

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar HE U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to make State Visit to Lao People's Democratic Republic

AT the invitation of President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic His Excellency Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing and Spouse Daw Kyu Kyu Hla will pay a State Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the near future.

During the visit, the President of Myanmar will meet and hold bilateral talks with the President of Lao PDR, and meet with the Prime Minister of Lao PDR and the President of National Assembly of Lao PDR.

Additionally, the President of Myanmar will receive provincial leader. Furthermore, the itinerary includes visits to prominent sites and ancient pagodas. During the visit, the President will engage in cordial and open exchange of views to the further consolidation of the existing friendly relations and implementation of mutually beneficial cooperation in economic, cultural, and other areas between the two governments and peoples.

The President and Spouse will be accompanied by Union Ministers and officials during the visit. — MNA



Thailand relaxes maize import deadline to combat severe raw material shortage

THAILAND has extended the zero-tariff maize import period until 31 August, as Thailand's

stricter import regulations led to raw material shortages, according to the Myanmar Economic

Counsellor to Bangkok, citing the Royal Thai Government.

The Royal Thai

Government decided to extend the maize import period to 31 August 2026 under the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) to tackle raw material shortages faced by domestic animal feed mills. The zero-tariff import period was earlier set from 1 February to 30 June.

The decision was approved at a Thai Cabinet meeting held on 18 June, 2026, in Meeting Room 501, Building 1, Government House, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn. This action follows the Cabinet's approval of the proposal made at the Maize Policy and Management Committee's meeting 1/2569 held on 11 June.

SEE PAGE 3



This image shows one of the local animal feed mills in Thailand.

5 Myanmar students embark on commercial pilot training in Indonesia

FIVE Myanmar students departed for Indonesia on 28 June to undergo pilot training at the Perkasa Flight School under the Pilot Training Agreement

between Myanmar Airways International (MAI) and the Perkasa Flight School, according to the Indonesian Embassy to Myanmar.

SEE PAGE 3

ARTICLE

An Open Letter to the United Nations Secretary-General (1)

PAGE 8-9

NATIONAL

PAGE 6



MoC Dy Minister discusses regional development for Chin State

NATIONAL

Myanmar Gazette

Head of Service Organization transferred and appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred and appointed Dr San San Aye, Director-General of the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as Director-General of Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Women's Affairs from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

Bagan Clearance: 11 Heritage Zones Slated for Vegetation Cleanup



This photo depicts the cleanup work on ancient buildings in the area where the Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone.

THE Conservation Division under the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch), has announced that the Bagan World Heritage Site will be divided into 11 zones for the clear-

ance of bushes, weeds and tree stumps around ancient monuments.

During the 2026-2027 financial year, vegetation, including weeds, bushes and tree stumps, will be cleared within 20 feet of the

monuments, while thorny trees growing on top of the structures will also be removed. From July 2026, Union-funded work will begin in priority areas to systematically remove Manithanyat trees and other deep-rooted plants using chemicals, as well as to uproot non-native desert plants growing near the monuments.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) and the Cultural Site Security Division also regularly carry out vegetation cleanup across the World Heritage Site in cooperation with district- and township-level departments in NyaungU. — ASH/MKKS

Historic palace stone pillars protected in World Heritage Bagan

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) has announced that the stone pillars at the sites of the Thiripyitsaya Palace and Tampawady Palace in the World Heritage-listed Bagan Archaeological Zone have been systematically conserved to prevent damage and ensure their long-term preservation.

Thiripyitsaya was the seat of the second Bagan dynasty and was established on the northern bank of the Yay-oh-sin Stream, south of the new city of Bagan. Tampawady served as the royal palace site of the third Bagan dynasty.

Bagan is recognized worldwide as an ancient capital because its cultural heritage has been preserved in its original form and remains largely intact. Between the 11th and 13th centuries AD, it flourished as a magnificent capital with a highly de-



The Thiripyitsaya Palace stone marker after systematic preservation.

veloped civilization. The World Heritage property area contains 3,595 ancient monuments, while a further 242 are located within the buffer zone, bringing the total to 3,837. — ASH/KNN

Myanmar Women's Day
3-7-2026
Nay Pyi Taw

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 1

Issued at 8 pm MST on 30 June 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, due to the likelihood of strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the unstable air condition over the North Bay of Bengal and rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls from 3 to 10 July 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet in off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware due to the likelihood of strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal and the unstable air condition over the North Bay of Bengal 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

Separation success: Conjoined twin girls making rapid recovery in Yangon

THE conjoined twin girls who underwent separation surgery at the Children's Hospital (Yangon) have now reached the 19th day after their operation, and both children are in good health and are now able to move around happily as separate individuals.

The twins were born to a 31-year-old mother from Pakokku by caesarean section at the Central Women's Hospital (Mandalay) on 8 January 2024. Following their birth, they received continuous medical care under the guidance and support of the Ministry of Health at Mandalay Children's Hospital and Yankin Children's Hospital. They were transferred to the Children's



Images reveal the remarkable progress of twin girls Kyanyo Thin and Kyanyo Theint before and after surgery.

Hospital (Yangon) in January 2026. The separation surgery was successfully performed on the two-year-and-five-month-old female conjoined twins on 11 June by the professors, specialists and nurses from Children's Hospital (Yangon), Yangon General Hospital, 550-bed Chil-

dren's Hospital (Mandalay) and North Okkalapa General Hospital. Myanmar has now successfully carried out a total of nine conjoined-twin separation surgeries at the Children's Hospital (Yangon) and three at the Children's Hospital (Mandalay). — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw enters Day 16

THE 16th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw featured the construction of a concrete bridge, upgrade of roads, deployment of teachers, construction of staff housing, transformation of the school land into the grant land, construction of school buildings, establishment of an arts and science university a teacher training college or college.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo replied to the queries raised by U Sai Wun Seng from the Mongkhat Constituency, saying that a plan will be implemented to build a 20-foot concrete bridge on the road to Parpi Village of Mongkhat Township de-



The 16th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is in progress yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi.

pending on allocation of the State fund in 2027-28 financial year.

He also responded to the questions raised by U Kyaw Nyein Aung from the Tachilek Constituency, stating that a plan is un-

derway to upgrade the 22-mile earthen road in Lower Monghe Village-tract of Tachilek Township to an asphalt facility in phases annually with the allocated funds.

U Htay Lwin (aka)

U Di Lone from the Namsang Constituency asked about paving asphalt on the 16-mile section of Namsang-Mongnai road in Namsang Township. The deputy minister explained that the Shan State

government has allowed the paving of a three-fur-long asphalt section of the road in the 2026-27 FY. The paving of the remaining phases will depend on the financial allocation from the Border Region Development Fund of the state.

He also answered the questions raised by U Hsin Hsome from the Khaunglanhpu Constituency. He said that due to security conditions on the Myitkyina-Putao road section, there are restrictions on transporting fuel and construction materials to the work site. Therefore, the remaining 21/0 miles will be implemented in an appropriate financial year, depending on the availability of funds, after the construction of the Khawng-

lanhpu-Saramphar road section is completed and when security conditions on the Myitkyina-Putao road section have improved.

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing replied to the questions raised by Daw Nang Than Than Hmwe from the Mongkai Constituency, stating that in Mongkai Township, there are 19 schools where teachers are completely absent during the 2025-2026 academic year. Arrangements have been made for teachers from schools with sufficient teaching staff within the township's school clusters to provide joint teaching support at those schools.

SEE PAGE 5

MoFA Union Minister receives IFRC's A-P Regional Director



The IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Director calls on Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe yesterday.

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe received Mr Alexander James Matheou, Regional Director of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on matters relating to IFRC's support for the activi-

ties of Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) including the humanitarian assistance and the upcoming plans of IFRC in Myanmar.

Also, present at the meeting were Ms Nadia Khoury, Head of Delegation, IFRC Myanmar, MRCS President Dr Myo Nyunt and respective officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

5 Myanmar students embark on commercial ...

FROM PAGE 1

The five students will undertake the commercial pilot training programme at Perkasa Flight School in Indonesia. The course will last 14 months.

The collaboration between MAI and the Perkasa Flight School is

expected to create more opportunities for Myanmar youth to pursue aviation studies in Indonesia. It is also expected to strengthen Myanmar-Indonesia cooperation in vocational education and training, aviation, and human resource development. — ASH/KNN



Five Myanmar students are seen before departing for Indonesia to attend training at the Perkasa Flight School.

Thailand relaxes maize import deadline ...

FROM PAGE 1

To combat severe cross-border PM2.5 pollution, the Thai government is strictly enforcing a new environmental policy that restricts crop entry exclusively to burn-free maize. Stricter regulations result in a significant decline in maize imports from neighbouring countries,

including Myanmar, leading to domestic raw material shortages in Thailand.

Thailand's maize harvest season starts in September, and large quantities (approximately 80.69 per cent of total production, or about 4.04 million tonnes) will flow into the market. Consequently, there is a demand

gap during the interim months of July and August.

Driven by a severe raw material shortage, the Myanmar Embassy, the Thai Trade Promotion Office in Yangon, and the Thai Feed Mills Association have jointly petitioned the Thai government to extend the feed

import deadline to August to better align with current market conditions.

