Embrace the Future: Unfolding a New Chapter with a Fresh Vision

The Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR

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79TH MARTYRS' DAY





OUR TRIBUTE TO MARTYRS ON 79TH MARTYRS' DAY

NATIONAL

9th 47-member SSMNC continues second-day session of 5th meeting



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

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

The session was attended by members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, led by the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Thanlyin Min Kyaung Pahtamapyan Monastery, Abhidhajamaha Rattha Guru Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin, and other relevant officials.

During the first session, the Sayadaws presented reports on Vinicchaya, religious affairs, and monastic education. They also discussed Vinicchaya matters before concluding the morning session.

The second session began at 1 pm, during which the Sayadaws discussed Vinicchaya and other religious matters.

The committee also approved the report on the activities of the Third Subcommittee of the Ninth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee during its first term of office. Joint Secretary Aggamaha Pandita Bhaddanta Vilasa Bhivamsa presented the report. The second-day session of the fifth plenary meeting concluded successfully in the afternoon.

The members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee attending the meeting were offered their daily alms by devotees led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Manita (Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja) of Kyaikkasan Weluwun Shwegyin Monastery in Thingangyun Township. — MNA/MKKS

Realty Association holds 2026 AGM

TO enhance professionalism and expand its service capabilities, the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association (Central) (MRESA) held its 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 18 July at the Sky Star Hotel in Yangon.

Chairman U Khin Maung Than, relevant officials, executive members, regional and state chairpersons, district chairpersons, and members attended the meeting.

"As MRESA is a professional organization, we are striving to transform our members into professionals in the real estate sector," said the MRESA chairman. "Furthermore, by collaborating with professional lawyers, we are ensuring that buyers and sellers can enter into correct contracts, proceed with sound ownership transfers, and safely conduct transactions involving valid grants and permits."

Following the opening, Mr Somsak, Chairman of the Thai Real Estate Sales and Marketing Association, delivered a congratulatory message. Subsequently, Vice-Chairman 3 U Kyaw Tint presented a progress report during the 2023-2026 term. The MRESA signed agreements in June 2025 in Tokyo, Japan, with the US-based National Association of Realtors (NAR), JARECO (Japan-American Real Estate Coalition Organization), and the Long Island Board of Realtors. The association is prioritizing efforts to provide legal training and exchange technical knowledge and real estate services experience. — MT/ZN



Attendees at the MRESA 2026 Annual General Meeting.

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.

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Saturday, 18 July 2026

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The weather has a few clouds over the North Andaman Sea and is partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 19 July 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah and Chin states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine and southern Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states, with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Kachin State. In the area along the movement of cumulonimbus clouds, weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur. Therefore, it is recommended to be aware of these phenomena in advance.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 7-9 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of an increase in rain in Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 July 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 July 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 July 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 8 am MST on 18 July 2026)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Sittoung River at Madauk has exceeded by about one foot above its danger level. It may fall about three inches during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the river banks and low-lying areas in Madauk, to stay away from the flood-prone areas. — DMH

NATIONAL

Thanlyin No 1 Oil Refinery Set for Phase I Launch in Sept

Phase I of the modular No 1 Thanlyin Oil Refinery will produce 500,000 tonnes of fuel annually, subject to the availability and volume of raw material supplies.





President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inspects the progress in the construction of Phase I of the No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) yesterday.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing called for improving the refining efficiency of oil refineries to ensure greater confidence in the quality of domestically produced petroleum fuels during his inspection of No 1 Oil Refinery (Thanlyin) yesterday.

The President outlined that if the refinery is operational, it will create employment opportunities for residents while enabling domestically required fuels to be purchased and used at lower cost. Moreover, as fuel imports from abroad can be reduced, the country's foreign currency expenditure will also decrease, he added.

The President noted that the successful completion of Phase I of the refinery operation represents a milestone achievement for the government, and arrangements must also be made to ensure a continuous supply of the raw materials required for the operation of the refinery.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin reported to the President on the efforts to implement the Phase I as the modular type refinery to produce 500,000 tonnes of fuel per year depending on the availability and volume of raw material supplies, process of building the refinery in Phase I and II, laying the pipelines to transport crude oil and oil products, placing the pipeline for natural gas, production of machinery parts, and a plan to commence the operation of the Phase I of the refinery in September.

He added that upon the completion of Phase II, the refinery will be capable of producing and distributing 60 per cent of the country's petroleum requirements and 50 per cent of its diesel requirements.

After inspecting the oil refinery, the President viewed the display of documents related to oil and natural gas production, the oil production process in successive eras and the use of relevant equipment at the Energy Museum.

He also reviewed the progress in the construction of Phase I of the oil refinery and guided the Union Minister for Electricity and Energy and officials. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar's VP visits prominent sites in China

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye led the Myanmar delegation to visit the South-East Tibet Museum and the Yani National Wetland Park in Nyingchi (Linzhi), Xizang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China.



Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye visits the South-East Tibet Museum in Nyingchi (Linzhi), China.

On arrival at the Southeast Tibet Museum, the museum official clarified on the museum's history, ancient cultural heritage, traditional artefacts of various ethnic groups, costumes, silverware, lifestyles and customs of ethnic communities, sports, and historical events displayed in the galleries. The Vice-President asked questions on matters of interest before touring the museum.

The South-East Tibet Museum one of the region's landmark museums, showcasing the history, culture, ethnic traditions, archaeological heritage and ecological features of southeastern Tibet.

At the Yani National Wetland Park in Nyingchi (Linzhi), the official explained the park's environmental conservation efforts, forest and watershed management, biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration programmes and initiatives to promote nature-based tourism. The Vice-President raised questions on matters of interest and toured the park's nature trails, viewing platforms, the Yarlung Tsangpo River and its surrounding natural scenery. Located along the banks of the Yarlung Tsangpo River, the national wetland park is a prominent ecological area that preserves high mountain ranges, lush forests, wetlands and rich biodiversity in their natural state.

SEE PAGE 4

Development activities inspected in Shan (South), Kayah states

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat met staff, teachers, students, and trainees at the Border Region Youth Development Training School in Saikkhaung on 16 July.

At the Vocational Training School for Women (Saikkhaung), the Union minister observed practical training activities and inspected a poultry farm established for the trainees' welfare, providing the necessary guidance and recommendations. On 17 July, the Union minister inspected the Kayah State Development Supervision Office, the Border Region Youth Development Training School (Loikaw), construction of staff housing for the Kayah State Development Supervision Office in Naungya (A) Ward, the concrete road paving the roads.

On 18 July, he inspected preparations at the Shan State Development Supervision Office in Taunggyi, the construction of the 1,885-foot section of the Thitelpin-Htathon Road in Pindaya Township, the solar-powered irrigation systems in Shwepuhto Village (South 1) and (South 2), and the Industrial Training School in Aungban Township. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Yangon Region to Lead the Way in Food Security

Agricultural and livestock breeding zones aim to meet the daily demand for meat, fish, eggs, and various vegetables for the approximately eight million population in Yangon Region.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, during his inspection trip to agricultural and livestock zones in Yangon Region, gave guidance to officials of relevant zones yesterday.

In inspecting the zones, the President unveiled that the implementation of agricultural and livestock breeding zones in various regions is not primarily aimed at generating profits; rather, it is mainly intended to ensure that the public can purchase and consume sufficient quantities of meat, fish, and seasonal crops at affordable prices.

Accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo and Union ministers, the President inspected the Thilawa Integrated Agriculture and Livestock Zone in Kyauktan Township.



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing observes the raising of fingerlings in the livestock zone in Yangon Region yesterday.

In a meeting with officials of the zone, the President outlined that the implementation of agricultural and livestock breeding zones in the Yangon Region is intended to help meet the daily demand for meat, fish, eggs, and various vegetables for the region's population of about eight million people.

He continued to mention the meat, fish, milk and dairy products from Thilawa Agriculture and Livestock Zone, Fish Farming Zone in Shwemayin and 26th-Mile Integrated Agriculture and Livestock Farm can contribute greatly to the food supplies for residents in Yangon Region.

In explaining the aims of the agriculture and livestock zones, the President noted that as the Yangon Region has many factories and industries, as well as a large population, production of meat, fish, and seasonal crops must be increased to balance supply and demand and control the rising prices of basic food commodities.

He underscored that land use in each zone must also be managed efficiently, and agricultural and livestock farming activities should be expanded. At the same time, systematic measures must be taken to increase productivity and yields.

The President guided that Yangon, which was formerly the capital of the country, possesses many strong foundations as an economically strategic city, a developed city, and a city with a concentrated community of intellectuals and professionals. Therefore, it must serve as a leading model for other cities, and continued efforts should be made to ensure food security and convenience for the region.

