

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Costume Show, Entertainment Gala Mark Myanmar Women's Day 2026



A spectacular traditional Myanmar attire show and entertainment gala to commemorate Myanmar Women's Day in Nay Pyi Taw.

AS a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Women's Day, which falls on 3 July 2026, under the leadership of the Myanmar Women's Committee, the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (MWAFF) staged the Pearl Jubilee Myanmar women's costume show and entertainment at the Myanmar

International Convention Centre I (MICC I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by MWAFF Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, who is the wife of the President, together with MWAFF Honorary Patron Daw San San Aye, the wife of the Vice-President 1, and MWAFF Honorary Patron Vice-President 2 Nan Ni Ni Aye, wives of speakers of the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services,

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Incomplete applications face rejection for consular services

THE Myanmar Embassy to the Republic of Korea has announced that consular services will no longer be provided to applicants who submit inaccurate or incomplete personal information.

The embassy previously requested applicants to clarify missing details and verified their submissions. However, a significant number of applications continue to

arrive with missing or incorrect information, specifically regarding parents' names and full addresses.

Repeated notifications have been issued regarding these errors. The embassy stated that handling these incomplete submissions has caused unnecessary administrative delays, disrupted general operations and affected service delivery. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar Embassy in Seoul.

OPINION

Implement plans through feedbacks from field trips

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Fishers Warned Against Exploiting Bad Weather for Illegal Catches

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has warned that legal action will be taken against offshore and inshore fishing vessels found catching fish or prawns in inshore waters under the pretext of sheltering from adverse



An offshore fishing vessel is pictured at sea.

weather. To ensure the safety of fishing vessels and crews during the monsoon season, the Department of Fisheries has issued Directive 2/2026, designating shelter locations where vessels may anchor during strong winds and rough seas. These sites are for shelter only, and any vessel found fishing while claiming to be taking refuge will face legal action.

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MTSH eyes expansion of renewable energy production

YANGON Stock Exchange-listed Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) has prioritized expanding renewable energy production as part of its core future growth sectors, according to its 2025-2026 financial statement.

The MTSH Group continues to implement and expand solar energy projects across various business sectors, reflecting the company's long-term commitment to clean energy production, energy



This image captures the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

security, and sustainable infrastructure investment. At present, the company is working to turn exist-

ing solar projects into commercial operation and to expand them in the future.

SEE PAGE 6

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Duty Assignment of Permanent Secretary and Director-General of Service Organization

THE Union Government has assigned U Win Naing, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, to the duties of Permanent Secretary and Director-General of the same organization.

MPT Unveils 2026 Youth Internship Initiative



MPT's 2026 Nationwide Internship Programme for youth.

MYANMAR'S leading telecom operator, MPT, successfully organized the 2026 Nationwide Internship Programme at MPT offices located in six regions and states from April to June, aiming to provide engineering students from technological universities with hands-on experience in real workplace technologies and to bridge the gap between academic theory and practical industry applications.

Initiated in 2018, the internship programme has nurtured nearly 3,000 students to date to develop the country's technological human resources.

This year, 82 final-year engineering students from 11 technological universities in Nay Pyi Taw Council, southern Shan State, Mandalay Region, Taninthayi Region, Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region.

The courses provided students with comprehensive theoretical and practical knowledge across

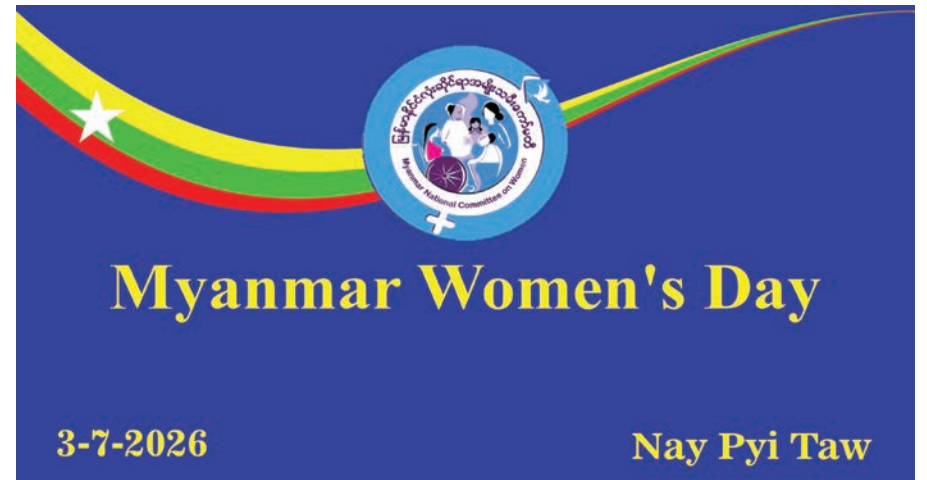
various core domains, including Telecom-related technologies such as Microwave, DWDM (Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing), FTTX, Information security and HSE (Health, Safety, and Environment) Awareness Training. Additionally, the students from Yangon Head Office visited the Satellite Earth Station, Transmission System and Call Centre.

Mr Hiroyuki OKAI, Advisor to the COO of MPTJO, expressed that, "MPT's goal is not only to deliver the best telecommunication networks but also to play a key role in developing young tech professionals who will lead our country forward. Given the rapid evolution of the telecom industry, exposing university students to real-world workplace challenges and emerging technologies is a vital step toward their professional development. We take great pride in knowing that this initiative, which started in

2018, has helped upgrade the skills of nearly 3,000 youth to date."

One of the students, Ma Khine Khine Tun, a final-year engineering student from the West Yangon Technological University (WYTU), shared her experience: "During this internship, I could clearly visualize how the network systems and telecom technologies taught in our university classes function in a real workplace. The senior engineers at MPT provided systematic guidance throughout the program. This experience has truly built up our confidence for our future careers."

MPT remains dedicated to developing younger generations across all sectors in which it operates. As part of its corporate social responsibility, the company offers a free education programme for Myanmar's youth via the MPT Learning Management System (mpt.com.mm). — MT



Bay of Bengal Condition

Issued at 2 pm MST on 1 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 12:30 pm MST today, a low-pressure area may form over the Northwest Bay of Bengal on 3 July 2026.

MRCS, IFRC monitor earthquake rehabilitation efforts in Mandalay and Sagaing

THE Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) visited Mandalay and Sagaing regions on 29 June to monitor earthquake rehabilitation efforts, according to the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

The delegation visited temporary shelters built by the Myanmar Red Cross Society in Baleba Village, TadaU Township, Mandalay Region, and met families who had received cash assistance to repair homes damaged

by the earthquake.

They also met Red Cross staff and volunteers from district and township branches at the Mandalay Earthquake

Response and Rehabilitation Office (Sagaing Branch) in Sagaing to discuss ongoing earthquake rehabilitation efforts. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows the meeting with Red Cross staff and Red Cross volunteers from the districts and townships at the Mandalay Earthquake Response and Rehabilitation Office (Sagaing Branch).



Myanmar reports no new COVID-19 cases

THE Ministry of Health tested 15 samples from 8 pm on 31 May 2026 to 8 pm on 30 June 2026, and no new cases were detected.

Currently, there is no need to worry about infection and deaths from COVID-19, but all need to follow personal hygiene methods, and the high-risk groups.

- Elderly people (aged 60 and above)
- People with diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer
- Pregnant women (especially those beyond the third month of pregnancy)

are prioritized to receive COVID-19 booster shots.

More detailed COVID-19 information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, moh.gov.mm.

Myanmar CDC
Public Health Department, Ministry of Health

NATIONAL

Deputy ministers respond to 12 queries at Pyithu Hluttaw

THE 17th-day meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday replied to 12 questions on the supply of drinking water, dredging of silt along the river course, repair of the dam, rural electrification, installation of transformers and solar bulbs and upgrade of the sub-power station.

U Soe Kyaw Naing from the Kyunhla Constituency asked about the supply of drinking water in Kyunhla, and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw responded that currently, the supply of drinking water is sufficient for 2,400 out of 14,418 people from four urban wards in Kyunhla. So, the regional government fund



The 17th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi.

or an appropriate fund will be demanded in the 2027-28 financial year to implement the water supply project.

For the questions raised by U Maung Shwe from the Loikaw Constituency, the deputy

minister answered that a 430-foot-long gravel-filled embankment of Belu Creek along Nanda Road in Shansu Ward and the 1,060-foot embankment along the Strand Road in Daw U Khu Ward will be built

in financial years as part of preventing flooding in urban areas of Loikaw.

He also replied to questions submitted by U Aung Kyaw Min from the Thongwa Constituency, **SEE PAGE 5**

Costume Show, Entertainment Gala Mark Myanmar ...

FROM PAGE 1

the wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the wife of the Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and guests.

At the ceremony, songs honouring Myanmar Women's Day were presented, and costumes and attire created by renowned designers were shown. Moreover, the song titled "Perpetual Peace" and a one-act play titled "Ka-kyo" were staged.

