

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Beijing, China



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing welcomed in Beijing with Guard of Honour.

**A**T the invitation of President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping, a Myanmar high-level delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing left Tatmadaw Airport in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on a special aircraft to pay a State visit to the People's Republic of China.

The President and delegation were seen off at the airport by Vice-President U Nyo Saw, Vice-President Nan Ni Ni Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, Amyotha

Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo, Union ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, the commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, and officials of the embassy and the military attaché's office of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar.

The President was accompanied by Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, U Tin Maung Swe, Dr Kan Zaw, U Ko Ko Lwin, Dr Charlie Than and U Tun Ohn, Kachin State

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## Ancient Indian currency secrets unveiled

A sharing section of fascinating history of ancient Indian currency was held at India Centre on the evening of 16 June.

The section was organized by the Swami Vivekananda Culture Centre, Embassy of India, aiming to highlight the cultural and institutional links between India and Myanmar.

The sharing section was addressed by Indian Ambassador Shri Abhay Thakur, while a historian,

sociologist and coin collector, Shri Omprakash Gattani on India's cultural heritage, the historical significance of the Assam kingdom, the traditions of coinage, the ancient trade links between Assam and Myanmar, and the tea industry in India.

The sharing section was attended by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar and his wife, guests, Scholars, people of Indian origin and interested people. — ASH/MKKS



This photo shows a sharing section of fascinating history of ancient Indian currency.

**NATIONAL**

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Power plant upgrades trigger local blackouts

## MTE to sell over 2,500 tonnes of teak and hardwood through open tender

LOCAL Marketing and Milling Department, Myanma Timber Enterprise, operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for an open tender to sell over 2,500 tonnes of logs and sawn timber of teak and hardwood.

Open tendering

will be held at 8:30 am on 23 June at Tawwin Hall, Myanma Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon.

Those logs and sawn timber are sourced from southern Shan State, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyawady Region.

Interested bidders can observe

the details of the open tender through official website of Myanma Timber Enterprise [www.mte.gov.mm](http://www.mte.gov.mm) or by dialling 09 795700439 and 09 402705515 of the Local Marketing and Milling Department, according to the Open Tender Holding Committee. — NN/KK

## Taninthayi marine exports surging to boost foreign earnings

TANINTHAYI Region, which produces the largest volume of marine products in Myanmar, generates foreign income annually through marine exports. If marine products can be exported directly overseas, foreign earnings can increase significantly beyond current levels, according to the region's Fisheries Federation.

The marine products from Taninthayi Region, including tiger prawns,



Myanmar's lobsters.

lobsters, sea snails, and live fish, are transported by sea to Thailand and

then exported onward to China by air.

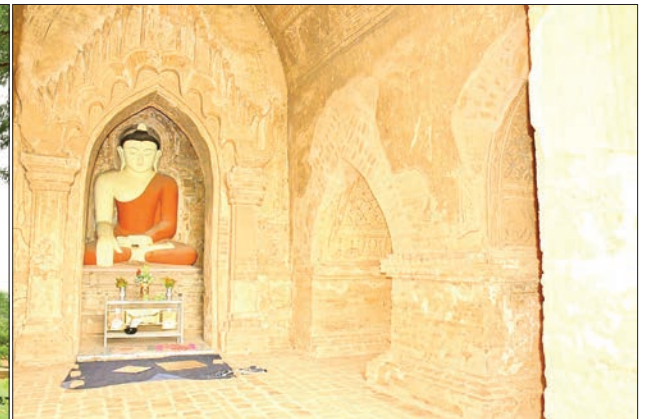
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# NATIONAL

## Panthaku Mahathera Temple with mural paintings awaits visitors

VISITORS arriving in Bagan Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone in Nyaung-U Township, Mandalay Region, can visit the Panthaku Mahathera Temple and observe its architectural designs, according to officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch).