Concerning rubber cultivation in Yangon Region, the President instructed officials to focus on producing high-value rubber products.

Regarding MSME businesses, the President pointed out that various types of machinery, including agricultural machinery needed in the Yangon Region, should also be manufactured as finished products.

He instructed that the MSME-based economy should be operated through a cooperative system, and agricultural and livestock farming businesses in the Yangon Region can be further developed beyond their current level.

SEE PAGE 5

Guidance provided by the President in inspecting agriculture and livestock zones

1. Integrated Agriculture and Livestock Farm can contribute greatly to the food supply of residents in Yangon Region.
2. Various types of machinery, including agricultural machinery needed in the Yangon Region, should also be manufactured as finished products.
3. Rubber cultivation in Yangon Region must help produce high-value rubber products.

Myanmar's VP visits prominent sites in China

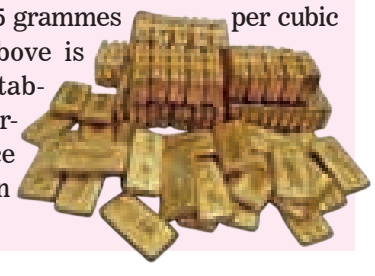
FROM PAGE 3

On 15 July, the Vice-President and party visited the Dounan Flower Market in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. Market officials explained the market's development, flower production and distribution processes, flower auction system, e-commerce operations and international export activities. The Vice-President asked questions on matters of interest before touring flower exhibition halls, the flower auction centre, quality inspection facilities, packaging operations, modern technologies used in the floriculture industry, digital management systems and logistics processes.

The Dounan Flower Market, established on 18 August 1998, now covers more than 6,000 acres of flower cultivation. It is the largest flower wholesale and retail market in Asia and the second largest in the world. The market trades a wide variety of flowers, including roses, lilies, carnations and orchids, which are distributed daily across China and exported to South-East Asia, South Asia, Europe and other regions. — MNA/KTZH

Gold Market Rate as of 18 July 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,900,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



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NATIONAL

Need to Distinguish between Politics and Being Disciplined



You are required to distinguish politics from being disciplined. Nothing will work without having discipline. If someone wants to violate a discipline, they must be well convinced of the kind of punishment they will deservedly receive as a consequence. Try your best by being disciplined to have an order changed. Abide by disciplines before having it changed. This is the difference between politics and being disciplined.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech given at the All Workers' Union meeting and dinner in Natmauk, on 25 March 1947)

Yangon Region to Lead the Way in ...

FROM PAGE 4

At the briefing hall of Thilawa Integrated Agriculture and Livestock Zone, Chairman of Myanmar Economic Corporation Lt-Gen Zaw Myo Tin and Chairman of Myanmar Economic Holdings Public Company Limited Lt-Gen Zaw Hein reported on efforts to operate agricultural and livestock production in relevant zones aimed at ensuring high yield, using quality strains and handling modern technology and machinery, distribution of products to the market, production of bio-gas from the animal waste and natural fertilizer, manufacturing of animal feeds at the livestock breeding zones, cultivation of hybrid maize strains, implementation of the rubber cultivation project, functions of the fish farm in Maubin and Shwemayin, and facts about the cold storage (500-tonne) in Hlinethaya.

The Yangon Region chief minister also presented the land utilization and the progress of agriculture and livestock activities in the region.

The President observed the hatching of river catfish, rohu and pomfret and the raising of fingerlings in the livestock zone.

He also looked into raising ducks and fish in the Thilawa Integrated Agriculture and Livestock Zone and explored the display of eggs and dairy products. — MNA/TTA

UEC Chair inspects MEVMs' maintenance in Mon State

VOTING machines are important monitoring devices that will also be used in the by-elections and upcoming general elections, said Union Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe during a meeting with members of the Mon State Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) Supervisory Committee and officials at the Aung San Hall of the Mon State government yesterday.



Union Election Commission Chairman U Than Soe inspects Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines in Mon State.

During the meeting, Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Win Than explained the successful use of voting machines in preparation for the upcoming by-elections and general elections under the supervision of the Mon State MEVM Supervisory Committee. Commission member U Aung Lwin Oo and officials also discussed Myanmar Electronic Voting Machines (MEVMs).

The UEC chairman provided the necessary guidance and instructions. Commission members U Ko Ko Lwin and U Kyi Thein also attended the meeting.

Earlier yesterday, Union Election Commission Chair U Than Soe attended the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM) Maintenance Training Course held at Shwe Myine Hall of the Mawlamyine District General Administration Department Office in Mawlamyine. He delivered a speech and presented awards and certificates to the winners.

Afterwards, he met with members and officials of the Kayin State MEVM Voting Machine Supervisory Committee. — MNA/MKKS

AML/CFT awareness and compliance training launched

THE Myanmar Accountancy Council (MAC), in collaboration with the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA), yesterday launched a training on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) awareness and practical compliance at the Nawaday Hall of the Advanced Accounting and Auditing training school in Yangon in a hybrid format.



The training on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) awareness and practical compliance in progress in Yangon yesterday.

Union Auditor-General and Myanmar Accountancy Council Chair Daw Naing Thet Oo sent a video message to the opening ceremony of the event, and MICPA Patron U Kyaw Nyunt and MICPA Chair U Wan Tin made remarks.

Officials then conducted sessions covering the fundamentals of AML/CFT, the responsibilities of supervisory authorities and reporting organizations, preventive measures, reporting obligations, compliance requirements for the accountancy profession, and procedures for completing Off-Site Questionnaires. Participants engaged in discussions by raising questions and completed assessment questionnaires to evaluate their understanding. — MNA/KTZH

Collective cleanup campaign conducted in Falam

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, and members of the working committees yesterday inspected a collective cleanup campaign in Falam and the 200-bed Township Hospital, which was damaged in the attacks of terrorists.

Deputy minister and party observed a collective clean-up operation carried out by a combined workforce of 352 personnel, including members of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department, health and education staff, and district and township departmental officials. The cleanup covered Doctor Ni Khwe Road in Blai Ward, roadside overgrowth, the surroundings of district and township government offices, the public hospital and the nursing training school. The deputy minister encouraged the participants, provided breakfast, and spoke with them individually.



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, and members encourage the participants who took part in the collective cleanup campaign in Falam.

SEE PAGE 6

NATIONAL

Weekly Roundup

12 July

PyinOoLwin facilitated with Anisakhan Airport

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing delivered a speech at the ceremony to commission the Anisakhan Airport into service in PyinOoLwin.

Head of State meets town elders in PyinOoLwin

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing held a meeting with town elders at the hall of the National Kandawgyi Gardens in PyinOoLwin.

President tours PyinOoLwin

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing made an inspection tour of PyinOoLwin to examine development undertakings and socioeconomic projects.

Nay Pyi Taw observes World Population Day 2026

Vice-President U Nyo Saw delivered a speech at the ceremony to mark World Population Day 2026 at the Jade Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre I in Nay Pyi Taw.

13 July

Head of State joins seminar on cotton production

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the seminar titled "From Cotton Cultivation towards Textile Industry" held at the city hall in Magway.

President meets town elders in Minbu

President U Min Aung Hlaing met departmental officials, community leaders and departmental representatives in Minbu Township, Magway Region.

14 July

Cotton seminar continues

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing attended the seminar titled "From Cotton Cultivation Towards Textile Industry" at the city hall in Magway, Magway Region.

15 July

VP inspects social welfare, vocational training institutions

Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye inspected several social welfare and vocational training institutions in Yangon Region.

16 July

VP to attend 5th China-Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum

A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Nan Ni Ni Aye departed Yangon by air to attend the Fifth China-Xizang Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation in China's Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, to be held in Nyingchi.

17 July

Institute of Nursing (Nay Pyi Taw) inaugurated

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing inaugurated the Institute of Nursing (Nay Pyi Taw).

18 July

National-Level Coastal Resources Management Central Committee meets

Vice-President U Nyo Saw, who chairs the National-Level Coastal Resources Management Central Committee, attended the first coordination meeting of the central committee at the Forest Department in Nay Pyi Taw. — GNLM/TTA

Collective cleanup campaign conducted ...

FROM PAGE 5

The damaged houses and public buildings in Falam caused by terrorist incidents are being repaired and reconstructed on a daily basis through the joint efforts of religious leaders, pastors, respected clergy, community elders, members of the Tatmadaw, police and firefighters, health and education staff, and district and township departmental officials.

On arrival at the 200-bed township hospital, the Union minister inspected ongoing cleaning activities carried out using both manpower and machinery, as well as the removal of damaged structural components. He instructed officials to systematically collect and store reusable materials salvaged from buildings designated for demolition, including roofing sheets, timber, iron grilles, steel doors, doors and window panels, frames, water supply equipment and electrical materials.

