

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker proposes formation of Hluttaw committees



The Pyithu Hluttaw holds its fifth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**T**HE second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was held for the fifth day at its building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, attended by 349 out of 351 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Construc-

tion U Myo Myint replied to the questions raised by U Khin Maung Than from the Kalay Constituency. He said that the construction of the Myittha River Bridge started in 2019. So far, the bridge has been completed by 93 per cent. Upon completion, the bridge will contribute to

the development of the villages on the eastern bank of the Myittha River. So, the bridge should be built from Pyntha jetty for regional development. Moreover, the deputy minister answered that a plan will be formulated to construct the Kalay-Myoma-Yagyi road.

The deputy ministers also responded to the questions raised by Sai Kyaw Hla from the Kunhing Constituency. He said that the damaged sections on the Kunhing-Kali Road can be repaired with this year's allocated fund.

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## OPINION

Discussions in Hluttaw must be free from bias

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## NATIONAL

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Second day of informal talks between NSPNC and NCA-S EAOs underway

## PPP Investments Projected to Hit \$7.3B



An infographic illustrating the meaning of PPP.

**FOREIGN** Investment under Public-Private Partnerships has reached US\$7.3 billion from 36 enterprises, while investment made

by Myanmar Citizens under PPPs exceeds K8.6 trillion from 175 projects, according to the Ministry of National Planning, **SEE PAGE 5**

## BIMSTEC 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrated in Dhaka

**THE** 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held at the Hotel Sheraton in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 8 June. The event was attended by heads of mission, chargés d'affaires and diplomats from BIMSTEC member states based in Dhaka, including Myanmar.

The celebration was organized with the aim

of further strengthening friendship and regional cooperation among BIMSTEC member countries.

Myanmar's Ambassador to Bangladesh U Kyaw Soe Moe attended the event, where Myanmar handicrafts were displayed as part of the exhibition.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Bangladesh's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Shama Obaed

Islam, as the guest of honour. Ms Shama Obaed Islam and BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey delivered addresses at the event.

During the celebration, the Myanmar Embassy and the Office of the Defence Attaché showcased traditional Myanmar handicrafts and lacquerware, highlighting the country's rich cultural heritage. — ASH/KNN

## YGH Neurology Extends Hours to Boost Patient Care

**THE** Neurology Department of Yangon General Hospital has extended its operating hours and expanded its services for both outpatients and inpatients, according to hospital sources.

Currently, the outpatient department systematically categorizes and treats patients from Monday to Friday, providing healthcare services to an average of about 100 patients per day.

Professor Dr Moe Moe



This photo features patients receiving medical treatment at the Neurology Department, Yangon General Hospital.

Zaw, Head of the Neurology Department at Yangon General Hospital, stated that critical medical exam-

inations are being expanded to improve efficiency in the diagnostic process. **SEE PAGE 7**

# NATIONAL

## Thanlyin hosts 100-acre drum seeder rice demonstration



This image shows a demonstration of paddy planting on a 100-acre farm using a drum seeder in Thanlyin Township, Yangon.

A demonstration of paddy planting on a 100-acre farm using a drum seeder was conducted by U Kyaw Win Naing, a farmer from Bayak Village, Thanlyin Township, Thanlyin District. A ceremony was also held at a temporary pavilion on the farmland, during which natural fertilizers and vegetable seeds supplied by the Department of Agriculture were distributed to farmers participating in the export zone programme.

Under the programme, natural fertilizers and vegetable seeds from the Department of Agriculture were presented to farmers by Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Htoo Maung, Yangon Region Hluttaw Repre-

sentative U Yan Myo Aung, members of the Region Agriculture Supervisory Team, Chairman of the Thanlyin District Administration and Management Committee U Zin Min Ko, and officials from rice-exporting companies.

Afterwards, the regional minister and accompanying officials observed demonstrations of a 100-acre model paddy field planted using a drum seeder, a 10-row seeder displayed by the Department of Agricultural Mechanization, biochar produced from agricultural waste, fertilizers, pesticides and seeds exhibited by the Department of Agriculture, and solar-powered water pumps showcased by the Department of Water Resources. — Bala/MKKS

### Gold Market Rate as of 10 June 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K7,000,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

### Myanmar Gazette

## Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names upon the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Han Win Aung	Director-General ASEAN Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) Dr Theingi Myint	Rector Yezin Agricultural University Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(3) U Nyan Zaw Oo	Director-General Department of Sports and Physical Education Ministry of Sports Affairs
(4) U Hla Aung	Director-General Civil Service Selection and Training Department Union Civil Service Board

## YGH to install new SPECT-CT scanner this year



Diagnostic and treatment procedures using SPECT-CT and PET-CT scanners at the Yangon General Hospital.

YANGON General Hospital is set to enhance its medical services by installing a new SPECT-CT scanner this year, enabling more effective treatment capabilities for patients.

Currently, the Nuclear Medicine Department provides diagnostic and treatment services using radioactive isotopes for conditions related to the thyroid, bones, kidneys, parathyroid, liver, spleen, bil-

iary tract, and gastrointestinal tract. It also conducts progressive diagnostic tests for cancer patients. The department primarily utilizes two advanced machines – the SPECT-CT and PET-CT scanners.

The SPECT-CT scanner is used to diagnose diseases of the bones, kidneys, thyroid, parathyroid, and liver, while the PET-CT scanner is the main tool used for cancer di-

agnostics. The radioactive isotopes used in these procedures are produced in-house by the Cyclotron facility located at the YGH.

Outpatient and inpatient care are provided twice daily (morning and afternoon) on all working days. During 2025, the department treated 3,000 patients using the SPECT-CT, 650 patients using the PET-CT, and 750 patients using radioactive isotope therapy.

In 2026, the hospital aims to further expand its diagnostic capacity by installing an additional SPECT-CT scanner. Beyond clinical services, the department also provides training to specialists in nuclear medicine, annually mentoring three to five postgraduate students. — TWA/ZN

## MCHT to open one-year Marionette making course on 6 July

THE Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust (MCHT) will offer a 12-month marionette making course free of charge starting from 6 July, covering wood carving, miniature costuming and stringing techniques.

The course will be conducted from 9 am to 4 pm from Monday to Friday at the State High School of Fine Arts on Kaba Aye Road in Bahan Township. A group of trainers led

by Saya U Aung Than Tun will help trainees guide the art of marionette making from scratch to market. The trainees must have good eyesight and craftsmanship. The number of trainees is limited to 15. Those between 16 and 45 years can join the course. MCHT will award completion certificates. Furthermore, they will have opportunities to connect with professionals in the Myanmar theat-

rical marionette industry.

Interested individuals need to submit the application along with a citizenship scrutiny card, a household registration copy, police clearance to MCHT by 15 June. The interview for the entrance will take place on 24 June. Interested individuals can enquire for further details at MCHT via U Htay Lin at 09 777013506 and Daw Ni Ni Soe at 09 5507599. — NN/KK



This photo shows Myanmar theatrical marionette.

# NATIONAL

## Second day of informal talks between NSPNC and NCA-S EAOs underway

THE second day of the informal meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) and the negotiating team of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations (NCA-S EAOs) continued yesterday morning at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, discussions continued on the remaining mat-

ters from the first day. Subsequently, committee member Lt-Gen Aye Win (Retired) explained the submission of 43 points to the Hluttaw for necessary amendments and additions to the 2008 Constitution, which had been agreed upon through consultations with the political parties cluster, including 21 points agreed upon with the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs).

Afterwards, both sides



The second day of the informal meeting between the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee and the negotiating team of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

reviewed and recorded the outcomes of the two-day negotiations and discussions. They exchanged views and coordinated on matters relating to the objectives and approaches for implementing the peace process and working together step by step to ensure its success; cooperation in holding effective peace talks and jointly implementing the agreements stipulated in the NCA;

**SEE PAGE 5**

## MoE UM, UNICEF Rep discuss education development cooperation

UNION Minister for Education Dr Chaw Chaw Sein received Mr Yasumasa Kimura, Resident Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Myanmar, at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two sides held open and cordial discussions on cooperation in further developing the basic education sector and implementing future priority programmes. They also discussed support for early childhood care and development training,



Union Minister Dr Chaw Chaw Sein meets Mr Yasumasa Kimura, Resident Representative of UNICEF in Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

English language teaching programmes, and school management training aimed at enhancing the capacities of teachers

and headteachers.

The discussions further covered comparative studies of education systems in regional countries

through the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) programme, continued collaboration on research relating to literacy rates and gender disparities, educational opportunities and qualification recognition for out-of-school children, and measures to ensure that schools provide safe and secure environments for children.

Deputy Minister U Nay Myo Hlaing, directors-general and other officials also attended the meeting. — MNA/MKKS

## Sagaing Immigration Office repaired following bombing



Union Minister U Myint Kyaing observes the office work at the Sagaing Township Immigration Office yesterday.

REPAIR work is underway at the Sagaing Township Immigration Office following damage caused by a timed explosive device. Financial assistance and food supplies were also provided to township office staff.