Artistes performed songs and entertainments while theatrical performer San Yay Moe presented theatrical dances.

Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the wife of the President, presented honorary bouquets to KBZ Group Patron

well-wisher Daw Nang Leng Kham; MWAFF Secretary Daw Myat Myat Oo to film artistes; wife of the Vice-President 1 MWAFF Honorary Patron Daw San San Aye to theatrical and musical artistes, MWAFF Honorary Patron Vice-President 2 Nan Ni Ni Aye to Forever Group and John Lwin, Union Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin, patrons of MWAFF, the president and the secretary to designers and well-wishers, respectively.

Wife of the President, MWAFF Honorary Patron Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Vice-President 1 Daw San San Aye, Vice-President 2 Nan Ni Ni Aye and officials cordially greeted artistes. — MNA/TTA

MoFA Union Minister receives AHA Centre Executive Director



The AHA Centre Executive Director calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received a delegation led by Mr Lee Yam Ming, Executive Director of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union minister expressed his apprecia-

tion for the efforts of the AHA Centre to provide humanitarian assistance in Myanmar, while encouraging to maintain the close cooperation with the Government of Myanmar to ensure that humanitarian assistance is delivered to those who are in need effectively and efficiently. The Union minister emphasized the importance of ensuring that humani-

tarian aid aligns with Myanmar's prioritized needs, and explained the Government's facilitation of the AHA Centre's initiatives in delivering humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar. The Union minister also suggested areas of cooperation with the AHA Centre, and reaffirmed that Myanmar remains committed to supporting the AHA Centre's functions in Myanmar.

Mr Lee Yam Ming expressed his appreciation for the support and assistance provided by the Government of Myanmar in delivering humanitarian assistance through the AHA Centre. He also briefed the AHA Centre's future plans for the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar. — MNA

Chin State rehabilitation, reconstruction initiatives ongoing

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, accompanied by members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, attended the reopening of shops at Myoma Municipal Market and the municipal market in Sakawlane Ward, Tiddim, Chin State, on 29 June.

He then visited the post-primary school in Xiaosong Sanpya Village, Tiddim Township, where he met the headmistress and teachers and coordinated with officials to address the school's needs.



This image shows the ongoing efforts of rehabilitation in Tiddim, Chin State.

He also inspected the Ministry of Immigration and Population's issuance of Citizenship Scrutiny Cards and

Unique Identification Numbers (UIDs) in Xiaosong Sanpya Village under the Lamin Project. — MNA/MKKS

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

NATIONAL

Myanmar hosts 38th Myanmar-Thailand Regional Border Committee Meeting

THE opening ceremony of the 38th Myanmar-Thailand Regional Border Committee meeting took place in Kengtung Township, Shan State (East), on Tuesday.

During the event, Myanmar delegation leader Maj-Gen Kyaw Lin Maung and Thai delegation leader Lt-Gen Warathep Boonya made remarks.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters relating to the Myanmar-Thailand border; ongoing and future bilateral cooperation in preventing and suppressing drug trafficking, continued government-to-government cooperation to combat the presence of illegal foreign nationals and online scam and illegal gambling operations in border areas and sector-wise cooperation in the border areas.

In the evening, Maj-Gen Kyaw Lin Maung hosted a dinner at the Seinpann Ni Ni Hall in honour of the head of the Thai delegation,

Lt-Gen Warathep Boonya, and members of both delegations attending the meeting. During the event, the two sides exchanged commemorative gifts.

The second day of the meeting was held yesterday, and the two leaders approved and signed the meeting agreements, and delivered speeches.

The delegation leaders exchanged commemorative plaques representing the two countries.

During their stay in Myanmar to attend the 38th Myanmar-Thailand Regional Border Committee meeting, members of the Thai delegation paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw, visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw where they laid wreaths in tribute, paid homage at renowned pagodas in Kengtung, and toured famous landmarks in Nay Pyi Taw and Kengtung. — MNA/KTZH



The 38th Myanmar-Thailand Regional Border Committee meeting is underway in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 30 June 2026.

Myanmar, Thailand to deepen military cooperation

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo received a Royal Thai Army delegation led by Lt-Gen Warathep Boonya, who attended the 38th Myanmar-Thailand Regional Border Committee Meeting, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they frankly discussed successful holding of the 38th Myanmar-Thailand Regional Border Committee meeting in Myanmar, measures to strengthen the long-standing friending and cooperation between two Tatmadaws, the gratitude to Thailand for its

humanitarian aid and rescue teams sent to Myanmar in the occurrence of the Mandalay earthquake on 28 March 2025, the exchange of goodwill visits, cultural delegations, sports teams, and trainees between the two Tatmadaws, enhanced bilateral military cooperation to promote peace, stability, development, and counter-terrorism efforts in border areas, and increased cooperation between the two governments and Tatmadaws in combatting illegal trade, drug trafficking, online scam and illegal gambling operations.

They exchanged commemorative gifts and had documentary



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo receives the Royal Thai Army delegation yesterday.

photos taken together with the attendees.

Also present at the meeting were senior Tatmadaw officers from the office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), commanders, the Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) of Myanmar to

Thailand and relevant officials. The Thai leader was accompanied by Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Royal Thai Embassy, senior military officers from the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and other relevant officials. — MNA/KTZH

Taunggyi's RBF pig farming activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Taunggyi District, Shan State (South), conducted a field inspection to review the progress of pig farming activities implemented under the Rural Economic Development Fund Establishment Project (RBF) in Hpetpone Village, Taunggyi Township, yesterday.

Taunggyi District Department of Rural Development Head U Nyunt Win, Township Depart-

ment of Rural Development Head U Zaw Win and officials observed the group-based pig farming activities carried out by four groups and inspected feed storage conditions. He met RBF group members to discuss feed prices, production costs, and market selling prices, coordinating necessary arrangements based on local requirements.

The income-generating pig farming activities in Hpetpone Village are being implemented using an RBF project seed fund



Officials inspect the group-based pig farming activities in Taunggyi Township.

of K30 million, along with contributions from group members, to successfully operate and expand their

businesses to ensure increased household incomes. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

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NATIONAL

Placement Tests for Returning Students

THE Bago Region government has announced that it is arranging for students from schools that are unable to open for various reasons to take placement tests, allowing them to continue their education in appropriate grade levels.

This was stated by a relevant official from the regional government in responding to a starred

question regarding education raised by U Nyan Win, Hluttaw representative for Zegon Constituency 1, during the second regular session of the Third Bago Region Hluttaw.

In pursuit of the Ministry of Education's guidance, this special programme was initiated to allow school-age children who have been out of the

formal school system for various reasons since the 2021-2022 academic year. This initiative includes students from basic education schools, as well as those from private schools and monastic schools. The official explained that students from Grade 2 to 9 sat for these tests from 15 to 20 June.

Furthermore, support is being provided to teachers from these schools. "Teachers who have completed two years of service are permitted to apply for transfers and promotions," the official said.

These programmes are expected to restore educational opportunities for children currently outside the school system, while also contributing to the stability of teachers' jobs. — TWA/ZN



The ongoing second regular session of the Third Bago Region Hluttaw.

Over K1.35B proposed to overhaul school washrooms



Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Bo Htay replying to the query raised by a Region Hluttaw representative.

FUNDING worth more than K1.35 billion has been proposed for the school toilet renovation project, which is planned to be implemented for 235 basic education schools in Yangon Region in this financial year, said Yangon Region Minister U Bo Htay for Social Affairs in the second session of the third Yangon Region Hluttaw held on

29 June.

He replied to the request by Daw Khine Su Yi Zaw, regional Hluttaw representative from the Bahan Constituency 2. The question was about plans for clean toilets in basic education schools.

According to the minister, budget allocations are systematically distributed across fiscal years to upgrade school sanitation facilities in

the region. Specifically, K689.84 million was designated for 130 schools in the 2024-25 financial year, followed by an allocation of K863.44 million for 145 schools in 2025-2026 financial year, he added.

The government intends to sustain its annual repair and maintenance initiative to ensure clean school sanitation facilities.

"We plan to execute the school washroom maintenance project every year. Furthermore, to cover essential cleaning costs, we have arranged budget allocations under the category of 'cleaning expenses and labour wages'," the minister stated. — TWA/ZS

Deputy ministers respond to 12 queries at Pyithu Hluttaw

FROM PAGE 3

saying that water sources to be taken from dams of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation are very far from the urban wards of Thongwa. Moreover, these dams primarily irrigate farmlands, so these facilities limit the supply of drinking water for the people. As such, the current development committee is the most appropriate to manage the supply of water to the urban area, and the ministry will cooperate with the committee as necessary.

He also replied to questions raised by U Aung Ko Latt from the Tamu Constituency, stating that the Kangyiwa diversion weir in Tamu Township will be repaired with a plan to demand the Union budget or appropri-

ate funds in the 2027-28 financial year.

