

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**



This image depicts a section of the Hanthawady ancient city in Bago.

Bago seeks bids for restoration of two historic cities

The restoration project includes reviving the moat and wall surrounding the historic Inwa Gate in Hanthawady, an ancient city in Bago, as well as restoring the northern moat and wall in Ketumati, an ancient city in Toungoo, ensuring the preservation of their rich heritage.

The Bago Region government has invited an open auction for the restoration of moats and walls at two ancient cities in the region. Interested business owners who are Myanmar citizens are invited to the two restoration projects, which will be implemented by the regional government's capital fund for

the financial year 2025-2026. One is the restoration of the moat and wall around the Inwa Gate in Hanthawady ancient city in Bago, and the next is the restoration of the northern moat and wall in Ketumati ancient city in Toungoo. Tender applications are now available at the regional Department of Archaeology and National Museum starting 16 June and will

be closed by 3 pm on 19 June. The deadline for the submission of the application is 3 pm on 30 June. The schedule for tender opening will be notified to the respective applicants. "We welcome this project because I think it will help attract more visitors," said a travel business owner in Bago. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Myanmar confirms discovery of new Laotian wolf snake species

A new species of Laotian wolf snake, *Lycodon laoensis*, has been recorded in Myanmar, according to a post shared by All about Snakes-Saw Thanda Awng on the social media page. The Laotian wolf snake was previously unrecorded in Myanmar, and now, with the records obtained by Snakes of Myanmar, it has been officially recorded, bringing the total number of snake species in Myanmar to 195 under 66 genera. There are 81 species of wolf snake in the genus *Lycodon* worldwide, of which 11 have been recorded in Myanmar. The Laotian wolf snake, also known as the house snake, is found in India, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Malaysia, and now in Myanmar. According to the observations in Kayin State, Shan State and Taninthayi Region, this is the first at the national level. The new record reveals the distribution of the Laotian wolf snake, and adds another species to the list of reptiles in Myanmar, highlighting the need for more focused research on Myanmar's undocumented amphibians and reptiles, it said. — MT/ZN



NATIONAL **PAGE 5**
MoALI boosts exports aligned with global market standards



BUSINESS **PAGE 7**
Palm oil reference prices fall to five-month low



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NATIONAL

Literature reflects cultural standards of a nation

LITERATURE reflects the cultural standards of a nation. Therefore, I would like to urge literati, individuals and organizations who value literature, as well as the younger generation, to continue preserving and upholding fine traditions of literature for the Myanmar people.

(An excerpt from the speech delivered by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the awarding ceremony for winners in the National Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest for 2023 to mark the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) National Literary Ward celebration on 1 December 2024)

Global aid pours into Myanmar as quake toll hits 3,752

AS of 14 June, 3,752 people died, 5,104 were injured, and 54 remain missing in six regions and states of Myanmar severely affected by the powerful earthquake that struck on 28 March.

Search and rescue teams from the Myanmar Fire Brigade, along with local and international rescue organizations, have been conducting emergency operations in the affected areas without delay. So far, 653 people have been rescued alive from collapsed buildings, and the bodies of 831 deceased individuals have been recovered.

Local donors and philanthropic individuals have been providing financial aid and relief supplies to those impacted by the disaster. Similarly, foreign governments, international organizations, and charitable donors have contributed monetary and material assistance.

Between 5 pm on 13 June and 5 pm on 14 June, various forms of international aid arrived at Yangon International Airport, including instant noodles, sleeping bags, and tents weighing 0.152 tonne, provided by the Lotus Light Charity Society of Singapore, Buddha Dhamma Mandala Society, and Love and Care Charity Group.

These relief items are reported to be distributed promptly to the affected communities to ensure timely support. — MNA/MKKS

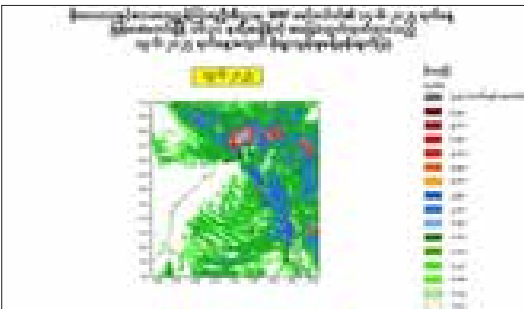
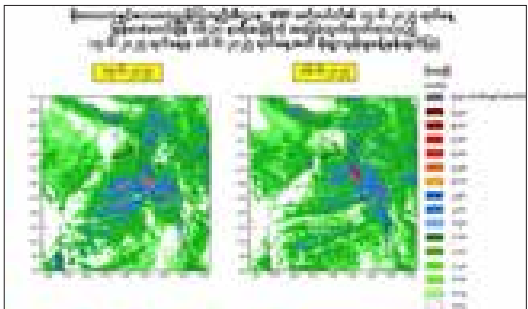
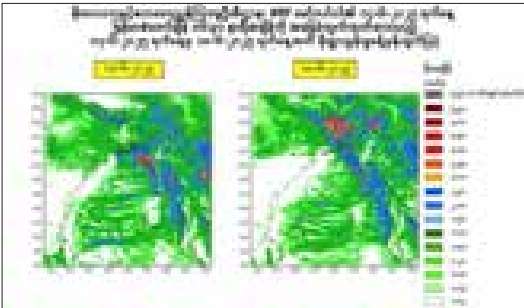
Special Weather News

Issued at 6 pm MST on 14 June 2025

ACCORDING to the observations at 4:30 pm MST today, monsoon will be strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, due to the easterly waves and westerly waves, rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states with likelihood of regionally and isolated heavy falls during today evening to 19 June 2025. Occassional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthatyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour (mph). Wave height will be about 9-12 feet in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthatyi Coasts. Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 mph. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the natural disasters such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, thunder, lightning strikes, lightning, hails, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers and to make necessary preparations for inland water transport, domestic flights and irrigation dams. — DMH



Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Saturday 14 June 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 15 JUNE 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway and Sagaing regions and Kayah and northern Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Chin, Rakhine and southern Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthatyi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 9-12 feet in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthatyi Coasts. Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavy rain or thundershowers in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 JUNE 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 JUNE 2025: One or two times rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 JUNE 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

Gold Market Rate as of 14 June 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,900,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Union Information Minister inspects Sarso Beikman construction site

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the three-storey RC Sarso Beikman construction site in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon yesterday.

The Director-General of the Printing and Publishing Department and the Myanmar Land & Development Ltd Project Director reported on the 52 per cent completion of the Sarso Beikman building construction.

After hearing the report, the Union minister instructed the needs to complete the building in time, ensure the strength of the building, supervisory activities of the quality assessment team, collaborate with the experts in literary, music and theatrical arenas, keep the materials to display in the museum and to be a modern and grand building as it is built with the supports of the Indian

government.

He also made directives to plant beautiful flowery plants and tress, use quality construction materials and a systematic construction system, as it is a sign of India-Myanmar Friendship. The Union minister also inspected the MyanSat DTH broadcasting service of the BBTV company at a separate building in the MRTV compound in the evening.

The Vice Chairman of BBTV Company reported on the broadcasting of 16 local channels and 140 foreign channels, totalling 156 pay channels since the launch of the MyanSat DTH on 15 January 2025 and distributors in three main cities -Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

The Union minister said it is necessary to follow the existing laws, rules and update direc-



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspects the three-storey RC Sarso Beikman construction site in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon yesterday.

tives in broadcasting services, provide Myanmar subtitles for international movies and make

efforts to be a reliable media for the country and its people. The Union minister ob-

served the MyanSat DTH broadcasting processes. — MNA/ KTZH

MoH Union Minister inspects urban health centres in Yangon



UNION Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win, accompanied by Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department Head Dr Nanda Win and other relevant officials, inspected the UHC (urban health centres) in the region yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win inspects urban health centres of Hline and Mingaladon townships in Yangon yesterday.