The Panthaku Mahathera Temple was also known as the “Thabeik Hmauk Pagoda” named after the boycott carried out by Shin Panthaku Mahathera. It is also said that the pagoda was built using surplus bricks left over after the construction of the Culamani temple. Historical records indicate that King Narapati Sithu built the pagoda in 1186 AD. According to the historical records, the structure was built in a style similar to the Sulamani temple.



Images illustrate the Panthaku Mahathera Temple and its mural paintings and exquisite interior architecture.

The pagoda is a three-storey cave temple. It suffered damage inside due to the 1975 earthquake and sustained further destruction during the 2016 earthquake. The Thabeik

Hmauk Pagoda, also called the Panthaku Mahathera Temple, is an east-facing cave temple where visitors can pay homage to a fairly large seated Buddha image facing east. Inside the

temple, the ceilings and walls are covered with detailed floral artworks inside circular mural patterns without any gaps, banyan leaf-shaped mural designs, and paintings

depicting seated Buddha images. The interior also features remarkable architectural designs with excellent ventilation and lighting systems, along with original stalactites and diamond-pattern ornamental works that can still be observed.

Around the Thabeik Hmauk or Panthaku Mahathera Temple, visitors

can also explore nearby sites such as the Culamani Pagoda, U Kyi Pwae Monastery, Dhammayangyi Pagoda to the west, the Ko Mauk Gyi scenic mound to the north, the Nyaung Letphet mound to the south, and the Pyatthatgyi Pagoda and Hsinbyushin Brick Monastery to the east and southeast. — Dipa Lin/KTZH

## 2 special criminal appeal cases, 3 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 2 special criminal appeal cases, 3 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of U Tha Htay, Chief Justice of the Union and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union and Judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: Daw Thin Thin Nwet, U Win Myint, Daw Soe Khet Khet and Daw Thin Thin Cho was convened yesterday morning at the Supreme Court of the Union in Nay Pyi Taw and passed judgements for a total of five special appeal

cases: two special criminal cases – Nos: 2/2026 (Mandalay), 5/2026 (Shan), and three special civil appeal cases – Nos 12/2026 (Yangon), 1/2026 (Sagaing) and 11/2026 (Sagaing).

In addition, two special criminal appeal cases – Nos: 3/2026 (Shan) and 4/2026 (Yangon), and three special civil appeal cases – 9/2026 (Taninthayi), 16/2026 (Bago) and 17/2026 (Shan) were heard. — MNA

## Local Lacquerware Grips Youth Interest

FASHION accessories made with lacquer, such as necklaces, earrings, bangles, handbags and wallets, have gained popularity among the youth, said Bagan House Lacquerware.

The influence of fashion on today's youth has been bigger, and they become addicted to wearing accessories that can help build their own style. With this fashion trend, accessories such as lacquered necklaces, lacquered handbags and lacquered earrings have become popular.

“Previously, lacquerware had foreign buyers, but the decline in the arrival of foreigners caused sales to shrink. At present, lacquerware such as lacquered necklaces,



Enthusiastic buyers at the Bagan House.

lacquered handbags and lacquered earrings have been popular in the domestic market because of young people who like to wear them as fashion accessories. So, the sale becomes good. I feel glad to see youths are interested in Myanmar lacquerware to conserve and explore,” said the Ba-

gan House owner.

The Bagan House was established in 1939, and the current owner is the fourth generation of the family. Under the management of the ancestors, their business produced old-fashioned lacquerware such as lacquered food containers, lacquered betel nut

boxes, lacquered vases and lacquered food trays. However, under this generation, the business has been focused on modern times and product designs are being created in accordance with the present market demand.

The lacquerware business now mainly relies on the domestic market as the foreign demand has declined since the outbreak of COVID-19. The art of lacquer has existed since the Bagan era, and it is still thriving more than 1000 years, thanks to the preservation of Bagan residents, he said. And added that all the people will need to preserve it together so that the lacquer culture won't disappear. — MT/ZS

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# NATIONAL

## High-level Myanmar delegation led by President U Min Aung Hlaing visits Aerospace City in Beijing, China

THE high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing visited Aerospace City yesterday afternoon.

