

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar, Belarusian Heads of State to Boost Friendly Ties

The official working visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus to Myanmar reflected deep-seated friendship and mutual goodwill between the two nations.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing warmly greets President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko upon his arrival at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing held a talk with President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko on his working visit to Myanmar and his delegation members at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall yesterday evening.

On their arrival at the Presidential Palace, the Belarusian President was warmly welcomed by President U Min Aung Hlaing.

The two Presidents held a talk at the Presidential Palace Reception Hall.

The President of Myanmar said that this is the second time the two Presidents have met in Myanmar, and

they have already held five rounds of discussions. He greatly values an official working visit of the President of Belarus to Myanmar, as it reflects friendship and goodwill towards him. He continued that he would also like to express his sincere gratitude for the congratulatory message of the Belarusian President when he was elected President after Myanmar successfully held a free and fair multiparty democratic general election. He stated that he would like to further strengthen and promote multifaceted cooperation between the two countries through the friendly relations between the two leaders.

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DSPE invites sealed bids for Aung San Sports Complex demolition

THE Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports invited interested individuals to submit sealed tenders to demolish 20 sports-related buildings within the Aung San Sports Complex in three separate lots.

The demolition of 20

sports-related buildings includes currently used gymnasiums, staff housing, decaying spectator seating structures, ageing structures, and other sports facilities located within the Aung San Sports Complex in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region.

SEE PAGE 7

China's Heilongjiang Chamber Buys Myanmar Banana-Fibre Handicrafts

THE Green Banana Myanmar signed an MoU with the Chinese Heilongjiang Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar on 30 June.

The Heilongjiang Chamber of Commerce purchases the quali-

ty products produced from banana fibre and greater club-rush (*Scirpus grossus*), a species of weed, by Green Banana Myanmar. Under the agreement, the seller will not sell or export

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The signing ceremony between the Green Banana Myanmar and China's Heilongjiang Chamber of Commerce. **PHOTO: KANU**

OPINION

Empower women to work alongside men in all sectors

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Myanmar Beefs Up IP Protections to Anchor Innovation, Wealth Creation



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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's debate focuses on reviews of ASEAN Five-Point Statement



NATIONAL

Belarusian President Mr Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko arrives in Myanmar



President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko is pictured being welcomed alongside the Guard of Honour.

A special aircraft carrying a high-level delegation led by President of the Republic of Belarus Mr Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko, who pays a working visit to Myanmar at the invitation of President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, landed at the Tatmadaw Airport in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. The high-level Belarusian delegation was warmly welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for Transport and for Digital Development and Communications U Mya Tun Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, the Myanmar Ambassador to Belarus, the Belarusian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials. The high-level delegation led by the President of the Republic of Belarus was saluted by the Guard of Honour and presented a flower bouquet by two Myanmar children. — MNA/TTA

Appointment of Vietnamese Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Nguyen Anh Duc as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Mr Ly Quoc Tuan.

Mr Nguyen Anh Duc was born on 6 October 1977. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts (International Relations) from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and a Master of Arts (International Relations) from the United Kingdom.

Mr Nguyen Anh Duc served in various positions at the Central Commission for External Relations of Vietnam from 2001 to 2017. He then served as Counsellor at the Embassy of Vietnam in Malaysia from 2017 to 2020. From 2021 to 2025, he held the position of Deputy Director-General of the General Research Department of the Central Commission for External Relations. Since March 2025 to the present, he has been serving as the Deputy Director-General of the Middle East and Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam.

Mr Nguyen Anh Duc is married. — MNA

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR Union Election Commission

Notification 53/2026

3rd Waning of First Waso 1388 ME
2 July 2026

THE Union Election Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 26 of the Political Parties Registration Law, hereby issues the following Rules:

1. These Rules shall be called the Fourth Amendment to the Political Parties Registration Rules.
2. Rule 24 of the Political Parties Registration Rules shall be substituted as follows:

“24. A political party shall:

- (a) Submit to the Commission any amendment, addition, replacement or newly drafted party constitution adopted in accordance with its constitution, as well as any amendment to its political ideology. Such amendments shall take effect only after they have been examined and approved by the Commission under the Political Parties Registration Law and these Rules.
- (b) Submit to the Commission, within 30 days of the date of its registration as a political party, a list of not fewer than 15 members of its Central Executive Committee in accordance with its constitution.
- (c) Notify the Commission within seven days of any change in the membership of its Central Executive Committee made under its constitution.
- (d) Appoint only persons who meet the qualifications for election as Hluttaw Representatives of parliament as party patrons and members of its Central Executive Committee.”

3. Sub-rule (f) of Rule 25 of the Political Parties Registration Rules shall be substituted as follows:

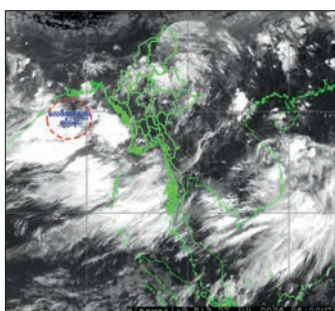
“(f) The Commission shall determine whether a Hluttaw Representative elected on behalf of a political party that has been automatically dissolved under Sub-rule (d) may continue to hold his or her Hluttaw seat.”

Sd/Than Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Low-Pressure Area Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 2 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area has formed over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha-West Bengal Coast. It is likely to become more marked. — DMH



NATIONAL

Myanmar, Belarusian Heads of State to Boost Friendly ...

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The President of Belarus stated that there are also close personal ties between the two Presidents in addition to the friendly relations between the two countries. It is now time for the two leaders of the two countries to take a new step forward and further elevate the current bilateral relationship through joint efforts. He will continue to promote and further enhance the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

They also exchanged views on the plans to further strengthen friendly



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Belarusian President Mr Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko yesterday.

ties and relations between the two countries, the implementation of the joint action plans for 2026-28, enhancement of economic cooperation and investment in industrial, agricultural, pharmaceutical, humanitarian and other sectors, and continuous boosting of friendly relations and cooperation in all sectors between the two countries.

The President of Myanmar hosted a dinner in honour of the President of Belarus and delegation members at the Presidential Palace. After the dinner,

the Belarusian President and party left the Presidential Palace and were cordially seen off by the President of Myanmar.

The high-level delegation led by the President of the Republic of Belarus left Nay Pyi Taw Airport. They were seen off at the airport by Union Minister for Transport and for Digital Development and Communications U Mya Tun Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ko Ko Kyaw, the Ambassador of Myanmar to Belarus, the Ambassador of Belarus to Myanmar, and officials. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar Beefs Up IP Protections to Anchor Innovation, Wealth Creation



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye presides over the first meeting of the Central Committee on Intellectual Property in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Central Committee on Intellectual Property held its meeting 1/2026 at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon, chaired by Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, who called for stronger cooperation to enhance the country's intellectual property (IP) system and support innovation-driven economic development.

In her opening remarks, the Vice-President said Myanmar has already adopted its 2023-2028 National Intellectual Property Strategy and

has established systems to receive, examine and register applications for industrial designs, trademarks, patents, and copyrights. She stressed that relevant ministries and organizations must work closely with the Intellectual Property Department to strengthen IP protection and prevent infringement.

She also urged authorities to build on the outcomes of the country's first International Intellectual Property Conference, held in 2025, by implementing its

recommendations and modernizing Myanmar's IP framework. Continuous public awareness campaigns targeting businesses, particularly MSMEs, were highlighted as a priority to encourage wider understanding and use of IP rights.

The Vice-President emphasized the need to promote research, innovation and technology transfer by linking universities, research institutions and MSMEs through a stronger IP ecosystem. She also called for greater public

access to Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) and encouraged wider protection and promotion of Myanmar's regional and local products through intellectual property rights.

She added that Myanmar is implementing ASEAN's regional IP action plans and should continue preparing to join international IP treaties and conventions administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), further integrating the country's IP system with global standards.