The Union minister and party met with the staff of the at the UHC in Hline and Mingaladon townships and inspected the centres and staff housing.

During the inspection tour, the Union minister highlighted the need to effectively use the medicines provided by the government for public healthcare services and vaccination, conduct public awareness programmes and accelerate medical services, to further strengthen public health services such as maternal care, infectious disease treatment,

care for patients with non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, elder care, dental and oral health services, maternal and child healthcare, immunizations, and healthcare for children under five years of age on designated dates, and to ensure having no gap between the urban and rural health services as the urban health centres (UHC) are being established in cities and expanded the healthcare services to ensure all-inclusive healthcare system. — MNA/ KTZH

NATIONAL

MoSYA Union Minister attends 2nd CoCom & SEA Games Federation Council Meeting

UNION Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs and the Myanmar Olympic Committee Chair Jeng Phang Naw Taung, together with joint secretaries of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, attended the 2nd Coordination Committee (CoCom) Meeting and the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games Federation Council Meeting, held from 10 to 13 June in Bangkok, Thailand.

On 11 June, the Union Minister and his delegation visited key venues for the upcoming XXXIII SEA Games to be hosted by Thailand. These included Rajamangala National Stadium (the main venue for the football finals, and opening and closing ceremonies), the swimming complex, Indoor Stadium Huamark, the Thai Cycling Hall of Fame and the archery field.

On 12 June, the Union Minister met with Mr Sorawong Thienthong, Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the



Attendees of the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games Federation Council Meeting, including Union Minister Jeng Phang Naw Taung, pose for the documentary group photo in Bangkok, Thailand.

XXXIII SEA Games and Thailand's Minister for Tourism and Sports. During the meeting, they discussed Myanmar's participation and emphasized arrangements for advance access to training grounds and facilities upon the Myanmar

team's arrival.

Later, the Union Minister joined the 2nd CoCom and SEA Games Federation Council Meeting. The session included welcoming speeches from SEA Games Federation Vice-President Dato Seri Chaiyapak

Siriwat, Organizing Committee Chairman Mr Sorawong Thienthong and the new President of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand. Official invitations were extended to all council members.

The meeting reviewed and

approved the outcomes of the previous Council Meeting held on 25 October 2024 in Bangkok. Participants also approved renaming the SEA Games Federation COO role to CEO and confirmed the appointment of Dr Varin Tansuphasiri, Dato' Low Beng Choo, and Mr Chan Seng Heng Christopher as SEA Games Federation Honorary Members. Reports from the SEA Games Federation Office were also discussed and approved.

In the afternoon session, reports were presented on the 50 sports disciplines to be contested at the XXXIII SEA Games, the competition venues, and media broadcasting arrangements. Preparations for the 2027 SEA Games in Malaysia were also reviewed. A unanimous decision was made to retain the event's traditional name, "Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games)". — MNA/KZL

MoST Dy Minister attends 5th Sochi Biosecurity Conference

DEPUTY Minister for Science and Technology Dr Aung Zeya, who is currently in Sochi, Russia, to attend the Fifth Sochi Biosecurity Conference, attended the agendas of the conference together with the BWC officials of other countries on 10 June.

During Session 1, Adviser Ms Elena Shamal of the Compliance and Integrity Systems (CIS) and Department of Humanitarian Cooperation, General Political and Social Problems served as moder-

ator, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), (Compliance and Integrity Systems (CIS), The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and biosecurity measures of ASEAN and African Union, and the deputy minister discussed the further cooperation in biosecurity measures.

In the evening, the deputy minister joined the dinner hosted by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Sergey Ryabkov. — MNA/KTZH



Deputy Minister Dr Aung Zeya presents the souvenir.

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NATIONAL

CBM hosts workshop to tackle online financial fraud & money laundering

THE Action Task Force to prevent and take action against fraud of the Central Bank of Myanmar organized a workshop on combatting financial fraud and anti-money laundering at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The workshop was organized into three sessions, and Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe delivered a speech online, highlighting online scams, public awareness regarding the laundering and financing of terrorism, drafting of strategies by banking and financial institutions, information exchange with the stakeholders, and intention of holding the workshop to find the solution for AML/CFT.

She also discussed the ac-



Central Bank of Myanmar Governor Daw Than Than Swe delivers a speech at the workshop on combatting financial fraud and anti-money laundering at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

tivities of the CBM to strengthen AML/CFT-related rules and regulations to prevent banks and financial institutions from being used as intermediaries in online financial fraud, and the

implementation of the AML/CFT Compliance Framework for risk-based Fraud Detection.

In the second session, Deputy-Governor of CBM Dr Lin Aung explained the activities of the task forces, and the representatives of Ayeyawady Farmers Development Bank, Yoma Bank, KBZ Bank, AYA Bank PCL and UAB Bank coordinated the discussion and replied to the questions raised by the guests.

In the third session, U Myat Min Htin Kyaw of AYA Bank PCL discussed the role of AI in online fraud and anti-money laundering and Director-General Daw Khine Shwe Wah of CBM the online fraud and anti-money laundering activities. — MNA/KTZH

MoALI boosts exports aligned with global market standards



Deputy Minister Dr Aung Gyi observes the workplace of the Shwe Ngar Processing and Cold Storage in the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone II on 13 June 2025.

DEPUTY Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Gyi yesterday inspected the activities of the Central Research and Development Centre for Livestock, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Insein Township, Yangon Region, and the buildings designated as dormitories for trainees.

He then met with students from the second batch of the Diploma in Veterinary Science course, encouraging them to work diligently to develop skilled human resources for the veterinary and livestock sectors. He also provided

them with food and beverages to support their efforts.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister visited the Shwe Ngar Processing and Cold Storage Plant in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone II. He inspected the construction of a 500-tonne cold storage plant, the acceptance of goods, and the processes for freezing freshwater and saltwater fish for export to the UK, Italy, Belgium, the UAE, and Singapore.

At Glory One company limited in Zone VI, he reviewed the production of freshwater and saltwater fish, shrimp, dried fish, dried shrimp, and fried shrimp following market

standards, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems for export to international markets, including Iraq, the UAE, Qatar, Malaysia, and Bangladesh.

He also visited Min Zar Ni Fisheries Co Ltd, where he observed the production of fish sticks, frozen freshwater and saltwater fish, and eel for export to Korea, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Hong Kong, and China. The deputy minister encouraged officials to promote exports in compliance with the market criteria of these countries. — MNA/MKKS

Parkway Cancer Centre launches pioneering cancer treatment initiative on 21 June

AN awareness campaign on the “Men’s Cancer Advances in Treatment, especially Focus on Lung & Liver Cancer”, jointly organized by the Parkway Cancer Centre Singapore and the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers Association (MFVP), will take place from 9:30 am to noon on 21 June at the Parkroyal Hotel in Dagon Township, Yangon.

Dr Khoo Kei Siong from Parkway Cancer Centre Singapore will explain a comprehensive range of cancer treatment

and the latest developments and advances that are transforming the treatment landscape related to lung and liver cancer.

Those interested can register for the campaign free of charge. MFVP also invited its members to join the hybrid campaign that includes both Zoom and in-person attendance. Those interested can register through Viber 09 43127656, presenting personal information (name, position, phone number and address) by 18 June 2025, MFVP requested. — NN/KK

Insurance Training School launches batch 18 agent course on 21 June

MYANMA Insurance Training School will provide an insurance agent course (Batch 18) on 21, 22, 28, 29 June and 5 July to pursue insurance advisor careers.