The President is currently in Beijing of the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese President.

The President and party were warmly welcomed by the Chief Executive of Aerospace City at the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC).

At the hall, the Chief Executive extended greetings and presented facts about the Aerospace City. A video clip on the city was screened.

The President and party visited the exhibition hall where they observed



President U Min Aung Hlaing tours Beijing Aerospace City yesterday.



the booths on the history of the city, the Baidu Navigation System, the telecommunication system, the Earth Remote Sensing (ERS), and the training system for astronauts. The Chief Executive and officials explained the launch of spacecraft

by China and the successful landing on Earth, the construction of the space station, successful lunar landings, the transport of cargo and materials, the capabilities of spacecraft, and related historical data.

Aerospace City is located in the northwestern

part of Haidian District in Beijing. It is often referred to as "Project 921" and serves as a base for astronaut training and a mission control centre. The facility is a large campus covering an area of 2.3 square kilometres (577 acres) northwest of Bei-

jing. It began operations in 1998 and is the base for the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre (BACC), the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST), and the Astronaut Centre of China (ACC).

The China Aerospace Science and Technolo-

gy Corporation (CASC) within Aerospace City is a state-owned high-technology enterprise directly supervised by the central government of China. It is primarily responsible for implementing China's space programmes and carrying out the country's defence and space exploration activities. By integrating numerous world-class enterprises in the aerospace systems sector, it conducts research, design, manufacturing, testing, and satellite launch operations. As a space transport system, is responsible for the design and production of the Changzheng long-range rocket launch vehicles, which form the main pillar of China's spaceflight programme.

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## Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing arrives in Beijing, China

### FROM PAGE 1

Chief Minister U Khet Htein Nan, Shan State Chief Minister U Sai Htein Soe, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and deputy ministers.

The special aircraft carrying the high-level Myanmar delegation arrived at the Capital Airport in Beijing at about 2:30 pm local standard time. The delegation was warmly welcomed by officials of the Chinese government led by Minister of Transport Mr Liu Wei of the People's Republic of China, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Zaw Win Myint, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Zaw Zaw Naing and officials.

In accordance with the traditional protocol of the honour guard of the People's Republic of China for welcoming and paying tribute to heads of state visiting on a State Visit, the honour guards took their positions and saluted on both sides of the red carpet, while a Chinese child and a Myanmar child presented bouquets to welcome the delegation led by the President.

The special motorcade carrying the President continued its journey to the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, and along the route, the national flags of the two countries were displayed, with warm and enthusiastic welcomes seen along the way.

During the visit, the President will hold talks with the Chinese Presi-

dent and conduct bilateral discussions, as well as meet the Premier of China and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. In addition, the President will receive provincial leaders and representatives from business organizations, attend an economic conference, and visit advanced high-tech industrial enterprises. Moreover, the President will engage in cordial and open exchanges of views on matters aimed at further strengthening the existing Pauk-Phaw relations between Myanmar and China, as well as enhancing cooperation between the two governments and peoples in various sectors, including economic and security affairs. — MNA/TTA

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Bill Committee members



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi is pictured meeting Bill Committee members.

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, together with Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn and responsible officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, met members of the Bill Committee at the Hluttaw Affairs Building (I-2) yesterday.

The Speaker stated that among the four permanent committees in the Hluttaw, the Bill Committee plays a key role in

the legislative process. He noted that the committee is responsible not only for drafting bills but also for reviewing whether existing laws remain relevant to current circumstances. In addition to laws enacted in the Myanmar language, there are over 100 existing laws enacted in English. Among these, those that are no longer suitable for current conditions should be reviewed to repeal.

