

GLOBAL HORIZONS

A communications platform for MIA's Protocol and International Affairs Division



JULY/AUGUST 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Republic of Korea	2
Diplomatic & Consular Relations	3
Aviation, Etiquette, Lifestyle & Culture	6
Briefs & Notes	7
Independence & National Days	8

ABOUT US

The core mission of MIA's Protocol and International Affairs Division is *to facilitate the movement of official guests, delegations, dignitaries, and VIPs through MIA and support the airport's international programs and initiatives.*

Contact

Tel: + 1 (305) 876-7457

Email: Protocol@FlyMIA.com

URL: https://www.iFlyMIA.com/protocol_international_affairs.asp

For comments, suggestions, event announcements, or to opt out, please email us.

References to any person, organization, country, product, service, or external website do not constitute or imply endorsement or recommendation by the Protocol and International Affairs Division of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. Noncommercial reprint rights are granted with the inclusion of the copyright notice. Additional reprint rights are available upon request.



Republic of Korea: “Land of the Morning Calm”



Head of State & Head of Government: President Lee Jae-Myung
Capital: Seoul
Population: Approx. 52 million people (2026 est.)
National Liberation Day (Gwangbokjeol): August 15, 1945.

South Korea's history spans from early unified kingdoms and long-standing dynastic traditions to the Japanese occupation in the early 20th century. Following the Korean War in the 1950s, the newly established Republic of Korea confronted significant economic and social challenges. Over subsequent decades, the nation achieved remarkable progress, evolving into a stable democracy with a highly advanced and industrialized economy.

Recognized as one of the [“Four Asian Tigers”](#) (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan), it launched an ambitious development

strategy in the 1960s, prioritizing manufacturing, export-led growth, and investments in education. This approach gave rise to global giants such as Samsung, LG, and Hyundai, cementing South Korea's reputation as one of the world's most dynamic and innovative economies. Today, the country continues to demonstrate robust economic performance. In 2026, its nominal GDP is projected to reach approximately US \$1.93 trillion, with real GDP expected to grow by around 3 percent, driven largely by a semiconductor-led export boom.

[The Korean Demilitarized Zone \(DMZ\)](#), established in 1953 following the armistice that ended active hostilities in the Korean War, serves as a 160-mile buffer separating the Republic of Korea from North Korea. Despite its designation, it remains one of the world's most heavily fortified borders, characterized by extensive military infrastructure and rigorous surveillance. Over time, limited human activity has allowed the DMZ to develop into an unintended haven for diverse wildlife. Today, it stands as a striking symbol of enduring geopolitical tension on the Korean Peninsula and the continuing pursuit of lasting peace and reconciliation.

Fun Facts

South Korea is a country of vibrant contrasts where ancient traditions meet cutting-edge innovation. South Korea has [17 UNESCO World Heritage sites](#): 15 cultural properties and 2 natural sites. These range from ancient royal palaces and Buddhist Mountain monasteries to sprawling volcanic islands and vast tidal flats.

In South Korea, people say [“kimchi”](#) instead of “cheese” when posing for photos. The word naturally creates a warm, friendly smile, perfect for group shots. Kimchi is a traditional Korean side dish made of salted, fermented vegetables and spices. It is the national dish of South Korea and a staple in Korean cuisine

[A Unique Age System](#) - South Korea's traditional age system counts a baby as one year old at birth and adds another year to everyone's age on New Year's Day, regardless of individual birthdays. So, if a baby is born on December 31, they are considered one year old at birth and turn two the very next day, January 1. Because of this method, a person's Korean age is typically one or two years older than their international age. Although this system remains culturally familiar, South Korea officially shifted to using the international age system for legal and administrative purposes in 2023.

Karaoke Everywhere - Karaoke, or *noraebang*, is a national obsession. Seoul alone is home to nearly 28,000 karaoke rooms, roughly one for every 350 residents.