The training school with the highest score offers courses to produce insurance advisors to bridge the gap between insurance companies and policyholders. They will provide guidance and advice for investment in various insurance schemes,

assist the customers by explaining the claim process and help them fill out the necessary forms.

Those interested can apply to the school and enquire about details through contact numbers at 09 403891139 and 09 457041331, and email institute.mi05@gmail.com of the Myanma Insurance Training School located at 627-635, Merchant Road, Yangon. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Weekly
ROUNDUP

8 June
Myanmar, China exchange congratulatory messages

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent congratulatory messages in marking the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries, to President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang who also returned the congratulatory messages to the SAC Chairman Prime Minister.

9 June
Myanmar, Chinese diplomatic relations mark 75th anniversary

One-China policy strengthens bilateral relations between Myanmar and China, contributing to regional peace and stability, said Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the two countries at Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

10 June
SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects water supply facilities

Priority must be given to successfully implement projects on the sufficiency of drinking water in PyinOoLwin District and Township through the quick win plan, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his inspection tour of PyinOoLwin Township.

11 June
Rehab operations inspected

Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected ongoing rehabilitation operations for loss and damage caused by the earthquake in Sagaing and Mandalay.

12 June
SAC Chairman PM Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours PyinOoLwn

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing stressed that a lack of academic proficiency and weak critical thinking skills become the root cause of committing terrorist acts, at a meeting with teachers of the No 3 Basic Education High School in PyinOoLwin.

13 June
Messages of condolences sent to India

Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing sent messages of condolence to Her Excellency Smt. Droupadi Murmu, President of the Republic of India, and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, expressing his sorrow over the loss of many lives due to the crash of Indian airline flight AI-171 near Ahmedabad, India. — GNLM/TTA

Rehab operations ramped up in quake-affected areas



Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing visits the site of the rubble removal of quake-stricken religious buildings in Amarapura Township in Mandalay.

MEMBERS from various organizations joining hands with residents actively participated in the rehabilitation operations in the quake-affected areas in some townships of Mandalay and Sagaing regions yesterday.

They voluntarily carried out the clearing of debris at collapsed religious and public buildings as well as school buildings, and the demolition of dangerous buildings with the use of heavy machinery and their concerted efforts.

Moreover, they participated in the supply of water with the use of water purifiers for members

of the Sangha, nuns and people while taking part in repairs and renovation

of damaged buildings to have their original states. Lt-Gen Thet Pon,

Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung and Lt-Gen Soe Tint Naing from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik inspected the progress of rehabilitation measures and preparations to hold the matriculation examination 2025 for the students in TadaU, Chanayethazan, Aungmyethazan, Kyaukse, Singaing, and Madaya townships on their inspection tours.

They gave words of encouragement to those students and presented foodstuffs to teachers and students. — MNA/TTA



Lt-Gen Myo Moe Aung visits the Basic Education High School No 3 in Kyaukse where the school is being prepared for matriculation examination.

MHA compiles list of hotels damaged by earthquake



MYANMAR Hotelier Association (MHA) is compiling lists of hotels, motels and guesthouses damaged by the recent Mandalay earthquake to provide reconstruction loans.

“We are collecting lists of quake-damaged hotels to provide reconstruction loans. Loans will be disbursed regionally. MHA will give recommendations and forward applications to the ministry concerned to proceed with the loan. Then, the ministry will pay out loans via the respective depart-

ment,” said U Nay Aung Ko, general secretary of the MHA.

A total of 16 hotels collapsed in Mandalay Region, and MHA is making a list of other hotels with partial damage. Some holding comprehensive insurance policies are found to remain operational despite minor damage.

Similarly, four among 14 hotels and guesthouses are required to be demolished, and seven of them need to be repaired in Sagaing Region.

The engineers concerned will conduct damage assessments in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing regions to evaluate repair tier and loan eligibility. — ASH/KK

Some hotels are seen damaged by the Mandalay Earthquake.



A vendor is seen selling the palm oil.

Palm oil reference prices fall to five-month low

PALM oil reference prices indicated a five-month low of over K1,000 per viss in mid-June as weak global palm oil prices are closely tied to domestic palm oil reference prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imports edible oil to meet the growing domestic demand. The imported CIF price (Cost, Insurance and Freight) for palm oil has been on a downward trend since January 2025. The wholesale reference price declined to K6,185 per viss on 15 June from K7,280 recorded on 1 January. The Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution under the Ministry of Commerce has been closely observing the FOB prices in Malaysia and Indonesia, adding transport costs, tariffs and banking services to decide the wholesale market reference rate for edible oil weekly.

The committee issues reference prices weekly every Monday through the website www.doca.gov.mm of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Facebook pages of the department and the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers' Association. Despite the reference price, the market

price is way too high.

To control overcharging, the Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce informed consumers of lodging complaints for overcharging through the call centre hotline.

The department urges consumers not to buy palm oil at high prices.

The Committee notified that any person who is involved in price gouging and oil storage to attempt market manipulation will face legal action under the Essential Goods and Services Law.

The department is working together with the Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association and the cooking oil importing companies to offer affordable rates of imported palm oil for consumers.

The complaints for overcharging can be lodged over hotline 1535 of the call centre of the Consumers Affairs Department or sent to the Facebook page of the department and the region and state departments concerned.

The domestic palm oil consumption is estimated at one million tonnes per year. The local palm oil production is just about 400,000 tonnes. About 700,000 tonnes of palm oil are yearly imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

MRF sets fair market prices for premium rice varieties

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) offers fair market prices for Shwebo Pawsan, Ayeyawady Pawan and Samantha rice varieties, it announced on 13 June.

MRF and the Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association jointly arrange this affordable rice sale every Wednesday and Thursday from 11 am to 3 pm at Wadan Rice Depot in Lanmadaw Township.

The prices are K31,000 per 10-kilogramme sack of Shwebo Pawsan, K24,000 per 10-kilogramme sack of Ayeyawady Pawsan and K13,500 per 10-kilogramme sack of Aemahta rice variety.

Moreover, they sell rice through a mobile market scheme on Fridays and Saturdays near municipal markets, at K32,000 per 10-kilogramme sack of Shwebo Pawsan,

K25,000 per 10-kilogramme sack of Ayeyawady Pawsan and K14,000 per 10-kilogramme sack of Aemahta rice variety, MRF notified.

The Consumer Affairs Department under the Ministry of Commerce stated that reasonable market prices of rice for June 2025 were issued, and non-compliance with the set prices is subject to legal action. — NN/KK



Rice bags are loaded onto the lorry.

CBM sells THB1.7M on 13 June

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) injected over 1.7 million baht into the financial market on 13 June, in addition to sales of over US\$1 million from the companies working on a Cutting-Making and Packaging basis to fuel oil importing countries.

CBM sold \$1.3 million worth of fuel oil bought from CMP companies to fuel oil importing companies on 12 June 2025.

CBM sold over 290,000 yuan and one million baht on 11 June. Moreover, CBM sold \$1.096 million, which were bought from CMP companies, to fuel oil importing companies on that day.

CBM announced on 10 June that it would sell \$32 million to fuel oil importers. CBM sold 600,000 yuan, 694,750 baht and over \$730,440 from CMP companies to fuel oil importers on that day.

CBM pumped over 400,000 yuan on 9 June, over \$501,000 on 6 June and 364,400 yuan on 5 June into the foreign exchange market.

CBM announced on 4 June that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil importers. CBM pumped \$422,000, 345,850 yuan and over 2.1 million baht on that day into the foreign exchange market.

