

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Pyithu Hluttaw reviews infrastructure, education and judicial reform in wide-ranging query session



The 19th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

The Third Pyithu Hluttaw held the 19th-day of its second regular session yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, where lawmakers raised 12 questions covering judicial ethics, infrastructure, urban development, education and public services. Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn chaired the

session. The session opened with U Nay Lin Aung, MP for the North Okkalapa Constituency, asking whether the Supreme Court would expand code-of-conduct awareness programmes for judges and lawyers and introduce joint training programmes for both professions. Responding, Supreme Court Judge U

Thaung Naing said judicial ethics training has already been incorporated into training courses, while lawyers have also been receiving ethics and anti-money laundering education. He added that joint training and stakeholder discussions would continue under the judiciary's strategic plan.

U Htay Lwin (aka) U Di Lone, MP for the Namsang

Constituency, asked about upgrading the road linking Naryine, Nawngkham, Nawngkha, Namkham (Nam Humai) and Nawng-dae villages to asphalt standard. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo said the project would be considered in future financial years, subject to funding availability.

SEE PAGE 3

Four Regions Tapped for Massive Rice Export Push

THE Rice Export Zone project will be launched in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions, with a view to exporting premium rice and paddy in the 2026-2027 monsoon paddy season.

This decision was made at the Union-Level Supervisory Committee Coordination Virtual Meeting 1/2026 for the Rice Export Zone Project, held on 3 July.

Committee Chair-

man Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tint Tun delivered the opening remarks. Committee members and officials then presented and discussed plans to ensure the successful implementation of the Rice Export Zone.

The Rice Export Zone is designed to select and grow only rice crop varieties that are preferred by foreign markets and boost the export of quality rice to international markets.

SEE PAGE 4



A ceremony distributing cultivation costs and input supplies to farmers participating in the Rice Export Zone scheme in Hinthada Township on 4 July.

MRCS provides K189M to Sagaing's quake-stricken households



This photo captures the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) providing support to households in Sagaing Township.

PAGE 4

Bago Region expands fish farming industry

THE fish farming industry in Bago Region, which produces aquatic products sufficient for local consumption and exports the surplus abroad, has been steadily increasing its production year by year, ac-

ording to the Bago Region Fisheries Federation.

The region produces marine products from farming, reserved fishery and open fishery, and it produced 65,321.64 visses in the 2021-2022 financial

year, 65,026 visses in 2022-2023, 67,204.208 visses in 2023-2024, 67,970.748 visses in 2024-2025, and 68,410.94 visses in 2025-2026, showing annual growth.

The reserved fishery also increased annually,

reaching 89,504.65 visses in 2021-2022, 90,827 visses in 2022-2023, 91,917.618 visses in 2023-2024, 92,503.243 visses in 2024-2025, and 92,965.38 visses in 2025-2026.

SEE PAGE 7



NATIONAL PAGE 4

CBM Governor leads Myanmar delegation to Russian financial conference



NATIONAL PAGE 11

Myanmar students in ROK eligible for 2026 ASEAN-Korea Youth Camp

NATIONAL

Public Notice

1. Due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, global fuel prices have increased, affecting transport costs for essential goods distributed by diesel-powered vehicles. To help stabilize prices of basic commodities, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue had previously announced a tax exemption on imported high-speed diesel (HSD 500 ppm), including customs duty, special commodity tax, commercial tax, and a two-per-cent advance income tax, effective from 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026, as published in State-owned newspapers. This tax exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 July 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 July 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of HSD (500 ppm).

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. To ensure continuous development of the agricultural sector, which is a key foundation of the State economy, and to reduce production costs for farmers, a two-per-cent advance income tax on imported fertilizers will be exempted from 1 April to 30 June 2026, and announced in the State-run newspapers. This exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 July 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 July 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of fertilizers.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Public Notice

1. Due to rising global fuel prices caused by conflicts in the Middle East, the price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has also increased. To support power generation and reduce electricity costs, customs duty, commercial tax, and advance income tax on imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will be exempted from 1 April to 30 June 2026. Such information has already been announced in State-owned newspapers, and this exemption period has now been extended from 1 to 31 July 2026.
2. Therefore, the Import Declaration (ID) will be opened at the Customs Department until 31 July 2026, and the tax exemption will apply to the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas.

Ministry of Finance and Revenue

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 on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Professor Dr Khin Mar Myint	Rector University of Medicine (Magway) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health
(2) Dr San Oo	Director-General Environmental Conservation Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

UEC issues Fourth Amendment to Political Parties Registration Bill

FOR public observation and review, the Union Election Commission issued the Fourth Amendment to the Political Parties Registration Bill, which will be discussed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session. The reviews and recommendations for the bill can be sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Fourth Amendment to Political Parties Registration Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law ..., 2026)

....., 2026
..... 1388 ME
(... 2026)

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted this law.

1. This law shall be called the Fourth Amendment to the Political Parties Registration Law.
2. Subsection (i) shall be added behind Section 4 (h) of the Political Parties Registration Law as follows:
“(i) Those who shall be qualified to be elected as a Hluttaw Representative”. — MNA/TTA

Vegetation cleanup underway at Bagan World Heritage Site

VEGETATION clearance is being carried out regularly at temples and other ancient monuments within the Bagan World Heritage Site, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

Every two weeks on Saturday, teams remove weeds, shrubs, invasive plants and tree stumps from around temples, roadsides and monument structures. Local departments also work together to clear rooted plants from ancient



Workers clear vegetation within 20 feet of ancient monuments at the Bagan World Heritage Site.

buildings where urgent conservation is needed.

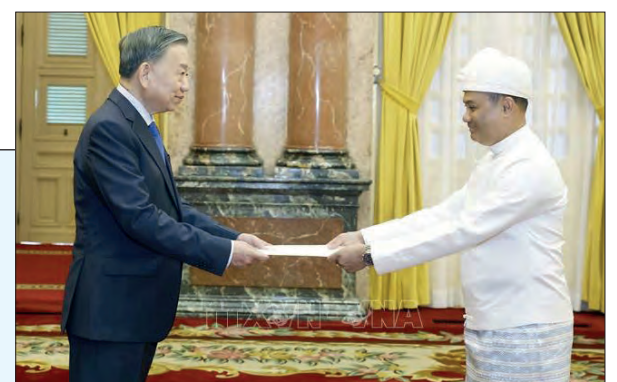
Since July, the department has divided the heritage zone into 11 areas to strengthen conservation efforts. The work includes clearing vegetation within 20 feet of monuments, systematically removing rooted plants growing on historic structures using chemical treatment, and uprooting non-native tree stumps near archaeological sites. — ASH/KNN

U Wai Linn presents Credentials to President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

U Wai Linn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr To Lam, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on 6 July

2026 at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi. — MNA

Vietnamese President Mr To Lam accepts the Credentials from Ambassador U Wai Linn.



NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw reviews infrastructure, education and judicial reform in wide-ranging query session

FROM PAGE 1

U Win Htay, MP for the Lewe Constituency, sought information on constructing a town hall and a football stadium with a running track/stand in Zeyathiri Township. Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun said the project could proceed once sufficient land – around 12 acres – is secured and budget approval is obtained.

Urban development also featured prominently. U Khin Maung Htay, MP for the Pyinmana Constituency,

asked about preparing a comprehensive town development plan with drainage systems for seven wards. Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Win Moe Khaing said urban planning studies had already been completed and drainage improvement projects were underway.

Meanwhile, U Thet Pone, MP for the Sagaing Constituency, questioned plans for systematic water supply services. U Win Moe Khaing said expansion of the city's clean water network, including new pipe-

lines and treatment facilities, is planned through a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system.

Land management issues were raised by U Hla Swe, MP for the Pobbathiri Constituency, who asked about issuing and transferring land lease grants in Zeyadipa Ward and Tatpoba Ward. U Win Moe Khaing said the matter is being coordinated with the military authorities before further action is taken.

Several MPs also pressed for improvements

in school infrastructure. Representative U Maung Maung Soe from the Thabaung Constituency requested a new school building for Shwehlaykwin Village, while U Sai Seng Naw from the Mawkme Constituency sought approval for a new two-storey school building after the existing structure reaches the end of its service life. U Aung Kyaw Thu from the Mahlaing Constituency, U Aung Naing from the Waw Constituency, and Dr Kyaw Oo from the Toungoo Constit-

uency similarly requested additional classrooms and school facilities. Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing responded that projects would be prioritized according to student enrolment, engineering assessments and future budget allocations.

Finally, Daw Swe Swe Thin, MP for the Paungde Constituency, asked whether nationwide surveys of five-year-old children could be strengthened to ensure all eligible children enter school. The deputy

minister said the ministry already conducts annual enrolment campaigns and confirmed that, beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, nationwide surveys of five- and six-year-old children would be carried out in cooperation with regional authorities and relevant ministries to improve school enrolment.