Safety Meets Innovation - To protect smartphone-focused pedestrians, Seoul has embedded glowing traffic signals directly into the sidewalks, making them visible even to those looking down.

[The Unlucky Number Four \(Tetraphobia\)](#) - Many elevators in South Korea skip the 4th floor entirely. The number is considered unlucky because it resembles the Chinese character for “death.”

A Nation of Gamers - South Korea is the birthplace of esports. Professional gaming is a major industry, with stadiums, teams, and tournaments drawing crowds comparable to traditional sports.

Beauty as a Cultural Standard - As the global capital of skincare, South Korea places a high value on personal grooming. It's common for men to use makeup and follow detailed daily skincare routines.



U. Desmond Alufohai
Division Director II
Protocol & International Affairs Division

As July turns to August, we enter a season marked by illumination, maturity, and renewed momentum across the Northern Hemisphere, while the Southern Hemisphere embraces winter's quiet discipline and reflection. Together, these contrasting seasons remind us that global progress is built on understanding diverse contexts and rhythms.

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Marco Farani of Brazil, His Majesty's Consul General Keith Scott, and Israel's Consul General Zuri Siso to our community. Their presence strengthens Miami-Dade's international partnerships and enriches our shared work in diplomacy and global engagement.

This spirit of unity was on full display during the historic 2026 FIFA World Cup, where forty-eight nations competed across Canada, Mexico, and the United States in a record-setting tournament. Congratulations to Spain on securing its second World Cup title on July 19, a fitting conclusion to an extraordinary global event.

As we embrace the symbolic strength of these summer months and recognize the contrasting season experienced elsewhere, we are reminded that meaningful progress in governance, aviation, diplomacy, protocol, and every field of international engagement is built on sustained commitment, mutual respect, resilience, and a shared understanding of our interconnected world. Just as nations came together to host and participate in this landmark World Cup, our greatest achievements are realized when we work across borders with purpose, partnership, and a common vision for the future.

DIPLOMATIC & CONSULAR RELATIONS

Ambassador Marco Farani is the New Consul General of Brazil in Miami, Florida



Ambassador Marco Farani has been serving as Consul General of Brazil in Miami since July 2026. Born in the State of Espírito Santo, he joined the Brazilian diplomatic service in 1981 after completing the Diplomatic Career Training Program at the Rio Branco Institute. Throughout more than four decades of public service, he has built extensive experience in political, economic, cultural, and consular affairs in Brazil and abroad.

Overseas, he served at the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in New York; at the Brazilian Embassies in Tokyo and Beijing; and as Consul General of Brazil in Tokyo. Most recently, he served as Ambassador of Brazil to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and as Permanent Representative of Brazil to the international organizations based in London.

In Brasília, he held several senior positions, including Advisor to the Civil Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic, Special Advisor to the Vice President of the Republic, Director-General of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), and Director of the International Relations Secretariat of the Federal Senate Presidency.

In addition to his diplomatic career, he has played a significant role in promoting Brazilian culture, having founded and directed Cine Academia and created and directed the Brasília International Film Festival (FicBrasília).

Mr. Keith Scott is the New British Consul General in Miami, Florida



Mr. Keith Scott is His Majesty's Consul General of the British Consulate in Miami, covering Florida, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, since July 2026. Prior to this appointment, he was the British Consul General in Houston (2025-26), with responsibility for Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma, and the British High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea (2018-23). In UK roles he has covered the European Union, irregular migration, Libya/North Africa, the Balkan wars, Trans Caucasus/Central Asia and FCDO finances.

Mr. Keith has also served overseas in Zimbabwe (2007-12), Afghanistan (2002, 2005-07), Iraq (2004-05), Nigeria (1994-95); with temporary duties in Liberia (2015), Malawi (2011) and Albania (1997). He was seconded to the UK Trade and Investment Office as Regional Manager for West and Central Africa (1999-2002) and to the UN Secretary-General's Office (1998).

