

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

State Receives Rare Rough Sapphire and Cut Crystal

The uniquely large and striking rough sapphire, weighing 14,300 grammes (71,500 carats) and discovered in Myanmar's Mogok gem region in 2020, is a deep blue, translucent specimen.

The State has continued to firmly follow the democratic path under the leadership of President U Min Aung Hlaing after a free and fair multiparty democratic general election was held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and the people overwhelmingly cast their votes to elect a democratic government. During this period, a uniquely beautiful and large rough sapphire stone weighing 14,300 grammes (71,500 carats), discovered in Myanmar's Mogok gem region in 2020, together with a sapphire crystal weighing 354.77 grammes (1,773.85 carats), were handed over to the State.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing observed the large rough sapphire stone and the sapphire crystal at the President's Office yesterday morning.

Also present on the



President U Min Aung Hlaing examines the large rough sapphire stone and the sapphire crystal at the President's Office yesterday.

occasion together with the President were Vice-Presidents U Nyo Saw and Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Union

Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Khin Latt Gyi and officials. The Union Minister at the President's

and the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation reported to the President and State dignitaries on facts about the large rough sapphire stone and the sapphire crystal.

SEE PAGE 3

Training course batch 13 for tour guides with cancelled licences continues in July

FOR tour guides who faced licence revocation for failing renewal, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture will continue tour guide training course batch 13 in July.

The training duration is from 16 to 25 July and along with required documents, applications can be submitted in person to the disciplinary and training section of the Centre for Tourism Development (CTD) or by sending email to tts.yangon@gmail.com.

Tour guides must have official licence provided by the government and unlicensed guides will face three-year imprisonment and K50,000 fine under the rules and regulations of the hotels and tourism law.

If unlicensed local guides are found, complaints can be submitted to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism with complete evidence. The licence validity is at least two years but it is allowed renewal for four years for tour guides who paused the operation for a temporary period, said the directorate. **SEE PAGE 3**



Training course batch 12 conducted for tour guides with cancelled licences.

Mon State Hluttaw unanimously approves motion to ban linked speaker boxes



THE Mon State Hluttaw on 12 June unanimously approved, without objection, a motion calling for effective action to prevent, regulate, and prohibit the excessively loud use of linked speaker boxes (speaker sets), which causes health problems and social disturbances for the public.

The motion was initially submitted by U Tin Yee, a Mon State Hluttaw representative from Bilin Township Constituency 2, during the second regular session of the Mon State Hluttaw held on 9 June. **SEE PAGE 2**

This photo features interconnected speaker boxes in use at a reception.

Myanmar advances new offshore gas projects with significant deep-water reserves

MYANMAR'S natural gas is being extracted from offshore projects, and geologists have confirmed, based on data obtained from 3D seismic surveys of sandstone reservoirs beneath the seabed and the results of exploratory drilling wells, that significant natural gas reserves exist not only in the shallow-water offshore areas where production

is currently taking place, but also in deep-water offshore regions.

The successful development of four offshore projects currently in operation in Myanmar has enabled natural gas to be utilized in electricity generation, fertilizer production and various manufacturing industries, thereby making a substantial contribution to the country's

economic development.

At present, preparations are under way to develop four additional projects. Among them, the project being implemented in the Ayeyawady offshore area and the project in the Taninthayi offshore area are considered highly promising due to their large gas reserves and strong potential.

SEE PAGE 3

NATIONAL

Weather

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on 7 pm Sunday 14 June 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and strong elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. Weather is a few clouds to partly cloudy over the South Andaman Sea and the South Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 15 JUNE 2026: The rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing Region and Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay Region and Eastern Shan State, fairly widespread in Magway Region and Chin and Shan (North) states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Bago, Sagaing, Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

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

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced in Delta, the Gulf of Mottama, and off and along the Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 35 miles per hour (mph). The wave height will be about 9-11 feet in Delta, the Gulf of Mottama, and off and along the Rakhine Coasts. The squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 mph. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet in off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate to strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 15 JUNE 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 15 JUNE 2026: Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 15 JUNE 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

Gold Market Rate as of 14 June 2026

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K6,950,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.

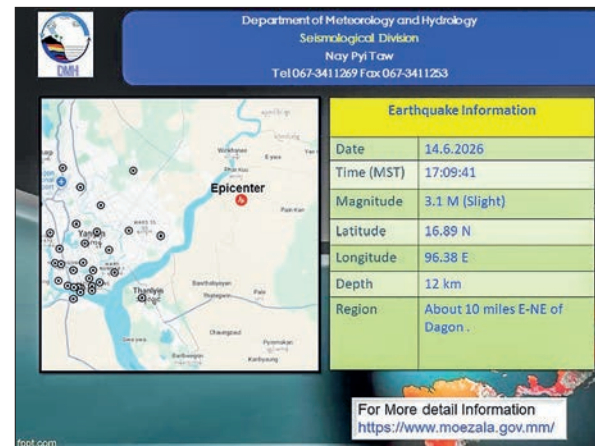
Magnitude 3.1 earthquake hits Yangon

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced that an earthquake struck at 5:09:41 pm on 14 June, with its epicentre located inland within Myanmar near Pharku Village, approximately 15 miles east-northeast of the Kaba Aye Seismological Observatory.

The earthquake was a minor one, measuring 3.1 on the Richter scale, with its epicenter located at Latitude 16.89° N and Longitude 96.38° E, at a depth of 12 kilometres (approximately six miles) underground.

Although slight tremors were felt in some townships within Yangon due to the earthquake, no reports of casualties or damage have emerged so far.

According to earthquake data, several tremors have been re-



The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's release of earthquake data on the evening of 14 June.

corded recently, including a magnitude 4.5 quake near the Gulf of Mottama on 24 April, a magnitude 5.2 quake along the Yangon-Mottama fault zone on 18 May, a magnitude 4.2 quake on 22 May, a magnitude 4.0 quake on 11 June, a magnitude 2.9 quake on the morning of 14 June, and a magnitude 3.1 quake on the evening of 14 June.

"If we plot these events on a map, we can see that earthquakes are re-emerging in segments across this connected southern fault network, including the Gulf of Mottama, the Yangon River mouth, Twantay, Dala, Dedaye, and the Ayeyawady Delta. In other words, it appears that underground stress is not accumulating

in a single location but is being released section by section, block by block, and zone by zone," an earthquake researcher from the AIA Info Team said.

"Based on current data, the most likely scenario indicates that the southern fault systems connecting Yangon, Twantay, Dala, and Mottama have not yet fully stabilized, and pressure readjustments are still ongoing. It is also important to note that much of the delta region — including Yangon, Dala, Thakayta, Dawbon, Hlinethaya, and Dagon Myothit townships — consists of soft alluvial soil rather than hard bedrock. As a result, even a moderate earthquake can feel more pronounced, cause stronger swaying, and last longer in these areas," he explained. — TWA/TH

FREDA to conduct first bird watching course in late June

A bird watching course, which will be lectured by a bird expert Dr Thein Aung who is a central executive committee member of the Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA), has been planned to open in June last week.

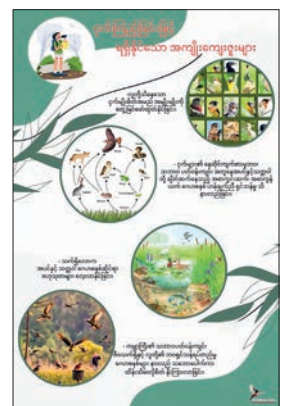
It is purposed for bird enthusiasts and nature lovers and a Zoom class

has been planned on from 7 pm to 9 pm on 27 and 28 June and on 4 and 5 July.

After it, a field trip has been initially planned in the second week of July to the Hlawga Nature Park and the Union National Races Village for two days. The date may be changed depending on weather, FREDA said.

In addition to theoretical lessons, a field

trip is also included in the course so it can offer a well-organized and fun learning about bird species. Lunch will be also provided. The payment of course fee is K200,000 and it can be transferred to (K-Pay)Account Name - WAR WAR KHINE, Phone Number - 09-445542373. ID and passcode of the Zoom link will be sent five days in advance. — MT/ZS



Benefits of birth watching published by FREDA.

Mon State Hluttaw unanimously approves motion ...

FROM PAGE 1

Subsequently, during the Hluttaw session on 12 June, four representatives seconded the motion. Mon State Hluttaw Speaker U Thet Htwe also provided comments and recommendations, after which the Hluttaw unanimously approved the motion.

The motion's sponsor, U Tin Yee, pointed out that the public is suffering health effects

from the noise generated by linked speaker boxes. These effects include various ear disorders, hypertension, heart disease, an increased incidence of gastrointestinal illnesses, and other widespread disturbances that negatively affect people's daily lives in various ways.

Regarding the newly approved motion, U Tin Zaw Tun, State Minister for Social Affairs, stated that the use of linked

speaker boxes will be strictly regulated and offenders will be penalized in accordance with the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law enacted in 2012.

According to Chapter 7 of the law, anyone wishing to use a loudspeaker must obtain prior permission from the relevant Ward or Village-tract Administrator.

Under Sections 25, 26, and 27 of the law, anyone

who uses a loudspeaker without permission and causes disturbances or health problems to the public may be subject to a fine, imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

Since the Mon State Hluttaw has approved this motion, the state government is expected to implement practical measures to prevent noise pollution and related hazards in wards and villages. — TWA/TH

NATIONAL

State Receives Rare Rough Sapphire and Cut Crystal

FROM PAGE 1

The President and attendees inspected the large rough sapphire stone and the sapphire crystal. It

was reported that a rough sapphire stone weighing 11,877 grammes (59,385 carats) was discovered in 2009, while the newly dis-

covered large rough sapphire stone weighs 14,300 grammes (71,500 carats). Due to its large size, it is hard to find and considered

rare. The stone is deep blue in colour, translucent, and an unprocessed, naturally occurring rough sapphire. — MNA/TTA

Myanmar advances new offshore gas projects with significant deep-water reserves



A file photo shows offshore natural gas field off the Mottama coast.