At the end of the sitting, the Speaker adjourned the meeting and announced that the 20th day of the parliamentary session will be held on 8 July. — MNA/ST

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Chin State Hluttaw Speaker

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U Khin Yi met the observer team led by the Speaker of the Chin State Hluttaw at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Speaker stated that the Union-level Hluttaws legislate in accordance with Schedule 1 of the 2008 Constitution, while the Region and State Hluttaws legislate according to Schedule 2. He noted that the State and Region Hluttaws play a key role in building a federal democratic system, which is the nation's goal. He also



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi receives the observer team led by the Chin State Hluttaw Speaker.

mentioned the role of Hluttaw, enactment of Myanmar Parliamentary Law and formation of Myanmar Parliamentary Union (MPU).

He stated the broadcasting activities of Hluttaws on website and social media, invitation to people to study the Hluttaw, and

added that the Hluttaws are members of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). To enhance cooperation with international parliaments, joint committees for AIPA and IPU affairs have been formed.

The Chin State Hluttaw Speaker reported on Hluttaw meetings and ongoing activities.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office were also present on the occasion. — MNA/KTZH

Chin State Chief Minister discusses rehabilitation activities

CHIN State Chief Minister Dr Wong Hsun Thang presided over a coordination meeting on rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in Chin State yesterday.

After the remarks of the chief minister, Deputy Minister for Construction

U Myo Myint clarified the return of civil servants and people in Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang townships, reopening of schools, offices and municipal markets, distribution of water, electrification and discussions of government staff, town elders and religious lead-



A coordination meeting on rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in Chin State is in progress.

The participants also reported on the formation of the rehabilitation and reconstruction committee and the duties of the committee. — District IPRD/KTZH

Aerial seeding conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Shan State

WITH the cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Tatmadaw aircraft dropped seed balls in the forest reserve areas of Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw and Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State yesterday.

A total of 100,000 seed balls of four types of trees, such as Flea, Albizia procera, Delonix regia and Senna siamea, were sprinkled by flight in the Hlwabon forest reserve block 15 (200 acres) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Similarly, 200,000 seed balls of three types of trees, such as Flea, Delonix regia, Senna siamea and Acacia auriculiformis, were sprinkled by aircraft in the Inlay Lake watershed area in Shan State.

Aerial seeding is a fast and cost-effective way to plant crops, enabling the cultivation of large areas with a small workforce, ensuring the possibility of using aircraft in mountainous and far-flung areas and covering vast areas within a short period of time.

The survey on the survival of plants from aerial seeding will be conducted in December 2026. — MNA/KTZH



Bags of seed balls are seen being loaded onboard the Tatmadaw aircraft.

NATIONAL

Ministries, organizations ease age limit in recruitment of graduate youths for relevant positions

CHAIRMAN of the Union Civil Service Board U Tin Maung Win responded to the discussions of Hluttaw representatives at the 13th-day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the Hluttaw session, six Amyotha Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion tabled by U Yan Naing Oo from the Yangon Region Constituency 9, urging the government to relax the requirements governing the recruitment of graduates from universities across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by Union ministries, including the prescribed eligibility criteria and the application process for government employment for the future of the State and youth.

UCSB Chairman U Tin Maung Win responded that, about the confir-



The 13th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

mation of a civil servant in an established position, Rule (d) of the Civil Service Rules stipulates only that “a civil servant must have attained the age of 18 years,” thereby prescribing only the minimum age for initial appointment as a civil servant, and does not provide for any other age restrictions.

In recruiting new civil servants, the respective ministries and organizations determine educational qualifications, age limits, and other requirements based on their operational needs and the nature of the work. These criteria are formulated after taking into consideration the specific post to be filled, the



UCSB Chair U Tin Maung Win.

nature of the duties, and the requirements of the position. The prescribed educational qualifications, age limits, and other requirements are then included in vacancy announcements, which are published transparently in State-owned newspapers at least one month in advance.

In the past, UCSB conducted recruitment for entry-level gazetted officer positions twice a year by inviting applications once every six months and carrying out the selection process accordingly. Beginning with the 2026-2027 financial year, however, recruitment advertisements will be issued once every four months, increasing the number of recruitment rounds to as many as three per year.

For the appointment of external applicants to entry-level gazetted officer

positions, UCSB conducts competitive recruitment in accordance with the Civil Service Law and the Civil Service Rules. The selection process includes a written examination, psychological assessment, and interview, after which qualified candidates are selected and appointed by the relevant ministries and organizations.

The ministries and organizations have also included in their recruitment announcements that individuals who have duly completed their public military service and obtained Form (12) are eligible to apply, provided they meet the prescribed requirements. The announcements also show that the maximum age limit for applicants has been increased by three years above the standard recruitment age limit.

SEE PAGE 6

CBM Governor leads Myanmar delegation to Russian financial conference

THE governor of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar met at the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 29 June to discuss issues related to banking cooperation between Myanmar and Russia and improving the performance of the staff of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation also met officials from Sber Bank in Moscow to detail the bank's latest services, including advanced cybersecurity, anti-fraud tech, and its card-free “Smile Pay” biometric system.

Additionally, the delegation led by the Governor of the Central Bank of My-



The two governors of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and the Central Bank of Myanmar meet in Moscow on 29 June 2026.

anmar attended the Monetary Conference organized by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in Saint Petersburg from 1 to 3 July with discussing of the development of new technologies in the international financial market, the use of digital platforms based on the Russian Ruble

in the financial market, the need for stricter supervision by banking regulators with the introduction of cryptocurrencies, and macroeconomic stability policies.

Afterwards, the Governor of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation hosted the exchange of

views with the Governors of the Central Banks attending the Financial Conference.

The Financial Conference was attended by almost 11,000 representatives from 18 countries, including the Governors, deputy governors and heads of financial institutions from the Central Banks of Indonesia, Belarus, India, Egypt, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Nicaragua.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nicaragua and the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar met separately to discuss banking cooperation between Myanmar and Nicaragua. The delegation led by the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar returned to Myanmar on 5 July. — MNA/MKKS

Four Regions Tapped...

FROM PAGE 1

THE project also includes providing systematic support to farmers within the designated zone, from cultivation methods to post-harvest technology, supervising the use of fertilizers and pesticides to ensure they meet international standards and creating a strong integrated chain linking farmers, millers, and exporters to enable direct export of the rice harvested from the zone.

The Rice Export Zone programme is expected to become a key strategic project for quality improvement, export promotion, and increased income for farmers. — TWA/KK

MRCS provides K189M ...

FROM PAGE 1

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) provided K189 million in assistance to 180 households in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, with each household receiving K1.05 million.

The assistance forms part of the MRCS's ongoing rehabilitation programme for communities affected by the severe earthquake.

The distribution followed comprehensive community surveys and systematic needs assessments to ensure the assistance reached those most in need. — ASH/MKKS

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement 48/2026

7th Waning of First Waso 1388 ME
6 July 2026

Replacement of Defence Services Personnel Representative to Region or State Hluttaw

The multiparty democracy general election was held in phases, starting from 28 December 2025. As the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has

informed that the nomination of a Defence Services Personnel Representative to Region or State Hluttaw would be changed under Section 33 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law, the Union Election Commission has replaced the individual listed in the Announcement 35/2026 of the commission dated 11 February 2026 with a Defence Services Personnel Representative to the Region or State Hluttaw as follows: -

Kachin State Hluttaw
BC 27351
Colonel Kyaw Thura

replaced with
BC 30907 Colonel Soe Yan Naung
Sd/ Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Peace Committee Holds Fresh Talks with KNU/KNLA Peace Council

THE National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) held peace talks with the KNU/KNLA Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday as part of the government's renewed efforts to advance the peace process through dialogue.

The meeting followed the government's 21 April 2026 invitation for unconditional peace talks aimed at ending armed conflict and resolving political issues through political means to promote national stability and development.

The discussions were attended by the NSPNC, led by Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing and members, while the KNU/KNLA Peace Council delegation was headed by Vice-Chair Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo and included Secretary-1 Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Central Executive Committee Members Saw Aung Kaung Shwe and Saw Aw Bar, and Economic Department head Saw David.

Opening the meeting, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae described the KNU/KNLA Peace Council as a long-



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the KNU/KNLA Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) meet yesterday.

standing partner in the peace process and called for continued cooperation to maintain regional stability, improve transport links, facilitate trade, and support regional development through open and constructive discussions.

Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo welcomed the government's invitation, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to continue the peace process. He said lasting peace could be achieved through sincerity and cooperation, while highlighting the need for greater support in education, healthcare and regional development.

Both sides discussed continued implementation of the Nationwide

Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), preventing renewed clashes, strengthening regional stability, improving transportation and trade, and expanding government support for public services. The KNU/KNLA Peace Council also requested assistance for schools in the Htawkkokoe area, including textbooks and teaching materials, as well as clean water systems, malaria prevention and treatment, influenza vaccines, tuberculosis medicines and other healthcare supplies.