Mr. Zuri Siso is the new Consul General of Israel in Miami, Florida



As Consul General of Israel in Miami, Mr. Zuri Siso oversees Israel's diplomatic, economic, public affairs, and consular operations across Florida, Kansas, Missouri, and Puerto Rico. In this role, he is committed to strengthening the enduring partnership between Israel and the United States by advancing bilateral cooperation, expanding economic and cultural ties, and fostering relationships with government officials, business leaders, academic institutions, and local communities throughout the region.

Mr. Siso brings more than 25 years of senior leadership experience spanning public administration, organizational governance, information technology, cybersecurity, and law. Prior to his appointment as Consul General, he held several senior executive positions in Israel, including serving as Chief Executive Officer of the Likud Party, Israel's largest political organization.

Throughout his career, he has overseen complex organizations and led strategic efforts in governance, organizational development, and digital transformation, working closely with government agencies and public institutions. His professional background also includes extensive experience in information systems and technology, where he directed digital modernization, cybersecurity, and business process optimization. This multidisciplinary expertise supports his efforts to advance Israel's diplomatic, economic, and public engagement priorities.

Mr. Siso holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from Ono Academic College in Israel. He is a native Hebrew speaker and fluent in English. He is married to Sarit, and together they have three children.

PDI-POA Celebrates Its Silver Anniversary at the 25th Annual International Protocol Education Forum in Indianapolis



The opening Ceremony of the 25th Annual PDI-POA Education Forum in Indianapolis. From L-R: U. Desmond Alufohai, Melissa Goitia, Past President of PDI-POA, Catherine M. Wilson, President of PDI-POA, Leslie Lautenslager, Past President of PDI-POA, and Protocol Officer Marie Delphine Bea Mbong, Miami International Airport.



PROTOCOL & DIPLOMACY INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Following the tremendous success of the 24th Annual International Protocol Education Forum in Miami in July 2025, Protocol & Diplomacy International - Protocol Officers Association (PDI-POA) marked a major milestone this year with its 25th Annual International Protocol Education Forum, held in Indianapolis, Indiana, from July 20 – 23, 2026. The silver-anniversary gathering brought together 131 protocol professionals, diplomats, government officials, military representatives, corporate leaders, academics, and international relations practitioners from 12 countries, reaffirming PDI-POA's position as the leading organization dedicated to advancing excellence in protocol and diplomacy.

This year's theme, *"Precision and Pace: Navigating Protocol & Diplomacy in a Fast-Moving World,"* reflected the evolving demands placed on protocol professionals as global engagement accelerates and expectations rise. The Forum delivered a robust program of high-level plenaries, hands-on workshops, and cross-sector discussions designed to strengthen professional readiness and deepen expertise across the field.

The Forum's plenary sessions set a powerful tone for the week, offering thought-provoking insights into the future of diplomacy and the expanding responsibilities of protocol practitioners:

- Trust, Judgement, and Power: Ethical Use of Generative AI in Diplomatic Practice - A timely exploration of emerging technologies and the ethical frameworks guiding their use in international engagement.
- The Room Speaks First: Diplomatic Seating, Precedence, and Protocol in Practice - A masterclass on how spatial design and symbolic placement shape diplomatic outcomes.
- Bridging Cities, Elevating Communities - A forward-looking conversation on how protocol professionals strengthen civic identity and global partnerships.

These sessions underscored the profession's growing role as strategic advisors, cultural interpreters, and stewards of diplomatic integrity. The Indianapolis Forum offered an exceptional range of breakout sessions, each designed to enhance technical proficiency, cultural fluency, and leadership capability. Among the most popular were:

- Forms of Address Fundamentals: Invitations, Place Cards, and Name Badges
- Diplomacy at the Board Table: Meeting Management & Etiquette
- Invitations, RSVPs, and Ticketing: Building a Seamless Guest Management Process
- Precedence, Ethical Leadership & Intercultural Protocol in the Converging Era
- Onsite Operations: Executing Events with Precision and Control
- African Traditional Precedence
- Protocol and Professional Growth: Applying Protocol Skills for Career Development
- Protocol and International Misconceptions
- The New Soft Power: Strategic Presence and Protocol in an Age of Acceleration
- State Banquets: Ceremony, Symbolism, and Operational Excellence

The 25th Annual PDI-POA Education Forum highlighted the evolution of the protocol profession by combining tradition with innovation, cultural intelligence, strategic leadership, and operational excellence. Building on the success of the Miami Forum, the Indianapolis gathering reinforced PDI-POA's standing as the leading global organization for protocol education and professional development.