CBM injected over 600,000 yuan and 2.6 million baht on 3 June, 579,900 yuan and 4.7 million baht on 2 June, over 610,000 yuan and 2.4 million

baht on 30 May, after the sale of 4.3 million baht on 28 May into the financial market.

CBM announced on 27 May that it would sell \$30 million to fuel oil importers.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, 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



The Central Bank of Myanmar's Yangon Branch.

Schools initiate disciplines for youths

IN BUILDING a modern and progressive nation, it is necessary not only to cultivate talented individuals but also to nurture good and moral citizens. Therefore, school-aged children and youth must be educated according to their respective grades and ages, not only in academic knowledge but also in moral character.

Student youths must be trained to become individuals who respect and abide by discipline and the law. In line with the motto, “National discipline begins at school,” it is essential to seriously teach and train all students to become disciplined individuals who uphold and embody discipline in their daily lives.

Students at the basic education level are at an age where they are capable of understanding, yet are still children. It is the ideal age to teach and instil discipline. They can comprehend

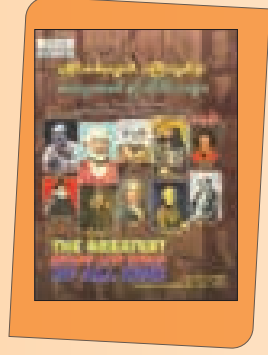
the nature of discipline, and it is important to nurture them into individuals who, at any time and in any situation, do not violate rules. Schools are indeed the foundational institutions responsible for educating and raising disciplined individuals.

Students are also trained in good discipline and moral conduct appropriate to each grade level. Those who are well-educated and disciplined in this manner will be respected and recognized wherever they may go, regardless of the country or region. As discipline reflects a person's values, teachers must strive to enhance national discipline through their dedicated efforts.

restrictions and stricter controls on Myanmar migrant workers.

In the country today, all basic education levels are provided free of charge. All students are required to attend school until they successfully complete basic middle school education (KG+9). Upon completion of KG+9, students have the opportunity to either continue with regular upper-basic education or pursue vocational education and training.

Students are also trained in good discipline and moral conduct appropriate to each grade level. Those who are well-educated and disciplined in this manner will be respected and recognized wherever they may go, regardless of the country or region. As discipline reflects a person's values, teachers must strive to enhance national discipline through their dedicated efforts.

	Book Title	—	Thamaing Tashaut Ahkyikyesone Ahtweahkaw Hnint Ideas (The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time by Will Durant)
	Translator	—	Than Soe Naing
	Publishing House	—	Mote Thone
	Publication Date	—	May 2025 (1 st Edition)
	Price	—	K12,000

Thamaing Tashaut Ahkyikyesone Ahtweahkaw Hnint Ideas The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time by Will Durant

THIS week, we bring a book that falls under the genres of biography, philosophy and history. It is also a treasure of ideas, compiling the thoughts and perspectives of the original author, Will Durant.

The Greatest Minds of Ideas of All Time, which was edited by John Little, is a remarkable compendium that offers an insightful overview of the intellectual history of humankind.

Beginning with the ancient Greek philosophers and extending to the modern worlds of science and art, the book presents the biographies and groundbreaking contributions of some of the most influential figures in human civilization, such as Plato, da Vinci, Newton, and Rousseau, in clear and accessible language. It can also be regarded as a summary of Will Durant's The Story of Civilization. This book is especially well-suited for readers in-

terested in exploring the interconnectedness of history, philosophy, science, and the arts.

In this book, the readers can read motivational quotes like “ the educated man knows how to understand the past and the intellectual man knows how to hope for the future.”

The book explores thought-provoking reflections on the influence of history on human society, the vital role of education, and ideas that serve as a guiding light for the modern age. It is not only intended for educators and those interested in the field of history, but is also designed to present enduring and timeless ideas from human civilization in an accessible and engaging manner for all readers.

The book carries six chapters: A Shameless Worship of Heroes, The Ten ‘Greatest’ Thinkers, The Ten Greatest Poets, The One

Hundred ‘Best’ Books for an Education, The Ten Peaks of Human Progress and Twelve Vital Dates in World History.

Will Durant once said,” If a man is fortunate, he will, before he dies, gather up as much as he can of his civilized heritage and transmit it to his children. And to his final breath, he will be grateful for this inexhaustible legacy, knowing that it is our nourishing mother and our lasting life.”

This book is an excellent one for those who wish to begin exploring the fundamentals of history and philosophy, or for readers who want to sample Will Durant's writing style. Moreover, it is a valuable read for anyone seeking a concise understanding of humanity's intellectual heritage. Within just “an hour of reading,” this book offers a compelling introduction to some of the greatest ideas in the world.

	Book Title	-	The Emperor to Himself by Marcus Aurelius Antoninus
	Translator	-	Mawrisha
	Publishing House	-	Pann Satt Lann
	Publication Date	-	May 2025 (1 st Edition)
	Price	-	K11,000

The Emperor to Himself by Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

THE Emperor to Himself is a book consisting of a collection of personal reflections and notes by Marcus Aurelius. Mawrisha translated this book into Myanmar. The book reflects his understanding of stoic philosophy, sets forth principles for living a virtuous life and emphasizes private guidance, self-admonition, and outlooks on hardships.

Marcus Aurelius was a Roman Emperor and Stoic Philosopher. His writing and content shed light on various aspects of life and responsibility.

Additionally, the book is filled with deep meaning and wisdom, exploring stability and self-control in the face of different situations, acknowledging reality, flowing with life, finding the good in challenging situations, and perspectives and great appreciation

for the present and increased resilience by realizing the impermanence of life.

He also references the simple yet powerful ideas of his grandfather, Hadrian and his teacher, Epictetus as per the relevant subject matter.

The following are Marcus Aurelius's profound quotes that improve mental well-being.

“Think constantly how many physicians have died, how many astrologers have died after predicting the deaths of others, how many philosophers have died after deliberation on death or immortality, how mighty or godlike man and those who seek eternal life die. How many great cities like Helice, Pompeii, Herculaneum and innumerable others have also been ruined? All those you have known, including yourself

and everything in life, will fade away one day. Human life is temporary and trivial. Yesterday a drop of sperm; tomorrow a mummy or a handful of ashes. Pass through this brief life as nature demands. Like an olive that ripens and falls. Blessing the earth which bore it and grateful to the tree it grew on.” The quote presents mortality and acknowledging bad things to see the beauty of the good, dwelling on the beauty of life and finding gratitude in all aspects of life.

“The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.”

“If it seems untrue and does not act, if it is unjust, do not speak”

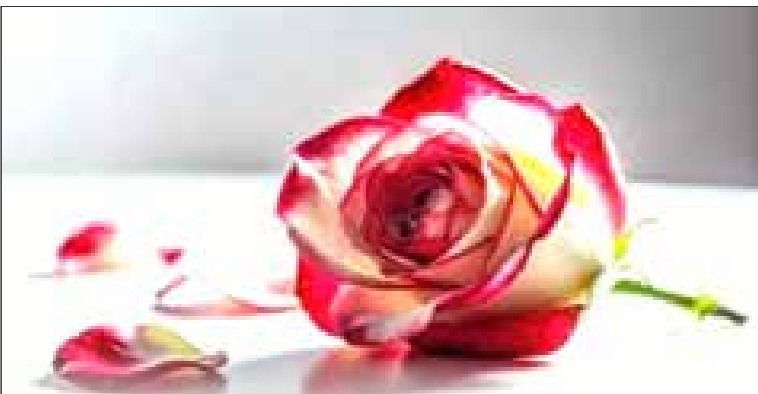
“Creating a fake persona, quick anger, fault-finding, indecisiveness, procrastination, and the constant pursuit of positive

feedback can ruin your talent, good habits and integrity.