He added that the Anti-Online Scam Bill, which has begun discussion at the Amyotha Hluttaw, has now reached the Pyithu Hluttaw, and the Bill Committee is to review it in accordance with laws and procedures and submit the report. He then urged a review of drafting digital economy and technology laws, artificial intelligence (AI) regulatory laws,

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# NATIONAL

## Pyithu Hluttaw continues Q&A sessions

THE Pyithu Hluttaw continued its session for the eighth day yesterday, with the attendance of Speaker U Khin Yi, the Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

At the question-and-answer session, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tint Tun replied to the questions raised by U Khin Maung Htay from the Pynmana Constituency. The deputy minister said that applications submitted by local ethnic farmers for farmland ownership rights would continue to be reviewed step by step by relevant farmland management bodies in accordance with the Farmland Law and Rules, and



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

if found eligible, Form-7 land ownership certificates would be issued.

The deputy minister also answered the questions raised by U Aung Win Swe from the Myanaung Constituency. He added

that there were currently no plans to establish the agriculture and livestock institute college in Inpin Town of Myanaung Township.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen

Min Thu replied to the motion tabled by U Soe Kyaw Naing from the Kyunhla Constituency, saying joint operations by Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force were also being conducted along Shwebo-Myitkyina

road where PDF groups were active.

He also answered the questions of U Win Naing from the Myinmu Constituency, replying that there was sufficient vacant land available for four-storey with four unit attached staff housing construction, but since no budget proposal had been submitted for the 2026-2027 financial year, the project would depend on the regional government's budget allocation for the 2027-2028 financial year.

He then replied to the questions of U Tin Myint from the Dala Constituency. He said that relevant organizations were taking action against illegal sale, distribution, and produc-

tion of excise goods without licences.

Regarding the questions of U Aung Myint Than from the Kyaukse Constituency, the deputy minister stated that villages bordering Kyaukse Town would only be reorganized as urban land after obtaining the necessary rights and permissions for urban land use.

Union Minister for Health Dr Thet Khaing Win replied to the questions raised by U Khin Maung Than from the Kalay Constituency. He said that Kalay People's hospital (300-bed) would be upgraded once the bed occupancy rate reaches or exceeds the required level.

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## High-level Myanmar delegation led by...

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It also conducts manned spaceflight and exploration missions in addition to building the Tiangong space station. It has carried out the Chang'e lunar exploration programme and the Tianwen Mars exploration missions. It has also developed and managed satellite systems, including the BeiDou satellite orbit system, as well as

the production of Gaofen Earth observation satellites and communication satellites. In terms of the application of space technology, emphasis is being placed on the broad utilization of technology across civilian sectors, including information technology, new energy, advanced manufacturing, and the production of environmental protection support equipment.

It is also reported that efforts are being made to apply space technologies widely across civil sectors. In addition, it transfers space technology to Myanmar, manages the admission and training of scholarship students in the field of space science and technology, and uses satellite technology to improve the collection of necessary forest, climate, water resource, and geo-

graphical data for the development of the agriculture and livestock sectors.

In response to the clarification, the President asked about he wanted to know and observed the manned spaceflight of China.

The President and party cordially greeted the Chief Executive of the Aerospace City and left for the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. — MNA/TTA

## MoI Union Minister inspects The Global New Light of Myanmar



This photo captures Union Minister U Htein Linn meeting personnel from The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM).

UNION Minister for Information U Htein Linn

met the staff at The Global New Light of Myanmar

newspaper on Nga Htet Gyi Pagoda Street, Bahan Township, Yangon, yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the Union minister addressed newspaper's news content will serve as a historical record in the future, so it should only publish reliable news, write engaging content, publish newspapers more widely despite the large number of online readers, pay attention to

the digital platform, help those who value it, encourage more people to read it than just for profit, and put it in libraries and schools.

The chief editor and editorial staff discussed the recommendations from the Union minister.

Afterwards, the Union Minister toured the printing house, the computer-to-plate (CTP) room, and the editorial room. — MNA/MKKS

## Loikaw holds VDP project explanation and handover ceremony

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held a ceremony to explain and hand over Village Development Project (VDP) activities implemented during the 2026-2027 financial year in Saikkwin 3 Village in Loikaw Township yesterday.