At the Sagaing District Immigration Office, while public services continue through temporary arrangements. During a visit to Sagaing on Wednesday, officials inspected the township office, where staff are currently providing services from a temporary facility set up in the public waiting area. Discussions were also held on operational requirements and measures to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of public services.

Officials reviewed ongoing renovation work at the office building, which sustained damage from an explosion caused by a timed improvised ex-

plosive device. Financial assistance and food supplies were also provided to township office staff.

At the Sagaing District Immigration Office, while public services continue through temporary arrangements. Discussions were also held on operational requirements and measures to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of public services. Authorities said efforts are continuing to restore the damaged office and support affected staff, while maintaining immigration services for the public. — MNA/KZL

## MHFTSA, EFIG Insurance sign MoU

IN a new chapter of strategic partnership focused on workplace safety and long-term development, the Myanmar Highway Freight Transport Services Association (MHFTSA) and EFIG Insurance, one of Myanmar's leading insurance companies, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU signed on 9 June is dedicated to supporting the association's members, vehicle owners, and terminal operators.

The two organizations

will collaborate to provide services across three key sectors: General Insurance—comprehensive safety for heavy cargo vehicles within the workplace; Marine & Inland Transit Insurance—the safe transit of goods throughout the journey; Life Insurance—long-term security for the members, staff, and their families.

MHFTSA and EFIG Insurance will also organize regular "Insurance Knowledge Sharing Workshops" to help mem-



MHFTSA and EFIG Insurance are pictured during the signing of the MoU.

bers better understand the benefits of insurance and the procedures for filing claims.

MHFTSA stated that it will continue to foster

such strategic partnerships and educational initiatives to ensure a more robust, safe business network for its members. — MT/ZN

# NATIONAL

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker proposes formation of Hluttaw ...

### FROM PAGE 1

A plan has been drawn to expand the eight miles and five furlongs long Kunhing-Kali Road to have the adequate width for the growing number of vehicles.

The deputy minister also responded to the queries presented by U Sai Wun Sam from the Monghkat Constituency. He said that improvement of the Kengtung-Monghkat-Mongyang road will be carried out with this year's allocated fund.

To reply to the questions raised by U Hla Swe

from the Pobbathiri Constituency, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Khin Maung Latt said that a plan is underway to construct 400 feet by 13 feet Bailey bridge (first phase) with K1,425 million of the Union expenditure in the 2026-27 financial year. The further phase of the bridge depends on the allocation of funds from the Nay Pyi Taw Council in the 2027-28 FY. The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System will demand the expenditure of the Union budget in 2027-28 FY for

the construction of the retaining walls at the Shwemyo Bridge and the maintenance of the waterway.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Win Moe Khaing replied to the question raised by U Win Myint from the Twantay Constituency. He said that although there is no plan to upgrade Twantay Myoma Market in the 2026-27 FY, the fund will be demanded in the coming financial year to insert it into the regional plans.

He also answered the question raised by U Thein Yi from the Htantabin Con-

stituency and said that the drain will be upgraded to a concrete facility in the 2027-28 FY, as the Yangon Region Development Committee has earmarked such a plan in the regional projects.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi sought the Hluttaw's approval to form the Border Region, Ethnic Affairs and Peace Committee, with its responsibilities, powers, rights, term and meetings. The Hluttaw approved the formation of the committee with U Soe Tint Naing from the Magway Constituency as

Chairman and U Ye Htut Aung from the Minhla Constituency as Secretary.

The Speaker presented submissions to the the Hluttaw to form the Farmers' Affairs Committee with U Myat Kyaw from the Kanbalu Constituency as Chairman and U Win Htay from the Lewe Constituency as Secretary; the Youth, Women, Child and Aged Rights Committee with 15 members including Daw Win Maw Tun from the Yenangyoung Constituency as Chair and U Aung Naing from the Waw Constituency as Secretary; the Ed-

ucation Promotion Committee with 15 members including Dr Hla Tint from the Bahan Constituency as Chairman and U Thet Naing Oo from the Hpa-an Constituency as Secretary; and the Internal/External Labour Committee with 15 members including U Tint Wai from the Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency as Chairman and U Aung Naing Oo from the Pyigyidagun Constituency as Secretary.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue for the sixth day on 11 June. — MNA/TTA

## NEPIO defines roles at strategic duties workshop



A workshop on the duties and responsibilities of the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organization (NEPIO) is underway at the Ministry of Science and Technology in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A workshop on the duties and responsibilities of the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organization (NEPIO) was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Science and Technology as Myanmar continues implementing its nucle-

ar energy development programme in accordance with the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It was attended by Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, Deputy Minister Dr Nay Chi Lae

Lae Thein, IAEA experts Mr Vsevolod IGIN, Mr Zeki Mehmet BASKURT and Mr Muhammad AYUB, and other relevant officials.

At the event, the officials of the IAEA reported on the establishment of a national policy position on nuclear energy and the preparation of a comprehensive report, the duties, responsibilities and functions of the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organization, and international experiences related to nuclear energy. Participants also engaged in discussions and raised questions.

The discussion will be held until 12 June. — MNA/KTZH

## India Donates Quake Assessment Gear to Myanmar Engineers

THE handover ceremony for equipment provided by the Republic of India to the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies was held yesterday at the function hall of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies in Hlaing Township, Yangon.

President U Khin Maung Htay of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies delivered a welcome address, followed by Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur, who gave a speech and formally handed over the equipment and related documents to the President of the Federation.

This was followed by a concluding speech by U Nyunt Maung San, Chairman of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee



The handover ceremony of technical equipment for earthquake relief operations in progress at the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies in Hline Township, Yangon, yesterday.

under the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies, who also inspected the display of equipment used for assessing the structural strength of earthquake-prone buildings.

The Republic of India's first donation in March 2026 comprised 11 types of equipment and instruments for pre- and

post-disaster building assessments, valued at over 20 million rupees. The second donation, handed over yesterday, included seismometers, concrete penetration testers, thermal imaging cameras, and structural health monitoring equipment and instruments, valued at over 17.75 million rupees. — MNA/MKKS

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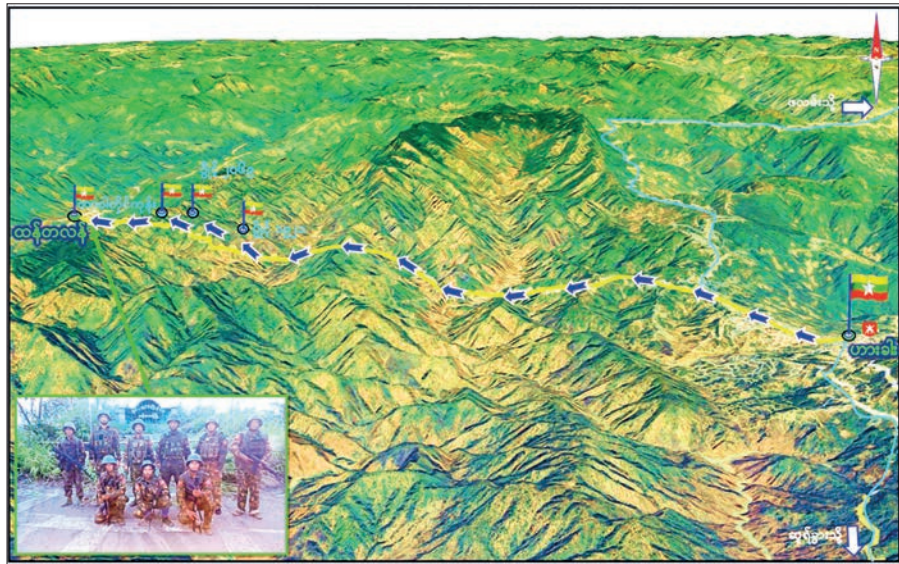
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# NATIONAL

## Haka-Thantlang Road reopens to traffic



This map, including an inset, illustrates Tatmadaw columns advancing to reopen the Haka-Thantlang connecting route.

THE Haka-Thantlang Road in Chin State has been reopened after security forces regained control of the route following security operations against CNF and CDF insurgent groups.

Authorities said insurgents had previously

disrupted transport links, damaged public infrastructure and hindered rehabilitation efforts in the area, causing delays to the movement of goods and reconstruction materials.

Following the recapture of Thantlang in Oc-

tober 2023, efforts were made to restore stability and support regional recovery. However, continued disruptions along transport routes affected trade and reconstruction activities.

Security forces launched security activ-

ities along the Haka-Thantlang corridor on 4 June. During the operation, they regained control of Point 1921 on 6 June, Point 2069 on 7 June and Tower Hill Camp on 8 June before securing the entire route on the evening of 9 June.

With the road reopened, cargo vehicles and travellers can once again use the route, improving the flow of goods and easing transport difficulties in the region.

Authorities said mine-clearance activities and assistance for displaced residents returning to their communities are also under way, while rehabilitation and development projects will continue with support from the government and local communities.

