

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Myanmar, Yunnan negotiates to boost bilateral trade

**M**yanmar and Yunnan Province explored the potential to expand bilateral trade, cross-border investment and business ties, according to the Myanmar Economic Counsellor in Kunming.

Representatives from Kunming-

ASEAN International Trade and Investment Promotion Association and the Consul-General of Myanmar in Kunming negotiated bilateral trade promotion and investment matters on 15 May 2026.

The association showed willingness to invest in Myanmar's energy and infra-

structure sector. Myanmar's Economic Counsellor also discussed boosting exports of Myanmar's premium quality rice, Pawsan rice, beans, maize, cotton, bamboo, coffee, rubber and other agricultural produce and requested them to increase imports in accordance with the import promotion policy of China.

The meeting also highlighted businesspeople information exchange to drive long-term economic integration. Business people from Yunnan province are also invited to come to Myanmar and negotiate with the chambers of commerce for further investments. — NN/KK

## Condo Projects Spark Job Boom in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw



A 3D scale model of the upcoming Aung Zay Ya City Condominium project. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

**T**he implementation of condominium projects is underway in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw for public housing, and these projects are creating job opportunities, according to the Real Estate and Car Expo held at the Yangon Convention Centre yesterday.

“The condominium projects being carried out in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw are large-scale projects. The developers are experienced and well-known in the construction sector. The buildings being con-

structed in Yangon are located in convenient transport areas and are attractive places to live, while the condominiums in Nay Pyi Taw are being built in peaceful and accessible locations, and Mandalay as well. Such construction projects create job opportunities for locals. Yoma Land Construction provided jobs for about 2,000 workers and nearly 400 staff. The condominium construction periods can take up to three years. These projects not only provide jobs for those seeking employment but also

offer clean, pleasant and conveniently located residential units where families can live peacefully and happily,” said Daw Yi Wyne Oo, managing director of Wyne Estate Co Ltd.

The government implements low-cost and affordable housing, and the private construction sectors are also implementing housing and condominium projects. Through balanced cooperation among departments, landowners and contractors in the development of housing and condominium apartments, beneficial residen-

tial projects for the public are expected to emerge. When the government allocates apartments to the public, the contractors also want the government to create an opportunity to purchase from the contractors. With proper cooperation among all stakeholders in the construction of housing and condominiums, the public will not only be able to purchase homes and live peacefully, but such projects will also create employment opportunities within the region. — Oktha/KTZH

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# 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 Thin Thu Naing, Rector of Polytechnic University (Kengtung) of the Department of Advanced Science and Technology under the Ministry of Science and Technology, as the Rector of the University of Information Technology from the date she assumes charge of her duties.

## China Film Festival Week 2026 set for Nay Pyi Taw

AIMING to further strengthen friendship, cultural exchange, and people-to-people ties between Myanmar and China, the “2026 Chinese Film Festival Week” will be held from 8 to 11 June at the JCGV Cinema inside Ocean Shopping

Centre in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. Seven Chinese films with Myanmar subtitles will be screened during the film festival, and the public will be able to attend and watch them free of charge. — MNA/TH

## Yangon to host “IT IS 2” group art exhibition

THE “IT IS 2” Group Art Exhibition will be held from 30 May to 3 June at Artistic Space Art Gallery in Yangon, according to the gallery’s organizers.

The exhibition will feature a wide range of artworks created by local artists, including AD Oo, Alice Zin, Aung Aung Oo, Aung Thu Hein, Hsu Le Naing, Kay Thwe Han, Kyu Kyu Lwin, Lin Set, MAARA, May Thu Wun, Min Zin, M Wint, Nay Lin Soe, Ummar, Nay Thwal, Phyo Min Thein, Soe Yin, Than Htike Soe, Thara Phyu Htoo and Zin Paing.


Visitors will be able to view paintings in different styles and mediums, including watercolour, oil painting and acrylic works, with artworks covering various themes and artistic concepts. The exhibition will also present paintings in multiple sizes, including 24 into 24 inches, 36 into 24 inches, 18 into 24 inches and 18 into 18 inches.

A gallery official said the exhibition will be open daily from 10 am to 5 pm throughout the event period and invited art enthusiasts and the public to attend and support the exhibition. — ASH/KZL



This image displays a catalogue for the “IT IS 2” Group Art Exhibition.

Ministry of Education



2026-2027 academic year

“Let’s enrol every school-age child in school to improve the lives of young people”

School Enrolment Week from 25 to 31 May 2026

Ministry of Education



2026-2027 academic year

“Let’s enrol all school-age children to build a beautiful future for the country”

School Enrolment Week from 25 to 31 May 2026

## Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Statement 6/2026

1. The right to education is a fundamental right that every human being is entitled to. The right to education is articulated in Article 26 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in Articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Myanmar is a State Party. It is also explicitly stipulated in Section 366 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008), Sections 46 and 47 of the Child Rights Law, and Sections 20 to 25 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law.
2. It has been observed that the relevant authorities are urging and undertaking awareness-raising to ensure that all school-age children, including children with disabilities, can enrol in school and receive education for the 2026-2027 academic year. Since the high educational attainment of citizens is essential for building a modern and developed nation, promoting education will bring benefits, such as enhancing each child’s morality and reasoning, improving their ability to be self-reliant, and contributing to the development of family and socioeconomic life. Furthermore, it will help develop a new generation of human resources capable of contributing to the sustainable development of the nation.
3. Therefore, in compliance with the State’s motto, “Let’s ensure education sector for the development of the Nation”, it is earnestly urged and called upon to the parents, relevant authorities, and the entire public to collectively cooperate and take action for ensuring the enrollment of school-aged children, including children with disabilities, according to the academic year, their return to the classrooms, and their access to basic education as well as vocational training.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission  
Date: 29 May 2026

## Basic photography course opens in July

WITH the purpose of encouraging young, talented photographers to appear, a basic photography training course has been planned to be conducted in July, said the Myanmar Photographic Society.

It is a theoretical and practical basic photography training course, and is organized once a year as part of sharing knowledge about photography.

Local famous photographers will lead the training course, which will also feature lectures by top professional photographers.

It is the 51<sup>st</sup> batch conducted by the Myanmar Photographic Society



Professional photographers who will lead the basic photography training course.

ety and will be opened on 1 July. It will accept limited trainees, and registrations will start on 1 June. Early registrations are welcome to the Myanmar Photographic

Society located on 35<sup>th</sup> Street (lower block) near the Indian Embassy between Bank Road and Merchant Road in Kyauktada Township at 09 420355570. — MT/ZS

# NATIONAL



Vice-President U Nyo Saw and State dignitaries observe the Five Precepts from Members of the Sangha led by Thanlyin's Minkyaung Sayadaw.

## Vice-President U Nyo Saw offers religious titles and certificates to monks who passed 78<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination

**A** ceremony to honour 100 members of the Sangha who passed the 78<sup>th</sup> Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination organized by the Department of Religious Affairs under the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held in conjunction with the certificate presentation ceremony at the Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday morning.

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyo Saw, his wife Daw San San Aye and State dignitaries took the Five Precepts from Chair of the Ovadacariya Group for the examination Presiding Patron of Moegaung Monastery in Hinthada of Ayeyawady Region Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sudhammacara Bhivamsa.

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chair Thanlyin's

From 1948 to 2026, the examinations have produced 18 distinguished monks, and the 78<sup>th</sup> examination produced Ashin Vicittasara as the 18<sup>th</sup> distinguished monk who memorizes the Tipitaka Canon.