FROM PAGE 1

The Ayeyawady offshore project is located in the deep-water section of the Ayeyawady offshore region. Exploratory and appraisal wells have indicated a gas reservoir with the potential to contain up to 14 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves. Work is currently under way to bring the field into commercial production.

The Tanintharyi offshore project is situated in the deep-water section

of the Tanintharyi offshore region. The field has been confirmed as a natural gas reservoir and is estimated to contain approximately 95 trillion cubic feet of natural gas with a 90 per cent probability level (P90). Further exploratory drilling will be carried out, and once the volume of reserves has been determined with greater accuracy, steps will be taken towards commercial production, according to available information. — MNA/KNN

Training course batch 13 for tour guides with cancelled licences continues in July



Training course batch 12 conducted for tour guides with cancelled licences.

FROM PAGE 1

At present, local tour guide training courses are provided in Mandalay, Bagan, Taunggyi, Kengtung and Tachilek. Under official statistics for previous years, tour guide licences were issued for more than 1,600 trainees completed respective local guide training courses and more than 3,700 trainees from tourism training courses, totalling more than 5,000. According to official data, there were up to 8,700 tour guides in previous years. — TWA/ZS

Myanmar medical team successfully separates conjoined twins at Yankin Children's Hospital

A separation surgery was successfully performed on two-year-and-five-month-old female conjoined twins, Ma Kyar Nyo Thin and Ma Kyar Nyo Theint, at Yankin Children's Hospital.

The operation commenced at 10:10 am on 11 June 2026 and lasted a total of nine hours and 35 minutes. The children are currently being closely monitored and treated in the Intensive Care Unit.

The twins were delivered by caesarean section at the Central Women's Hospital (Mandalay) after being referred from Pakokku on 8 January 2024. Following their birth, they were cared for at Mandalay Children's Hospital and were later transferred to Yankin

Children's Hospital at the age of six months, where they continued to receive specialized care.

Throughout the period of their care, senior medical superintendents from Yangon and Mandalay, paediatric specialists, anaesthesiologists, surgeons and retired medical experts from Mandalay and Yangon worked together in a coordinated effort, providing continuous monitoring, consultation and planning for the eventual separation surgery.

On 11 June 2026, the operation was carried out at Yankin Children's Hospital under the overall management of Senior Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Tun Oo. Surgical Team 1 was led

by Professor Dr Nyo Nyo Win, Paediatric Surgeon from Yangon Children's Hospital, together with Professor Dr Phone Myint, Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology at Yangon General Hospital. Surgical Team 2 was led by Professor Dr Mya Mya Hlaing from Mandalay Children's Hospital and Professor Dr Mya Soe, Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology at North Okkalapa General Hospital.

The paediatric care team, led by Professor Dr Thazin Mon, Head of the Department of Paediatrics, comprised specialists from Yangon Children's Hospital and Yankin Children's Hospital. They were supported by a nursing team led by



Professors and specialists perform separation surgery on female conjoined twins at Children's Hospital (Yankin).

Matron Daw Moe Yu Yu Khine, as well as retired paediatric surgeons. Additional specialist support was provided by Professor Dr Moe Moe Tin, Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Medicine 1, Yangon; Professor Dr Win Win Kyaw, Head of the Department of Cardiovascular

Surgery; and Professor Dr Sai Aung Nyunt Oo, Head of the Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery. Through the combined efforts of all medical personnel involved, the surgery was completed successfully.

Myanmar has now successfully carried out a total of nine conjoined-twin

separation surgeries at Yankin Children's Hospital, including this latest operation, and three at Mandalay Children's Hospital. All of these procedures were performed entirely by Myanmar medical specialists without the involvement of foreign experts. — MNA/KNN

NATIONAL

MoWA Union Minister meets female volunteer leaders for rural women's development project

UNION Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin, accompanied by the President of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, yesterday met with female volunteer ten-household leaders at the village monastery in Oakthakan Village, Heho Township, Shan State, to discuss the implementation of the Rural Women's Development Project.



Union Minister for Women's Affairs Dr Thet Thet Zin meets female volunteer leaders in Heho Township yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union minister stated that, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project activities, action plans must be systematically developed at the district, township, and village levels. She also stressed that responsible officials

should conduct regular field inspections to monitor and assess whether tangible progress is being achieved on the ground.

Following this, Daw Tin Tin Latt, President of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, stated

that the implementation of the Rural Women's Development Project is mandatory and requires continuous supervision by the township and district women's affairs federations. Afterwards, Daw Nang Kham Lu, Shan

State Minister for Social Affairs, encouraged women to strive for leadership positions. The attending female volunteers then raised questions on issues of concern, which were answered by the responsible officials. — MNA/TH

Crops seeds, saplings and fertilizers provided to farmers in Hopong Township

A ceremony to provide quality seeds, saplings and fertilizers took place at the office of the Hopong Township Agriculture Department, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, in Shan State (South) yesterday morning.

Head of the township department Daw Khaing Thanda Lin explained the purpose of providing crops seeds for alternative development to reduce poppy cultivation in the region, ensure the local food security, enable local farmers to grow high yield crops to occupy market shares, develop their socioeconomic life and conserve natural environment.

Officials of the department presented 125 kilogrammes of CP808 maize seeds, 130 kilogrammes of Shweyinaye paddy seed, 3,000 coffee saplings, 20 pyis of kenaf, 20 sets of uniforms used in spraying the plantations and 20 bags of natural fertilizers to the local farmres from Sangaw and Phetyan villages.

The head of the township department demonstrated use of EM 5 solution, green fertilizers, and drum seeders and shared techniques of growing coffee saplings. — Pa-O Region IPRD/TTA

Youth forum and youth knowledge-sharing lecture held in Pathein

A Youth Forum and Youth Knowledge-Sharing Lecture, jointly organized by the Myanmar Youth Affairs Central Committee and the Ayeyawady Region Youth Affairs Committee, was held yesterday morning at Pathein City Hall. Attendees included Union Minister for Youth Affairs Dr Maung Thin, Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Aye Kyaw, the Speaker of the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw, regional ministers, and students.



Union Minister Dr Maung Thin greets outstanding youth at the Youth Forum in Pathein yesterday.

First, the student youths opened the cere-

mony by performing the songs "Flowers of the Fu-

ture" and "Youth's Vitality is the Nation's Value".

Following this, the Union minister delivered the opening remarks and, together with the chief minister, presented honorary cash awards and sports equipment to the students who had performed the songs.

Afterward, writer Ko Shwe Aung Thin delivered a youth awareness lecture titled "Youth and the Future State". — Regional IPRD/TH



The agricultural input distribution ceremony in progress in Hopong Township yesterday.

Advertise with us/ Hotline: 09 454 237 515, 09 255 597 511

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, www.moi.gov.mm/km, www.moi.gov.mm/nlm and www.gnlm.com.mm/e-paper.
News and Periodicals Enterprise

Global NEW LIGHT of MYANMAR
www.gnlm.com.mm
CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 255597511
ADVERTISING & MARKETING (+95) (01) 8604530, Hotline - 09 251022355
marketing@gnlm.com.mm
subscription@gnlm.com.mm
Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.
gnlmnews@gmail.com, newsroom@gnlm.com.mm, www.gnlm.com.mm
Write for us
We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title.
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Mon State CM reviews key development projects

MON State Chief Minister U Aung Win Than, along with regional ministers and officials, inspected development works and public service activities in Mawlamyine and Chaungzon townships on 12 June.

In the evening, the Chief Minister visited the Mon State gymnasium and the sports park in Minywa village, Mawlamyine, where he reviewed ongoing finishing works including flooring installation in the sports hall, VIP seating arrangements, LED scoreboards, access roads, athlete dormitories, and staff housing.

On the morning of 13 June, the Chief Minister and officials observed a mobile specialist medical treatment programme held at the Basic Education High School in Kahnyaw Village, Chaungzon



Mon State Chief Minister U Aung Win Than inspects health care services in Kahnyaw Village in Chaungzon Township.

Township. The programme provided free medical consultations, treatments, and medicine donations to locals by specialist doctors and healthcare workers.

He also toured the medical service areas and encouraged efforts to expand healthcare access for rural communities.

Later, the Chief Minister inspected a dairy cattle

breeding zone established on the 30.36 acres of land in Fanpha Village, Chaungzon Township, aimed at promoting commercial livestock development in the region.

He met with local livestock producers and coordinated with officials to address their needs and support further development of the sector. — Mon State IPRD/KZL

Taninthayi sets more than 222,000 acres for monsoon paddy cultivation

THE Taninthayi Region has planned to cultivate 222,476 acres of monsoon paddy during the current rainy season and is distributing high-quality certified rice seeds to farmers, according to the regional Department of Agriculture.

Officials said efforts are being made to improve food security in the region, which is still not self-sufficient, by increasing per-acre yield through the distribution of quality seeds, farmer-to-farmer seed exchange systems, production from departmental seed farms, and cultivation by lead farmers and Seed Grower Associations (SGA).

A departmental official said the goal is to achieve target yields by

using suitable seeds, quality agricultural inputs, and proper farming techniques adapted to local soil, water, and climatic conditions. He added that seed and input support is being provided to participating farmers.