— MNA/KZL

## Emergency centre completes high-tech display project

THE completion ceremony for the installation of a large multi-display system at the Emergency Operations Centre (Yangon) was held at the Yangon Region office of the Disaster Management Department on Wednesday under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Quick Impact Project.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Htay Aung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thant Zaw Lwin, Indian Amba-

sador Mr Abhay Thakur, the Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and regional ministers.

During the ceremony, the deputy minister and the Indian ambassador jointly inaugurated the large multi-display system and delivered commemorative remarks. The deputy minister also presented a certificate of appreciation to the Indian Ambassador in recognition of the successful completion of the project. — MNA/KZL



The completion ceremony for the installation of a large multi-display system at the Emergency Operations Centre (Yangon) in progress in Yangon yesterday.

## Second day of informal talks between...

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encouraging EAOs that have departed from the NCA path to understand and accept the State Government's peace proposal and rejoin the NCA process; building sustainable and lasting peace during the term of the newly elected government; adopting flexible approaches in implementing the peace process; matters related to peace policies, processes, and mechanisms; ensuring that education, healthcare, development projects, and humanitarian assis-

tance effectively reach and benefit the public; issuing a ceasefire declaration without preconditions; implementing the Tatmadaw's six-point peace policy and, for groups wishing to abandon armed struggle, achieving lasting peace through the four-point policy; combating narcotics, online scams, and online gambling; and conducting a Peace Process Review and providing humanitarian assistance.

NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Min Naing also explained and discussed

the upcoming peace initiatives and regional development activities that could be undertaken based on the outcomes of the two-day discussions.

Afterwards, the points agreed upon based on the two days of negotiations and discussions were recorded and signed. The meeting concluded successfully after closing remarks were delivered by Sao Sai Ngin, Secretary 1 of the RCSS and Head of the NCA-Signatory EAOs negotiation team, and Lt-Gen Yar Pyae,

Chairman of the NSPNC, followed by an exchange of gifts, according to reports.

Also present at the meeting were NSPNC committee members, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, secretary 1 of KNU/KNLA Peace Council, Nai Aung Ma Ngae, executive committee member of NMSP, LDU General Secretary Kyar Yar Kok, DKBA Adjutant-General Saw Sein Win, ALP General Secretary Saw Mra Thandar, and U Myo Win and Nan Yin Yin Soe, negotiators of NCA-S EAOs. — MNA/TH

## PPP Investments Projected to Hit \$7.3B

### FROM PAGE 1

Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Moreover, 22 companies at Thilawa Port have obtained permits from the Union Govern-

ment and the Myanmar Investment Commission to operate businesses under relevant laws. The ministry has drafted a Notification of PPP and submitted it to the Min-

istry of Legal Affairs for a legal opinion.

Four among regional countries have enacted a PPP Law. The remaining seven countries, including Myanmar, are

implementing PPP projects using guidelines, regulations, decrees, acts, or PPP handbooks rather than a legislative framework under PPP law. — ASH/KK

## Yangon-Guangzhou flights set to hit 10 weekly this June

ACCORDING to announcements from the respective airlines, flight services operating between Yangon, Myanmar, and Guangzhou, China, are set to be expanded in June, reaching up to 10 flights per week.

China Southern Airlines, which currently operates daily flights on the Guangzhou-Yangon route, will add new flights every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, starting from 15 June. Once these additions are in place, the total frequency for the Guangzhou-Yangon route will increase to 10 flights per week.

Furthermore, the locally-based Myanmar Airways International (MAI)

has announced that it will upgrade its current Yangon-Guangzhou service, which currently operates four times a week, to daily direct flights starting from 30 June.

The travel industry notes that this expansion in flight schedules is expected to help improve travel and trade relations between Myanmar and China. — TWA/ZN



Cheerful, friendly cabin crew members from China Southern Airlines.

# NATIONAL

## Tatmadaw Beefs Up Security to Reopen Kalay-Tamu Route

TATMADAW continues efforts not only to fulfil national defence and security duties but also to cooperate with the government and local people in regional development activities to ensure peace and stability and improve the socioeconomic status of the people. As part of these efforts, Tatmadaw columns tried to regain control of and reopen the Kalay-Tamu route, an important trade corridor between Myanmar and India.

The Kalay-Tamu way is a vital land transport route linking northwestern Myanmar with India. In addition to serving regional transportation needs, the route plays an important role in border trade, socioeconomic development and international connectivity. Consumer goods, food supplies and other

commodities are transported through the route, supporting the daily livelihoods of residents. The route also contributes to travel, healthcare and educational services in the region.

The combined PDF terrorist groups temporarily controlled and blocked the Kalay-Tamu road starting in 2024, and carried out acts of violence, including extorting tolls from cargo and passenger vehicles, threatening travellers with weapons, arresting and killing civilians, burning and destroying vehicles, and looting goods. Therefore, travellers and cargo trucks no longer dared to use the route, causing delays in transport, a decline in border trade, shortages of food and consumer goods, and rising commodity prices in the region. Moreover,



The map shows the reopening of the Kalay-Tamu route.

travel restrictions and blockades imposed by the armed groups disrupted access to healthcare and education for residents and students, contributing to worsening socioeconomic conditions in the area.

Therefore, in order to reopen and fully regain control of the Kalay-Tamu link, Tatmadaw columns began coordinated area clearance operations from both Kalay and Tamu on 7 June 2026. The Tatmadaw columns advancing from

Tamu have reached areas near Yanlinphaing village, while the column advancing from Kalay has arrived near 56-Mile village. Operations are continuing to fully regain control of the Kalay-Tamu route, and the route is expected to be reopened soon.

During the operations along the route, Tatmadaw columns discovered damaged roads and bridges, including the Nanmut Tar Bridge and the 55-Mile Bridge, which had been



Defensive trenches and bunkers made by terrorists in 55-Mile Village.



The photo depicts the 55-Mile Bridge exploded by terrorist groups.

destroyed by the terrorist groups. They also found that within villages along the route, houses, religious buildings and departmental offices had been fortified with trenches and sandbag bunkers and used as military bases.

Tatmadaw columns will continue Counter-Terrorism Operation and mine clearance operations, and reconstruction work on damaged roads and bridges along the corridor will also be carried out. — MNA/KTZH

## 4 additional illicit scam hubs demolished in Shwe Kokko crackdown

AUTHORITIES have demolished four illegal three-storey residential buildings in the Shwe Kokko area in Myawady Township, Kayin State, as part of ongoing efforts against infrastructure linked to online scam and illegal gambling activities.

Joint departmental teams continue systematic demolition work on unlawful structures and related equipment in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas.

Officials said a total of 77 buildings had been identified for removal. Of these, 57 are scheduled for demolition using heavy machinery, while 20 are designated

for controlled demolition methods.

The four buildings demolished on Wednesday were part of the 57 structures set for mechanical removal. With the latest action, a total of 52 illegal buildings have now been demolished.

Authorities said 25 structures remain to be dismantled, and demolition work will continue in a systematic manner until all identified buildings are cleared.

Officials added that efforts to combat online scams and illegal gambling operations are carried out as a national priority in cooperation with neighbouring countries. — MNA/KZL



An aerial drone view of the ongoing demolition of the scam-related facilities in Shwe Kokko, Myawady.

## Crackdown Looms for Illegal Wi-Fi and Cable Providers

YANGON Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry and Transport Dr Myo Thaw has stated that effective action will be taken in accordance with the Telecommunications Law and related regulations against Wi-Fi internet service providers operating in Yangon without complying with established rules and procedures.

He said inspection teams are conducting field checks and removing unauthorized cables installed by such companies from electricity poles.

The minister made the remarks on 9 June during the first day of the Third Regular Session of the Second Yangon Region Hluttaw. He was responding to a starred question raised by U Min Thein Tun, Hluttaw representative for Mayangon Township, regarding measures to organize the large number of overhead Wi-Fi cables and whether action would be taken against companies installing cables without proper authorization.

Relevant internet service providers and the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) are currently working together to organize the numerous cables suspended along major roads in



Wi-Fi cables are seen on poles in Yangon.

Yangon.

The work includes removing illegally installed cables, cutting and clearing disused cables, raising cables that are hanging too low, and repairing or replacing damaged utility poles.

It is being closely monitored whether companies are complying with the directives of the Digital Development and Communications Department. The Yangon Region government and relevant government agencies will continue to cooperate in carrying out measures to ensure that telecommunications infrastructure is consistent with the city's urban landscape and development plans. — TWA/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## Yangon to face high risk of floods after heavy rainfall

METEOROLOGISTS have warned that if heavy rainfall in Yangon coincides with the exceptionally high tides of the Yangon River from 13 to 15 June, the riverside and creek-side townships in Yangon may experience flooding.

“Due to changes in the monsoon wind patterns, strong monsoon rain is entering Myanmar from the south and southwest of the country. As a result, Taninthayi Region is expected to receive the highest rainfall, while Rakhine, Chin, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions are at Level-7 for heavy rainfall potential. Yangon, being densely populated and situated along the Yangon River, needs to pay special attention from 13 to 15 June because of the exceptionally high tides. River water levels may rise more than 22 feet above the basic water level, and if this coincides with heavy rain, low-lying wards, riverside neighbourhoods and village roads throughout Yangon may be flooded. The risk period is from 10 to 15 June, especially the three days from the 14<sup>th</sup> waxing day of Nayon



People waded through a flooded area near Sint Oh Tan jetty on the bank of the Yangon River during the high tides of the River.

to the 1<sup>st</sup> waxing day of Waso,” said meteorologist U Win Naing.