The meeting also reviewed progress made since the previous committee session, discussed ongoing IP development initiatives, and heard recommendations from committee members and experts before concluding.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Commerce U Tun Ohn, who is also Central Committee Vice-Chair, deputy ministers and relevant officials. — MNA/ST

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker discusses legal protection for workers

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met members of the Domestic and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The committee chairperson, secretary and members introduced themselves individually. Committee Chair U Tint Wai then briefed the Speaker on the committee's du-

ties, its ongoing activities and future work plans. Also attending as special guests were International Relations Committee Chair Dr Pwint San and Daw Win Maw Tun, Chair of the Committee on Youth,

Women, Children and the Rights of the Elderly, both of whom had previously served in the Ministry of Labour. Drawing on their experience, they recommended critical countermeasures and key areas for improvement.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn detailed the powers, responsibilities,



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets members of the Domestic and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee yesterday.

ties, its ongoing activities and future work plans. Also attending as special guests were International Relations Committee Chair Dr Pwint San and Daw Win Maw Tun, Chair of the Committee on Youth,

and rights of Hluttaw committees. He urged members to enhance their professional capacity, deepen their field expertise, and coordinate closely with government ministries.

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NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's debate focuses on reviews of ASEAN Five-Point Statement

A total of 552 out of 560 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives attended the fifth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Hla Thein from the Bago Region Constituency 10 presented the formation of the 16-member Joint Coordinating Committee on Parliamentary Development (JCC), chaired by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced that the Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the formation of the committee can list at the director-general of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



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

Office.

Hluttaw representatives discussed the notification submitted by the President concerning the transmission to the Republic of Belarus of the treaty between the Republic of the Union of Myan-

mar and the Republic of Belarus on the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax evasion, together with Myanmar's instrument of notification.

Deputy Minister for

Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung stated that in signing the agreements on the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of tax evasion, Myanmar takes into consideration the state of

bilateral diplomatic relations, economic ties, trade volume, and investment conditions. It also seeks to conclude such agreements with countries that would have the least impact on Myanmar's tax revenue.

Such an act aimed to further boost trade, investment and economic opportunities between the two countries. If the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the agreement, notifications would be issued, these would be inserted into the State Gazette, and the agreement would be posted on the website of the Internal Revenue Department. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the issue.

Hluttaw Representatives discussed the motion

to extend the one-month special goods tax and commercial tax exemption over diesel (HSD 500 ppm) and commercial tax over LNG.

The deputy minister stated that the approval will be sought from the Union government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to extend the tax exemption period for diesel HSD (500 ppm) and LNG after assessing the conflicts in the Middle East, world fuel price, local diesel price and basic commodity prices and responses of other regional countries.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the tax exemption for the two from 1 to 31 May 2026 under Section 37 of the Union Tax Law 2026.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker discusses ...

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In his remarks, Speaker U Khin Yi said that the Pyithu Hluttaw established 22 committees, including four standing committees, to support Hluttaw functions. Among them, the Domestic and Overseas Labour Affairs Committee is one of the key committees. He noted that all the committees serve as important pillars supporting the Hluttaw and may also be regarded as mini-Hluttaws.

Regarding labour affairs, he said the committee should focus on three

main areas: domestic manual and intellectual workers, Myanmar migrant workers employed overseas, and remittances sent home by Myanmar nationals working abroad.

He stressed the need to ensure that the rights and benefits of domestic workers are protected in accordance with the law. He also called for a review of existing legislation by amending, updating or repealing outdated laws and enacting new ones where necessary. He also urged closer coordination among relevant ministries to strengthen legal

protection and support for Myanmar workers abroad.

He highlighted the need to establish grassroots-level committees and monitoring groups to protect overseas workers. He urged the committee to align all revised labour legislation with International Labour Organization (ILO) standards. He finally called for systematic reviews of the operations of overseas employment agencies to ensure that their activities do not adversely affect the country's interests. — MNA/KTZH

Meeting on preventing underage military recruitment held

THE 1/2026 meeting of the Committee on Preventing and Protecting Against the Recruitment of Underage Children into Military Service was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Officials reviewed ongoing efforts to prevent the recruitment of individuals under 18 into Tatmadaw, highlighting screening measures under the People's Military Service Law and cooperation with monitoring mechanisms.

The committee reported that suspected cases identified since 2012 had



The 1/2026 meeting of the Committee on Preventing and Protecting Against the Recruitment of Underage Children into Military Service is underway yesterday.

been reviewed, with only a small number still under assessment. It also noted that underage individuals mistakenly recruited during recent intakes had been returned to their families. — MNA/KZL

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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

China's Heilongjiang Chamber Buys ...

FROM PAGE 1

signed the agreement for the products to other companies or organizations within the People's Republic of China except the buyer, and both parties will cooperate in accordance with their business partnership.

“Our efforts in entrepreneurship have finally borne fruit. Following the Head of State's visit to China, we established this connection at a tourism exhibition held at Sedona Hotel, which has now led to the signing of this agreement to export products made from banana fibre and grass. I would also like to invite others who like to make a startup like ours. I am honoured to have been recognized as one of the 119 Outstanding Entrepreneurs and sincerely thank the Head of State and all those who recognized our achievements,” said U Myint Thein, founder of Green Banana Myanmar.

Following the Head of State's visit to the People's Republic of China in June, Green Banana Myanmar and Ms Xu Xue Mei, chairperson of the Heilongjiang Chamber of Commerce,

signed the agreement for the purchase and sale of premium handicrafts. The agreement represents a practical step in strengthening mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the two countries. The company plans to begin exporting Myanmar handicraft products to four provinces in China starting in August.

Green Banana Myanmar will export a wide range of products made from banana fibre and greater club-rush to the four Chinese provinces, including scarves, handbags, various styles of footwear, pillowcases, mats, hats, and other consumer goods. Such successful linkage between the startups and overseas has been made possible through domestic trade fairs, tourism exhibitions, and government support. Some entrepreneurs have also expressed their ambition to develop Myanmar's handicraft sector into a more advanced manufacturing industry through continued entrepreneurial cooperation. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

Tatmadaw families launch 2nd monsoon tree-planting ceremony 2026

TATMADAW not only serves its national defence duties but also actively participates in nation-building, regional development and environmental conservation, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo at the second monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2026 of families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air).

The ceremony took place near the Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday, and the General grew a teak sapling on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that trees are being grown with the aim of conserving the environment, contributing to climate support, providing shade, and making a contribution to the national economy in one way or another.

Tatmadaw not only serves its national defence duties but also actively participates in nation-building, regional development and envi-



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo views around the second monsoon tree-growing activities at yesterday's event.

ronmental conservation. He continued that military command areas, regiments and units also hold tree-growing ceremonies while families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) have held the similar ceremonies 45 times from 2011 to the first ceremony in 2026. They also planted 210,825 saplings. This second ceremony will cover 2,400 saplings of teak, ironwood, mahogany and gum-kino.

He also emphasized that caring for trees after planting is even more important than planting

them. He urged participants to follow the motto: “Plant for survival, nurture for growth, preserve for permanence,” ensuring that every tree planted survives and flourishes through systematic care and management.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Nila, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife Daw Nang Kue Ku, Union ministers and their wives, Chief of

the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Ko Ko Oo and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and officials.

At the same time, relevant military commands held tree-growing ceremonies to plant various species of saplings. Yesterday, the whole Tatmadaw planted 178,877 saplings. — MNA/KTZH

NSPNC and NMSP meet to discuss peace process

THE meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the New Mon State Party (NMSP) was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the discussion was being held in accordance with the peace invitation extended after the new government took office, noting that although conflicts had occurred in various states since 2021, Mon State had remained stable. He added that the



The meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the New Mon State Party (NMSP) is in progress yesterday.

necessary coordination would be provided to support regional development and that matters related to education and healthcare would be referred to the

relevant authorities for further coordination, while emphasizing the need for cooperation to maintain regional stability and peace.

Subsequently, NMSP

Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min called for resolving political issues through political means and holding open discussions without preconditions to advance

the peace process, stressing that lasting peace can only be achieved through genuine goodwill, political commitment, and patience, while urging the State to ease restrictions not only in the military and political sectors but also in education, healthcare, regional development, and the economy so that everyone can benefit from the ceasefire. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of open, transparent, and continuous efforts based on mutual trust to move from informal meetings toward substantive, inclusive peace dialogue.

Participants also discussed issues related to education, healthcare, and regional development, including the teaching of Mon literature; the provision of healthcare personnel and medical supplies; the verification of birth records and the issuance of standardized birth certificates in Ye Township, Kyain-Seikkyi Township, the western part of Kawka-reik Township (south of the Gyaing River), and villages in northern Yebyu Township, Taninthayi Region; the prioritization of road and bridge construction;

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NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation attends SCODB coord meeting in Shenzhen, China



The fourth consultation meeting on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Development Bank is in progress on 29-30 June.