The aforementioned quotes are Marcus Aurelius's strong mental power; his reflections on ordinary life and key principles of Stoicism. Some can be a powerful tool for daily life and help find motivation and purpose in life. It is a form of diary about how the most powerful Emperor fostered self-mastery and integrity with self-improvement advice, igniting new perspectives and assumptions. Marcus Aurelius is both a scholar and a philosopher king.

This book will teach readers how to brace for catastrophic situations with resilience and how to cope with stress and anxiety. It will help explore roadmaps to achieve your goal, visualize your path to success and shape your future. Furthermore, they can study principles and practice mindfulness to remain calm physically and mentally in the face of adversity.

The Emperor to Himself is a book that offers a guide on how the powerful man cultivates mental toughness to navigate life's challenges with wisdom, integrity and resilience. Therefore, it is a must-read for readers to inspire deep contemplation and assumptions, leaving a lasting impression on the readers' understanding.



Sorrowful and hopeful eyes


By Mya Thae (Research)

Everybody wants to live a long life. But some cannot survive because the worst disease strikes. When they know they are close to dying, They want to survive and see their families with sorrowful eyes. Besides, they have hopeful eyes to stay fine. May May looked at me with sorrowful and hopeful eyes. Cancer struck her, and she passed away. The twenty-first of June 1996 is her death day. But May May is still alive in my heart always.

အချိန်တစ္ဆေ

နံရံအထက်
ချိတ်ဆွဲလျက်လျှင်
ပြက္ခဒိန်မှ
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ဝတ်မပျက်သည့်
ရက်ဆက်ခြောက်လှန့်နေတော့သည်။

မောင်စွမ်းရည်



Time as a Ghost

By Maung Swan Yi, Translated by Myint Zan

*hanging on the wall
is the calendar :
as one wakes up in the morn
each day, a page has to be torn
dutifully
without fail and continually
(the calendar) threatens one
as if it were a ghost*

From Maung Swan Yi's collection of poems, first published in 1960.
Translated on 12 June 2025

ပန်ကြားခြင်း

By Chit Ko Pe

Thoughts! You make frequent visits.
Do bring her along on the next trip.
To have her in my physical sight,
A moment lasting a second suffices.



NATIONAL

Entertainment

Sithu Lwin

PRODUCER, composer and music manager Soe Thiha (Spectrums band), aged 58, passed away on 11 June. Singer Sithu Lwin said that, before he died, he was very glad that, as he came to realize, almost all the artistes in this same field loved him when he was sick.



Aye Thida

SUPPORTING actress Aye Thida talked about the key role of friendship in human society. She also highlighted her intention to donate rice, cooking oil and medicines to supporting actress Bo Ma, who is suffering from a stroke, and also thanked donors for assisting the artistes, on 10 June.



Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt)

DIRECTOR Maung Myo Min (Yindwin Phyt) shared a remarkable word made by Academy Nyunt Win, saying, "U Nyunt Win once said all the people desire the first place or No 1. You also noticed it. I hadn't ranked first before; there was someone like a top actor before me. All wanted that place and all wanted it. They didn't like the second place. Therefore, there was no rival and so I had been in movies the longest."



Khin Hlaing

SUPPORTING actor and comedian Khin Hlaing also creates films as a director called Khin Hlaing (Nyan Gyi Shin). An official trailer of the 'Aung Si Aung Mong' film directed by Khin Hlaing (Nyan Gyi Shin) was streamed online on 14 June. Cast members are Academy Nay Toe, Phyo Ngwe Soe, Tryon, Phyo Lay, Khin Hlaing, Naw Phaw El Htar, Nay Chi Shoon Lat, Min Hein, Academy Tekkatho Goon Pone, Sin Ma, Si Si, and Super Lin, among others.

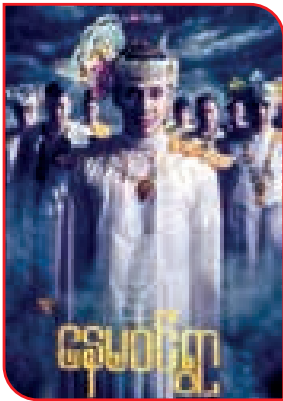


Htet Htet Tun

ACTOR Htet Htet Tun posted, "As my birthday is approaching, instead of thinking about how to celebrate, I find myself overwhelmed by thoughts of a mother's love. Under the shade of your love, I've taken shelter in every success and failure of life. Your support has been my strength, and your belief in me has helped me rise again. You placed your trust and hopes in your daughter, and for that, I love you. Thank you for always showering your love on this roguish daughter of yours and for always believing in me. I will keep doing my best so that your face continues to smile because of me."



BRIEF



Tun Tun

THE 'Nay Mawin Ywa' film, produced by actor Academy Tun Tun, set a record, and the actor appreciated all the participants, including director Ko Chan, for their efforts in creating the film. He expressed gratitude for their trust, kindness and efforts on his Facebook. — Htun Htun/KTZH

Exclusive premiere of 'Maya Kya' – A cinematic spectacle unveiled

THE premiere show of the 'Maya Kya' movie took place at the President Cinema in Yangon on 11 June. The story was created by Zeyatu and Thet Htin, while the shooting location and script were by Yazawin Ko and Min Ko Soe (Nat Than Kwin), and director Yazawin Ko directed it for Mata Myat Mi Khin Film Production.

"This film features a lot of artistes. It includes Htet Aung Shine, Nyi Htut Khaung, Tyron, Ko Khin Hlaing, and Ko Yan Aung. Also, Chue Lay, Wai Lar Yi, and Yamone Myint Myat are in it as well. We have portrayed it in a comedic story. The story

is about a plane crash, and everyone ends up on a small island. So, we created this kind of storyline. It is similar to some foreign films that include such a kind of plot. Everyone tries to fit into their characters, and it is a light-hearted comedy with fun and laughter," said actor Nyi Nanda.

Cast members are Academy Yan Aung, Tryon, Nyi Htut Khaung, Htet Aung Shine, Nyi Nanda, Khin Hlaing, Academy Chue Lay, Wai Lar Yi, and Yamone Myint Myat, among others. — ASH/KTZH

Artistes are seen at the premiere show.



WORLD

Trump to host military parade amid ‘No Kings’ protests

Nationwide protests called “No Kings” are expected against Trump’s influence.



The main stage for US Army’s 250th birthday celebration parade in front of the White House.
PHOTO: AFP

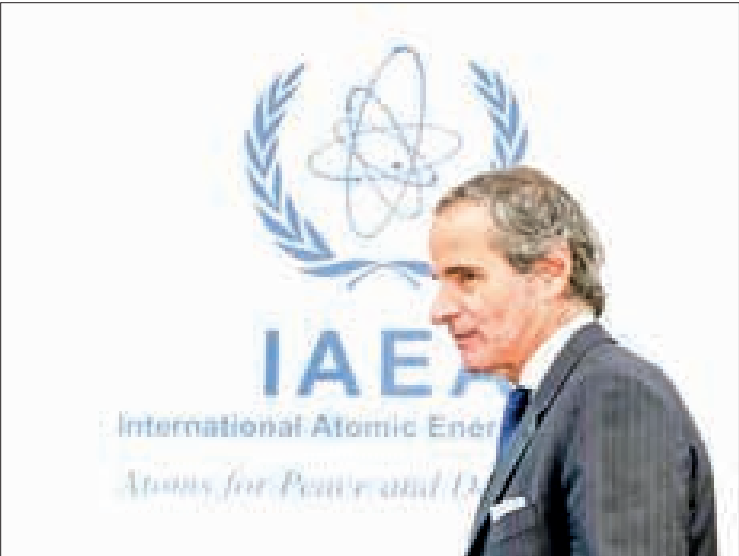
US President Donald Trump will preside over a huge military parade in Washington on his 79th birthday Saturday, as nationwide “No Kings” protests underscore America’s deep divisions over his second term.