If heavy rain occurs during the periods of exceptionally high tide in the morning, afternoon and evening, residents in low-lying wards and those living along the Hlaing River, Yangon River, Bago River, Pazundaung Creek and the Yangon River estuary are advised to remain alert and make preparations. The flooding warnings have been issued for townships along Yangon’s waterfront and areas along Pazundaung Creek, including Dawbon, Thakayta, Ahlon and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) townships, during the three days from the 14<sup>th</sup> waxing day of Nayon to the 1<sup>st</sup> waxing day of Waso.

During the 2024 rainy

season, low-lying wards in Yangon experienced flooding, and also Aung Mingala bus terminal. The blockages caused by garbage dumped into drainage systems prevented wastewater from residential areas and wards from flowing properly through the main drains into the Yangon, Hlaing, Pan Hlaing and Bago rivers, contributing to flooding in wards and villages during heavy rainfall.

“The storm that struck Japan on 9 June has now weakened in the upper atmosphere, allowing the monsoon winds crossing the Bay of Bengal to enter Myanmar strongly. Therefore, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions may receive heavy rainfall. On 11 June, heavy rain

in Lower Myanmar may damage roads and bridges. On 12 June, Yangon and Ayeyawady may experience torrential rain. Heavy rainfall is likely to be seen in Lower Myanmar this week, said meteorologist U Htay Tint.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), there is a 60 to 80 per cent chance that La Niña conditions will emerge in the world. Myanmar is among the countries expected to be affected. Due to the impact of La Niña, the country is already experiencing stronger monsoon effects, and throughout the rainy season, there are expected to be periods of intense rainfall, temporary breaks and renewed downpours. — Oktha/KTZH

## YGH Neurology Extends Hours to ...

### FROM PAGE 1

These expanded examinations include electroencephalograms (EEGs) to detect abnormal brain activity and specialized equipment-based tests for patients suffering from nerve damage and limb immobility.

Since 2025, the department has been successfully carrying out a procedure to treat stroke patients by administering thrombolytic drugs (blood clot-dissolving medications). If a stroke patient arrives at the hospital within three hours

of the onset of symptoms, doctors from the emergency and radiology departments collaborate to diagnose and treat the patient promptly.

During 2025, the Neurology Department at Yangon General Hospital provided medical treatment to approximately 1,800 inpatients and 2,000 outpatients. With the expansion of treatment services and diagnostic examinations, patients suffering from neurological disorders are now able to receive faster and more effective medical care. — TWA/TH

## Red Cross media training and awareness workshop held



Participants attend the Red Cross awareness workshop and communications training course opening ceremony in Yangon.

A workshop on Red Cross awareness and the opening ceremony of a communications training course for field personnel were held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon on the morning of 8 June.

The Myanmar Red Cross Society, the Yangon Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) jointly organized the workshop and training course. The programme aims to enhance understanding of the fundamental principles, duties and activities of the Red Cross, as well as the values upheld by the Red Cross Movement.

At the opening ceremony, welcoming remarks were delivered by Myan-

mar Red Cross Society President Dr Myo Nyunt, Chairman of the Yangon Region Red Cross Supervisory Committee Dr Zaw Htay, and Communication Coordinator Mr Francisco Javier Pavon Molina of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The event was attended by the President and the vice-president of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, officials of the organization, head of office Mr Finbarr Sweeney of the German Red Cross, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Red Cross volunteers from colleges, universities and townships across Yangon Region who will participate in the training course. — ASH/KZL

## DME warns of scams on matriculation results

THERE are scams on matriculation exam results, said the Department of Myanmar Examinations.

The public attention to the exam results has recently mounted, and there are people who are taking advantage of it and trying to take advantage of it on social media pages by offering a service to see the result prior to the official release date, it said.

Those people would first try to convince individuals that they would

help with unpaid service to see the exam results. Then, they would claim the student had failed in the exam, but they could help him or her to be included on the pass list or get a distinction if they are paid.

Even though some people mislead the public by using about 3-4 social media accounts as a scheme and such cases are found every year, it said.

To search for exam re-

sults easily online, the department uses its official websites only. In addition to the system that enables downloading exam result files, a new website was launched in 2025. Except for official websites, the department has provided no application for seeing the exam result, it said.

All applications that have been circulated are unofficial, not guaranteed to be accurate and pose a privacy risk, it said. The department is working to

upload the results to its website <https://result.dme.gov.mm>.

Under the methodical and structured arrangement, it affirmed that there is no possibility of a leak in exam results before the official announcement. Therefore, these unofficial services for seeing the exam result are absolutely fraudulent, and parents and students should be fully aware not to fall for their tricks, it urged. — MT/ZS

# OPINION

## Discussions in Hluttaw must be free from bias

**H**LUTTAW representatives are required to comply with and practise in accordance with the responsibilities, powers, codes of conduct, and disciplinary provisions set out in Hluttaw laws and rules. It was also noted that the dignity and effectiveness of the legislative branch depend on the discipline, orderliness, and high standards of each individual member, as well as their respect for and adherence to parliamentary laws, rules, and procedures.

Hluttaw representatives, who will exercise legislative power, are required to draft and enact laws that represent the voices of the people and protect the fundamental rights and justice of the public. They have to emphasize activities to enact new laws that are consistent with the country's current system, as well as to amend, supplement, or repeal existing laws as necessary. In addition, they must also discuss, scrutinize, and approve matters related to the annual state budget, the national planning process, and taxation.

In order to ensure the success of the reforms being implemented by the government today, Hluttaw representatives are required to serve as a strong "bridge" connecting the people in their respective constituencies and government departments. They should systematically collect and analyze the real needs, difficulties, and opinions of the people on the ground, and ensure that these are effectively reflected in national-level policies and affairs through Hluttaw mechanisms such as the relevant committees and commissions.

they directly benefit the public, and they are required to further encourage and support the positive efforts of the executive branch.

Hluttaw representatives are expected to effectively scrutinize and correct the activities of the executive branch within the framework of the Constitution, Hluttaw laws, and regulations, and to provide impartial criticism and recommendations to ensure that public funds are not wasted or lost.

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Every action taken by Hluttaw representatives should genuinely contribute to the interests of the State and the people. They are required to understand the needs and aspirations of citizens in the country and to address them through their legislative role. They have to consider a people-centred approach in their thinking. In every legislative matter they discuss, they must always prioritize and carefully consider how it will affect the daily social and economic lives of the public.

For the successful implementation of the policies and work programs set by the executive branch of the Government, the mutual checks and balances as well as cooperation of the Hluttaws play an important role. Those representatives should continuously monitor in their respective constituencies whether the planned activities are effectively implemented on the ground and whether

**I**T WAS 9 am when we left our car at the parking lot near the entrance to the precincts where the Maravijaya Buddha Image sojourned. I saw some security guards greeting us warmly with "Good morning". We walked through them southwards. We headed for the platform.

On the way there, some pilgrims were walking with their family members and friends. Among them, I noticed an old woman sitting in a wheelchair pushed by her son. We walked, exploring the scenes and religious buildings on both sides of the road in the wide precincts. Meanwhile, we felt pleasant and eager to worship the large Buddha image that was the tallest in the world.

Ten minutes later, we departed from this road, turned left and espied the seated, large Maravijaya Buddha Image sojourning sublimely on the lotus throne on the platform. "Mara Vijaya" means victory over evil ones. "Thus, 'Maravijaya' is Buddha Image who won victory over the Evil Ones."

The history of this Buddha image goes thus: the massive raw blocks were quarried from Sagyin Hill, near Mandalay. They were so enormous that the body of the Maravijaya Buddha Image had to be cut into four sections and the throne into five sections. The transport began by water. The first stage went from Sagyin Hill to Semikhon Port in Myingyan Township. That journey took 105 days, from 11 June 2020 to 23 September 2020. The second stage was by land. The blocks moved from Semikhon Port to the Buddha Garden site in Nay Pyi Taw. That took only five days – from 25 January 2021 to 29 January 2021. Thousands of tonnes of marble were handled. Every section was delivered successfully. Then,

enshrining the sacred objects, relics and jewellery items in the throne, the Maravijaya Buddha image was constructed by the government for public veneration.

We ascended to the platform through a short flight of stairs. To my heart's content, I paid homage to the great marble Maravijaya Buddha Image because I was just a visitor who came from Yangon. It had taken a long time to be desirous of pilgrimage to it. It was unlike my elder brother, who was posted as an administrative officer in Nay Pyi Taw.

I stood there and could not help but marvel at the Maravijaya Buddha image's height and architectural design. It was a seated one facing west. It was sublime in Bhumiphassa mudra, bearing a trace of a smile on the lips. It was very blessed and auspicious. It is learned that this image itself rises 63 feet. The throne adds another 18 feet. The total height is 81 feet. The statue weighs 1,782 tonnes. The throne weighs 3,510 tonnes.