The region is also implementing a model village programme covering 2,820 acres, distributing 2,820 baskets of rice seed, 2,820 bags of organic fertilizer, 1,410 bags of chemical fertilizer, and 200 hand seeders. In addition, agricultural extension activities include 65 training sessions, 42 discussions, six field demonstrations, 19 posters, and 7,822 leaflets.

Another official said that increasing rice productivity across

all 10 townships would improve local food sufficiency and generate additional household income through surplus production, contributing to broader socioeconomic development.

In the previous 2025-2026 fiscal year, the region cultivated 222,291 acres of monsoon paddy, achieving an average yield of 73.80 baskets per acre, with total production of 16,404,925 baskets and a rice self-sufficiency rate of 74 per cent.

For the 2026-2027 monsoon season, the region continues to target 222,476 acres and is distributing certified high-yield rice varieties to farmers, the department said. — Myint Oo (Myeik)/KZL



Farmers are seen working in a paddy field during the monsoon rice cultivation season.



Bago Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win is seen on inspection tour of railway station along Thayawady-Pyay section.

Bago CM inspects development works along Thayawady-Pyay railway line

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Myo Swe Win conducted an inspection tour along the Thayawady-Pyay railway section to review regional development activities, according to official reports.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inspected monsoon paddy cultivation along the railway route and reviewed plans for upgrading station buildings at Letpadan

Railway Station in Thayawady District.

He then travelled by RBE train to Pyay Station, where he observed the station yard and instructed officials to improve greenery, cleanliness, and maintenance of the station environment.

He also coordinated efforts to renovate the station-front park to enhance public recreational space. — Region IPRD/KZL

The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

Specialist medical team delivers healthcare in Kyaikto, Mon State

HEALTHCARE staff led by the Medical Superintendent of the Thaton District People's Hospital in Mon State, together with specialist

doctors, provided field healthcare services to local residents at the Basic Education High School from Kinmonchaung Village in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, yesterday.

During the healthcare programme in Kyaikto Township, specialist doctors in general medicine, surgery, paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology and dental and oral health provided medical examinations and treatment to patients.

Officials from district and township departments and members from civil social organizations arranged the necessary support measures. — Pyae Phyo (IPRD)/KZL



The specialist medical team from Thaton District People's Hospital provides healthcare services to people at the Basic Education High School from Kinmonchaung Village in Kyaikto Township yesterday.

PHOTO: PYAE PHYO (IPRD)

NATIONAL

Organic fertilizer produced from fruit and vegetable waste at Thiri Mingala Market

AT Thiri Mingala Market, a major fruit and vegetable market in Hline Township, Yangon, EM Bokashi organic fertilizer — which can be used as a natural fertilizer in agriculture — is being produced daily from discarded market waste, including various fruits and vegetables, according to an official from the market.

“Since this is a produce market, we are producing Bokashi organic fertilizer to reduce waste disposal while also making organic waste reusable as natural fertilizer. We mainly use vegetables such as cabbage and other produce that decompose quickly and can be easily turned into compost.

Since Thiri Mingala Market generates 80 to 100 tonnes of discarded waste per day, our organic fertilizer production has reduced the volume of waste transported by nearly half. At the same time, it provides a natural fertilizer that benefits agriculture. EM Bokashi is mainly used for long-term rather than short-term crop cultivation. Because it is a soil-conditioning fertilizer, it helps restore topsoil and improve soil quality. In farmland where chemical fertilizers have been used, if Bokashi fertilizer is applied in combination and the use of chemical fertilizers is gradually reduced, this natural fertilizer can transform the

land into farmland with excellent soil quality,” said U Wai Lin, Branch Head of the Markets and Commodity Depots Department of Mayangon District.

While these discarded wastes are normally transported to the Hteinbin dump in Hlinethaya Township, the practice of setting aside an enclosed area within the market to process vegetable and fruit waste into EM Bokashi fertilizer has also reduced the need for garbage trucks to travel to the Hteinbin landfill.

There are 146 markets and four tax-free markets in Yangon. Although the production of fruits and vegetables



Officials collect waste from Thiri Mingala Market to make EM Bokashi. PHOTO: ZWE MARN

directly generated from these markets is limited, they mainly distribute and sell produce sourced from Thiri Mingala Market and Danyingon Vegetable Market. In particular, because Thiri Mingala Market handles the largest volume of fruits and vegetables, it is able to produce organic fertilizer from discarded waste. This organic fertilizer helps restore soil quality and benefits rice farmers as an affordable natural fertilizer, improving soil

nutrients in farmlands where chemical fertilizers have been used.

The organic fertilizer produced at Thiri Mingala Market is being used in rose and jasmine plantations in Mingaladon and Hmawby townships. Additionally, EM Bokashi fertilizer is used in plantations and parks for the beautification of markets in Yangon, and it is also being used as a primary natural fertilizer in white oyster mushroom cultivation. — Thitsa (MNA)/TH

Thanbyuzayat disburses K57M under Mya Sein Yaung Village Project

THE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Kyonkayoke Village, Thanbyuzayat Township yesterday.

Daw Su Thandar Lin, Head of the Thanbyuzayat Township Department of Rural Development, explained the project's objectives and rules. Project officials handed over the total revolving fund of K57 million to the village project committee.

The committee members disbursed K57 million of the revolving fund at low interest rates directly to 83 project members. Of the total amount, K36 million was provided to 62 members engaged in agriculture, K2.6 million to two members for livestock breeding, K16 million to 16 members for trading and K2.4 million to three members for vocational businesses. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Tax exemptions on diesel, fertilizer and LNG imports extended until 30 June

THE Ministry of Finance and Revenue has extended tax exemptions on imports of diesel, fertilizer and liquefied natural gas (LNG) until 30 June.

The ministry said the exemptions had been extended due to rising fuel prices caused by conflicts in the Middle East. Customs duty, Special Goods Tax, Commercial Tax and the two per cent advance income tax on imports of HSD (500 ppm) diesel had already been exempted from 1 April to 31 May, and the relief period has now been extended through June.

The measure aims to help stabilise the prices of basic commodities and transport costs, as diesel is widely used by commercial vehicles and freight transport services.

Similarly, tax exemptions and the waiver of the two per cent advance income tax on fertilizer imports have also been extended until the end of June to support continued development of the agricultural sector and reduce production costs for farmers.

The ministry also extended tax relief on LNG imports, including customs duty, commercial tax and advance income tax, to encourage electricity generation and help keep power tariffs affordable amid rising LNG prices linked to tensions in the Middle East.

The tax exemptions will apply to imports for which an Import Declaration (ID) has been lodged with the Customs Department. — ASH/KZL

Advertise

with us/ Hotline:

092555597511 , 09454237515

Kokkowa Water Supply Project expected to sufficiently supply water to Dala Township



This photo features image of Dala Township residents facing drinking water shortages.

YANGON Mayor U Myo Myint Aung stated that an increased and adequate water supply will be provided to Dala Township upon completion of the Kokkowa Water Supply Project in response to a question raised in the Yan-

gon Region Hluttaw by U Than Oo, Hluttaw representative for Dala Township Constituency No 2, regarding the township's long-standing drinking water shortages.

Currently, more than 126,000 population resid-

ing in the 24 wards of Dala Township requires five million gallons per day. However, as only 1.6 million gallons can currently be supplied each day, there remains a shortfall of approximately 3.4 million gallons per day.

To help meet this demand, the Yangon City Development Committee is treating water drawn from 24 tube-wells at a pumping station located about nine miles from Dala using an advanced nanofiltration system and supplying 1.5 million gallons of water per day.

Under the Friendship Bridge Pipeline System, 0.1 million gallons of water

from the water collection tank inside Thakin Mya Park in Lanmadaw Township are being distributed daily through a pipeline installed across the Myanmar-Korea Friendship (Dala) Bridge.

The mayor further stated that, due to these two systems, a total of 1.6 million gallons of water is currently supplied to Dala Township daily. Furthermore, to meet the long-term water demand in Dala Township, preparations are underway to provide additional supply through a large pipeline on the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge. — TWA/TH

NATIONAL

Myaungtagar steel mill charged over alleged electricity theft worth over K4.5 billion

A steel manufacturing company in Myaungtagar Industrial Zone, Yangon Region, has been charged under the Electricity Law for allegedly stealing electricity worth more than K4.5 billion through fraudulent means, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy on 13 June.

The Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) detected suspicious activity while monitoring electricity-related irregularities and carried out an inspection at the Zon Tai steel smelting plant on Plots 52 and 53 in Myaungtagar Industrial Zone.

During the inspection, officials found that the factory had tampered with its electricity meter and was unlawfully consuming electricity. A field investigation confirmed that the meter had been illegally opened and altered to facilitate the theft of electricity.

As a result of the fraudulent activity, more than 5.06 million units of electricity were unlawfully consumed, causing

losses of over K4.5 billion to State funds.

The authorities immediately disconnected the factory's electricity supply and filed a case at Hmawby Myoma Police Station on 11 June to recover the outstanding electricity charges and take legal action against the business owner under the Electricity Law.

Zon Tai is owned by a private steel manufacturing company that primarily produces steel products for the construction and engineering sectors.

According to a ministry statement issued on 11 June, approximately 18.38 per cent of the electricity generated within the national power system — equivalent to more than 3.5 billion units annually — is lost during transmission and distribution.

The ministry stated that it will continue to detect electricity theft and other irregularities through digital monitoring from control centres, field inspections and public reports, and will take firm legal action against offenders in accordance with the law. —ASH/KZL

Tatmadaw columns regain control of Yazagyo Village and Reservoir

ON the evening of 13 June, Tatmadaw column advancing from the Kalay after conducting security operations was able to retake and control Yazagyo Village, and it also regained control of the Yazagyo Reservoir yesterday.