Regarding the questions presented by U Aung Myint Than from the Kyaukse Constituency, the deputy minister stated that as workloads are heavy for dredging silt along the 20-mile water course in the Zawgyi River and improvement of the embankment to prevent flooding urban areas in Kyaukse, phases of the project will be implemented on priority with the funds from the Mandalay Region government.

U Aung Naing from the Waw Constituency asked about a plan to construct the gravel-filled retaining walls along the Moeyungyi-Zwebet embankment of the Moeyungyi Reservoir in Waw Township. The deputy

minister clarified that the fund will be demanded to build the 5.35-mile gravel-filled embankment of Moeyungyi Reservoir in the 2027-28 financial year.

The deputy minister also replied to the queries raised by Daw Ohnma Moh Moh Zaw from the Thaegon Constituency, stating that the ministry will demand the Bago region government funds and other appropriate funds to dredge creeks leading to Inma Lake and straighten the watercourse of Myitmakha River in the 2027-28 FY, not to cause loss and damage to farmlands from flooding in Thaegon Township.

U Htay Lwin (aka) U Di Lone from the Namsang Constituency asked about plans to install a seven-mile 33 KV power line

from Nawngkham-Nawngkha-Namsang-Nawngdae in Namsang Township and construct four 33/0.4 kV transformers. Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw responded that the ministry will demand the fund from the Shan State government and earmark the implementation of the projects in financial years starting from 2027-28 FY.

He also answered the questions raised by U Maung Maung Soe from the Thaboung Constituency, saying that the projects to be earmarked in the capital expenditure of the Ayeyawady Region government will be implemented, including the installation of power lines and transformers to electrify Hngetpyawaw, Mezalikwinpauk, Hsin-

lan and Thabyaygon village-tracts in Thaboung Township in the 2027-28 financial year.

U Rah Ni from the PutaO Constituency asked about plans to install 350 solar bulbs along the Union highway in PutaO. The deputy minister responded that the ministry will demand K346.35 million from the Kachin State government fund in 2026-27 FY for the installation of 350 solar bulbs and 47 single-arm street light poles along the Union Highway in PutaO to implement the project.

The deputy minister also replied to questions raised by Daw Myint Myint Htay from the Chanayethazan Constituency, stating that the Mandalay City Development Committee will prioritize repairing

the lamp-posts along 77th Street between 26th and 35th streets in Kinsanama-hi Ward of Chanayethazan Township in 2026-27 FY. The road section between 26th and 33rd streets will be repaired in the 2027-28 FY, depending on the financial allocation.

About the questions presented by U Win Myint from the Oktwin Constituency, the deputy minister said that the ministry will demand K3.742 billion from the Union budget in the 2027-28 financial year to upgrade the 33/11 kV, 5 MVA sub-power station to the 10 MVA sub-power station to electrify 29 villages of Kywepwe in Oktwin Township.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue the 18th-day session on 3 July. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

MOGE, domestic firms partner for standard oil production



This photo features a signing ceremony of the operating agreement for drilling and production of crude oil from standard wells between MOGE and domestic companies.

THE signing ceremony for the operating agreements between the Ministry of Energy's Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and domestic companies for the drilling and production of crude oil from standard wells was held on 30 June.

The ceremony was

attended by Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin, ministry officials, and representatives of the companies granted operating rights.

Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin said that hand-dug oil well drilling operations previously permitted have already been

suspended, and that the introduction of the new system is intended to minimize the waste and loss of state-owned oil resources while ensuring their sustainable extraction and utilization. He added that applications for oil drilling and production will be carefully reviewed and approved to minimize environmental impacts.

The project aims to help meet domestic oil demand while enabling local entrepreneurs to invest their capital productively in the State's production sector. Companies applying to drill and produce crude oil from the standard wells will therefore be systematically evaluated,

and eligible applicants will continue to be granted operating rights.

"The crude oil produced from these operations will be systematically refined and supplied to state-owned oil refineries for processing. This will make a significant contribution to meeting the country's energy needs," a ministry official said.

During the ceremony, the Managing Director of the MOGE briefed the participating companies on the rules and regulations governing the operations, after which the operating agreements were signed and exchanged between MOGE and the respective companies. — TWA/TH

Disaster response urged as delta floods threaten next week

METEOROLOGIST U Win Naing has advised disaster response teams to elevate their mobilization levels to the highest possible alert, as there is a very high probability of flooding across most of Myanmar's delta areas between 6 and 14 July.

According to the latest reports and mapping data from the Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS) and Reporting Points (RP), during that period, there is the highest nationwide risk of flooding, including Bago and Yangon regions (Sittoung and Bago Rivers Basins), Sittoung River Basin (Toungoo and along the Sittoung River), Chin

and Rakhine states (Rakhine Coastal Basins and Kaladan River Basin), and Ayeyawady and Magway regions (Lower Ayeyawady River Basin).

He also warned that water levels along the Thanlwin River basin — particularly near the borders of Kayin, Mon, and Shan states — are expected to peak between 11 and 14 July.

There is an 88 per cent probability that it will exceed the two-year return period flood level, and a 68 per cent probability for the five-year return period; consequently, an 'Extreme Alert' level has been designated. — MT/the Sittoung River), Chin ZN

Basic sewing training concludes in Mongyawng



The concluding ceremony of the Basic Sewing Machine Training Course is in progress yesterday.

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Mongyawng District, Shan State (East), held a closing ceremony for the Basic Sewing Machine Training Course at the Hawngkyant Village Hall yesterday.

Mongyawng District Administration and Management Committee Chairman U Wai Maung first delivered the opening address, and District Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Soe explained the objectives and implementation of the basic sewing machine training programme. The district administration committee chairman, district head, and attending officials then presented sewing machines and related equipment to three outstanding trainees as incentive awards, and completion certificates to all trainees who successfully completed the course. They also viewed garments made by the trainees and took

commemorative group photographs.

The 45-day free training programme, conducted from 16 May to 30 June, was attended by trainees from Hawngkyant Village Tract, where qualified instructors taught various basic sewing machine techniques. Outstanding trainees who genuinely intend to start their own businesses will be eligible to receive loans from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project revolving funds implemented by the department to set up their own businesses. — Karan (Rural)

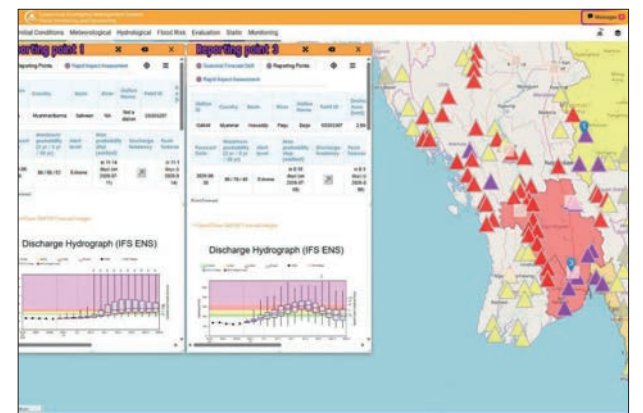
Fishers Warned Against Exploiting Bad Weather for Illegal Catches

FROM PAGE 1

The designated shelter locations are Sittway Township, Pauktaw Township, Kyaukpyu Township,

Thandwe Township, Taungup Township and Gwa Township in Rakhine State, Ngaputaw Township and Bogale Township in Ayeyawady

Region, Ye Township in Mon State, and Launglon Township, Myeik Township and Kyunsu Township in Taninthayi Region. — ASH/KZL



Initial monitoring diagrams for meteorology and flood risk.

MTSH eyes expansion of renewable energy production

FROM PAGE 1

Through this operation, MTSH expects to create new revenue streams, providing recurring income and diversifying its income sources.

The company has secured a K8 billion bank loan to implement the solar power generation project.

"This bank loan has been utilized for an investment that will support the company's long-term development and revenue diversification strategy," stated MTSH's financial report.

Renewable energy will remain a core driver of MTSH's long-term expansion. This diversification into the utilities market anchors the group's commitment to building a sustainable and resilient business model. — ASH/KK

NATIONAL

Mongnai disburses K46M under MSY Project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony to disburse the revolving fund under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Loilin Village, Mongnai Township, yesterday.

Mongnai Township Department of Rural Development Head U Maung Khaing first explained the objectives of the project and the purpose of providing the revolving funds. Project staff then briefed participants on interest rates, loan repayment periods, and regulations governing the loan programme. Afterwards, the revolving

funds amounting to K46 million was handed over to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee.

The committee members, under the supervision of the department, disbursed K46 million of the revolving funds at low interest rates directly to project members. Of the total amount, K46 million was provided directly to 42 project members in Loilin Village engaged in agriculture, livestock, and trading activities, all of whom are operating and expanding their income-generating activities with support from the project funds. —Maung Khaing (Rural)



Village representatives receive funds in Mongnai Township.