I noticed the pagoda platform was floored with marble slabs. There were four pavilions on the platform. I walked clockwise around the large Buddha image. I saw some pilgrims praying at the planetary posts. I got to the southern pavilion and enjoyed some murals depicted on the ceilings of the pavilion. My elder brother took my memorable photos inside it. After spending there for 20 minutes, we left the platform again.

After walking down the platform, I walked westwards because I saw some pilgrims having some photographs taken in the beautiful water fountain square. I saw some statues of white, lovely elephants near the water fountain. Due to the gentle breeze, I felt fresh and peaceful in my heart.

Passing through the water



The Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw.

# A Pilgrimage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw

By Maung Maung Aye

fountain square, I proceeded again towards the Maravijaya Park. I found many stone plaques on which Tipitaka treatises were carved in the Pali and Romanized Languages. Stone plaques

with Tipitaka treatises on them totalled 1,440 in number. It is learned that apart from these stone plaques, four additional plaques also existed there as a commemorative record of the

site. Each large plaque measures three feet and nine inches by six feet and three inches. The thickness is 7.2 inches.

We rambled in the precincts and got to the Buddha Garden

Site (ဗုဒ္ဓဥယျာဉ်တောင်). The area around the Maravijaya Buddha image was not just an open field. It had been carefully designed as a sacred landscape. We decided to visit each place one by one.

We walked to the Sudhamma Zayat (သုဓမ္မာဓရံ). These Zayats were beautifully built of teak pillars. They included Myanmar architectural carvings. I sat down for a moment. The shade was cool. Pilgrims sat chatting relaxingly around us. The ancient architectural spirit was still alive here.

We went to Mucalinda Lake (မုလိန္ဒအိုင်). This lake was built exactly according to historical accounts. As usual, a Buddha image was constructed in the style of sitting on the celestial serpent, who protected him from a storm or destructive elements. I stood by the water. It was calm and clear. The serene environment made my mind peaceful.

Tirelessly, we walked about in the precincts and reached the Nagayon Shrine (နဂါးရုံဘုရား). This shrine was built based on Buddhist scriptures. It showed the great celestial serpent (Naga) wrapping his coils seven times around the Buddha. He spread his hood to form a protective canopy. He protected the Enlightened One from wind and rain. The stone carving here was exceptionally fine. I stood there for some minutes. Then, we proceeded.

I entered the Ordination Hall or Sima (သိမ်တော်ကြီး၊ သာသနာဗိမာန်တော်). It was modelled after the Great Cave Ordination Hall at Kaba Aye in Yangon. That was where the Sixth Buddhist Council was held. This majestic building could accommodate 900 monks and 1,200 lay devotees, totalling 2,100 souls in number. Inside, I saw a large Buddha image (နောင်တော်ကြီး ရုပ်ပွားတော်). I heard something interesting about this sacred Buddha image. Thus, before carving the final statue (Maravijaya), craftsmen first made a nine-foot prototype, seeking advice from the venerable monks

with a mark of deep respect for tradition. The main Maravijaya Buddha image was modelled after this prototype. Afterwards, we left this building. Then, we strolled through the gardens. The garden was a delight throughout the year. I saw Kyee trees (ကျည်းပင်). There was a sacred Bodhi tree brought from India. I also saw Ingyin trees (အင်ကြင်းပင်) from Lumbini – the Buddha's birthplace. There were clumps of Lin Lun trees in Rajayatana Grove (လင်းလွန်းတောအုပ်). Nearly 1,000 Gangaw (ဂုံတော်) trees stood tall. A natural stream had been straightened. A bridge was built in the style of the Mandalay Yadanabon era's "Mingala Bridge" (မင်္ဂလာတံတား). Walking along the paths, I felt coolness from the white marble. The shade of the trees refreshed my mind. It was a true mental refreshment.

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Overall, the precincts had been pleasant with such eminent places as the Mucalinda Lake, Sasana Beikman, Maravijaya Monastery, and Therasana Venue. There was also an archive museum, the pagodas, a monastery, a lake, an ordination hall, public rest houses and a bridge in the park, etc. We elapsed some hours unnoticed. When I looked up at the sky, the sun was already high. So, we walked back to the entrance near which our car was parked.

To conclude, the Maravijaya Buddha Image, the tallest in the world, was also one of the most renowned ones in Nay Pyi Taw. Thus, our pilgrimage there made me and my elder brother pleasant and increased our knowledge of history, religion, and architecture. Merits could also be obtained because we could pay homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image and other sacred images while having a good time.

# From Radio Songs to Modern Policy: Health as the Main Hope

By Dr Zeyar Win

**H**EALTH is more than the absence of disease. It means complete physical, mental, and social well being. Good health strengthens learning capacity, increases productivity, and supports social stability and

peace. A healthy person can study, work, and contribute to family prosperity and national progress. In this way, health is the basic foundation of development.

In the 1980s, Myanmar society was still simple and calm

compared to today's fast changing world. At that time, radio was the most influential medium, and nearly every household owned one. Among the programs broadcast by Myanmar Radio was a song titled "အဓိကမျှော်တွေးကျန်းမာရေး" written by Thein Tan (Myanmar Pyi) and Yankin Aung Myint Than, sung by Than Than Nwe, the song carried

lyrics such as: "အာရောဂျီ ပရမ်း လာဘ် ဆိုစကား ဒို့များ သိထားကြပါသည်၊ လုပ်အားကိုယ်စီ တည်ပေးဖို့ ဒို့များကိုယ်စီ ကျန်းမာဖို့လိုသည်၊ ကျန်းမာမှ အလုပ်လုပ်နိုင်မည်၊ အဖိုးမဖြတ်နိုင်ပါသည်၊ စိတ်မှာ တွေး ကျန်းမာရေးသည် အဓိကအရေး ဖြစ်သည်၊ ခိုယုံကြည်" It's simple yet modern melody made it popular across the country.

This was more than just en-

tertainment. It was a public health campaign reminding citizens that healthy children grow into healthy workers, and that a strong, healthy society becomes the strength of the nation. Other songs promoted healthy habits, such as "စောစောအိပ် လိုစောစောထလို့ စောစောလမ်းလျှောက်ကြပါမို့". These cultural messages encouraged ordinary people to

adopt healthier lifestyles, showing how media could effectively support public health.

When individuals live long and healthy lives, families spend less on medical treatment, and societies reduce their healthcare burden. For the nation, a strong workforce ensures continuous growth in agriculture, industry,

and technology. Prevention in health is especially important. As the saying goes, "Prevention is better than cure." Preventing disease is more effective and less costly than treating it after it occurs.

Basic measures for good health include balanced nutrition, eating more fruits and vegetables,

reducing excess fat, salt, and sugar; regular physical activity, adequate sleep, stress management, avoiding tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, vaccination, and regular health check ups. Health education is vital. When people understand disease risks and prevention methods, illness rates decline. Prioritizing hygiene, vaccination, and preventive care reduces the loss of human resources nationwide.

SEE PAGE 11

# NATIONAL

## CBM pumps US\$2.6M into edible oil import sector



Last August, the dollar hit K4,500 in the grey market. At present, the dollar was exchanged at K2,860 for buying and K2,880 for selling.

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) continues to inject US\$2.6 million into edible oil-importing companies on 9 June.

CBM also sold over \$3.6 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$51,210 to CMP companies on 8 June, along with an over \$380 valued non-trade transaction.

CBM sold \$3 million, purchased from CMP companies, to LNG-importing companies on 5 June. CBM sold over \$109,300 to CMP companies and \$3 million to LNG companies on 4 June, along with \$1,650 worth of non-trade trans-

actions.

CBM has been injecting US dollars into the edible oil-importing companies, with over \$2.9 million on 4 June, over \$2.89 million on 3 June, \$1.79 million on 2 June and over \$646,800 on 1 June, respectively.

Moreover, CBM sold \$3,003 to CMP companies on 3 June after making a \$48,250 valued non-trade transaction. CBM also sold over 26,400 on 2 June and over \$46,000 to CMP companies on 1 June, along with \$33,255 worth of non-trade transactions.

CBM pumped over \$51 million and 1.2 million baht

into the foreign exchange market in May.

CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan into the foreign exchange market in February and over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

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

## Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 10 June 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,648.00~3,669.00	557.00~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	9,948,301.49	6,264,474.51	174,536.00	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, pharmaceutical and pharma-

ceutical raw materials, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, construction materials, electronics, packaging materials, animal feed,

and wheat. The CMP sector revenue contributed US\$1.38 million to the edible oil sector and US\$0.04 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

## MGMA warns factories: Secure import licences before cargo arrives

MYANMAR Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) notified companies and factories to seek CMP import licences before the arrival of raw materials, according to its notification dated 8 June.

Obtaining a CMP import licence takes approximately two weeks. Therefore, calculating the timeline is required to streamline the import process.