About PDI-POA:

Founded in 2002, PDI-POA is an international nonprofit association dedicated to assisting protocol officers and related professionals in government, corporations, universities, and cultural institutions. Its mission is to facilitate communication, understanding, and cooperation between individuals, governments, and cultures while providing training, mentorship, and guidance on internationally and nationally accepted rules of protocol.



The curtain has fallen on the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and history has been made. From June 11 to July 19, 2026, the world's largest sporting event captivated billions of fans while demonstrating the extraordinary power of sport to unite nations, cultures, and communities. Hosted jointly by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, the tournament marked a new era for international football as the first FIFA World Cup to feature 48 participating nations and the first ever to be hosted by three countries.

The expanded tournament brought together teams from every corner of the globe, creating unprecedented opportunities for emerging football nations to compete on the world's biggest stage. A record 104 matches were played across 16 host cities making it the largest FIFA World Cup in the competition's 96-year history. The event not only celebrated sporting excellence but also showcased remarkable international collaboration in transportation, aviation, security, hospitality, tourism, and event management.

Tournament by the Numbers

Tournament Dates: June 11 – July 19, 2026.

Participating Nations: 48 (expanded from 32).

Champion: Spain, Runner-up: Argentina.

Host Cities: 16.

Host Countries: Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Total Matches: 104 (World Cup record).

Third Place: England, and Fourth Place: France.

Red Cards Issued: 15.

Total Stadium Attendance: More than 6.5 million spectators, the highest attendance in FIFA World Cup history, with stadiums operating at nearly 100% capacity throughout the tournament. FIFA Fan Festival Attendance: More than 7.7 million visitors attended Fan Festivals across the three host nations.

Digital Engagement: More than 20 billion video views were recorded across FIFA's digital platforms during the tournament. Global Television Audience: The tournament became the most-watched FIFA World Cup in history, attracting an estimated more than five billion viewers worldwide across television, streaming, and digital platforms.

Congratulations to Spain on winning its second FIFA World Cup title after defeating Argentina 1–0 in the championship match on Sunday, July 19, 2026. Their triumph places Spain among the select group of nations to have won multiple FIFA World Cup championships.

Beyond the excitement on the pitch, the 2026 FIFA World Cup proved to be an extraordinary economic catalyst. [Early post-tournament assessments suggest that the World Cup generated approximately US\\$40 billion in global economic activity](#), with an estimated US\$20 billion benefiting the United States through increased tourism, hospitality, retail spending, transportation, and related industries. While the long-term economic legacy will continue to be evaluated, the tournament has already demonstrated the significant value that major international sporting events can bring to host communities.

Beyond football, the 2026 FIFA World Cup showcased what can be achieved through international cooperation. Thousands of professionals, including airport operators, aviation authorities, protocol officers, diplomats, customs and border officials, transportation agencies, emergency responders, hospitality professionals, volunteers, and government leaders, etc., worked seamlessly across three nations to welcome millions of visitors and ensure the safe, efficient movement of teams, dignitaries, media representatives, and fans.

For those of us working in aviation, protocol, and international affairs, the tournament served as a remarkable case study in global coordination. It underscored the importance of meticulous planning, cross-border collaboration, cultural intelligence, customer service excellence, and operational resilience in delivering one of the world's most complex international events.