Minkyaung Pahtamabyan Buddhism Learning Centre Presiding Patron Dr Bhaddanta Candima Bhivamsa gave a Saraniya Ovadakatha.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Tin Oo Lwin presented the religious affairs.

Vice-President U Nyo Saw offered Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title and a certificate to Ashin Vicittasara of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region and Mula Abhidhammika title and a certificate to Ashin Gandhama of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Township of Yangon Region.

Union Ministers Dr Thet

Khaing Win, U Htein Lin and U Tin Oo Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and officials presented Mula Abhidhammika title and certificates to two monks, Dighanikayakovida title and certificates to three monks, Dighabhanaka title and a certificate to a monk, Vinayakovida title and certificates to seven monks, Vinayadhara title and certificates to 28 monks, Ubhato Vibhangakovida title and certificates to 11 monks and Ubhato Vibhangadhara title and certificates to 46 monks.

The Vice-President, his wife and congregation listened to the sermon delivered by SS-MNC Secretary Presiding Pa-

tron of Mandalay's Masoyein Taikthit Monastery Sayadaw of Dhammathameikdi Monastery Aggamaha Pandita Aggamaha Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Bhaddanta Vasettha and shared merits gained.

The ceremony was also attended by Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, supervisor Sayadaws for the examination, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Yangon Command, the Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw, regional ministers and officials.

The Vice-President, his wife and congregation donated alms

to the monks who passed the examination. They also viewed around the booths on religious affairs from the first to the sixth Buddhist Synod in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sixth Buddhist Synod in the cave.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination aims to honour the Pariyatti Sasana and produce the distinguished monks who have memorized the Tipitaka Canon. From 1948 to 2026, the examinations have produced 18 distinguished monks, and the 78<sup>th</sup> examination produced Ashin Vicittasara as the 18<sup>th</sup> distinguished monk who memorizes the Tipitaka Canon.

— MNA/TTA



Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo presides over the fourth meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission yesterday.

## MIC approves 12 new investment projects

THE fourth meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) was held yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Minister U Mya Tun Oo, who is also chairman of the commission, and members of the commission attended the meeting.

The meeting approved one new foreign investment from the capital increase

of ongoing investments and 11 new local investment projects in the industry, hotel, tourism, transport and communication sectors. The investment amount of these businesses is US\$47.605 million and K299,773.639 million, which can create 4,879 job opportunities.

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# NATIONAL

## Legal Experts Urged to Modernize Outdated Laws

EFFORTS must be made to ensure that the people can live peacefully and safely under legal protection and enjoy the improvement of their interests, said U Khin Yi, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, at the meeting with Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung, Deputy Speaker U Kyaw Kyaw Soe, members of the Committee for Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues and the Bill Committee and legal experts yesterday afternoon.

At the Pearl Hall of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, the Pyithu Speaker heard the reports on the formation of the Committee for Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues by the Region Hluttaw Speaker.

On the occasion, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker urged the legal experts to provide recommendations and discussions regarding the amendment, supplementation, or replacement of existing laws that are no longer in line with the times, as well as the enactment of new laws that should be introduced in accordance with contemporary conditions.

He stressed that efforts must be made to ensure that the people can live peacefully and safely under legal protection and enjoy the improvement of their interests.

He noted that it is necessary to enact laws that are required to safeguard the national interests of the country in regional and



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw and legal experts yesterday.

international relations.

Currently, he continued that priority will be given to promptly enacting an anti-online scam law that is aligned with the current situation of the State.

The Region Hluttaw Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, members

of the Bill Committee and the Committee for Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, as well as retired legal experts, discussed the legislative measures in their respective sectors. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker reviewed their discussions.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker cordially conversed with Hluttaw representatives who are attending the workshop on project, budget and monetary management at the training hall of the Region Hluttaw Office. — MNA/TTA



The Chinese ambassador calls on Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein yesterday.

## Union Education Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein received Ms Ma Jia, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, yesterday at the reception hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw.

They exchanged views on providing scholarships to students from the University of Education and

Education Degree Colleges, as well as to qualified teachers pursuing master's degrees in teacher education-related courses at universities in the People's Republic of China, and on further promoting bilateral cooperation in the education sector between the two countries. — MNA/MKKS

## MIC approves 12 new investment projects

FROM PAGE 3

These businesses included the oil extraction, hotel and shopping centre, port service, animal feed production, cotton cultivation, refined oil production, sheep and goat farming, biscuit production and distribution, bread and bakery production and distribution, pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution, motorcycle inner tube manufacturing, wig manufacturing and distribution, aluminium production and distribution, and garment manufacturing businesses.

As of the end of April 2026, among the 53 foreign countries, Singapore, China, and Thailand are the leading countries with the largest foreign investments in the country. Of 12 sectors, the electricity sector accounts for 28.29 per cent by drawing the most significant investments, followed by the oil and natural gas sector at 24.61 per cent and the manufacturing sector at 14.68 per cent.

The Myanmar Investment Commission oversees and approves investment project proposals from locals and overseas, and provides services to the existing investors under the Myanmar Investment Law. — MNA/KTZH

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# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw members must build capable, reliable, combat-ready Tatmadaw

DEFENCE Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, accompanied by his wife Daw Nang Kue Ku, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, the commander of the Eastern Command and officials, met Tatmadaw members and families at Aung San Hall in Bahtoo Station yesterday afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the General underscored that Tatmadaw must strive to fulfill the essential requirement of ensuring peace and stability in the State to firmly pursue the path of a genuine and disciplined multiparty democratic system and to build a Union based on democracy and a federal system, adding that all Tatmadaw members need to make strenuous efforts to build a capable and combat-ready Tatmadaw that the people can rely on and trust.



Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin warmly greets Tatmadaw members and their families from the Bahtoo Station yesterday.

Training schools have to systematically produce capable and powerful Tatmadaw members for Tatmadaw.

The General warned that special attention must be given

to preventing involvement in the trafficking, sale, and use of narcotic drugs, which are destructive to humankind and that effective action will be taken against anyone found to be involved.

He underlined that every Tatmadaw member must take training for physical strength so as to serve the defence and security duties of the State.

He stressed that Tatmadaw

members and their family members were urged to remain loyal to the State and Tatmadaw, and to continue upholding the noble traditions and proud historical legacy of Tatmadaw, which has steadfastly stood at the forefront in defending the country through various difficulties faced under successive governments and across different eras.

He noted that they have to ensure that their children become well-educated, as the only inheritance they can provide is an education.

After the meeting, the General presented foodstuffs for Tatmadaw members and families through the station commander. Likewise, the wife of the General gave cash awards for the station's maternal and child welfare association through officials. The General and the party cordially greeted Tatmadaw members and family members who attended the meeting. — MNA/TTA

## MNPIFER Union Minister receives UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received a delegation led by Ms Gwyn Lewis, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coor-

dinator (UNRCO) ad interim for Myanmar, yesterday at Office 1 of the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

They frankly discussed matters relating to the co-

operation between the government entities and UN agencies for more effective and efficient implementation of the UN's projects in Myanmar and future cooperation programmes. — MNPIFER



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim for Myanmar Ms Gwyn Lewis calls on Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe.

## MoIP Union Minister receives UN RC/HC ad interim



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing meets the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim for Myanmar yesterday.