A temporary public hospital has been opened in Falam, where the medical superintendent and 84 healthcare personnel have provided medical treatment to 1,554 patients. The facility has been serving not only residents of the town but also people from surrounding villages. Moreover, the township hospitals in Tiddim, Tonzang and Falam are also open with 285 doctors and health staff providing treatment to 14,124 patients with the use of labs, medical supplies and medicines provided by the government. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar Embassy in Singapore issues 4 visitor guidelines

THE Myanmar Embassy in Singapore issued four guidelines on 17 July for Myanmar nationals to observe when visiting the embassy.

For the concern on the image of Myanmar nationals and under complaints lodged by neighbours, those who will visit the embassy for passport extension and consular services are urged to be aware of the following rules: do not block the entry of neighbouring residences while waiting for admission, do not make gathering, eating, littering, smoking and spitting betel nut in front of the embassy campus and the surrounding.

In addition, it has also urged not to have conversations or speak on the telephone loudly. Blocking entry, littering, smoking and spitting betel nut are also prohibited inside the embassy campus. — MT/ZS



This image displays the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore.
PHOTO: GOOGLE STREET VIEW

Indian firm to build soybean oil plant in Pathein Industrial Zone



This image shows the Pathein Industrial Port, where export cargo is handled.

AN Indian company will build a soybean crushing, oil extraction and refining plant in Pathein Industrial Zone to produce refined soybean oil for the domestic market, according to the Ayeyawady Region government.

The project will be implemented through cooperation between Green Rise Company Limited of Myanmar and Super Power Trading Company Private Limited of India. The joint venture will purchase black gram produced in Ayeyawady Region for processing and export to India, while importing soybean meal for fish feed production to supply fish farms across the region.

The companies also plan to export about 20,000 tonnes of black gram per month, or around 200,000 tonnes a year, together with other products from the region, from Pathein Port to Chennai Port in India. They will also import Indian products required for the domestic market, according to the report. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL BUSINESS

2025-26 Fruit Exports Miss Target

MYANMAR'S fruit exports in the 2025-2026 financial year reached only 63.98 per cent, falling short of the target, according to data from Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association.

Nearly 800,000 tonnes of fruits were targeted for exports in the previous FY, with an expected export value of US$344.63 million. The actual fruit export was approximately 400,000 tonnes, generating $220.53 million.



Fruits are being processed at the value-added processing factory of Myanmar Golden Produce Co Ltd in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar primarily exports tissue-culture bananas, mangos, watermelons, muskmelons, avocados, konjac, ginger, turmeric, roselly cardamom, tamarind and cashew nuts. Of them, konjac and cashew nut topped the list with the highest export volume and earnings.

MFVP urged the growers and MSMEs to sort out fresh produce systematically for exports and to make value-added products rather than raw materials. — TWA/KK

MYEA Shan, MKN to Hold Talks on Shan Economy

DISCUSSION on Economic Development of Shan State, Opportunities and Challenges will take place on 25 July at the Hall of Southern Shan State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, jointly organized by the Shan State Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA Shan) and Myanmar Kaizen Nozomi Co Ltd (MKN).

Economic experts like Dr Myint San, U Zin Phyo Paing (MESI), and U Khun San Oo will share insights on overcoming possible challenges and exploring business opportunities in addition to discussions on the current economic climate in Shan State.

Interested individuals need to register for free by completing the Google Form Link: https://forms.gle/cr5kK7KQWxaki4ok6 or by scanning the QR code on Myanmar Kaizen Nozomi Facebook. — NN/KK

Diesel price rebounds, petrol price declines

DIESEL prices have risen in the domestic energy market, despite a downtick in petrol prices.

Fuel oil reference prices this week ending 23 July were set at K3,210 for Octane 92, K3,285 for Octane 95, K3,175 for diesel and K3,895 for premium diesel.

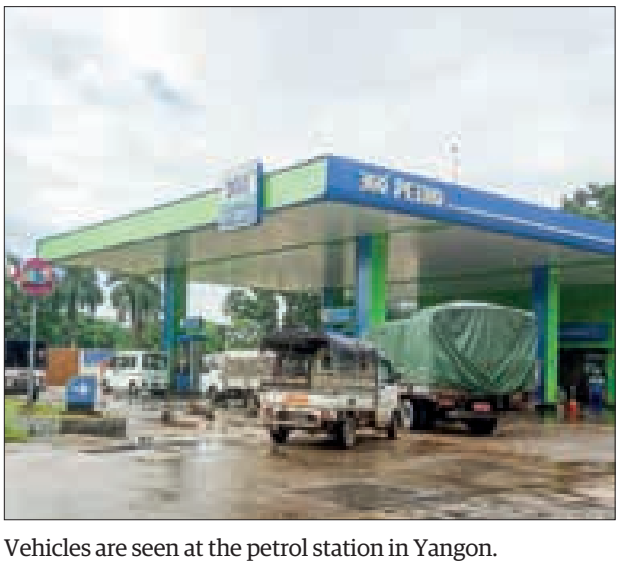
The diesel prices indicated a slight increase of K80-105 per litre compared to last week's price. Meanwhile, petrol prices (Octane 92 and Octane 95) showed a small decrease to K40 per litre this week.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in South-East 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 fuel station retailers under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found to be 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 losses faced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to the price in regional countries.



Vehicles are seen at the petrol station in Yangon.

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

Myanmar, Uzbekistan Discuss Business Forum, ASEAN-CIS Market Links



This photo features officials from Myanmar and Uzbekistan holding talks on organizing a business forum and strengthening ASEAN-CIS market connectivity.

MYANMAR and Uzbekistan held discussions on 16 July at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) to organize a bilateral business forum and forge trade links between the ASEAN and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) markets.

The coordination meeting focused on preparations for the bilateral business forum scheduled for August, as well as strategies to establish market connectivity between the CIS and ASEAN regions.

During the meeting, the two sides identified agriculture, food production, textiles, footwear, pharmaceuticals, electrical engineering, gemstones, chemicals, tourism, and education as sectors with strong potential for bilateral cooperation. They also discussed positioning Uzbekistan as a gateway for Myanmar businesses to access the CIS market. At the same time, Myanmar would serve as a gateway for Uzbek businesses seeking to enter the ASEAN market.

"We believe that Uzbekistan can serve as a mutually beneficial gateway to the CIS market, while Myanmar can provide a platform for Uzbek businesses to expand into the ASEAN market," a representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan said.

Following the meeting, both sides agreed to strengthen direct business-to-business (B2B) linkages, promote cooperation among sector-specific business associations, and draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between their respective national chambers of commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan also expressed its expectation that around 50 leading Myanmar companies and business leaders will participate in the business forum to be held in Uzbekistan in August. — ASH/TH

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OPINION

Remembering and paying tribute to the Martyrs

MARTYRS' Day is observed in Myanmar annually to commemorate and pay tribute to General Aung San and other national leaders who were assassinated by colonialist agents on 19 July 1947 while they were holding a meeting on national independence at the Secretariat in Yangon.

A martyr is a person who can see wrong as wrong and right as right, upholds the genuine truth, and possesses the conviction to sacrifice their own life without considering it as important for the sake of others. Those who dare to sacrifice their lives courageously for the truth, and who are endowed with the qualities, noble characteristics, deep commitment, and great sacrifices of such individuals, can be called martyrs. In other words, only those who possess the hearts of the noble and are filled with such virtues and beauty of spirit are worthy of being called martyrs.

The present time is an opportunity for all people to learn lessons from past tragic events, prevent their recurrence, and work towards building a peaceful, prosperous and developed nation. The loss of the great leaders brought about many turning points in the history of Myanmar. These turning points caused delays in the country's development processes. Therefore, the younger generation must actively participate in building a stable, peaceful and modern nation as envisioned by the great martyrs.

As the great martyr leaders had fallen, the remaining leaders continued to carry out their responsibilities so that the path towards Myanmar's independence would not be affected. However, throughout Myanmar's history, armed conflicts that emerged alongside independence have become obstacles to the country's development. It is necessary to identify and analyze the root causes of these armed conflicts and give priority to achieving national unity among all people and ensuring peace and prosperity in the country.

The three main national causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and the perpetuation of sovereignty are the national interests of the entire people and are also vital truths of great importance to the nation. Those who, up to the present day, are sacrificing and dedicating their lives for these three important national causes are also the martyrs of the present era.

The present time is an opportunity for all people to learn lessons from past tragic events, prevent their recurrence, and work towards building a peaceful, prosperous and developed nation. The loss of the great leaders brought about many turning points in the history of Myanmar. These turning points caused delays in the country's development processes. Therefore, the younger generation must actively participate in building a stable, peaceful and modern nation as envisioned by the great martyrs.