While the terrorists were in control of the Yazagyo Reservoir, they constructed bunkers and firing positions at the large embankment and used it as a military base. They also operated the water control gates by opening and closing them as needed for their own interests, without consideration for the public's needs for electricity supply, drinking water, and irrigation water. As a result, residents of surrounding villages faced shortages of electricity, insufficient drinking water supplies, and inadequate water for agricultural pur-



Tatmadaw members regain control of Yazagyo Dam and Yazagyo Village.

poses.

As the Tatmadaw columns have regained control of the Yazagyo Reservoir, which had been temporarily controlled by terrorist groups, they have been able to prevent damage to the social and economic lives of the local area and its residents. Tatmadaw columns will also be able to carry out measures to restore regional stability and peace. In

addition, they will be able to systematically operate the water control gates by opening and closing them according to the regular schedule, manage water storage and regulation, and provide and release water in accordance with seasonal requirements. This will enable local residents to receive adequate electricity, drinking water, and irrigation water supplies. Local people are

expressing their joy and deep gratitude towards the Tatmadaw columns.

The PDF terrorists were found to have used residents' homes in Yazagyo Village as temporary defensive positions for conducting fighting inside the village. They constructed bunkers using sandbags and tyres, dug firing trenches, and used the area as a military base to establish temporary defensive positions.

At present, Tatmadaw columns are continuing to intensify security operations aimed at ensuring that local residents can live, work, and earn their livelihoods in peace and stability. Efforts are being stepped up to eliminate the terrorist insurgents and to restore and reopen the Kalay-Tamu road route as quickly as possible. —MNA/TTA

Government plans to expand tax relief measures for pharmaceutical raw materials to support local drug production

THE Government is coordinating efforts to grant commercial tax exemptions for 365 types of pharmaceutical raw materials used in State-owned pharmaceutical factories, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The ministry said that 454 pharmaceutical raw materials are already exempted from commercial tax to support the development of domestic drug production, reduce production costs and lower medicine

prices. In addition, essential household medicines are also exempted from taxation, while other medicines are currently subject to a 1.5 per cent customs duty.

Under the 2026 Union Tax Law, 46 groups of essential goods, including basic food items such as rice, cooking oil, salt, chillies and onions, as well as household and traditional medicines, are exempted from commercial tax.

The ministry also said

it is coordinating with relevant departments in the regions and states to monitor daily prices and the distri-

bution of basic commodities to ensure price stability and smooth market supply. —ASH/KZL



Various items of medicines are displayed at a retail pharmacy.



This photo shows Myaungtagar Industrial Zone in Hmawby Township, Yangon Region.

Taunggyi's Mya Sein Yaung income-generating activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development inspected the implementation of income-generating activities being carried

out with revolving funds from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project at Loikaung (Ywama) Village in Taunggyi Township yesterday.

Head of the Taung-

gyi District Department of Rural Development U Nyunt Win, Head of the Taunggyi Township Department U Zaw Win and project staff observed the ongoing agricultural,

livestock breeding and livelihood activities being undertaken in the village.

The district head also met members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee to check

whether monthly financial records had been properly completed, urged villagers to further expand family-based businesses, and systematically manage the funds to prevent losses.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was im-

plemented in the village with an initial funding of K30 million, enabling 45 village project members to successfully operate family income-generating activities with a total revolving fund allocation of K57.3 million at low interest rates. —Karan (Rural)

OPINION

Establish safe and sound learning environments

At present, schools have reopened, and until today, more than 6.7 million students, including those from monastic education schools, have enrolled. School enrolment rates have increased across the various regions and states.

Local authorities are required to work with all stakeholders to ensure that all school-age children can attend school. Necessary support should be provided according to the circumstances of each family so that all children can receive an education. Only then will it be possible to remove barriers to schooling for families who must prioritize their livelihoods and for school-age children.

It is necessary to ensure that teaching staff and students can carry out their studies in safety and security. In particular, special attention must be given to security matters in areas where disruptive activities have occurred. Security personnel and administrative authorities are required to cooperate in carrying out security operations.

In order for students to learn in a safe and secure environment, it is also important to improve educational infrastructure. Basic education schools should meet the prescribed standard school requirements. Classrooms, school buildings, school furniture, and teaching aids should be provided as fully as possible. Only then will teaching and learning proceed smoothly. When constructing school buildings, they should be built in accordance with established standards, and master plans should be systematically prepared and implemented for long-term development.

In implementing a quality education system, it is necessary not only to ensure that infrastructure is properly organized but also to provide teaching and learning activities systematically

and effectively. It is only through such accurate and effective investments in education development that, in the next 10 years or so, the country will be able to reap the benefits.

In general, those with a low level of education tend to earn a livelihood through ordinary jobs and account for about half of the country's population. It is necessary to provide them with vocational training. Those at the secondary education level are also likely to face limitations in employment opportunities. Meanwhile, those with higher levels of education will have a wider range of job opportunities and, depending on their effort, can become successful individuals in various fields.

In the upgrading of the education sector, legal and economic subjects have been introduced at all universities. By teaching these subjects, students will develop perspectives in both legal and economic fields. Producing a large number of graduates with expertise in law and economics across regions and states will greatly benefit national development.

It is necessary to ensure that teaching staff and students can carry out their studies in safety and security. In particular, special attention must be given to security matters in areas where disruptive activities have occurred. Security personnel and administrative authorities are required to cooperate in carrying out security operations.

Passion and Commitment: Building an Effective Civil Service through Strategic Human Resource Development

The Foundation of National Development

A capable, motivated, and committed civil service is essential to national development. No matter how comprehensive policies may be or how well-designed laws and regulations are, their success ultimately depends on the civil service personnel responsible for implementing them. Effective public service delivery requires not only professional competence but also dedication, integrity, and a strong sense of responsibility towards the nation and its public.

Passion as the Driving Force of Public Service

Among the many factors that

contribute to an effective civil service, passion stands out as a vital driving force. Passion cannot be imposed through rules or directives. Rather, it arises from an individual's sense of purpose, commitment to public service, and belief in the value of their work. Civil service personnel who possess passion are more likely to perform their duties with diligence, initiative, and professionalism. When passion is combined with competence and efficiency, it creates the conditions necessary for sustainable organizational improvement and long-term national progress.

Commitment to the National Interest

Equally important is commitment to the national interest. Civil service personnel serve not only their respective departments and organizations but also the entire nation and all its citizens. Their responsibilities extend beyond administrative functions to supporting national development, strengthening public trust, and promoting the well-being of communities across the nation. A strong commitment to the national interest encourages civil service personnel to perform their duties with integrity, impartiality,

and a clear understanding of the broader impact of their work. Such values do not develop automatically. They must be nurtured through a systematic and continuous process of learning and professional development. This is where Strategic Human Resource Development (Strategic HRD) plays a critical role.

Strategic Human Resource Development as a Driver for Change

Strategic HRD goes beyond the provision of short-term training programmes. It represents a comprehensive approach to developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and ethical standards of civil service personnel through

out their careers. Through structured learning opportunities, professional development programmes, and continuous capacity-building initiatives, civil service personnel can strengthen their competencies and adapt to evolving governance challenges. The benefits of Strategic HRD extend beyond technical skills. As civil service personnel gain confidence in their abilities and develop a deeper understanding of their responsibilities, their motivation and job satisfaction increase. This, in turn, fosters greater passion for public service and enhances the quality of services delivered to citizens. Establishing a culture of lifelong learning within the civil service

is therefore crucial for promoting continuous improvement and institutional excellence.

Building a Culture of Professionalism and Accountability

Organizational culture also plays a significant role in shaping attitudes and behaviours. Values such as transparency, accountability, professionalism, and public-oriented service should be reflected in daily administrative practices. Respect for laws, regulations, and established procedures contributes to organizational stability, strengthens public confidence, and upholds the dignity of the civil service profession.

Balancing National Priorities and Public Needs

At the same time, civil service personnel should cultivate a strong sense of national responsibility while appreciating the diverse needs and aspirations of the communities they serve. By balancing national priorities with local development needs, they can contribute to inclusive growth, social cohesion, and equitable public service delivery throughout the country.

The principles of fairness, equality, and the rule of law should also guide the actions of every civil service personnel. Public personnel play an important role in ensuring that government policies and programs are implemented in a manner that benefits all citizens. Through ethical conduct, impartial decision-making, and responsible service delivery, they help strengthen trust between government institutions and the public.

To promote these values, government institutions should invest in comprehensive training programmes, mentoring initiatives, leadership development activities, and performance management systems. Mechanisms for public feedback and recognition of exemplary service can further encourage professionalism, accountability, and continuous improvement within the civil service.

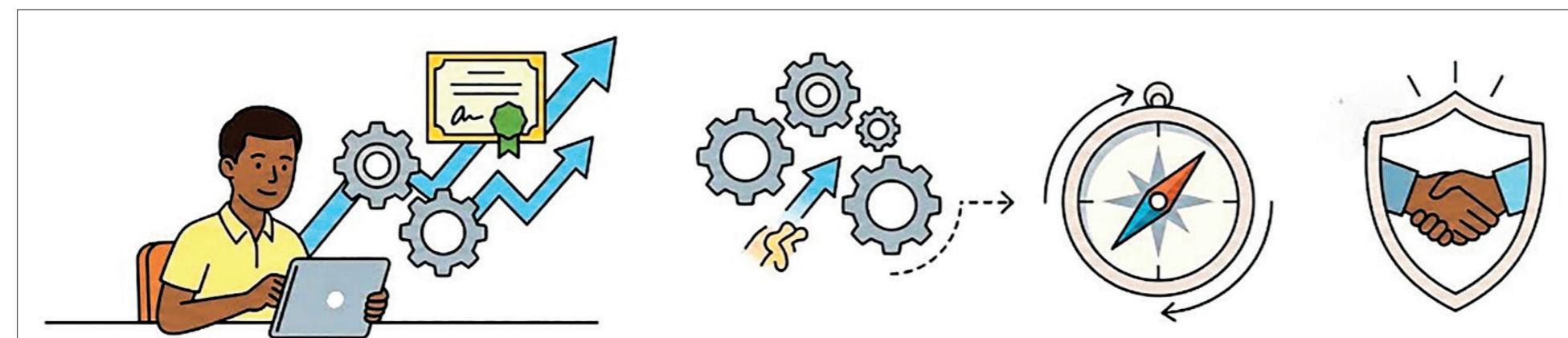
The Way Forward

When passion, commitment, and professional competence are systematically developed, the result is a stronger and more effective civil service. Such a work-

force is better equipped to deliver high-quality public services, support national development objectives, and respond effectively to the changing needs of society.