The MGMA, on behalf of the CMP Import-Export Supervisory Sub-Committee, screens recommendations for CMP import licenses. Applications are processed through the Ministry of Commerce's Tradenet 2.0



Container vessels are seen docking at Yangon Port.

online system.

When applying for import licenses, traders must strictly adhere to the regulations of the ministry; estimate the timeline and seek a CMP import licence to ensure smooth importation of raw materials, ensuring

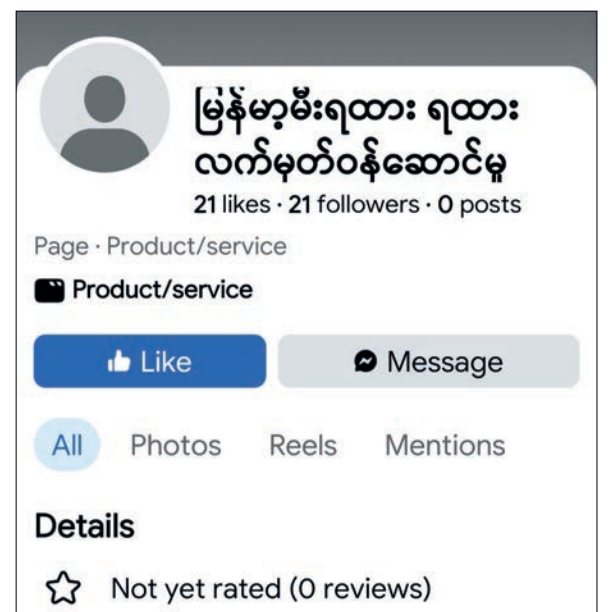
no discrepancies in CIF value, fabric quantities and CMP-FOB value as stated on invoices and sale contracts, HS code alliance and corresponding value of raw materials and finished products, returning unused import licence. — NN/KK

## MR warns unauthorized online train ticket sellers face prosecution

IF train ticket sales, which are being offered on social media platforms with a service charge, are found, legal action will be taken under existing laws, said the Myanma Railways (MR).

For the convenience of train passengers, the MR has launched the web-based Online Railways Ticketing and Payment System (ORTP) that allows ticket purchase online for passenger express trains for the journey from Yangon to Mandalay, which started on 1 February 2026.

It allowed technology companies which won the tender for developing and investing in its ORTP system to collect K200 per ticket for their technology service fee at the official bank transfer rate on 4 April, and now it has heard that train ticket sales are being



A social media page advertising the train ticket sale.

offered on social media platforms- TikTok, Facebook, Telegram and Viber with a charge. For those who have difficulty buying tickets online, ticket counters have been provided at train stations, and the station employees have helped passengers in

buying tickets using the ORTP system. No one else is permitted to collect charges for ticket services, the MR said.

MR warned that no train ticket sales on social media are allowed, and legal actions will be taken for breaching this rule. — MT/ZS

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# ARTICLE/SCI/TECH: WORLD

## From Radio Songs to Modern Policy: Health as the Main Hope

FROM PAGE 9

History shows that humanity has fought not only political wars but also invisible battles against disease. Epidemics have destroyed empires and reshaped societies. The Plague of Justinian in the 6<sup>th</sup> century killed nearly half the population of the Byzantine Empire, weakening its military and hastening its decline. The Black Death in the 14<sup>th</sup> century wiped out more than a third of Europe's population, collapsing the feudal system. In modern times, the Spanish Flu of 1918 killed over 50 million people worldwide, delaying post war recovery for years.



These lessons remain relevant today. The recent COVID-19 pandemic revealed that even powerful nations with advanced weapons struggled when their health systems were weak. Lockdowns disrupted economies and daily life, proving that national security depends not only on military strength but also

on resilient public health systems and informed citizens.

In today's world, health challenges extend beyond traditional diseases. Climate change, environmental degradation, food insecurity, and population density all affect health. These issues are intertwined with politics,

economics, and society, creating a broad "health panorama". Addressing them requires cooperation across sectors and long term planning.

Myanmar's new government recognizes that sustainable development depends on human resources. It plans to focus on education and health.

In the health sector, the priority is expanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC) so that all citizens, regardless of income, can access basic healthcare free or at low cost. Efforts include raising health awareness, strengthening disease prevention, and addressing both infectious diseases and non communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease.

Digital media will be used to spread accurate health information and counter misinformation. By sharing reliable, science based knowledge, the government aims to empower citizens to make healthier choices. Vaccination pro-

grams, preventive campaigns, and community participation will be intensified to build a healthier population.

Ultimately, health is not created by governments and healthcare workers alone. It is a shared responsibility of every citizen, beginning in families and communities. Reviving the spirit of mutual support from the past, combined with modern medical technology, can ensure long and healthy lives for all. The old radio song "အဓိကရွှေ့ပြောင်း ကျန်းမာရေး" still carries meaning today: health is the foundation of education, work, prosperity, and national strength.

## Tech breakthroughs boost China's black soil protection endeavours

This region accounts for approximately 25 per cent of China's total grain production.



The Chinese Academy of Sciences launched the "Black Soil Granary" science and technology initiative, bringing together 98 institutions nationwide to tackle key challenges in black soil protection. PHOTO: CMG/CGTN

CHINESE scientists have released research results documenting technological breakthroughs in combating black soil degradation and boosting modern agricultural development

through the use of modern precision practices.

Referred to as the "giant panda of cultivated land" thanks to its fertility and scarcity, black soil in China's Heilongjiang, Ji-

lin and Liaoning provinces, all located in the country's northeast, and in some parts of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, covers a total area of 1.09 million square kilo-

metres. It produces about a quarter of China's total grain output.

However, black soil has experienced varying degrees of degradation due to factors such as excessive exploitation and climate change. The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), together with authorities in the four provincial-level regions mentioned earlier, launched the "Black Soil Granary" programme in 2021 to provide sci-tech support to the fight against soil degradation.

The CAS published the project's latest achievements, covering theories, technologies, models and smart equipment, on Monday in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province. — Xinhua

## Woolly mammoth among trove of ancient DNA found in squirrel poo

A huge treasure trove of ancient DNA from animals including extinct woolly mammoths has been discovered in frozen squirrel faeces in Canada's remote Yukon territory, scientists said Tuesday. The DNA found deep inside sealed-off burrows is between 3,000 and 700,000 years old, offering a rare window into how life has changed over the millennia.

As well as DNA from woolly mammoths

— which the US company Colossal claims it is trying to "de-extinct" — genetic material was also found from wolves, bison, horses, a cheetah and hundreds of plants. Tyler Murchie, a paleogenomics researcher at Canada's McMaster University and lead author of a new study, admitted that digging through squirrel poop might sound "less appealing" than discovering, say, a mammoth tusk. — AFP



This image shows a woolly mammoth skeleton, specifically the head and tusks. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/AFP/FILE

# ECONOMY WORLD

## 100 tech pioneers in AI space aim to power autonomous systems at scale

The World Economic Forum announced its 2026 Technology Pioneers cohort, recognizing 100 companies developing breakthrough technologies with the potential to transform industries and societies.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Finance refers to the use of machine learning, natural language processing, and automation to streamline financial services, accelerate data analysis, and execute complex workflows. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ PIXABAY**

THE next era of artificial intelligence will depend less on bigger models and more on the plumbing that lets autonomous agents operate reliably, securely and efficiently. That's the bet reflected in the World

Economic Forum's 2026 Technology Pioneers cohort.

The 100 early-stage companies selected from 23 countries are building the software and physical infrastructure needed for

AI to move from demos to real-world deployment, identity and payments rails for AI agents, energy and compute systems to handle soaring demand, and tools to integrate autonomous systems into

enterprises.

As these foundations mature, AI agents are likely to shift from assistants to operators managing workflows, transactions and industrial processes with minimal human oversight.

The World Economic Forum announced its 2026 Technology Pioneers cohort, recognising 100 companies developing breakthrough technologies with the potential to transform industries and societies.

This year's cohort stands out for focusing on the infrastructure required to power AI at scale, rather than consumer applications alone.

Two groups dominate the list. The first is building foundations for autonomous AI agents, including identity verification, payments, security and enterprise integration. — ANI

## S Korea's corporate revenue growth slows in 2025

SOUTH Korea's corporate revenue grew more slowly last year due to the sluggish performance of the oil refining and construction industries, central bank data showed Wednesday.

Revenue for 13,918 manufacturers and 20,538 non-manufacturers subject to external audit, excluding financial firms, rose 2.5 per cent in 2025 from a year earlier after expanding 4.2 per cent in the previous year, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

Sales by manufacturers swelled 3.2 per cent last year, slower than an increase of 5.2 per cent in the prior year. Revenue for non-manufacturers gained

1.6 per cent in 2025 after going up 3.0 per cent in 2024.