Lt-Gen Min Naing reaffirmed the government's commitment to reducing conflict and advancing peace through dialogue. He said the government

would continue engaging with NCA signatories, groups that have departed from the NCA process, and non-signatory ethnic armed organizations. He also stressed the importance of preventing local conflicts by ensuring effective control over subordinate forces and using bilateral talks to identify practical solutions for peace.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both sides signed a record of their discussions, reaffirming their shared commitments. The event ended with closing remarks from Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, followed by an exchange of commemorative gifts. — MNA/ST

Kunhing commemorates World Rural Development Day

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held a rainy season tree-growing ceremony yesterday along the village production road at Kengli Village in Kunhing Township to commemorate World Rural Development Day.

Kunhing Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw Hein explained that the tree-planting campaign was organized to promote a greener environment and contribute to a more balanced climate. He also encouraged local communities to participate in tree-growing activities and presented saplings to the village administrator for distribution.

Afterwards, the chairperson and members of the Township Administration and Management Committee, the Shan State Hluttaw Representative, the township DRD head and staff, departmental officials, and villagers jointly planted 80 shade trees along both sides of the village production road. The trees comprised 30.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Township Administration and Management Committee, the Shan State Hluttaw representative, township DRD officials and staff, representatives from departmental organizations, the village administrator, and residents. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



The rainy season tree-planting activities are in progress yesterday in Kunhing Township.

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

NATIONAL

Ministries, organizations ...

FROM PAGE 4

In addition, the relevant ministries and organizations have, from time to time, set varying upper age limits of 30, 35, 38, and 40 years when recruiting personnel each year, depending on recruitment needs.

According to the age limits stated in recruitment announcements, ministries and organizations have, in consideration of improving employment opportunities for young people following the COVID-19 pandemic, been easing age restrictions when selecting and appointing external candidates as new

staff.

As a result, even if some of the graduate and educated young people proposed by Hluttaw representatives have exceeded the age limit by around one or two years due to various circumstances such as regional conditions or pandemic-related restrictions, the existing policy already broadly accommodates such cases.

In this regard, the principle of relaxing age limits for the recruitment of graduate-level educated youth has been applied with a view to the long-term interests of both the State and young people.

Youth with disabilities who hold degrees are entitled to the same opportunities as other young applicants to take written examinations for vacant posts. If they pass the written examination, they are further entitled to psychological assessments and interviews on an equal basis with other candidates.

Persons with disabilities who hold degrees may be appointed as civil servants if they meet the prescribed qualifications based on the nature of the duties of the respective vacant posts announced by the relevant ministries and

organizations, and if they are selected by the competent selection committee.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw replied to the queries raised by U Khin Maung Myint from the Shan State Constituency 7, stating that to reduce and alleviate flooding in the rainy season in Ward Uttantar Wards 1 and 2 and Zawgyi Ward in Yaksawk Township, three necessary works have been identified for implementation. These projects will be submitted for inclusion in the 2027-2028 FY State budget, and implementation will be carried out according to priority based on the availability of funds. If technical requirements arise, coordination will be

made in consultation with the Ministry of Transport's comments and relevant approvals.

U Yan Naing Win from the Ayeyawady Region Constituency 1 asked about the plan to upgrade the earthen Wetla-Setkwin-Athoke road to a gravel or asphalt/concrete one in Yekyi Township. Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant replied that the two miles and four furlongs section out of a five-mile-long earthen road will be paved with gravel from Wetla Village to the Pathein-Monywa road junction in 2027-28 FY with the Ayeyawady Region government fund.

The Union minister also answered the question of the same representative,

stating that the seven miles and five furlongs long section of the over 18 miles long Kyonpyaw-Kyaunggon-Myaungmya-Labutta road will be improved in the 2027-28 FY with the financial allocation of the regional government.

He also replied to the question of the same representative, saying that it is necessary to upgrade a three miles long gravel section and six miles and six furlongs long hard road section on the Thauggyi-Daikpyet road in Kyonpyaw Township in Ayeyawady Region with the funds of the regional government.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue the 14th-day session on 8 July. — MNA/TTA

Consultation on rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Chin State



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint leads the coordination meeting on rehabilitation and reconstruction in Chin State.

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint and members from the rehabilitation and reconstruction committee in Chin State inspected the condition of the Falam-Haka Road on 4 July with instructions to conduct necessary repairs and maintenance of the damaged roads and bridges to ensure smooth transport, to strictly monitor and prevent landslides during the rainy season, as well as to complete the projects on time.

The deputy minister then attended a consultation meeting on rehabilitation and reconstruction work in Chin State at the meeting room of the Chin State Government Office and explained the arrangements to repair the damaged public hospitals, basic education schools, departmental office buildings, furniture, equipment and public buildings in Tiddim, Tonzang and Falam townships according to the type of damage, residents and departmental staff receiving the relief assistances from the State and the State, District, and Township-level rehabilitation and reconstruction committees are supervising the work in their respective sectors.

The deputy minister coordinated the attendees' reports on rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and stressed the urgent implementation of these projects. The religious leaders, township leaders, and departmental officials should consistently collaborate for regional stability and development because regional stability is crucial for regional development. — MNA/MKKS

Frontline Tatmadaw members welcomed back

A ceremony to warmly welcome back the triumphant frontline Tatmadaw members who courageously served their duties was held at the local battalion in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Tin Min Latt, relevant officials, artistes, Myanmar Police Force members, war veterans' or-



Triumphant Tatmadaw troops are pictured receiving warm welcome home.

ganization members, locals and students welcomed back returning soldiers with heartfelt enthusiasm.

The commander and officials welcomed back the victorious Tatmadaw members with sprigs of Eugenia and presented the cash prizes to the returnees. The event included traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/KTZH

Tangyan celebrates World Rural Development Day

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held a rainy season tree-growing ceremony yesterday at Namhulweka Village in Tangyan Township to commemorate World Rural Development Day.

Tangyan District Department of Rural Development Head U Tin Aung Lwin explained that the tree-planting campaign was organized to promote

environmental conservation, create a greener landscape, and help maintain a balanced climate. He also encouraged residents to actively participate in the campaign and presented the saplings to the village administrator for distribution.

Following the ceremony, the district DRD head, and officials, and local villagers jointly planted 200 Tabauing flowery tree saplings at designated locations



The rainy season tree-growing event takes place in northern Shan State.

throughout Namhulweka Village. The ceremony was attended by the district DRD head, the

township DRD head and staff, the village administrator, and local residents. — Karan (Rural)

MFVP Hooks Local & Global Partners to Boost Farming

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) has been working together with domestic and international organizations for the development of the agricultural sector.

MRF discussed with the Mekong Institute. The federation also met with the Regional Consultant of the Stocktaking Study on Bio-Circular Agrifood Systems in the GMS and ASEAN in June, discussing post-harvest losses encountered during the harvesting, handling, and marketing of various crops in Myanmar, the potential for recycling agricultural waste into organic inputs, and the implementation of the Bio-Circular Economy system.

They particularly discussed how the direct participation of smallholder farmers could lead to a more sustainable agricultural system and opportunities for the fruit association to collaborate in upcoming regional projects.

The MFVP attended the Mekong CREATES Agrifood Systems Forum 2026 on 5 June 2026, jointly organized by the Mekong Institute (MI), Myanmar Innovative Life Sciences (MILS), and the SUN Business Network Myanmar, held at the Zealax Hotel Yangon. Participants were able to exchange experiences, recommendations, and practical solutions related to food safety. The

forum aimed to strengthen collaborative efforts for building a safe and secure Agrifood system in Myanmar. The forum announced Myanmar Agri-Food Week (MAW), which is scheduled to take place on 12-16 October 2026, followed by Food Forum 2026 involving all stakeholders on 16 October to celebrate World Food Day.

Furthermore, the association attended the Strategic Collaboration Framework Drafting Meeting at Wyndham Hotel Yangon on 16 June. This meeting was part of a project aimed at developing resilient local market systems to ensure food and nutrition security and increased income for local farmers, food producers, and communities.

The MFVP also attended the launch event for the World Bank's Myanmar Economic Monitor (MEM) Report 2026, hosted by the World Bank Myanmar, held at the UMFCCI 1st Floor, Mingala Hall on 17 June.

The MFVP has been endeavouring to improve trade routes and systematically produce and export high-quality safe fruits and vegetables. The association warmly invites domestic and international partners who are interested in working together to elevate Myanmar's agricultural sector to a higher standard.

Interested domestic and international organizations and entrepreneurs can contact the MFVP via 01 218367 and 09 43127656. — NN/KK

Bago Region expands fish farming industry

FROM PAGE 1

The open fishery showed annual increases, producing 133,964.03 visses in 2021-2022, 134,972 visses in 2022-2023,

137,040.008 visses in 2023-2024, 138,265.62 visses in 2024-2025, and 138,957 visses in 2025-2026. Altogether, the three fisheries sectors produced a total

of 1,474,850.531 visses of aquatic products between February 2021 and March 2026.

“Bago Region has sufficient aquatic products, and the surplus is being supplied to Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. It is encouraging to see freshwater production increasing every year. At present, the region has dried fish processing, fish paste production, powdered fish paste production, ready-to-eat fish paste processing, pounded fish paste production, and dried snakehead fish processing. As there is no value-added fish processing factory yet, we are working, with the support of the regional government, to establish cold storage facilities and develop value-added fish

products,” said U Tun Tun Naing, Chairman of the Bago Region Fisheries Federation.