Daw Ei Ei Khin, Head of the Loikaw District Department of Rural Development explained the objectives of handing over the project activities and the status of project implementation. Loikaw Town-

ship Department of Rural Development Head U Nyar Yel and departmental officials then handed over project manuals and handover records to committee members.

Under the project (VDP), fencing work for public-benefit buildings in the village were implemented with project support funds of K15 million. Villagers systematically carried out the works, and the completed works were handed over to the respective village committee members. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



The explanation and fund handover ceremony is underway yesterday in Loikaw Township.

# NATIONAL

## Amyotha Hluttaw continues question-and-answer session

AT the sixth-day event of the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw replied to questions raised by U Tin Myo Zaw from the Magway Region Constituency 2 and Nang Woe Sein from the Shan State Constituency 12. He replied that as the allocated budget for providing electricity to Myin-saing Village of Magway Township is insufficient, only the construction of 3.51 miles of the 11 kV power line out of the total 5.2 miles of 11 kV power line, along with the installation of one 11/0.4 kV, 200 kVA transformer, can be included in the plan. The work, with an estimated



The sixth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

cost of K496.351 million, will be implemented under the Regional Government Fund in the 2026-2027 financial year.

The remaining approximately 1.69 miles of 11 kV power line construction, with an estimated cost of about K206 million,

will be further proposed for inclusion under the Regional Government's supplementary fund or general surplus fund for

the 2026-2027 FY, and arrangements will be made for its implementation.

In order to supply electricity to Tongtah of Mongping Township through the national power grid, the construction of the 33-mile Mongping-Tongtah 66 kV tower power line and one 66/11 kV, 5 MVA substation will be planned for implementation. The power line survey and measurement work will commence in the 2027-2028 FY, and starting from the 2028-2029 FY, the project will continue to be included in the plans and implemented subject to the availability of approved funds.

Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo

Hlaing responded to the questions raised by Daw Mie Mie Kyaw Tun from the Kachin State Constituency 4. He said that Grade 12 students are being assessed and selected in accordance with established criteria, and a "Basic Education High School Completion Certificate" is being issued, which will enable them to access more employment opportunities. The Ministry of Education continuously conducts field supervision and data collection to accurately assess the real situation on the ground — such as improvements or declines in teaching and learning, increases or decreases in

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## MAEX funds school supplies and aid for staff children



The ceremony of MAEX's 5th support of school supplies and financial assistance is in progress on 14 June 2026.

THE Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Co Ltd (MAEX) provided school supplies and financial support worth more than K58 million to the children of the company's employees.

The ceremony of MAEX's 5th support of school supplies and financial assistance was held on 14 June.

During the ceremony, school supplies and financial support for the 2026-27 academic year were provided to school-age children of MAEX employees, workers, and sellers at the

Danyingone Market. A total of 584 students were covered, including 360 primary-level students, 138 middle school students, 54 high school students and 32 university students.

Along with school supplies such as notebooks, water bottles, lunch boxes, backpacks, and school uniforms, each primary student was provided with K82,700, each middle or high school student with K126,500, and each university student with K150,000, said MAEX. — MT/ZS

## Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 47/2026 opens

THE opening ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 47/2026, conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held yesterday at the Wunzinminyazar Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yangon). Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Naing Min Kyaw delivered the opening remarks.

Present at the occasion were retired deputy ministers, retired Myanmar ambassadors,

senior diplomats, the director-general and other responsible officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and trainees.

The Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 47/2026 will be conducted in Yangon from 7 am to 9 am from 15 June 2026 to 4 September 2026 on weekdays. A total of 96 trainees, including civil servants and private sector participants interested in international relations and di-



The opening ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills 47/2026 is underway yesterday.

plomacy, will attend the course. This twelve-week course covers diplomacy, international relations,

international law, political economy and general knowledge. — MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets...

