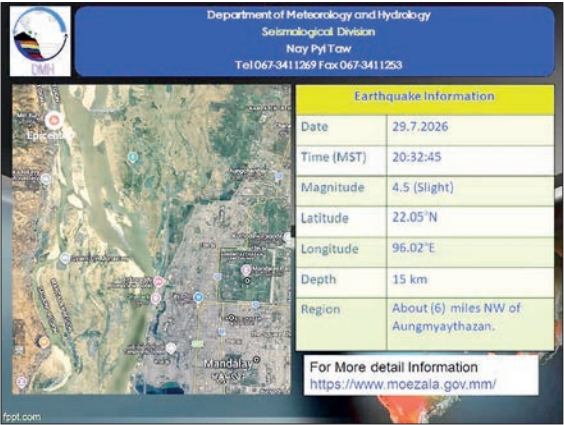
Zar Wai first explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials then

explained project activities, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K44.7 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups. Thayasu Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K44.7 million from the Mya Sein Yaung

Village Project. Under the supervision of the township head, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the fourth round of revolving loans to a total of 103 members from the village, including 24 people engaged in agricultural activities, 77 in livestock farming and two in trading businesses. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

NATIONAL

Quake Jolts Mandalay Region;
No Damage Reported



A graphic released by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology displaying details of the 29 July Mandalay earthquake.

A magnitude 4.5 earthquake struck near Mandalay yesterday evening, sending light tremours across several parts of Upper Myanmar, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) reported.

The quake occurred at 8:32:45 pm Myanmar Standard Time (STD), with its epicentre located about 6 miles north-

west of the Mandalay Seismic Station, approximately six miles northwest of Aungmyaythazan Township. It struck at a depth of 15 kilometres, the DMH said.

Residents in Mandalay, Sagaing, PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, and nearby areas reported feeling the shaking for several seconds.

“It was only a

magnitude 4.5, but everyone reciting Buddhist scriptures in the Dhammayon (religious hall) rushed outside. Fortunately, nothing happened,” said U Paw Paw, a resident of Mandalay’s Aung Pinle ward.

Following the quake, some residents temporarily evacuated buildings as a precaution. As of the latest reports, no casualties or structural damage had been officially confirmed.

Earthquake monitoring groups have urged the public to remain calm, ignore rumours, and rely only on official announcements, warning that aftershocks remain possible.

The AI Info Team, which monitors seismic activity, said its assessment for the next

24 to 72 hours indicates that magnitude 2 to 4 earthquakes may continue along the Sagaing Fault. It also warned of the possibility of shallow earthquakes along the Shan Plateau fault system and intermediate-depth earthquakes within the Indo-Burma subduction zone.

The team said current seismic activity suggests that tectonic stress is being distributed across multiple fault systems rather than accumulating at a single location. While earthquakes cannot be predicted with certainty, it added that scientific analysis of seismic data and geological conditions can help improve public awareness and disaster preparedness. — Htun Htun/ST

Yedashe’s MSY village
project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Toungoo District, Bago Region, held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Sathaytaung Village, Yedashe Township, yesterday.

Yedashe Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Yi Yi Pyone explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objectives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural residents, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving funds. Officials then explained pro-

ject activities, interest rates, loan periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K38.5 million in revolving funds to members of the project implementation groups.

Sathaytaung Village is implementing family income-generating activities using K38.5 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the township department, members of the project implementation groups disbursed the ninth round of revolving loans at low interest rates to a total of 171 members from the village, including 58 people engaged in agricultural activities, 106 in livestock breeding and seven in trading businesses. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



The ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project is underway in Yedashe Township yesterday.

Monghsu’s MSY income-generating
activities inspected



Officials from the Department of Rural Development inspect the progress of household income-generating activities in Monghsu Township.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Monghsu District, Shan State (South), conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of house-

hold income-generating activities financed through the revolving fund of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Haihwan Village, Wamhsawk Village-tract, Monghsu Township.

Monghsu Town-

ship Department of Rural Development Head Daw Myint Thidar Han and staff visited the village to inspect the progress of seasonal crop cultivation and other income-generating agricultural activities being carried out with loans from the project’s revolving fund. She also met members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project Management Committee to examine whether the monthly financial records had been properly completed and urged committee members to expand household income-generating activities while ensuring systematic manage-

ment of the revolving fund to prevent any loss or misuse, and to continue implementing village development activities using the interest earned from the project fund.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was launched in Haihwan Village during the 2024-2025 financial year. At present, concessional revolving loans totaling K26.2 million have been disbursed to 24 project members, all of whom are successfully operating local income-generating agricultural activities with support from the project funds. — Karan (Rural)

No 3 HIE seeks open
tenders for machinery and
spare part purchases

THE No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry and MSME Development has called an open tender for the procurement of machinery and spare parts.

Those machinery and spare parts are to be purchased in kyat, including transport and freight service to designated locations.

Those offering to make purchases are Textile Factory No 1 Shwedaung, Textile Factory No 3 Sagaing, Textile Factory No 4 Pwinthyu, Textile Factory No 5 Pakokku, Textile Factory No 7 Myittha, Textile Factory No 7 Wundwin, Textile Factory No 8

Pyawbwe, Textile Factory No 8 Yamethin and the Head Office/Textile Technology Development Department.

The deadline for tender submissions is 4 pm on 3 August. Tenders must be submitted to the Tender Accepting and Evaluation Committee of the No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise in Office 37, Nay Pyi Taw.

Tender forms can be purchased from the Administration Department of the No 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise starting from 20 July. Individuals can enquire for further details through the enterprise at 067 408185 and 067 408338. — NN/KK

Strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons

THE theme for the 2026 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, “Trapped Behind the Scam,” highlights the growing threat of a new form of human trafficking, where transnational organized criminal networks exploit individuals to conduct large-scale financial fraud. Many victims are trafficked and forced into criminal activities, including operating online scam schemes.

The United Nations’ press release stated that this type of exploitation is increasingly connected with cybercrime, financial fraud, money laundering, and corruption, reflecting the complex and interconnected nature of modern organized crime. Traffickers often recruit victims through fake job advertisements. Believing they are accepting genuine work; victims travel to another country only to find themselves confined in illegal scam compounds.