In Bago Region, a variety of fish are harvested from natural water from September through the end of March each year. The fish, together with farmed fish, are supplied to Shwe Padauk Fish Market and Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish Market in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon, and to markets in Nay Pyi Taw. The eel fillets are also exported to China.

The region possesses over 30,000 acres of fish farming ponds, and makes efforts to increase the marine products production year by year to generate huge foreign incomes. — Thitsa (MNA)/KTZH



Fishers are seen sorting out the fish.

5,700+ rice storage facilities registered with MyRO within 3 years

A total of 5,792 warehouse facilities for rice storage have been registered on the online registration platform – Myanmar Rice Online (MyRO) within three years, from 3 No-

vember 2023 to 30 June 2026, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce

and the federation jointly launched MyRO on 3 November 2023 to regulate rice warehouse storage practices and systematically register rice stocks, warehousing operations

and storage facilities across the country.

There are four categories in registration depending on the size of rice storage facilities. — NN/KK

CBM sells over US\$35M in June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over US\$35 million, purchased from CMP companies, into the foreign exchange market in June.

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

million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in the foreign exchange market in February and over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market to regulate currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the

currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 6 July 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,648.00~3,669.00	557.00~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	15,288,602.06	1,119,728.20	2,349,674.00	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, consumer goods, fertilizers, telecommunications equipment, industrial raw materials, and electronic goods. The CMP sector revenue contributed US\$1.44 million to the edible oil sector and US\$0.01 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

OPINION

Establish Myanmar and Laos relations as strategic partner countries

MYANMAR and Laos are trusted neighbouring countries and good friends. The two countries have always maintained their long-standing friendly relations and will continue to preserve these traditionally close ties in the future.

During the State Visit, President U Min Aung Hlaing and the President of Laos held discussions at the Lao Presidential Palace, during which they openly exchanged views on enhancing cooperation between the two parliaments, promoting bilateral trade, facilitating commerce and the flow of goods, and strengthening people-to-people

contacts between the two countries. They also discussed the development of cooperation in the defence, tourism, manufacturing, education, health, electricity and energy sectors, as well as improving the livelihoods of people in border areas and maintaining peace and stability along the border. In addition, they exchanged views on the eradication of online gambling activities, among other matters.

Myanmar and Lao PDR are neighbouring countries and also countries that joined ASEAN at the same time. At a time when some ASEAN member states are attempting to exert political pressure and coercion on Myanmar, Laos has consistently supported Myanmar as a neighbouring friendly ASEAN member state.

Myanmar and Lao PDR will establish relations as strategic partner countries, and in the future, cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened beyond the current level. Following the meeting between the leaders of the two countries, officials exchanged and signed Memoranda of Understanding on

tourism cooperation between Myanmar and Laos, as well as on establishing sister-city relations between Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar, and Vientiane, the capital of Laos, in the presence of the two Presidents.

Myanmar and Lao PDR have maintained diplomatic relations for more than 70 years. In reality, the two countries have enjoyed friendly and cordial relations since ancient times. As neighbouring countries, the peoples of both sides are closely connected and share a strong sense of friendship without distinction. Efforts have been consistently made to strengthen bilateral relations, and they continue to maintain firm ties with unchanged goodwill to this day. Both countries have held elections and formed new governments around the same period. Therefore, new areas of cooperation between the two new governments can now be further expanded and developed.

The State Visit of the President of Myanmar to the Lao PDR will further enhance and strengthen existing bilateral relations. It will open a new chapter in friendship and cooperation between the two countries, enabling them to further expand and improve their relations across various sectors.

A National Responsibility for Myanmar's Future

By Junior Thin

IN EVERY corner of the world, governments are facing a common enemy that threatens not only public health but also national security, social stability, and economic development. That enemy is the illegal drug trade. From opium cultivation in remote mountains to sophisticated international trafficking networks, drug-related crimes continue to challenge nations across the globe. For Myanmar, the fight against drugs is more than a law-enforcement issue; it is a national responsibility that requires the collective effort of the government, security forces, communities, and citizens.

The dangers posed by drugs are enormous. They destroy lives, weaken families, fuel criminal activities, and threaten the future of young generations. Drug addiction can turn productive citizens into victims of dependency, while drug trafficking generates enormous profits for criminal organizations and armed groups. These profits are often used to finance illegal activities, purchase weapons, and destabilize communities. Consequently, the battle against drugs has become one of the most important challenges facing modern societies.

Myanmar's struggle against drugs is particularly complex because of its geographical and historical circumstances. The

country's mountainous terrain and extensive border regions make law enforcement difficult. For decades, some remote areas have been associated with opium cultivation and drug production. Myanmar's location, bordering countries that serve as transit routes or sources of precursor chemicals, further complicates efforts to eliminate drug-related activities.

Another major challenge lies in the instability that exists in some border regions. Areas affected by armed conflicts often become vulnerable to illegal economic activities, including drug production and trafficking. Criminal networks frequently exploit weak governance and difficult terrain to establish drug laboratories and transport routes. These conditions create an environment where illegal drug businesses can survive and expand despite ongoing efforts to suppress them.

The political changes that occurred in Myanmar in 2021 added another layer of complexity to the anti-drug campaign. As security challenges increased in certain areas, illegal activities such as online scams, online gambling operations, and drug trafficking also expanded. In many cases, these criminal activities became interconnected, forming networks that generated significant profits through various illegal means. Such de-

velopments not only affected Myanmar's internal security but also damaged the country's international reputation.

Drug trafficking is no longer limited to traditional smuggling methods. Modern technology has transformed the way criminal organizations operate. Sophisticated communication systems, encrypted messaging applications, digital payment methods, and online financial transactions have made it easier for criminal groups to coordinate their activities across borders. As technology advances, law enforcement agencies must also adapt and develop new strategies to keep pace with increasingly sophisticated criminal operations.

One of the most concerning aspects of the drug problem is its impact on young people. In some areas, drugs have become more accessible than ever before. Young individuals who experiment with drugs often become trapped in cycles of addiction that affect their education, health, employment opportunities, and family relationships. A nation's future depends on its youth, and when young people fall victim to drug abuse, the entire society suffers the consequences.

Drug addiction also places a heavy burden on healthcare systems and social services. Families frequently experience

emotional distress, financial hardship, and social stigma when a member becomes addicted to drugs. Communities

forces conduct aerial surveillance, intelligence gathering, and ground operations to identify drug production sites and

alone cannot solve the problem. Experience from around the world shows that sustainable success requires a compre-

International cooperation is equally important. Drug trafficking networks operate across national boundaries, making it impossible for any country to address the problem alone. Information sharing, joint law-enforcement operations, border security cooperation, and efforts to control the movement of precursor chemicals are critical components of an effective anti-drug strategy. By working closely with neighbouring countries and international organizations, Myanmar can strengthen its ability to combat transnational criminal networks.

Public awareness also plays a crucial role in preventing drug abuse. Schools, universities, community organizations, religious institutions, and media outlets all have a responsibility to educate people about the dangers of drugs. Prevention programmes that focus on young people can help reduce demand and discourage experimentation. The more informed citizens become, the more resilient society will be against the influence of drug traffickers and criminal organizations.

Moreover, communities themselves must become active participants in the fight against drugs. Citizens who report suspicious activities, support rehabilitation programmes, and encourage healthy lifestyles

contribute significantly to national efforts. Drug eradication cannot be achieved solely through government action; it requires the involvement of every responsible member of society.

Looking ahead, the fight against drugs will remain a long-term challenge. Criminal organizations constantly adapt their methods, seek new markets, and exploit emerging technologies. Nevertheless, determination, cooperation, and sustained commitment can gradually reduce the influence of the drug trade. Success will require balancing enforcement, prevention, rehabilitation, economic development, and international collaboration.

Ultimately, the battle against drugs is a battle for Myanmar's future. It is a struggle to protect young people, preserve social stability, strengthen national security, and promote sustainable development. Every kilogram of drugs seized, every trafficking network dismantled, and every young person saved from addiction represents a step toward a safer and more prosperous nation.

For these reasons, drug eradication must continue to be viewed not merely as a government policy but as a national cause. By uniting the efforts of the government, security forces, civil society, local communities, and ordinary citizens, Myanmar can move closer to the goal of eliminating the drug threat and building a brighter future for generations to come.

affected by widespread drug abuse may experience higher crime rates, reduced productivity, and declining social cohesion. Therefore, combating drugs is not merely a matter of arresting traffickers; it is also about protecting families and preserving the social fabric of the nation.

Recognizing these threats, Myanmar's authorities have continued to strengthen anti-drug operations. Security

trafficking routes. Significant seizures of narcotics, precursor chemicals, and drug-manufacturing equipment have demonstrated the government's commitment to reducing the supply of illegal substances. In recent years, several major drug-production facilities have been uncovered and dismantled, particularly in remote regions where criminal groups had established operations.