The efforts of all citizens must be aligned with the aspirations of the great martyrs. Only when the aspirations of the great martyrs are successfully fulfilled can the nation become stable, peaceful, prosperous and developed. If the nation can be built in such a way, it will be as if the great martyrs have been revived and continue to live on.

BOOKRACK

POEM



Book Title - From Unemployment to Entrepreneurship (A Practical Roadmap for Those Who Have Lost Their Way)
Author - Ko Thant (Wheel-turning)
Publishing House - Wisdom House
Publication Date - July 2026 (1st Edition)
Price - K18,000

From Unemployment to Entrepreneurship

"I would like to introduce readers to a book that aims to guide people who have become unemployed — not to sit idle and lose hope, but to transform that period of hardship and pain into fuel to create their own destiny and become entrepreneurs."

The book "From Unemployment to Entrepreneurship", written by Ko Thant (Wheel-turning), was published by Wisdom House Publishing to mark the 20th anniversary of the publishing house, which has released around 300 books.

In the foreword, organizer U Kyi Hnyoon shared his thoughts:

"As I read this manuscript repeatedly, I began to see my own shortcomings. Having entered the world of private business more than 20 years ago, I realized that I still have much to learn to keep up with the rapidly changing knowledge and developments of the modern era. For example, although I am familiar with English and computers, I had been hesitant to explore artificial intelligence (AI). However, by applying the methods explained by the author, Ko Thant (Wheel-turning), I experimented with AI over the past one to two months and have started to understand its benefits."

He added that the book's true value underscored what young people, middle-aged people, and older generations should do in an era when technology provides countless opportunities to become self-reliant instead of depending solely on salaries.

"While reading this book, I became energized by the desire to learn and experiment with many new things. I hope this book reaches the younger generation," he said.

Some excerpts from the book include:

"Solving Problems Around Us (Problem Solving)"

"The more problems there are, the more opportunities there are for entrepreneurs. In a developing country like Myanmar, there are many daily challenges in electricity, transport, healthcare, and education. This means opportunities are scattered everywhere."

"How to Start Without Capital (Bootstrapping)"

"There is a common phrase we often hear: 'I have a good idea. If I only had around K10 million in capital, I would start immediately.' A person who keeps saying this will never become an entrepreneur because they believe money is the key to getting started."

"Building Your Personal Brand (Personal Branding)"

"Your name is your value. If you build a strong reputation, even if one business fails, you can use that reputation to start another business."

The book is structured into 18 chapters covering four main sections: (1) Accepting Failure and Rebuilding Confidence; (2) Seeking Business Ideas; (3) Practical Startup Steps and Strategies; and (4) Long-Term Sustainability and Growth.

Rather than being only a motivational book, "From Unemployment to Entrepreneurship" focuses on practical guidance. It explains step by step what actions to take, how to manage money, how to brainstorm good ideas, and how to start a business from nothing. The book is presented as a valuable handbook for readers who want practical knowledge and guidance on their entrepreneurial journey.



Book Title - Laziness Does Not Exist
Translator - Lutha (Thoughts and Insight)
Publishing House - Sar Yeik Myaing
Publication Date - May 2026 (1st Edition)
Price - K22,000

Laziness Does Not Exist

THIS week's pick is a motivation book to re-ignite your drive to take action when you are carrying a heavy burden of unmet expectations and invisible stress in life, quoting "Are you feeling exhausted? Are you feeling used? Are you striving endlessly? Do you need to escape from life's stress?

Saya Lutha translated the book titled "Laziness Does Not Exist: A Defence of the Exhausted, Exploited, and Overworked" by the social psychologist and author from Loyola University Chicago into Myanmar.

Saya Lutha also authored books on psychology, linguistics, philosophy, sociology, musical arts and political science under the pen name 'Maurisha'. Meanwhile, he translates religious, unnatural phenomena, Gambhira (profound, abstruse, or hard to perceive) and Gandhari-magga (The Way of the Gandharan Arts) literature under the pseudonym 'Aeruman'.

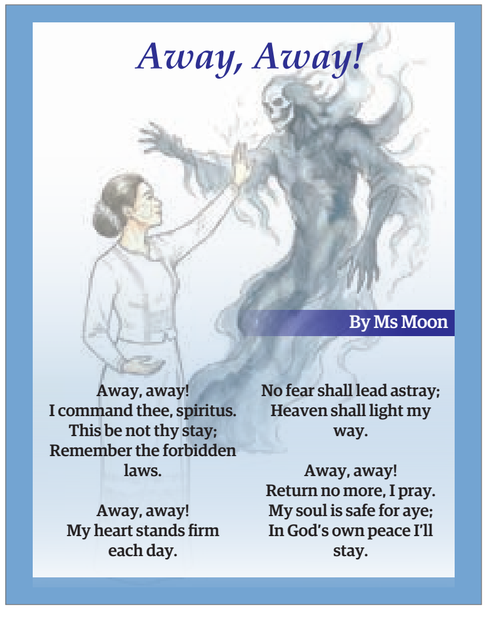
This book, which he has translated, is a scientific re-examination of the concept of "laziness" that spread through entire human societies. It exposes the toxicity of modern culture, which measures human worth through productivity, and points out that resting and accepting one's own limitations is a fundamental aspect of psychological flexibility and self-compassion rather than being a source of shame.

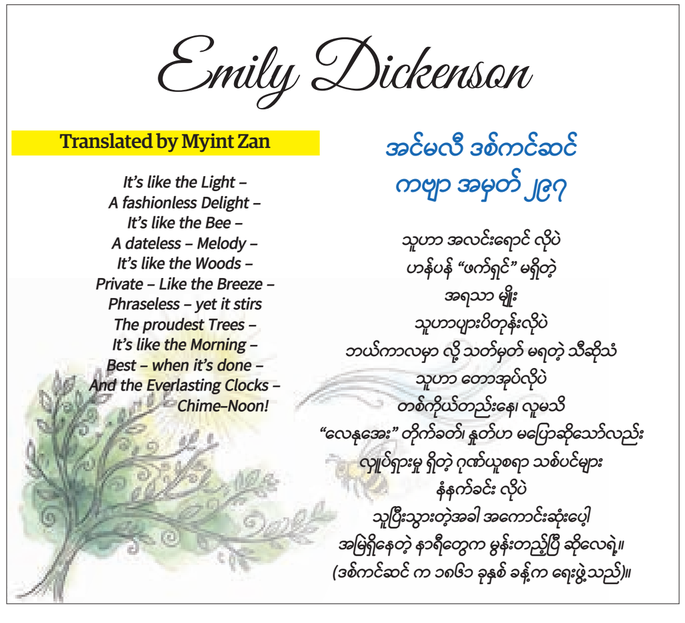
Furthermore, the author identifies the "Laziness Lie" as three major misconceptions deeply rooted in modern society: equating self-worth to productivity, that there is always more you could do, and that our own needs and limitations cannot be trusted.

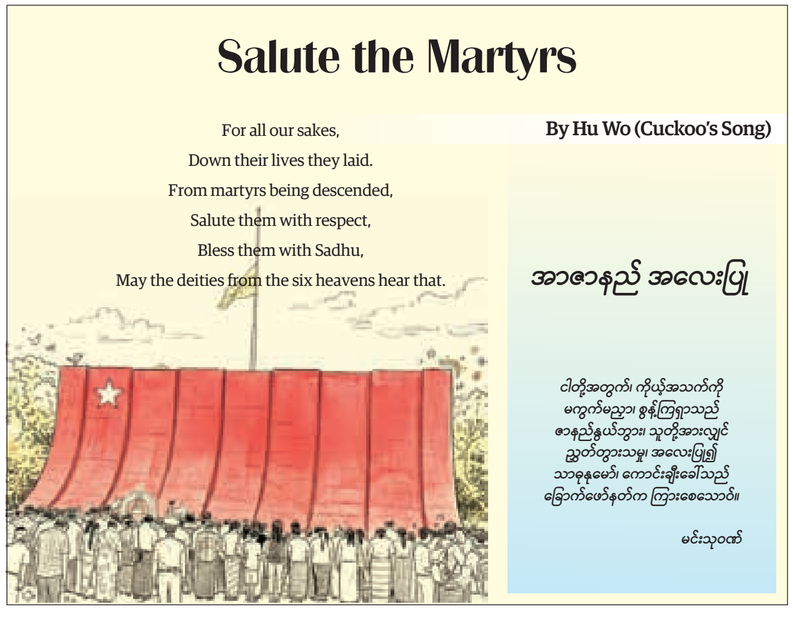
The book also points out that behaviours labelled as "laziness" are outward signs of deeper struggles: depression, anxiety, ADHD, or burnout. Moreover, the average worker can only maintain deep-focused concentration for three to four hours per day, with the rest of the time needed for the brain to rest. This book serves as a source of comfort to those exhausted by the pressures of modern society, with the pursuit of endless achievement that constantly demands "work harder, achieve more".