Following the Cabinet's decision, the Ministry of Commerce and the Department of Foreign Trade will continue to issue the necessary procedures and regulations to facilitate trade. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Hluttaw Speaker urges capacity building, ethical standards for representatives

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi stated that arrangements must be made to further improve the respective subject-matter expertise, ethics, and integrity of Hluttaw representatives, as they primarily support and facilitate the Hluttaw functions.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made the remarks in his opening address at the legal training course for the capacity building of Hluttaw representatives, held yesterday afternoon at the B-annex hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

He stated that the objective of the training is to develop capable Hluttaw representatives who can more effectively carry out



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi speaks at the opening ceremony of the legal training course for the capacity-building of Hluttaw representatives yesterday.

the legislative, representative, oversight, and collaborative Hluttaw's functions in line with modern practices.

U Khin Yi stated that step-by-step efforts will be made to transform the

Hluttaw into a modern institution that upholds democratic principles by ensuring transparency, strengthening public representation, aligning with international parliamentary standards, and expand-

ing communications, while also emphasizing that the legislative branch is a vital pillar of the country and that arrangements must be made to ensure the rule of law so that the State and all citizens can carry out

their daily activities peacefully and in accordance with the law.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker stated that training is essential for improving the quality and capacity of Hluttaw representatives and expressed his belief that such courses would make a significant contribution to their continued professional development, adding that participants should submit their findings, evaluations, and recommendations upon completion of the course to help address any weaknesses and improve future training programmes.

Subsequently, legal expert Daw Than Than Yi delivered a lecture on the drafting of the Myanmar

Gemstone Law (4/2019) and the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Law (1/2019), after which the participating Hluttaw representatives asked questions and engaged in discussions on the topics presented.

The training will initially be conducted over three days with 88 participants. The curriculum covers bill-drafting techniques, legal concepts, and general knowledge, alongside interactive question-and-answer sessions. In addition, three laws will be used as case studies for practical analysis. As this is a legal training programme, it is not intended solely for members of the Bill Committee; rather, it is relevant to all Hluttaw representatives, as legislative matters arise across the Hluttaw's various committees. — MNA/TH

MoL Union Minister receives delegation led by IOM Chief

UNION Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe received a delegation led by Mr Daihei Mochizuki, Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), at the Ministry of Labour yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), issues relating to migrant workers, procedures for obtaining entry visas and domestic travel arrangements for



The IOM Chief calls on Union Labour Minister U Khin Maung Soe yesterday.

IOM staff, the activities of the Migrant Workers Resource Centre (MRC), and the work programmes the Ministry intends to implement.

The meeting was also

attended by the deputy minister, directors-general, responsible officials from the Ministry of Labour, and representatives from the IOM office. — MNA/MKKS

Union Health Minister receives IFRC Regional Director

UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win received Mr Alexander James Mathieu, Asia-Pacific Regional Director of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), at the Ministry of Health yesterday.

They discussed IFRC's support to the Myanmar Red Cross Society in providing humanitarian assistance, cooperation in disaster preparedness and response training, the Myanmar Red Cross Society's strategy to provide vo-



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win meets the Asia-Pacific Regional Director of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) yesterday.

educational training for the public as part of earthquake recovery efforts, and preparations for the Society's hosting of the 23rd South-East Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Leaders' Meeting in September.

The meeting was also attended by the President of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the IFRC Country Representative in Myanmar, and officials from the Ministry of Health. — MNA/MKKS

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

President's Office Holds Press Conference

THE President's Office held a press conference yesterday afternoon at its Multipurpose Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister and President's Office spokesperson Dr Khaing Khaing Soe briefed the media on the outcomes of the President's recent visits to India and China, as well as the government's progress under its 100-day action plan.

The spokesperson said the President's visit to India was his first official overseas trip, which was made at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi. During the visit, the President met the President of India, the Prime Minister, and India's National Security Adviser. Their discussions covered cooperation in education, healthcare, information and communications technology, border stability, counter-narcotics efforts, and measures to

combat online fraud and illegal gambling.

She added that the two countries issued a joint statement agreeing to complete the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, accelerate implementation of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway, increase the number of Mekong-Ganga ICCR scholarships for Myanmar students from 36 to 100 starting in 2026, and further facilitate bilateral trade, including expanding the rupee-kyat payment system introduced in May 2024.

During the visit, the President also attended business and banking cooperation forums, Myanmar-India trade and investment meetings, and bilateral business dialogues. He visited an energy company and India's Jawaharlal Nehru Port to study industrial development. According to the spokesperson, the



President's Office Spokesperson Deputy Minister Dr Khaing Khaing Soe hosts a press briefing.

visit resulted in diplomatic recognition from a major neighbouring democracy, agreements to strengthen trade, investment and economic cooperation, commitments to expedite the Kaladan project and the Trilateral Highway, and understandings on border security and mutual respect for each country's sovereignty.

The spokesperson also said the President

paid a state goodwill visit to China from 15 to 19 June at the invitation of Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping. During his trip, he held talks with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Discussions focused on expanding comprehensive bilateral cooperation, supporting Myanmar's devel-

opment, working towards lasting peace in Myanmar, increasing Chinese investment, and promoting bilateral trade.

The President also discussed strengthening the Myanmar-China Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership, enhancing security and the rule of law, expanding economic and investment cooperation, maintaining stability along the shared

border, accelerating Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) projects, reaffirming Myanmar's support for the One China Policy, and receiving China's firm support for Myanmar's new government.

During the visit, both sides signed memoranda of understanding covering human resource development, agriculture, trade, media, humanitarian assistance, space and artificial intelligence technologies, technology and knowledge exchange, and cooperation under the Global Security Initiative (GSI), Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), and Global Governance Initiative (GGI). The President also toured several industrial and technology facilities, including the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. **SEE PAGE 7**

1st Coord meeting of Working Committee on Implementation of Belt and Road Initiative held

THE Working Committee on the Implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) convened its first coordination meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Working Committee U Ko Ko Kyaw delivered the opening remarks, and then the Committee members reviewed progress on the implementation of the BRI projects under the BRI framework.

Subsequently, the committee discussed and exchanged views on active participation in the BRI projects and continued implementa-



Deputy Minister U Ko Ko Kyaw presides over the first coordination meeting of the Working Committee on Implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

tion of the projects for the benefit of Myanmar, strengthening of inter-ministerial coordination to support the BRI Steering Committee, and mutually beneficial cooperation between Myanmar and China in the implementation of the

BRI projects.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Working Committee on the Implementation of BRI from the 23 Ministries, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union, and the Nay Pyi Taw Council. — MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw enters Day 16

FROM PAGE 3

In addition, newly graduated teachers from Education Degree Colleges will be appointed to fill vacant positions in accordance with the designated criteria, and priority will be given to applicants for vacant posts when carrying out promotions and transfers.

The deputy minister also answered the questions submitted by Daw Khin Than Myint from the Ngaputaw Constituency, saying that a total of 35 staff housing and offices are under construction for basic education schools in regions and states in 2026-27 FY and more housing will depend on financial allocation and priority of regions and states.

The deputy minister

responded to the questions presented by U Teza Kyaw from the Aungmyethazan Constituency. He said that as the Department of Basic Education is only permitted to construct buildings on land designated as departmental-owned (school-owned) land, once the surveying of the departmental land currently being used as a ward road and the construction of a surrounding fence have been completed, a school building that meets the standards of a town facility will be provided in accordance with the allocated budget.

About the question raised by U Win Zaw Oo from the Thayawady Constituency, the deputy minister also replied that the Ministry of Education

currently has no plan to establish and construct an Arts and Science University in Thayawady District.

He answered the questions raised by U Aung Win Swe from the Myanaung Constituency, saying that as the current capacity of lecture halls and dormitories at Pyay Education Degree College and Patheingyi Education Degree College is sufficient to accommodate additional students and enable the colleges to operate at full capacity, there is currently no plan to open a Teacher Training Institute/Education Degree College in Maubin Township.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue the 17th-day meeting on 1 July. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

MoC Dy Minister discusses regional development for Chin State

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, together with members of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee in Chin State, met religious leaders, town elders and committee members on 28 June.

During the meeting, the deputy minister instructed the need to implement the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in a timely manner in unity, ensure the stability for villages and region, and also urged the town elders and departmental



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint (C) is pictured during his meeting with Chin State religious leaders and town elders alongside the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee members.

officials to work together for regional peace and development. Then, he inspected the 300-kVA

diesel power station that transmits power to Tiddim. Tiddim is electrified by two 200 kW turbines

from Zahlwi Hydropower plant and an 180 kW of the 300 kVA diesel power station. — MNA/KTZH

Myanmar-Belarus Visa-Free Travel Agreement Takes Effect 8 July



Visitors at the Minsk National Airport.

FOR ordinary passport holders, the agreement

between Myanmar and Belarus on mutual visa

exemption will take into effect on 8 July.