Magway's completed concrete road inspected

OFFICIALS inspected the completed concrete road construction project in Pahtoesan Village, Magway Township, Magway Region, yesterday. The project was jointly implemented under the 100-Day Plan, utilizing funds from the Village Development Project (VDP) and contributions from the local community.

Officials of Magway Region Department of Rural Development and members of the Village Project Committee, inspected the completed road. The regional director emphasized the importance of collective maintenance by committee members and villagers to ensure the long-term durability of the

concrete road.

The concrete road measures 1,100 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and six inches in thickness. The project was implemented with a total budget of K66 million, consisting of K15 million from the 2026-2027 financial year VDP fund and K51 million contributed by the villagers. With technical assistance from DRD engineers, the villagers began the construction in the second week of May. The project is now 100 per cent complete, providing improved road accessibility for 540 residents across 140 households in the village, according to U Kyaw Zaw Hein, Head of the Magway Region DRD. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

Certificates, badges presented to People's Military Service Batch 3/2024 graduates

THE ceremonies to present certificates of completion of People's Military Service and to award the People's Military Service Badge were held at various regional military commands yesterday.

The ceremonies were attended by the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of regions and states, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), commanders of respective commands and responsible officials, departmental officials, the People's Military Service members who have completed their service

periods, and their family members.

At the ceremonies, chief ministers of regions and states and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), commanders of respective commands delivered congratulatory speech.

The chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of regions and states, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), commanders of respective command headquarters, and responsible officials presented certificates of completion of People's



Graduates from the People's Military Service Training 3 are honoured at yesterday's event.

Military Service, People's Military Service badges, and commemorative citations to the worthy citizens who had faithfully fulfilled their military service duties and completed their prescribed service periods. Follow-

ing the presentations, refreshments and congratulatory luncheons were served to the attendees, and the distinguished military service completed personnel were also cordially greeted. — MNA/KTZH

Demolitions continue at Shwe Kokko, KK Park in widening anti-fraud sweep

THE government continues to carry out joint operations in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where suspects are involved in telecom fraud and online gambling.

Combined teams of security personnel and administrative officials are conducting operations to enter the areas, demolish and remove illegal buildings, and take further action in accordance with the law. One two-storey

building was systematically demolished yesterday.

Of the 77 illegal buildings identified for demolition, 57 will be demolished by machinery and 20 by controlled explosions.

Yesterday, one more two-storey building was demolished as part of the machinery-based demolition of the 57 buildings. With 67 structures already demolished, 10 remain. — MNA/MKKS



This image displays the ongoing demolition of online scam hubs.

Kyauktaga authorities act against online incitement case

AUTHORITIES have announced that individuals who support or assist in disseminating incitement or propaganda linked to the CRPH and NUG, which have been declared terrorist organizations, will be identified and prosecuted in accordance with

the law.

Despite an earlier public warning against such activities, a TikTok account named Cherry Naing was found on 30 June 2026 to have continued posting content intended to undermine national peace and stability. The account

owner, identified as Cherry Zaw in Kwinmyauk Ward, Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region, was arrested by the Kyauktaga Myoma Police Station at about 1 pm and charged under the relevant law. — MNA/KZL

OPINION

Implement plans through feedbacks from field trips

At a meeting held at the President's Office on 29 June, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stated that chief ministers and union ministers should also carry out field inspections to promote rural development in their respective regions.

Those who hold leadership and executive responsibilities should lead efforts with perseverance and dedication, working tirelessly with both mental and physical commitment to ensure that assigned tasks are successfully completed. In carrying out duties ranging from the smallest tasks to large-scale activities, they must demonstrate stronger leadership capabilities than their subordinates. They should also establish mechanisms to receive feedback and voices from those involved in implementation throughout the course of the work, so that they can recognize the outcomes and reflections of their actions and make necessary adjustments.

As a government institution, it is necessary to strive to understand the true ground realities in order to ensure that its mechanisms operate smoothly and effectively. Only then can feedback be obtained on all activities undertaken, allowing necessary corrections to be made and enabling continued progress toward successful implementation. If so, the country will be able to reach its intended goal of democracy as planned.

Regarding regional development, the President emphasized promoting agro-based industries built on agriculture and livestock sectors. He stated that each region and state should make use of its own strengths and resources in carrying out development activities. Efforts should be made to promote MSME businesses and expand domestic production industries. He added that, as the country is a developing nation, developing production industries based on agricultural and livestock products produced within the country would significantly contribute to strengthening the national economy.

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A New Era of Public Service Management

In an era where data drives decisions and technology reforms institutions, Myanmar's civil service is taking an important step towards modernization by adopting Data-Driven Human Resource (HR) systems. This transformation reflects the Government's commitment to building a more efficient, transparent, and professional public administration by ensuring that personnel decisions are supported by accurate and timely information.

As governments worldwide increasingly rely on digital technologies to improve performance, Myanmar is embracing evidence-based workforce management to strengthen the effectiveness of its civil service and better serve the public.

The Six HR Management Systems

At the heart of this transformation is a comprehensive framework known as the Six HR Management Systems. These integrated digital platforms support the entire civil service personnel's lifecycle, from recruitment and training to promotion and workforce planning.

1. Civil Service Personnel Database Management System

This system serves as a centralized repository of personnel information, enabling government organizations to maintain accurate records of civil service personnel and make informed workforce decisions based on reliable data.

2. e-Recruitment and Selection System

By moving recruitment activities online, this system streamlines the hiring process, expands access to employment opportunities, and helps agencies attract qualified candidates while reducing administrative delays. It also enhances transparency by ensuring a more standardized and efficient selection process.

3. Training Management System

Human resource development is essential for an effective civil service. The Training Management System facilitates the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of learning and development programmes, helping civil service personnel continuously enhance their knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

4. Scholarship Management System

This system facilitates the transparent administration of scholarship opportunities and professional development programs. It improves access to advanced education and specialized training, contributing to a more capable and future-ready workforce.

5. Removal and Dismissal Management System

Fairness and accountability are fundamental principles of public administration. This system ensures that disciplinary procedures are conducted consistently and in accordance with established rules and regulations.

6. Promotion Management System

Career advancement within the civil service should be based



Data-Driven HR: Building a Modern and Effective Civil Service in Myanmar

on merit and performance. This system supports objective and transparent promotion decisions, helping identify future leaders while strengthening the motivation and trust among civil service personnel.

Enhancing Efficiency and Transparency

The adoption of digital HR systems offers significant benefits for Myanmar's public sector. Automated processes reduce paperwork, minimize manual tasks, and

improve access to information across government organizations. These improvements not only increase operational efficiency but also enable faster and more informed decision-making.

Greater transparency strengthens accountability and builds trust among civil service personnel. Standardized procedures ensure consistency in personnel management and contribute to a more professional working environment.

Smarter Talent Management

One of the most valuable advantages of data-driven HR is its ability to support strategic talent management. Through workforce analytics, government organizations can identify skills gaps, assess training needs, and design targeted development programs.

If workforce data reveals shortages in specific technical or managerial competencies, agencies can develop focused training initiatives to address those gaps. Such evidence-based approaches

ensure that civil service personnel receive the support needed to perform effectively and contribute to organizational success.

Promoting Objectivity and Fairness

Data-driven decision-making also promotes fairness in personnel management. Objective information can support merit-based recruitment, performance evaluation, and promotion decisions, reduce bias, and ensure that opportunities are awarded based on qualifications, competencies, and achievements.

By strengthening transparency and consistency, digital HR systems build civil service personnel's confidence and reinforce a culture of professionalism in the

This capability supports more effective resource allocation and helps strengthen institutional resilience in preparation for future challenges.

Cost Savings and Regulatory Compliance

The benefits of data-driven HR extend beyond workforce management. Improved efficiency, optimized resource utilization, and better-informed decision-making can generate significant long-term cost savings.

At the same time, accurate record-keeping and standardized procedures strengthen regulatory compliance, reduce administrative risks, and promote good governance practices across the civil service.

with institutional goals, public sector organizations can improve performance, enhance public service delivery, and achieve sustainable long-term development.

Myanmar's Continuing Journey

Myanmar's transition toward data-driven HR is an ongoing process. While digital HR systems are still in the developing stage, progress so far demonstrates a strong commitment to modernization and continuous improvement.

As these systems develop and become more widely integrated across government organizations, they have the potential to transform public-sector human resource management and support the development of a more professional, responsive, and people-centred civil service.

An Investment in the Future

The transition to Data-Driven HR is more than a technological advancement; it is an investment in civil service personnel, institutional performance, and the future of public service in Myanmar. By embracing evidence-based management and digital innovation, the civil service can become more efficient, transparent, and responsive to public needs.

Ultimately, the success of public sector reform depends not only on technology but also on the effective management and development of the civil service personnel. Data-Driven HR provides a powerful foundation for achieving that vision and building a stronger civil service for future generations.