The success of the 2026 FIFA World Cup extends well beyond football. It has established a new benchmark for multinational event planning and demonstrated that cooperation across borders can achieve extraordinary results. The tournament strengthened international partnerships, stimulated tourism and trade, accelerated infrastructure improvements, and inspired millions through the universal language of sport.

As we look ahead to future global events, including the 2026 G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami, the lessons learned from this historic World Cup will continue to shape how governments, airports, international organizations, and host cities prepare to welcome the world. The tournament reminds us that while nations compete on the field, they succeed together through partnership, mutual respect, innovation, and a shared commitment to excellence.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be remembered not only as the largest tournament in FIFA history, but also as one of the finest examples of how sport can unite the world, foster international goodwill, and leave a lasting economic and social legacy for generations to come.

AVIATION, ETIQUETTE, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE

Middle Seat Etiquette: A Guide for Smoother Travel



The middle seat has long been the most avoided spot on an aircraft, but with a little awareness and courtesy, it doesn't have to be uncomfortable. Most travelers already follow an unspoken code of conduct that keeps the row running smoothly. By understanding these expectations and adding a few thoughtful habits, you can make your own travel experience and your neighbors' noticeably better.

Understanding Middle-Seat Basics

In a standard three-seat row, the middle passenger has the fewest natural advantages. With no window to lean on and no aisle space to angle toward, comfort becomes a shared responsibility. One of the clearest etiquette standards is that the middle passenger gets full use of both armrests. Window and aisle passengers have built-in space benefits, so a small gesture like sliding off the shared armrest shows awareness and courtesy.

Movement is another important part of row harmony. If your seatmates need to stand, step fully into the aisle rather than twisting or forcing them to squeeze past knees and cups. This quick action prevents spills, awkward contact, and general discomfort. Reclining remains a sensitive topic, particularly in tight cabins. If you choose to recline, do so slowly and thoughtfully. A gentle warning glance or motion alerts the person behind you, protecting laptops, beverages, and personal space. Finally, if boarding ends and your row has an open aisle or window seat, shifting out of the middle is always appreciated. Even small increases in space dramatically improve comfort for everyone.

Respecting Space and Comfort

- Personal space is limited on aircraft, but awareness goes a long way. If traveling with strangers, keep your movements controlled and avoid leaning into others' personal space. When seated alongside family, sharing space is often natural, but remember that strangers may not be comfortable with the same level of closeness.
- Flexibility is also key. While the middle seat typically claims both armrests, this etiquette can adapt when seated beside passengers with mobility needs or larger frames. Comfort and practicality for the entire row should guide the situation.
- Noise and physical movement matter too. Keep conversations moderate, avoid blocking the aisle when service carts approach, and stay mindful of how often you shift in your seat.

Extra Etiquette for Long Flights

Long-haul flights amplify every small inconvenience, so a bit of planning makes a big difference. Keep essential snacks, headphones, chargers, and comfort items organized in a small pouch to limit trips to the overhead bin. Hydrate regularly but plan restroom breaks to avoid constant disruptions.

Strategic stretching can help you stay comfortable without disturbing the row. Use natural breaks in service to stand and move lightly. Entertainment should remain considerate: dim screens at night, keep volumes low, and choose content that doesn't radiate disruptive light.

Food choices matter in close quarters, opt for quiet, easy-to-manage snacks with minimal odors. Overnight flights especially call for gentle movement and soft voices, respecting those trying to rest.

Helping Kids Manage the Middle Seat

Children often need extra guidance to succeed in the middle seat. Preparing them before boarding can prevent issues, by explaining the need for shared space, quiet voices, and courteous movement. Pack compact activities like books, coloring sheets, or downloaded shows that keep them engaged without noise or mess.

Teach kids to use armrests without pushing or leaning heavily on others. Foot movement should also be monitored; gentle reminders help prevent back kicking. If they need to get up, assist them in exiting calmly to avoid having to climb over adults. Modeling courtesy is the most powerful tool. Children almost always mirror the behavior of the adults traveling with them.