Under the agreement, citizens of the two countries can travel without visa requirement and a 30-day stay will be allowed in each travel. The visa exemption aims to help the tourism development of the two countries and strengthen the bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and

other sectors.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is also planning a second visit to Myanmar within eight months since the first visit, according to the government statement. During his visit, he is expected to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in trade, business, technology and diplomatic sectors. — TWA/ZS

Laihka's MSY project activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection to review the progress of income-generating activities financed through the revolving funds of the Mya Sein Yang Village Project in Honawngam Village, Laihka Township, yesterday.

Laihka Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Naing Win and officials visited project beneficiaries engaged in systematic crop cultivation, livestock



Officials oversee the progress of the Mya Sein Yang Village Project in Laihka Township.

breeding, and trading activities. He met village project committee members and local elders, examining whether the monthly financial records and reporting forms had been properly completed,

and urging project members to further expand their family income-generating businesses while ensuring systematic management of the revolving fund to prevent any loss or misuse.

The Mya Sein Yang Village Project was first implemented in the village during the 2016-2017 financial year. At present, a total of K67.98 million has been disbursed at concessional interest rates to 65 project members, including 24 beneficiaries engaged in crop cultivation, 12 in livestock breeding, and 29 in trading businesses, all of whom are successfully operating and expanding their income-generating activities with support from the project funds. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Engineers speed up Reedam Bridge construction on key mountain route

UNION Minister for Construction U Myo Thant stated that the Reedam Bridge 1/44, which crosses the Maykha River on the PutaO-Magweza-Khaunglanhpu road in Kachin State, will be completed as soon as possible. Although the project has been delayed, the Union minister stated that work has not been suspended and remains a priority.

The statement was made in response to a question from U Hsim Hsome, representative from the Khaunglanhpu constituency, during a Pyithu Hluttaw session. The question was about the situation of the construction work.

The representative emphasized that the bridge is the only vital link between Khaunglanhpu and PutaO, and once completed, it will significantly facilitate the movement of locals and goods.

It is a reinforced con-

crete type spanning 600 feet with an estimated cost of about K3.750 billion. Currently, three bridge piers, including approach posts and the pier, have been completed. The Union minister clarified that the delays were not due to budget issues. Instead, they were caused by significant challenges in transporting construction materials resulting from severe local weather conditions, landslides, road blockages, and river flooding.

The Union minister explained that the construction activities are restricted by a narrow window of only three months per year – January, February, and March. Consequently, the ministry is managing the project with careful planning. He reaffirmed that the ministry has established dedicated teams to focus on finalizing the construction of the bridge as quickly as possible. — TWA/ZN



MP U Hsim Hsome raising a question, and Union Minister U Mya Thant (L) explaining.

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News and Periodicals Enterprise



NATIONAL

Industrial zones order comprehensive workplace and workforce survey



This photo depicts workers arriving at an industrial zone workplace.

THE Ministry of Labour has stated that it will carry out a nationwide field survey of workplaces and the

number of workers in industrial zones during 2026.

Under this plan, data collection on workplaces and workers in industrial zones will be conducted through both coordination and field survey methods across all 14 regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council area.

During a questionnaire training opening ceremony held on 22 June

at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe said that the programme aligns with labour research and labour market information collection efforts, as well as the Employment Statistics Survey Act of 1948. He added that surveys of workplaces and workers in industrial zones have been conducted since 1997, while surveys cov-

ering shops, factories, workshops, workplaces, and worker numbers inside and outside industrial zones have been carried out since 1986.

He further stated that coordination-based data collection on ownership-based categories of shops, factories, workshops, workplaces, and worker numbers inside and outside industrial

zones will be conducted in 14 regions and states, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council area, except for Rakhine State in some parts as specified, through relevant departments, organizations, and committees.

The ministry noted that accurate data will be ensured through a combination of coordination and field survey methods. The collected data will then be analyzed and used by planners and policymakers for development planning and policy formulation. — TWA/KZL

Pinlaung disburses K43M under MSY Project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Pinlaung Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), held a ceremony to disburse the revolving fund under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in North Taunglay Village in Pinlaung Township yesterday.

Pinlaung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw Swa first explained the objectives of the project and the purpose of providing the revolving fund. Project staff then briefed participants on the project objectives, interest rates, loan repayment periods, and regulations governing the loan programme. Afterwards, the revolving fund amounting to K43 million was handed over to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee.

The committee members, under the supervision of the department, disbursed K43 million of the revolving funds at low interest rates directly to project members as the 11th cycle of the revolving fund and the fourth round of loan disbursement. Of the total amount, K43 million was provided directly to 47 project members in North Taunglay Village who will engage in agricultural activities, all of whom are operating and expanding their income-generating activities with support from the project funds. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Primary schools first: State fast-tracks hiring to end teacher shortage



This photo features schoolchildren at a Basic Education Primary School in Yangon Region.

YANGON Region Social Affairs Minister U Bo Htay said that teacher shortages at Basic Education Primary Schools across Yangon Region will be reported separately to the Ministry of Education and addressed on a priority basis.

The minister made

the remarks while responding to a starred question on teacher shortages at basic education primary schools raised by Hluttaw Representative U Aung Khaing Oo from Ahlon Constituency No 2 during the ninth-day session of the second regular session of

the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw on 29 June.

U Bo Htay said the Yangon Region Government is fully aware of the significant teacher shortages in primary schools across the region and will prioritize addressing them by submitting staffing requirements to the Ministry of Education separately.

When newly appointed graduates holding diplomas in education from education degree colleges, as well as BA/BSc (Education) graduates, teacher vacancies will be filled in accordance with the prescribed procedures. Likewise, newly appointed graduates of the five-year BEd pro-

gramme and the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union will be assigned in accordance with established procedures. In addition, under the current circumstances, teachers from other regions and states who have applied for temporary assignments in Yangon Region will be systematically deployed to schools experiencing teacher shortages.

According to the Ministry of Education, more than 5.5 million students are enrolled in basic education schools across Myanmar for the 2026-2027 academic year, exceeding the enrolment recorded in the previous academic year. — TWA/TH

President's Office Holds Press Conference

FROM PAGE 5

the Shanghai Lingang Special Area, and Unitree Robotics. Additionally, his itinerary featured visits to railway construction projects, electric vehicle manufacturing plants, and bamboo-based textile and consumer goods factories.

He also inaugurated the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Networking Forum, where

business representatives from both countries signed more than 70 memoranda of understanding. A joint statement was also issued to accelerate the building of the China-Myanmar community with a shared future. The visit produced agreements covering diplomacy, friendship, economic cooperation, border stability and security, as well as collaboration in mining, the

digital economy, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, railway construction, and mineral exploration.

The spokesperson said the President's visits to India and China had delivered positive outcomes and created valuable opportunities for both countries and the new government.

She also outlined progress made under the government's 100-day action

plan, including achievements and ongoing work by various ministries. She highlighted school enrolment figures, the reopening of basic education schools, universities, degree colleges and science institutes, student attendance, the 2026 matriculation examination pass rate, the launch of new DEMU railway services by Myanma Railways during the first 100 days,

and introduced the President's Office Information and Public Relations Bureau's official website and social media platforms.

The press conference concluded with a question-and-answer session, during which representatives from domestic and international media asked about plans following the discovery of natural gas reserves in Taninthayi Region, education cooperation and strategic relations with China following the

President's visit, the Myit-sone Hydropower Project, Myanmar's international diplomatic engagement, domestic peace efforts, poverty reduction initiatives under the 100-day plan, issues concerning individuals on blacklists and their family members, and the country's cooperation with international partners on infrastructure development projects. She responded to the questions and provided further clarification. — MNA/ST

OPINION

Utilize forests to establish green environs

To ensure the transfer of a stable and healthy environmental ecosystem to present and future generations, the Government is making efforts with the target of increasing forest cover to 50 per cent of the country's total land area. In doing so, it is necessary to implement measures at the regional and state levels to further increase forest cover across the country.

To date, a total of 1,337 forest reserves and protected public forests have been established, covering 26.11 per cent of the total area in Myanmar. In addition, 62 nature conservation areas have been designated, covering 6.59 per cent of the country's total area. According to 2025 assessments, forest cover accounts for 42.15 per cent of the country's land area. As forest cover increases, ecosystem services are also expected to improve further, benefiting a wide range of living organisms.

Internationally, forests are being depleted due to excessive logging, illegal timber extraction, rising demand for timber driven by population growth, the expansion of industrial activities and urban areas, and the conversion of forest land into other forms of land use. According to the 2025 Global Forest Resources Assessment report, forest area declined by an average of 10.18 million acres annually over the decade from 2015 to 2025. As a consequence, the world is increasingly experiencing climate change and natural disasters.

In responding to climate change, the conservation and protection of forests and natural ecosystems is one of the most effective Nature-based Solutions. Areas with tree cover are 2°C to 8°C cooler than urban areas without trees. Trees naturally help regulate heat, creating a cooler shaded environment, and the process of evapotranspiration from leaves also contributes to cooling the surrounding air.

In Myanmar, special emphasis must be placed on expanding green spaces, including the development of urban forests, greening roadside areas, and expanding urban parks. Hence, plantations are being established in 13 districts of the dry zone, along railway lines, along both sides of ASEAN highways and other roads, in the Bagan ancient cultural zone, around the Inlay Lake area, in coastal regions, designated urban green areas, and village fuelwood plantations for rural communities.