**FROM PAGE 3**

development law, data privacy laws, and environmental and air pollution control laws.

He added that the government focuses on education and youth development, and the Hluttaw should make efforts to enact laws for the school-based sport law and youth

development law.

He also noted that amendments and additions may be made to existing laws on narcotics, the prevention of child rape, and anti-human trafficking, particularly regarding penalties and criminal provisions. He emphasized that citizens

must be able to live securely under the protection of the law. He further called for strengthening laws that support economic development, such as the FDI Law, and laws protecting public health, such as the FDA Law, if necessary.

The Deputy Speaker

gave additional remarks on the review and assessment of bills, and the Secretary of the Bill Committee explained the committee's work plans.

After the meeting, the Speaker observed the committee office and meeting hall. — MNA/KTZH

# NATIONAL

## Pyithu Hluttaw continues ...

### FROM PAGE 4

During the 2025-2026 financial year, the hospital had already been provided with medical equipment, including an anaesthesia machine, a portable digital X-ray machine, and a 16-slice CT scanner, according to hospital requirements.

The Union minister also said that neurosurgery-related medical equipment would continue to be supplied as needed, and two surgeons from the hospital would receive

rotational training at the neurosurgery department of Mandalay General Hospital to enable emergency brain and neurological surgeries. A radiologist specialist (grade-2) would also be appointed when new medical staff are recruited.

The Union minister also answered the question of Sai Sein Win from the Laikha Constituency, stating that if the average daily inpatient number exceeds 50, the Laikha People's hospital

would be included in the priority programme for bed expansion. The new doctors were appointed in October 2026; the hospital received one assistant doctor, five senior nurses, and 10 nurses. During the 2025-2026 financial year, two single-story buildings, including maternity and neonatal wards, had already been renovated.

Regarding the questions of U Than Aye from the Kyaukpyu Constituency, the Union minister said that further doctors would

be assigned at Kyaukpyu Hospital (200-bed) depending on training output and staffing needs. Newly recruited medical technicians and nursing staff would also be appointed as they become available.

Regarding the question raised by U Thein Yi from the Htantabin Constituency, the Union minister said that there is currently no immediate need to establish a separate health centre in Nyaungyoe Village.

Regarding the proposal submitted by Dr Htay Win from the Ingapu Constituency urging the

Union Government to establish a commission for stabilizing prices of agricultural products from farmland, silty land and garden, Hluttaw representatives discussed the proposal in support.

Then, approval was sought for the motion of Dr Htay Win to form Commission for regulating prices of farmland, silty land and garden corps, and it was approved with high votes.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also sought approval for formation of the hotels, tourism and cultural committee, the

banks and monetary development committee, the planning and financial development committee, and the economic and trade development committee.

The Speaker reported to Hluttaw formation of the transport, digital and science technology committee, the Rule of Law and Peace and Stability Committee.

The Speaker reported to the Hluttaw regarding the receiving of anti-online scam bill with amendment of Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue its session on 17 June. — MNA/KTZH

## Online scam hubs demolished in Shwe Kokko

THE government continues to conduct joint operations in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas, where suspects commit telecom fraud and online gambling activities. The combined teams comprising security personnel and administrative bodies are involved in these operations, which include entering the areas, dismantling and removing illegal buildings, and taking further action in accordance with the law. One seven-storey building was demolished systematically yesterday.

Of the 77 illegal buildings identified for demolition,



These images display the update before and after the demolition of scam-related facilities.

57 structures will be destroyed by machinery and 20 by controlled explosions.

Three more structures — one seven-storey building — were demolished yesterday as part of a 57-building machinery

teardown project. With 59 structures previously levelled, 18 buildings still await demolition.

The government considers the eradication of telecom fraud and online gambling crimes as a national responsibility and, to

ensure that such activities can no longer operate with in Myanmar, will continue its efforts in coordination not only with domestic forces but also with the governments of neighbouring countries. — MNA/MKKS

## Mongshu's Namhpat production road culvert project inspected



Officials oversee the completion of the production road culvert project in Mongshu.