Myanmar has created a focused action plan to combat human trafficking connected to online fraud activities, following the guidelines set forth by the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons. With the help of information sharing and public vigilance, authorities are actively working together to identify and investigate offenders and to apply appropriate and effective legal consequences. The successful prevention, suppression, and eventual eradication of human trafficking is firmly believed to be possible with these coordinated efforts.

action is being taken against those involved.

In combating human trafficking, it is necessary to carry out measures in accordance with the three key processes: obtaining early information, preventing and suppressing trafficking, and taking legal action against offenders. In implementing these three processes, relevant departments and the public need to participate and cooperate with a sense of responsibility and patriotism to ensure that the dignity and honour of their people and nation are not lost or violated.

Changing socioeconomic conditions and technological breakthroughs drive the evolution of human trafficking patterns. Many people, including educated professionals and IT specialists from numerous nations, have been trafficked in online scam operations committed by lawbreakers. Traffickers are increasingly using internationally available social media channels to carry out complex scams, targeting people of any age, social background, or time.

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LOOKING back at the history of Myanmar, the value and benefits of unity can be clearly seen. Since the era of the ancient feudal dynasties, under the united administration of competent and righteous kings, Myanmar stood firm as a unified union, extending its influence to surrounding regions. Even from those early days, in the central river valley regions where administration was centred, various ethnic nationalities, including the Bamar, Mon, and Shan, participated and gathered together to build the nation.

However, due to the bad system of divide-and-rule employed by the colonizers, differing styles of administration between the plains and the highlands, as well as discriminatory privileges, occurred as unintended consequences, causing divisions among the ethnic nationalities. Even amidst such circumstances, the great national leader, General Aung San, stated at Panglong in 1947 during the struggle for independence: "If you want the whole country to prosper, you must combine manpower, financial power, and material resources to work powerfully and forcefully. Only by working together can there be benefits." Similarly, it was precisely through the united, combined strength of the ethnic nationalities that independence was achieved.

Traffickers are widely using the internet as a means to deceive and lure victims. They use social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, and Telegram to recruit people through business advertisements and provide promised financial incentives, while subjecting young Myanmar women to forced marriages and sexual exploitation.

As the changing patterns of human trafficking, young people from neighbouring countries have been entering Myanmar for various reasons. They marry Myanmar women and make marriage oath declarations at courts to legally take the women to their countries. Such cases are being investigated, exposed, and legal action is being taken against those involved.

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Let Us Work Together in Unity, Discipline, and Maximum Effort

By Ms Moon

The Strong Power of Unity and Discipline

Here, the nature of unity is also reflected in Myanmar proverbs, as the elders taught: "What cannot be achieved by the strength of one cannot be achieved by the strength of ten thousand," and "Although a single piece of firewood is not easy to break," and "Although a single tree stands alone, it can be blown down by just a strong wind, but a large forest of gathered trees can withstand any rain or wind without flinching.

Therefore, in today's era, for the long-lasting stability of the nation and its modern development, the unity of ethnic nationalities has become an indispensable primary driving force. Furthermore, mere unity is not enough; there must also be strict discipline. This is because a society and a nation without discipline will never be able to progress. Thus, our sovereignty and the unity of ethnic nationalities must be carefully protected as a matter of national

political responsibility.

Based on such historical lessons, in rebuilding unity firmly in the present time, it is necessary to harmoniously combine the state's guidance, the practice of the democratic system, and the mutual cooperation of the people. Therefore, the government is transparently addressing the wills and needs of the people through legitimate channels, including the parliamentary system, and the people must also march together in unity on the right path.

At the same time, taking lessons from the weaknesses and cracks encountered over many years after gaining independence, all monks, laypeople, and ethnic citizens must always hold onto the three main duties: "Preventing the disintegration of the Union, preventing the disintegration of ethnic solidarity, and perpetuating sovereignty." Only after firmly establishing unity and discipline as the fundamental foundation can the momentum of national development be driven relentlessly.



The Foretaste of Lessons from the World's Model Nations

Furthermore, the fruits of unity, discipline, and the will to work can be clearly observed and studied in some countries that stand as outstanding examples in world history. Although Japan was left

in ruins after the Second World War and suffered due to the war; it rebuilt the nation with its national culture of "discipline" and the spirit of "collective gain." By prioritizing loyalty to one's job, strict discipline, and the national interest, they were able to rise from the

ashes to become a top-tier global economic power in a short time.

Similarly, looking at the existence of Singapore, which in the 1960s had absolutely no natural resources and even had to buy drinking water from other countries, is astonishing. Under the leadership of Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, he was able to unite diverse ethnic groups and firmly establish the pillars of rules and laws. Through the efforts of disciplined citizens, full utilization of education, and human resources, Singapore progressed to a world-class level as the financial and technological hub of Asia.

Furthermore, South Korea, which also suffered from the war, promoted the country in the 1970s based on the "Saemaul Undong" (New Village Movement) with the spirit of "diligence, self-reliance, and cooperation". Because the entire people worked together in unity and discipline with all their strength, they triumphed in culture and technology with great momentum. Putting these examples together proves that any country, if strong in discipline, unity, and attitude towards work, can reach the top

The Value of Work and The Will to Work

Therefore, to reach the status of a developed nation, in addition to unity and discipline, the "will to work" and "striving to work with all one's might" are also extremely important. According to global

research, the economic and socioeconomic development of a country is directly linked to the "will to work" of its citizens.

To prove this point, Dr David McClelland's research shows that in Kakinada, India, simply conducting motivation training and awareness sessions for entrepreneurs for just 10 days resulted in an increase in their willingness to achieve. Therefore, it must be seriously noted that the will to work of humans is not just innate, but can be built by providing training, creating a good environment, and stimulating motivation.

Looking closely and carefully, although Myanmar is a country rich in above-ground and underground natural resources, it is a fact that there is still a need for a higher rate of development when compared to neighbouring countries. Therefore, it is highly necessary to fully reveal our latent physical and intellectual abilities and truly get to work.

The Ability to Work and The Desire to Work

In working, while "the ability to work" can be enhanced by thoroughly training the body to be healthy and strong, acquiring knowledge, skills, and expertise, "the desire to work" must also be cultivated with the noble consciousness of wanting to benefit one's own country and society.