However, enforcement

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Why Not Improve Our English Vocabulary?

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

VOCABULARY is absolutely the most essential part of a sentence, though not the most essential part of a language. Sentences are composed of vocabulary usage in a language. Naturally, languages are still living, that is to say, here, new vocabulary expressions are increasing year by year due to language users' needs or wants, as always. On the other hand, there are usually found thousands of words in a dictionary that have been firmly termed in the language. Hence, as a language user, he or she should be improving their language vocabulary from day to day in one way or the other.

The potential ways to improve our English vocabulary will be described herein, one after the other.

(1) Write it down. We should note down new words and phrases to boost our memory. This ought to include translations, definitions, pronunciations or doodles. The more connections, the

better! Of course, the notebook habit greatly contributes to language learners' memory, which means that a language user who makes a note of vocabulary can learn better than those who do not by memorizing it longer than normal. In other words, taking notes of vocabulary looks like hav-

ing photographed it in the eye, figuratively.

(2) Review regularly! We should not let our vocabulary notes gather dust. We should revisit them after an hour; the next day, and a few days later to lock them into long-term memory. That is, our notebook should never be left alone for the rea-

son that sometimes there are seen least-common words, uncurrent usages or old-fashioned vocabulary in the notebook, which should no longer be used even by an average language learner. And on the other side, we have to use trending words, living usages and passive vocabulary in our notebook.

(3) Read in English. Most foreign language learners like to use books with translations in two languages for study. At that time, they unconsciously tend to pay more attention to the other language, also their mother tongue, than the tar-

get language. This is not a good sign of learning a language at all, except for bilingual learners. It is best if we read in English only while we are studying the language. For this, we can dive into English books or articles. In the main, reading immerses us in the language as well as helps us learn new words naturally within a story.

(4) Learn from context! Contextualized meaning is just the life of vocabulary in a language as regards their literal meaning and connotation. In actual fact, what words mean can be articu-

lated merely with the subject context of a passage. To be said better, the very meaning of a word only depends on the context of the subject matter or that of a sentence, not on the lone word. Consequently, we must pay attention to how words are used in sentences. Not only that, context helps us guess meanings and remember how to use new vocabulary for longer.

(5) Use it or lose it. This is a very popular saying in the field of learning English. That is true. No sooner do we get any vocabulary from anywhere than we need to

use this vocabulary in a sentence all at once. As we may all know, since a sentence is the most fundamental thing of a language, a word will certainly be in vain unless it can be used in a sentence. The word may then be forgotten when it takes too long to use it. Therefore, we should practise new words ASAP (as soon as possible) in speaking or writing. To say the least, a word should be included in the sentence orally in the mind's eye even though not written by hand. The more we use vocabulary, the easier it will stick in our memory!

NATIONAL



Aerial map tracks ongoing dismantling of cyberscam hubs.

Cyberscam hubs dismantled, with another 9-storey building destroyed

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

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

On the latest day of action, another nine-storey residential building used in online scam activities was demolished using heavy machinery. The structures were part of a list of 77 buildings identified for removal, which includes 57 to be demolished using machinery and 20 to be destroyed by explosive methods.

Officials confirmed that 69 buildings have now been demolished. The remaining eight illegal structures will continue to be dismantled in further stages. — MNA/MKKS

Fear for fisherman missing in Twantay Canal vessel smash

RESCUE teams are searching for a missing fisherman following a head-on collision between two vessels in the Twantay Canal, Twantay Township, Yangon Region, which resulted in the sinking of one of the boats. According to the Township Fire Services Department, the accident occurred near the 20-mile

marker of the canal. The incident took place after 9:30 pm on 4 July, involving a wooden-hulled vessel named “Zaw Myint Myat” and an iron-hulled rice-transporting ship. The collision caused severe damage to the “Zaw Myint Myat”, leading to its sinking.

“A wooden boat and

an iron boat collided head-on. The wooden boat sank. One fisherman from the sunken boat is missing. We have been searching since last night but have not found him yet. Currently, the strong currents are making it difficult to continue the search,” the Twantay Township Fire Services Department head said.

There was a total of 32 people on board the boat: nine male workers, nine male passengers, and 15 female passengers. While 31 individuals were successfully rescued, one fisherman remains missing.

These incidents frequently happened in the region, and most recently, on the night of 28 May, three people went missing after a boat capsized in the Yangon River. — TWA/ZN



This image captures two vessels in a head-on collision before one of them sank.

Tree-planting ceremonies mark World Rural Development Day 2026

THE Department of Rural Development (DRD) under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development organized monsoon tree-growing ceremonies yesterday.

The events were held in Helon Village, Mohnyin District, Kachin State, and Nanhlaing Smart Village in Mogaung Township to commemorate World Rural Development Day 2026, which fell on 6 July.

The main ceremony took place within the church compound in Helon Village. Kachin State Hluttaw Representative U Htet Aung, Mohnyin District DRD Head U Mya Thein Win, Township DRD Head U Htay



This image highlights one of the rainy season tree-growing ceremonies in Kachin State.

Myint, and Township Forestry Department Head U Min Ko Ko distributed the saplings to organizers and participants.

Around 300 people joined the event, including district and township-level departmental officials, the headteacher, teachers, and students from the

village’s Basic Education Primary School, local ethnic cultural troupes, the village administrator and team, members of the Mya Sein Yaung Project Committee, the Rural Economic Enhancement Project Committee, and villagers. — Chit Oo Ko (Rural)

Myanmar detains Belarusian involved in telecom fraud

MYANMAR detained a Belarusian involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State.

The relevant officials conducted personal data collection processes to deport that undocumented foreigner as quickly as possible.

Between 30 January 2025 and 6 July 2026, a total of 14,731 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 13,563 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries.

Among the remaining 1,168 individuals to



Immigration officials process the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

be deported, there are 662 who were charged under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency) Provisions Act section 3 (1)/13(1) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 506 individuals are currently under deten-

tion while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

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NATIONAL

Magway commemorates World Rural Development Day



This image captures the tree-planting ceremony in Magway Township.

IN honour of World Rural Development Day, a collective tree-planting ceremony, organized by the Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development of Magway Region, was held yesterday in Yinthazi (West) Village, Magway

Township. The ceremony was attended by Director U Kyaw Zaw Hein of the Magway Region Department of Rural Development, along with district and township officials, students, and residents. The event aimed to promote a favourable climate and ensure a

green and sustainable environment through the collective planting of numerous saplings.

The regional director stated that to celebrate World Rural Development Day, a total of 1,896 saplings, consisting of teak, ironwood, acacia, gum-kino, Yinmar, Mezali, neem, Kokko, Khayay, Thabyebutu, mango, Nguwa, Yetama, mahogany, and various shade trees suited to the local climate, were systematically grown simultaneously across all districts and townships under the supervision of the Magway Region Department of Rural Development. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

Bogale marks World Rural Development Day

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held a rainy season tree-planting ceremony yesterday at Ngwetaung Model Village in Bogale Township to commemorate World Rural Development Day.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Representative U Hla Htay and Bogale Township Administration and Management Committee Chair U Zaw Win Hlaing delivered opening remarks.

Bogale Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thin Thin Hlaing then explained that the tree-planting campaign



Officials participate in the rainy season tree-growing campaign in Bogale Township.

was organized to promote environmental conservation, create a greener landscape, and help maintain a balanced climate. She encouraged locals to take part in the activity and presented the saplings to the village administrator for distribution.

Following the ceremony, the regional Hlut-

taw representative, the chairperson of the Township Administration and Management Committee, the township DRD head and staff, departmental officials, and residents jointly planted 200 shade trees at designated locations in Ngwetaung Model Village. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Applications open for Women in Construction Programme by Doh Eain

APPLICATIONS have been open for the second batch of the Women in Construction programme by Doh Eain, aiming to encourage more women to pursue careers in the construction sector.

Some gender norms still pose barriers for women in some areas, and to break these barriers, Doh Eain will start the Women in Construction programme for the second batch, and interested women can apply.

To encourage women's skilled labour force in the construction sector, the programme will cover practical lessons on masonry, wiring and plumbing, as well as life-skill lessons on financial management, media and digital knowledge

It also includes a one-month



This image displays an advert for the Women in Construction Programme.

internship and consultation by construction experts for employment opportunities after the programme ends.

The duration is four months – the first month for basic construction techniques, two months for ad-

vanced construction techniques and another month for an internship. Women aged between 18 and 40 are eligible to join and can send an application to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1woEwFx2XvaSIVO8tLw-Cz1R7Mcb4o28ES8gRXtDGZOng/viewform>, and the closing date is 26 July.