Middle-seat travel doesn't have to be uncomfortable. With thoughtful etiquette, armrest awareness, calm movement, personal space respect, long-flight planning, and kid-friendly guidance, every passenger can help create a smoother, more pleasant cabin experience. Small courtesies make a big difference, and when everyone participates, the journey becomes far more enjoyable for the entire row.

BRIEFS AND NOTES

International Day of Friendship 2026: Celebrating 15 Years of Global Connection



July 30th marks a meaningful milestone: the 15th anniversary of the United Nations' International Day of Friendship. First proclaimed in 2011, observance was created to promote peace, strengthen cultural understanding, and highlight the power of human connection.

In a world facing geopolitical tensions, armed conflicts, economic uncertainty, climate change, and growing social divisions, the International Day of Friendship reminds us that genuine human relationships remain one of the most effective tools for fostering dialogue, trust, and international cooperation. Friendship transcends borders, cultures, religions, and political differences. It strengthens diplomacy, encourages educational and cultural exchanges, expands trade and investment, and inspires collaborative solutions to global challenges.

Thanks to modern transportation, technology, and global communication networks, people today connect more easily than any previous generation. Yet this interconnectedness also underscores the importance of cultural understanding and mutual respect. The observance encourages individuals and nations alike to

embrace diversity while recognizing our shared humanity. By supporting partnerships, reducing inequalities, promoting inclusive societies, and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, friendship becomes a foundation for lasting peace and prosperity. As we commemorate this special day, we are reminded that every act of friendship, whether local or international, helps build a more united, compassionate, and peaceful world.

A Tradition Rooted in Decades of Global Connection

Friendship is more than a personal bond. It is a social force that encourages empathy, trust, and cooperation across borders. While the UN formalized the International Day of Friendship in 2011, the concept has rich historical roots:

- 1930s (United States): Joyce Hall, the founder of Hallmark Cards, introduced the idea of a “Friendship Day,” encouraging people to celebrate their friends with greeting cards.
- 1958 (Paraguay): A group of Paraguayan friends, known as the World Friendship Crusade, campaigned for a Global Day of Friendship. Their efforts laid the groundwork for Paraguay to later propose the idea to the United Nations.
- 2011 (United Nations): After years of advocacy from member states, especially Paraguay, the UN adopted the [International Day of Friendship](#) to promote peace, reconciliation, and cooperation among peoples and nations.

The Global Legacy of Pen Pals and Sister Cities

Long before digital communication, global friendship flourished through pen-pal exchanges. Throughout the 20th century, international pen-pal programs, often supported by schools, nonprofits, and cultural organizations, connected young people across continents. These exchanges helped students learn foreign languages, understand different cultures, and build lifelong cross-border friendships. Even today, pen-pal programs remain an important tool for cultural education, offering a slower, more meaningful form of communication in an age of instant messaging.

City-to-city friendships, commonly known as “sister cities” or “twin towns,” have also played a major role in strengthening global ties. Following World War II, cities around the world partnered to promote peace, cultural exchange, and economic cooperation. Thousands of sister-city relationships now exist, linking communities across countries through student exchanges, arts collaborations, trade missions, humanitarian projects, and shared learning. These local-level diplomatic relationships demonstrate that friendship between nations often begins with friendship between communities.

Simple Gestures, Powerful Impact

Celebrating the day doesn't require anything elaborate. Whether through community events or small acts of kindness, the goal remains the same: to honor the relationships that enrich our lives and help build a more peaceful world. Reach out to a friend you haven't spoken to in a while. Share a story of friendship in your community newsletter or on social media. Start a conversation with someone new. Even simple gestures can reinforce the spirit of unity this day represents.

As we celebrate 15 years of this global observance, the International Day of Friendship invites us to imagine a future where connection triumphs over division and reminds us that every act of friendship helps build that future.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (JULY 2026)

July 1, 1867 – Canada: With the passage of the British North America Act, the four separate colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Upper Canada, and Lower Canada were united into the Dominion of Canada. Initially known as Dominion Day, it was officially renamed Canada Day on October 27, 1982.