Ultimately, passion serves as the driving force of public service, while commitment provides its foundation. Strategic Human Resource Development is the mechanism that transforms these qualities into long-term institutional strength. By investing in the continuous development of civil service personnel, governments can build a professional, motivated, and nationally committed civil service capable of advancing the interests of the nation and improving the lives of its people.

The goal is not merely to create civil service personnel who perform their duties because regulations require them to do so, but to cultivate public personnel who serve with dedication, conviction, and a genuine commitment to the public good. Such a civil service remains one of the most valuable assets for achieving sustainable national development and effective governance.



(Continued from the article published on 13 June 2026)

Critical Phase (Day 4-6) – The Most Dangerous Window

- Fever breaks suddenly – this is NOT recovery; plasma leakage from vessels peaks at this moment
- Platelet count drops sharply; hematocrit rises – dangerous leakage is underway
- WHO 2025 warning signs for immediate hospitalization: severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, bleeding gums or nose, blood in vomit or stool, cold pale skin, restlessness, rapid breathing
- Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS): narrow pulse pressure, weak rapid pulse – fatal within hours if untreated

Recovery Phase (Day 7-10)

- Plasma reabsorption begins;

platelet count recovers; broad rash may appear

- Risk of fluid overload if IV fluids are not reduced – a leading iatrogenic cause of death (WHO 2025)

5. Prevention: Eliminating the Threat at Source

Environmental Control – Highest Impact

- Cover, empty, and clean all water storage containers every week without exception
- Remove unused tyres, cans, coconut shells, and plastic containers that collect rainwater
- Clear roof gutters; apply larvicide to non-drainable containers; change water in vases weekly

Personal Protection (WHO 2025)

- Apply DEET (20–30 per cent), Picaridin, or IR3535

- repellents on exposed skin
- Wear clothes covering as much of the body as possible – Aedes mosquitoes are active during the day
- Use insecticide-treated nets for daytime sleep; maintain window and door screens

Vaccination

WHO 2025 confirms QDenga (TAK-003) is licensed for ages 6-16 in high-transmission settings and does not require prior serostatus testing – making

it more practical for Myanmar than earlier vaccines. Inclusion in Myanmar's national immunization program should be prioritized.

6. Community Action: Every Person Has a Role

As WHO Myanmar emphasizes, preventing dengue cannot rest on health authorities alone – each individual plays an indispensable role. The WHO Myanmar factsheet calls on all community members to take the

Monsoon Season, Maximum Danger: The Dengue Threat Across Myanmar and Beyond

What Every Family Must Know to Stay Safe This Rainy Season

By Dr Aung Tun

following steps:

- Seek prompt advice from qualified health workers at the first suspicion of dengue – early confirmation dramatically reduces fatality rates
- Cover water jars and pots tightly; change flower vase water weekly – Aedes breeds only in clean, clear standing water
- Dispose of all water-holding waste: plastic bottles, old tyres, and any container that collects rainwater
- Share prevention knowledge actively with neighbours –

community-wide awareness reduces transmission more effectively than individual action alone

For Community Leaders and Local Authorities

- Organize neighbourhood clean-up campaigns before and throughout the rainy season
- Establish early warning systems: 5 or more cases in one week in one area should trigger immediate notification of township medical officers
- Train community health workers (CHWs) to conduct

household visits, demonstrate container inspection, and distribute ORS packets during peak season

7. Treatment: Acting Before It Is Too Late

WHO 2025 confirms there is no specific antiviral treatment for dengue. Management focuses entirely on early detection, supportive care, close monitoring, and preventing progression from mild dengue to severe DHF or DSS.

At Home (No Warning Signs)

- Oral rehydration 2.5-3 litres/day: ORS, coconut water, or fruit juices
- Paracetamol only – 10-15 milligrammes/kilogrammes/dose, max four doses/day
- NEVER aspirin, ibuprofen, or NSAIDs – WHO 2025 warns these increase bleeding risk

- Seek hospital care immediately if any warning sign appears

8. Five Things Every Family Must Know

- Check all water containers every week – no standing water, no dengue
- Fever 2-7 days in rainy season: suspect DHF – see a doctor early, not when already in shock
- When fever breaks on Day 4-6, the real danger begins – watch for warning signs
- Paracetamol only. Aspirin and ibuprofen can be fatal in dengue – WHO 2025 is unambiguous
- Go to the hospital immediately: severe belly pain, persistent vomiting, bleeding, cold pale skin, or sudden extreme weakness

SEE PAGE 11

DELICACY WORLD

Prawn fritter salad

THIS week, we are planning to present one of Myanmar's traditional foods that makes anyone who has tried it crave to eat it again and again. It is prawn fritter salad.

Prawn fritter salad is a type of Myanmar salads that is especially loved by Myanmar people, combining crispy fried prawn fritters with sour, salty, and spicy flavours. It also contains noodles, making it a dish that is enjoyed by foreigners as well.

So, here is a recipe and method for making and mixing a delicious prawn fritter salad, which is enjoyable to eat.

Ingredients (For the fritter)

1. Prawns – 10 pieces
2. Tempura flour – 150 grammes
3. Bean sprouts, thoroughly washed and drained – 500 grammes
4. Salt – ½ teaspoon
5. Seasoning powder – ½ teaspoon
6. Turmeric powder – ½ teaspoon
7. Water – 1 cup
8. Oil – approximately 1.5 litres

(For the salad)

- Fresh noodles
- Fried tofu
- Thinly sliced cabbage
- Long beans or cucumber
- Fried onion oil (onion-infused oil)

(For the dressing/sauce)

- Ripe tamarind
- Fish sauce
- Green chillies or sour chilli oil
- Seasoning powder

- Roasted bean powder

Preparation method

- Wash the prawns thoroughly and remove the dark vein from the back.
- Mix tempura flour, turmeric powder, salt, and seasoning powder with water and stir until smooth, then add the bean sprouts and gently mix.
- Place a small amount of the batter-coated bean sprouts along with one or two prawns on a flat plate and arrange them neatly.
- Cut the fried tofu into small cubes.
- Prepare the fresh noodles in advance.

- Wash the cabbage and cucumber thoroughly and slice them.

Step-by-step preparation method

- Heat the oil over medium heat. On a plate, place a small amount of the bean sprout mixture together with one or two prawns, then gently slide it into the hot oil. Fry until one side turns golden and becomes crispy. (Be careful not to use high heat. When one side turns golden, flip it over. Once both sides are golden brown, remove and drain the oil.)
- After draining the oil, the prawn fritter is ready.

- (Alternatively, if using molds to make the prawn fritters, you can place the seasoned bean sprout mixture and prawns into a mold and then deep-fry it in hot oil.)

Preparing the sauce

- Soak ripe tamarind in hot water and squeeze out the juice.
- Add fish sauce, chili, and seasoning powder to the tamarind juice, then mix well to create a sour, salty, and spicy flavour.

Mixing the salad

- In a large mixing bowl, add the fresh noodles, sliced cabbage, cucumber, and fried tofu cubes.
- Add fried onion oil, roasted bean powder, and the prepared sour sauce, then mix well until evenly combined.
- Finally, place the prawn fritters on top and gently toss. The dish is now ready to be served and enjoyed. — MOON

Traditional Myanmar Cuisine



Chinese tea culture event held in Minsk

REPRESENTATIVES from China and Belarus attended a Chinese tea culture event in Minsk on Saturday to enjoy Chinese culture, art and traditions in a tea-filled atmosphere.

At the Tea for Harmony 2026 event, attendees enjoyed colourful performances by Henan Song and Dance Performance Group, the Henan Acrobatics Group, the State Academic Dance Ensemble of Belarus, and other performing groups.

Participants explored a variety of cultural exhibits, including Xinyang Maojian green tea, traditional folk toys such as "Wanfu Tigers" from Xunxian County, and woodblock New Year prints from Zhuxian Town-



People watch a lion and dragon dance during the Tea for Harmony 2026, a Chinese tea culture event, in Minsk, Belarus, 13 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

ship, while others took part in workshops on calligraphy, paper-cutting, painting and knot-tying.

Moreover, a food fair offered a variety of Chinese delicacies, such as roujiamo (a meat-stuffed flatbread), xiaolongbao (steamed soup dumplings)

and tanghulu (sugar-coated hawthorns).

Chinese Ambassador to Belarus Zhang Wenchuan said China, the birthplace of tea, has integrated the ancient beverage into the daily lives, etiquette and spiritual world of its people.

"We drink tea and si-

multaneously connect with a special sense of peace, inclusivity, and mutual learning. May the delicate aroma of tea forever remain in your memory and add another new chapter to the book of friendship between China and Belarus," he said at the event. Alexander Komendant, first deputy chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee, said tea is not only an ancient beverage but also an integral part of Chinese culture.