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development inspected the completion of three slab culverts on the Namhpat Village production road in Mongshu Township yesterday.

U Zeya Min, head of the Mongshu District Department of Rural Development, Head of the Mongshu Township Department Daw Myint Thida Han and engineering staff observed the completed construction of three slab culverts, each measuring five feet in length, 22 feet in width and five feet in height.

He also met members of the village production road committee

to check the durability of the structures, urged villagers to maintain the culverts for long-term sustainability, and coordinated necessary support in response to issues raised by residents.

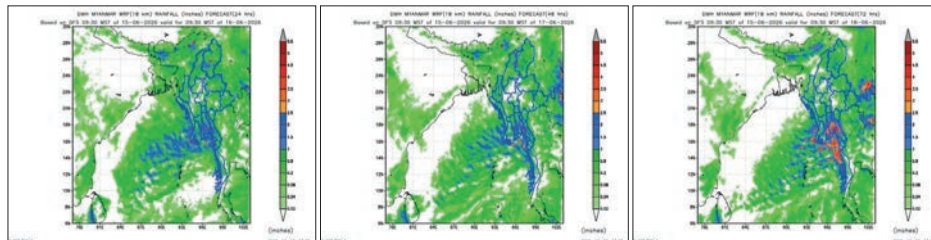
The slab culvert construction project was implemented for the 2026-2027 financial year with a K27 million allocation from the State budget. Jointly carried out by township DRD staff and local villagers since the first week of May, the project is now fully completed, enabling 360 people from 58 households and 250 farmers cultivating 339 acres of farmland to transport agricultural produce to markets. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

## Heavy rain forecast for Yangon and 6 regions

HEAVY rain is expected in isolated areas across Yangon Region and six other states and regions due to the strengthening of the monsoon, according to a weather advisory issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) on 15 June.

Isolated areas in Yangon, Ayeyawady and upper Sagaing regions, Kachin, Kayin, and Mon states may experience heavy rainfall.

Due to the development of cumulonimbus



Rainfall forecast from 16 to 18 June, based on the DMH's WRF model.

clouds, the DMH has warned that areas along the movement path of these clouds may experience intense rainfall, strong winds, thunderstorms and lightning.

Sea travellers and

coastal residents are advised that occasional squalls and rough seas may happen in Mon-Tanin-thayi coasts and offshore waters.

The public is urged to remain alert for haz-

ards such as strong winds, lightning, and flash floods. Furthermore, maritime and air transport operators are advised to pay close attention to weather updates and warnings. — TWA/ZN

# NATIONAL

## Security Forces Clear 46 IEDs on Magway Highway



Security forces remove 46 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by a terrorist PDF terrorists on the Pakokku-Kanma highway in Magway Region.

PDF terrorists are recklessly using explosive devices to detonate mines on major roads and railways used by the public to disrupt regional peace and security, the flow of goods, transportation and harm travellers.

In this regard, on

13 June, along the highway connecting Pakokku and Kanma of Magway Region, PDF terrorist groups dug up the asphalt road and made it into a minefield with oil tank shells, blocking it with mines, forcing travellers to use the forest roads as

a bypass route, opening the checkpoints and demanding income.

According to reports from residents, security personnel have carried out area security operations and conducted landmine clearance operations along the highway.

On 13 June, 15 large car mines, eight hand-made landmines, and 10 hand-made landmines planted by PDF terrorists were found on the left/right sides of the highway near Nyaunggyitpin village of Kanma Township. On 14 June, eight large car mines, three hand-made concrete mines, two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) made of PVC pipe, totalling 46 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), were found and were systematically removed to prevent harm to residents and travellers.