In order to ensure greenery and environmental beauty across urban and rural areas throughout the country, priority should be given to continuously establishing trees, forests, and green forest landscape areas. People have to promote increased investment in forest-based green economic development activities as a foundation for the country's sustainable development. That is why all the people of the nation have to make efforts for forest conservation as a national duty.

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An Open Letter to the United Nations Secretary-General (1)

By Min Khant

Dear Secretary-General of the United Nations,

As a citizen of a sovereign State, I wrote and sent this open letter to you. I wrote this letter as a private citizen who cannot bear to see my country being unjustly oppressed. I therefore apologize in advance if the language used is not diplomatic, as it may contain personal sentiments.

The matter I wish to bring to your attention concerns the narrative of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Myanmar, Ms Julie Bishop, whom you appointed on behalf of our country. Ms Julie Bishop has made one-sided and negative statements about Myanmar, and we will be responding to them.

Since Ms Julie Bishop took up her appointment as the Special Envoy to Myanmar, she has consistently maintained an unfair attitude towards the successive governments of Myanmar and its people and has consistently been heard echoing the calls of anti-government groups to prevent peace and stability in Myanmar. In particular, the brief made by Ms Julie Bishop at the informal meeting of the United Nations General Assembly's, held in New York on 19 June 2026, were entirely detached from the realities of Myanmar's current situation and focused solely on negative portrayals. It is regrettable to hear that she focused exclusively on negative portrayals, divorced from the actual realities of progress. The majority of the Myanmar public hold her actions in low regard because her statements are inaccurate.

Indeed, the position of the UN Special Envoy is a diplomatic one, and the political differences that are emerging in Myanmar, impartiality between relevant stakeholders for security conflicts and socio-economic development, I understand and believe that a neutral and diplomatic approach must be taken to facilitate a negotiated solution between the relevant

stakeholders.

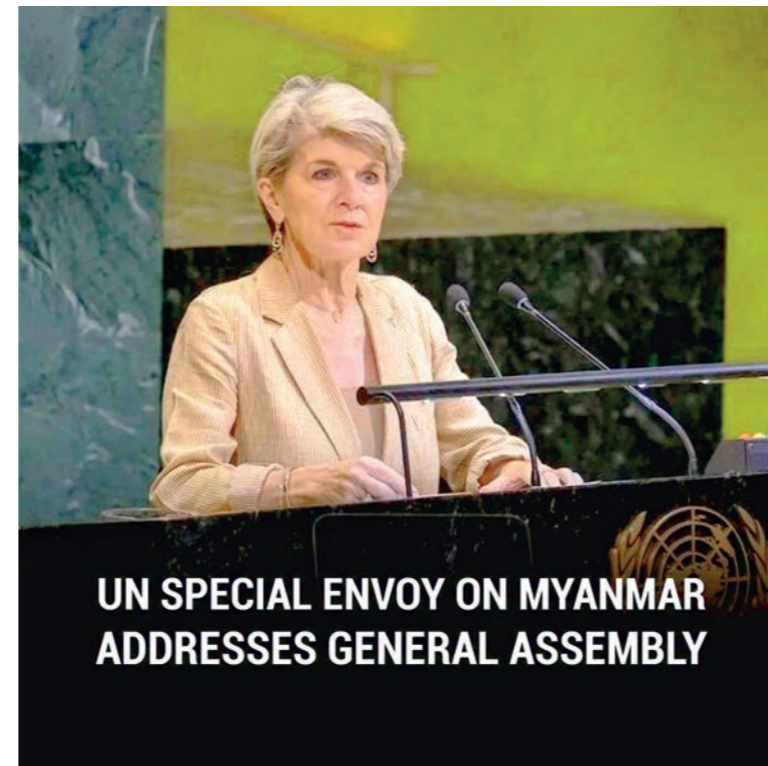
We ordinary people can see that the current Myanmar government, in line with Ms Julie Bishop's duties, is always welcoming and collaborating on constructive and transparent communication.

On every occasion that Ms Julie Bishop has visited Myanmar, the government has enthusiastically and meticulously arranged everything to demonstrate its willingness to cooperate with the United Nations. I heard that she met the Head of State on three separate occasions, and the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs also explained frankly and openly, presenting evidences and data to explain Myanmar's all-round development. Every time we see or hear the news of the meeting between the Head of State and Ms Julie Bishop, we, the people, feel encouragement and grateful for the assistance the United Nations is providing to ensure the stability and peace of my country.

However, every time she leaves Myanmar, we have been deeply saddened to observe that Ms Julie Bishop's statements, press releases and actions, in her capacity as the Special envoy of Secretary-General, are not conducive to the stability and peace of Myanmar but are consistently negative, further complicating matters and inciting the escalation of problems.

As UN Secretary-General, it is unclear what precise objectives and responsibilities he has been given, but her actions and statements are completely at odds with the wishes of the Burmese people, and he is perceived merely as an unpleasant diplomat who brings no benefit to Myanmar.

What makes this point even more apparent is that at the informal meeting on 19 June, based on her one-sided pessimistic stance and unsubstantiated information, she, as Special



Envoy, was unfit as a professional diplomat, criticisms and accusations were made against the democratically elected government.

During her visit to Myanmar, she completely ignored the reasoned explanations from the head of state and other officials, and recognized the accusations from certain countries and individuals opposing the current government. They are nothing more than one-sided statements, drawing conclusions from baseless social media rumours with the intention of exerting political pressure on the democratically elected government.

Her unstatesmanlike remarks ignore the Myanmar government's support and cooperation with the United Nations, and further complicate an already complex situation rather than seeking a negotiated solution and is greatly damaging Myanmar's image. The people of Myanmar, upon hearing her one-sided statements, are also disheartened and have lost faith in her actions.

Her statements have also been categorically objected and dismissed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To further clarify the reason for this denial, **the allegations that air strikes are being carried out**

trators of crime, was launched on 25 October 2022. Between 2017 and 2026, over 2,300 cases of non-armed conflict sexual violence were reported, investigated, and prosecuted.

The allegations concerning displaced persons and food insecurity are at odds with the realities on the ground. The UN's figures on displaced persons (IDP) figures are inflated and at odds with the situation on the ground. Internally displaced persons in Myanmar are only temporarily displaced and, as soon as conditions permit, they return to their home areas. Furthermore, as Myanmar has maintained food security and is continuously developing its agricultural sector, allegations of food insecurity are unfounded. The entire population of Myanmar

but also from reaching the region, Cybercrime-related online fraud, human trafficking and cross-border crimes, Myanmar also intensifying international cooperation. Ms Julie Bishop can easily see and hear this. It is unclear what purpose is being served by sensationalizing and portraying Myanmar as a safe haven for on-line fraudsters. It would be a sign of the UN Special Rapporteur's dishonesty to blame Myanmar, which is being used as a proxy for on-line fraudsters, without offering a solution for how to tackle the problem together.

The next point is the call

and out of the State's goodwill and compassion, she has been given as much relief as possible, and her prison sentence has been commuted to house arrest with adequate healthcare arrangements provided.

Therefore, this is a clear presentation to the Secretary-General to show that Ms Julie Bishop's allegations are factually incorrect, divorced from the real situation on the ground, and merely pessimistic and negative statements.

According to reports about her personal conduct, Ms Julie Bishop has a history of bullying with her colleagues during her time at the Australia National University (ANU) and the severe physical and mentally bullying by her and her team Dr Liz Allen lost her much-wanted baby and

noeuvres" than genuinely resolving the Myanmar issue. (Business-like tactics) to conceal the truth and prolong the conflict. Instead of resolving the conflict, she is using "diplomatic flowery language" (Diplomatic doublespeak) to conceal the truth and avoid 'fanning the flames' that would only worsen the conflict. I also urge you to be careful not to ignore the justice for the people of Myanmar, prioritizing international economic gains and personal fame over humanitarianism.

Why would a major global organization like the United Nations select someone with such evidence of ethical misconduct? It raises the question: was it a failure of due diligence on the UN's part, or was it a deliberate turning of a blind eye? If her appointment is a political ploy by certain powerful nations to burden and pressure Myanmar for their own vested interests, then the UN's credibility is I would also like to caution against it reaching an all-time low in history.

The key qualities a UN Special Envoy should possess are diplomatic expertise, along with 'ethics and empathy'.

How can justice be delivered for the people who desire peace and stability, when the very person accused of perpetrating the abuses is the one being investigated? This is the question I wish to ask regarding justice for the people of Myanmar.

In conclusion, I would like to state, as a citizen, my strong support for Myanmar's continued commitment to working in partnership with regional partners such as the United Nations and ASEAN. Furthermore, Myanmar's commitment to its own leadership, I would like to assure you that Myanmar will steadfastly pursue domestic peace, stability and development through Myanmar Own, Myanmar Led processes. I would like to add that this open letter represents the sentiments of the people who desire peace and stability.

“It is a matter for consideration whether appointing a socially disadvantaged individual as a special envoy for Myanmar could prove detrimental to the country, or whether it might lead to a positive outcome. As someone with a history of bullying, it is a valid concern whether she can genuinely address Myanmar's conflicts with sincerity.”

mar is fully aware of this.