By Soe Khant Lin

civil service.

Strategic Workforce Planning

As public sector responsibilities continue to evolve, workforce planning becomes increasingly important. Workforce analytics enables government organizations to anticipate future staffing requirements, identify emerging skill needs, and respond proactively to changing circumstances.

A Global Shift Towards Data-Driven Decision-Making

Around the world, governments increasingly recognize data as a strategic asset. In public sector human resource management, data-driven approaches provide leaders with meaningful insights that support informed, objective, and forward-looking decisions.

By aligning HR strategies

Beyond Words: Understanding Body Language and Cultural Taboos Across Borders

By Moon Cherry K

Communication Beyond Spoken Words

In today's interconnected world, people from different cultures communicate more frequently than ever before. Whether we are studying abroad, traveling, working in international

teams, or joining online events, effective communication is essential. However, communication is not only about the words we speak. Facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, silence, and everyday etiquette also convey powerful messages.

The challenge is that these non-verbal signals do not have universal meanings. A gesture that expresses friendliness in one culture may be considered rude in another. Silence may indicate agreement in one country but discomfort in another. Without cultural awareness, misunderstandings can easily occur. Understanding body language and

cultural taboos is therefore an important part of becoming a global citizen.

The Power of Touch, Sight, and Silence

The way we move, look, and hold our silence speaks volumes before we even open our mouths, but these non-verbal cues change dramatically across borders. While a warm hug or a friend-

ly pat on the shoulder signals closeness in Western countries, physical boundaries are much tighter in Asia, where touching someone's head is considered a major sign of disrespect. Eye contact follows a similar cultural divide: Westerners view looking someone in the eye as a mark of confidence and honesty, whereas many Asian cultures lower their gaze as a sign of humility and re-

spect. Even silence has two faces – seen as awkward or uncertain in places like the US and UK, but valued as a sign of wisdom, deep thought, and respect in China and Japan. Ultimately, mastering these silent signals is just as important as learning the local language.

Direct or Indirect? Different Ways of Expressing Ourselves

Different communication styles can also create challenges when people interact across cultures. Many Western societies tend to value direct communication. People often express their opinions openly and state exactly

what they mean.

Meanwhile, many Southeast Asian cultures emphasize harmony, politeness, and preserving relationships. People may avoid direct criticism in order to protect others' feelings and maintain social balance. A direct speaker may unintentionally appear rude, while an indirect speaker may be misunderstood as vague. Cultural awareness helps us interpret these differences with empathy rather than judgement.

A Lesson from an International Speaking Contest

I personally witnessed this reality during an international on-

line speaking competition organized by our Children's International English Club. Students from various countries participated, and twelve judges from different cultural backgrounds evaluated their performances. During the final round, an Indonesian girl and a Russian boy received almost identical scores for language ability and content.

However, many judges preferred the Indonesian contestant because she used expressive gestures, maintained eye contact, and demonstrated strong stage presence.

SEE PAGE 10

NATIONAL/ARTICLE

Magway offers natural fertilizer and EM bio-liquid production training

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, launched a training session on producing natural fertilizer and effective microorganisms (EM) bio-liquid yesterday in Yinthazi (West) Village, Magway Township. The training aims to support the livelihoods of rural residents and enhance their agricultural knowledge.

The opening ceremony began with an address by Magway Region Hluttaw Speaker Dr Maung Maung Htay. U San Nyunt Aung, Mag-



The launch of the training on producing natural fertilizer and effective microorganisms (EM) bio-liquid is underway in Magway Township.

way Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry, and Road Transport, then urged the trainees to study the fertilizer production techniques systematically and to

apply them effectively in practical agricultural fields. Magway Region Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw Zaw Hein also explained the objectives of the train-

ing and observed the initial training sessions. The three-day, free-of-charge training is attended by 20 participants from various villages within Magway Township. Expert trainers will conduct both theoretical and practical lessons, covering topics such as the benefits of natural farming, the functions and roles of beneficial microorganisms, the positive impact of using natural fertilizers on the ecosystem, and detailed techniques for producing natural fertilizers and EM bio-liquid. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

Pyinmana completes solar-powered agri water supply projects

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, has successfully completed solar-powered agricultural water supply projects in Zeegon, Thitsaylone, and Yathet villages' Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw.

The construction work was carried out under the close supervision of Pyinmana Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Nay Chi Zar Wai and engineering staff. The project involved the installation of a 2HP solar DC surface pump and a 2.36-kW solar mo-

bile system in each village, along with the drilling of a 100-foot-deep tube well measuring 4.5 inches in diameter to secure reliable water sources.

The water supply systems were implemented using Union government allocated funds starting from the first week of May this year. With the projects now fully completed, local farmers in the three villages will have access to sufficient irrigation water year-round, enabling improved agricultural production and increasing household incomes. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



This image shows the completed solar-powered agricultural water supply project in Pyinmana Township.

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

Beyond Words: Understanding Body Language and ...

FROM PAGE 9

Since it was a public speaking competition, these judges considered performance skills an important part of effective communication. The Russian contestant also spoke fluently and confidently, but used fewer gestures. His teacher explained that excessive movement might be interpreted in their cultural context as nervousness rather than confidence. That experience taught me that expectations vary according to culture and situation. Effective communication often means adapting to different audiences.

Travel Smart: Small Customs, Big Meanings

Travellers can benefit greatly from learning local etiquette before visiting another country.

Canada: Bringing a small gift shows appreciation and good manners.

China: Pointing chopsticks at others is considered impolite and disrespectful.

Japan: Talking loudly on public transport is considered rude because people value quietness and respect for others.

South Korea: Writing a person's name in red is traditionally associated with death and bad luck.

Thailand: The head is considered the most sa-

cred part of the body, so touching it is disrespectful.

France: Hosts often carefully choose the food and drinks, so bringing wine may seem inappropriate.

Russia: Even numbers of flowers are linked to funerals, while odd numbers are given for celebrations.

Malaysia: Using the thumb instead of the index finger is considered more polite.

Singapore: Chewing gum is heavily restricted, and littering is fined to maintain cleanliness and public order.

Many Western Countries: Littering is considered irresponsible because

people value clean and well-maintained public spaces.

These small details can leave a positive impression and show respect for local traditions.

Myanmar's Cultural Values

Myanmar also has its own unique customs and values. We respect our elders, greet them politely, and use gentle language in daily interactions. Removing shoes before entering homes, monasteries, temples, and pagodas reflects both cleanliness and respect. Public displays of affection, such as kissing and hugging, are generally less common than in some

Western societies. We also show respect to monks, teachers, and senior members of the community, who are highly valued in Myanmar culture. Pointing at people with the feet or touching another person's head is generally considered impolite. In addition, hospitality is an important part of Myanmar society, and guests are often welcomed warmly and offered food or refreshments. These traditions are part of our cultural identity and shape how we interact with others.

Building Bridges Through Cultural Understanding

In a world where in-

ternational interactions are increasingly common, cultural awareness is no longer optional. Learning another language is important, but understanding another culture is equally valuable.

By recognizing differences in body language, communication styles, and social etiquette, we can avoid misunderstandings and build stronger relationships. Instead of assuming that our way is the only correct way, we can approach others with curiosity, openness, and respect. After all, effective communication is not simply about speaking. It is about understanding.

DAR signs agreement with farmers for groundnut seed multiplication project

THE Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) has agreed with farmers to implement a groundnut seed multiplication project.

The signing ceremony for the agreement was held on 21 June at the Farmer Channel Studio meeting hall of the DAR (Yezin). The project is funded by research grants provided by the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association.

The ceremony was attended by Director-General Dr Aung Moe Myint Tin of the DAR, Dr Khin Myo Win, Director of the Crops Research Division, other officials concerned and nine participating farmers from Thayagon Village and Tetthein Village.

The Director General emphasized that all stakeholders in the agricultural production chain, including farmers, millers and oil traders, must cooperate to secure the oil needs and ensure self-sufficiency. Getting access to high-yielding, marketable seed varieties is crucial for farmers, as utilizing quality pure-bred seeds can increase yields by five to ten per cent.

The department's experts will work together with farmers to multiply purebred seeds. The research division will assist in selecting suitable varieties and will prioritize farmers' profitability.

This should not be a one-season effort but a continuous process to maximize farmers' profits.

Necessary capital and input costs will be provided to conduct this pure seed multiplication initiative. Participating farmers must return pure seeds at harvest under the seed back system, according to the prevailing market price.

Producing pure seeds for the next season in advance, a systematic and continuous multiplication system, will help solve the problem of long-term seed storage. Multiplication for winter groundnuts can primarily be carried out during the monsoon groundnut season. This initiative also aims to form seed-producer farmer groups, contributing to self-interest and the benefit of their communities.

Demonstrating promising varieties in the demonstration plots of the participating farmers will help farmers select the seed varieties suitable for their regions. The department hopes these farmers will become leaders. It also aims to help traditional farmers shift to modern technologies. The department will continue to provide better technical support in the coming years.