UNION Minister for Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing received a delegation led by Ms Gwyn Lewis, United Nations Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim in Myanmar, at the ministry's reception hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides cordially and openly exchanged views on the ministry's ongoing bilateral cooperation with the Government

of Bangladesh regarding the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State, the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the ministry and UNDP-UNHCR in connection with the process, arrangements for personnel from UN agencies in Maungtau region and their family members to temporarily reside in Yangon until conditions stabilize, the need for UN agen-

cies in Myanmar to brief the United Nations Headquarters using accurate information and facts on the current situation in the country, and the conditions under which the ministry will continue to cooperate and collaborate with UN organizations.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Ministers U Lin Zaw Tun and Dr Khaing Khaing Soe, together with other officials. — MNA/TH

# NATIONAL

## Defence Services Deputy C-in-C inspects training schools, regiments, units and Tatmadaw hospital in Bahtoo Cantonment

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin, accompanied by senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the commander of the Eastern Command and officials, inspected training schools, local regiments and units, and the Tatmadaw hospital in Bahtoo Cantonment yesterday.

At the trainee mess hall of the Tatmadaw (Army) Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Training School in Bahtoo Cantonment, the General inspected the storage of rations, meat, fish and vegetables at the stores, the cooking process, and meal preparations. He gave instructions on spraying for the prevention of mosquitoes and flies in order to ensure the healthy



Defence Services Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin looks into the quality seeds of crops on display at yesterday's event.

conditions at the mess halls, systematically keeping rations neat and tidy, growing crops and plantations farmed by the mess halls, and providing nutritious meals for trainees under the set rates. The General cordially greeted the People's Military Servant trainees.

The General inspected the training sessions in the compound of the training school, hostels, lecture halls and the booth of the Tatmadaw (Army) Officer Training School (Bahtoo).

In the afternoon, the General and party had lunch together

with trainees from the infantry commanding officer course at Myawady Mess Hall of the Tatmadaw (Army) Combat Forces Training School.

The General also inspected the Animal Husbandry and Training Battalion in Bahtoo Cantonment and instructed officials to strive to achieve actual success in operating the agriculture and livestock activities, and initiate the agriculture and livestock zone as a model in the region, and other measures.

He observed the display of quality seeds of crops and viewed around thriving seasonal crops in the greenhouses at the compound of the battalion, the packaging process of quality seeds of vegetables in the seed packaging room, and the storage of seeds at the store.

General Kyaw Swa Lin, together with his wife Daw Nang Kue Ku, and officials, visited the Tatmadaw Hospital in Bahtoo Cantonment and individually inquired about the health of Tatmadaw members and their families, about their illness, medical treatment, and progress in health recovery, and presented foodstuffs. The General viewed the Portable Digital Dental X-ray machine provided by the Head of State and the CT scan.

Daw Nang Kue Ku, the wife of the General, and the party visited the Maternal and Child Care Ward, where they comforted the patients receiving medical treatment and presented foodstuffs. The General inspected the local regiments and units by car. — MNA/TTA

## Myanmar attends Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Myo Zaw Thein attended the Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum organized by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) at the Beijing International Convention Centre, in Beijing, China, from 27 to 28 May.

The initiative brings together 54 countries and nine international organizations to share experience and explore pathways to eradicate poverty.

At the opening ceremony, Chinese Vice-Premier Liu Guozhong, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made an opening speech.

During the forum, the establishment of the Global Partnership for Poverty Alleviation and Development (GPPAD) was officially announced. The purpose of the alliance is to promote experience-sharing and cooperation in poverty reduction, rural development with public participation, and sustainable development based on mutual respect and benefit. The



The Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum is underway in Beijing on 27-28 May, attended by Union Minister U Myo Zaw Thein.

meeting also approved the GPPAD Charter, elected the chairperson and vice-chairpersons of the committee, and adopted the GPPAD Action Plan.

At noon, the forum was held in four parallel sessions. Ministers, deputy ministers, and representatives delivered speeches in their respective groups. The Union minister delivered a speech in Sub-Forum 3: Social Equity and Inclusive Development, reaffirming Myanmar's support for cooperation, people-centred rural development, and sustainable poverty reduction. He also emphasized that Myanmar will continue to cooperate with international partner countries to build an inclusive and sustaina-

ble development environment.

On 28 May, the Union minister and party visited Pinggu District in Beijing to observe China's implemented village-level poverty reduction efforts and projects related to rural development, modern agriculture, clean energy use, and improvement of living standards.

Moreover, they studied the practical development systems implemented to improve the socioeconomic status of locals and reduce poverty, and exchanged experiences and achievements for the sustainable development of rural areas.

The Union minister and party arrived back in Myanmar yesterday. — MAN/KTZH

## MSWRR Union Minister receives UN RC/HC ad interim

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win received Ms Gwyn Lewis, United Nations Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim in Myanmar, yesterday afternoon at the ministry's reception hall.

They exchanged views on the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation between the ministry and international non-governmental

organizations, humanitarian assistance, visas and domestic travel arrangements for foreign workers, Mandalay earthquake recovery efforts, and mine awareness.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Department of Disaster Management and the Department of Social Welfare, relevant experts, and representatives from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Yangon. — MNA/MKKS



The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim for Myanmar calls on Union Minister Dr Soe Win.

# NATIONAL

## People's Military Service Training 23 concludes nationwide

EVERY citizen holds a fundamental duty to uphold the "Our Three Main National Causes": the non-disintegration of the Union, the non-disintegration of national solidarity, and the perpetuation of sovereignty. In fulfilment of these responsibilities, young people who enthusiastically registered have been undergoing training, and the graduation ceremonies for People's Military Service Training 23 were held yesterday at various

training depots across the respective military commands.

The ceremonies followed the training graduation schedule, with the graduates taking an oath while holding the national flag. The officials awarded the outstanding trainees.

After the ceremony, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, the region and state chief ministers, commanders and relevant officials cordially greeted the graduates.



The graduation ceremony of the People's Military Service Training (Batch 23) is in progress yesterday in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region.

During the training, trainees were provided with systematic instruction in physical fitness, military drill, combat tactics, and general subjects.

Those who have completed their training and are now undertaking their roles in national defence and security.

In the evening, dinners

were hosted at each training depot in honour of the graduates of the People's Military Service Training 23. — MNA/KTZH

## Tachilek's concrete road construction inspected



Officials oversee the ongoing concrete road construction work in Tachilek Township.

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Tachilek District, Shan State (East), inspected the ongoing concrete road construction work in old Panau Village, Tachilek Township, on the morning of 29 May.

The project implementation is underway for the 2026-2027 financial year to improve transport and connectivity for rural residents.

During the inspection, Township DRD Officer Daw Lei Lei Thin and project staff, together with members of the Village Development Committee, inspected the construction of the village concrete road measuring 280 feet in length, 10 feet in width, and six inches in thickness.

Afterwards, the township DRD officer met village elders and residents and emphasized the importance of completing the project within the

timeframe in accordance with the specified standards to ensure the road's long-term sustainability. Necessary coordination and support were also provided.

The concrete road construction project is being implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) with financial support of K15 million from the project fund and K1.65 million contributed by local people, totalling K16.65 million. Villagers themselves carried out the project under the close supervision of DRD staff since the third week of May this year, and it is currently 45 per cent completed.

Upon completion, the road is expected to improve transport significantly for residents. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

## SWRR Deputy Minister inspects rehabilitation task in Tonzang

CHAIRMAN of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Than Soe, together with Vice Chairman of the committee and Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Khin Maung Htwe, the Secretary of the Chin State government, and deputy directors-general from Union ministries, inspected damage to government buildings and residents' houses in Tonzang Township yesterday.