The most outrageous of her allegations was to describe Myanmar as the "global epicentre of cybercrime". The people of Myanmar regard it as a reckless and baseless allegation. Who is masterminding the cybercrime activities taking place in Myanmar, Where they are primarily occurring, and to what extent the Myanmar government is taking them seriously and suppressing them decisively and effectively, can be seen clearly and distinctly from the daily news reports?

With a sense of responsibility to prevent drug and arms trafficking not only within Myanmar

for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. The message to be made clear here is that although Aung San Suu Kyi is a politician, her imprisonment is not for political reasons, the deliberate commission of undeniable electoral fraud in the 2020 election, she is serving a sentence imposed in accordance with the criminal law, having been tried for offences including corruption, which was uncovered, and for mismanagement in breach of existing legislation and election fraudulence. She is merely an individual defendant serving a sentence in accordance with the court's ruling, in line with the principle that no one is above the law. In deference to her age

suffered psychological trauma, and was driven to the point of suicide as a result of the bullying. I have heard that criticism is emerging that appointing such a person as a Special Envoy was a wrong decision by the United Nations.

It is a matter for consideration whether appointing a socially disadvantaged individual as a special envoy for Myanmar could prove detrimental to the country, or whether it might lead to a positive outcome. As someone with a history of bullying, it is a valid concern whether she can genuinely address Myanmar's conflicts with sincerity.

Julie Bishop's actions are more about "business-like ma-

NATIONAL

Mongyawng's MSY project activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection to review the progress of systematic agricultural activities being carried out with revolving funds provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Wangti Village, Mongyawng Township yesterday.

Mongyawng District Department of Rural Development Head U Sai Soe Soe and responsible officials visited Wangti Village to observe the

implementation of systematic agricultural activities financed through the project's revolving fund. He met village project committee members and local elders, examining whether the monthly financial records had been completed accurately and properly, and urging project members to further expand their small-scale agricultural activities and systematically manage the revolving funds to prevent losses or misuse.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was ini-



Officials inspect the systematic farming in Mongyawng Township yesterday.

tially implemented in the village with a fund of K30 million. At present, a total of K40 million has been disbursed at concessional interest rates to 30 project members engaged in

agricultural activities, all of whom are successfully operating and expanding their income-generating activities with support from the project funds. — Karan (Rural)

Myanmar youths show strong interest in hairdressing

YOUNG people in Yangon are showing growing interest in modern hairdressing as a vocational skill that offers promising employment opportunities and the potential to establish successful businesses, according to the Myanmar Barber Academy, located at Dagon Centre I, Myaynigon.

As fashion and hair-styling continue to evolve worldwide, the clothing and hair design industries have become increasingly competitive. In Europe, the United States has developed a strong reputation for hair artistry as a successful commercial industry, while in Asia, Vietnam has emerged as a leader through the creativity and innovation of its young professionals. Inspired by these developments, Myanmar's youths are also striving to raise the country's standards in hairdressing to regional levels and are increasingly pursuing the profession as a career.

"Hairdressing has become more advanced with the times, and competition between countries has in-



Community spirit: Barbers deliver free haircuts to residents on Yangon's 46th Street. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

tensified. In Europe, the United States has built a successful industry, while Vietnam currently leads Asia in terms of craftsmanship. We regularly participate in hairdressing competitions across ASEAN countries to keep pace with international trends. Each training course lasts three months, and 20 trainees graduated yesterday. Our current class has 50 male and female trainees, all of whom have dreams for their future. Hairdressing is not only an art but also a stable business. As a result of dedication and hard work, many Myanmar hairdressers have achieved success both domestically and abroad.

I am so glad to see young people gaining better employment opportunities through this profession," said Ko Htet Shar, trainer of the academy.

During the last week of June, hairdressing competitions featuring Classic Hair Style and Modern Hair Style categories are being held in Thailand by manufacturers of hair care products. Myanmar participants are taking part in the competition, while Myanmar contestants have also won medals at similar competitions previously held in Malaysia.

"In the past, hairdressing was mainly studied by men, but now many women working in beauty sa-

lons are also learning that skill. They are studying advanced techniques to serve male clients and compete internationally, and many women's hair and beauty salons in urban areas have become highly successful. We are also working to modernize our techniques beyond those used in Vietnam and the Philippines. Today, many Myanmar hairdressers have established successful careers overseas through this profession. The growing interest among young people in hairdressing is something to be proud of because it contributes to the country's modern culture," said trainer Ko Ye.

The training schools provide free community haircut services as part of their practical training in several locations across Yangon, including 46th Street (Maha Bandoola Road), Mawtin Jetty, Dala, Twantay and Kyimyindine townships. Free haircuts are also offered every Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm on 46th Street (Maha Bandoola Road). — Oktha/KTZH

MSF moves to launch dedicated pension system and cooperative for seafarers



MSF members are seen during a regular monthly executive committee meeting.

CAPTAIN Soe Min Aung, President of the Myanmar Seafarers Federation (MSF), has stated that efforts are being made to establish a pension system for Myanmar seafarers and to form a Myanmar Seafarers' Cooperative.

The MSF is prioritizing the rights and benefits of seafarers. To ensure they have a stable income during periods of unemployment, the federation plans to establish a cooperative for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and he urged seafarers to participate in this initiative.

"Currently, our seafarers do not fall under a pension system. We are coordinating within the framework of national laws to find a way to provide a pension coverage. Similarly, our federation will soon establish a cooperative to guide them on managing SME businesses," he added.

There are currently over 36,000 Myanmar seafarers working abroad. He encourages young people, both men and women, who aspire to become seafarers to first focus on building mental resilience and strength. — MT/ZN

Woman duped by fake air ticket safely repatriated

THE Myanmar Labour Attaché Office stated that it assisted in sending back a Myanmar woman who was stranded at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Thailand, with a fake flight ticket.

According to the statement on 30 June, Daw Saw Nan Kyi was returning to Myanmar from Oman, and the ticket for the transit flight to Yangon was found to be counterfeit during the stop at the Suvarnabhumi Airport.

By negotiating with Myanmar Airways International (MAI), the labour attaché office provided an air ticket and other necessary assistance for a safe return to Myanmar after it received a report from Thailand airport police on 29 June.

Myanmar migrant workers are urged to contact designated labour attaché offices via their hotline numbers if they require immediate assistance with employment or workplace grievances. — MT/ZS



The Myanmar Labour Attaché Office assisting a Myanmar woman, who was stranded at Thailand Suvarnabhumi Airport with a fake flight ticket.

NATIONAL

10 Vietnamese nationals repatriated from Myawady

TEN Vietnamese nationals who illegally entered Myanmar through border routes via neighbouring countries, including Thailand, and were involved in illegal online gambling, telecom fraud and other criminal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kokko area of Kayin State, were repatriated to Vietnam via the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in compliance with legal procedures, humanitarian principles and bi-

lateral cooperation.

The repatriation was carried out through coordinated efforts by the relevant authorities, including district immigration officials and other responsible personnel.

The handover ceremony was attended by First Secretary Mr Nguyen Xuan Loc and officials from the Vietnamese Embassy in Thailand, as well as representatives of the Tak Provincial Immi-

gration Bureau. Myanmar authorities formally handed over the relevant legal documents to the Vietnamese officials.

Authorities reported that between 30 January 2025 and 30 June 2026, a total of 14,730 foreign nationals who had entered Myawady illegally were detained and screened, of whom 13,563 have been repatriated. The remaining individuals are either facing legal proceedings or awaiting transfer. — MNA/KZL



Immigration officials oversee the repatriation of Vietnamese nationals.



Triumphant Tatmadaw troops are seen being warmly welcomed home at the Eastern Central Command Headquarters.

Returning frontline troops honoured with warm reception

A welcome ceremony was held yesterday afternoon at a local battalion in Mongnawng, southern Shan State, to honour Tatmadaw members returning after completing operational and security duties in the Homein area.

The event was attended by officials from the Eastern Central Command, departmental officials, teachers, officers, soldiers, family members and local ethnic residents, who welcomed the returning troops with traditional music, dance

performances and twigs of Eugenia as a gesture of respect and celebration.

An official from the command also presented cash rewards to the returning personnel in recognition of their service. — MNA/KZL

Metmung's rural water supply project inspected

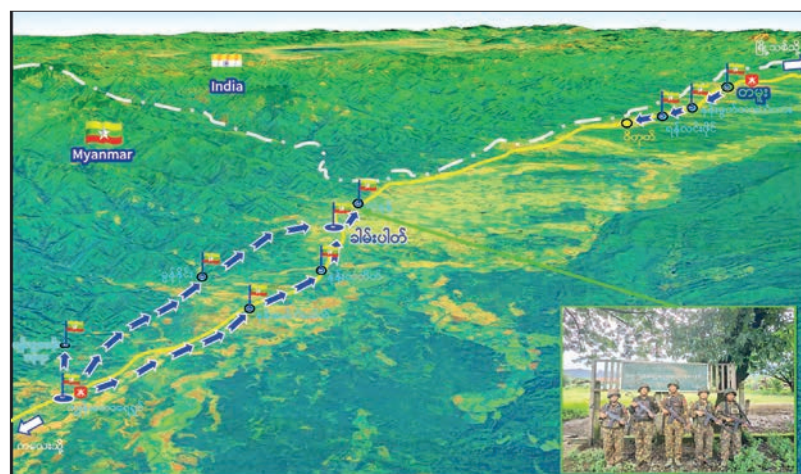
THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Wa Self-Administered Division, Shan State (North), conducted a field inspection to review the completed rural water supply project in Hgnetyaung Village, Metmung Township, yesterday. The project was implemented to ensure that rural residents have year-round access to a sufficient supply of safe drinking water.