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw Than Than Lin attended the fourth consultation meeting on the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Development Bank (SCODB) in Shenzhen, China, from 29 to 30 June.

The meeting discussed key issues relating to the draft memorandum of understanding on the bank's establishment, including capital contributions, share allocation, voting rights, international credit ratings, financial innovation, cooperation

mechanisms and future work plans. The meeting was attended by deputy finance ministers, deputy governors of central banks and officials from 28 countries, including the ASEAN member states of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia and Vietnam. — MNA/KZL

Falam's temporary hospital inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee inspected the temporary hospital in Falam on 30 June.

They also inspected the Tiddim-Thinenging-Falam road, the Ver Bridge and other roads and bridges damaged by insurgents. Officials were instructed to carry out necessary repairs, prevent flooding during the rainy season and prepare



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint offers comfort to patients at the temporary hospital in Falam.

for possible landslides to avoid road closures.

At the temporary hospital, the deputy minister met the hospital superintendent, staff and locals to discuss hospital

administration, the mobile operating room, electricity and water supply, expansion plans, the availability of medicines and medical services, and support for patients. — MNA/MKKS

NSPNC and NMSP meet to discuss ...

FROM PAGE 5
and cooperation to maintain regional stability and peace.

Following the discussions, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing explained and discussed the regional development

proposals submitted by the NMSP, the outcomes of previous bilateral meetings, and opportunities for cooperation to promote regional stability. The two sides then reviewed and signed the record of the discussions. Afterwards,

NMSP Vice-Chairman Nai Aung Min delivered a vote of thanks, followed by closing remarks from NSPNC Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae. The meeting concluded with the exchange of commemorative gifts. — MNA/TH

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's debate focuses on reviews of ASEAN ...

FROM PAGE 4

Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Khaing Khaing Hsu from the Rakhine State Constituency 10, Defence Services Personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, Dr Htein Win from the Kyaunggon Constituency, Dr Shwe Pyi Soe from the Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Constituency, U Sai Kyaw Hla from the Kunming Constituency, and U Aung Kyaw Hnin from the Kyunsu Constituency discussed the motion tabled by Dr Nanda Hla Myint from the Kalaw Constituency, urging the Union government to necessarily review the ASEAN Five-Point Statement that undermines Myanmar's equality within ASEAN and is inconsistent with ASEAN's fundamental principle of non-interference in the internal affairs

of a member state in addition to the non-alignment with the ASEAN's fundamental principles and Myanmar's current actual political situation. They discussed that certain member states of ASEAN, based on their own unilateral positions, have significantly undermined the dignity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. If ASEAN is genuinely well-intentioned towards the people of Myanmar and truly seeks positive change and progress for the citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, it should prioritize practical and realistic approaches that have a tangible and meaningful impact on the Myanmar people.

About ASEAN's Five-Point Statement, based on the foregoing, the State Administration Council maintained friendly relations

with ASEAN and attached importance to cooperation throughout its tenure. As the elected Union Government and Tatmadaw are implementing measures to eliminate terrorism, maintain peace and stability, promote national development, and advance the peace process, the ASEAN Five-Point Statement should not be regarded as a separate process requiring independent implementation. Rather, Myanmar's development and stability should continue to be pursued through the collective support and strength of the government, the Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, and the people. Furthermore, as the Five-Point Statement is inconsistent with ASEAN's fundamental principles of respecting the sovereignty of member states and refraining from interference in their

internal affairs, Myanmar wishes to see its sovereign equality and sovereignty fully respected.

Myanmar wishes to call on all parties to respect and adhere to the provisions and principles of the ASEAN Charter and to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of any member state. Myanmar will continue to pursue constructive cooperation with ASEAN and its individual member states, with the sole objective of promoting the interests of each country and the region as a whole. Accordingly, Myanmar urges all ASEAN member states to faithfully and impartially observe the principles and provisions of the ASEAN Charter; to uphold the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states, to respect the sovereignty of each country, and to comply with Article 5 of the ASEAN Charter, which provides for equal representation among ASEAN member

states. Myanmar also calls on ASEAN member states not to turn a blind eye to the positive progress made through the former's constructive cooperation. In addition, it encourages members of parliament from countries belonging to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) to visit Myanmar in person to observe the actual situation on the ground and to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation. At present, as a new government formed in Myanmar through constitutional electoral processes has come into existence, it is necessary to place emphasis on international relations and reconsider the implementation of the ASEAN Five-Point Statement.

The ASEAN Five-Point Statement is considered to be in violation of both the principle of non-interference in internal affairs as set out in Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and the

principles of sovereignty and non-interference enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. Their discussions stated that measures such as the agreement to exclude Myanmar's leaders from ASEAN Summit meetings, the imposition of restrictions, and the omission of equal representation constitute a breach of the ASEAN Charter and interference in internal affairs. ASEAN's role is described as being limited to facilitation, without any right to directly interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. It is also stated that this situation is creating a challenge to ASEAN's unity and cohesion.

The Speaker announced that the remaining Hluttaw representatives to discuss the motion will continue at the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be held on 7 July.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was adjourned, and the sixth-day meeting will continue on 7 July. — MNA/TTA

DSPE invites sealed bids for Aung San Sports Complex demolition

FROM PAGE 1

Tender application forms are available for purchase at the National Indoor Stadium-1 of the Thuwunna Sports Complex, by 17 July. The deadline for submitting sealed tenders is 17 July. The date, time,

and venue for the tender opening will be announced later. Those interested can make enquiries through the Department of Sports and Physical Education at 09 443167176, 09 443172575, and 09 755397686. — NN/KK

CBM pumps US\$3.3M into edible oil import, CMP sectors



Cooking oil bottles are neatly arranged for sale.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$3.3 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$21,228 to CMP companies on 1 July.

CBM injected \$836,800 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$14,700 to CMP companies on 30 June, \$287,300 to edible oil-importing companies and \$122,000 to CMP companies on 29 June, and over \$379,500 to edible oil-importing companies and \$952 to CMP companies on 25 June.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market

and the edible oil and fuel import sectors. The move aims to curb currency devaluation and stabilize volatile exchange rates. 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

Fuel price caps see five-week low



Vehicles are seen refuelling at a petrol station in Yangon.

PLUMMETING global crude costs have driven domestic regulated fuel caps to a five-month low, with prices dropping by K1,360 per litre.

The reference prices set for this week ending 2 July declined to K3,615 for Octane 92, K3,695 for Octane 95, K3,535 for diesel and K4,190 for premium diesel. The reference prices set during the week ending 4 June were K4,550 for Octane 92, K4,620 for Octane 95, K4,595 for diesel and K5,550 for premium diesel. The figures showed a

sharp drop in the amount of K925 to K1,360 per litre.

The exchange rate between the Myanmar kyat and the US dollar weighs on the fuel price. The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the market to ensure a stable price

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

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

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to those of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK

MAEX to pay out K4.7B+ worth of dividends this year

MYANMAR Agroexchange Public Company Limited (MAEX), which manages the Danyingon Wholesale Market, has decided to distribute a dividend of over K4.7 billion (K200 per ordinary share) for the 2025-2026 financial year at a board of directors meeting held on 29 June.

Shareholders who have traded shares up to 20 July 2026 are entitled to this dividend. The YSX Record Date was set for 23 July, and dividends will be issued based on the shareholder list as of that



A general view of the Danyingon Wholesale Market.

date.

This year, the shareholders' equity value has increased by 25.48 per cent, from K32.98 billion to K41.39 billion. Consequently, total dividends distributed last year were

only K2.08 billion, MAEX stated.

In the 2025-2026 financial year, MAEX achieved total revenue of K37.43 billion, a 40.2 per cent increase compared to the previous

2024-2025 financial year. Of this total revenue, 76 per cent came from the sale of shop houses and medium wholesale units.

The company successfully controlled administrative expenses and implemented effective financial management, resulting in a net profit of K10.55 billion this year.

This represents a 51.7 per cent increase compared to the net profit of K6.95 billion recorded in the previous year, according to MAEX's statements. — TWA/KK

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

OPINION

Empower women to work alongside men in all sectors

MYANMAR women have actively participated alongside men in nation-building activities across various fields, such as politics, economics, society, education, knowledge, skills, and the arts, as well as in areas: national defence, security, and administration. In the present time as well, it is clearly evident that Myanmar women are participating even in decision-making levels across different sectors.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is implementing measures in accordance with the provisions of the 2008 Constitution and in line with the 12 work areas of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women. These efforts aim to further enhance the capacities of women and girls from all sectors and to improve their access to greater opportunities.