In doing so, the State Government is consistently working to improve the working capacity

of the people by supporting educational and vocational training, and creating opportunities for industrial and manufacturing sectors. It is only when the people seize the given opportunities and actively participate that domestic production will increase, and the country's GDP and living standards will rise higher.

Fulfilling the Duty Given by History

In summary, unity, discipline, and working with all one's might are three great pillars that are interconnected and cannot be separated. Only through unity can a disciplined society emerge. Only by striving to work with the vigour of a disciplined society can a prosperous and developed nation be built.

To make our motherland, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, where we were born and raised, stand abreast with the world is a historical duty that falls on the shoulders of every citizen. If, based on the strength of unity and with strict discipline, we strive to work with all our might, the nation will surely prosper and develop. Therefore, all monks, laypeople, and citizens are urged to shape and build the motherland with benevolence, diligence, and discipline, with the call: "Let us work together in unity, discipline, and with all the strength we have."

Reference: Yadanabon Daily (25 July 2026)

The Memory of Kindness: Where Burmese Philosophy Meets Emotional Intelligence

By U Khin Maung Myint

THE Burmese concept of ကျေးဇူးရှင် (Kyay-zu-shin) is rooted in moral philosophy and Buddhist ethics, whereas reciprocity in emotional intelligence (EI) is rooted in psychology and social relationships. They overlap in important ways, but each has a different emphasis.

ကျေးဇူးရှင် A Moral Debt of Gratitude

In Burmese culture, ကျေးဇူးရှင် literally means “one who has bestowed a benefit”. It usually refers to people such as parents, teachers, mentors, benefactors, or anyone who has genuinely contributed to one's well-being.

The emphasis is not merely on saying “thank you”. Rather, it involves: remembering kindness (ကျေးဇူးသိ), acknowledging it with humility, and repaying it appropri-

ately when possible (ကျေးဇူးဆပ်).

In Buddhist ethics, gratitude is regarded as a hallmark of a noble person. Forgetting genuine kindness is considered a moral failing.

Reciprocity in Emotional Intelligence

Reciprocity within emotional intelligence is more psychological than philosophical. It refers to the healthy exchange of emotional investment:

kindness tends to invite kindness, remembering kindness rather than taking it for granted,

trust encourages trust, respect is usually returned with respect, empathy fosters empathy.

Emotionally intelligent people understand that healthy relationships are rarely one-way streets. They balance giving and receiving while respecting personal boundaries.

Where They Meet

Both concepts value: appreciation rather than entitlement, remembering kindness rather than taking it for granted,

strengthening long-term relationships, responding with sincerity instead of obligation.

A person who embodies ကျေးဇူးသိ often demonstrates many qualities associated with high emotional intelligence: empathy, humility, loyalty, and emotional awareness.

Where They Differ

There is also an important distinction.

Traditional Burmese philosophy sometimes treats gratitude as a **lasting moral obligation**.

One may continue to honour a teacher or parent even when there is little emotional reciprocity in the present.

Modern emotional intelligence, however, recognizes that **gratitude does not require tolerating abuse or manipulation**. It distinguishes gratitude from unhealthy obligation. A person can remain grateful for past kindness while establishing firm boundaries if the relationship becomes harmful.

In other words: Gratitude is remembering the good someone has done. Reciprocity is respond-

ing appropriately to how the relationship functions now.

A Balanced Perspective

The healthiest integration of the two is neither blind loyalty nor transactional exchange.

A psychologically and ethically mature person can: remember kindness with gratitude, repay generosity where appropriate, avoid keeping a mental ledger of every favour; maintain healthy boundaries, and understand that genuine

gratitude cannot be demanded – it must arise freely.

From a Buddhist perspective, gratitude is an expression of wisdom because it recognizes our interdependence. From the perspective of emotional intelligence, reciprocity is an expression of maturity because it balances compassion with self-respect.



Together, they suggest a simple but profound principle:

Honour those who genuinely helped you, repay kindness with kindness where you can, but never confuse gratitude with lifelong servitude. True gratitude enriches both the giver and the receiver without imprisoning either.

SCI/TECH: WORLD

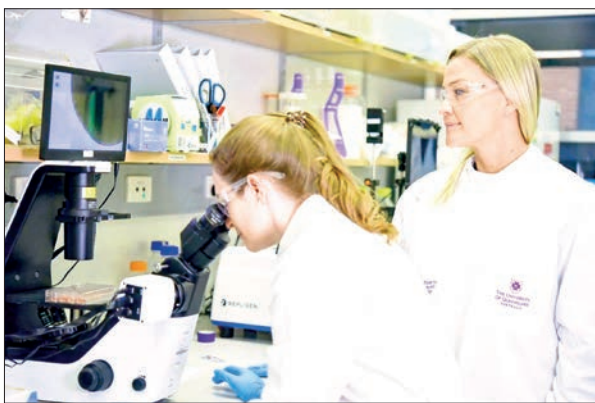
Chance discovery points to potential antiviral treatment: study

A cancer trial compound inhibits the NMT1 enzyme within human cells.

AN unexpected observation during unrelated research has led scientists in Australia and Finland to identify a potential antiviral strategy that could lead to new treatments for deadly infectious diseases or viral infections caused by Ebola and hantavirus.

Lead researcher Merja Joensuu of Australia's University of Queensland stated in a press release on Wednesday that the discovery originated while her team was investigating brain processes and observed a disruption in a pathway that numerous human viruses rely on to spread between cells.

Researchers identi-



Dr Merja Joensuu (R) and a colleague, look at cells through a microscope. **PHOTO: THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND**

fied a compound, currently being trialed as a cancer treatment, which inhibits the human enzyme N-myristoyltransferase 1 (NMT1) that helps direct where proteins are locat-

ed and how they function within human cells.

Because viruses "hijack human cells" to reproduce, blocking NMT1 caused newly formed viruses "to be assembled

incorrectly", reducing their ability to infect, said Professor Giuseppe Balistreri from the University of Helsinki in Finland, who co-led the study published in Nature Communications.

"The virus doesn't know this and keeps making and releasing less-effective versions of itself, which would give the immune system time to clean up the infection," Balistreri said.

Laboratory tests in cell cultures showed infection levels fell by about 50 per cent after one day and by up to 90 per cent after two days against a range of viruses. — Xinhua

AI industry slowdown may be needed after security scare

OVER 1,000 employees at cutting-edge AI companies, including Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, signed a petition Tuesday calling on the US government to help slow down the release of the most advanced AI models.