"Each of us will touch upon Chinese tradition during this event, enjoy its elements, savour delicious and aromatic Chinese tea, achieve inner balance, and grow closer to one another," he added. — Xinhua

South Africa promotes tourism offerings in Mexico during FIFA World Cup

SOUTH Africa is promoting its tourism offerings in Mexico during the opening week of the FIFA World Cup 2026, Ministry of Tourism said Sunday.

South African Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille met with Mexico's Vice Secretary of Tourism Nathalie Desplas Puel and Mexico City Secretary of Tourism Alejandra Frausto to showcase South Africa as a travel destination, the department said in a statement.

De Lille also met with more than 40 leading Mexican tour operators to promote South Africa's tourism offerings and highlight the benefits of the country's Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system.

The department said Mexico, with a population of more than 130 million and a rapidly growing middle- and upper-income traveller segment, has been identified as one of South Africa's priority growth markets. South Africa has already seen encouraging growth from the Mexican market, with arrivals from the country increasing at an average rate of 13 per cent over the past three years, according to the department. — Xinhua

ARTICLE/LIFESTYLE WORLD

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's son Knox uses surname 'Jolie' on graduation certificate

BRAD Pitt and Angelina Jolie's son Knox has dropped "Pitt" from his last name on his high school diploma, weeks before turning 18, marking the latest development in the family's ongoing post-divorce dynamics.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's son Knox Jolie-Pitt has reportedly used "Knox Jolie" instead of his full legal surname on his high school graduation certificate, according to Page Six.

According to what a source told Page Six, the teenager, who turns 18 on 12 July, graduated earlier this month from Fusion Academy in Los Angeles and opted to drop "Pitt" from his last name on his diploma.

Knox marked his graduation ceremony alongside his mother, Angelina Jolie, his elder brother Pax Jolie-Pitt (22), elder sister Zahara Jolie-Pitt (21), and twin sister Vivienne Jolie-Pitt.

A second source told Page Six that Angelina "seems quite pleased with herself about the total success of her long-standing, intense, deliberate effort to alienate her children from their father."

The insider added, "It's so sad for the entire family that she would use the same weapon of the name change over and over for any other purpose other than to hurt their father. This was her goal and she succeeded." — ANI



Knox marked his graduation ceremony alongside his mother, Angelina Jolie, his elder brother Pax Jolie-Pitt (22), elder sister Zahara Jolie-Pitt (21), and twin sister Vivienne Jolie-Pitt. PHOTO: ANI

Flowers shape Afghan culture as petals of heritage

Flowers have occupied a special place in Afghan literature and poetry for generations.

DEEPLY woven into Afghanistan's cultural heritage, flowers symbolize beauty, peace, and renewal. As hot weather arrives, booming flower markets and exhibitions reflect Afghans' enduring love for nature and greenery.

In a bustling flower market in Kabul, veteran florist Haji Mumtaz Hakimi meticulously arranges fresh roses, carnations and seasonal blossoms. Having spent nearly four decades in the flower business, he has witnessed generations of Afghans celebrate life's special moments with flowers.

"People have always loved flowers in Afghanistan," Hakimi said. "Whether it is a wedding, engagement, family gathering, or a visit to loved ones, flowers are part of



Flowers at a greenhouse of a flower shop in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan. PHOTO: XINHUA

our traditions."

For flower sellers, the warm and hot months bring the busiest period of the year. According to Hakimi, spring and summer offer the widest variety of locally grown flowers, while the colder seasons often require traders to import flowers from neighboring coun-

tries due to limited greenhouse facilities.

He believes investment in modern greenhouses could significantly strengthen domestic flower production and help preserve local varieties throughout the year.

Flowers have occupied a special place in Afghan literature and poetry

for generations. Roses, tulips, jasmine and other blossoms frequently appear in classical Persian and Pashto poetry as symbols of beauty, love, devotion and the fleeting nature of life. Floral imagery has inspired poets, artists and craftsmen throughout the country's history.

Afghanistan's relationship with flowers stretches back centuries. Situated along ancient trade routes, including the Silk Road, the country was historically known for its gardens, orchards and diverse plant life. Travelers and historians often depicted flourishing gardens in cities such as Kabul, Herat and Balkh, where flowers were cultivated not only for decoration but also for cultural and social gatherings. — Xinhua

Man robbed of 5 mln yen in Osaka after social media car deal turns violent

A 24-year-old man was robbed of 5 million yen (around US\$31,210) on a street in Osaka on Saturday night after traveling to the western Japanese city to buy a car from a seller he had connected

with through social media, local media reported Sunday.

The man, from Yokohama near Tokyo, arrived at the agreed meeting point in Osaka's Miyakojima Ward at around 11:15

pm local time, only to be attacked by two men who took away his bag containing around 5 million yen in cash, Kyodo News reported, citing the police.

The two men, who fled the scene by car, are

being sought on suspicion of robbery resulting in injury. The victim sustained a fractured left leg in the attack. He called emergency services himself to report the incident. — Xinhua

Monsoon Season, Maximum Danger: The Dengue Threat Across...

FROM PAGE 9 9. Conclusion

WHO August 2025 data is unambiguous: dengue has reached a historic global peak and is expanding to new continents. Myanmar faces this threat at the intersection of tropical climate, rapid urbanization, limited rural healthcare access, and co-circulating DENV serotypes – a

combination that makes the annual rainy season a recurring public health emergency. The 2023 case surge is a warning that cannot be ignored. The response is clear: eliminate standing water weekly, protect individuals from bites, use only paracetamol, recognize the critical phase before shock sets in, and reach the hospital without delay. Community action — from household inspections to township early warning systems — is the multiplier that turns individual knowledge into collective safety. The monsoon returns every year without fail. With sustained knowledge, coordinated community action, and timely clinical care, Myanmar can ensure that each rainy season arrives

with fewer families losing loved ones to this entirely preventable disease.

References

1. World Health Organization. Dengue and Severe Dengue. WHO Fact Sheet. Updated August 2025. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/dengue-and-severe-dengue>

2. Bhatt S, Gething PW, Brady OJ, et al. The global distribution and burden of dengue. *Nature*. 2013;496(7446):504–507. doi: 10.1038/nature12060

3. Simmons CP, Farrar JJ, Nguyen V, Wills B. Dengue. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;366(15):1423–1432.

4. Utarini A, Indriani C, Ahmad RA, et

al. Efficacy of Wolbachia-Infected Mosquito Deployments for the Control of Dengue. *N Engl J Med*. 2021;384(23):2177–2186.

5. Ministry of Health Myanmar / Department of Public Health. Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever National Surveillance Reports 2018–2023. Naypyidaw: DoPH

ECONOMY WORLD

Electronics, pharma and engineering goods lead India's FTA dividend

India's recent wave of FTAs marks a fundamental shift in economic strategy from cautious protectionism toward deeper global trade integration.



Yes Securities identifies the Pharmaceuticals sector as a broad-based beneficiary of India's modern Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). **PHOTO: ANI/FILE**

ELECTRONICS COULD evolve from a rapidly growing export sector into the cornerstone of India's next manufacturing and export-led growth

cycle, Yes Securities said, with Monte Carlo simulations showing a 55.2 per cent probability of generating a high FTA Opportunity Score.

The brokerage sees Engineering & Machinery and Pharmaceuticals as broad-based beneficiaries too, while Textiles, Gems & Jewellery and Specialty Chemicals face structural headwinds despite FTAs.

"India's recent wave of FTAs marks a fundamental shift in economic strategy from cautious

protectionism toward deeper global trade integration," Yes Securities said in a research report. To assess impact, it built an FTA Opportunity Score combining five dimensions: change in sectoral export share, structural trade competitiveness, export momentum, manufacturing growth, profitability relative to exports and FDI intensity.

Monte Carlo tests ran 2000+ iterations by varying weights to check robustness. — ANI

World Bank raises Uzbekistan's 2026 GDP growth forecast to 6.4%

THE World Bank has raised its forecast for Uzbekistan's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2026 to 6.4 per cent, according to the bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report.

The new projection is 0.4 percentage points higher than the bank's January estimate for 2026.

The World Bank estimated the country's GDP growth at 7.7 per cent in 2025, and projected a growth of 6.7 per cent

for 2027.

The report noted that global economic growth is expected to slow to 2.5 per cent this year amid escalating conflict in the Middle East, which has driven up energy prices and renewed inflationary pressures.

The World Bank warned that regional economic prospects remain subject to downside risks, including a prolonged or escalating conflict in the Middle East, tighter global fi-



Tourists select souvenirs at a shop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 27 August 2024. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

nancial conditions and continued uncertainty over international trade policies. — Xinhua

IAEA chief calls for agency's involvement in nuclear deal

INTERNATIONAL Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi called for the agency to be involved in monitoring the implementation of a potential US-Iran nuclear deal.

"The most important thing about the agency is verification, and the fact that we are

going to be part of the resolution is a very important formality that needs to be there," Grossi said on the sidelines of a seminar organized by the IAEA, as quoted by South Korea news agency.

Earlier, the Iranian news agency published provisions of a draft

memorandum with the US on ending the conflict. Among other things, it stipulates that the parties must hold negotiations within 60 days to reach a final agreement on the nuclear issue.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi previously said that

Tehran insisted that the highly enriched uranium issue be resolved on its soil. In turn, US President Donald Trump promised that the United States would remove enriched uranium from Iran when the situation calms down and the right moment arrives. — SPUTNIK

"Mother-friendly factory" empowers women to balance work and childcare

NESTLED in the city of Zhangjiajie, the Guaiyaomei Tujia ethnic brocade factory has pioneered flexible working arrangements for rural women. This initiative empowers them to balance their professional commitments with childcare responsibilities.