The foreword by the original author states that people think I am a hardworking person. If I have to admit, I've put quite a bit of effort into creating that impression. I am a very organized, meticulous, and active person in others' eyes. It took many years and deliberate effort to refine my personal brand. I had to put in a lot of effort to improve my creative skills, to keep my head above water for myself and for everyone who depends on me, and to be an active and significant figure in any situation."

The book also conveys this message: When you can accept that 'laziness' can actually bring benefits and support positive outcomes for you. Finding 'Me Time' to protect mental well-being and bring inner peace is what truly matters most in your life. Although there are many great times to understand yourself, embracing idleness will surely find some positives and allow you to shift from problems and unproductive moments to beneficial thoughts and genuine self-discovery."

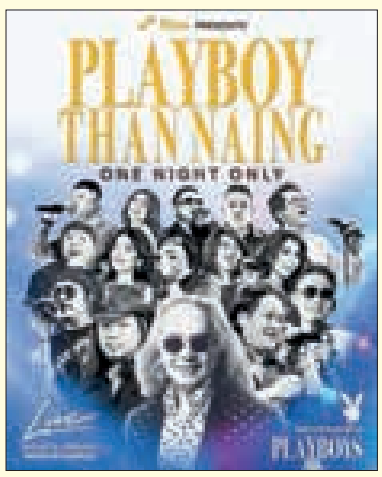






NATIONAL
Entertainment

Vocalists for One Night Only Live Concert released



THE official lineup of top All-Star artistes, who will perform alongside legendary Myanmar singer Playboy Than Naing at his solo concert, 'One Night Only' Live Concert, has been announced.

The concert will feature some of Myanmar's most popular artistes from different generations, including Zaw Win Htut, Chit Kaung, Lay Phyu, Ringo, Graham, Myo Gyi, Zaw Paing, Phyo Gyi, Wai La, Pyae Phyo Sein Lwin, May Kha Lar, Hay Mar Nay Win, Tun Eaindra Bo, and Htet Htet Pale.

Presented by Flow, the concert will be performed live with a full live band and is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 15 August, at Hexagon Complex in Yangon. — TWA/KTZH

Gala concert to feature renowned music icon



A grand live concert featuring veteran musician, composer and singer Derek Millar has been announced, according to singer Sithu Lwin.

November House and Judson Entertainment jointly present the concert, bringing together many of Myanmar's leading contemporary artistes on one stage.

"I am truly honoured to be part of U Derek's concert. It's a rare opportunity, and audiences will be able to enjoy many wonderful songs. I warmly invite everyone to come. We'll be waiting for you with great music," said Sithu Lwin.

The concert will feature Derek Millar, Nyi Pu, Sithu Lwin, Graham, Ko Aung, Herman Millar, Zaw Paing, G Latt Ito, Aung La, KKT, Htet Nay Kyi, Yair Yint Aung, Aung Htet and other musicians. The event will be held at 6 pm on 25 July at Judson Entertainment, 38/D, Thanthuma Road, Pathein Nyunt Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Anticipated arena spectacular set to dazzle fans

THE Royal Unplugged has announced 'Echoes of A Thousand Stars Myo Kyawt Myaing Live in Concert', a special concert celebrating the unforgettable songs of Myo Kyawt Myaing with grand orchestral arrangements by Dhiramore and the Gita Kavya Orchestra.

The concert will feature popular hits from the 1990s and 2000s, including 'Min Lay Chit Tat Yin', 'Mein Kalay Ta Yauk Ko Chit Mi Yin', 'Moe Lay Phwel Tone', 'Achit Thachin', and many of his other well-known songs.

Tickets are now on sale, with prices set at



K150,000 for Platinum Zone, K120,000 for Diamond Zone, K100,000 for Gold Zone, and K70,000 for Silver Zone. Tickets are available in limited numbers. The concert will be held at 7 pm on 15 August at the Grand Ballroom in the Tawwin Garden Hotel in Yangon. — Htun Htun/KTZH



Film Production donates K10M to Myanmar Autism Association

THE Family Show for the Myanmar film 'Michel' was held on 13 July at Nawaday Cinema in Mayangon Township, Yangon. During the event, Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production donated K10 million to the Myanmar Autism Association.

"Every parent of a child with autism should watch this film. We are also delighted that Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production donated K10 million to the Myanmar Autism Association during the Family Show," said director Mal Min Bone.

The screenplay and story of 'Michel' were written by director Mal Min Bone, who also directed the film for Shwe Nadi Shwe Yi Film Production. The cast members are Academy Nay Toe, Chaw Yadana, Yadana Bo, Su Eain San, San Htate Htar Oo, Cho Pyone, guest actor Nyi Nanda, Wah Wan Aung and many other performers. — ASH/KTZH

Reading session for Sayagyi Nanda Thein Zan's book

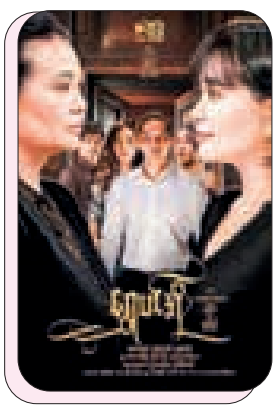
A reading and discussion session on veteran writer Sayagyi Nanda Thein Zan's book 'Crossing the Rugged Path' was held at the Community Centre of the Information and Public Relations Department in Bahan Township, Yangon Western District, on the morning of 15 July. Writers, journalists and literary enthusiasts attended the event.

The event began with Daw Nyunt Nyunt (Kalaw) reading selected passages from the book. Writers Tin Tin Aye (Luhmu), Mya Kya Ngon (Zeyawady), Mi Shwe Moe (Yangon), Athit, Tekkatho Han Min Oo, Soe Moe (Paradign), Zaw Ma (Poet), and Nan Wai (Pyu Pati) then shared their views and discussed the book's themes.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Assistant Director Daw Aye



Aye Khaing of the Information and Public Relations Department, Yangon Western District. — TWA/KTZH



Screen queen's big-screen comeback sparks buzz

ACADEMY Htet Htet Moe Oo has officially returned to the film industry with her latest movie, 'Shwe Pin Oh'.

Fans have expressed their excitement on social media, saying they had long missed the actress and were delighted to see her back on screen. Many also praised her timeless acting skills, saying her performance remains as compelling as ever and that the new film will leave audiences with many memorable moments.

The film, which will be screened in cinemas on 24 July, features a story by Aung Khant Zaw (Saint Paul), a screenplay by Nay Soe Thaw, and direction by Steel (Dwe Myitta). The cast includes Alinn Yaung, Nyi Htut Khaung, Tun Ko Ko, Academy Htet Htet Moe Oo, Moe Hay Ko, Naw Phaw Eh Htar, Mya Yoon, Academy Wah Wah Aung, and guest actress Academy May Than Nu. — TWA/KTZH

Director praises star daughter's bright screen future

DIRECTOR Mal Min Bone has highly praised the acting ability of San Htate Htar Oo, the daughter of Academy Khine Thin Kyi, recognizing her as a promising new-generation artiste. San Htate Htar Oo portrays a person with autism in the upcoming film 'Michel', which is set to be screened on 24 July. "Ma Khine Lay is truly a veteran actress. Her daughter Htate Htate has inherited that artistic talent. While portraying the character in 'Michel', she didn't seem to be acting at all. She performed naturally and convincingly, as though she were living the character," said director Mal Min Bone. Following the director's remarks, many social media users also expressed admiration and encouragement for San Htate Htar Oo's performance. — TWA/KTZH



NATIONAL

Stakeholders to coordinate with egg distributors to curb price hikes

ACCORDING to the discussions held during the "Coordination Meeting on Reviewing Egg Production and Distribution," relevant stakeholders will coordinate with egg distributors to ensure that egg prices do not continue to rise.

The coordination meeting, attended by executives of the Myanmar Livestock Federation (MLF), private stakeholders, and government officials, was held on 17 July at the MLF headquarters.



The coordination meeting on reviewing egg production and distribution is in progress.

Attendees analyzed several factors contributing to the current situation, including rising production costs, the imbalance between layer chick production and demand in previous years, decreased production over the past few months caused by disease outbreaks, and price fluctuations resulting from a decline in supply.

Participants also suggested ways to ensure the long-term sustainability of layer farmers and distributors while keeping costs affordable for consumers.