The petition, titled "Pacing the Frontier," requests "that the US government support an international effort to develop the technical and governance tools needed to deliberately pace the frontier of automated AI development."

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, who did not sign the petition, argued in an interview published Tuesday that developers of artificial

intelligence models might need to voluntarily pump the brakes on their rapid advances to give society a chance to catch up.

Among the signatories were the head of research at OpenAI, the strategic lead of Google's AI subsidiary DeepMind, and the chief scientist at Meta AI.

"The world's leading AI companies believe they could be close to automating AI research. It is hard to predict exactly how much this will accelerate AI progress, but there is a real risk that capability development rapidly accelerates beyond our ability to understand or control the resulting systems," the petition reads. — AFP



Over 1,000 AI employees petitioned the US government to slow advanced AI models development. **PHOTO: AFP**

First image taken of Betelgeuse's elusive companion star

ASTRONOMERS unveiled Tuesday the first image ever captured of an elusive companion star orbiting Betelgeuse, one of the brightest and most famous stars in the night sky.

Throughout history,

people have gazed up in awe at Betelgeuse, a red supergiant known to many as the hunter's shoulder in the Orion constellation.

Records suggest that thousands of years ago, ancient Egyptians

and Indigenous Australians noticed that the star's brightness changed in regular cycles.

The reason for this flickering remained a mystery until astronomers in 2024 predicted it was caused by the crossing of a much-smaller companion star.

The best evidence of the existence of the companion star was published in a study on Tuesday, based on observations by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile. "This is the conclusion of a century-long quest," lead study author Miguel Montarges of the

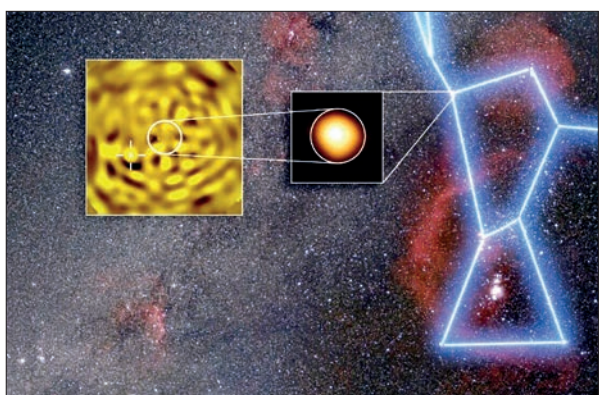
Paris Observatory said in a statement.

"We have shown that Betelgeuse is not single, it is accompanied by a faint stellar companion," he added.

Astronomers had feared that the telescope would not be able to spot the companion because it would be blinded by the light from Betelgeuse, which is 1,000 times bigger than the Sun.

The companion — dubbed Betelgeuse B — had been thought to only have 1.5 times the Sun's mass.

"I jumped from my chair when I saw the processed images," Montarges said. — AFP



The image is the first ever captured of an elusive companion star orbiting Betelgeuse. **PHOTO: AFP**

UN lists South Sudan antelope route as heritage in danger

THE United Nations has fast-tracked a vast antelope migration path in South Sudan onto its list of World Heritage in Danger, in the young nation's first such listing.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added the so-called Boma-Badingilo migratory landscape to its list on Sunday. The grassland and woodland savannahs

that cover some 37,500 square kilometres — an area larger than Belgium — are viewed as under threat from both war and climate change. One million animals — including antelopes and gazelles — migrate through the vast wilderness located between the White Nile and the Ethiopian border every year, leaving scars on the grasslands that are visible from the sky. — AFP

London homeless doubt PM's rough sleeping vow

IN central London, homeless vendor Kevin said selling the Big Issue helps him survive without relying on handouts, but he dismissed Prime Minister Andy Burnham's pledge to "end rough sleeping" as meaningless, saying Burnham had made the same promise as mayor of Greater Manchester without solving the problem there. Kevin, 60, said he has been homeless since leaving prison in 2010 and now lives in a tent because

he found hostel conditions in London unsafe and degrading. Rough sleeping in England has reached record levels, with government figures showing 4,793 people sleeping outdoors in 2025. Charities and researchers warn the broader homelessness crisis is even larger, with Shelter estimating 382,000 people lacking secure housing, while strained local authority budgets have forced cuts to services. — AFP

Dutch abuse victims erase forced tattoos



Joke, a woman who suffered years of abuse and forcibly tattooed, sits as a doctor erases her tattoos with a laser at a specialized clinic in Rotterdam, on 13 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

DUTCHWOMAN Joke winces as lasers crackle over her skin, removing one of the 250 tattoos her abusive partner scrawled all over her body and face, anywhere he believed another man had touched her. The 53-year-old is one of hundreds helped by Rotterdam-based foundation Spijt van Tattoo ("Tattoo Regret"), which offers victims free laser treatment and is poised to expand internationally. Joke suffered years of abuse, locked in caravans and sheds, and forcibly tattooed at home with a tattoo gun until virtually no

area of her body was ink-free. He daubed his name on her face more than a dozen times, on her forehead, nose, cheeks, chin, even her eyelids, leaving her ashamed, stigmatised and afraid to go outside. Over two and a half years, Joke has endured 12 laser sessions to scrub the ink from her face. The pain is so intense, a plastic surgeon is needed to anaesthetise her face, but she says the process has helped her reclaim her life after years of suicidal thoughts, giving her hope and a more positive outlook. — AFP

Japan coral protectors race to save reefs from heat 'bomb'

Scientists and conservationists in Japan's Okinawa are racing to save coral reefs devastated by climate-driven bleaching.

FROM "heatwave simulators" to ecological bootcamps, scientists and conservationists are trying ways to revive and reinforce the famous coral reefs off Japan's Okinawa, decimated by climate-driven bleaching two summers ago. The subtropical southern Japanese region, home to some of the world's most biodiverse coral hubs, was hit by a 2024 marine heatwave that left reefs pale and brown.