Trump’s long-held dream of a parade will come true as nearly 7,000 troops plus dozens of tanks and helicopters rumble through the capital in an event

officially marking the 250th anniversary of the US army. The army says the event could cost up to \$45 million.

At the same time, protests by the so-called “No Kings” movement are expected across the United States against what organizers say is a Trump personality cult. Organizers said the rallies would be the largest since Trump returned to office

in January, adding that they were “rejecting authoritarianism, billionaire-first politics, and the militarization of our democracy”. Thousands more demonstrators are expected to turn out in Los Angeles to protest against Trump’s deployment of troops in America’s second-largest city following clashes sparked by immigration raids. — AFP



The IAEA Board resolution stressed its support for a diplomatic solution to the problems posed by the Iranian nuclear programme. PHOTO: AFP

Iran says nuclear talks with US now “meaningless” after Israeli strike: Report

IRAN’S Foreign Ministry on Saturday said that any talks with the United States over Tehran’s nuclear programme are now “meaningless” following Israel’s recent attack on Iranian territory, according to a report by Mehr News Agency (MNA).

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh stated that the US cannot claim to be negotiating while allegedly permitting Israel to carry out military strikes.

“The other side (the US) acted in a way that makes dialogue meaningless. You cannot claim to negotiate and at the same time divide work by allowing the Zionist regime (Israel) to target

Iran’s territory,” MNA, citing Baghaei, reported.

Baghaei also accused the US of supporting the Israeli attack. He said that the Israeli regime “succeeded in influencing” the diplomatic process and claimed the strike would not have happened without Washington’s permission.

Iran had previously accused the United States of being complicit in the Israeli military action. The sixth round of US-Iran nuclear talks was scheduled to take place on Sunday in Muscat. However, following the Israeli strikes, it remains unclear whether the meeting will proceed. — ANI

Wrongly deported Salvadoran migrant pleads not guilty to smuggling charges

THE Salvadoran migrant at the heart of a row over US President Donald Trump’s hardline deportation policies pleaded not guilty on Friday



Hundreds of Venezuelan and Salvadoran nationals were sent from the United States to the notorious maximum security CECOT facility in El Salvador.

to human smuggling charges.

Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, 29, was summarily deported by the Trump administration to El Salvador in March and brought back to the United States last week. He was immediately arrested on his return and charged in Nashville, Tennessee, with smuggling undocumented migrants around the United States between 2016 and 2025. Abrego Garcia entered a plea of not guilty to the criminal charges on Friday before a federal district judge, US media reported.

The US Supreme Court had ordered the Trump administration to “facilitate” the return of Abrego Garcia after he was mistakenly deported to a notorious maximum security prison in El Salvador. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-parliament chief Zandanshatar elected as new Mongolian PM

THE Mongolian parliament elected Friday its former chairman Gombojav Zandanshatar as the country’s new prime minister after his predecessor Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene resigned earlier this month following protests about his son’s lavish spending, local media reported. Zandanshatar garnered 108 of 117 votes cast in the country’s 126-member parliament. On 3 June Oyun-Erdene stepped down after failing to secure enough support in a vote of confidence.

The 55-year-old new prime minister is a banker-turned-lawmaker. He formerly served as chief of the Cabinet’s Secretariat as well as foreign minister and deputy farm minister. In March 2023, Zandanshatar traveled to Japan and met with Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. The imperial couple is scheduled to make an official visit to Mongolia in July. — Kyodo

ECONOMY
WORLD

Oil prices soar, stocks slide after Israel strikes Iran

Major airlines' shares fell due to flight suspensions in the Middle East.

OIL prices soared and stocks sank Friday after Israel launched strikes on Iran, prompting retaliation from Tehran and stoking fears of a full-blown war.

Oil futures rocketed more than 13 per cent at one point before coming back to gains nearer seven per cent, reigniting worries about a renewed spike to inflation.

After a down day in Europe and Asia, Wall Street indices spent the entire day in the red before finishing the day down more than one per cent.

"After having a pretty solid run in May and the first part of June, markets found an excuse to take some profits," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist of B Riley Wealth.

Shares in major airlines tumbled after flights around the



Airlines halted flights to and from Tel Aviv and other Middle East airports following Israel's strikes in Iran.
PHOTO: PIXABAY

Middle East were suspended.

The dollar climbed higher, while gold — viewed as a safe haven investment — was close to its record high of above \$3,500 an ounce set in April, having added around 30 per cent since the start of the year.

The drop in equities and rise in safe-haven assets "all go to show just how fragile sentiment remains in the face of major geopolitical events," said David Morrison, senior market analyst at financial services provider Trade Nation.

"The question now is whether investors view this flare-up as a relatively contained incident within the longstanding animosity between Israel and Iran, or if this is the spark that ignites a conflagration across the Middle East and then beyond?" — AFP

India-based GCCs emerge as global hubs for complex tax operations: Deloitte

GLOBAL companies are now using their India-based Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to run complex tax operations, covering corporate tax, indirect tax, transfer pricing, and litigation, according to a whitepaper report released by Deloitte, a multinational professional services firm.

The whitepaper said that GCCs in India have emerged as strategic hubs for tax-related functions, offering a unique blend of expertise, technology and cost efficiency.

"GCCs have become an integral part of the global tax ecosystem, providing organizations with a competitive edge in managing their tax functions," Deloitte's white paper, titled Transforming Global Tax Functions: The GCC Advantage, added. The Indian GCC landscape has witnessed significant growth, with many organizations establishing their tax Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in the

country, according to the paper, which was prepared by Manisha Gupta, Partner, Deloitte India.

Global Capability Centres, or GCCs, also known as captive centres or in-house centres, are strategically located facilities established by multinational corporations (MNCs) to provide specialised functions and services to their parent organizations.

The report adds that about 76 per cent of participants indicated they already undertake global tax processes from India.

"As more organizations pursue centralising tax functions, many have already established a tax CoE. The focus was on key tenets and building blocks to establish and expand a successful tax CoE," the report added. — ANI



The whitepaper said that GCCs in India have emerged as strategic hubs for tax-related functions. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOFTWARE AND SERVICE COMPANIES

BRIEF: ECON

Trump effectively approves Nippon Steel's takeover of US Steel

US President Donald Trump on Friday effectively approved a deal for Nippon Steel Corp to acquire United States Steel Corp, reversing his staunch opposition to the Japanese company's takeover bid after it committed to investing heavily in the struggling American producer.

Nippon Steel and US Steel said Trump has "approved" their "historic partnership that will unleash unprecedented investments in steelmaking in the United States," and protect and create more than 100,000 jobs.

In a statement, the two steelmakers thanked Trump for his "bold leadership and strong support" for their merger, adding that they have entered into a national security agreement with the US government. — Kyodo

Spain economy minister urges fair, balanced EU-US tariff deal

SPANISH Economy Minister Carlos Cuerdo said a tariff pact between the EU and Washington should be "fair and balanced", although both sides remain far from a deal as a July deadline approaches.

"There is still a long way to go to reach an agreement, but there remains the will to do so," Cuerdo told AFP in an interview on Thursday.