They later attended a donation ceremony for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Tonzang Township held at the Basic Education High School in the township.



Deputy Minister Dr Than Soe and officials inspect rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Tonzang, Chin State.

The deputy minister and the state minister said they had come to assist in rebuilding the damaged areas. They added that administrative functions had resumed in Tonzang Township and stressed the need for all stakeholders to work together to strengthen governance and the rule of law. They also provided

relief supplies for the rehabilitation of Tonzang Township and donated K13,689,900 to support 39 households comprising 265 residents in purchasing rice, oil, salt, beans, and fish-paste sufficient for two weeks. Township elders and officials received the provision of assistance on behalf of the residents. — District IPRD/MKKS

## Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 29 May 2026

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, construction materials, telecommunications equipment, animal feed, and consumer goods. The CMP sector revenue contributed US\$3.95 million to the edible oil sector; US\$3,480.00 to the non-trade sector; and US\$2,651.19 to the CMP sector. — MNA

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653.00~3,669.00	555.30~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	16,223,278.06	6,122,489.09	18,476,694.62	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

# OPINION

## Launch Specialized Initiatives for Children Owed an Education

IT IS the inherent duty of young people to acquire education properly during the age of learning. If they fail to learn effectively during their school years, they will come to realize and suffer the negative consequences only when they grow older. Only through formal education can one become well-equipped with knowledge and skills, as well as develop higher levels of thinking and understanding.

Children who are supposed to be attending school and receiving an education are, due to misconceptions and environmental influences, stopping their learning before completing their education. Not attending school or failing to go to school during school age is tantamount to destroying one's own life, and it also causes significant losses and harm to both parents and the State. Children who have become increasingly distant from education are now directly experiencing the negative consequences of not attending school and lacking education, and their life goals have become unclear and lost. Hence, the Ministry of Education is emphasizing on producing a large number of well-educated individuals who are equipped with knowledge and skills, ensuring that there is no discrimination in education, leaving no one behind, and eliminating school dropouts. It is continuously striving to ensure that all school-age children attend school, remain in school, and complete at least KG+9.

The State Government and the Ministry of Education have been implementing a special programme for out-of-school children. The programme aims to enable students who, for various reasons, have been out of school since the 2021-2022 academic year from basic education schools, private or independent schools, and monastic education schools to resume their studies.

Some school-age children have been away from school campuses for five years. As a result, they may experience feelings of embarrassment and inferiority, which could lead to difficulties in attending school regularly. Now, it is also implementing a Placement Test (special programme) for out-of-school children by relaxing certain established policies to facilitate their return to school. This programme covers all children who have previously attended basic education schools, private or independent schools, or monastic education schools, and who are not over 15 years of age.

As "education is something that cannot be stopped," the Government is striving to ensure that all children are included and have equal access to education. In the same way, families must also provide support, and the community must encourage them as well. It is also necessary for those responsible within the education sector to work together and guide them forward.

### 1. Introduction

Every year on 31 May, the world observes World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), a global campaign led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness of the devastating health consequences of tobacco use and to advocate for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The theme for WNTD 2026 is "Unmasking the Appeal — Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction" — a powerful call to expose the evolving strategies of the tobacco and nicotine industry and to advance policies that protect young people and communities from addiction.

The 2026 campaign focuses on three core objectives: exposing the tobacco and nicotine industry's strategies — including the use of synthetic nicotine, nicotine salts, and analogues designed to enhance addiction potential while being marketed as innovative or less harmful; promoting stronger policy action through bans on flavours, advertising and promotion (including digital and social media), and stricter regulation of packaging and product design that increase youth appeal; and empowering youth and the public by providing knowledge and tools to recognize and resist industry influence, while ensuring access to evidence-based cessation support.

Tobacco use remains the world's single largest preventable cause of death, killing more than eight million people every year. With the global tobacco and nicotine industry aggressively targeting youth through e-cigarettes, flavoured nicotine products, and social media campaigns, countering addiction at its source has never been more urgent.

### 2. What Is Tobacco?

Tobacco is a plant-based product that contains nicotine, a highly addictive substance. When tobacco leaves are burned, smoked, chewed, or heated, they release a toxic mixture of more than 7,000 chemicals, at least 250 of which are known to be harmful and more than 70 of which can cause cancer. Tobacco is consumed in many forms — cigarettes, cigars, bidis, pipes, smokeless tobacco (such as chewing tobacco and snuff), heated tobacco products (HTPs), and electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes or ENDS).

Nicotine, the primary addictive chemical in tobacco, activates the brain's reward system by stimulating the release of dopamine, creating a cycle of dependence. Once addicted, users find it extremely difficult to quit, even when confronted with severe health consequences. This addiction potential is precisely why the tobacco industry has long targeted young people — early initiation leads to lifelong dependency and profit.

Electronic cigarettes — battery-powered devices that heat a liquid to produce an aerosol — are the tobacco industry's newest vehicle for recruiting young users. Marketed as 'safer' or as smoking cessation tools, e-cigarettes deliver nicotine along with a cocktail of toxic chemicals, including formaldehyde, acrolein, and glycerin decomposition products, many of which are classified as known or probable carcinogens by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

### 3. The Global Burden of Tobacco

Tobacco use is one of the world's greatest public health challenges. According to the WHO Global Tobacco Epidemic Report 2023, tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year, accounting for nearly one-sixth of all global deaths. More than 80 per cent of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco users live in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of tobacco-related disease and economic loss falls most heavily on the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

## WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2026 31 May 2026

# Unmasking the Appeal: Myanmar's Comprehensive Approach to Countering Nicotine and Tobacco Addiction

By Dr Aung Tun



### Key tobacco findings from the Myanmar STEPS Survey 2024 include:

- Current tobacco smoking prevalence: 23.3 per cent of adults aged 18-69 years currently smoke tobacco (males 40.9 per cent; females 2.9 per cent), representing a notable reduction from the 2014 STEPS Survey figure of 26 per cent.
- Daily smoking prevalence: 18.1 per cent of adults smoke tobacco daily (males 31.8 per cent; females 2.2 per cent), with 55.4 per cent of daily smokers using manufactured cigarettes.
- Mean cigarettes per day: Among daily smokers, the mean number of manufactured cigarettes smoked per day is 2.7 overall (males 2.8; females 1.1) — with urban daily smokers consuming more (3.5 sticks/day) than rural smokers (2.2 sticks/day).
- Gender disparity: Tobacco smoking remains overwhelmingly male-dominated. Male prevalence (40.9 per cent) is approximately 14 times higher than female prevalence (2.9 per cent), reflecting deeply entrenched social norms around tobacco use.
- Tobacco types among male daily smokers:

Manufactured cigarettes are the most common (mean 2.8/day), followed by hand-rolled cigarettes (mean 0.9/day), cigars/cheroots/cigarillos (mean 2.8/day), and pipes (mean 0.1/day). Shisha use is negligible (0.0 sessions/day).

- Urban vs rural pattern: Urban male daily smokers consume more manufactured cigarettes (mean 3.5/day) compared to rural counterparts (mean 2.2/day), suggesting higher product availability and marketing exposure in urban settings.