With the world's oceans the hottest on record in June and experts warning that 2026 could be even worse, researchers fear another mass bleaching event is imminent. Local marine scientist Tim-



Shoichi Ikeno, head of local diving company Lagoon, pointing to dead coral in a shallow area of the sea near Onna village, Okinawa Prefecture. **PHOTO: AFP**

othy Ravasi said Okinawa — and reefs around the world — are "almost 100 per cent" certain to face another major bleaching episode soon unless conditions change. Ravasi's lab is using one of the world's only two

"heatwave simulator" systems to study how coral ecosystems respond to warming and acidification. In controlled seawater tanks, scientists manipulate temperature and pH to recreate future heatwaves and observe how

coral, fish, giant clams and clownfish adapt. Okinawa's reefs are under pressure not only from climate change but also from tourism, construction, overfishing and pollution. Ravasi said authorities must confront the reality that climate change is already pushing the ecosystem to its limits, even if that means politically difficult choices such as curbing tourism or urbanisation. Elsewhere in Okinawa, local innovators are trying more hands-on methods, including breeding and transplanting corals into the sea and creating hardier "miracle coral" through artificial stress exposure. — AFP

Wildfires disproportionately impact Canada's indigenous peoples

WILDFIRES in Canada have caused a disproportionate impact on indigenous populations, according to the latest survey and analytical report released by Statistics Canada on Tuesday. The report, titled "Wildfire experiences among Indigenous Peoples," noted that indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) represent about five per cent of Canada's total population. Despite the small share, 42 per cent of all wildfire evacuees in 2023 were from communities where more than half the population was indigenous.

Between 1980 and 2021, 16 communities in Canada were evacuated at least five times, 14 of which were First Nations reserves, said the report.



Members of Indigenous communities perform during the Squamish Nation Youth Pow-Wow in North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 12 July 2026. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA**

According to the report, wildfires present significant challenges for all individuals and communities in Canada, with implications for fi-

nancial, physical, mental and cultural well-being. Indigenous communities and individuals tend to be disproportionately impacted by wildfires, which can include loss of access to hunting grounds, trapping lines and reduced opportunities to gather wild plants and berries, which could have long-term consequences. The report said indigenous peoples are often evacuated far from their home communities and, in some cases, family or extended family members are displaced to separate locations, contributing to additional disruption and psychological stress. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

Decision on consumption tax cut left to PM after cross-party talks fail

The ruling camp aims to secure Cabinet approval for the plan early next month.

JAPAN'S ruling and opposition parties on Wednesday wrapped up months of discussions on a proposed consumption tax cut on food and beverages without a consensus, leaving the decision on the step aimed at mitigating the impact of inflation on consumer spending to Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

Takaichi is expected on Thursday to instruct her Liberal Democratic Party to move ahead with the plan to slash the tax rate to one per cent from the current eight per cent for two years from April 2027. The ruling camp has been pushing for it and will now work towards Cabinet approval early



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (2nd from L) speaks at a meeting of a cross-party national council on taxation and social security held in her office in Tokyo on 29 July 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

next month.

A summary report on their discussions was presented at a meeting of a cross-party national council on taxation and social security on Wednesday, with the report also referring to opposition

parties' proposals such as providing cash handouts, which would take less time to implement than a tax cut, and a permanent tax reduction amid prolonged inflation. "As the government and as a ruling party, we will immedi-

ately consider our policy," Takaichi told the meeting.

Takaichi, seen as a fiscal dove who is facing a decline in approval ratings for her Cabinet in recent media polls, has vowed to quickly submit related bills to parliament once the council presents its view. She hopes that the public will "feel the benefits of reduced tax burden as soon as possible."

The move comes after the LDP and its junior coalition ally, the Japan Innovation Party, promised to cut the consumption tax rate on food products to zero for two years in their campaign for the House of Representatives election in February. — Kyodo

Spain's employment hits record high as unemployment rate falls below 10%

SPAIN'S employment reached a record high in the second quarter of this year, while the unemployment rate fell below 10 per cent for the first time since 2008, according to the Active Population Survey

(EPA) released by the National Statistics Institute (INE) on Tuesday. The survey showed that the number of unemployed people fell by 213,300 from the previous quarter to 2,495,300. Compared with a

year earlier, the figure was down by 57,800, bringing the unemployment rate to 9.87 per cent, the lowest level since 2008.

Meanwhile, the number of people in employment increased by 486,000 from the previous quarter to a record 22.779 million. On a year-on-year basis, the figure grew by 510,200.

"This is the sixth consecutive quarter in which year-on-year employment growth has exceeded half a million," Spain's Ministry of Economy said, adding that the strong labour market had also improved the situation of Spanish households. Minister of Labour and

Social Economy Yolanda Diaz welcomed the figures in a video posted on social media. "We are leaving behind the Spain that dreamed of having 20 million people in work. That Spain, which once seemed like a dream, has now become too small for us," she said.

The second quarter is traditionally the period with the strongest job creation in Spain, due to the start of the summer tourism season, and that trend continued this year. The service sector added 394,000 jobs, while construction and industry created 60,000 and 38,200 jobs, respectively. — Xinhua



A worker operates a crane in Madrid, Spain, 24 July 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore central bank posts US\$15.48 bln net profit

THE Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has reported a net profit of 20 billion Singapore dollars (about US\$15.48 billion) for the financial year ended 31 March, 2026, as robust investment gains more than offset foreign exchange translation losses and the cost of liquidity management operations, the central bank said Tuesday.

Investment gains totaled 39.8 billion Singapore dollars, recorded on a lower-of-cost-and-market-value basis, MAS said in its annual report. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka to launch paperless customs declaration system

Sri Lanka will introduce a paperless customs declaration processing system as part of efforts to modernize public services and accelerate digitalization, Secretary to the President Nandika Sanath Kumanyake said.

Speaking at an awareness program on digital signatures and paperless customs declarations in Colombo, Kumanyake said the system would make customs clearance faster, more efficient and transparent.

The system will detect any changes made to documents after they have been digitally signed, helping reduce opportunities for fraud and corruption, he said. — Xinhua

Afghan, Uzbek firms sign 25 agreements



This image shows raw potatoes being harvested and loaded into a truck trailer in a field in Afghanistan. **PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK**

AFGHAN and Uzbek businesses signed 25 cooperation agreements worth US\$50 million during an Afghanistan-Uzbekistan business connectivity meeting held in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif, local media reported on Wednesday.

The agreements were signed by traders and companies from the two neighbouring countries during the event, which was aimed at promoting bilateral trade, investment

and economic cooperation.