Furthermore, the MLF stated that they will continue ongoing initiatives to ensure eggs' affordable prices. The federation and relevant associations will work together to address issues across the supply chain to ensure stable production, as well as submit reports to the relevant authorities. Finally, it was noted that a meeting between the Myanmar Chicken and Duck Farmers Association and its member groups will be held soon to conduct a comprehensive review of the entire poultry sector. — MT/ZN

Taunggyi tube-well construction inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the progress of a drilled tube-well construction project in Panpun Village, Taunggyi Township.

Shan State (South) Department of Rural Development Head U Maung Maung Win, accompanied by the district and township DRD heads and engineering staff, examined the construction of the 400-foot-deep drilled tube-well. He met responsible officials to emphasize the importance of meeting prescribed technical standards for long-term sustainability and coordinated necessary actions to address requirements raised by the village.

The project is being implemented with an allocation of K3.359 million from the Union Government under the 2026-2027 financial year through the joint efforts of engineering staff from the Taunggyi Township Department of Rural Development and local villagers. Upon completion, the project will ensure year-round access to safe drinking and domestic water, as well as adequate water for agricultural and livestock purposes, benefiting 211 households with a population of 903 in Panpun Village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials from the Department of Rural Development are seen tube-well drilling in Taunggyi Township.

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 18

Issued at 8 am MST on 18 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and the Low-Pressure Area over India, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from today morning to 26 July 2026.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the Low-Pressure Area over India, such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH

KBZMS GI launches 1st compensation payouts for MV ATK Nyein sinking



This photo shows KBZMS General Insurance making the first compensation payment for the sinking of the MV ATK Nyein.

KBZMS General Insurance has paid an initial compensation amount exceeding K2 billion in connection with the sinking of the MV ATK Nyein, the company announced.

Nine days after the cargo vessel MV ATK Nyein sank, KBZMS General Insurance made its first compensation payments to affected policyholders under its Inland Marine Cargo Insurance coverage.

At approximately 11:30 am on 8 July, the MV ATK Nyein sank in Ye Township, Mon State, due to adverse weather conditions. The vessel went down about 27.5 nautical miles west of Kalegauk Island. Relevant maritime and administrative authorities subsequently declared the vessel a total loss and confirmed that all cargo on board was irretrievable.

Following confirmation of the incident, KBZMS immediately initiated the claims process and worked closely with policyholders, agents, surveyors, and relevant authorities to expedite the verification and settlement of claims.

On 17 July, the first portion of compensation was paid to three affected policyholders in Yangon. Compensation payments to the remaining eligible policyholders in Myeik are ongoing.

"Our Inland Marine Cargo Insurance is designed to provide customers with the financial protection they need when unexpected events affect their businesses. Providing timely financial support helps our customers regain confidence and continue growing their businesses," said U Sai Lu Mon Aung, Chief Executive Officer of KBZMS.

KBZMS has a track record of timely claims settlement under its domestic marine cargo insurance policies. In 2023, the company paid more than K700 million in compensation for the total loss of cargo aboard the MV Kyal Lin Phyo, which was transporting goods from Yangon to Myeik. — ASH/MKKS



ECONOMY
WORLD

Pakistan-China pharmaceutical cooperation to accelerate CPEC 2.0

It encourages private partnerships to co-produce critical healthcare products.

A two-day Pakistan-China healthcare investment conference opened Friday, bringing together leading Pakistani pharmaceutical, health care and biotechnology companies with Chinese investors, manufacturers, technology providers and industry leaders.

Addressing the Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference on the pharmaceutical, healthcare and biotechnology sectors here, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the event will provide a significant platform for strengthening collaboration between the pharmaceutical industries of Pakistan and China.



A staff member works at a packaging workshop of a pharmaceutical company in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

The B2B agreements signed between Pakistani and Chinese companies during the event mark another important step in advancing cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, according to him.

He said it would encourage private-sector partnerships in the co-production of medicines, vaccines, and other life-saving healthcare products while opening new avenues for investment and industrial cooperation. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka expands disabled employment options

Sri Lanka plans to introduce new measures to expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities and increase their participation in the tourism sector, the President's Media Division (PMD) said on Friday.

Earlier, representatives of the Parliamentary Caucus for Persons with Disabilities as well as civil society organizations submitted a set of budget proposals covering six priority sectors to Nandika Sanath Kumanayake, secretary to the President, the PMD said. — Xinhua

NEWS IN BRIEF

Monorail opens in northeastern Japan to boost tourism

A ceremony was held Saturday to mark the opening of a monorail in Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, hit hard by the devastating 2011 earthquake and ensuing tsunami that triggered the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The monorail on Kesennuma Oshima, the biggest inhabited island in Japan's northeastern Tohoku region, connects the middle of 235-metre-high Mount Kameyama with its summit, where an observation terrace, walking paths and a cafe have been developed.

Commercial operations will begin Sunday. The mountain once had a chairlift, but it was destroyed by a fire caused by the disaster. Unlike the lift, which could not operate in bad weather, the monorail can run year-round.

Kesennuma Mayor Shigeru Sugawara said he hopes to use the new attraction to promote tourism, adding, "We have made something good and want to show the city's appeal." — Kyodo

Two oil tankers explode after entering mined route

TWO oil tankers exploded and caught fire after attempting to pass through a mined route in the southern part of the Strait of Hormuz, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said in a statement cited by IRNA.

The ships were deceived by US intelligence services into entering the dangerous route, the IRGC said.

The IRGC Navy reiterated that the Strait of Hormuz is "completely closed" due to US aggression and warned vessels not to enter mined routes.

"Until the aggression of criminal America ends, there is no possibility of exporting chemical fertilizer or even a single drop of oil and gas from this region," the statement said. — SPUTNIK

Trump warns of tariffs on Canada over wildfire smoke

US President Donald Trump on Friday warned of increasing tariffs on Canada, accusing Ottawa of failing to properly manage its forests and prevent wildfire smoke from affecting air quality in American cities.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the United States was being impacted by what he described as "filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air" from Canadian wildfires and said the cost of the pollution would be added to tariffs currently imposed on Canada.

"We are holding Canada responsible for the fact that they are not properly maintaining their forests, and brush therein, and the United States is being unnecessarily invaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air, the quality of which is dangerous, and totally unacceptable!" Trump said. — ANI



People in Canada's largest city are urged to stay indoors as Toronto sees some of the world's worst air quality. **PHOTO: AFP**

Skyroot's Vikram-1 reaches orbit, marks new era for India's private space sector

SKYROOT Aerospace's Vikram-1 Test Flight-1 has successfully reached orbit, marking the maiden flight of India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket.

Earlier, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned the Skyroot Aerospace mission and wished them a successful launch. The rocket completed its final burn and injected its payloads into a nearly 450-kilometre orbit, making India the third country in the world with private orbital launch capability.



Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-1 rocket is seen inside the company's Infinity Campus in Hyderabad, India. **PHOTO: SKYROOT AEROSPACE**

The mission, named "Mission Aagaman", was executed from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. The 24-metre carbon-composite rocket completed all planned flight stages, including stage separations and the firing of its Orbital Adjustment Module (OAM). — ANI

War plastic shortage boosts Cairo recyclers

IN the labyrinthine alleyways of Cairo's Garbage City, recycling specialist Peter Romany finds himself fielding calls from factories scrambling for plastic to plug supply shortfalls caused by the Iran war.

The 25-year-old is among the hundreds of recyclers and manufacturers across Egypt benefiting from a war-driven surge in demand ever since the United States and Iran choked off the Strait of Hormuz — a major shipping lane for the raw materials from which plastic is made.

At the heart of the boom is the sprawling eastern Cairo settlement of Manshiyet Nasser, where generations of garbage collectors have built one of the world's most sophisticated informal recycling systems.

"Before the war, we were the ones calling factories, trying to sell our material," Romany told AFP, standing beside towering bales of compressed plastic.

"But after the war broke out, the factories started calling us. They'd ask: How much do you have? Can you deliver today? That never used to happen."

Home to more than 115,000 residents, Manshiyet Nasser is a predominantly Coptic Christian neighbourhood nestled beneath the Mokattam hill and facing Cairo's historic Citadel. — AFP

China launches service consumption festival to boost spending

CHINA has launched the service consumption festival, a market-driven initiative led by the China International Electronic Commerce Center to boost service consumption during the summer and autumn seasons.

Themed "Quality Services for a Better Life", the festival primarily covers the summer months of July and August and extends into the traditional peak shopping season of September and October.

A number of major lifestyle service platforms are participating in the event, including JD.com, Meituan, Trip.com Group, Damai, WeChat, Alipay and Douyin.