Revenue among construction companies declined 9.6 per cent last year, while those in the oil refining, chemical and electrical equipment sectors reduced in single digits. Corporate profitability improved. The ratio of operating profit to revenue advanced to 6.2 per cent in 2025 from 5.4 per cent in the previous year. The ratio for manufacturers climbed from 5.5 per cent to 6.9 per cent in the cited period amid higher semiconductor price, while the reading for non-manufacturers mounted from 5.2 per cent to 5.4 per cent. — Xinhua



Oil tanks and facilities at Yeosu National Industrial Complex, the largest petrochemical industrial complex in South Korea. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Japan megabanks to issue stablecoin for securities trades in FY 2026

THREE major Japanese banks said Wednesday they will jointly issue a stablecoin in the current business year through next March for use in trading stocks and investment trusts at selected brokerages.

MUFG Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. and Mizuho Bank also agreed to create a council to work out governance and other rules for the stablecoin, likely to be denominated in

yen. They plan to expand the number of financial institutions where customers can use the digi-



The three institutions officially agreed to establish a dedicated regulatory council. **PHOTO: KYODO/FILE**

tal money from the initial five, including Nomura Securities Co. and Daiwa Securities Co., which

have been trialing the system since February.

Stablecoins are crypto assets pegged to tangible assets such as fiat currencies and are considered less volatile than other types of digital money such as Bitcoin.

The three banks began trials in November 2025 with an eye to issuing a joint stablecoin, in a project backed by the Financial Services Agency. — Kyodo

## Pakistan records US\$4.25 bln remittances in May

PAKISTAN received US\$4.25 billion in workers' remittances in May 2026, registering a 15.4-per-cent increase year-on-year and a 20.2-per-cent rise from the previous month, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said on Wednesday.

According to data released by the central bank, cumulative remittance inflows reached US\$38.1 billion during the July-May period of fiscal year 2025-26, up 9.2

percent from US\$34.9 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

Saudi Arabia remained the largest source of remittances, with overseas Pakistanis sending US\$1.03 billion in May.

Remittances from the United Arab Emirates surged to US\$1.01 billion in May, up 33 per cent year-on-year and 37 per cent month-on-month. — Xinhua

# Japanese manga character Chiikawa named Tokyo Station master for a day

THE titular character of the popular Japanese manga “Chiikawa” on Wednesday was named Tokyo Station master for a day as part of a collaboration tied to the release of a film featuring the tiny, animal-like fictional figure.

A Chiikawa mascot appeared on a platform at one of the capital’s busiest stations and gave the departure signal for a Tokaido shinkansen train



Manga character Chiikawa (R) becomes the station master of Tokyo Station for a day in the Japanese capital on 10 June 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

bound for Shin-Osaka Station.

Standing alongside the “one-day station master,” Nobuhide Naganishi, Tokyo Station master for railway operator JR Central, asked Chiikawa whether its friends could ride on the train, prompting the character to jump around.

With the Chiikawa-themed film set to open on 24 July, JR Tokai has launched a promotion-

al campaign running from August through October to encourage travel on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line linking Tokyo and Osaka.

During the campaign, passengers aboard bullet trains operated by JR Central can access a dedicated website where they can obtain augmented reality photo frames that overlay images of Chiikawa characters onto real-world scenery. — Kyodo

## Saudi’s new national carrier gets off ground despite war, delays

SAUDI Arabia launched its second national carrier Riyadh Air after more than a year of delays on Wednesday, defying the economic turmoil triggered by the Middle East war and strong competition from established Gulf airlines.

A London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Riyadh Air’s white and lavender livery took

off at 2:30 am (2330 GMT Tuesday), putting in motion a flagship project in Saudi Arabia’s push to reduce its economic reliance on oil. Riyadh Air, the country’s second state-owned airline after Jeddah-based Saudia, is meant to help turn the Saudi capital into a global hub to rival Dubai, the world’s busiest for international passengers.

“We want to bring glamour, we want to bring refinement, we want to bring grace back,” Riyadh Air CEO Tony Douglas told AFP.

The launch, originally planned for 2025, was set back by delivery delays from Boeing, which has suffered a series of manufacturing and safety problems in recent years. — AFP

## China’s NEV output, sales report steady growth in May

NEV output rose 22.4 per cent year on year to 1.554 million units, while sales increased 14.4 per cent to 1.496 million units, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

NEVs accounted for 56.9 per cent of total new car sales in May, further climbing from the previous month.

Overall, automobile output and sales in May stood at 2.616 million and 2.629 million units, expanding on a monthly basis but falling slightly year on year, with the decline narrowing



People visit an auto show in Jinan, east China’s Shandong Province, 10 April 2026. PHOTO: HAO XINCHENG/XINHUA

further:

In the first five months, auto output and sales totaled 12.235 million and 12.207 million units,

with NEV output and sales reaching 5.841 million and 5.802 million units, up 2.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent year on year. — Xinhua

## Indian steelmakers to begin multi-year capex cycle

INDIAN steelmakers are set to enter a multi-year investment cycle as the country targets expanding its steel-making capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030, according to a report by S&P Global.

The country’s top four listed steel producers have announced a 40 per cent year-on-year increase in aggregate capital expenditure (capex) for fiscal 2027 (ending 31 March), representing an investment of Rs700 billion, which is up from Rs 500 billion in fiscal 2026.

“This is the start of a multi-year capex cycle as India aims to increase steel capacity to 300 million tonne by 2030. The top four account for half of the country’s steel output,” the report said.

The investment push is being driven by strong domestic demand. India’s finished steel consumption stood at 165 million tonnes in fiscal 2026, and S&P Global expects annual steel consumption to increase by more than 50 million tonnes over the

next five years.

The capacity expansion is also being supported by trade protection measures. “The capacity addition comes at a time when the local producers face reduced competition from low-priced overseas supply, as safeguard duties continue to curb cheaper imports,” it said.

Introduced provisionally in April 2025, the 11 per cent-12 per cent, duties on steel imports were extended through April 2028 in early 2026, it noted.— ANI

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# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## World leaders hail Modi as India's longest-serving Prime Minister

*World leaders specifically highlighted his transformative governance model and his strong advocacy for the nations of the Global South.*



Prime Minister Narendra Modi received warm congratulations from world leaders on the eve of his becoming the longest-serving continuous elected Prime Minister of India.

**PHOTO: ANI**

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi received warm congratulations from world leaders on the eve of his becoming the longest-serving continuous elected Prime Minister

of India. World leaders from across the globe paid tribute to the Prime Minister's transformative governance, his advocacy for the Global South, and his vision of an inclusive

and economically dynamic India.

Anura Kumara Disanayaka, the President of Sri Lanka, in a letter dated 8 June, addressed to the Prime Min-

ister, conveyed the warm congratulations of the Government and people of Sri Lanka to him, stating: "This milestone is a testament not only to your years in office, but also to the trust and confidence that the people of the world's largest democracy have repeatedly placed in your leadership."

The President also highlighted India's remarkable economic and social transformation and noted that Prime Minister Modi's vision has inspired many beyond India's borders, including Sri Lanka.

James Marape, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, in a personal video message, described Prime Minister Modi as "a role model and an example of leadership". He also stated, "Lifting over 200 million people out of poverty to a good life today is an amazing feat." — ANI

## Türkiye vows harsh response over Cyprus

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned Wednesday over any developments harming Northern Cyprus, after France and Cyprus signed a deal allowing for the presence of French forces on Cypriot territory.

"Now we see an attempt to ignite a fire of discord in the Mediterranean, especially on the island of Cyprus," he said, two days after an agreement was signed expanding Franco-Cypriot defence cooperation.

"If the rights and laws of Turkey and Turkish Cypriots are threatened in the eastern Mediterranean, our response will be very clear and very harsh."

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 after Ankara occupied its northern third in response to an Athens-engineered Greek Cypriot coup seeking union with Greece.

Today it comprises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which is only recognized by Ankara, and the in-

ternationally recognised Republic of Cyprus, a European Union member

that controls the island's majority Greek Cypriot south. — AFP



British members of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus patrol the buffer zone separating the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus and the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the divided capital Nicosia on 17 February 2026. **PHOTO: JEWEL SAMAD / AFP / FILE**

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Cargo vessel exchanges fire with armed craft at Yemen's coast

A cargo vessel transiting waters off Yemen's southern coast exchanged fire with an armed craft carrying six people, forcing the small boat to withdraw, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said on Wednesday.

In a statement posted on the social media platform X, UKMTO said it had received a report of an incident approximately 88 nautical miles southwest of Balhaf, a coastal area in Yemen's Shabwa province.

According to the report, an exchange of fire subsequently took place between the armed individuals aboard the craft and the vessel's Armed Security Team.

"The small craft turned away following the exchange," UKMTO said, adding that the incident remains under investigation.

No casualties or damage to the vessel were immediately reported. — Xinhua

#### Ex-Diet speaker Kono dies at 89

FORMER lower house speaker and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, known for announcing the Japanese government's landmark apology over Korean "comfort women" forced to work in Japan's wartime military brothels, died, people close to his family said Wednesday. He was 89.

As chief cabinet secretary under then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in 1993, Kono issued an official statement acknowledging the Japanese military's involvement in the recruitment of "comfort women," often through coercion, and in the operation of facilities where they were kept. The issue has long been a source of diplomatic friction between Tokyo and Seoul. — Kyodo

## Iran retaliates with attacks on Bahrain, Jordan bases

THE United States military has completed a series of "self-defence" strikes against Iranian targets near the Strait of Hormuz, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) announced on Tuesday, hours before Iran launched its own wave of drone and missile attacks on American facilities in Bahrain and Jordan.