The newly signed deals are expected to strengthen commercial partnerships, facilitate cross-border investment, and further expand economic ties between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

Officials said the business forum provided a platform for entrepreneurs from both countries to explore new opportunities for cooperation and enhance regional trade. — Xinhua

ANA's net profit down 15.4% in April-June as fuel costs rise

ANA Holdings Inc said Wednesday its net profit in the April-June period dropped 15.4 per cent from a year ago to 19.41 billion yen (\$119 million), as fuel costs rose due to the Middle East conflict and the weakening yen.

ANA, the parent of All Nippon Airways Co, said revenue soared 22.6 per cent to a record 672.73 billion yen in the financial first quarter, driven by robust demand for international passenger and cargo services. Operating profit plunged 43.5 per cent to 20.78 billion yen.

The number of passengers on domestic flights rose 3.9 per cent to 10.64 million, while international passenger traffic jumped 14.3 per cent to 2.36 million, supported by solid inbound demand despite higher fuel surcharges.

Higher fuel costs drove up operating costs by 32 billion yen in the three months ended June, and the airline expects them to increase by 60 billion yen for the full year. — Kyodo



ANA, the parent of All Nippon Airways Co, said revenue soared 22.6 per cent to a record 672.73 billion yen in the financial first quarter. PHOTO: VUSUAL PURPOSE/ISTOCK

Chinese EVs gain momentum as demand rises in Europe, South Africa

CONSUMER demand for electric vehicles (EVs) continued to expand across Europe and South Africa in the first half of 2026, with Chinese automakers expanding their presence as consumers increasingly embraced electric mobility, according to a report released Tuesday. The report, released by global online classifieds platform OLX Group, analyzed consumer activity in France, Romania, Portugal, Poland and South Africa.

All five markets recorded double- or triple-digit year-on-year growth in EV-related consumer leads in June, said the report titled “The Great Acceleration: East Meets Electric”, with France posting the strongest increase at 206 per cent, followed by South Africa at 154.6 per cent, Romania at 66 per cent, Portugal at 60 per cent and Poland at 34.3 per cent. — Xinhua

India's engineering exports surge 21% as shipments soar

INDIA'S engineering goods exports climbed 21 per cent year-on-year to US\$11.48 billion in June, supported by robust demand from major markets including China, the United States, Germany, and Oman, according to the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India.

China posted the strongest growth among India's key export destinations, with engineering shipments soaring 74 per cent to US\$361.47 million in June. The increase follows a broader rise in India's exports to China,



Engineering products account for more than one-fourth of India's total merchandise exports. PHOTO: ANI

which grew nearly 37 per cent to about US\$20 billion during the financial year ended March.

The engineering sector continued to underpin India's merchandise

During the April-June quarter of FY2026-27, engineering exports rose 18.09 percent year-on-year to US\$34.14 billion, up from US\$28.91 billion in the same period a year earlier.

Engineering products account for more than one-fourth of India's total merchandise exports, reinforcing the sector's role as a major driver of the country's external trade.

The United States remained India's largest market for engineering goods in June, with exports reaching US\$1.95 billion. — ANI

Boeing reports Q2 financial results with higher revenue

THE Boeing Company reported on Tuesday a second-quarter revenue of US\$24.56 billion, an eight-per-cent increase year on year, while its quarterly net loss narrowed to \$428 million.

The company recorded a GAAP loss per share of \$0.67, an operating cash flow of \$1.364 billion, and free cash flow of \$631 million.

The results primarily reflect higher commercial airplane deliveries and favourable working capital, according to Boeing. The company's total backlog grew to a record \$715 billion, including more than 6,200 commercial airplanes. Boeing's Commercial Airplanes business posted second-quarter revenue of \$11.75 billion with an operating margin of minus

2.7 per cent, primarily reflecting higher deliveries, a favourable product mix, improved performance and other adjustments. The company delivered 171 commercial airplanes during the quarter; the highest quarterly total since 2018, compared with 150 a year earlier. Commercial Airplanes booked 246 net orders, the company said. — Xinhua

Kering sales begin to recover as Gucci improves

IMPROVEMENT at troubled Italian fashion house Gucci helped sales at Kering edge high in the second quarter, the French luxury group said Tuesday.

Kering nevertheless reported that half year net profit fell by 60 per cent to 189 million euros (\$216 million), due in large part to exceptional items. — AFP

FIFA's tournament stake sale sparks widespread criticism

CONCACAF followed UEFA on Wednesday by criticizing FIFA's controversial plans to sell a stake in the business operations of the World Cup and its other competitions through the creation of a semi-private subsidiary.

World football's governing body said Tuesday it would retain a majority share in FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) but hoped to raise \$4.2 billion later this year by “carefully selecting long-term investors who will purchase minority, non-controlling interests”.

FIFA's statement was a rapid response to a story in British newspapers The Times and The Financial Times based on leaks of the plan from two sources.

The Times reported that FIFA president Gianni Infantino, 56, stood to profit from the scheme by becoming commissioner of the FFE after his expected next term expires in 2031. FIFA denied that this had been discussed. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (250N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FSL SINGAPORE VOY.NO. (250N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-7-2026 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SUMADERA SHIPPING LINE

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

China reshapes global AI landscape with trillion-parameter open-weight models

Moonshot AI is a startup based in Beijing.

CHINA is making significant strides in reshaping the global AI landscape, as a new generation of frontier open-weight models is poised to bridge the global “intelligence gap” by providing advanced and affordable computing tools for less developed nations and grassroots innovators.

Moonshot AI, a Beijing-based startup, on Monday unveiled the full suite of its flagship Kimi K3 system, including the model weights, technical report, and the key infrastructure that powered its training.

The landmark mod-



People walk past the booth of Qwen during the 2026 Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain, 2 March 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

el features 2.8 trillion parameters, built on a Mixture-of-Experts (MoE) framework, and is equipped with native image comprehension ca-

pabilities and an unprecedented 1-million-token context window to process lengthy texts seamlessly.

It does not rely on parameter expansion alone.

Through a self-developed computing architecture and training optimization, the team increased computing efficiency by 250 per cent despite constrained hardware resources, generating far more intelligent output per unit of computational power, according to a statement on the company’s official WeChat account. From now on, developers across the globe are permitted to freely download, run and adapt the model locally for internal research or end-user product creation, the statement said.