July 1, 1960 – Somalia: On June 26, 1960, British Somaliland gained independence from the UK, and on July 1, 1960, Italian Somaliland gained independence from the Italian-administered UN trusteeship. Simultaneously, the two territories merged to form the Somali Republic on that same day.

July 1, 1962 – Burundi: Gained independence from the Belgian-administered United Nations Trusteeship.

July 1, 1962 – Rwanda: Like its southern neighbor, Burundi, Rwanda gained independence from Belgian-administered UN rule.

July 3, 1944 – Belarus: After a public referendum in 1996, Belarus's Independence Day was moved to July 3 to commemorate the day in 1944 that Minsk was liberated from German occupation.

July 4, 1776 – United States: Declared independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776.

July 5, 1811 – Venezuela: On this day, Venezuela gained independence from Spain.

July 5, 1962 – Algeria: Algeria gained independence from France on July 5, 1962.

July 5, 1975 – Cabo Verde: In December 1974, an agreement was signed between Portugal and the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, establishing a transitional government in Cabo Verde. On July 5, 1975, the newly elected National Popular Assembly declared Cabo Verde's independence from Portugal.

July 6, 1964 – Malawi: gained independence from the UK. Since 1966, Independence Day has also been known as Republic Day.

July 6, 1975 – Comoros: On July 6, 1975, the Union of the Comoros gained independence from France.

July 7, 1978 – Solomon Islands: This day marks when the Solomon Islands gained their independence from the United Kingdom.

July 9, 1816 – Argentina: On Revolution Day, May 25, 1810, the Primera Junta, Argentina's first independent government, was formed, and on July 9, 1816, the Congress of Tucumán formally declared independence from Spain.

July 9, 2011 – South Sudan: gained independence from Sudan.

July 10, 1973 – The Bahamas: After 325 years of British rule, the Bahamas became a free and sovereign nation.

July 12, 1975 – São Tomé and Príncipe: Marks the day São Tomé and Príncipe gained independence from Portugal.

July 12, 1979 – Kiribati: gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

July 14, 1789 – France: France's National Day, la Fête Nationale or le Quatorze Juillet, is celebrated annually on July 14 and commemorates the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

July 19, 1949 – Laos: The Franco-Lao General Convention granted Laos limited self-government and independence within the French Union. The Franco-Lao Treaty, signed on October 22, 1953, recognized Laos's complete autonomy.

July 20, 1810 – Colombia: Celebrated annually on July 20, since 1810, when a group of patriots asked Spanish merchant Joaquín González Llorente for a flower vase. His refusal ignited simmering passions and stirred the residents of Bogotá to protest Spanish rule, forcing the Viceroy to issue a decree granting limited independence. Once independence became permanent, Colombia gained its freedom from Spain.

July 21, 1831 – Belgium: Belgian Independence Day is celebrated annually on July 21. On this day in 1831, Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg swore allegiance to the new Belgian constitution and became Leopold I, the first King of the Belgians. His vow marked the beginning of an independent Belgium under a constitutional monarchy and parliament.

July 23, 1952 – Egypt: Revolution Day, Egypt's National Day, commemorates the military-led revolution that began on July 23, 1952, and led to the proclamation of the Egyptian Republic on June 18, 1953.

July 26, 1847 – Liberia: was never under colonial rule. In the early 19th century, the U.S. began sending freed slaves and other people of color to Liberia to establish settlements. On July 26, 1847, the settlers declared independence and established Africa's first republic.

July 26, 1965 – The Maldives: The Maldives gained its independence from the United Kingdom.

July 28, 1821 – Peru: Peru's Independence Day, also known as Fiestas Patrias, is celebrated annually on July 28th. It commemorates the liberation of Peru from Spain by José de San Martín. On July 29th, the establishment of the Republic of Peru is celebrated.

July 30, 1980 – Vanuatu: The island nation achieved its independence from France and the United Kingdom on July 30, 1980.