Officials from the department provided the first instalment of financial support (K400,000) out of the K800,000 contribution per acre, covering a total of 39 acres of ten farmers. — NN/KK

55 container vessels scheduled to enter Yangon Port in July

A total of 55 container vessels are slated to call at the Yangon Port in July 2026, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Eleven container vessels run by M/S Cosco Shipping Line, 10 by M/S SITC Shipping Line and six by M/S One Line, five by M/S Maersk A/S Line and four each by M/S CMA CGM Line, M/S MSC Line and M/S RCL Line, three each by M/S Evergreen

Asia Line, M/S Samudra Shipping Line, two each by M/S BLPL Shipping Line and M/S Ti2 Container Line and one by M/S Land and Sea are scheduled to dock at the Yangon Port in April.

Myanmar Port Authority has arranged maritime trade channels to handle increasing imports to meet domestic demand, to bolster exports, and to improve port capacity for

significant ship arrivals. Myanmar Port Authority notified that it will inform exporters and importers of ship arrival schedules on time upon an extended schedule. Yangon Port handled 55 container vessels in June, 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 in February and 63 in January 2026.

After the new navigation channel (Kings Bank Channel) accessing the inner Yangon River was

found, the draft extension work was accelerated. Afterwards, the port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled. — NN/KK

CBM continues injecting dollars to import sector

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$836,800 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$14,700 to CMP companies on 30 June.

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

CBM pumped over \$909,000 on 24 June and \$2.59 million to edible oil-importing companies on 23 June.

CBM sold \$890,500 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$130,000 to CMP companies on 22 June, over \$2.88 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$84,000 to CMP companies on 19 June, over



US dollars being counted at a money changer in Yangon.

\$26,000 to CMP companies on 18 June, \$1.13 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$170,000 to CMP companies on 17 June, over \$24,600 to CMP companies on 16 June and \$3.37 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$6,300 to CMP companies on 15 June, along with over \$10,200 worth of non-trade transactions.

CBM has been injecting US dollars to the edible oil-importing companies, with \$1.62 million on 12 June, \$286,000 on 11 June, \$1.38 million on 10 June, \$2.6 million on 9 June, \$3.6 million on 8 June, over \$2.9 million on 4 June, over \$2.89 million on 3 June, \$1.79 million on 2 June and over \$646,800 on 1 June, respectively.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market and the edible oil and fuel oil import sector, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation and maintaining market stability. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Mon State seeks tenders for road, bridge works across 4 districts

THE Mon State Highways Department invited domestic entrepreneurs to submit tender for road and bridge construction projects to be carried out in four districts (Mawlamyine, Thaton, Ye and Kyaikto) under Mon State

Capital Expenditure of the 2026-2027 financial year.

Tender application forms are available for purchase by 14 July at the Offices of the Deputy Director (Civil), Department of Highways in Mawlamyine, Ye, Thaton and

Kyaikto.

The deadline for submitting tender applications is 15 July. The tender opening will take place at 9:30 am on 16 July at the Department of Highways in Mawlamyine city.

Interested individuals

can enquire for further details by dialling the respective departments in Mawlamyine District at 09 255745530, Thaton District at 09 255773772, Ye District at 09 253706489 and Kyaikto District at 09 975700722. — NN/KK

ECONOMY WORLD

Japan triples departure tax to combat overtourism, visa fees up 5-fold

The tax is collected through travel ticket purchases, regardless of the passenger's nationality.

THE Japanese government on Wednesday tripled the departure tax to 3,000 yen (\$18) per person to fund measures against issues arising from the surge in inbound tourism.

Fees for foreigner visitors who need visas to enter Japan were also hiked on Wednesday, rising fivefold to 15,000 yen for single-entry and 30,000 yen for multiple entries. Meanwhile, on the same day, the government reduced passport application fees for Japanese nationals to make up for the added burden from the departure tax.

The tax is collected through travel ticket purchases, regardless of the passenger's nationality. The government will use



This photo taken on 18 April 2026 shows people departing Japan from Haneda airport in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO**

the tax income primarily to finance measures aimed at easing congestion, such as setting up designated areas at popular photo spots that are often crowded with foreign tourists.

It will also support regional tourism initiatives,

such as turning local railways into tourist attractions and renovating station buildings, in an effort to attract visitors away from heavily congested areas.

Travelers transiting through Japan and staying less than 24 hours in

the country, as well as children under the age of 2, are exempt from the tax. Passengers who purchased their travel tickets by Tuesday were charged the original departure tax of 1,000 yen.

Known officially as the international tourist tax, it raised about 49 billion yen in fiscal 2025 ended March and is expected to generate around 130 billion yen in fiscal 2026.

The tax is collected by airlines, cruise lines and travel agencies upon purchase of air and sea tickets departing Japan and remitted to the government, according to the Japan Tourism Agency. The hike in entry visa fees was the first increase since 1978. — Xinhua

Eurozone inflation slows in June as energy prices cool

EUROZONE inflation slowed in June after spiking as the Iran war sent energy prices sky-high, new data showed Wednesday, boosting chances the European Central Bank will keep interest rates on hold.

Consumer prices in the 21-nation single currency area rose 2.8 per cent compared with the same month a year earlier, down from 3.2 per cent in May, said EU statistics agency Eurostat.

Cooling fuel prices following the US-Iran deal on

ending the war were mostly to thank for the headline figure dropping back down towards the ECB's inflation target of two percent.

Energy prices rose 8.7 per cent across the single-currency area in June, down from 10.8 per cent in May.

Inflation in food and services also slowed — respectively down 0.3 points to 1.6 per cent and 0.3 point to 3.2 per cent, with inflation in industrial goods holding steady at 0.9 per cent. — AFP



Electricity prices in Europe are linked to prices of natural gas, adding to its dependency on imported gas. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

S Korea's exports top US\$100 bln for 1st time in June

SOUTH Korea's monthly exports topped US\$100 billion for the first time in June due to soaring demand for locally-made semiconductors, government data showed Wednesday.

The outbound shipment, which accounts

for about half of the export-driven economy, jumped 70.9 per cent from a year earlier to \$102.25 billion in June, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources.

It marked the first time in the country's

history that the monthly export surpassed 100 billion dollars, making it the world's fourth country to exceed \$100 billion in monthly exports, following Germany, China and the United States, the ministry noted. The daily average export

surged 59.5 per cent to \$4.54 billion, breaking records for two straight months.

Imports gained 30.1 percent to \$66.10 billion last month, sending the trade surplus to \$36.15 billion. — Xinhua

Hungary's budget deficit rises to 9.0% of GDP in Q1

HUNGARY'S budget deficit increased to 9.0 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter of 2026, up from 5.9 per cent a year earlier, according

to preliminary data released by the Central Statistical Office (KSH) on Wednesday.

The general government deficit totalled 2.09 trillion forints

(US\$6.7 billion), 838 billion forints higher than the same period of 2025.

The central government posted a deficit of 2.49 trillion forints during the quarter, while

local governments and social security funds recorded surpluses of 373 billion forints and 28 billion forints, respectively. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnam widens taxable income categories

VIETNAM'S revised Law on Personal Income Tax took effect on 1 July, expanding the scope of taxable income to cover new forms of earnings linked to the digital economy and other modern business activities, local daily VnExpress reported Wednesday.

New taxable income categories include earnings from agency and brokerage services, business cooperation with organizations, e-commerce and digital platform businesses, and other remuneration and benefits received in cash or in kind.

The law also introduces taxes on income from the transfer of greenhouse gas emission reduction results and carbon credits, auctioned vehicle licence plate winnings, digital assets and gold bullion, the report said.

The revised law broadens tax exemptions to include wages for night shifts, overtime pay and payments for unused annual leave, benefits paid by supplementary and voluntary pension funds, and income earned by foreign experts working on official development assistance projects, at United Nations agencies or in peacekeeping missions. — Xinhua

Fujifilm to launch new QuickSnap disposable cameras amid retro boom

FUJIFILM Corp said Wednesday it will release new products in its single-use film camera QuickSnap series for the first time in 20 years, banking on a resurgence in popularity among young people who are generally more used to taking photos with smartphones. The release of the waterproof model "Active" and the black-and-white film model "Black and White" comes as the Tokyo-based company marks the 40th anniversary of the debut of the series sold under the brand name "Utsurundesu" in Japan. The Black and White model is slated to go on sale from as early as September and retail for

around 4,300 yen (\$26), with the company saying it enables users to capture monochrome photos that make subjects stand out, helping create "distinctive and artistic" shots without the need for special settings or advanced techniques. The Active model can shoot at depths of up to 10 metres and will be released in early August with a price tag of around 4,480 yen. More than 1.7 billion QuickSnap cameras have been sold worldwide to date. After peaking in 1997, sales declined with the rise of digital cameras and camera-equipped mobile phones but began to bounce back from 2021. — Kyodo

Fishing vessels cruise Victoria Harbour to mark 29th anniv of Hong Kong's return to motherland

THE government of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Wednesday held a flag-raising ceremony and a reception to celebrate the 29th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland. Amidst the music of "Ode to the Motherland", the flag-guarding team marched in unison, escorting the national flag of the People's Republic of China and the flag of the HKSAR into the Golden Bauhinia Square. Helicopters flew over the Victoria Harbour to display the national flag and flag of the HKSAR, and a fireboat sprayed a water salute. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center.