Myanmar is participating in international commitments aimed at promoting the development of women and ensuring gender equality. It is implementing the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China, in 1995, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the United Nations in 1979, and the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations in 2015.

In promoting the advancement of the women's sector, the individual capacity of women is important, and it is also necessary to ensure greater participation of women in decision-making positions of the State. Therefore, efforts are being made in coordination with the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, its working committees, and regional committees at various levels to enhance the capacity and development of women and girls from different fields.

Myanmar is participating in ASEAN regional initiatives such as the prevention and protection against violence against women, peace and security for women, the gender mainstreaming strategic framework, and the promotion of women's participation in politics and leadership. Similarly, it is also taking part in the implementation of gender-related strategic plans under cooperation among Mekong subregion countries, while promoting and enhancing women's rights.

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1. Introduction

Every 3 July, Myanmar marks Myanmar Women's Day – a national observance distinct from, though complementary to, International Women's Day on 8 March. While the world's day looks outward to global solidarity, Myanmar's own day looks inward: a moment to take stock of how far the nation's women have come, and how much further the journey towards genuine equality still has to go. This year's observance arrives at a particularly significant moment, with Myanmar taking one of its most consequential institutional steps for women in decades. This article looks at the origins of Myanmar Women's Day, the foundations built over thirty years, and the milestone of the past year that makes this 3 July especially meaningful.

2. A World Converging on Women's Rights

In late April 2026, over 6,500 gender equality advocates from 180 countries gathered in Naarm (Melbourne), Australia, for the Women Deliver 2026 Conference (WD2026) – the most significant global convening on women's health and rights in years. Held under the theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls," it concluded with the Melbourne Declaration for Gender Equality: a collective demand for systemic change, moving from tokenistic representation to meaningful, institutionalized leadership, backed by transparent accountability and ring-fenced budgets. For Myanmar, these demands do not arrive as abstract foreign ideals – they map precisely onto structures the country has been building for decades.

Myanmar's institutional commitment to gender equality has been three decades in the making. The historical record affirms this. Across successive eras, Myanmar women broke ground in social welfare, law, medicine, scholarship, the military, arts, and public service – earning distinctions that placed them among the most remarkable figures of their time. Their achievements were not isolated acts of individual brilliance but expressions of a culture that, even amid the constraints of each era, produced women capable of leading, innovating, and inspiring. This tradition did not end with any single generation. Today, women continue to excel across science and technology, public administration, business, and civil society – a continuity of capability that stretches from the distant past into the present.

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3. Myanmar Women: A Legacy of Strength and Resilience

Myanmar's women carry a tradition of courage that stretches far beyond modern policy frameworks. Constituting approximately 52 per cent of the national population, they are the majority voice of a country that has, across generations, drawn strength from their courage, intellect, and resilience – and their participation in political, economic, social, and community affairs is not simply desirable, but essential. From the legendary loyalty of Amara, Kinnari, Maddi, and Thambula in classical literature to the pioneering achievements of real historical figures, Myanmar women have always been forces of transformation.

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4. Building Institutions: The National Framework for Women's Advancement

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Empowered Voices, Rising Nation: Myanmar Women Shaping a New Global Chapter

As international momentum builds for gender equality, Myanmar's women are meeting the moment with institutional resolve, measurable progress, and deep cultural resilience.

By Dr Aung Tun

Following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, Myanmar adopted the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), which identified 12 priority areas, including education, health, livelihoods, and ending violence, as the framework for advancing women's development. On 3 July 1996, Myanmar established the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA), and that same date was subsequently designated Myanmar Women's Day. Since 1998, this day has been observed annually at both the union and state/region levels.

The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) further codified these commitments into actionable policy. The first phase (2013-2022) was implemented across government ministries, and the current phase, NSPAW 2023-2032, continues with 12 specialist sub-committees covering key sectors including education, health, livelihoods, economic empowerment, and the elimination of violence against women. Myanmar also ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1997 and actively participates in the ASEAN

Committee on Women (ACW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). In 2026, the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Women's Affairs elevated gender equality to a cabinet-level portfolio – precisely the kind of structural reform the Melbourne Declaration called for.

5. Measuring Progress: Education, Health, and Leadership

The data behind Myanmar's gender story is compelling. In education, women constitute 63.6 per cent of higher education enrolment and 47.19 per cent of science and technology students – figures that challenge global assumptions about women's exclusion from STEM. Girls' matriculation pass rates reached 64.31 per cent in 2023-2024. Female literacy, which stood at 73 per cent in 2000, has risen to 85 per cent in 2023 – above the global average of 82.7 per cent and tracking closely with the ASEAN regional figure of 95.1 per cent. A literate mother, as recognized in Myanmar's traditional wisdom, raises healthier, better-educated children and is better placed to support her family's economic sta-



bility – breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty.

In health, a woman born in Myanmar today can expect to live 72.5 years – nearly nine years longer than a man. Infant and under-five mortality rates have declined consistently, reflecting sustained investment in maternal and child health services. In public life, women hold 60.58 per cent of civil service positions and 54.75 per cent of Deputy Director-level and above posts – figures that stand out even by global standards. In a region where parliamentary representation has only just reached a historical high of 23 per cent, Myanmar's strong administrative representation is a real and substantial achievement.

6. The Work That Remains: Priority Areas for Action

Myanmar's achievements



are genuine – and they create a foundation, not a finish line. Three priorities stand out from the Melbourne Declaration's roadmap. First, closing the secondary education gap: while primary completion rates for girls already exceed those of boys, retention at middle school (18.8 per cent completion) and high school (11.7 per cent) requires targeted scholarships, improved rural infrastructure, and community engagement that actively challenges customs pushing girls out of school early. Second, matching civil service strength with private sector opportunity: women's impressive presence in government must be complemented by equal access to credit, vocational training, and market linkages in the private economy. Economic empowerment cannot stop at the civil service door.

7. When Women Thrive, Nations Rise

Myanmar Women's Day exists to honour a simple but enduring truth: that the advancement of women is the advancement of the nation. From the founding of the MNCWA in 1996, to the MWAF in 2003, to the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2023, to the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Women's Affairs in 2026 – each milestone represents not an endpoint, but

a deliberate, decades-long act of institution-building. As Myanmar marks this 3 July, the task ahead is to build on these foundations with continued urgency, accountability, and unwavering commitment – because when Myanmar's women thrive, Myanmar itself thrives.

The old proverb "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" resonates differently today: it is not a metaphor for soft influence, but a recognition that when women are educated, economically active, protected from violence, and empowered to lead, entire communities – and entire nations – are transformed.

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To the Class of 2026: A Guide to Careers and the Journey Ahead

By Lynn Lynn Myat Oo

Point, Not a Destined Conclusion

A high score is a beautiful reward for your hard work, but it does not guarantee automatic success in life. Conversely, a

modest score is not a lifetime sentence of mediocrity. In the real world, traits like emotional intelligence, adaptability, work ethic, and consistency matter far more than a number on an

exam sheet.

Be a Lifelong Learner: The university will teach you a curriculum, but the world changes fast. Supplement your education by learning digital tools, mastering a new language, and reading widely outside your major.

Build Your Character, Not Just Your Resume: True suc-

cess is hollow without integrity. Cultivate empathy, kindness, and professional ethics. Be a reliable partner in group projects, show up on time, and treat others with respect.

Embrace the Flaws and Detours: You will face setbacks. A class might be harder than you thought; a career plan might shift. Do not panic.

The nation is waiting to see the incredible things you will achieve. Congratulations once again, and may your journey ahead be brilliant!



NATIONAL

Nay Pyi Taw uses lottery to allocate Thukha Tawwin Housing



The lot-drawing ceremony for allocation of four-unit, four-storey (two-bedroom) apartments at the Thukha Tawwin Project (Phase II) in progress.

ON 1 July, the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee held a ceremony to allocate 4-unit, 4-story (2-bedroom) apartments in the Thukha Tawwin Housing Project (Phase II), located in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, to applicants via a lottery system.

The head of the Engineering Department (Buildings) stated that construction is scheduled

to be completed in June 2027, and the apartments will be handed over to the buyers in July 2027.