His comments came on the sidelines of a trip to Houston, Texas, as he sought to reassure Spanish businesses rattled by US President Donald Trump's wide-ranging tariffs. Trump has slapped a 10 per cent tariff on almost all trading partners including the European Union since returning to the presidency in January. He also threatened to impose heftier duties of 50 per cent on the bloc, although pausing the higher rate until 9 July. — AFP

US firms hit record office leasing volumes in India, Bengaluru, Hyderabad lead in growth: JLL



This strong presence reflects India's growing importance in long-term business strategies of American firms.
PHOTO: ANI

US-BASED companies achieved record-breaking office leasing volumes in India during the period from 2022 to Q1 2025, with 2024 marking the highest annual activity ever recorded, according to global real estate firm JLL.

The report highlighted that US-origin Global Capability Centres (GCCs) have played a major role in this growth, accounting for over two-thirds of all US corporate leasing in India.

This strong presence reflects India's growing importance in long-term business strategies of American firms.

JLL said "US firms achieved record-breaking office leasing volumes in India during 2022-Q1 2025.... US-origin Global Capability Centres (GCCs) dominate with over two-thirds share of all

US corporate leasing".

Technology remains the leading sector for US occupier activity in India.

However, the report also noted that GCCs in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector, as well as those focused on manufacturing, have shown the strongest growth in leasing activity.

This points to a shift in India's value proposition, expanding beyond traditional IT services to more diversified capabilities.

According to JLL, Bengaluru has reinforced its status as the top choice for US companies, accounting for 35 per cent of all leasing activity by American firms between 2022 and Q1 2025. — ANI

China's lithium-ion battery output up 68% in Jan-Apr

CHINA'S lithium-ion battery industry recorded a rapid growth in the first four months of this year, official data has shown.

The total output of lithium-ion batteries in the January-April period surpassed 473 gigawatt-hours (GWh), marking a 68 per cent increase year on year, according to the Ministry

of Industry and Information Technology. During the period, the output of such batteries for power storage exceeded 110 GWh, while the capacity of power batteries installed on new energy vehicles stood at around 184 GWh. Exports of lithium-ion batteries from January to April reached 155.4 billion yuan (about US\$21.7 billion), up 25 per cent year on year, according to the ministry.

The lithium-ion battery industry plays a vital part in China's green, low-carbon and sustainable development as the country strives to achieve its carbon reduction goals. — Xinhua



Scale AI founder Alexandr Wang will take to working on artificial intelligence at Meta as a result of the Silicon Valley tech giant making a big investment in the startup. **PHOTO: AFP**

Russia to remain world's largest wheat exporter: FAO

RUSSIA will remain the world's largest wheat exporter in the current and next agricultural years, continuing to account for more than a fifth of global supplies, according to Russian state-owned news agency RIA's calculation based on data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

FAO reported Thursday that global wheat exports in the 2024-2025 agricultural year will drop by approximately eight per cent to reach a four-year low of 193.3 million tonnes, and will only recover by 3.8 per cent to 200.6 million tonnes in the next season.

"The Russian Federation is likely to maintain its position as the world's leading wheat exporter," FAO analysts wrote.

According to the organization's forecasts, wheat exports from Russia in the 2024-2025

agricultural year will amount to 42.6 million tonnes, slightly higher than the previous three-year average of 42 million tonnes. Next year, this indicator will rise to 46.5 million tonnes. Thus, Russia will supply just over 22 per cent and 23 per cent to the world markets respectively, while in the previous three agricultural years, it supplied slightly less on average — 20.7 per cent. — Xinhua

Meta makes major investment in Scale AI, takes in CEO

META has made a major investment in AI startup Scale AI, valued at over \$29 billion, as its founder Alexandr Wang joins the tech giant amid intensifying competition in the artificial intelligence race.

Scale AI announced a major new investment by Meta late Thursday that values the startup at more than \$29 billion and puts its founder to work for the tech titan.

Company founder and chief executive Alexandr Wang will join Meta to help with the tech giant's own artificial intelligence efforts as part of the deal, according to the startup.

Meta was reportedly pouring more than \$10 billion into San Francisco-based Scale AI, and acquires its 28-year-old CEO amid fierce competition in the AI race with rivals such as OpenAI, Google and Microsoft. — AFP

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS DIGEST



Test firing of Iran's home-built surface-to-surface Fateh 110 missile. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

14 June

Iran launches missile strikes against Israel

IRAN launched a barrage of missiles at Israel early Saturday in retaliation for an Israeli attack on its nuclear and military facilities, which reportedly killed several top Iranians.

Air raid sirens and explosions were heard across Israel, prompting the military to advise residents to seek shelter. The Israeli military reported that dozens of missiles were fired, with some

intercepted.

Smoke was seen rising from downtown Tel Aviv, and reports indicated that 34 people were injured, including a woman who later died. In Tehran, explosions were reported near Mehrabad airport, and crowds celebrated Iran's military response. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged both nations to cease hostilities and pursue peace and diplomacy – AFP

13 June

Flight data recorder recovered from Ahmedabad crash

INDIAN Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu posted on social media on Friday that the flight data recorder (Black Box) of the crashed plane has been recovered from the accident site in Ahmedabad by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau.

"This marks an important step in the investigation and will greatly help the accident investigation," He posted.

The Hindustan Times reported on Friday that the black box of the plane had been found on the rooftop of a building aircraft crashed into. Air India's flight AI-171, a Boeing 787-8 aircraft, flying from the western Indian city of Ahmedabad to London, crashed on Thursday shortly after takeoff, killing 241 people on board with only one survivor – Xinhua

12 June

Survival and loss in Air India plane disaster

GRIEVING families are mourning at least 279 killed when a London-bound passenger jet crashed in India, with the victims in Ahmedabad ranging from a top politician to a teenage tea seller.

One man on board the plane, which was carrying 242 passengers and crew, miraculously survived the fiery crash on Thursday afternoon.

But that lone British citizen was the only story of escape from the jet.

Anil Patel expressed joy at seeing his son and daughter-in-law for the first time in two years, but was devastated by the tragedy that followed.

An Air India flight crashed into a canteen, killing at least 38 people on the ground. Junior doctor Mohit Chavda described escaping through thick smoke with zero visibility as the plane struck the building, leaving behind severe damage. – AFP

11 June

Migrant crossings into EU drop 20% in 2025

THE number of irregular migrant crossings into the European Union dropped by 20 per cent in the first five months of the year, the EU's border agency said Wednesday.

Warsaw-based Frontex said that a total of 63,700 crossings were detected this year, adding that the main nationalities were Afghan, Bangladeshi and Malian.

The biggest decreases in irregular crossings were seen in the Western Balkans (minus 56 per cent), the western African route (minus 35 per cent) and the eastern Mediterranean (minus 30

per cent).

There was also a seven per cent decrease in migrant crossings from Belarus into Poland and the Baltics to 5,062 crossings, Frontex said.

But it pointed to a slight increase of seven per cent in the number of migrants crossing the central Mediterranean towards Italy.

Frontex also said that the number of migrants attempting to cross into Britain via the Channel increased by 17 per cent to 25,540 compared to the first five months of 2024. – AFP

10 June

Greta Thunberg deported from Israel to Sweden

ISRAEL said campaigner Greta Thunberg left the country on a flight to Sweden via France on Tuesday, after she was detained along with other activists aboard a Gaza-bound aid boat.

Of the 12 people on board the Madleen carrying food and supplies for Gaza, five French activists were taken into custody after they refused to leave Israel voluntarily.

Israeli forces intercepted the boat, operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, in international waters on Monday and towed it to the port of Ashdod. They

were then transferred to Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, the foreign ministry said.