A fishing vessel takes part in a cruise held by the Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium to celebrate the 29th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland at Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, south China, 1 July 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

During the reception, Lai Ka-ying, Hong Kong's first astronaut, spoke via video link from China's Tiangong space station. In honour of ceremony, fishing vessels take part in a cruise held by the Hong Kong Fishermen Consortium to celebrate the 29th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland at Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, south China, 1 July 2026. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 1 July 2026 shows "Black and White" (L) and "Active", two new products in Fujifilm Corp's single-use film camera QuickSnap series. PHOTO: KYODO

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Distribution of following pesticide registered by AGRODAN CHEMICAL Co., Ltd. is transferring from Amazing Seasons Co., Ltd to Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Resources Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within (14) days.

Sr	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration No
1.	New Star	Cyproconazole 80 g/l + Picoxystrobin 200 g/l	P 2026-6964

China home to eight of world's top 10 ports by cargo throughput

CHINA was home to eight of the world's top 10 ports by cargo throughput in 2025, a transport official said Tuesday. Last year, China's port cargo throughput reached 18.3 billion tonnes, the country's container throughput stood at 354 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), and the scale of Chinese-owned shipping fleet reached 490 million deadweight tonnes, all ranking first globally, said Li Xinghu, vice minister of transport, at a press conference. On average, Chinese ports handled over 50 million tonnes of cargo and about 970,000 TEUs of containers each day in 2025, with about 98,200 ship arrivals and departures recorded daily, including 1,236 by ships engaged in international voyages, said Li. China's waterway freight turnover reached nearly 15 trillion tonne-kilometres in 2025, accounting for more than half of the country's comprehensive transport system. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (288N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (288N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2026** 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2612S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIDE VOY.NO. (2612S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **2-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT/TMIT** 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 SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

US, Iran hold indirect talks after exchanges of fire

The memorandum of understanding culminated in a summit last month in Lucerne, Switzerland.

IRAN and the United States began indirect talks with mediators in Doha on Wednesday in a push to advance negotiations and quell tensions following exchanges of fire between the two sides. Both had said they would send officials to discuss their memorandum of understanding aimed at ending the Middle East war, but Iran insisted direct negotiations will not take place.

A diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity,



Women cross a street past a mourning billboard depicting Iran's slain supreme leader Ali Khamenei, who was killed in a strike on the first day of the US-Israeli war against the Iran on 28 February, in Tehran on 30 June 2026 ahead of his public funeral. **PHOTO: AFP**

ty to discuss the sensitive talks, confirmed negotiations were underway, after earlier saying the foes would take part in "indirect technical talks on Wednesday in Doha with Qatari and Pakistani mediators".

The discussions, being held at a lower level and focused on the details of the MOU, will "build on the progress made at the Lake Lucerne Summit", the diplomat told AFP. — AFP

Iran's Parliament Speaker warns of ceasefire breaches

IRAN'S Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf warned that Tehran will respond to "violations of the understanding" to end the recent war, saying

incidents in the Arabian Gulf amount to breaches of the ceasefire while affirming that dialogue with the United States under the 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

is continuing.

According to ISNA news agency, speaking in a televised interview on Tuesday, Ghalibaf said, "We consider the events that are taking place in the

Arabian Gulf these nights to be a violation of the understanding to end the war, and we will definitely react to it, and naturally, the other side will react as well." — ANI

France introduces extra parental leave to boost birth rates

FRANCE on Wednesday launched new paid leave for both mothers and fathers, as President Emmanuel Macron seeks to boost the country's sluggish birth rate.

In 2024, Macron unveiled a plan to combat infertility and the declining birth rate, saying it would help pave the way towards what he described as France's "demographic re-armament". Until now, paid maternity leave in France has been just under four months for a first child, while fathers have

been entitled to 28 days of leave following a birth. Under the new rules, which came into force on Wednesday, mothers and

fathers can now share an additional leave of one or two months on top of existing entitlements.

Parents will receive

70 per cent of their net salary during the first month and 60 per cent during the second. The new provisions apply to parents of children born on or after 1 January 2026. Adoptive parents are also eligible.

Fertility rates are declining across the European Union. France last year — for the first time since the end of World War II — recorded fewer babies born than people dying in the country, according to the National Statistics Institute. — AFP



French President Emmanuel Macron unveiled in 2024 a plan to combat infertility and the declining birth rate. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia marks National Fish Day

CAMBODIAN Prime Minister Hun Manet celebrated the 21st National Fish Day on Wednesday by releasing 1.5 million young aquatic creatures into a river in southeastern Svay Rieng province.

At a ceremony by the Vaikou River in Svay Rieng City, Hun Manet said that the annual event encourages citizens to protect natural fish species sustainably and boost aquaculture to ensure food security.

"Fish is a major source of protein for our people's daily lives and the main source of daily income for our fishermen," he said in a speech broadcast live on the state-owned National Television of Cambodia.

Hun Manet urged fishermen to avoid fishing during the June-October breeding season and encouraged farmers to expand aquaculture to protect natural fish stocks.

"Please refrain from fishing during the breeding season, as one mother fish can hatch thousands of offspring each year," he said. — Xinhua

South Africa deploys police amid protests

SOUTH African authorities deployed thousands of police officers on Tuesday as demonstrations against illegal immigration were held across the country under heightened security.

Demonstrations were reported in several major cities, including Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban. According to local media, more than 10,000 protesters were expected to gather at Church Square in Pretoria, the country's administrative capital. Earlier, the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department said three protest marches in Johannesburg had been approved, with attendance also expected to exceed 10,000. — Xinhua

Several dead in apartment building fire in Antwerp

SEVERAL people died and others were seriously injured or affected by smoke after a major fire broke out on Wednesday morning in an apartment building in the Belgian port city of Antwerp. Firefighters were still searching for possible victims inside the building.

According to Belgian media reports citing local police and fire services, Antwerp Fire Zone was called at around 9:53 am local time to a fire in an apartment building on Antwerp's Left Bank. The building has about 200 residents.

Local police said the fire had claimed multiple lives, while a number of people were seriously injured and some residents suffered smoke inhalation. It remained unclear how many people were still inside the building and how many had already been evacuated. As of press time, local authorities had not released specific casualty figures. Affected residents were taken to the nearby Hof Ter Schelde care centre.

Marie De Clercq, a spokesperson for Antwerp Fire Zone, said firefighters were focusing on searching for possible victims. She said smoke was spreading quickly and easily between floors and rooms, making it more difficult to search for people and evacuate them. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Ronaldo and Modric struggle to defy Father Time at World Cup

CRISTIANO Ronaldo and Luka Modric will make history when two outfield players aged over 40 face off for the first time in a World Cup as Portugal take on Croatia in Friday's last-32 clash.

But both men are facing questions over whether their status as national heroes is now more of a burden than a boost to their countries' hopes of progressing far in the competition.

Prior to this tournament, only Cameroon's Roger Milla had played in a World Cup as an outfield player after turning 40.

Ronaldo and Modric, who won four Champions Leagues in six seasons together at Real Madrid, have long defied Father Time but have shown their age in what will almost certainly be their final flourish on the global stage.

At 41, Ronaldo defiantly screamed "I'm back" after netting twice against Uzbekistan as he became the first player to ever score at six World Cups.

Yet either side of a 5-0 romp over a team ranked 60th in the world, Portugal failed to beat the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia and fell into a tougher section of the draw as a result.

"It's already 23 years I've been a professional and whenever things don't go well it's 'Cristiano, he's finished, he's old'," Ronaldo said earlier in the tournament.

The forward played every minute of the group stages and outgoing Portugal boss Roberto Martinez shows no sign of taking the bold call to sit the five-time Ballon d'Or winner on the bench. — AFP

Inter-Ministry Chinlone tournament opens



The opening ceremony of the 2026 Inter-Ministry Chinlone Tourney is in progress yesterday.

THE opening ceremony of the 2026 Inter-Ministry Chinlone Tournament, jointly organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education under the Ministry of Sports, and the Traditional Myanmar Chin-

lone Federation, was held at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium A in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 July.

The chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee delivered the opening address and officially declared the tournament open. Union ministers and deputy ministers then presented honorary cash awards to the participating teams, the marching band and referees.