To further support children's development, the factory has provided apartments for mothers and children, and organized volunteer-led after-school care, which enables mothers to see their children studying or playing nearby while focus-

ing on their tasks.

The Tujia traditional hand-made brocade, a renowned craft in Zhangjiajie and one of China's five major brocades, boasts a rich heritage. In 2006, it earned a place on China's inaugural national list of intangible cultural heritage. In addition to promoting and improving the protection and inheritance of intangible cultural heritage, women can provide the best company for their children by getting employed and increasing income at this "mother-friendly factory".

— Xinhua



Weavers work on brocades while their children are reading or doing homework nearby at Guaiyaomei Tujia ethnic brocade cultural and creative park in Zhangjiajie City. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Audio shows IRGC warning vessels against transiting Strait of Hormuz

THE navy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on Saturday evening warned ships operating near the Strait of Hormuz against transiting the strategic waterway, according to an audio recording of a public maritime radio channel.

The recording, provided to Xinhua by a crew member aboard a commercial vessel near the strait, showed that the IRGC navy addressed all vessels operating in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, saying the Strait of Hormuz had been "completely closed" and that any vessel movement within the strait would be dealt with "decisively".

"For the sake of your health and safety, absolutely refrain from any movement in the Strait of Hormuz until further notice," the recorded message said.

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that a peace deal with Iran was scheduled to be signed on Sunday and that the Strait of Hormuz would reopen immediately afterward. — Xinhua

Ethanol to power India's transport, mitigate price shocks: KPMG

A KPMG, international accounting and professional services firm, report suggests India's ethanol transition is moving beyond E20 blending to become a transport energy backbone. This next phase needs flex-fuel vehicles and multi-grade infrastructure to counter oil price shocks and bolster energy security.

India's ethanol transition is entering its next phase, where the fuel can move from a blending component to a potential transport energy backbone capable of moderating exposure to external price shocks, KPMG said in a report titled "Beyond E20. The consultancy firm flagged an adaptive fuel system, multi-grade dis-



India's ethanol transition is entering its next phase.
PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ANI

tribution and flex-fuel vehicles as critical to unlocking this role.

"Under low price environments characterised by a supply glut, the system remains anchored at baseline blending levels, allowing the fuel mix to benefit from favourable import economics while enabling diversion of ethanol to alternative pathways such

as Sustainable Aviation Fuel," KPMG said.

"When global oil supply tightens due to production cuts by OPEC, crude prices tend to rise. In such situations, ethanol can be redirected toward the transport fuel system to reduce exposure to higher import costs, acting as a substitute margin." KPMG said. — ANI

Korea's AI chip boom misses wider economy

SOUTH Korea's AI-driven semiconductor boom has not translated into broader economic strength, a Nomura economist reports. Despite stock market gains, domestic demand remains weak, making a Bank of Korea rate hike in July likely due to financial stability concerns.



The artificial intelligence-led semiconductor boom has yet to show a strong spillover into South Korea's broader economy. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

The artificial intelligence-led semiconductor boom has yet to show a strong spillover into South Korea's broader economy,

even as currency and financial stability concerns

make a Bank of Korea rate hike in July increasingly

likely, Nomura's senior economist said Friday.

According to a report by The Korea Herald, Park Jeong-woo, South Korea and Taiwan senior economist at Nomura, said at the brokerage's Korea Equities & Economy Media Briefing in Seoul that the key question for the economy is not whether chips and stocks are strong, but whether that strength is feeding into domestic demand. — ANI

SpaceX IPO tests capitalism as stock surges

FOUNDER and Non-Executive Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Uday Kotak, on Saturday described the blockbuster initial public offering (IPO) of SpaceX as a "true test for capitalism," saying the company's valuation defies conventional metrics and reflects a massive bet on humanity's future. Commenting on the listing of the Elon Musk-led

company, Kotak said in a post on X, "SpaceX IPO, listing, and beyond, is a true test for capitalism."

He noted that the company's market value cannot be assessed through traditional frameworks, stating that "the valuation does not fit any traditional matrix and is a huge bet on the future course of planet earth." — ANI

German business chiefs pledge Chinese commitment

GERMAN business leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Chinese market at an "Invest in China" roundtable held in Dusseldorf on Friday, citing China's market potential, innovation ca-

pabilities and improving business environment as key drivers for future growth.

Amid growing global economic uncertainty and protectionist pressures, German business lead-

ers at the event stressed that deeper cooperation between China and Germany will create opportunities for both sides and support long-term growth.

Ling Ji, vice minister of commerce and depu-

ty China international trade representative, said China and Germany are important trade and investment partners with deep economic ties and broad shared interests. — Xinhua

Treated water release resumes at Fukushima nuclear plant

THE release of treated water from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant resumed Saturday night, about five hours after an alarm indicating low water flow in the pumping system led to an automatic halt, according

to its operator.

The resumption at around 10:30 pm came after Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc confirmed the safety of the system. It was the same alarm that went off on Wednesday. — Kyodo

<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2612S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SITC HAODE VOY.NO. (2612S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-6-2026 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB623A)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MSC FORTUNE F VOY.NO. (SB623A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-6-2026 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S MEDITERRANEAN SHIPPING COMPANY S.A</p>	<p>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (176N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY.NO. (176N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-6-2026 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: 2301185</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</p> <p>Agent For: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES</p>
--	--	--

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Japan's emperor, empress arrive in Netherlands for official visit

Their first Netherlands trip since the 2013 coronation.



Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako are greeted as they arrive at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands on 13 June 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

JAPAN'S Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako arrived in the Netherlands on Saturday for an official visit, marking their first trip to the country since attending the coronation of King Willem-Alexander in 2013.

The emperor and empress were welcomed by aides to the Dutch royal couple as well as government officials at Schiphol Airport. The imperial couple then went to

Het Oude Loo castle in Apeldoorn where they will stay at the invitation of the royal couple.

The emperor and empress will stay there through Tuesday before going to Amsterdam to attend a welcoming ceremony and a banquet hosted by the king and queen Wednesday.

The imperial couple are scheduled to depart the Netherlands on Saturday to go to Belgium. — Kyodo

G7 Summit could weave "strands" of new world order: Carney

CANADIAN Prime Minister Mark Carney has stated that the "strands" of a new world order could be woven at the G7 Summit, set to be hosted by France in the spa town of Evian from 15 to 17 June.

The Canadian leader shared these thoughts during an interactive session at Trinity College Dublin while undertaking a six-day official visit to Europe.

The remarks follow his high-profile address at the World Economic Forum in Davos this January, where he issued a global rallying

cry for middle powers to consolidate their influence against superpower dominance, a strategic concept that garnered widespread international attention.

Looking ahead to the gathering in the French resort town of Évian-les-Bains, the Prime Minister pointed out that the 52nd G7 Summit will extend far beyond its traditional core membership, as specialised invitees from India, Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, and the Gulf states will actively join the deliberations. — ANI



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney participates in an interactive discussion at Trinity College Dublin during his official visit to Europe. **PHOTO: X/@MARKJCARNEY/ANI**

North Korea permanently rejects nuclear disarmament

NORTH Korea on Sunday declared that denuclearisation is an "irreversibly finalised" matter, criticising the recent South Korea-US and US-Japan discussions that reaffirmed the goal of eliminating Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, as

reported by the Yonhap News Agency.

An unnamed spokesperson for North Korea's foreign ministry issued the criticism after South Korea and the United States reiterated their shared objective of North Korea's denuclearization

during a bilateral Nuclear Consultative Group meeting on Thursday.

"It is an unreasonable talk and fantastic daydream to mention about disarming the other belligerent party's nuclear weapons," the spokesperson said in a statement

carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

As per Yonhap, the spokesperson further asserted that North Korea's status as a nuclear-armed state cannot be altered by external pressure. — ANI

Trump plans a great toll-free Iran deal

SENIOR US officials said that President Donald Trump is going to make a deal with Iran, and it is going to be a 'great' one.

The officials told ANI that Iran must open the Strait of Hormuz sans any tolls.

The officials said, "The President has been clear, and you saw comments today from the Prime Minister of Pakistan that we think we have a deal, it's a great deal and a very strong deal... There is a lot that

the G7 countries have said that they can do once that deal goes forward."

The officials further said that there is a lot of capacity among the G7 countries, and the UK and France have collaborated in the de-mining of the

Strait of Hormuz."Iran is going to open up the Strait of Hormuz; that is a requirement.

The blockade will lift as the toll-free Straits open, followed by a joint US and G7 naval demining operation. — ANI

Hundreds protest supporting Peru's leftist candidate

HUNDREDS of supporters of Peru's leftist presidential candidate Roberto Sanchez protested in Lima on Saturday, as partial results showed a slight lead for his right-

wing rival Keiko Fujimori. With 98.5 per cent of the ballots counted from Sunday's runoff vote, a tenth of a percentage point separated the two and the race was still too

close to call.

Sanchez suggested to Fujimori on Friday that they jointly request a recount, citing alleged irregularities in the capital Lima and voting from

abroad.

Crowds gathered in support of Sanchez in downtown Lima on Saturday, chanting "for justice and dignity, Fujimori never again." — AFP

Belfast: Thousands denounce violence at anti-racism rally

THOUSANDS of people gathered in the Northern Irish capital Belfast on Saturday for an anti-racism rally.

An estimated 3,000 people demonstrated to denounce the violence seen earlier in the week in parts of the city.

The riots on Tuesday and Wednesday came after a video of a knife attack went viral. The suspect in the stabbing, a 30-year-old Sudanese national, has been charged with attempted murder.