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAYS (AUGUST 2026)

August 1, 1291 – Switzerland: The Swiss Confederation was founded on August 1, 1291. Since 1891, August 1st has been celebrated as the National Day.

August 1, 1960 – Benin: On this day in 1960, the Republic of Benin achieved independence from France.

August 3, 1960 – Niger: The Republic of Niger was founded on Dec. 18, 1958, and gained independence from France on August 3, 1960.

August 5, 1960 – Burkina Faso (Upper Volta) gained independence from France. On August 4, 1984, it was renamed Burkina Faso.

August 6, 1825 – Bolivia gained independence from Spain.

August 6, 1962 – Jamaica became an Independent Nation and a member of the British Commonwealth on August 6, 1962.

August 7, 1960 – Côte d'Ivoire: On August 7, 1960, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) achieved complete independence from France.

August 8, 1949 – Bhutan: Although Bhutan had been a unified kingdom since 1907, the Treaty of Friendship with India, signed on that date, preserved Bhutanese independence.

August 9, 1965 – Singapore, on September 16, 1963, merged with Malaya, Sabah, and Sarawak to become part of Malaysia, ending 144 years of British rule. The union was fraught with internal friction. Singapore separated from Malaysia as a sovereign nation on August 9, 1965.

August 11, 1960 – Chad: Chad became an autonomous republic within the French Community in November 1958. After further restructuring, complete independence was attained on August 11, 1960.

August 13, 1960 – Central African Republic: The French colony of Ubangi-Shari (Central African Republic) gained its independence.

August 14, 1947 – Pakistan: In 1947, following the passage of the Indian Independence Act by the British Parliament, British India was partitioned into two new independent dominions: India and Pakistan. Pakistan was the first of the two to gain independence on August 14, 1947.

August 15, 1947 – India: After the British Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act, and Pakistan gained independence on August 14, India became an independent, democratic nation at 12:02 a.m. on August 15, 1947.

August 15, 1945 – North Korea: On this day, North Korea gained independence from Japan.

August 15, 1945 – South Korea: National Liberation Day is celebrated annually and commemorates the day when 35 years of Japanese occupation and colonial rule ended on the Korean Peninsula.

August 15, 1960 – Republic of Congo: The former French region of Middle Congo achieved independence.

August 15, 1971 – Bahrain gained independence from the UK.

August 16, 1960 – Cyprus gained its independence from the UK. Celebrations were moved to October 1st to avoid the summer heat.

August 17, 1945 – Indonesia: Indonesia declared independence from the Netherlands. After an armed struggle against Dutch forces, the United States of Indonesia achieved formal autonomy on December 27, 1949.

August 17, 1960 – Gabon: Gabon achieved independence from France.

August 19, 1919 – Afghanistan: After the Third Anglo-Afghan War, Afghanistan and Britain signed the Treaty of Rawalpindi on August 8, 1919. The British relinquished control over Afghan foreign affairs and recognized Afghanistan's independence. On August 19, 1919, Emir Amanullah Khan declared "independence" from British influence.

August 25, 1825 – Uruguay: After Uruguay gained independence from Spain in 1811, it was annexed by Brazil. On August 25, 1825, it regained its independence from Brazil.

August 27, 1991 – Moldova: Moldova declared its independence from the Soviet Union. It was formally recognized on March 2, 1992, when it became a member of the United Nations.

August 30, 1991 – Azerbaijan: Declared independence from the Soviet Union on this day in 1991.

August 31, 1957 – Malaysia: The Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, read the Declaration of Independence of Malaya from British imperial rule. The larger nation of Malaysia, which included Sabah, Sarawak, and Singapore, was formed on September 16, 1963.

August 31, 1962 – Trinidad and Tobago: At midnight on August 30, 1962, the Union Jack was lowered, and its flag was raised for the first time.

August 31, 1991 – Kyrgyzstan: The Kyrgyz Republic declared independence from the Soviet Union.