CENTCOM said the strikes were ordered by President Donald Trump in response to the downing of a US Army Apache helicopter by Iranian fire.

The strikes hit Iranian air defence systems,

ground control stations, and surveillance radars near the strategic Strait of Hormuz — a critical chokepoint for global oil shipments.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched a coordinated retaliation, striking US positions in Bahrain and Jordan.

Bahrain — A drone attack targeted the US Fifth Fleet base in Manama. Social media footage showed a direct impact, and air defense sirens were heard across the capital. — SPUTNIK

# SPORTS

## FIFA boss Infantino faces questions on eve of World Cup



FIFA chief Gianni Infantino faces a potentially tough ride as he addresses the media on the eve of the World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

FIFA President Gianni Infantino is set to face the media on the eve of the World Cup on Wednesday, as off-field distractions dogged the build-up to the tournament.

Infantino is likely to face tough questions

about sky-high ticket prices and an immigration crackdown that has seen a top referee, fans and team officials barred from co-hosts the United States.

The head of world football's governing body

will give a rare press conference in Mexico City, where co-hosts Mexico play South Africa on Thursday in the opening match at the Estadio Azteca.

The 2026 men's World Cup has been ex-

panded to 48 teams and is the biggest and most ambitious in the event's history, with matches also taking place in Canada.

But the refusal of US immigration authorities to allow Somali referee Omar Artan, one of Africa's leading match officials, into the country underlined fears that Donald Trump's immigration policy could leave deep scars on the football extravaganza.

Artan said the "biggest dream of my life" had been ripped away after he was turned back at the US border.

"I am very, very disappointed," Artan told *The New York Times*.

"I'm just simply a referee who's trying to live his dream, the biggest dream of my life, to come to the World Cup." — AFP

## Gascoigne urges England to replicate 1990 spirit at World Cup

PAUL Gascoigne said on Wednesday he hopes England can reproduce the same "unbelievable" team spirit as the squad at the 1990 World Cup during their quest for glory at this year's tournament.

The former midfielder was a key member of Bobby Robson's team which reached the semifinals in Italy before losing on penalties to eventual champions West Germany.

England have won the World Cup just once, on home soil 60 years ago, and the only time they have reached the semifinals since 1990 was when Gareth Southgate's side made it through to the last four in 2018.

"You want 11 captains on the pitch and when you are playing in a game like that, at a World Cup, you cannot afford to carry anyone," Gascoigne told ITV.

"Everyone has to be on the ball and the team spirit is important.

"The players that didn't play, they were right behind the team, so our team spirit was unbelievable.

"The most important thing is team spirit because that goes a long way."

Thomas Tuchel's men face Costa Rica in their final friendly on Wednesday before a Group L opener against Croatia in Dallas on June 17. — AFP



Paul Gascoigne won 57 caps for England. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Football: Minamino fully committed to Japan cause in World Cup mentor role

TRAVELLING with the Japan team knowing he will get no time on the pitch at this summer's World Cup, Takumi Minamino is playing an unorthodox role in his country's bid for their best-ever finish.

One of Hajime Moriyasu's longest-serving players during his eight-year tenure, the recovering Monaco star chose to take up a mentor position for the Samurai Blue after he was left out of the manager's 26-man squad.

A ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee has kept him out of match action since December, but the 31-year-old was at the fore as his teammates jogged around Geodis Park during their

first training session in Nashville on Monday.

"Before anything I'm happy I could join this group," the attacker said. "Lots of people helped me get here and I'm hoping to give my maximum support

to the team by offering my personal experience and coming up with my own approach."

The former Salzburg and Liverpool man was given the No 10 shirt at the last World Cup in 2022

but was limited to three substitute appearances in Qatar, where he missed Japan's first penalty in the shootout of a round-of-16 loss to Croatia.

He subsequently forced his way back into Moriyasu's regular starters and was nailed on to make his second World Cup until his injury dealt a huge blow to the player and Japan's aspiration to reach the last eight for the first time.

"As expected, the first few weeks were tough. Injuries are part and parcel of being an athlete, but the timing of it and, of course, there was that emotion I had for this World Cup (after the last one)," Minamino said. — Kyodo



Japan's World Cup mentor Takumi Minamino (2nd from R) speaks with manager Hajime Moriyasu (L) during a training session at Geodis Park in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 8, 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

## Messi returns as Argentina beats Iceland

LIONEL Messi scored on his return from injury as Argentina cruised to a 3-0 win over Iceland in its final World Cup warmup match on Tuesday.

Valentin Barco put the reigning world champion ahead by pouncing on a rushed clearance and rocketing a first-time effort from 20 yards into the bottom-left corner. Messi, who missed Argentina's 2-0 friendly win over Honduras on Saturday

due to a mild hamstring strain, replaced Giuliano Simeone in the 72<sup>nd</sup> minute and made an immediate impact. His first touch was a perfectly weighted through ball for Lautaro Martinez, who was taken down by goalkeeper Elias Olafsson while attempting a shot at goal. The referee duly pointed to the spot and Messi despatched the resultant penalty beyond Olafsson's reach. — Xinhua



## Xi's DPRK visit yields important consensus on bilateral ties

**X**i Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese president, said on Tuesday that he reached important consensus with General Secretary Kim Jong Un on developing relations between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the new era.

The two sides also had in-depth discussions on safeguarding peace and stability in the region and the world, Xi said when he and his wife, Peng Liyuan, attended the luncheon hosted by Kim, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, and his wife, Ri Sol Ju. Xi thanked Kim for the warm hospitality and thoughtful arrangements for the visit, noting that through the visit, the

warmth and friendship extended by the DPRK party, government and people towards the Chinese party, government and people is felt even more deeply.

The mutual understanding between China and the DPRK has become deeper and more comprehensive, and the future development direction has become clearer and more definite, Xi said.

Xi said that he is ready to work with Kim to jointly lead China-DPRK relations to greater development and inject new and strong impetus into the socialist cause of the two countries.

Xi's visit was of great significance to bilateral re-

*The mutual understanding between China and the DPRK has become deeper and more comprehensive.*



lations and the future development of the region, Kim said, noting that the DPRK side stands ready to earnestly implement the important consensus reached during the visit, promote new tangible outcomes in bilateral cooperation, and advance DPRK-China relations to a new and higher level — Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan, alongside North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju, paid homage at the China-DPRK Friendship Tower in Pyongyang on 9 June 2026. **PHOTO: DING HAITAO/XINHUA**

## Netanyahu will run in Israel's next election: Likud party



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the Kirya military headquarters in Tel Aviv, Israel, 1 March 2026. **PHOTO: GPO/HANDOUT VIA XINHUA/FILE**

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will run in Israel's next election, his right-wing Likud party said Wednesday.

In a brief statement, Likud said Netanyahu would "run in the upcoming elections", without elaborating.

The statement came after US President Donald Trump told ABC News that it was unclear whether Netanyahu planned to run again, according to a Tuesday report from the outlet.

Elections have not yet been officially announced,

but they are required under Israeli law to take place by October.

To strengthen his political position ahead of the vote, Netanyahu's Likud party has formed a strategic alliance and signed a combined ticket merger with Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope party.

The upcoming vote carries immense national weight as it will serve as the first general election held in Israel since the 7 October 2023 attacks.

Despite cementing his party leadership, Netanyahu faces a challenging political landscape, with recent national polls showing that a majority of the Israeli public opposes his bid for another term. — Agencies

## Italian astronaut expects home flavours on Artemis III menu

ITALIAN astronaut Luca Parmitano is hoping to bring a taste of his homeland to the Artemis III mission he will pilot near Earth in 2027 to test two lunar modules.

The menu for the Artemis II mission in April featured Texas brisket and tortillas for the Orion spacecraft's crew -- and a jar of Italian sweet treat Nutella was also seen floating by during a live broadcast from space.

"I do expect something Italian to show up on the menu, and I don't even have to bring it up because Italian food is a treasure of UNESCO," Parmitano told AFP Tuesday, adding "everybody wants some Italian food".

That's not all the former Italian Air Force colonel brings to the table

for the Artemis III -- part of a series of missions geared toward returning humans to the Moon, perhaps as soon as 2028.

Selected as an astronaut by the European Space Agency (ESA) in 2009, Parmitano has completed two missions aboard the International Space Station, where he completed complex spacewalks -- including a near-fatal incident when his helmet began filling with water due to a failure in the suit's cooling system.

As the mission's lead pilot, Parmitano will share responsibility with commander Randy Bresnik. "We are both test pilots, and the spacecraft needs a crew of two to fly it, so we share the responsibilities," Parmitano

said.

"I feel honoured that I was chosen for this role," he said. "It was unexpected because I didn't know that it was in the run for that position." — AFP



Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano will pilot Artemis III, part of a series of missions geared toward returning humans to the Moon. **PHOTO: RONALDO SCHEMIDT / AFP**