Following the opening ceremony, guests watched the opening men's six player match-

es between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and between the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The tournament will be held from 1 to 6 July at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium A in Nay Pyi Taw. A total of 14 men's teams and six women's teams representing government ministries will compete, and the public may attend the matches free of charge. — MNA/KZL

ISPE lead Myanmar Women's League after matchday 3

THE ISPE team moved to the top of the 2026-2027 Myanmar Women's League after matchday 3, which was held on 29 and 30 June and 1 July under the organization of the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League with main sponsorship from Max Energy.

Matchday 3 results saw ISPE beat

Ayeyawady 2-1, Yangon United defeat Thitsa Arman 2-1, Yadanabon win 7-1 against Zwegabin United, Young Lionesses thrash Yangon City 9-0, and Shan United secure a 2-0 victory over Myawady.

After three matches, both ISPE and Yangon United have nine points each, but ISPE lead the table on goal difference. Yadanabon, Young Lion-



Images show the teams in action and an AYA Pay Player of the Match. PHOTO: AYWDFC

esses, and Ayeyawady follow with six points each, Shan United have

four points, Zwegabin United three, Thitsa Arman one, while Myawady

and Yangon City remain without points. — Ko San/KZL

Beccacece steps down as Ecuador manager

SEBASTIAN Beccacece announced he would step down as Ecuador manager after his side's elimination from the World Cup by Mexico on Tuesday. "My contract ends as soon as the World Cup is over, and since we didn't achieve what we promised, the best thing is to step aside," Beccacece told reporters after his side's 2-0 loss to the tournament co-host in the round of 32.

"I'm grateful to the president [Francisco Egas] for his trust and the freedom he gave me, and also to the federation. I'm leaving a role that I value greatly. We've built a legacy."

Beccacece led Ecuador to nine wins, 12 draws and three losses after taking charge of the team in August 2024.

Under his command, Ecuador recovered from a shaky start to South America's World Cup qualifiers to finish second behind Argentina in the final group standings. He led the team to a 19-match unbeaten run, which ended with a 1-0 defeat by Cote d'Ivoire in their World Cup opener on 14 June. — Xinhua

Mbappe dazzles as France march on at World Cup; Norway, Mexico advance



France's Kylian Mbappe celebrates his team's third goal in a 3-0 victory over Sweden. PHOTO: AFP

KYLIAN Mbappe extended his red-hot scoring streak to fire France past Sweden and into the last 16 of the World Cup on Tuesday as Norway and Mexico both won their opening knockout round games.

Mbappe took his tally for the tournament to six goals — making him joint top-scorer alongside Lionel Messi — with a superb double as France strolled past the Swedes 3-0 at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

The prolific French striker's latest brace took his career World Cup goals record to an incredible 18 in 18 matches, one behind Argentina superstar Messi's all-time record of 19 goals. Bradley Barcola scored France's other goal as Les Bleus produced another dazzling exhibition of attacking football that underscored their status as favourites for the title.

After France were held at bay for most of the opening 45 minutes, Mbappe finally broke the Scandinavians' resistance on the stroke of halftime, jinking into space before rifling home. — AFP



Takaichi heads to India eyeing stronger economic security ties

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi departed for a three-day trip to India on Wednesday, as she seeks to boost cooperation on economic security with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. Japan is seeking to strengthen ties with India in the leaders' meeting in New Delhi on Thursday, as it sees the country as an increasingly valuable economic partner and a key player in maintaining

a rules-based international order amid rising geopolitical uncertainty.

Speaking to reporters at her office ahead of embarking on the visit through Friday, Takaichi said she hopes to hold in-depth talks "on efforts to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific", noting that as two leading Asian democracies, they "bear responsibility for maintaining peace and stability" in the region. — Kyodo

Thailand reels in \$120 mln from foreign film crews

FOREIGN film crews spent 4.03 billion baht (about US\$120 million) filming in Thailand during the first half of 2026, with 302 productions registering for permits, official data showed on Wednesday.

According to the Department of Tourism, the six-month revenue already exceeds half of the seven-billion-baht (US\$210-million) record set for the whole of 2025, which was the South-East Asian country's best year on record for foreign film production.

Based on this momentum, along with large-scale productions planned for the latter half, the department expects Thailand will very likely hit a fresh milestone for foreign film revenue again this year.

In a statement, Jaturon Phakdeewanit, director-general of the department, cited the country's film incentive measures, which offer cash rebates of up to 30 per cent to foreign productions, as a key factor in its competitiveness. — Xinhua



Thailand's six-month film revenue topped half of 2025's record. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/EXPLERA

Iranian President Pezeshkian briefs PM Modi on West Asia developments

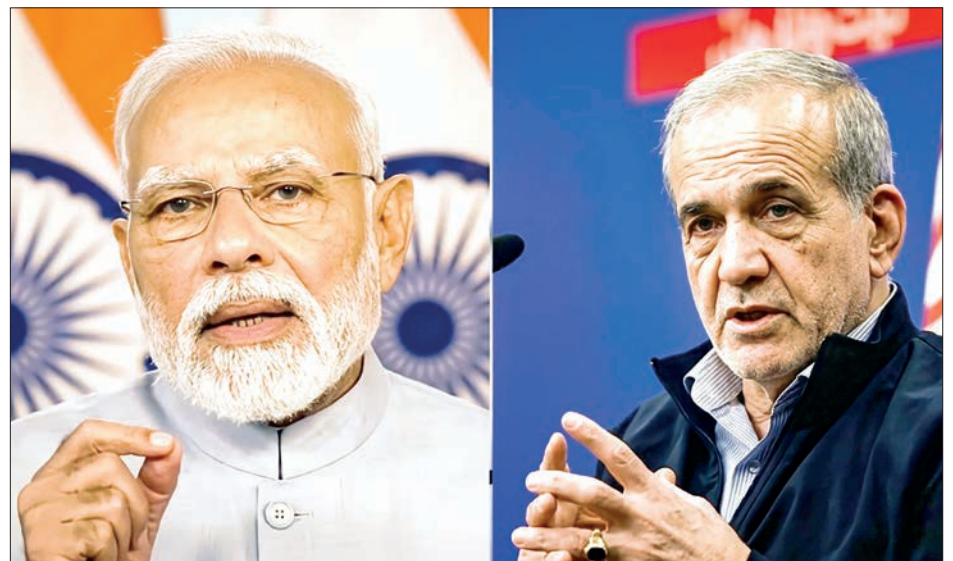
Modi welcomed the understanding reached and reaffirmed India's stance that disputes should be resolved peacefully.

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the latest developments in West Asia and the way forward during a telephone conversation, with PM Modi welcoming the understanding reached and reiterating that all issues should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

According to the Prime Minister's Office press release, President Pezeshkian updated Prime Minister Modi on the recent developments in the region and the future course of the negotiations.

PM Modi welcomed the understanding reached and reaffirmed India's consistent position that disputes must be addressed through dialogue and diplomatic engagement.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for sustained efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability in West Asia. He underlined the importance of



Pezeshkian updated Modi on the latest regional developments and the way forward in negotiations. PHOTO: ANI

safeguarding freedom of navigation and commerce, particularly in view of the region's strategic maritime routes.

Sharing details of the conversation, in a post on X, PM Modi said, "Spoke with the President of Iran, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, on the recent developments in West Asia. Welcomed the progress made in the negotiations and expressed hope that continued efforts will lead to lasting peace in the region.

Reiterated the importance of freedom of navigation in the Hormuz Strait for India and the World."

This is the third conversation between the two leaders since the conflict erupted in West Asia on 28 February between Israel and the US on one side and Iran on the other.

The leaders spoke on 12 March and 21 March. During the conversations, PM Modi had highlighted India's priority regarding the safety and well-being

of Indian nationals in the region, including in Iran, as well as the importance of unhindered transit of energy and goods. He had extended greetings on Navroz and Eid.

The talks between the two leaders come days after the virtual signing of a 14-point MoU between the US and Iran, which spells out provisions for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, as well as easing of financial restrictions on Iran. — ANI

Sri Lanka boosts disaster readiness amid El Niño

SRI Lanka will strengthen disaster preparedness in agriculture, drinking water supply and energy sectors as the country assesses the possible impact of the El Nino climate pattern, the President's Media Division said Tuesday.

The decision was made when the National Council for Disaster Man-

agement met Tuesday at the Presidential Secretariat under the chairmanship of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

Dissanayake paid particular attention to the possible impact of El Nino and asked officials how far current forecasts were based on data and how they compared with

previous predictions, the division said.

The meeting discussed water management plans, including the possibility of starting cultivation activities for the Maha season earlier than usual. The president also instructed the Environment Ministry to speed up the rehabilitation of tanks within wildlife

reserves to reduce the impact of water shortages on wild animals. Dissanayake said reservoir water capacities should be managed to ensure uninterrupted hydropower generation. He also stressed the need to accelerate the import of batteries required to store solar-generated energy. — Xinhua