While the reduction in overall smoking prevalence from 26 per cent (2014) to 23.3 per cent (2024) reflects positive progress, the absolute burden remains high. The persistently large gender gap — with male smoking rates nearly 14 times higher than female rates — highlights the need for targeted cessation interventions for adult males. The continued use of traditional tobacco products such as hand-rolled cigarettes and cheroots, especially in rural areas, underscores the complexity of Myanmar's tobacco landscape. E-cigarette use among Myanmar youth, which rose from 6.8 per cent in 2011 to 8.3 per cent in 2016 per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), is likely to have accelerated further given the global proliferation of cheap disposable vapes before Myanmar's comprehensive ENDS ban

The health consequences of tobacco use are devastating and wide-ranging. Tobacco causes lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardiovascular disease, stroke, and numerous other cancers affecting the mouth, throat, oesophagus, stomach, kidney, cervix, and bladder. According to the Myanmar STEPS Survey 2024, 23.3 per cent of adults currently smoke tobacco, with male prevalence (40.9 per cent) far exceeding female prevalence (2.9 per cent). According to the WHO Global Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2016 report, among youths, 30 per cent of boys and 8.5 per cent of girls smoked cigarettes.

The global rise of e-cigarette use represents a new and alarming dimension of the tobacco epidemic. The estimated global e-cigarette market attracted 82 million users by 2021, up from 68 million in 2020 — a 20.6 per cent increase in a single year. Market

analysts project the global ENDS industry to reach US\$55 billion in annual revenue by 2030, driven by aggressive expansion into developing markets across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Children are being deliberately recruited as the next generation of nicotine-dependent consumers.

### 4. Myanmar's Tobacco Situation

The most current and comprehensive picture of tobacco use in Myanmar comes from the Myanmar STEPS Survey 2024 — a population-based survey of NCD risk factors conducted from 10 November to 12 December among 8,252 adults aged 18-69 years (response rate 97.9 per cent), carried out by the Ministry of Health, Myanmar. The survey provides updated national estimates across tobacco use, alcohol consumption, diet, physical activity, and key biometric indicators.

in December 2024.

The social and economic costs of tobacco-related illness continue to place a heavy strain on Myanmar's health system. The STEPS 2024 data provide an essential evidence base for calibrating national tobacco control policies, including the enforcement of the plain packaging mandate and the newly enacted e-cigarette ban, and for directing cessation support where it is most needed.

### 5. Health Risks of Tobacco and E-Cigarettes

Tobacco causes irreversible harm across nearly every organ system in the body. Key health risks include:

- Lung cancer and other respiratory cancers — tobacco smoke contains at least 70 carcinogens and is the leading cause of lung cancer globally.
- Cardiovascular disease — smoking accelerates atherosclerosis, greatly increasing the risk of heart attack and stroke.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) — a progressive, incurable lung disease that severely impairs breathing.
- Brain development impairment in adolescents — nicotine harms the developing brain, reducing concentration and learning abilities.
- Second-hand smoke exposure — endangers non-smokers, particularly children and pregnant women, causing respiratory illness, ear infections, and sudden infant death.
- E-cigarette-specific risks — respiratory inflammation (bronchiolitis obliterans/popcorn lung), cardiovascular stress, and nicotine addiction leading to regular cigarette use.

E-cigarettes are not a safe alternative to conventional cigarettes. While they may produce fewer combustion-related toxins, they still deliver nicotine and numerous harmful chemicals. The WHO and most major health organizations do not recommend e-cigarettes as smoking cessation tools. The flavouring

chemicals in e-cigarettes, such as diacetyl, used in buttery flavours, are linked to severe, irreversible obstructive lung disease.

### 6. Previous and Recent Developments in Myanmar's Tobacco Control

**6.1 Legislative Foundation**  
Myanmar's tobacco control journey is built on a strong legislative foundation. The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law was enacted in May 2006 and subsequently revised in October 2021, introducing comprehensive restrictions on tobacco advertising, promotion, sponsorship, and sale. The law prohibits the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 18 and mandates prominent pictorial health warnings (PHWs) on tobacco packaging.

### 6.2 From Warnings to Plain Packs: A Landmark Journey

Myanmar has made substantial progress in pictorial health warning (PHW) implementation. Following the adoption of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2004, Myanmar progressively expanded PHW requirements. By 2016, PHWs were mandated to cover 75 per cent of the front and back of tobacco packaging. By September 2025, Myanmar had become the second country in the Asian region to introduce standardized plain packaging, after Australia (2012), Singapore (2019), and Thailand (2019). Plain packaging removes all branding, logos, and attractive design elements from tobacco packaging, replacing them with a standardized drab brown pack featuring large graphic PHWs covering 75 per cent or more of the surface.

Evidence from multiple countries shows that plain packaging is highly effective in reducing the appeal of tobacco products, making health warnings more salient, and discouraging youth from smoking initiation. In Thailand and Singapore, plain packaging combined with large PHWs increased the proportion of smokers reporting they wanted to quit by nearly 80 per cent. Myanmar's adoption of plain packaging in 2025 represents a landmark achievement that positions the country as a regional leader in tobacco control.

TO BE CONTINUED

# NATIONAL

## Govt despatches relief supplies to Tonzang

TATMADAW regained full control of Falam, Tiddim and Tonzang townships in Chin State, and is also working with relevant authorities and locals to carry out rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State.

As part of these efforts, construction materials needed for reconstruction work, including cement, roofing sheets, nails, commodities, kitchen utensils and health supplies were transported from Tiddim to Tonzang, Chin State, by vehicles yesterday.

The rehabilitation items and commodities provided by the government were transported from Nay Pyi Taw to Kalay by military aircraft on



Supply convoy arrives in Tonzang, Chin State, with industrial and personal goods.

25 May, whereas to Falam from Kalay by vehicle on 26 May, to Tiddim from Kalay by vehicle on 27 May, and to Tonzang from Tiddim yesterday.

Upon arrival, the transported goods were received

by responsible officials and were further distributed directly to residents. The government will continue to provide necessary assistance systematically based on regional needs. — MNA/KTZH

## Construction of 4 slab culverts in Santhigon Village, Pindaya, inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), inspected the ongoing construction of four slab culverts on a rural production road in Santhigon Village, Pindaya Township, yesterday.

The project implementation aims to improve the socioeconomic lives of rural residents by enabling local farmers to transport agricultural products from farms to markets more quickly and at a lower cost throughout all seasons.

Southern Shan State DRD Head U Maung Maung Win inspected the construction pro-

gress of the four slab culverts and discussed with responsible officials the importance of completing the projects within the specified timeframe while maintaining quality standards. Necessary coordination was also exerted based on the submitted requirements.

The construction of the slab culverts in Santhigon Village is being implemented with Union-level funding of K36 million. Upon completion, the project is expected to improve year-round transport for 474 households with 2,544 people and provide significant benefits for social, healthcare, and economic activities in the village. — Karan (Rural)

## Tangyan villages' newly concrete-paved VDP roads inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Tangyan District, inspected the completion of village concrete road construction projects implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP) in Homan Village and Naungsant Village, Tangyan Township, yesterday.

The projects were carried out for the 2026-2027 financial year to improve transport and connectivity for rural residents.

During the inspection, Shan State (North) DRD Head U Zeyar Nyo and district and township officials, together with members of the village development committees, inspected the completed construction of two village concrete roads, each measuring 270 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and six inches in thickness.

Afterwards, the State DRD

Head met committee members and residents and discussed the importance of systematic maintenance to ensure long-term sustainability of the roads. Necessary coordination was also carried out regarding the needs presented by the villages.