— Xinhua

Germany’s Merz under fire over chaotic reshuffle

GERMAN Chancellor Friedrich Merz faced a rising chorus of criticism from within his own centre-right CDU party Wednesday as he completed a chaotic cabinet reshuffle.

Complaints over Merz’s high-handed leadership style have boiled over after the personnel changes prompted by the resignation of the CDU’s parliamentary leader Jens

Spahn. Spahn had to step down this month after it emerged he and his husband had had a child via a surrogate mother in the United States, despite the practice being illegal in

Germany and vehemently opposed by the CDU.

CDU lawmakers will meet on Wednesday to formally elect Spahn’s successor Thorsten Frei, Merz’s chief of staff. — AFP

Iranian engineers build AI system that boosts oil recovery by 59%



An oil facility off the coast of Iran, the world’s fifth-largest oil producer. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BY connecting wells, pipelines, and separators into one intelligent network, the technology adapts in real time to maximize efficiency.

It prevents liquid slugs that damage equipment and force shutdowns

The system automatically adjusts operating conditions to maintain peak efficiency

It works in both low-pressure and high-pressure reservoirs

The technology is built entirely with indigenous components and validated on a real oil field

This could extend the life of oil fields, cut costs, and reduce dependence on foreign technology. — SPUTNIK

NEWS IN BRIEF

Population of Japanese nationals dips below 120 mln

THE number of Japanese nationals fell below 120 million for the first time in 42 years to 119,736,483 at the start of this year, the government said Wednesday, underscoring the challenges faced by a nation battling declining birth rates. The figure as of 1 January marked a drop of 917,000 people from a year earlier, marking the largest fall since comparable data became available in 1968, according to data by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The number of foreign residents, meanwhile, rose 354,000 to a record 4,031,159. The ministry began compiling relevant data in 2013. — Kyodo

Iranian missiles strike US base in Jordan

AT least three ballistic missiles struck the Muwaffaq Salti Airbase in Jordan on Wednesday, with footage shared by local media showing direct impacts at the facility, which hosts US forces.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) claimed that all incoming missiles were intercepted, though social media footage appears to show smoke rising from impact sites, suggesting at least some of the projectiles may have gotten through.

The attack comes despite a pause in US strikes on Iran over recent days. As the US withdrew from ceasefire talks, Iran has made clear it has not agreed to any truce. Iranian officials have repeatedly stated that they retain the right to target US assets in the region as part of their ongoing military posture. — SPUTNIK

US, Saudi Arabia launch joint precision strikes in Iraq

US Central Command and the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces on Tuesday executed joint precision strikes in eastern Iraq, targeting “Iran-aligned terrorist” groups that had been directed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to strike American personnel and critical energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.

In a statement on X, CENTCOM said that US and Saudi fighter jets targeted multiple terrorist logistics and weapons sites in response to over 30 IRGC-directed aerial drone attacks launched within a 72-hour window. — ANI

Russia declares Telegram founder internationally wanted

RUSSIA’S FSB has announced that the Telegram founder Pavel Durov is now the subject of an international manhunt. The messaging platform’s administration failed to remove channels, chats, and bots that Ukrainian intelligence services have been actively leveraging to coordinate terrorist attacks and mass casualty operations in Russia. Crimes carried out by Ukrainian intelligence through Telegram have resulted in numerous fatalities, including women and children, while inflicting billions of dollars in material damage. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Cameroon's Esemestorms to 100m Commonwealth gold

EMMANUEL Esemestormed through torrential rain in Glasgow to claim Commonwealth Games gold for Cameroon in the 100 metres in a new Games record time of 9.83 seconds.

Lachlan Kennedy of Australia claimed a surprise silver ahead of Nigeria's Kanyinsola Ajayi, who had to settle for bronze.

Eseme's time belied the dreadful weather in Scotland as he broke Ato Boldon's Games record from 28 years ago in Kuala Lumpur.

"That was a crazy race! I'm surprised at the time," said the 32-year-old, who only took up track and field eight years ago.

"The weather I didn't want to be a setback, you know, because we're all competing in the same environment, so I can't have a complaint.

"If I have a complaint, it means everyone has a complaint, so I just wanted to have the least of the complaints."

— AFP

Neymar says his time playing for Brazil 'is over'

NEYMAR has confirmed his international retirement, tearfully declaring he was done playing for the Brazil national team following their World Cup defeat by Norway.

"My time with the national team is over. I made history, I was very happy, I gave my blood and my life... but now I don't want it anymore," Neymar told journalists after his club Santos defeated Venezuela's UCV 4-2 in the Copa Sudamericana on Tuesday.

Brazil's record goalscorer was included in the World Cup squad



Neymar reacts during the second leg of the Copa Sudamericana play-off match between Brazil's Santos and Venezuela's Universidad Central. **PHOTO: AFP**

almost three years after he last played for the national team, and played only 37 minutes across two matches.

he tearfully declared: "It ends here."

Neymar, 34, remains under contract with Santos -- fighting to avoid relegation -- until the end of the year.

He scored twice in his first match upon his return, responding to his critics with a tongue-in-cheek goal celebration.

Neymar celebrated with a card-dealing gesture -- after facing criticism for taking part in a poker tournament while his team-mates were playing a Copa Sudamericana match in Venezuela.

— AFP

Ireland's Harrington named as vice-captain for 2027 Ryder Cup

THREE-TIME major winner Pdraig Harrington was named on Wednesday as a vice-captain of Europe's team for the 2027 Ryder Cup in his native Ireland.

Harrington joins the Molinari brothers, Edoardo and Francesco, on Luke Donald's backroom staff for the tournament, which will be played at Adare Manor, in Limerick, from 17 to 19 September next year.

Team Europe will be chasing a third consecutive victory against the United States following wins in Rome in 2023 and at Bethpage Black in 2025.

Harrington, 54, was part of the Europe team on the only previous occasion the Ryder Cup has been played in Ireland, in 2006. — AFP



Ireland's Pdraig Harrington in action at the 2026 British Open. **PHOTO: AFP / FILE**

'Very hungry' Joao Pedro impresses new Chelsea manager Alonso

CHELSEA'S Brazilian striker Joao Pedro is "very hungry" after his World Cup snub, with a quick-fire hat-trick in the team's opening pre-season game impressing new manager Xabi Alonso.