U Win Moe Khaing, chairman of the housing development committee and vice-mayor, explained that the initiative aims to meet the housing needs of Nay Pyi Taw residents and to develop the city as a “Green City, Clean City, and Smart City”.

He further noted that the construction is being implemented according to engineering standards and the apartments are being allocated through a transparent lottery system.

It is also reported that the allocation for the 4-unit, 4-story (3-bedroom) apartments will continue on 2 July using the same Digital Spin lottery system. — MT/ZN

Yamethin’s solar-powered drinking water project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the completed solar-powered drinking water distribution and pipeline installation project in Nyaunglebin Village of Yamethin Township. The project was financed with interest earnings from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project to ensure an adequate supply of safe drinking water for rural residents.



Officials oversee the completion of a solar-powered drinking water project in Yamethin.

Yamethin Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Aye Win and engineering staff inspected the completed solar-powered drinking water supply system. She also met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee, discussing the long-term sustainability of

the water supply system, emphasizing the need to protect water sources, and reviewing monthly financial records to ensure they were completed systematically.

The project involved the installation of a 5.5 HP submersible pump, a 5.5 kW inverter, and an 8.26 kW solar power system, along with 760 feet of two-inch diameter PVC water pipeline. It was implemented with

a total budget of K28 million, including K26 million from the MSY project interest earnings and K2 million contributed by the local community. Jointly carried out under the department’s technical assistance since the third week of May, the project is now fully completed, providing reliable drinking water to local communities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Manulife Myanmar takes reins of Chubb Life assets and obligations

MANULIFE Myanmar Life Insurance Co Ltd has taken over the assets, liabilities and obligations of Chubb Life Insurance Myanmar after the latter gave up its life insurance

business licence, according to the Financial Regulatory Department (FRD) under the Yangon Region government.

FRD said the transfer followed an Express-

sion of Interest (EOI) process, with Manulife Myanmar selected to assume responsibility. The transfer began on 3 April and is expected to take 20 weeks.

Policyholders’ insurance coverage will continue under the terms of their existing policies. Chubb Life’s licence will be revoked under the Insurance Business Licence Law and Rules, while the company will continue to operate in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law. — TWA/MKKS



This photo features the convening of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw.

Industry experts slate panel to unpack logistics, insurance hurdles



This image displays an invitation to the panel discussion.

UNDER the theme Logistics Challenges and Insurance, a panel discussion is scheduled to be held on 4 July, according to the Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Service Association (MHFTSA).

The panel discussion will highlight how

a well-managed financial protection should be prepared under an insurance coverage against challenges, unexpected accidents and risks of loss that the freight logistics sector has encountered.

It will be jointly organized by the Logistics

and Supply Chain Management Magazine, MHFTSA and Venture Synergy Co Ltd and mainly sponsored by EFI General Insurance. MHFTSA members, gate in-charges and vehicle owners have been invited to the event, which will be held at Bayintnaung Commodity Exchange Centre’s meeting hall from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Experts from relevant fields namely Daw Hla Hla Yi, U Aung Zaw Thet, U Tin Maung Oo and U Tun Naing Oo will lead the discussion on education about green transport and the importance of freight truck owners and drivers. — MT/ZS

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Ceuzany, Cape Verde's golden voice with volcanic emotion

From the very first notes the deep yet soaring timbre of the song, part of a new generation of Cape Verdean music, sparks applause.

BAREFOOT, arms raised and teeming with emotion, Ceuzany belts out the signature track from her latest album, a song dedicated to the fight against domestic violence, in a powerful voice that sends shivers through the Cape Verde bar.

From the very first notes the deep yet soaring timbre of the song, part of a new generation of Cape Verdean music, sparks applause.

"Enough! We're calling it quits, go your own way, I am happy without you," several women sing from the audience, joining the musician who is moved to tears.



Cape Verdean singer Ceuzany Pires sings during the shooting of a music video for her latest record "No tchal te li" (we stop here) at a restaurant in Mindelo, on 25 May 2026. PHOTO: AFP

On this late-May evening in Mindelo, a city on the archipelago nation's Sao Vicente island, passersby who recognise the singer stop in the street to join the

concert.

Ceuzany's voice ranges from crystalline highs to deep lows, as she performs everything from jazz to slam, commanding the stage with wavy

blonde hair and earrings framing her radiant face.

The day before she radiated infectious energy under the bright lights of a music video shoot, dancing with abandon in a silver rhinestone suit and Panama hat to the galvanizing percussion of her latest and fourth album.

The record blends saxophone, percussion and the cavaquinho, a popular four-stringed instrument, although some songs are more stripped down, featuring Ceuzany's voice and an acoustic piano, or a swaying zouk rhythm set against the warm sound of the ukulele. — AFP

World Cup fever boosts Tinder matches across host cities

THE FIFA Club World Cup is attracting more than football fans. According to Tinder, activity on the dating app has surged across host cities during the tournament.

According to internal Tinder data reported by Mashable, activity between 11 and 16 June, compared with the same period in 2025, shows that Tinder usage in the United States increased by more than 15 per cent.



Egyptian fans celebrate the Egyptian national team's qualification for the knockout stages of the 2026 FIFA World Cup for the first time in Cairo, Egypt, 27 June 2026. PHOTO: VISURAL PURPOSE/ XINHUA

Swiping activity rose by around 25 per cent, while the number of matches increased by almost 60 per cent. The biggest increases have been recorded in cities hosting tournament matches. Among international users, Tinder activity across host cities rose by an average of 47 per cent, suggesting travelling football fans are making the most of their time both inside and outside the stadium. — AFP

Cambodia calls off traditional water festival for 2nd consecutive year

CAMBODIA has cancelled the annual water festival in the capital Phnom Penh, originally scheduled for 23 to 25

November, for the second consecutive year, according to a circular publicized on Wednesday. Signed by Prime

Minister Hun Manet, the circular cited cancellations due to shifting national priorities, including border issues,

public needs, and aid for displaced populations.

The circular said that provincial celebrations may proceed according to local traditions, though main events in Phnom Penh are called off. — Xinhua

Mt Fuji climbing season opens with 2 trails

MOUNT Fuji's climbing season commenced Wednesday as two of the four main hiking trails opened, with hikers making their way to the summit around 4:30 am in fair weather.

Yamanashi Prefecture has set up two self-service payment kiosks for the 4,000 yen (\$25) entrance fee at the 5th station on the most popular Yoshida Trail this year, to ease congestion for those who had not preregistered. The Subashiri Trail on the Shizuoka Prefecture side also opened on Wednesday,

earlier than in past years.

Two other trails on the Shizuoka side of the 3,776-metre mountain will open on 10 July as usual.

Yamanashi Prefecture is urging climbers to preregister online and complete entrance fee payments in advance. Local authorities have also begun around-the-clock deployment of patrol and safety personnel at the summit area. Jasper Overall, 26, an international student from Australia, said, "(I) wasn't sure the hike was even going to happen with that typhoon. We're really glad that we got to see the sunrise at the end." — Kyodo



Mt Fuji's climbing season commenced Wednesday. PHOTO: PIXABAY

What makes Hong Kong universities shine on global stage

HONG Kong's universities have risen sharply in global rankings, with five in the world's top 100 and two in the top 20, underscoring the city's academic strength and making it one of the world's densest clusters of top-tier universities.

These achievements reflect the significant enhancement of Hong Kong's higher education competitiveness in recent years, driven by sustained investment and supportive poli-

cies from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, further consolidating the city's position as an international education hub.

In the latest world university rankings released by international higher education research organization Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), five Hong Kong institutions continue to rank among the global top 100. — Xinhua

ECONOMY WORLD

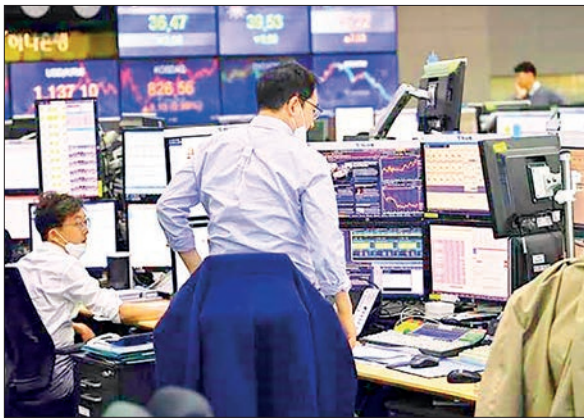
S Korea to open FX market round-the-clock

The domestic currency will transform itself from a restricted convertible currency into a fully convertible currency.