The interview will be called after the application process, and health insurance and monthly financial support will be provided for all women who participate in the programme. For more details, enquiries are welcome by contacting the following Viber channel invite.viber.com/?g2=AQBOV0jACfA%2F%2F1azrdurmwsTRyX8Fk92JlaphjqfXOqCBuURpmRLFi5xp7N0Yrvs or 09 969129895. — MT/ZS

Myanmar students in ROK eligible for 2026 ASEAN-Korea Youth Camp

ACCORDING to an announcement from the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Seoul, ASEAN and Korean students currently residing in South Korea are eligible to apply for the "2026 ASEAN-Korea Youth Camp (YCAFE)" in August, hosted by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It will take place from 3 to 14 August, hosting a total of 50 undergraduate and post-graduate students from South Korea and ASEAN member nations.

Interested students can apply online no later than Tuesday, 14 July. Those who have passed the initial screening stages will be announced on 17 July, followed by interviews from 21 to 22 July and the final list announcement on 24 July.

For those selected to participate, the Korean government will cover



The 2025 Youth Camp for ASEAN & Friends' Engagement.

expenses for food, accommodation, and travel. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will award special prizes to outstanding teams, and participants will receive a certificate of completion, along with commemorative gifts.

The YCAFE is an international youth exchange programme to foster participation among ASEAN members and their partners. It aims to bring together university students from South Korea and ASEAN countries, and the theme for YCAFE 2026 is "ASEAN, Designing the Future with K-AI". — TWA/ZN

Depression News No 3, 2026

Issued at 12 pm MST on 6 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 10:30 am MST today, the Depression over North Odisha (India) has moved northwestwards and reached over South Jharkhand and adjoining Odisha interior. It is likely continue to move northwestwards and may cross interior regions of India.

This is the updated news for the Depression. — DMH

ECONOMY WORLD

US stocks rise after holiday weekend, boosted by tech

WALL Street's major indexes were mostly higher early Monday after the Independence Day holiday, with tech stocks picking up.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 0.8 per cent to 26,038.77 shortly after markets opened, while the broad-based S&P 500 added 0.4 per cent to 7,516.48.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 0.2 per cent to 53,004.00.

Patrick O'Hare of

Briefing.com noted that there was not "a specific news catalyst accounting for the return to the semiconductor stocks".

He suggested this was due to investors seeking to cash in on lower prices recently.

"The fact that oil prices remain under wraps and that interest rates are behaving themselves coming out of the holiday weekend is helping the market start on the right foot this week,"

he added.

Oil prices have cooled amid optimism over US-Iran peace talks, and while markets assess reports that traffic through the key Strait of Hormuz is improving.

Senior market analyst David Morrison of Trade Nation added in a note that investors had been taking "some risk off the table" after a strong performance throughout April, May and June.



US President Donald Trump rings the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange on 6 July 2026 from the Oval Office in celebration of the first day of trading of Trump accounts. **PHOTO: AFP**

"But rather than cashing out of equities altogether, traders still seem keen to stay fully invested," he

said.

"This has helped to broaden out the ongoing rally, as there's now less

concentration in AI-related tech, as funds are more widely dispersed, to an extent," he said. — AFP

German factory orders unexpectedly rebound in May

GERMAN industrial orders unexpectedly rebounded in May, official data showed Monday, but the government warned of continued headwinds due to "geopolitical uncertainty" from the Middle East war.

New orders, a key in-

dicator of future business activity, rose 1.9 per cent in Europe's top economy from a month earlier, according to preliminary figures from statistics agency Destatis.

This was better than a one-per-cent fall predicted by analysts

surveyed by financial data firm FactSet, and followed a sharp drop in April.

"Incoming orders in the manufacturing sector appear to have resumed the upward trend that began in the second half of 2025," said the economy

ministry in a statement.

But it also warned that "developments remain highly volatile," adding that "geopolitical uncertainty remains elevated until peace negotiations between the United States and Iran are finally concluded". — AFP

Nepal's sluggish economic growth continues in Q3

NEPAL'S prolonged sluggish economic growth is projected to have continued in the third quarter of the current financial year 2025-26, with the country's statistics body estimating growth at 3.51 per cent for the quarter.

The projected growth is lower than the 4.05 per cent recorded during the same quarter of the previous financial year 2024-25,

the National Statistics Office (NSO) said on Monday.

According to the preliminary estimates, 16 of the country's 18 economic sectors are expected to have recorded positive growth during the review period. Public administration and defence, and manufacturing were the only two sectors projected to register negative growth. — Xinhua

Maersk says resuming transit through Suez Canal

DANISH shipping giant Maersk said Monday it had resumed transits through the Suez Canal for the first time since the start of attacks by Houthi rebels in the zone three years ago.

"Maersk and (German shipping firm) Hapag-Lloyd have announced a structural change to one of the Gemini services, the AE15 service: it will now take the Trans-Suez route instead of sailing around the Cape of Good Hope," Maersk said in a statement.

Gemini is the name of the partnership between Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd while the AE15 service connects Asia, the Mediterranean and



A cargo ship carrying containers from the Danish company Maersk sails into the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal in Panama City on 21 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Europe.

The decision to avoid the Red Sea, the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the Suez Canal dated back to 19 November 2023, when Iran-aligned Houthi militia launched a first attack from the Yemeni coast on container traffic.

Ships have since been circumnavigating Africa by tacking to its eastern coastline off the Cape of Good Hope, to the south of South Africa, before heading northwards towards Europe and the Mediterranean.

"This joint deci-

sion with Hapag-Lloyd comes following thorough assessments of the security situation in the Red Sea area, and marks a step towards a gradual return to the trans-Suez corridor," Maersk said, adding the move would permit faster transit times.

The move is nonetheless contingent upon security in the region, and the operators have contingency plans drawn up should the situation deteriorate.

Experts calculate 70 per cent of the freight traffic that passed through the Red Sea in 2023 is currently being diverted via the Cape of Good Hope. — AFP

Indonesia records US\$107M in MSME transactions via online business matching in Jan-Apr

INDONESIA recorded around US\$107.34 million in transaction value through an online business matching programme for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) during the January-April period this year, the Ministry of Trade said.

The ministry has been using digital platforms as a strategy to expand global market access for MSMEs without relying solely on costly conventional pro-

motional activities, said Ari Satria, an official with the ministry.

The programme is supported by a network of 46 Indonesian trade representatives in 33 countries, which serve as facilitators between local businesses and international buyers.

Last year, the ministry organized 662 online pitching and business matching events, generating nearly \$135 million in realized and potential export transactions. — Xinhua

Foreign investment into Vietnam surges 61% in H1

VIETNAM secured US\$34.65 billion in foreign investment commitments in the first half of 2026, a year-on-year jump of 61 per cent, the Vietnam News Agency reported Monday, citing the National Statistics Office (NSO).

During the January-June period, newly registered capital reached US\$17.39 billion across 2,013 projects, up 87.2 per cent in value from a year earlier. Singapore was the largest source of new investment, with more than US\$7.3 billion, according to the report.

Additional investment in 541 existing projects reached US\$11.04 billion, while capital contributions and share acquisitions totalled US\$6.22 billion.

Manufacturing and processing remained the biggest recipient of foreign capital, attracting US\$17.91 billion, ahead of the real estate sector with US\$5.1 billion.

A total of US\$13.03 billion in foreign investment was disbursed during the period, the highest first-half level recorded over the past five years, the NSO said. — Xinhua

OPEC+ to raise oil production cap by 188,000 bpd in Aug



Regular gasoline and diesel prices are displayed at a gas station in Toronto, Canada, 19 May 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

OPEC+ countries agreed on Sunday to raise the oil production cap in August by 188,000 barrels per day (bpd) from July levels, according to a statement

published after a virtual meeting of OPEC+.

The decision was announced following the meeting attended by Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman, which reviewed global market conditions and outlook.

In their collective commitment to supporting oil market stability, the seven participating countries decided to implement a production adjustment of 188,000 barrels per day from the additional voluntary adjustments announced in

April 2023, the statement said, adding that the adjustment will be implemented in August.

The voluntary production cuts of 1.65 million bpd were first announced in April 2023 and were later extended through the end of 2026.

The decision made on Sunday marks the fifth consecutive month for the OPEC+ to ramp up its production, in spite of the exit of the United Arab Emirates from the OPEC and the wider OPEC+ alliance on 1 May. — Xinhua

Thailand's headline inflation up 2.42% in June

THAILAND'S headline inflation continued to increase in June as domestic fuel costs remained elevated, resulting in higher transport fares and prepared food prices, driven by the Middle East conflict, official data showed on Monday.

The South-East Asian country's consumer price index (CPI) rose 2.42 per cent last month compared to a year earlier, easing further from a 2.79 per cent gain in May, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

June marked the third successive month of inflation growth, with the readings staying within



Customers buy fresh produce at a vegetable market in Bangkok on 5 June 2026. PHOTO: AFP

the central bank's target range of one per cent to three per cent.

Core CPI, which excludes volatile fresh food and energy prices, climbed 1.23 per cent year on year in June, accelerating from

a 0.92 per cent rise in the previous month and marking the strongest growth since June 2023.

For the first half of 2026, the headline CPI expanded 1.08 per cent compared to the same period

last year. Looking ahead, the ministry expects headline inflation to continue its uptrend through the third quarter as broadly rising costs for prepared food suggest a permanently higher cost of living, despite some falling production expenses.