The 24-year-old was snapped up from Brighton a year ago and scored 20 goals across all competitions in his first season at Stamford Bridge to be named player of the season by club supporters.

But his penalty-box prowess was not enough to book a spot in Brazil's World Cup squad. Alonso said that Joao Pedro, who bagged a nine-minute hat-trick as a second-half substitute in Chelsea's 6-4 win over Western Sydney Wanderers on Tuesday, had been fired up in training. — AFP



Joao Pedro impressed new Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso with a hat-trick against Western Sydney Wanderers. **PHOTO: AFP**

Barcelona weighs more transfer moves as title defence approaches

FC Barcelona is training in England as Hansi Flick's side continues preparations for the new La Liga season.

It has been a relatively quiet summer at the Camp Nou. Robert Lewandowski has left after his contract expired, while Joao Cancelo and Marcus Rashford have returned to their parent clubs after their loan spells ended. Removing Lewandowski's salary from the wage bill has given Barcelona greater financial flexibility than in recent years. The club has already signed England winger Anthony Gordon from Newcastle United and Germany forward Karim Adeyemi from Borussia Dortmund as it looks to refresh an attack that will again be built around Lamine Yamal.

However, Barcelona still appears to have significant work to do before opening its league title defence away to Elche on 23 August, with both further arrivals and departures expected before the transfer window closes.

Barcelona would like to bring Cancelo back, but first has to negotiate with his current club, Al-Hilal. If a deal cannot be reached, the Spanish champion is expected to pursue another full-back. Hector Fort impressed during a loan spell at Elche before a shoulder injury cut short his campaign, and the versatile defender will have the chance to prove he deserves a place in Flick's first-team squad. — Xinhua



Factory shutdowns spread after Kumamoto quake

SHUTDOWNS spread among semiconductor-related and other factories in Kumamoto Prefecture on Wednesday after a magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck the southwestern prefecture the previous day, raising concerns about broader economic fallout if the suspensions are prolonged.

Sony Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp, a subsidiary of Sony Group Corp, halted operations at its plant in Kikuyo immediately after the quake, with no timetable for resuming operations.

Other major chipmakers, Renesas Electronics Corp and Tokyo Electron Ltd, also suspended operations at two plants each in the prefecture. Mitsubishi

Electric Corp has done the same at its plants in Koshi and Kikuchi.

Toyota Motor Kyushu Inc. briefly resumed operations at three plants in nearby Fukuoka Prefecture after conducting safety checks. It later announced it would suspend them again from Wednesday evening through late Friday due to logistical issues and conditions at suppliers. Honda Motor Co is halting operations at its motorcycle and engine factory in the town of Ozu through Friday, while Nissan Motor Co said it will partially suspend operations at two plants in Fukuoka Prefecture from Thursday afternoon due to delays in parts supplies. — Kyodo



The Aeon Mall building in Kashima, Japan, after the earthquake Tuesday. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Iran rejects talks with US, denying Trump's claims

DECLARING that Tehran has “no plans to negotiate with the US”, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on Tuesday stated that while discussions are proceeding “step by step”, the Islamic Republic will not let Washington dictate the terms of engagement.

In remarks given in an interview with State TV and carried by Al Jazeera,

Gharibabadi emphasised that the US cannot pick and choose when to engage in conflict or diplomacy. “We should not get America used to fighting whenever it wants and sitting at the negotiating table whenever it wants,” Gharibabadi said, claiming that it was Washington “who sent messages pleading for an end to the conflict”. — ANI

To the “edge of the world”: Russia's bold push for Arctic tourism

Murmansk serves as the largest city above the Arctic Circle.

STANDING at the geographic North Pole, where every direction points south, represents the ultimate adventure for many travellers — a surreal moment coupled with endless summer daylight, towering icebergs, and the silence of the frozen Arctic Ocean.

Russia, home to the world's largest Arctic territory and the only country offering regular tourist voyages to the North Pole aboard nuclear-powered icebreakers, is working to transform that adventure into a signature tourism brand.

As global interest in polar travel soars, Russia is investing heavily in Arctic infrastructure, expanding tourism routes and promoting immersive experiences across its northern regions.



This photo shows the scenery in the Arctic Circle port city of Murmansk, Russia. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

However, the rapid development also raises concerns over environmental protection, harsh natural conditions and mounting geopolitical tensions.

In early July, the nuclear-powered icebreaker 50 Let Pobedy (50 Years of Victory) set sail from Murmansk, Russia's largest ice-free port, heading for the geographic North Pole. On board were more than 100 tourists, mark-

ing the official launch of Russia's 2026 polar expedition season.

For over three decades, voyages aboard nuclear icebreakers have been the crown jewel of Russia's Arctic tourism industry. While other Arctic nations primarily rely on cruise ships or helicopters, Russia leverages its world-leading icebreaker fleet to take visitors directly to the top

of the world.

The two-week journey offers sweeping views of drifting sea ice under the midnight sun, vast glaciers and towering icebergs. One travel blogger who completed the voyage wrote on social media that standing at the North Pole means “every step is south”. Spinning in place, the blogger joked, was like “traveling around the world”, surrounded only by endless ice and profound silence.

The exclusivity comes at a price.

According to Russian travel agencies, ticket prices for the 2026 season range from 3.6 million roubles (about US\$46,184) for standard cabins to 6.2 million roubles (about US\$79,539) for premium accommodations. — Xinhua

China welcomes WTO ruling against Türkiye's vehicle restrictions

CHINA welcomes a ruling made by the World Trade Organization (WTO), which found Türkiye's restrictive measures on electric and certain other types of vehicles originating from China violate global trade rules, the Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday.

The WTO circulated the panel report in the case brought by China on Tuesday, which supported China's claims and ruled that Türkiye's measures contravened

WTO rules, an official from the ministry's department of treaty and

law said in response to a media query.

Since 2023, Türkiye

has had in place restrictive measures, including additional tariffs and import licensing requirements, on Chinese electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles and other vehicles. These measures violate WTO rules including bound tariffs, national treatment and most-favoured-nation treatment, and have severely harmed China's legitimate trade interests and bilateral economic and trade relations, the official added. — Xinhua



Türkiye's first domestically-produced electric vehicle was shown in Ankara, Türkiye on 9 November 2022. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/XINHUA/FILE**