Local villagers themselves implemented the two concrete road projects with technical assistance and support from the Tangyan District and Township DRD staff. The projects were funded with K30 million from the Village Development Project (VDP) and K2.814 million contributed by local people, totalling K32.814 million.

The projects have now been fully completed and are expected to improve year-round transport and socioeconomic conditions for 116 households with a population of 562 people in the two villages. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



Officials inspect the completion of a village concrete road construction project yesterday.

## ATOM launches talent accelerator programme 2026 for Myanmar youth

ATOM has launched the 'Talent Accelerator Programme 2026', a capacity-building initiative designed for Myanmar youth.

Spanning 18 months, the programme aims to enhance young people's core skills in digital and telecom business fundamentals, IT and networking, user experience operations, and data-driven thinking and analytics.

More than 400 applicants reportedly applied for the 'Talent



This photo captures some of the young applicants for the 'Talent Accelerator Programme 2026' together with officials from ATOM.

ent Accelerator Programme 2026'. Following a multi-stage selection process involving application screening and inter-

views, 28 outstanding youths were selected. After completing a pre-employment preparation period, they will join and receive training across ATOM's various operational departments.

The selected candidates will receive benefits like a salary, living allowances, and employee benefits, along with systematic guidance and mentorship throughout the programme.

ATOM's Talent Accelerator

Programme is specifically designed for fresh graduates and entry-level young professionals with strong educational backgrounds. Participants will gain comprehensive, well-rounded experience by rotating through different job functions, directly participating in strategic projects and presentations, and receiving mentorship from industry experts and ATOM executives. — ASH/TH

# NATIONAL

## Online scam buildings demolished, with 15 structures destroyed

AUTHORITIES have continued dismantling illegal buildings used in online fraud and illegal gambling activities in Shwe Kokko, according to official reports.

The government said joint departmental teams are carrying out clearance work in Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas to prevent the continued use of illegal structures for online scam operations. Equipment used in such activities has also been systematically destroyed, and illegal buildings are

fully demolished.

On the latest day of action, three four-storey residential buildings used in online scam activities were demolished using heavy machinery. The structures were part of a list of 77 buildings identified for removal, which includes 57 to be demolished using machinery and 20 to be destroyed by explosive methods.

Officials confirmed that a total of 15 buildings have now been demolished so far. The remaining



An aerial drone view of scam-related facilities in the Shwe Kokko area, Myawady, Kayin State.

62 illegal structures will continue to be dismantled in further stages.

The authorities also stated

that efforts to combat online scam networks are being carried out as a national responsibility, in cooperation with neighbouring coun-

tries and international partners, to prevent such activities from re-establishing in Myanmar. — MNA/KZL

## MNHRC inspects Daydanaw Home for the Aged



Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission are pictured during their inspection tour.

AN inspection team led by members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission conducted an inspection visit to the Daydanaw Home for the Aged in Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, on 29 May 2026. During the vis-

it, the inspection team examined whether the elderly are accepted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the facility. The team inspected the conditions of the provision of healthcare services, food and nutrition supplements, clean

drinking water and household water, freedom of religion, and the overall hygiene and sanitation of dormitories, bathrooms, toilets, and kitchens. The team also enquired about arrangements to ensure barrier-free movements in the buildings, and arrangements for recreation and relaxation for the elderly, the availability of social pension support, and the accessibility of pension payments for eligible residents.

The inspection team will send its findings and recommendations to the relevant department for necessary action under the Commission's law. — MNHRC

## K36.5M emerald green loans boost Loilem villages

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Loilem District, disbursed K36.5 million from the Green Village Project revolving fund to residents of Kaungngo and Kaunglan villages in Loilem Township on Friday morning.

The project aims to create job opportunities and increase family incomes for rural people, thereby reducing poverty in rural areas.

Township Staff Officer Daw Tin Min Htike first met project members from both villages and explained the project guidelines and benefits.

Project officials and staff then clarified the project procedures, interest rates, loan terms and conditions, and regulations to be followed when receiving the loans.

Afterwards, under the supervision of the Loilem Township Department of Rural Development, project committee members disbursed K24.5 million to 19 members from Kaungngo village and K12 million to 11 members from Kaunglan village at low interest rates for agriculture, livestock breeding and trading businesses. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

## Farmers offered agricultural loans via cash and e-money

THE Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB), under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, has announced that agricultural loans for the 2026-2027 financial year are being disbursed using both cash and electronic money (e-money).

Under this scheme, a system has been implemented in which 50 per cent can be withdrawn in cash through local village agents, and the remaining 50 per cent is disbursed via KBZPay.

This new system is initially being rolled out as a pilot project in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Mandalay Region, Mon State, Yangon Region, and Ayeyawady Region.

To bridge the gap between agricultural operations and modern technology for this digital

loan system, MADB has partnered with KBZ Bank. Currently, staff from KBZ Bank and KBZPay are conducting field visits to provide digital literacy training and educational workshops for farmers and local agents.

For this initiative, services will be provided through 411 KBZ branches and 56 KBZPay centres nationwide. In addition, farmers can withdraw cash from village-level agents or use e-money directly to purchase fertilizers and other agricultural inputs.

During the current pilot phase, over 80,000 farmers are receiving loans allocated at K300,000 per acre, with a maximum of K3 million. — Htun Htun/ZN



The disbursement ceremony of the Green Village Project fund is underway yesterday.

### Daily newspapers available online

FOR those who would like to read the Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar, published daily by the Ministry of Information, please visit [www.moi.gov.mm/mal](http://www.moi.gov.mm/mal), [www.moi.gov.mm/km](http://www.moi.gov.mm/km), [www.moi.gov.mm/nlm](http://www.moi.gov.mm/nlm) and [www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper](http://www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper).

News and Periodicals Enterprise

# NATIONAL BUSINESS

## Myanmar's largest real estate and car expo held for 3 days

THE 20<sup>th</sup> edition of Myanmar's largest real estate and car expo, featuring numerous well-known construction companies and car brands, is being held for three days at the Yangon Convention Centre (YCC) starting from 29 May.

Organized by iMyanmarHouse and CarsDB – Myanmar's number one property and automobile buying, selling, and renting platforms – the event will take place from 9 am to 5 pm daily for three days from 29 to 31 May.

During the expo, numerous well-known construction companies will offer completed and under-construction apartments, condos, and luxury condos. For those looking to purchase land plots, secure land units and detached houses will be available. Additionally, a wide variety of car models and famous car brands will be on sale with special discount prices, optimal payment systems, long-term instalment plans, and secure legal contracts.

“This major event to allow

buyers to easily and quickly find their preferred models and types of vehicles — such as fuel-powered cars or EVs — all in one place, while also offering the best value, most affordable prices, and top-tier services,” said U Nay Min Thu, Group CEO of iMyanmarHouse, CarsDB, and iMyanmarMarket.

It is also learned that the expo will feature seminar sessions where experts from diverse fields will attend and give presentations. — MT/ZN



The opening ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of Myanmar's largest real estate and car expo in Yangon.

## MCDC calls for EOI to operate Mandalay City Hotel

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) invited interested business entities to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to operate the four-storey Mandalay City Hotel and related buildings, located on 1.327 acres between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> streets and 82<sup>nd</sup> and 83<sup>rd</sup> streets, Chanayethazan Township in Mandalay.