Additionally, key fresh vegetable prices are projected to exceed last year's levels due to a low base and risks from the El Nino weather pattern, the ministry said in a statement. The ministry retained its headline CPI projection to rise between 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent this year. — Xinhua

German consumer confidence edges up in July

GERMAN consumer confidence improved in July, with the HDE Consumer Barometer rising 1.4 points from the previous month to 94.77, according to survey results released on Monday. The survey, conducted by the Handelsblatt Research Institute between 18 and 21 June among around 1,600 German households, showed that consumers' expectations for the economy and their own incomes improved markedly as concerns over the conflict between Israel and Iran eased.

The Bundesbank said in its June monthly report that the conflict had disrupted the German economy, with higher energy prices fuelling inflation and eroding households' purchasing power. In the same report, the Bundesbank forecast Germany's economy would grow by 0.5 per cent this year. — Xinhua

Russia-India trade set to hit record \$70B in 2026

THE volume of trade between Russia and India will reach \$70 billion in 2026, Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar said on Monday.

"The trade dynamics and trends that we have seen in the last two to three months indicate that we will reach almost \$70 billion in 2026," Kumar told reporters at the Innoprom-2026 international industrial exhibition.

By 2030, trade between Moscow and Delhi is projected to increase to \$100 billion, the ambassador added. The key sectors of trade cooperation between the two countries are critical minerals and metals, high technologies, agriculture, and the space sector, he said. — SPUTNIK

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CANO VOY.NO. (124)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CANO VOY. NO. (124)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **IBTT** 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: **2301928**

**Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MUTUAL DIVORCE AGREEMENT

U Salai Tun Lin Aung, son of U Salaj Sein (NRC No. 8/Ma Ka Na (Naing)006624), and Daw Mai Yu Za Na Khin Kyaw, daughter of U Salai Aung Kyaw Moe (NRC No.8/Ta Ta Ka (Naing) 135590), mutually entered into and executed a mutual divorce agreement before witnesses on 29 December 2025, and mutually dissolved our marriage with effect from the said date.

From the said date onwards, we shall live separately and shall each be solely responsible for our respective personal affairs, social affairs, business affairs and financial affairs. Neither of us shall interfere in the personal affairs, social affairs, business affairs or financial affairs of the other. This notice is published for the information of the general public.

Under the instructions of U Salai Tun Lin Aung,

Daw Ni Ni Khin
(P.G.D.L.), (WIPO Switzerland)
HGP (Sr.No.54667)
Address: 54/1 Patheingyi Street,
Sanchaung Township, Yangon

Mobile: 0943096360, 09764096360

ROLLING UPDATES

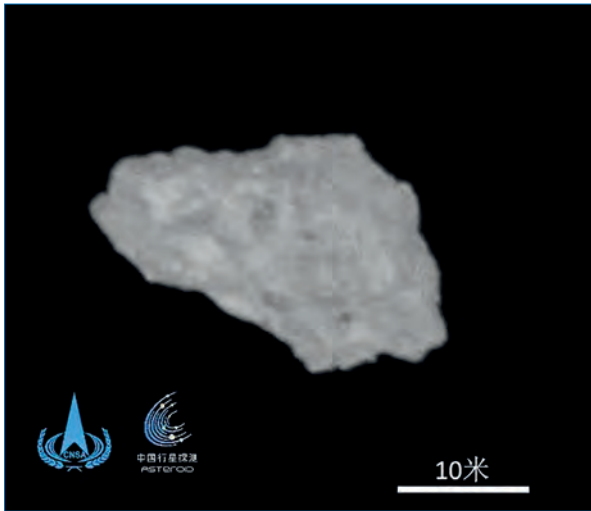
WORLD

China's Tianwen-2 probe reaches target asteroid, starts scientific exploration

CHINA'S Tianwen-2 probe has successfully arrived at a distance of 20 kilometres from the asteroid 2016HO3, enabling it to begin scientific exploration after an approximately 400-day journey of about 1 billion kilometres, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced on Monday.

China launched its first asteroid sample-return mission, Tianwen-2, on 29 May 2025, aiming to achieve multiple goals over a decade-long expedition: collecting samples from the near-Earth asteroid 2016HO3 and exploring the main-belt comet 311P, which is more distant than Mars.

During the approach phase, the probe acquired



This photo unveiled by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) shows an imagery of asteroid 2016HO3 taken by Tianwen-2 probe from a distance of about 20 kilometres on 2 July 2026. **PHOTO: CNSA/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA**

imagery of the asteroid. The mission team leveraged optical navigation data gathered during the close approach to refine the asteroid's ephemeris, reducing the positional

uncertainty, previously determined solely through ground-based observations, from hundreds of kilometres down to the kilometre scale, according to the CNSA.

On its voyage to the asteroid, the probe executed deep-space manoeuvres and trajectory correction operations. On 6 June 2026, the probe achieved its first detection of the asteroid. On 7 June, at a range of 30,000 kilometres, it entered a coplanar trajectory with the asteroid, while on 19 June, it approached the asteroid to within 2,000 kilometres.

Next, the probe will progressively conduct more detailed scientific exploration to acquire data on the asteroid's morphology, material composition and internal structure, laying the groundwork for subsequent sample collection operations, the CNSA said. — Xinhua

Japan's space agency confirms Hayabusa2 space probe mission was successful

JAPAN'S Hayabusa2 space probe successfully made a close flyby of the asteroid Torifune, the country's space agency said Monday, releasing an image taken during the mission.

The flyby observation mission, which required highly accurate navigation, was completed at around 6:30 pm Sunday, with data collected using four types of instruments including an optical camera, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

"I'm just utterly moved that it was able to take such a beautiful image. I have goosebumps," said Yuya Mimasu, head of the operations team, during a press conference.

While the plan was for the spacecraft to pass

approximately 800 metres from the centre of Torifune, its actual distance will have to be confirmed after further analysis.

Torifune, which is about 100 million kilometres from Earth, appears to be peanut-shaped and seems to have been formed by two asteroids.

Hayabusa2, launched in 2014, arrived at the asteroid Ryugu, more than 300 million kilometres away, and during a flyby of Earth in 2020 released a sample capsule containing 5.4 grammes of surface material that landed in Australia. Using its remaining fuel, Hayabusa2 began an extended mission and has travelled some 10.7 billion kilometres since 2014. — Kyodo



This photo taken by Hayabusa2 space probe on 5 July 2026 shows the asteroid Torifune. (Photo courtesy of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, the University of Tokyo, Chiba Institute of Technology, Institute of Science Tokyo, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Observatoire de Paris and Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias) **PHOTO: KYODO**

Many areas submerged after heavy rains in parts of India

INCESSANT rains over the past few days caused floods in several areas in central, west and southwest India, while a red alert for heavy rains was sounded in New Delhi on Sunday. At least four people had died in rains-related incidents in the country's financial capital Mumbai, according to local media reports. Power supply was cut in many areas, and several flights were cancelled or diverted from the Mumbai airport amid heavy rains on Sunday.

Areas in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, particularly Bhopal and Ujjain, and Rajkot and Junagarh areas of the western state of Gujarat received heavy rains over the past few days, leading to water-logging. — Xinhua

New Zealand braces for life-threatening floods, landslides as storm intensifies

A powerful storm is battering New Zealand's South Island, prompting "threat to life" warnings as authorities brace for severe flooding, landslides and dangerous river conditions.

MetService has issued rare red heavy rain warnings for parts of Marlborough, Canterbury, Dunedin and Clutha.

Rainfall could peak at 15 to 25 millimetres per hour in some areas, particularly along mountain ranges, Radio New Zealand reported on Monday.

Officials warn that conditions may render roads impassable, disrupt travel and isolate communities. — Xinhua



A staff member sets up warning signs in a waterlogged road section in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, 5 July 2026. Influenced by Typhoon Maysak, heavy to torrential rains have battered parts of southern Guangxi, with some areas experiencing extreme downpours. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China upgrades flood emergency response for Guangxi to Level II

CHINA'S State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters has upgraded the flood-control emergency response for south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region from Level III to Level II, the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) said Monday.

The move came after dangerous conditions were reported at several reservoirs amid torrential rains brought

by Typhoon Maysak.

The national commission for disaster prevention, reduction and relief has also activated a Level-IV national disaster relief emergency response for Guangxi. A joint work team from the headquarters has been despatched to the region to guide flood-control and rescue operations.

Dangerous conditions were reported Monday at several reservoirs

in Nanning and Guigang due to the typhoon and heavy rainfall. The office of the headquarters and the MEM continued to coordinate emergency response efforts and organized a joint consultation with the China Meteorological Administration, the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and the Ministry of Transport. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar para Taekwondo athletes train in Korea for World Championship

TWO Myanmar para Taekwondo athletes are training in Muju, South Korea, ahead of the World Para Taekwondo Championships, according to the Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation.

Thein Htike Aung and Shwe Htut Kyaw are taking part in the World Para Taekwondo Training Programme in Muju, organized in coordination with the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation, before representing Myanmar at the championships in Chuncheon.