Metmung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Hlaing Min Tun and engineering staff inspected the completed construction of a 5,000-gallon water storage tank measuring 15 feet in length, 10 feet in width, and six feet in height, a water diversion

weir measuring 25 feet in length, three feet in width, and five feet in height, and the installation of a two-inch PVC water pipeline. He also met members of the village water supply committee, urging them to work together to protect water sources and ensure the long-term sustainability of the water supply system.

The project was implemented with an approved budget of K19.76 million from the State budget. Jointly carried out by township DRD engineers and local villagers since the first week of May, the project is now fully completed, enabling rural residents of Hgnetyaung Village to enjoy year-round access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Border offensive: Tatmadaw re-seizes key Kalay-Tamu Highway positions



Strategic advance: Map outlines Tatmadaw routes towards Kannan Village on the Kalay-Tamu Road.

TATMADAW columns marching from Kalay conducted security measures on 29 June and found a suspected building about 2,000 metres from the northern part of Kyundaw Yeshin village. Therefore, the column strategically cleared the building, and armed engagements with the terrorist groups occurred. The column occupied their camps, and the terrorists retreated after

suffering heavy casualties.

It found one corrugated iron-roofed wooden house used by the armed groups, four temporary thatched huts capable of accommodating about 10 people each, cooking facilities and detention cells.

While Tatmadaw columns were continuing the security operations along the Kalay-Tamu road, they recaptured Kannan Village yes-

terday. The village was occupied and used as a military base by the armed groups, and the columns seized bodies, weapons and other equipment during the operation.

When the terrorists temporarily controlled Kannan Village, they disregarded the welfare of locals using the houses, religious buildings and public facilities, planted mines in compound and roads, built bunkers on both sides of roads and dug defensive trenches in compounds.

Tatmadaw columns will undertake rehabilitation efforts to ensure the safe return of locals, including clearing landmines planted by the insurgents, repairing roads and bridges damaged during the conflict, and facilitating the reopening of schools. Moreover, the security operations would continue at an accelerated pace to restore control of the Kalay-Tamu road as quickly as possible and support the prompt recovery of the social and economic livelihoods of locals. — MNA/KTZH

NATIONAL BUSINESS

Myanmar mandates Oct pest drills across avocado orchards

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) notified avocado farm owners to cooperate in testing of six quarantine pests in October, in accordance with the GACC phytosanitary protocol for legal export to China. The Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, is conducting pest inspections in avocado farms and providing technical protection methods.

Myanmar's negotiation with the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic

of China on signing the SPS Protocol Agreement for avocado export is progressing, MFVP stated.

"Efforts are underway for the SPS Protocol with the GACC for the legitimate export of Myanmar's avocado to China. Upon signing the agreement, they discussed coordinating matters to ensure smooth trade during a five-day Myanmar fruit sectoral development and China (Yunnan Province) Business Cooperation Linkage Visit from 9 to 13 June in Yunnan, China. Next, Chinese invest-



This image displays commercially valued Myanmar avocados designated for export.

tors are also seeking to invest in packing house facilities designed to fulfil international criteria. Consequently, invitations were extended to them. The detailed discussions are ongoing," MFVP's

representative said. Myanmar's avocado is primarily cultivated in Shan State and Mandalay Region. The annual avocado season falls from November to January. — ASH/KK

CBM sells over US\$400,000 to edible oil, CMP companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$287,300 to edible oil-importing companies and \$122,000 to CMP companies on 29 June.

CMP sold over \$379,500 to edible oil-importing companies and \$952 to CMP companies on 25 June.

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

CBM sold \$890,500 to edible oil-importing companies and over \$130,000 to CMP companies on 22 June, over \$2.88 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$84,000 to CMP companies on 19 June, over \$26,000 to CMP companies on 18 June, \$1.13 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$170,000 to CMP companies on 17 June, over \$24,600 to CMP companies on 16 June and \$3.37 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$6,300 to CMP companies on 15 June, along with over \$10,200 worth of non-trade transactions.

CBM has been inject-

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

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

Agri Dept seeks to sell over 220 tonnes of rubber



THE Perennial Crops Division of the Department of Agriculture, under the

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, put over 227 tonnes of rub-

ber for sales under open tender in the 2026-2027 financial year.

The sales will take place at the Perennial Crops Research and Technology Development Farm (Mudon) and the Perennial Crops Research and Technology Development Department (Mawlamyine). Tender forms will be available for purchase from 2 to 13 July at the Supply and

Logistics Division, Department of Agriculture, located at Office 43, Nay Pyi Taw. The deadline for submitting tender applications is at 1 pm on 14 July.

Interested individuals can enquire for further details at the Supply and Logistics Division or by dialling 067 3410210 and 067 3410518, according to the Tender Accepting and Evaluation Committee. — NN/KK

FDA Crackdown: Nationwide Warning Issued Over Counterfeit Albutein

THE Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Ministry of Health has issued a public warning advising people not to purchase or use counterfeit Albutein 20-per-cent Solution for IV Infusion after identifying fake products resembling the legitimately registered medicine being sold on the Myanmar market.

The FDA stated that, as part of its ongoing market surveillance to ensure the public has access to quality, effective and safe medicines, it detected counterfeit versions of the product during inspections.

According to the FDA, the counterfeit medicine closely resembles the legitimately registered Albutein 20-per-cent Solution for IV Infusion [Albumin (Human

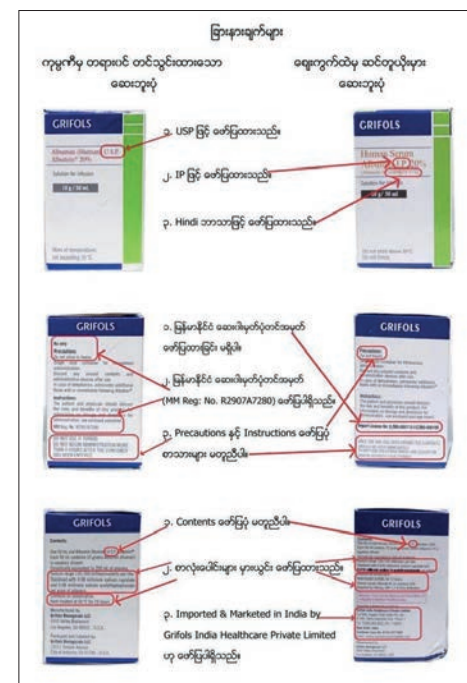
USP 20g/100mL] manufactured by Grifols Biologicals LLC, USA. However, the counterfeit product was found to bear the label "IP Specification" on its packaging.

The counterfeit product imitates the genuine brand manufactured by Grifols Biologicals LLC, USA. The authentic product is labelled with "USP Specification" (United States Pharmacopoeia standard) and carries a valid Myanmar Drug Registration Certificate (Myanmar DRC) number. The counterfeit version is incorrectly labelled "IP Specification" (Indian Pharmacopoeia standard) and does not display a valid Myanmar drug registration number.

The FDA therefore strongly urges the public not to purchase or use any Al-

butein 20-per-cent Solution for IV Infusion bearing the label "IP Specification." Consumers are also advised to purchase only medicines carrying a valid Myanmar drug registration number (Registration Number) to ensure their safety.

Albutein 20-per-cent Solution for IV Infusion is an intravenous infusion used to replace albumin, a protein found in human blood plasma. The medicine is administered intravenously under the direct supervision of a physician or qualified healthcare professional and is used primarily for emergency and critically ill patients. The FDA warned that the use of counterfeit versions of this life-saving medicine could pose a serious risk to patients' lives. — TWA/KTZH



This image highlights key differences between genuine and counterfeit medicine.

Thailand's economic growth broadly stable in May

THAILAND'S economic growth remained broadly stable in May on a monthly basis, buoyed by a recovery in the vital tourism sector and slightly improved domestic demand, the central bank said on Tuesday. According to the

Bank of Thailand, overall tourism receipts rose, in line with higher inbound visitors, as supported by a rebound in long-haul markets alongside increased arrivals from China and Malaysia due to their long holiday periods. Howev-

er, arrivals from other short-haul markets fell owing to lower demand and fewer flight services in the face of rising energy costs linked to the Middle East conflict, the central bank said in a statement. — Xinhua

S Korea's industrial output falls for 2nd consecutive month in May

SOUTH Korea's industrial output fell for a second consecutive month due to a temporary reduction in semiconductor production, statistical ministry data showed Tuesday. The seasonally-adjusted index

of all industry production, which excludes the agriculture, livestock and fishery sector, retreated 0.3 per cent in May from a month earlier after sliding 0.4 per cent in the previous month, according to the

Ministry of Data and Statistics. Production among manufacturers shrank 3.0 per cent in May on a monthly basis as the quarterly volume adjustments lowered memory chip output. — Xinhua

Square watermelon shipments begin in western Japan city

FARMERS began shipping ornamental square watermelons in a western Japan city on Tuesday, with around 400 expected to be delivered through mid-July for about 10,000 yen (\$62) each.