The EOI form can be purchased at the Cleansing Department of MCDC for K500,000 per document until 26 June. The deadline for submission of EOI is 4 pm on 2 July 2026.

Interested business entities can enquire for further details by dialling 09 680362121, 09 444015609, and 09 798644858. — NN/KK

## YGN palm oil wholesale reference price indicates downtick



Bottles of cooking oil are arranged for sales inside the supercentre.

THE wholesale reference prices of palm oil set for the Yangon market continued to decrease at K7,387 per viss this week, ending 4 June from K7,423 per viss recorded last week, according to the Supervisory Committee on Edible Oil Import and Distribution.

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. Despite the reference price, the market price is still 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 in late August. 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 consumption of palm oil 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 annually imported through Malaysia and Indonesia to meet domestic demands. — NN/KK

## Mandalay's famous Madaya marble carving resumes production

MARBLE and art of carving production are back in operation in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region.

Marble production, which was suspended for over five years due to various reasons,

has been revived since the end of the last Maha Thingyan festival period, according to experts from Madaya Township.

Marble blocks from Sagyin Village are mainly used for carving Buddha images, and are also

used for carving vases and other household items.

Sagyin Village is famous for its marble production and the art of carving in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region. — ASH/MKKS



This photo captures marble blocks found in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region.

# Rooftop solar adoption surges in Delhi as subsidies, awareness drives boost installations

DELHI has witnessed a sharp rise in rooftop solar adoption over the past few years, driven by government subsidies, awareness campaigns and digital support systems, with Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) crossing 10,000 rooftop solar installations across North and North-West

Delhi. According to the company, a total of 10,466 rooftop solar installations with a cumulative capacity of 160.3 MWp had been energised as of April 2026 under its flagship Project 'Suryansh'. The company stated the growth aligns with the Government's clean energy push under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft

Bijli Yojana.

The company said residential consumers accounted for the majority of installations, with 8,451 households adopting rooftop solar systems. It added that consumers are benefiting through reduced electricity bills and the ability to supply surplus power back to the grid. The pace



Commercial and industrial consumers accounted for 2,015 installations, while more than 50 Cooperative Group Housing Societies (CGHS) also adopted rooftop solar systems.

**PHOTO: TATA POWER**

of adoption accelerated significantly during FY 2025-26, when 5,378 new installations adding 55.75 MWp

capacity were energised, marking the highest annual rooftop solar addition in Delhi so far. Installations

under the PM Surya Ghar scheme also rose sharply to 3,100 during the year. — ANI

# Australia sues consumer goods giant 3M over 'forever chemicals'

AUSTRALIA'S government said Thursday it had launched an AU\$2 billion (\$1.43 billion) legal action against US consumer goods giant 3M over the contamination of military bases that used firefighting foam containing so-called "forever chemicals".

Assistant Minister for Defence Peter Khalil told reporters the Australian government was seeking damages to recover the cost of managing environmental contamination at 28 bases

from per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

It was the most significant legal action taken by an Australian government, he said.

The defence force had already removed 200,000 tonnes of PFAS from soil because of the risk to communities, he said.

"We are prepared to take on one of the biggest multinational corporations in the world," said Attorney-General Michelle Rowland. — AFP

# Mitsubishi Motors to revive flagship Pajero SUV in Japan after 7 years

MITSUBISHI Motors Corp said Friday it will revive its flagship Pajero sport utility vehicle in Japan for the first time in seven years, with a plan to unveil the new model

this fall.

The move comes amid calls from many enthusiasts for the vehicle's return after production of the model in Japan ended in 2019 due to sluggish

sales.

Mitsubishi Motors CEO Takao Kato told a press conference that the company plans to expand the series lineup by adding two smaller mod-

els, saying, "I hope (the strategy) will draw newly interested customers." Details, including the launch date and pricing, will be announced later. — Kyodo

# AI giant Anthropic reaches near-trillion dollar valuation

ARTIFICIAL intelligence company Anthropic said Thursday it had raised \$65 billion in a new funding round that values the Claude maker at \$965 billion, more than its archrival OpenAI, the mak-

er of ChatGPT.

The latest fundraising round confirms Anthropic's place as one of the most significant players in AI, with the startup led by Dario Amodei having drawn fans for its coding

powers and state-of-the-art models. Anthropic's rise came by doubling down on delivering generative AI to enterprise clients rather than general users, the path initially chosen by archrival OpenAI.

Founded by former OpenAI employees, including CEO Amodei, Anthropic has a special focus on AI safety even as it rushes out new products in order to remain in the AI race. — AFP

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V GLS HAI PHONE VOY.NO. (002N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAI PHONE VOY.NO. (002N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**  
M.V AFRICAN LOON VOY.NO. (47)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AFRICAN LOON VOY.NO. (47)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-5-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **WILMAR** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 A.M to 11:20 A.M and 12 NOON to 4 P.M to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
Phone No: **2301185**

**Shipping Agency Department**  
**Myanma Port Authority**

Agent For:

**M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES (S'PORE) PTE LTD**



The US multinational maker of Post-it and Scotch tape is also being sued in the United States over its use of PFAS. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

# GLOBAL VIEWPOINTS:

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

## Iranian source says no MoU reached with US

**A** SOURCE close to Iran's negotiating team has denied that the text of a proposed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Iran and the United States had been finalized, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported Thursday, rejecting earlier claims in US media.

The source told Tasnim that reports suggesting the text was merely awaiting formal announcement by the two sides were "not consistent with the facts", adding that the document "has not yet been finalized".

Earlier on Thursday, US media Axios reported, citing US officials and a regional source, that US and Iranian negotiators have reached an agreement on an MoU to extend the ceasefire by 60 days and launch talks on Iran's nuclear programme, but US President Donald Trump has yet to give his final approval.

According to the report, the proposed 60-day MoU would state that shipping through the Strait of Hormuz would be "unrestricted". A US official was quoted as saying this would entail no tolls or harassment, and that Iran would be



Children play by the shore at Kumzar Village in Oman, 19 February 2025. Kumzar, a remote fishing village in the Musandam Peninsula in northern Oman, located in a sheltered harbor near the strategic shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz. **PHOTO: WANG QIANG/XINHUA**

required to remove all mines from the strait within 30 days.

The MoU would reportedly include an Iranian commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons. It would also state that the first issues to be negotiated during the 60-day window will be how to dispose of

Iran's highly enriched uranium and how to address Iranian enrichment.

The White House would, according to the report, commit to discussing sanctions relief and the release of frozen Iranian assets as part of the talks. It would also consider establishing a mechanism

to facilitate Iranian access to goods and humanitarian supplies.

The Iranian source, rejecting the Axios account, stressed that if an agreement text is ultimately finalized, Iran will formally notify Pakistani mediators and make the matter public. — Xinhua

## Kansai airport expands international area in 1<sup>st</sup> major renewal

KANSAI International Airport in western Japan unveiled its expanded international area to the media Friday after five years of construction work, as its



Kansai airport international commercial area is unveiled to the media on 29 May 2026, after a major renewal. **PHOTO: KYODO**

operator seeks to capitalize on a recent influx of travellers.

In the first major renewal since the airport southwest of Osaka opened in 1994, the international departure area was expanded by 60 per cent to 16,000 square metres, while the number of boarding bridges for international flights increased from 34 to 40.

Kansai Airports also increased the number of eateries in the international departures area to 17 from just a handful and changed the layout of duty-free shops to concentrate them at the center to attract more people.