SOUTH Korea will open its foreign exchange market 24 hours a day starting 6 July, planning to launch an offshore Korean won trading system in the first half of next year to transform its local currency into a “fully convertible currency”.

Huh Chang, vice-minister of Finance and Economy, said at a briefing with foreign correspondents in Seoul that the domestic currency will transform itself from a restricted convertible currency into a fully convertible currency as the foreign exchange market will be opened day and night with the planned launch of the offshore won trading system.

Addressing concerns about potential



This image shows currency dealers monitoring exchange rates at a KEB Hana Bank trading room in Seoul, South Korea. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

nightly volatility and low trading volume, Huh expressed strong confidence in a stable transition, saying the government already extended trading hours to 2 am local time for the past two years, during which nighttime trading volume

and its share doubled.

Huh explained that since the non-deliverable forward (NDF) market had already been active at night, it was not as if there was no FX market operating during those hours, vowing to actively provide liquidity if neces-

sary and closely monitor the market round-the-clock.

Regarding the recent exchange rate fluctuations, he acknowledged that there was a herding behaviour compared to the Asian country's economic fundamentals, but he pointed out that South Korea's booming export economy would serve as a strong stabilizer.

The vice minister emphasized that the country recorded a current account surplus of about \$100 billion from January to April alone, projecting that the total annual surplus could reach nearly \$300 billion this year, three times larger than last year's figure. — Xinhua

German small firms struggle with green shift

SMALL companies that form the backbone of the German economy are struggling with the shift to carbon-neutral production, which adds extra costs when they are already battling high power prices and a broader slowdown.

MPG Tubes — fairly typical among “Mittel-

stand” small- and medium-sized businesses in Europe's top economy — faces a huge challenge to heat metal to 1,500C without producing any of the key greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

Its foundry is partially electrified but still uses two gas-fired furnaces to reach the temperatures

needed to create tubes with a perfectly smooth finish, used in areas including construction of power plants, the automotive industry and shipbuilding.

“The major task ahead of us is to electrify all natural gas applications,” Andreas Gahl, head of the firm with 145

employees in the western Sauerland region, told AFP. This, he stressed, is “a completely different challenge from implementing simple energy efficiency measures”.

His goal is to make climate-neutral products within four years, but only provided the firm remains profitable. — AFP

Russia's gas exports up 5% in H1 2026

RUSSIA increased its gas exports to Europe via the TurkStream pipeline by five per cent in the first half of 2026, reaching 8.74 billion cubic metres, Russia's TASS news agency reported on Wednesday.

In June, Russian gas exports to Europe via the pipeline declined by 26 per cent from May and by four per cent from June 2025, falling to 1.08 billion cubic metres. The decline was attributed to annual scheduled main-

tenance on the pipeline.

The TurkStream pipeline, which transports natural gas from Russia to Türkiye across the Black Sea, boasts an annual capacity of 31.5 billion cubic metres and supplies gas to Türkiye

as well as countries in Southern and Southeastern Europe. It remains the only active route for Russian gas deliveries to Europe following the cessation of transit through Ukraine. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mexico, US disagree over trade agreement

MEXICO and the United States remain divided over several trade issues as the USMCA, the existing North American free trade agreement, comes up for a joint review in July, Mexico's Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said on Wednesday.

Ebrard made the remarks at a press conference following a remote meeting with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Dominic LeBlanc, Canada's minister in charge of US trade.

During the meeting, Greer confirmed Washington is not currently willing to automatically extend the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) for another 16 years. The three regional partners are working to review the 2020-36 free trade deal before it is renewed.

Ebrard reiterated Mexico's opposition to US tariff measures imposed on its steel, aluminum, and automotive products, as well as to establishing seasonal import schemes for agricultural products. — Xinhua

World Bank reclassifies Sri Lanka as upper-middle income economy

SRI Lanka has been reclassified as an upper-middle-income economy by the World Bank, marking a return to the category four years after the country's worst economic crisis pushed it to the brink of collapse.

The latest country income classification, released on 1 July, places Sri Lanka back among upper-middle-income economies following a recovery led by stronger output across industry, manufacturing, financial services and tourism. The World Bank said Sri Lanka's real GDP grew by five per cent in 2025. “Sri Lanka is a story of recov-

ery. Just three years after a severe economic crisis brought the country to the brink of collapse in 2022, real GDP grew by five per cent in 2025, driven by a rebound across industries and growth in financial and tourism services. The reclassification is a marker of resilience, though the country only narrowly crossed the threshold,” it said.

The World Bank updates its income classifications on 1 July each year through its Development Data Group, using gross national income per capita estimates from the previous calendar year. — Xinhua



Workers undertake construction at a harbour in Colombo, Sri Lanka. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

EU top court upholds antitrust fine against Google

THE Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) on Thursday upheld a 4.125-billion-euro (US\$4.7 billion) antitrust fine imposed on Google over abusive practices linked to its Android mobile operating system.

The ruling dismissed an appeal by Google and its parent company, Alphabet, against a previous judgement of the General Court of the European Union (EU), which confirmed that the US tech giant had abused its dominant market position through restrictions related to Android.

The CJEU held that the General Court of the EU had correctly assessed the anticompetitive effects of Google's practices. It found that the pre-installation requirements and anti-fragmentation agreements were capable of restricting competition and strengthening Google's dominant position in the Android ecosystem.

The case stems from a 2018 decision by the European Commission, which found that Google had required smartphone manufacturers to pre-install its Google Search app and Chrome browser as a condition for licensing certain Android applications. The Commission also found that Google's anti-fragmentation agreements restricted the development of alternative Android versions, limiting competition. — Xinhua

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The ruling dismissed an appeal by Google and its parent company, Alphabet, against a previous judgment of the General Court of the European Union (EU). **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Telangana and UAE firms introduce AI

A Hyderabad-based infrastructure and engineering conglomerate, Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL), has partnered with Abu Dhabi-based technology company Analog to introduce physical intelligence in India, officials said Thursday.

The duo entered into an equal joint venture on Wednesday to deploy physical intelligence solutions in India. According to them, the partnership will help build smarter infrastructure, improve public safety, and support intelligent urban development.

Physical intelligence involves a technology that allows machines to understand, learn, and respond to the real world instead of simply following fixed instructions. The technology can be used in infrastructure, traffic management, industrial operations, robotics, and smart city projects. — Xinhua

Smart logistics hub in Hungary reflects growing Eurasian connectivity

AT a 33,000-square-metre warehouse in the Hungarian town of Vac, about 35 kilometres north of Budapest, robots glide among towering shelves, retrieving, sorting and despatching parcels with remarkable precision.

The warehouse, part of the Vac Smart Fulfillment Centre, is one of the largest and most highly automated shared smart warehousing facilities in Central and Eastern Europe, local officials told Xinhua during a recent visit.

Instead of the constant bustle typical of traditional logistics centres, the scene here is strikingly quiet. A young worker scans a parcel; its information is instantly logged into the system, and within seconds, a conveyor belt



This photo shows an interior view of the smart warehouse at the Vac Smart Fulfillment Centre in Vac, Hungary. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

carries it away. From that point on, nearly everything is handled by around 700 robots. Human intervention is rarely needed as the warehouse operates

almost entirely on its own. This fully automated overseas warehouse serves cross-border e-commerce companies, including Temu, AliEx-

press and Shein. It can store 20,000 standard European pallets and 110,000 bins for small items, while processing up to 150,000 parcels a day. — Xinhua

Kenya eyes 5 mln annual intl visitors by 2028

KENYA announced on Wednesday that it is positioning its Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism sector to help bridge a 2.3 million vis-

itor deficit as it targets five million international arrivals annually by 2028.

Julius Bitok, principal secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, said the ministry

will lead efforts to attract more MICE business from key global source markets.

Kenya recorded 2.7 million international arrivals in 2025, a nine per

cent increase from the previous year, with the broader tourism sector generating about 500 billion shillings (US\$3.86 billion), according to the ministry. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (005N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (005N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (031)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V RANONG MOE VOY.NO. (031)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **3-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S ANDAMAN SEA GATEWAYS GROUP OF COMPANIES LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

China's law on ethnic affairs takes effect, bolsters legal basis for ethnic unity

THE Ethnic Unity and Progress Promotion Law, China's fundamental law on ethnic affairs, entered into force on Wednesday, strengthening law-based governance in the country's ethnic affairs.