The cube-shaped fruit, a specialty of Zentsuji, Kagawa Prefecture, has little sweetness and is unsuitable for eating. Its unusual appearance, however, has made it popular as a summer decoration.

The watermelons are shaped into about 18-centimetre cubes by being grown in transparent square containers with



This photo shows square watermelons being prepared for shipment in Zentsuji, Kagawa Prefecture, on 30 June 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

metal frames once they reach a certain size.

A local growers' group developed the watermelon about 50 years ago in an

effort to produce fruit that would fit more easily inside refrigerators. Seven farms currently grow the cubic melons. — Kyodo

Thai Best Weeks in Myanmar (Mandalay) 2026

The Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, Yangon (DITP Yangon, Thai Trade Center Yangon), in collaboration with Myanmar's leading modern trade channels, CIS 2 Supermarket, Ready Food Mart, and Capital Retail Myanmar is organizing "THAI BEST WEEKS IN MYANMAR (MANDALAY) 2026" in Upper Myanmar to promote the Brand of Thailand and Thai products in Myanmar.

The campaign aims to increase awareness and consumer confidence in high-quality Thai products among consumers in Upper Myanmar while creating greater business opportunities for Thai products through Myanmar's modern trade channels.

More than 450 Thai products from CIS 2 Supermarket, Ready Food Mart, and Capital Retail Myanmar will participate in the promotional campaign. Featured products include Thai fruits, ready-to-eat foods, snacks, seasonings, beverages, cosmetics, kitchenware, electrical appliances, and lifestyle products.

The campaign will take place throughout July 2026 across participating outlets in Upper Myanmar. Selected Thai products will be offered at discounts of up to 30%, together with various sales promotions and lucky draw activities for every 50,000 Kyats spent at CIS 2 Supermarket and Ready Food Mart.

The event will feature Thai cooking demonstrations and promotions of Thai food, Thai seasonings, Thai restaurants, and Thailand's Soft Power, enhancing the image of Thai products in Upper Myanmar.

CIS 2 Supermarket

CIS 2 Supermarket, the campaign will be organized under the name "THAI BEST CHOICE 2026" from 3-23 July 2026 at CIS 2 Supermarket (Mandalay) and St. Lotus Supermarket (Taunggyi).

Over 200 Thai products will participate in the campaign, including ready-to-eat foods, snacks, seasonings, beverages, cosmetics, and kitchenware.

The event will also feature Thai cooking demonstrations, while popular food KOL, Foodies by S&Y will join the campaign to enhance awareness and engagement among Myanmar consumers.

Opening Ceremony: THAI BEST CHOICE 2026

📍 CIS 2 Supermarket – Mandalay Branch
📅 Friday, 3 July 2026 ⌚ 10:00 AM

Ready Food Mart

The campaign will be organized under the name

"THAI BEST FOOD 2026" from 4-17 July 2026 across all four Ready Food Mart branches: Shop 1, Shop 2, Shop 3, and Shop 4.

Over 150 Thai products will participate in the campaign, including Thai fruits, ready-to-eat foods, snacks, seasonings and beverages.

The event will also feature Thai cooking demonstrations, while renowned food KOL, Bless Foodie will participate in the campaign to promote Thai products, Thai cuisine, and Thai culture among Myanmar consumers.

Opening Ceremony: THAI BEST FOOD 2026

📍 Ready Food Mart – Shop 3
(27th st/ Bet 68th st & 69th st/ Mandalay)
📅 Saturday, 4 July 2026 ⌚ 10:00 AM

Capital Retail Myanmar

The campaign will be organized under the name "THAI BEST BUY 2026" from 10-23 July at Capital Center (Mandalay) and Capital Supermarket (Pyin Oo Lwin). Around 100 Thai products will participate in the campaign, including Thai fruits, ready-to-eat foods, snacks, seasonings, beverages, cosmetics, kitchenware, household products, electrical appliances, and lifestyle products.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Japan, India planning joint statement on AI cooperation at summit talks

JAPAN and India's leaders are expected to release a joint statement on cooperation in artificial intelligence when they meet this week, centring on a strengthened partnership to develop large language models, government sources said Tuesday.

The statement is expected to form part of talks between Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and her counterpart Narendra Modi during her three-day visit to New Delhi from Wednesday.

The agreement appears to have been formulated with an eye to improving the competitiveness of both countries



Combined photo shows Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi (L) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **PHOTO: KYODO**

in the field of AI, an area in which the United States and China are global leaders.

India is linguistically diverse, creating demand for the development of

AI large language models that can analyze and summarize text.

The joint statement is expected to boost Japanese-India ties on AI to those of strategic re-

search and development partners, according to the sources.

Japanese AI developer Preferred Networks Inc, Japan's National Institute of Informatics and the Indian Institutes of Technology — a network of higher education facilities — are expected to take part in the initiative.

It also includes commitments to boost measures to ensure safety, as concerns over cybersecurity risks to financial institutions and governments have been raised after the release of US startup Anthropic's Claude Mythus model, which experts say is highly capable of finding software flaws. — Kyodo

Ebola cases rise to 1,307 as authorities ban mass gatherings in DR Congo

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on Monday reported 1,307 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease, including 377 deaths, as authorities stepped up efforts against the outbreak.

As of Sunday, 180 people had recovered, while

615 patients were receiving treatment or under care. The fatality rate stood at 28.8 per cent, and the contact follow-up rate reached 81.3 per cent, the government said.

As part of the control measures, the government has banned mass gath-

erings in the capital and the provinces of Tshopo, Haut-Uele and Bas-Uele, local media reported, citing a circular from the Ministry of Interior.

Interior Minister Jacquemain Shabani notified governors of the affected provinces of the decision,

saying the restriction was imposed due to heightened health risks posed by the spread of the virus. The measure covers political rallies, public marches and other events in an effort to limit physical contact and curb the spread of the virus. — Xinhua

Vietnam to fine social media users for spreading fake news starting 1 July

VIETNAM will impose fines ranging from 20 million to 30 million Vietnamese dong (about US\$794 to US\$1,190) on individuals who provide or share fake, false, distorted or defamatory information on social media that harms the reputation of agencies and organizations or the honour and

dignity of individuals, local newspaper Nhan Dan reported Tuesday.

The same penalty range will apply to violations such as sharing graphic images depicting killings, violence, accidents or other disturbing scenes, distributing copyrighted journalistic, literary or artistic works

without authorization, promoting prohibited goods or services, posting maps of Vietnam that misrepresent the country's sovereignty, or sharing links to online content banned under Vietnamese law, the report said.

Under the new regulations, fines ranging from 30 million to 50 million

Vietnamese dong (about US\$1,190 to US\$1,984) will be imposed for sharing content that distorts history, denies revolutionary achievements, undermines national unity, insults religions, or incites gender or racial discrimination, provided the acts do not warrant criminal prosecution. — Xinhua

NASA robot mission aiming to rescue space telescope

NASA is set to launch a daring robotic rescue mission, a long shot bid to prevent one of its aging telescopes from vanishing into dust.

If successful, the effort could pave the way for giving other satellites a second life.

The operation is set to last several months, kicking off with the launch of a robot designed to rescue the Swift space telescope that's currently falling towards Earth.

Without intervention, Swift is expected to soon burn up in the atmosphere.

The rescue spacecraft developed by the

US startup Katalyst was slated to lift off Tuesday at 1023 GMT from a Pacific Ocean atoll aboard a small rocket named Pegasus.

But NASA postponed the launch, citing unfavourable weather conditions, and set the next launch attempt for "no earlier than Wednesday, 1 July" at 0943 GMT.

The rocket-propelled launch vehicle will not take off from a launch pad. Instead, it will be released from a jet. "Everything about this mission is so crazy," said NASA astrophysicist Regina Caputo with a laugh during an interview with AFP. — AFP



This handout photo released by NASA on 31 July 2004 shows the Swift spacecraft being unwrapped in Hangar AE at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australia reports 5th mainland case of H5N1 bird flu

AUSTRALIAN authorities on Tuesday confirmed the fifth mainland case of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian influenza, but said there is no evidence of local transmission.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Julie Collins, and Chief Veterinary Officer, Beth Cookson, told re-

porters in Canberra that testing has detected the H5N1 strain in a migratory giant petrel that was found at a beach on the south coast of Western Australia (WA). It takes the total number of confirmed cases of the deadly strain in mainland Australia to five, four of which have been detected in WA. — Xinhua

SPORTS

Archery competition held to mark International Olympic Day

AN archery competition and prize presentation ceremony to mark International Olympic Day 2026 was held yesterday morning at the archery training range in Wunna Theikdhi Sports Complex, Nay Pyi Taw.

Jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports, the Myanmar Olympic Committee and the Myanmar Archery Federation, the event featured men's and women's recurve

and compound ranking rounds, along with preliminary and final matches.

Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, and other officials attended the prize presentation ceremony. Awards, including medals and cash prizes, were presented to the winners of the various events and to the most improved male and female athletes. — MNA/KZL



Archers tune their bows and arrows steady during the competition.

Sinner, Djokovic survive opening tests as China's Wang, Zhang advance at Wimbledon



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball during the men's singles first round match against Wu Yibing of China at Wimbledon tennis Championship in London, Britain, on 29 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

DEFENDING men's champion Jannik Sinner and seven-time winner Novak Djokovic survived first-round tests at the 2026 Wimbledon Championships, while China's Wang Xinyu and Zhang Shuai advanced

in the women's singles draw.

World No 1 Sinner battled back from a set down to defeat Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-3 in a gripping opener that lasted three hours and

30 minutes.

Playing his first match since a dramatic second-round defeat at the French Open last month, Sinner struggled with unforced errors and slipped heavily during the third set, remaining on the ground for several minutes. Blood later seeped through his right shoe in the fourth set, though he later said the bleeding was caused by a toenail issue and was not serious.

The Italian found his form back in the final two sets, committing just 10 unforced errors, while firing 31 aces and 72 winners for the whole match. He will next face Portugal's Nuno Borges.

Djokovic was also pushed hard before defeating China's Wu Yibing 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 in three hours and 12 minutes. The 39-year-old Serbian showed signs of fatigue late in the match but converted three of his six break-point opportunities, while Wu managed just one break from 11 chances.

"It didn't feel like a first round, to be honest," said Djokovic. "Wu deserves huge applause for his incredible performance. He put me under a lot of pressure. I probably should have lost that fourth set. These kinds of matches are decided in a few points." — Xinhua

PSG's Portugal forward Ramos signs five-year AC Milan deal

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN'S Portugal forward Goncalo Ramos has agreed a five-year deal with Italian side AC Milan, the clubs confirmed on Tuesday. The 25-year-old has signed a contract until 30 June 2031 which a source said is worth 74 million euros (\$84 million), rising to 90 million euros with bonuses in a club record. "AC Milan welcomes Goncalo Ramos and wishes him every success with the Rossoneri," the Italian club who finished fifth in Serie A last season, said in a statement.

Ramos is at the World Cup with Portugal and will play under fellow countryman and new Milan coach Ruben Amorim. Milan's previous record signing was Ramos' compatriot Rafael Leao, who joined Milan from Lille for 49.5 million euros in 2019, according to expert website Transfermarkt. Ramos has spent three years at French champions PSG, winning the Champions League twice, after his 65-million-euro arrival from Benfica. — AFP

Klopp appears to rule out German job

FORMER Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp has appeared to rule himself out of replacing Julian Nagelsmann as Germany national team coach in the wake of its shock World Cup round-of-32 exit after a penalty shootout defeat to Paraguay on Monday. Nagelsmann has said he wants to carry on as coach, but there is no doubt that 59-year-old Klopp would be a popular choice to revive the fortunes of a team that went out in the group stage at the 2018 and 2022 World Cups and has once again disappointed this summer.

Klopp is currently working as Red Bull's head of global soccer as well as a TV pundit for Magenta TV, where he was asked if he would consider the job.

"I haven't thought about that yet. I've often been in that situation myself as a coach, where a big dream has been shattered," answered Klopp. — Xinhua

England faces DR Congo test as Tuchel weighs changes in World Cup last 32

ENGLAND coach Thomas Tuchel appears likely to reshuffle his side once again as it prepares to face Democratic Republic of the Congo in the round of 32 at the World Cup.

Although England defeated a well-drilled but limited Panama 2-0 to ensure it finished top of Group L, the win did little to ease doubts over its ability to break down disciplined low block defences after its 0-0 draw with Ghana.

It took two moments of quality from Jude Bellingham to open the scoring with a smart finish from a corner and then set up Harry Kane for England's second goal.

Meanwhile, England may not have conceded a goal, but its defence left spaces that more clinical teams might have exploited better than Panama.

The good news for Tuchel is that midfielder Declan Rice should be fit after being rested against

Panama with a slight calf problem. Rice should bring greater consistency in midfield alongside Elliott Anderson, with Morgan Rogers dropping back to the bench.

Reece James' hamstring injury means he is still unavailable at right-back, and after Jarell Quansah twisted his ankle on Saturday, Djed Spence is expected to play on the right of England's defence, with Nico O'Reilly on the left. — Xinhua



Thomas Tuchel, head coach of England, reacts during the group L match between England and Ghana at the 2026 FIFA World Cup at Boston Stadium in Boston, the United States, 23 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Japan, India planning joint statement on AI cooperation at summit talks

PAGE 14



WORLD

Russia to Continue Strengthening Trade, Economic Ties With Africa – Lavrov

RUSSIA intends to further strengthen trade, economic and investment cooperation with African countries, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday.

“Russia’s trade with the continent exceeded \$27 billion last year. It is growing at a rapid pace, but in absolute terms, there is still room to grow. We will continue to use all available opportunities to intensify cooperation in this direction,” Lavrov said at a meeting of the Business Council at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He added that

strengthening trade, economic and investment ties remains an “unconditional priority” for Russia.

Russia will open embassies in The Gambia, Liberia, Togo and the Union of Comoros in the near future, Lavrov reiterated.

In December, Lavrov announced Russia’s intention to open embassies in these four countries as part of an expansion of its diplomatic presence in Africa. In April, Lavrov confirmed that four more Russian embassies would open in Africa soon.

— SPUTNIK



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

Iran’s president says MoU with US achieved in full coordination with supreme leader

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Tuesday that the recent peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States was achieved in full coordination with Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and with the support of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC). Speaking during a visit to the central Iranian province of Qom,

Pezeshkian said, “All stages of negotiations (with the United States) were pursued within the framework of the (Iranian) establishment’s macro policies, in full and continuous coordination with the supreme leader, and within the context of the country’s legal mechanisms,” according to a statement published on the website of his office. — Xinhua

Rocket engine to power China’s reusable launch vehicle completes long-duration test

CHINESE commercial space company CAS Space has successfully completed a long-duration qualification test for the Kincore-2, a 110-tonne-thrust liquid oxygen/kerosene engine designed to power the reusable variant of its Kinetica-2, or Lijian-2 launch vehicle.

The recently conducted test pushed the engine’s burn time to 620 seconds, approximately 3.5 times the actual flight duration requirement. A single ignition lasted 400 seconds, setting a new stability record for the engine model, the Guangzhou-based rocket developer told China Media Group (CMG) on Tuesday.

The engine is designed to serve as the primary propulsion system for the reusable versions of both the Kinetica-2 and its heavy-lift variant.

The grueling trial simulated extreme conditions, including sustained high temperatures, high rotational speeds, intense heat flux and continuous



A Lijian-2 Y1 carrier rocket with three satellites onboard blasts off from the Dongfeng commercial space innovation pilot zone in northwest China, 30 March 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

vibrations, to rigorously assess the engine’s durability and performance.

“The extended test is a critical qualification that verifies the engine’s stable performance, fully covering flight conditions and demonstrating a sufficient life margin,” said Ming Aizhen, deputy general manager of the power design department at CAS Space.

The test provided in-depth validation of key engine parameters and operational reliability, laying a solid foundation for future engineering and

mass production. Cumulative reliability test time for the Kincore-2 has now surpassed 2,000 seconds.

The Kincore-2 has entered a critical phase of comprehensive reliability testing. Once finalized, the engine is expected to support high-frequency, routine launches, said Ming.

The Kinetica-2 is China’s first launch vehicle to adopt the Common Booster Core (CBC) configuration, a modular rocket design architecture in which the first stage and its side boosters are structurally

and functionally identical. It is capable of carrying up to eight tonnes to a 500-kilometre sun-synchronous orbit or 12 tonnes to a 200-kilometre low Earth orbit.

On 30 March 2026, the rocket successfully completed its maiden flight, demonstrating the core technologies of China’s next-generation space transportation system. During this mission, it accurately deployed the Qingzhou prototype cargo spacecraft and two satellites into the preset orbit. — Xinhua

Data centres emitting more CO2 than thought: study

DATA centres, whose expansion is being fuelled dramatically by the artificial intelligence boom, have a far bigger carbon footprint than previously estimated, a study said Tuesday.

The sprawling, power-hungry sites, used to store critical IT infrastructure like servers, are being built worldwide by compa-

nies and countries as AI applications gobble ever greater computing power.

This has helped to boost their greenhouse gas emissions, with a new study by Allianz Trade estimating the centres emitted 286 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2025.

This is 57 per cent higher than estimates by the International Energy

Agency, according to the group, which is the trade credit insurance arm of global insurer Allianz.

AI already accounts for between 15 and 20 per cent of electricity consumption at data centres, and this share could climb to 40 per cent by 2030, the report said. “Data centres are evolving from a marginal factor into a struc-

tural driver of electricity demand in many regions,” said Patrick Hoffmann, senior climate economist at Allianz. Without steps to decarbonize power grids, data centre emissions would more than double by 2030, leading to an estimated \$154 billion in annual climate damages – up from \$68 billion today, the report said. — AFP