A number of major lifestyle service platforms are participating in the event, including JD.com, Meituan, Trip.com Group, Damai, WeChat, Alipay and Douyin. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/XINHUA**

The platforms will leverage digital and intelligent technologies to offer promotions that benefit consumers across key service sectors including catering and accommodation, housekeeping, transportation, automotive care, cultural performances, tourism and leisure, healthcare, and inbound consumption services.

The festival aims to optimize resource allocation and precisely match supply with demand, with special focus on family travelers, the elderly and young children, as well as inbound tourists. It will also strengthen overseas promotion of premium cultural and tourism resources, improve service guidance for inbound consumption, and enhance payment convenience for international visitors.

The initiative seeks to integrate online and offline consumption scenarios, foster cross-sector integration across services, and enhance service quality through digital empowerment and industry standards. — Xinhua

JR Central, Shizuoka sign agreement to begin maglev construction

CENTRAL Japan Railway Co on Saturday signed an agreement with Shizuoka Prefecture under a prefectural ordinance, clearing a key hurdle for construction to begin on the only section of the new high-speed maglev line between Tokyo and Nagoya where work has yet to start. Construction on the roughly 8.9-kilometre Shizuoka section, part of the Southern Alps Tunnel that straddles Yamanashi, Shizuoka and Nagano prefectures, could begin within the year after years of opposition by the previous governor over environmental impact concerns. — Kyodo



This is a Linear Chuo Shinkansen maglev train test vehicle. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

US-China business leaders discuss resilient ties

MORE than 100 representatives from the Chinese and US business communities, as well as political and media figures in the United States, gathered here Thursday to discuss how to build more resilient and constructive ties between the world's two largest economies.

The event, themed "The Path Forward 2026" and hosted by the China General Chamber of Commerce (CGCC)-USA, focused on ways to bolster business confidence and long-term stability while exploring new opportunities. — Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS & FRAGRANCES (MYANMAR) LIMITED

Call for proof of debts or claims
(Pursuant to Insolvency Rule 9)

Following the approval of the company's voluntary winding-up and the appointment of U Aung Naing Maung Maung as liquidator, all persons claiming to be creditors of the above named company are hereby requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence in their possession to the liquidator at the address given below not later than 03 August 2026.

U Aung Naing Maung Maung
Insolvency Practitioner Registration Number : 109774
Liquidator

Liquidator's Office: Uniteam Marine Office Building, 8th Floor, Unit #1, No. 84, Pan Hlaing Street, Sanchaung Township, Yan- gon Region, Myanmar, 11111

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB628A)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MSC ACE II VOY.NO. (SB628A)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2026** 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 MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST

JULY 18

Slovaks outraged by ministry's $61-mln HQ

SLOVAKIA'S defence minister has come under fire for his lavish taste in architecture after unveiling his ministry's new 27-storey headquarters, with many criticising the cost of the 53-million-euro ($61 million) renovation.

Known popularly as the "corn" because of its resemblance to the summer barbecue staple, the towering former communist-era barracks' facelift is already under scrutiny for potential misuse of the central European country's public funds.

"It's pretty, isn't it?" beamed the minister, Robert Kalinak, one of Prime Minister Robert Fico's closest allies, as he opened the building in the capital Bratislava to the public on Thursday.

Proposed ministry headquarters faced significant public and political backlash, with critics mocking the project as an "overpriced Dubai skyscraper" and "the most expensive corn in the world." The prosecutor's office is already investigating a criminal complaint regarding the 958,000-euro renovation of the tower's surrounding 700-metre wall. — AFP



'Isn't it pretty?': Slovakia's defence minister Robert Kalinak is happy with his new office. **PHOTO: AFP**

JULY 17

Burnham vows hope as next UK PM

ANDY Burnham vowed Friday to restore "hope" to the British people as he officially became the ruling Labour party's new leader, and incoming UK prime minister.

Nicknamed the "King of the North" for a nine-year spell as Manchester mayor, Burnham pledged to work to improve living standards in every region of the United Kingdom.

"People and places ... have been waiting too long for politics to let them hope again ... We're going to give them hope back," he promised at a special party conference. "I am for us, for all of us," Burnham told cheering delegates.

The 56-year-old takes over from Keir Starmer, who resigned last month after months of political turmoil, scandal and domestic policy missteps. — AFP

JULY 16

India bans sailor deployment to Hormuz

INDIA'S Directorate-General of Shipping ordered shipowners and recruitment companies to not deploy Indian seafarers on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz amid renewed attacks on shipping.

The regulator said the risks to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz had increased "significantly". Over the past three days, two Indian seafarers have been killed in attacks on vessels in the region. At least seven Indian sailors have been killed and several others injured in and around the Strait of Hormuz since the escalation of the US-Iran conflict. "In view of the heightened security situation in the Persian Gulf region ... the Directorate considers it necessary to adopt enhanced precautionary measures to safeguard the interests of Indian seafarers serving on board ships operating in the region," the order said. — ANI

JULY 15

Foundation stone laid to build monastery in "Gateway of Everest"

A foundation stone has been laid for the construction of a monastery in Solukhumbu District of Nepal, which is also known as the gateway of Everest, to be built with Indian assistance.

As per the release from the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, the foundation stone has been laid for the construction of Ngagyur Nyingma Palyul Dhongag Chholing Monastery in Likhu Pike Rural Municipality.

It "was jointly laid today by Mina Karki Basnet, Chairperson, Likhu Pike Rural Municipality; and Ajay Kumar Singh, Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Kathmandu," the release stated. The Monastery Building is being built with the Government of India's financial assistance of approximately 33 million Nepali rupees. — ANI

JULY 14

Trump pays Carroll millions for abuse

JEAN Carroll received the US$5 million (S$6.45 million) plus interest that she won from Donald Trump in her sexual abuse lawsuit three years ago, days after the US President failed to sway a judge to block the transfer during a last-ditch appeal to the US Supreme Court.

A total of $5.6 million (S$7.2 million) was transferred on 13 July by the US court system, which had been holding the money, to an account set up for Carroll by her lawyer Roberta Kaplan, according to a docket entry in the civil case in New York on 14 July.

A judge ordered the transfer after the Supreme Court on 29 June left intact a jury's verdict finding that Trump sexually abused Carroll in 1996 and defamed her in a 2022 social media post that called her claims a "hoax" and a "complete con job" and said that Carroll "is not my type!" — AFP

JULY 13

Police take over investigation into UK politician's killing

ANTI-TERRORISM police have taken charge of an investigation into the killing of veteran British right-wing politician Ann Widdecombe after fresh evidence emerged, the interior minister said Monday. Police said that a suspect detained at the weekend over the attack on the 78-year-old former Conservative minister has now been re-arrested on suspicion of committing, preparing or instigating "terrorism".

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood announced that following "new information and evidence", Counter Terrorism Policing "are now leading on the investigation into the horrific murder" of Widdecombe, who was found dead Thursday at her home in southwest England. Police initially said there was "no information to suggest that this is a terrorism related incident". — AFP

JULY 12

US Senator Lindsey Graham dies suddenly at age 71

US SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM, a close political ally of President Donald Trump, died Saturday night "from a brief and sudden illness" at the age of 71, his office said in a statement early Sunday.

There was no indication the senator from South Carolina was feeling unwell before his death, NBC News cited a top staffer to Graham as saying early Sunday. He had been scheduled to appear on NBC News' "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

Graham, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, was widely recognized as one of the most prominent and influential voices within the Republican Party on defence and foreign policy. He repeatedly pushed for aggressive US military actions abroad, maintaining a hawkish stance on Iran and vigorously defending the war. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Myanmar draw favourable U17 qualifiers group

MYANMAR was handed a favourable group for the 2027 AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, following the official lot-drawing event held recently.

The qualifiers will take place from 5 to 11 October, featuring 30 teams divided into eight groups, with only the group winners advancing to the final tournament. Myanmar are in Group G alongside Hong Kong and Guam.

Myanmar's U17 women's team is coached by Japanese head coach Yuki Tatsuro, while the squad is competing in the Myanmar Women's League under the Young Lionesses name to gain competitive experience ahead of the qualifiers. — Maung San Gyi/KZL



The Myanmar U17 Women's team. **PHOTO: MNL**

Yangon University to host first varsity esports championship

MYANMAR'S first university-level esports tournament, the PUBG MOBILE Varsity Esports Championship, will be held at Yangon University in late July, organized by the Myanmar Electronic Sports Federation (MESF) in collaboration with PUBG MOBILE Offline.



An event for collaboration between Myanmar the Electronic Sports Federation and PUBG MOBILE is in progress. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

The tournament will feature 16 university teams that qualified through the Campus Clash Offline Qualifiers held from 17 to 19 June. A total of 273 teams, comprising 1,092 players from 29 universities and colleges nationwide, competed in the qualifiers.