Adopted in March by the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, the law is designed to enhance cohesion and common prosperity among all 56 ethnic groups. This comes as the country enters the final decade of its drive to basically achieve modernization by 2035.

China's ethnic minority population exceeded 125 million, accounting for 8.89 per cent of the country's total, the 2020 census showed. The degree of exchange and integration among different ethnic groups has reached an unparalleled level, authorities say, driven in part by efforts to eradicate abso-



Hezhe people wearing traditional costumes perform during the 11th Wurigong Festival of the Hezhe ethnic group in Fuyuan, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, 2 July 2023. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

lute poverty and advance urbanization.

As the law comes into effect, governments at all levels will need to rigorously implement its key priorities, such as promoting extensive exchanges, interactions and integration among all ethnic groups, and advancing their common development, said Yan Qing, a professor at Minzu University of China.

"This will help raise the level of law-based governance in ethnic affairs," Yan said.

For the first time, the law elaborates, from the perspective of legal theory, on core concepts such as forging a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation and advancing the building of the community of the Chinese nation.

It stipulates that upholding national unity and

ethnic solidarity is the responsibility of all Chinese citizens, and prohibits discrimination and suppression against any ethnic group.

It also combats violent terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism, holding organizers, planners, perpetrators, instigators and funders of these activities criminally liable.

The law can be seen as a summary of China's practical experience in countering separatism, terrorism and radicalization, while also focusing on ethnic unity and progress, said Hu Haifeng, director of the institute of ethnology at the Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences.

Implementation of the law provides more enduring and standardized legal support for stability and cohesion in regions with diverse ethnic populations, Hu said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

El Nino projected to bring drought, fire risk

A strong El Nino event developing in the tropical Pacific is expected to bring dry conditions and heightened wildfire risks to parts of New Zealand in the coming months, according to Earth Sciences New Zealand.

The agency said in a statement on Thursday that El Nino conditions have been established and could intensify into one of the strongest on record, potentially shaping weather patterns through 2027.

"As we've seen with the previous El Nino events, the overwhelming majority of long-range models are favouring drier than usual conditions for northern and eastern areas of New Zealand, while western regions, especially of the South Island, are likely to see increased rainfall," said Earth Sciences NZ and MetService meteorologist Jon Tunster. — Xinhua

Portugal braces for extreme heatwave

PORTUGAL is stepping up nationwide measures to cope with an extreme heatwave, as authorities issued the highest weather alerts, tightened wildfire prevention and expanded support for vulnerable groups.

According to the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere, 12 of the 18 districts on Portugal's mainland, including the capital Lisbon, will be placed under a red weather warning — the highest level on a three-tier alert system — from Thursday through at least Saturday due to persistently extreme temperatures. The remaining six districts will be under an orange warning during the same period. Interior Minister Luis Neves warned on Wednesday that temperatures could reach as high as 47 degrees Celsius in the coming days, urging the public to exercise maximum caution and avoid risky behaviour, according to Lusa News Agency. — Xinhua

Shanghai, New York hold themed dialogues on urban cooperation

CHINESE business hub Shanghai and its US counterpart New York recently held a series of dialogues here to bolster exchanges between the two global metropolises.

A launch ceremony was held on Tuesday in Manhattan for the third season of "Our Water: Flowing from Shanghai - Intercultural Dialogues among World Cities," followed by a fireside chat and panel discussions on bilateral financial investment and opportunities in consumer markets.

Both Shanghai and

New York are great waterfront cities and cultural, commercial and culinary capitals, according to former New York mayor and media mogul



Both Shanghai and New York are prominent waterfront cities. Bear Mountain Bridge over the Hudson River, New York. **PHOTO: ISTOCK**

Michael Bloomberg.

"Great cities just don't compete with each other. They learn from each other. And that kind of exchange between cit-

ies has never been more important," said Bloomberg at the function.

The dialogue promotes sharing ideas, added Bloomberg, who hosted the event on Tuesday.

The friendly exchanges and mutual learning between these two cities vividly illustrate how China and the United States can achieve mutual success and shared prosperity, said Tang Zhiwen, minister at the Chinese Embassy to the United States. — Xinhua

Venezuela declares national mourning for quake victims

VENEZUELA'S acting president Delcy Rodriguez on Wednesday declared seven days of national mourning in tribute to the victims of the powerful earthquakes that struck the country on 24 June.

"In honour of the memory of the victims, I have decided to decree National Mourning for seven (7) days, starting at 6 pm Wednesday," Rodriguez wrote in a statement posted on social media.

She said that "in these

moments of profound sadness, we embrace those who suffer from this tragedy and reaffirm our commitment to accompany and protect them."

"Venezuela's soul is torn by the human losses caused by the devastating earthquakes," Rodriguez added.

According to the latest official update, the earthquakes had caused at least 1,943 fatalities and injured more than 10,500 people by Tuesday. — Xinhua

2026
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SPORTS

Senegal boss Thiaw sees lessons in World Cup exit

SENEGAL manager Pape Thiaw said football could be "cruel" after his side's World Cup campaign ended with a 3-2 extra-time defeat to Belgium on Wednesday.

Senegal led 2-0 through goals either side of halftime from Habib Diarra and Ismaila Sarr. The African side looked set for victory before Romelu Lukaku and Yuri Tielemans struck in the last five minutes to force an additional half hour.

Tielemans scored again by converting a 125th-minute penalty as Belgium advanced to the last 16.

"It's a cruel defeat," Thiaw told a post-match news conference. "We played well and led 2-0. But a football match doesn't last 85 minutes. Belgium came back and we weren't able to deal with that. We had our chances, but we have to congratulate Belgium on progressing."

He said it was difficult to accept the decision to award Tielemans a penalty after Lamine Camara was deemed to have fouled the Aston Villa midfielder. But the 45-year-old declined to criticize the referee.

"When the penalty was awarded, we had our own interpretation," Thiaw said. "We didn't believe it was a penalty. Our players challenged the decision because that was our right. Belgium converted the penalty, and that was the goal that eliminated us." — Xinhua

Spain's Simon 89 minutes from World Cup goalkeeping record

SPAIN goalkeeper Unai Simon is close to setting a new record for the longest time without conceding a goal at the World Cup finals.

The current record of 517 minutes is held by Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga, set at the 1990 World Cup in Italy, but if Simon does not concede in the first 89 minutes of Spain's round-of-32 match against Austria on Thursday, he will overtake Zenga. The Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper has kept three clean sheets in his three appearances at this World Cup.

Looking back to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, although Spain went out in the round of 16 on penalties to Morocco, that game ended 0-0, and the last time Simon was beaten was when Ao Tanaka scored in 51 minutes of Spain's 2-1 defeat to Japan in its final group-stage match. — Xinhua

Belgium manager Garcia lauds comeback win

BELGIUM manager Rudi Garcia said his side would gain belief from its dramatic 3-2 win over Senegal on Wednesday as it seeks to advance beyond the World Cup last 16.

Senegal looked set for victory in the round of 32 clash at Seattle Stadium following goals either side of halftime from Habib Diarra and Ismaila Sarr. But Romelu Lukaku and Yuri Tielemans struck in the last five minutes to force an additional half hour before Tielemans put his side ahead with a 125th-minute penalty. "Football is full of emotions," Garcia told a post-match news conference. "In 83 minutes it wasn't easy to believe we could come back. At the hydration break I told the players that if we scored another goal, anything was possible." — Xinhua

Harry Kane: England's World Cup saviour

HARRY Kane is England's talisman, record goalscorer and often their saviour. Is he also their only hope at the World Cup?

The captain came up with the goods yet again against the Democratic Republic of Congo in Atlanta on Wednesday, scoring twice in 11 minutes as Thomas Tuchel's men recovered from a shocking start to win 2-1.

The Bayern Munich star headed a superb equalizer from Anthony Gordon's cross in the 75th minute and thumped home the winner with four minutes remaining.

Kane now has five goals at the 2026 World Cup, one behind Li-



Harry Kane celebrates after England beat DR Congo 2-1 to progress to the last 16 at the World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

onel Messi and Kylian Mbappe and level with Erling Haaland in a captivating race for the Golden Boot.