"Greta Thunberg just departed Israel on a flight to Sweden (via France)," Israel's foreign ministry said on its official X account on Tuesday, along with a photo of the activist sitting on board a plane.

Five French activists who were also aboard the Madleen were set to face an Israeli judge, the French foreign minister said. – AFP

9 June

Starmer pledges AI training partnership

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced a partnership with tech giants to train 7.5 million workers in artificial intelligence skills during London's Tech Week.

He emphasized the need for the UK to become an "AI maker" rather than a "taker." Major companies like Nvidia, Google, Microsoft, and Amazon will provide free training materials over five years.

Starmer highlighted the importance of building digital infrastructure to enhance public services and pledged £187 million in funding for tech development, including training for one million secondary school students.

His government aims to revitalize the economy with pro-growth AI regulations, positioning the UK as a leader in AI innovation. – AFP

8 June

Thailand closes border crossings amid tensions

THAILAND temporarily closed two border crossings with Cambodia after a Cambodian soldier was killed in recent clashes. Tensions have persisted between the two nations since fighting began in 2008, resulting in at least 28 deaths.

Following the latest violence on 28 May Thailand's military took control of border operations, citing security threats. While tourist crossings were suspended,

trade and Cambodian workers' entry remained unaffected.

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister expressed regret over Cambodia's refusal to withdraw troops from the area.

In response, Cambodia plans to file a complaint with the International Court of Justice regarding the border dispute, which has a history of unresolved tensions. – AFP

SPORTS



Myanmar women’s squad gears up for AFC Asian Cup qualifiers

THE Myanmar women’s national football team is currently conducting training sessions in preparation for the AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers scheduled for later this month.

The team is led by Japanese head coach Yuki Tatsuro and currently comprises over 30 preliminary players. Striker Win Theingi Tun, who plays for Sabah FC in Malaysia and forward May Htet Lu, who is pursuing her studies in the United States while playing for her college team, have recently joined the squad. Meanwhile, some players from the Myanmar U19 women’s team, who are currently participating in the ASEAN U19 Women’s

Championship, will join the national team after 19 June.

Myanmar is set to compete in three major international tournaments this year. The first is the AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers to be held from 29 June to 5 July. Group C matches, including those involving Myanmar, Bahrain, Bangladesh, and Turkmenistan, will take place at the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre in Yangon.

Following that, the team will compete in the ASEAN Women’s Championship from 6 to 19 August and the XXXIII SEA Games in December. — Shine Htet Zaw/KZL

The Myanmar women’s national football team is seen during a training session. PHOTO: MFF

Inter Milan likely to miss forward Taremi for Club World Cup

INTER Milan could be without striker Mehdi Taremi for the Club World Cup as the player has been unable to leave Iran, it was reported.

Italian media outlet La Gazzetta dello Sport reported that the outbreak of the conflict between Israel and Iran has interrupted Taremi’s travel plans.

Taremi played in Iran’s 3-0 win at home to DPR Korea on 10 June scoring the second goal in the World Cup qualifier and he was due to travel to Los Angeles to join with his Inter team-mates. Inter Milan is in Group E alongside Monterrey, River Plate and Urawa Reds.

— Xinhua



Iran’s forward (9) Mehdi Taremi greets the fans after the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier football match between Qatar and Iran at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha on 5 June 2025. PHOTO: KARIM JAAFAR / AFP

Burns fires 65 to grab US Open lead as big names stumble

SAM Burns matched the third-best US Open round ever fired at Oakmont, shooting a five-under par 65 to seize a one-stroke lead after Friday’s second round as big names struggled.

The 28-year-old American made six birdies against a lone bogey to stand on three-under 137 after 36 holes on the punishing layout.

"I t felt like I played really well. T o d a y was really nice," Burns said. "There’s obviously a lot of golf left on a very tough course."

The only two US Open rounds at Oakmont lower than Burns’s 65 were Johnny Miller’s final-round 63 to win in 1973 and a 64 by Loren Roberts in the 1994 third round.

American JJ Spaun made bogeys on three of the last four holes to shoot 72 and stand second on 138 with Norway’s Viktor Hovland third on 139 after a 68 — the top trio being the only players under par after 36 holes.

"I was definitely anxious to get back out here and see how the game would pan out, and it ended up being a pretty good day," Spaun said.

"It was more of a true US Open round, a lot of back and forth, a lot of grinding, bogeys. It was still an overall good day. I’m still right there."

World number 14 Hovland marvelled at 22nd-ranked Burns and his stunning round.

"Super impressive," Hovland called it. "It just feels like you have to play absolutely perfect and have some good breaks going your way, as well, but it’s definitely doable."

— AFP



American Sam Burns fired a five-under par 65, matching the third-best US Open round ever fired at Oakmont, to grab the lead after two rounds. PHOTO: AFP



A neighbourhood near a forested area in Jundiai, São Paulo. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sao Paulo's pumas under attack as 'stone jungle' threatens rainforest

From injured pumas to shrinking forests, a wild cat refuge near São Paulo is racing to protect Brazil's top predators as urban sprawl closes in on their natural habitat. Apartment blocks and shopping centres sprout like mushrooms around a wild cat sanctuary that shelters pumas recovering from injuries suffered at the hands of mankind in Brazil's Sao Paolo state. The Mata Ciliar refuge stretches over the equivalent of 40 football fields just 90

Urbanization is threatening pumas as their natural habitats shrink, forcing them closer to human settlements in search of food.

kilometres (56 miles) from the state capital Sao Paulo — Latin America's biggest metropolis. Twenty-five pumas and 10 jaguars are receiving treatment at the centre — including Barreiro, a five-year-old puma named after the semi-rural neighbourhood where he was found caught in a trap made with a steel cable. Barreiro is being treated for a deep cut to the hip. Urbanization is threatening pumas as their natural habitats shrink, forcing them closer to human settlements in search of food. This leads to increased risks of accidents, poaching, and potential extinction of several species. The situation is critical for wildlife in São Paulo. — AFP

Uber to launch driverless taxis in London next year

Ride-hailing firm Uber will launch self-driving taxis in London next year when England trials new driverless services.

RIDE-HAILING firm Uber will launch self-driving taxis in London next year when England trials new driverless services, the firm and the UK government said on Tuesday. Under the Uber pilot scheme, services will initially have a human in the driver's seat who can take control of the vehicle in an emergency, but the trials will eventually transition to being fully driverless. The government announcement will see companies including Uber allowed to trial commercial driverless services without a human presence for the first time in the UK. They will include taxis and "bus-like" services. Uber CEO Andrew Macdonald highlighted London's roads as among the busiest globally, emphasizing the company's vision for safe and reliable autonomous transport. — AFP



Robotaxis are already making forays in some other cities around the world, for instance in Wuhan, China, where tech giant Baidu's Apollo Go self-driving project is operational. **PHOTO: PEDRO PARDO / AFP/FILE**

Google turns internet queries into conversations



Researchers are using generative AI models to create training data for robots, enhancing their ability to learn and perform tasks. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/PIXABAY**

Google now lets you listen to search results with AI-powered Audio Overviews, providing spoken summaries of query results.

GOOGLE now lets you listen to search results with AI-powered Audio Overviews. Google on Friday began letting people turn online searches into conversations, with generative artificial intelligence providing spoken summaries of query results. With Audio Overviews, Gemini AI models quickly sum up query results in conversational style, according to Google. "An audio overview can help you get a lay of the land, offering a convenient, hands-free way to absorb information whether you're multitasking or simply prefer an audio experience," Google said in a blog post. "We display helpful web pages right within the audio player on the search results page so you can easily dive in and learn more". — AFP