The qualified teams from Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Meiktila and other regions and states will compete at Yangon University Gymnasium on 25 and 26 July.

MESF Vice-President U Kyaw Htet Lin said the event aims to discover and develop young esports talent. The winning team will compete against professional esports teams, while outstanding players may be selected as national representatives. MESF said the tournament is part of efforts to strengthen Myanmar's esports sector and prepare athletes for national and international competitions. — Thitsa (MNA)/KZL

Spain, Argentina prepare for World Cup final, Trump hails success



US President Donald Trump with FIFA chief Gianni Infantino at a reception at Trump Tower in New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPAIN and Argentina prepared to do battle in Sunday's World Cup final in New Jersey as organizers said they were keeping a close eye on smoke from wildfires in Canada.

Lionel Messi's Argentina are bidding to become the first team since Brazil in 1962 to win back-to-back World Cups, while Spain are trying to win a second title after their maiden victory in 2010.

Organizers said they were "monitoring closely" the smoke that has choked skies over large areas of the United States. "There's been discussion about it, and we have somebody with the National Weather Service that sits in FIFA headquarters there, so we're monitoring closely," Andrew Giuliani, White House World Cup task force executive director, told a briefing. US President Donald Trump will be among a crowd of over 80,000 spectators as the largest World Cup in history reaches its climax in the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

It will be the only game of the tournament that Trump has attended.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said she would also attend the final after an invitation from the American president.

Trump on Friday hailed the World Cup, also played in Mexico and Canada, as "the most successful sporting event perhaps in the history of the world" as he held a reception in New York with FIFA chief Gianni Infantino.

Physical battle

Spain captain Rodri said he was bracing for a "physical" battle with Argentina and would aim to ignore any possible "provocations".

Rodri, the 2024 Ballon D'Or winner, said he expected the final to be unlike any other game the European champions had faced. — AFP

Infantino's enlarged World Cup gamble pays off with punters

THE World Cup has engaged punters like never before with an 80 per cent increase in betting volume compared to the 2022 edition, even taking into account the higher number of matches for a 48-team tournament, a betting expert told AFP.

Although many football fans were sceptical about the increase in the number of teams from 32 to 48, it appears punters have welcomed it.

"We've seen an 80 per cent increase in the ticket volume," Darren Small, senior vice-president of Managed Trading Services at Sportradar, told AFP.

"So we're seeing more bets and more active customers.

"We've seen record numbers and we've surpassed our expectations in terms of what we felt we were going to see if we compare it to 2022, which is a little difficult because it was different as it was in the winter."

For Sunday's final between Spain and defending champions Argentina, Small expects the company to be handling approximately 8.5 million betting tickets for their 250 bookmaking clients round the world.

Sportradar is a global sports technology company that says it creates immersive experiences for sports fans and bettors.

Small said even if the numbers have surprised the company, they anticipated an increase because of the expansion of the tournament to 104 games.

"But we also expected it just because of the industry growth and general growth," he added. — AFP

SUNDAY EDITION

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Lifestyle

Petula Clark, 93, hopes real singers will survive the AI tide

Veteran singer Petula Clark hopes AI never replaces human emotion.

VETERAN British star Petula Clark hopes artificial intelligence will never be able to replace the warmth and emotion of a real singer. At 93, the "Downtown" legend still relishes the connection between audience and performer, and the humanity in delivering a vocal — two things AI songs might eliminate.



Singer Petula Clark poses at a Swiss literary festival. **PHOTO: AFP**

"We're all very worried about that, and they're actually saying eventually AI will have emotion, and even that's a little worrying — where do we go from there?" said Clark. "For the future, it's a little puzzling, to say the least," she told AFP in an interview. Asked if the human feel in a song was irreplaceable, she said: "We like to think so. Who knows? The way things are going, maybe everything is going to be replaced anyway. I hope not. I find the whole thing a bit scary.

"There's been a lot of electronic stuff, computers in studios for quite a few years, and we're OK, we're still here. But how much longer?" Clark said her singing register was now lower, but the magic was still present. "My voice, it has changed," she explained.

"But it hasn't changed in whatever it has: it's there. It's come down a little bit, but I kind of like it!" "What I do is very personal, and it's mine; nobody can be me," she said. "It comes from the heart." Clark said there were plans for a concert in a London theatre, possibly later this year. "It's going to be something very important for me, and very emotional too. It may be my last one; who knows?," she said.

"But I'm really looking forward to it, getting back to an audience. There's nothing quite like the communion with an audience." — AFP



Some 1,200 competitors from 53 countries are at the event in Arnhem, eastern Netherlands. **PHOTO: AFP**

Europe's 'Speedcubers' twist for glory

Twelve hundred competitive speedcubers twist Rubik's cubes for European glory.

BROWS furrowed, Juliette Sebastien grips her Rubik's Cube and moves her fingers so fast the room seems to blur. In 25.03 seconds she flips the solved cube onto the table. This is speedcubing — competitive Rubik's Cube solving — with events from blindfolded rounds to solving with oven gloves.

Sebastien, France's national champion, is among 1,200 competitors from 53 countries at the 11th European championships in Arnhem, eastern Netherlands. She trains at least an hour a day and did three to four hours daily before the event, though a wasp sting slowed her down. "I do training blocks of 100, 200, sometimes 300 solves," the 25-year-old student told AFP. The five halls of the venue ring with the clack of cubes. Competitors wander the corridors in national shirts, solving one-handed or without looking. "There are more cubes here than people," joked Dutch programmer Jeroen Plug.

Competition is precise. Scramblers set every cube the same way, and players sit under referee watch with a camera recording while a digital clock times to hundredths of a second. Players get 15 seconds to inspect the scramble, then start the clock by touching a sensor. — AFP

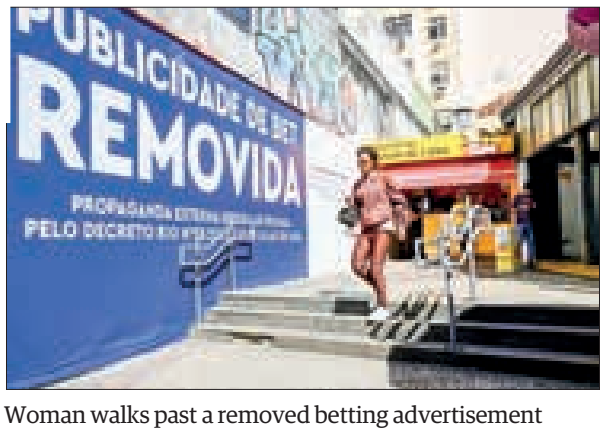
Brazil toughens rules on gambling ads as bets explode

Brazil mandates addiction warnings on gambling advertisements.

BRAZIL on Friday made it mandatory for gambling advertisements to carry warnings about addiction and money loss, tightening regulations on a sector that has exploded in recent years, dragging many into debt. Brazil's betting market has boomed since a regulatory framework was established in 2023, accompanied by aggressive advertising both on the streets and online from influencers and sports stars.

Controversy soared during the World Cup, with YouTube channel CazeTV — which streamed all matches live to millions of people — showing QR codes to place bets and recommending specific wagers.

After a probe from the country's consumer protection agency, the channel scaled back such ads. The goal is to "treat betting like cigarettes", said Finance Minister Dario Durigan of the new rules obliging betting ads to carry warnings.



Woman walks past a removed betting advertisement notice in Brazil. **PHOTO: AFP**

Official figures show that most people using betting platforms come from poor households.

A study by the National Confederation of Commerce estimated that debt due to betting pushed almost 270,000 families into severe default over about three years. — AFP

Japan's A-bomb art gallery seeks funding

AN art gallery in eastern Japan housing a series of paintings depicting the horrors of the 1945 US atomic bombings is scheduled to reopen next year after renovation but faces an uncertain future due to the expected mounting costs of operating the facility. Yukinori Okamura, managing director of the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels, is seeking support to keep the legacy of the artwork alive. "The significance of these paintings is only growing," as the number of atomic bomb survivors dwindles and fewer people remain to pass on their stories, he said.

Established in 1967, the gallery is located in Higashimatsuyama, Saitama Prefecture, and houses 14 works by the late, Nobel Peace Prize-nominated artists Iri and Toshi Maruki. The pieces are among the 15 folding screen paintings, one of which is permanently displayed at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. The paintings, known as the Hiroshima Panels, have been exhibited abroad including in the United States. The museum has undergone several renovations, with its most recent closure taking place in September 2025. The aging building has suffered from rain leaks and humidity, which have damaged the artwork in recent years. — Kyodo