His 12th and 13th World Cup goals in the round of 32 moved him

ahead of Pele's dozen, up to sixth on the all-time list, level with France forward Just Fontaine and six behind Messi. A relieved Tuchel described Kane as being one of the "sharks" at the World Cup,

alongside the other A-list forwards. "They are all sharks," he said. "If they smell blood, they come and score." "It's crazy," the German added. "So, so good. He's our captain, he's our leader, and decides football matches with unbelievable finishes." Kane, who has few equals as a finisher, has a remarkable 72 goals for club and country this season in just 62 appearances.

Midfielder Declan Rice told the BBC that his skipper was posting "ridiculous numbers".

"He is a proper leader, a captain, trains every day and gets on with everyone in the group," he said. — AFP

World Cup takes toll on managers

WORLD Cup exits often end players' dreams and coaches' jobs. Even before the tournament finishes, several managers have resigned or been sacked after failing to meet expectations, demonstrating how unforgiving football's biggest

stage can be. Recent departures include Ronald Koeman (Netherlands), Sebastian Beccacece (Ecuador), Marcelo Bielsa (Uruguay) and Hong Myung-bo (South Korea), following earlier exits by Steve Clarke (Scotland), Miroslav Koubek (Czech

Republic) and Sabri Lamouchi (Tunisia).

Circumstances varied: some arrived under pressure, others earned praise for qualification only to see achievements quickly forgotten. Bielsa accepted responsibility after Uruguay's group-

stage exit without a win; Beccacece, who had led Ecuador to second in South American qualifying and a 19-match unbeaten run, resigned after a round-of-32 loss to co-host Mexico. Hong admitted he failed to meet public expectations after South Korea's group-stage elimination. Koeman left following the Netherlands' penalty defeat to Morocco; Clarke resigned despite recent contract renewal after guiding Scotland back to the World Cup.

Lamouchi was sacked after Tunisia's 5-1 opening loss to Sweden, becoming one of the few managers dismissed during a World Cup. The tournament's compressed format—lasting under six weeks—means years of managerial work can be judged on a handful of matches, leaving little room for error — Xinhua



Netherlands head coach Ronald Koeman (2nd L) watches on during his side's 5-1 Group F win against Tunisia at the 2026 FIFA World Cup at Kansas City Stadium, the United States, 25 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



Panel releases report on AI governance

THE UN Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence (AI) officially released its preliminary report on Wednesday, days before the first Global Dialogue on AI Governance scheduled for Geneva next week.

The report, "Preliminary Report of the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI: Evidence-based assessment of opportunities, risks and impacts of AI," presented an independent scientific assessment of the capabilities and the emerging opportunities and risks of AI, providing a shared evidence base to help UN member states navigate a rapidly changing tech-

nology.

"This collaborative effort to build a shared understanding of AI arrives at a critical inflection point," the panel said in a press release.

Governments are making consequential decisions about AI under great uncertainty with rapidly changing, often conflicting sources of evidence and perspectives that do not necessarily reflect local realities. As the capabilities of AI continue to grow, so do the stakes for the decisions being made around the world, which is the core challenge the panel aims to address, according to the release. — Xinhua

Thailand to introduce new EV policy measures

THE Thai government is actively preparing a new package of support measures to protect electric vehicle (EV) investors from intensifying competition and macroeconomic headwinds, the head of the Board of Investment (BOI) said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the 11th International Electric Vehicle Technology Conference and Exhibition, BOI Secretary-General Narit Therdsteerasukdi announced that the agency has finalized a proposal following direct consultations with individual automakers and industry groups like the Electric Vehicle Association of Thailand (EVAT).

Narit said the upcoming interventions aim to ensure long-term sustainability as the domestic industry faces rapid techno-

logical change and tighter local credit conditions that are beginning to contract the consumer market.

The announcement underscores a critical strategic pivot for the Southeast Asian automotive hub. EVAT President Suroj Sangsnit emphasized that Thailand's transition can no longer merely focus on introducing more battery-powered cars into the market.

"More importantly, it is about building a complete, competitive, and connected EV ecosystem that can support Thailand's long-term industrial growth," Suroj said, mapping out critical localization fields including battery cell systems, advanced software, component recycling, charging infrastructure, and local talent development. — Xinhua

India-Japan AI cooperation to spur global development: PM Modi

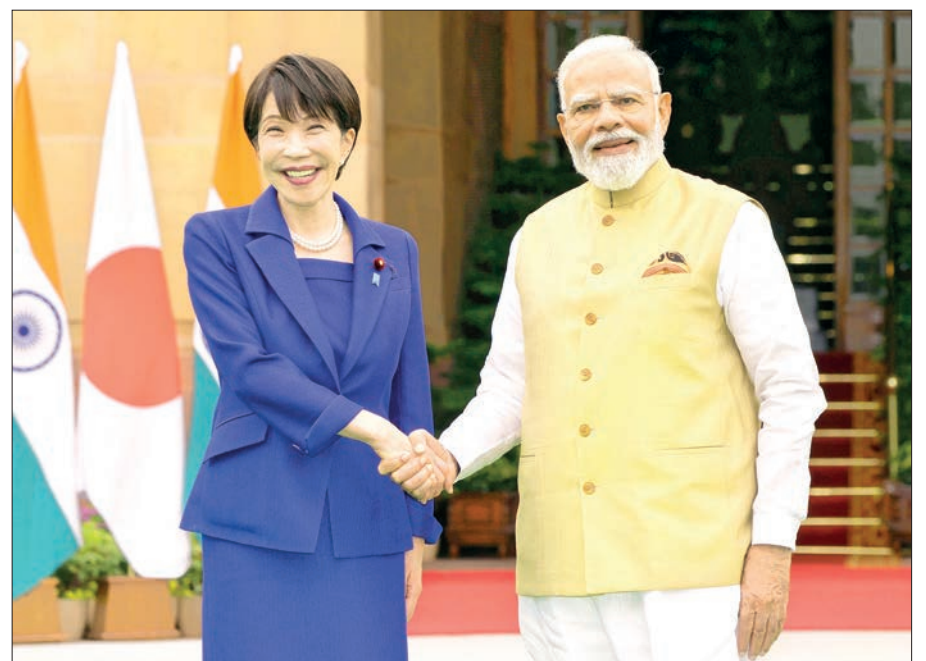
PM Modi said that there was a "strategic synergy, confidence and clarity" between New Delhi and Tokyo.

COOPERATION on artificial intelligence between India and Japan will help boost global development, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday after talks with his Japanese counterpart, Sanae Takaichi, in New Delhi.

India and Japan signed agreements on economic security, Artificial Intelligence (AI), defence, and health sectors for a "futuristic and limitless" partnership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

Addressing the India-Japan Joint Economic Forum, PM Modi said that there was a "strategic synergy, confidence and clarity" between New Delhi and Tokyo.

He called for a collaboration where Japan's technology and India's market present a "resilient supply chain" in sem-



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (L) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands ahead of their talks in New Delhi on 2 July 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

iconductors, pharma and critical minerals. India and Japan have enhanced economic ties with Tokyo to invest 10 trillion yen in India over the next decade. "Today, PM Takaichi and I have decided

to further speed up and deepen our partnership. We signed agreements on economic security, AI, defence, health and several issues so that this partnership becomes futuristic and limitless.

"There is strategic synergy, confidence and clarity between our two governments. The responsibility to turn this into outcomes is yours," the Prime Minister said. — ANI

US-Iran indirect peace talks conclude

IRANIAN Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi on Wednesday announced the conclusion of talks in Qatar on the implementation of a peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States.

Leading a delegation from the Foreign Ministry, Central Bank, and Agriculture Ministry, Gharibabadi said that the Iranian team held talks with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrah-

man bin Jassim Al Thani in the morning and then attended two meetings with Qatari and Pakistani delegations, according to

the official news agency IRNA.

"The first meeting of the supervision group for the MoU's implemen-



This photo taken on 30 June 2026 shows a view of the skyline at the West Bay district in Doha, Qatar. PHOTO: XINHUA

tation was also held with the participation of senior negotiators from the three countries," he said. During the discussions, the Iranian delegation pointed out and discussed US violations of its obligations under the MoU's Paragraph 1, which pertains to the war's end in Lebanon, news of US actions regarding the reinforcement of its military equipment and forces in the West Asia region, and "threatening and interventionist" remarks by US officials, according to IRNA. — Xinhua