The federation said the training programme and the opportunity to compete internationally would help develop Myanmar's para Taekwondo by enhancing the athletes' skills and providing valuable international experience. —ASH/MKKS



This photo showcases two Myanmar para-Taekwondo athletes, Thein Htike Aung and Shwe Htut Kyaw, training in South Korea to represent the country in the World Para Taekwondo Championship.

3rd MPT futsal tourney held



This picture features the 3rd MPT Futsal Tournament TeamFit: Unite & Move.

REINFORCING its commitment to employee well-being and an inclusive workplace culture, MPT successfully hosted its 3rd "TeamFit: Unite & Move" Futsal Tournament at the Futsal Court of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The tournament featured 7 men's teams and four women's teams representing MPT's five main offices. Bringing together

both men's and women's teams from across the organization, the tournament reflects MPT's ongoing efforts to foster a healthier, more connected, and engaged workforce.

Mr Mikinori Naito, adviser to the MPTJO CEO, expressed that "At MPT, we believe our people are our greatest strength. Creating opportunities for employees to stay active, connect, and maintain a

healthy work-life balance is an important part of our workplace culture. Following the successful completion of our 6th Yoga Activity in June, we are delighted to celebrate another milestone through our 3rd "TeamFit: Unite & Move" Futsal Tournament. Congratulations to the champion men's and women's teams for their outstanding teamwork, commitment, and sports-

manship. More importantly, this tournament has strengthened unity, encouraged healthy lifestyles, and created enjoyable experiences that inspire collaboration across our organization."

Launched in 2024, "TeamFit: Unite & Move" is MPT's employee wellness initiative designed to promote physical health, mental well-being, and stronger teamwork through activities such as Yoga, Zumba, and Futsal. The programme has become an important platform for encouraging employee engagement while supporting a positive and collaborative workplace culture.

Recognizing that engaged and healthy employees play a vital role in delivering an excellent customer experience, MPT remains committed to expanding its employee wellness initiatives through regular monthly activities that promote both personal well-being and organizational excellence. —MT/ZN

England, Norway advance at World Cup, FIFA ruling triggers uproar

ENGLAND battled past Mexico into the World Cup quarter-finals on Sunday and Norway stunned Brazil as a FIFA decision to reprove United States star Folarin Balogun after an intervention from Donald Trump triggered uproar.

A day of gripping drama on and off the field was crowned by an epic contest at Mexico City's Estadio Azteca as 10-man England dug deep to defeat Mexico 3-2 in a match that more than lived up to the hype.

Jude Bellingham looked to have put England firmly on the road to the quarter-finals after scoring twice in 98 seconds to give the Three Lions a 2-0 lead after 38 minutes.



Mexico hit back through Julian Quinones to make it 2-1 at half-time and were given a huge boost on 54 minutes when England defender Jarell Quansah was given a straight red card after a VAR review.

England though shrugged off that setback to make it 3-1 with a Harry

Kane penalty. Mexico refused to roll over and another controversial VAR review saw them awarded a penalty by Australian referee Alireza Faghani, Raul Jimenez slotting in to make it 3-2.

England's increasingly weary line-up resisted wave after wave of Mexican pres-

sure to hold on for a famous victory.

"It was a crazy game. We had the occasion, everything against us, but we found a way," captain Kane said.

Man-of-the-match Bellingham described it as the "best night of my England career".

"In big pressure moments in years gone by watching as a fan, as a kid, England probably would have crumbled but we stuck together until the last second," Bellingham added.

The win sends England into a quarter-final in Miami next Saturday where they will face Norway, who defeated Brazil 2-1 in another gripping knockout battle earlier Sunday. — AFP

South Korea football chief steps down after early World Cup exit

CHUNG MONG-GYU resigned as president of the Korea Football Association on Monday as the fallout from South Korea's disappointing World Cup campaign continued.

Chung's departure follows that of head coach Hong Myung-bo after South Korea failed to reach the knockout stage, finishing third in Group A with three points. South Korea defeated the Czech Republic but lost to Mexico and South Africa.

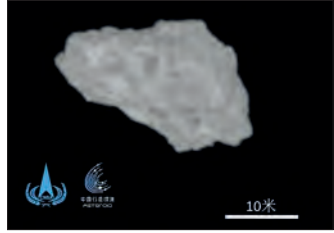
Announcing his resignation, Chung acknowledged both the successes and failures of his tenure.

"There were moments when I lived up to expectations and moments when I left you deeply disappointed," he said.

"All the success is thanks to our players and fans, and all the mistakes are my responsibility. I am convinced that Korean football will overcome adversity and reach great heights once again, as it always has." — Xinhua

China's Tianwen-2 probe reaches target asteroid, starts scientific exploration

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WORLD

Chinese navy conducts test launch of strategic missile by submarine

THE Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy on Monday successfully conducted the test launch of a strategic missile by a submarine.

The PLA Navy said that one strategic nuclear submarine of the navy successfully launched a strategic missile carrying a dummy warhead towards relevant high seas of the Pacific Ocean at 12:01 pm, which landed precisely within the designated waters.

The test launch is a routine arrangement of the annual training of the PLA Navy, the navy said, adding that the Chinese side has already notified relevant countries in advance. The test launch



This photo taken on 6 July 2026 shows the moment of a strategic missile launched by a strategic nuclear submarine of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy bursting out of the water surface. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

complies with international law and international practice, and is not directed at any specific country or target, the navy said. — Xinhua

Ebola deaths in DR Congo top 500 amid continued community transmission

THE death toll from the latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has surpassed 500, according to a report released Sunday by the country's health authorities.

According to the report, the country has recorded 1,561 confirmed cases, including 506 deaths. A total of 254 patients have recovered, while 628 confirmed patients are currently in isolation or hospitalization.

Authorities also identified 354 suspected cases, including 110 deaths.

The report said the outbreak has so far affected 36 health zones in three provinces. Weekly confirmed cases have continued to rise, with epi-

miological weeks 25 and 26 representing the highest levels recorded since the start of the outbreak, each exceeding 300 confirmed cases, indicating continued community transmission.

The World Health Organization said Thursday that a clinical trial had begun enrolling patients in the DRC to evaluate potential treatments for Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo ebolavirus, for which there is currently no approved vaccine or specific treatment.

Clinical trials have begun at the CME Ebola treatment centre in the Rwampara health zone in Ituri Province, the epicentre of the outbreak, according to the report. — Xinhua



Medical workers escort an Ebola patient to an Ebola treatment centre in Mongbwalu, Ituri Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 20 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

UN chief calls for safe, inclusive AI benefiting all

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called for coordinated global action to ensure artificial intelligence (AI) develops in a safe, inclusive and ethical manner that benefits all.

Speaking at the opening of the first session of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance in Geneva, Guterres said AI is advancing "at runaway

speed" and is already transforming the world.

"The question is whether we will shape this transformation together — or let it shape us," he said.

Guterres outlined four priorities for AI governance: safety, human rights, capacity and transparency. He said he hoped the Dialogue would translate broad global participation into concrete

action, helping make AI "safer, fairer, more accessible and more ethical".

Also on Monday, the UN Independent International Scientific Panel on AI presented a preliminary report assessing the opportunities, risks and impacts of AI, warning that current safeguards are failing to keep pace with the rapid advancement of AI capabilities.

The two-day Dia-

logue has brought together representatives from governments, technology companies, academia, civil society and the technical community to discuss AI governance. The agenda includes a high-level segment, thematic sessions and side events covering AI opportunities and risks, bridging AI divides, international cooperation and human oversight of AI systems. — Xinhua



This photograph shows a burnt building as a wildfire rages in the southern France department of Herault as 700 firefighters backed by special aircraft battled to control a "gigantic" blaze in nearby department of Pyrenees-Orientales, near the town of Carlencas-et-Levas on 6 July 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Thousands flee new wave of European wildfires

WILDFIRES across southern Europe forced thousands of people to flee their homes and prompted authorities to ban spectators from Monday's Tour de France stage that was threatened by one inferno.

Hundreds of firefighters are battling blazes that have devastated more than 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of land — an area nearly three times the size of Manhattan — across Portugal, Spain, France, Greece and other countries.

The fires are spreading as

temperatures rise again — already reaching 43C in Spain — in a continent still scarred by the aftermath of heatwaves in May and June that have been blamed for thousands of deaths.

Scientists agree that climate change driven by humans burning fossil fuels is increasing the risk and severity of heatwaves and other extreme weather phenomena.

Some 10,500 people were told to evacuate their homes near Perpignan in southwestern France as firefighters battled a blaze in the Pyrenees

that has devoured more than 4,600 hectares, authorities said.

"The fire came within 300 metres of the houses. We were taken aback by how fast it spread, it was staggering — bordering on panic," said Patrice, a 53-year-old resident of the village of Trevillach, who did not give his surname. "We started seeing smoke around 10:30 pm, then it kept coming closer and closer. Someone from the town hall knocked on our door around 1 am to tell us to leave," said Charlotte Pignol. — AFP