Protesters gathered outside the Belfast City Hall holding placards

condemning the violence that saw groups of masked men set homes ablaze, torch vehicles and pelt police with bottles, bricks and Molotov cocktails.

Some in the crowd held placards with slogans such as "Hate is the only threat to our streets" and "Belfast stands against racism".

"All it takes is for one person who's not white and local to commit a crime and that fire of racism is rekindled," Elaine Croy, a lobbyist from the Women's Resource and Development agency, told the crowd. — ANI

SPORTS

Brazil held by Morocco in World Cup opener, Australia shock Türkiye

FIVE-TIME winners Brazil needed a superb Vinicius Junior equaliser to draw 1-1 with Morocco in their opening game at the World Cup on Saturday as Australia conjured a stunning 2-0 upset of Türkiye.

On the first day to feature four matches at the expanded 48-team tournament, Qatar won the first World Cup point in their history when Miro Muheim's own goal earned the 2022 tournament hosts a 1-1 draw with Switzerland.

Scotland meanwhile marked their return to the World Cup after a 28-year absence with a nervy 1-0 win over Caribbean minnows Haiti in Foxborough, outside Boston.

The meeting of Brazil and 2022 semi-finalists Morocco at the MetLife Stadium just outside New

York City promised to be one of the early highlights.

Ismael Saibari ran through to give Morocco a 21st-minute lead with a clever scoop in the Group C opener, but Vinicius produced a moment of magic to ensure Brazil came away with a point, cutting in from the left and unleashing a thunderous shot to level on 32 minutes.

Brazil are chasing a record sixth World Cup title, 24 years after last lifting the trophy, but Saturday's performance suggests there Carlo Ancelotti's side have a lot of work to do.

"I think this was a tough match, especially in the beginning. I think the team was a bit anxious and nerves were all over the place," said Ancelotti. — AFP



Vinicius Junior (R) scored a superb equalizer. PHOTO: AFP

Wushu sport gains popularity among Myanmar youth



Athletes demonstrate Wushu, a sport based on traditional Chinese martial arts, during a performance on stage.

THE sport of Wushu, which is based on traditional Chinese martial arts, is becoming increasingly popular among Myanmar

youth, according to U Nay Lin, Vice-President of the Myanmar Wushu Federation.

Wushu sport is a sport

that has been systematically modernized from traditional Chinese martial arts. Among its disciplines, Taolu, the performance-based form of Wushu has attracted growing interest from young people in Myanmar.

"Some young people begin practising Wushu sport to improve their health and later develop a passion for the sport and continue training. As interest in Wushu sport grows, a new generation of athletes capable of bringing honour to the nation is emerging. The discipline that attracts

the most interest is Taolu, the performance-based form of Wushu," said U Nay Lin.

Wushu is a sport that can be practised by people of all ages. Private Wushu training schools have been established not only in Yangon and Mandalay but also in many townships across the country. The Myanmar Wushu Federation is also systematically organizing age-wise competitions to help nurture and develop new generations of athletes, he added. — ASH/KZL

Scotland celebrates return to World Cup after 28 years with Haiti win

SCOTLAND made a winning return to the FIFA World Cup stage after a 28-year absence, edging Haiti 1-0 in their Group C match on Saturday in front of a nearly full house at Boston Stadium.

In a game that also marked the Caribbean side's first appearance at the finals in 52 years, Scotland opened the scoring in the 28th minute thanks to John McGinn's deflected effort. After Che Adams' shot from close range was

blocked by Haiti goalkeeper Johny Placide, McGinn pounced on the rebound and drove a powerful shot that took a touch off Haiti's Jean-Ricner Bellegarde into the net.

Scotland's Scott McTominay saw an effort hit the post in the 17th minute.

Haiti almost drew level in the 34th minute, but Scotland goalkeeper Angus Gunn made a double save to deny Ruben Providence and Frantzyd Pierrot. — Xinhua



Scotland are off to a winning start at the World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

Germany hammer World Cup debutants Curacao after early scare

GERMANY won their first opening match at a World Cup since lifting the trophy in 2014 as they eased to a 7-1 win against debutants Curacao in their opening Group E match in Houston on Sunday.

The Germans will face stiffer tests against group rivals Ecuador and Ivory Coast but the win against the tiny Caribbean nation puts them in a good position to progress to the



knockout stages for the first time since 2014.

An early German goal by Felix Nmecha was cancelled

Germany's defender #18 Nathaniel Brown (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's fifth goal during the 2026 World Cup Group E football match between Germany and Curacao at the Houston Stadium in Houston on 14 June 2026. PHOTO: AFP

out by a deflected strike from Livano Comenencia which had the Curacao fans, known as the Blue Wave, out of their seats in Houston.

However, Nico Schlotterbeck, Kai Havertz with a double, Jamal Musiala, Nathaniel Brown and Deniz Undav scored to put to bed any possibility of one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history.

Germany settled early,

Nmecha scoring a beauty in the sixth minute, receiving the ball from Florian Wirtz and curling the ball round a Curacao defender and past goalkeeper Eloy Room. The goal had coach Julian Nagelsmann letting out a huge roar. Nmecha, who like Musiala played for England at junior level before choosing Germany, went close minutes later with a rasping effort from outside the box. — AFP

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Japan's emperor, empress arrive in Netherlands for official visit

PAGE 14



WORLD

Vietnam targets tech giants for investments

VIETNAM sets targets to secure more investment from developed countries and attract leading global technology enterprises under a resolution recently issued by the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, the Vietnam News Agency reported Saturday. The document describes the foreign-invested sector as an important component of the national economy and targets 75 per cent of foreign investment from developed economies with strengths in technology, capital and modern management by 2030, according to the report. Vietnam also seeks to attract at least three of the world's leading technology companies to establish headquarters, offices and research and development centres, while drawing foreign firms with core and specialized technologies capable of integrating deeply into global value chains.

It sets a goal of making Vietnam one of ASEAN's leading destinations for high-quality foreign investment projects by 2030, backed by improvements in business climate, competitive edge, innovation capacity and public services, according to the report.—Xinhua



File photo shows an aerial view of a TCL factory in Binh Duong province, Vietnam. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

'Bharat Innovates' an invitation to world to co-create next chapter of global innovation with India: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the 'Bharat Innovates' initiative as an invitation to the world to collaborate with India in shaping the future of global innovation, asserting that the country has evolved from being a technology adopter to a technology provider. Addressing the inauguration of the Bharat Innovates 2026 conclave in Nice, France, in the presence of French President Emmanuel Macron, PM Modi said, "A decade ago, the world saw India primarily as a technology adopter.

Today, however, India is rapidly emerging as a technology provider." "Innovations and solutions originating from Bharat have the potential to benefit a significant portion of humanity. Bharat Innovates shares this

Bharat innovates for a sustainable future, and Bharat innovates for the whole world.



PM Modi highlighted India's transition from a technology adopter to a technology provider. PHOTO: ANI

vision — serving as an invitation to the world to collaborate and co-create the next chapter of global innovation with India", he added. Highlighting India's entrepreneurial spirit, the Prime Minister said the young innovators present at the conclave represented a new India marked by confidence, energy and a

problem-solving mindset, noting that Indian innovators are harnessing emerging technologies to address grassroots challenges, with some using artificial intelligence to transform rural communities while others are deploying satellite technology to support farmers.

"Today, there are so

many young entrepreneurs gathered here. In their presence, you can see a glimpse of Bharat — a Bharat full of self-confidence and vibrant energy. This is a new Bharat, one that is not just a consumer of solutions but a contributor to them. Here, some are working to transform the lives of rural India through AI, while others are using satellite technology to support farmers," he stated.

Praising the country's innovation ecosystem, he said, "Looking at your capability, I'd say Bharat innovates with scale and speed. Bharat innovates for a sustainable future, and Bharat innovates for the whole world". — ANI

Japan startup develops system to tell human writing from AI-generated text

AN artificial intelligence startup recently developed a system that analyzes academic papers to determine whether they were human-written or AI-generated, hoping for broader adoption by academic institutions.

Developed by Valar Intelligence, an Osaka-based startup, the identification system "Puddin AI" requires users to write and submit their papers on its platform.

Kyushu University has been experimentally using it in classes while several dozen universities are considering its adoption, according to the company.

The system focuses on the process of writing, recording when a user begins writing, their writing speed and the chronological order of their revisions.

When the identification button is pressed, it assesses the "human-ness" of a piece of writing using around 200 indicators, such as common human spelling mistakes, pauses taken in between and the estimated amount of time typically required to produce the piece.

Copy and pasting an AI-generated composition drastically shortens the writing process, allowing the system to determine that a particular

piece was not written by a human.

The results are divided into three categories: AI, AI-supported and Human. The system handles Japanese, English and four other languages, and it could analyze university assignments, academic papers and corporate documents, according to the developer.

Andrew John Chapman, an associate professor of energy economics at Kyushu University, said, "I want students to take their time and write their work on their own. This system can verify originality, making fair evaluation possible". — Kyodo

Iran has not decided on proposed MoU with US

IRAN has not yet made and announced its final decision on a proposed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United States and is still reviewing it, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported on Sunday. The political, legal and technical dimensions of the proposals are still under careful review by the country's experts and decision-makers, Fars reported, citing a source close to the Iranian negotiation team.

The source stressed that any decision on the potential MoU will be made based on safeguarding national interests, observing Iran's red lines and receiving the necessary guarantees. Meanwhile, the news



People shop on a street in Tehran, Iran, 8 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

agency reported on Sunday that a Qatari delegation had traveled to Tehran for consultations with Iranian officials and to review the latest developments pertaining to the diplomatic process.

On Saturday, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wrote on X that the peace deal between the United States and Iran was expected to be finalized within the next 24 hours. — Xinhua