In contrast to growing international travel demand, including a surge in inbound tourism, the number of domestic flight users has been declining at the airport amid competition from Osaka Itami Airport in the same region.

To shorten the time needed to process departures, the airport built a new immigration area and added more security checkpoints.

A Kansai Airports executive said the company hopes to increase profit by extending the travellers' length of stay. — Kyodo

## Eurasian Economic Forum focuses on AI application

THE fifth Eurasian Economic Forum opened here Thursday to explore the role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) in promoting sustainable economic development. The two-day forum, themed "The Eurasian Economic Union in the Global Digital Race: Betting on Artificial Intelligence," focuses on AI application in customs regulation, transport and logistics, industrial production and product quality control. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov addressed the forum's plenary session on Thursday.

Russia, with such advantages as scientific expertise, qualified personnel, strong educational institutions, and energy resources necessary for large-scale AI infrastructure, is one of the few countries capable of creating sovereign AI platforms, said Putin, adding that the country is prepared for upcoming changes and will use them to accelerate economic growth. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Kayin, Ayeyawady, Shan and Kachin reach U18 semifinals

The quarterfinal matches of the 2026 Inter-Region and State U18 Men's Football Tournament were held on 29 May at football grounds in Yangon.

The matches took place at the Thuwunna Football Training Ground 1 (Cycling Ground) in Thingangyun Township, Padetha Stadium in South Okkalapa Township, Thanlyin Stadium in Thanlyin Township and Padonma Stadium in Sangyoung Township.

In the quarterfinal fixtures, the Kayin State team defeated

the Mon State team 6-0 at the Thuwunna Football Training Ground 1. At the Padetha Stadium, the Ayeyawady Region team beat the Nay Pyi Taw team 2-0.

At Thanlyin Stadium, the Shan State team secured a 3-2 win over the Yangon Region team in a closely contested match. At the Padonma Stadium, the Kachin State team defeated the Chin State team 1-0.

With these results, the Kayin State, Ayeyawady Region, Shan State and Kachin State teams advanced to the semifinals of the tournament. — MNA/KZL



Players from the Kayin State and Mon State teams is seen actively vying for the ball in their match.

## Arsenal aiming to dethrone dynasty-chasing PSG

ARSENAL seek to finally conquer Europe by wresting the Champions League crown from holders Paris Saint-Germain, who are themselves targeting back-to-back titles in Budapest on Saturday. Luis Enrique's French champions are favourites to defend the trophy and establish an era of dominance in their post-superstar age, with heavyweight attackers Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe departed.

Homing in on a career third Champions League trophy as a coach, the Asturian cleaned house after

arriving in 2023, and created a cohesive, hard-working and brilliant PSG side in his image. Luis Enrique took them to the semis in his first season, then past Arsenal last year in the final four before crushing Inter Milan to claim the Parisians a first European Cup — 14 years and well beyond 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) spent since Qatar Sports Investments took over the club. By contrast Arsenal's team has been slow-cooked over nearly seven years by Mikel Arteta, without the overwhelming financial muscle of PSG or domestic rivals Manchester City. — AFP

## South Korea football chief to quit after 'controversies, criticisms'



Chung Mong-gyu said he would quit as president of the Korea Football Association after the World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

THE president of South Korea's football association said Friday that he will quit after the World Cup, blaming his "lack of virtue" following fierce criticism of his 13-year tenure.

Chung Mong-gyu, who is in his fourth term as Korea Football Association president, came under fire for trying to pardon former players who were banned for life for match-fixing.

The 65-year-old was also accused of bypassing the usual selection process for South Korea national team coaches when he hired German World

Cup winner Jurgen Klinsmann in 2023.

Klinsmann was sacked after just 12 disastrous months and two interim coaches followed, leading to more criticism of Chung, who will formally submit his resignation after the World Cup final on 19 July.

"I am well aware that there have been various controversies and criticisms during my tenure as head of the football association," Chung said in a statement.

"I believe all of this is a result of my own lack of virtue. — AFP

## Andreeva sweeps into last 16 at French Open

WOMEN'S eighth seed Mirra Andreeva blew past Marie Bouzkova 6-4, 6-2 in the third round at the French Open on Friday. The 19-year-old Russian survived a break point in the sixth game of the match before breaking herself in the ninth. She then served out comfortably for the set.

Andreeva immediately broke the Czech again to start the second set and then broke again, to love, in the seventh

game as she won in one hour 35 minutes. "I was very happy I was able to close the first set despite missing some shots," said Andreeva on court at the end. "Very happy I was able to play aggressive throughout the match."

Andreeva said the first-week heat wave suited her game and she preferred playing in the afternoon before the courts cooled. — AFP



Mirra Andreeva has reached the last 16 or better at five of the past six Grand Slams. PHOTO: AFP

Iranian source says no  
MoU reached with US

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# WORLD

## India emerges as strongest growth story in WEF outlook despite global slowdown fears

**I**NDIA emerged as the strongest growth story in the survey, with 52 per cent of chief economists expecting strong or very strong growth over the next 12 months, making it the geography with the most optimistic growth outlook.

“India stands out as the most upbeat growth story in the survey,” the report noted. “Slightly more than half of the chief economists, or 52 per cent, expect strong or very strong growth there over the next 12 months.

“The report said India, along with the United States, is expected to remain relatively resilient despite global uncertainty, supported by robust domestic demand, infrastructure spending, investment momentum, trade agreements and policy support measures.

The report highlighted widening regional divergence in growth prospects. While Europe faces mounting stagflation risks and the Middle East and North Africa region is expected to witness the sharpest deterioration in growth, India and parts of South-East Asia are seen as comparatively resilient.

However, the WEF also flagged inflationary pressures for India, with 61 per cent of respondents projecting high or very high inflation in the country over the coming year as rising energy costs weigh on the economy. — ANI

*The report highlights India's strong growth prospects, with 52 per cent of chief economists expecting robust economic performance over the next year.*



India raised its upcoming financial year infrastructure spending to historic, record-breaking levels. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/IBEF**

## Green tech, smart manufacturing drive BRICS industrial cooperation

**T**HE coastal city of Xiamen in east China's Fujian Province has recently hosted a forum that centred on BRICS industrial cooperation. The event brought together entrepreneurs and innovators from across the globe to drive collaborative growth, with a strong emphasis on green development and intelligent manufacturing.

Themed “Fostering an Intelligent Manufacturing Ecosystem to Accelerate the New Industrial Revolution,” the BRICS New Industrial Revolution Partnership Forum attracted representatives from BRICS member states, partner countries, and other developing nations, as well as relevant international organizations from Wednesday to Thursday.



This photo shows furniture and office supplies made from bamboo. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ZHU HAN/XINHUA**

Among them was entrepreneur Yang Ziyang, who hoped to find new opportunities for cooperation with BRICS merchants. His company, founded less than two years ago, turns bamboo from Fujian's mountainous regions into fibre granule materials, promoting bamboo as a substitute for plastic.

“Orders from other BRICS countries this year have exceeded 100 million yuan (US\$14.7 million),” Yang said, noting that more BRICS countries have introduced plastic bans, creating broad prospects for green, low-carbon and environmentally friendly technologies.

A lot of companies are seizing the opportunities. CATL, China's battery giant, and two Indonesian companies are collaborating on an integrated project that includes nickel mining, smelting, materials, cell production, and recycling. The project is expected to cost nearly US\$6 billion. — Xinhua