The security personnel conducts to take necessary security measures to identify, arrest and effectively take legal action against the terrorists who detonated mines on public roads and railways. — MNA/MKKS

## Amyotha Hluttaw continues...

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student numbers, and the opening or temporary closure of schools. It systematically monitors and analyzes these conditions on an ongoing basis and provides necessary support and assistance accordingly. In addition, it is also coordinating and cooperating with local authorities and relevant ministries.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced the formation of the Border Region, Ethnic Affairs and Peace Committee, chaired by Dr Manam Tu Jan from the Kachin State Constituency 12, with the approval of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Hluttaw Representatives discussed the motion urging the Union government to promptly address and fulfil the shortage of teachers in basic education

schools, tabled by U Aung Chit Lwin from the Sagaing Region Constituency 2. Deputy Minister for Education U Nay Myo Hlaing responded to the discussions, and he remarked that aspiring teachers who value the teaching profession and possess a sense of patriotism and national spirit can attend teacher training programmes, and that the shortage of qualified teachers is addressed in a timely manner; is a long-term task that cannot be undertaken solely by the State and the Ministry of Education. It requires the cooperation and participation of all parents and the public as a whole.

According to the request of the proposer, the Speaker announced that the motion was put on record. The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue on 18 June. — MNA/TTA

## Nat-Test Centre starts accepting external application forms for Aug



The Nat-Test Centre in Hledan.

ACCORDING to the Nat-Test Centre, Yangon, they have started accepting August Nat-Test Exam application forms.

For the exam sched-

uled to be held on 16 August, application forms for N2, N3, N4 and N5 have been accepted now, and application forms can be available at the Nat-Test Centre Yan-

gon. A copy of ID and a 30-40-millimetre colour photo on a white background are required.

The exam fee is K72,000 and the closing date is 17 July. Photos which are not clear and those with inaccurate sizes are unacceptable, and the submission by a represented person will be accepted if the application is filled correctly and completely.

For more information, enquiries can be made to the Nat-Test Centre located at Anawrahta Housing in Hledan, Kamayut Township, contact numbers at 09 789885510, 09 409640033, 09-409644404, 01 7514418 and 01 7535626. — MT/ZS

## Myitkyina offers consumer goods production technology training course

THE Department of Small-Scale Industries under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held the opening ceremony of a livelihood-support consumer goods production technology training course at Shweset AG Church in Myitkyina yesterday.

U Aung Tin Soe, head of the Bhamo District Department of Small-Scale Industries delivered the opening remarks, saying that by attending such small-scale industry training courses, trainees would be able to establish and operate small businesses at their homes, and that the income earned from such activities could create new sources of income for their families. He added that the livelihood-support consumer



This photo is taken during the consumer goods production technology.

goods production technology training course was opened with such an objective.

Instructors also explained the lessons to be taught during the training, including methods of producing dishwashing liquid, hand soap, laundry detergent, multi-purpose cleaner, body wash, fabric softener, various facial soap bars, Fuji soap cream, shampoo, scrub, natural shampoo and nat-

ural body wash.

A total of 20 trainees who are temporarily displaced persons currently taking shelter in Myitkyina Township are attending the training. Skilled instructors will provide both theoretical and practical training on consumer goods production technologies from 15 to 19 June, for five days, until trainees can establish their own businesses. — Karan (Rural)

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# OPINION

## Initiate national development under guidelines of the government

The current government is an elected government, formed by the people, and therefore it is a people's government chosen by the public. As such, in carrying out duties on behalf of the people and in the national interest, it is necessary to perform responsibilities with good coordination and cooperation among one another.

In a country, the economy needs to be strong, as only when the economy is strong can monetary stability be achieved. The government must work to strengthen the nation's currency and strive to enhance economic strength, improve the social and economic well-being of the people, and ensure stability and peace. To improve the national economy, efforts should be made to promote the development of MSME businesses, increase export volumes, and thereby raise national income.

At present, the State Government is steadily and firmly advancing along the democratic path with strong momentum. All actions are not being carried out in an uncertain or trial-and-error manner; rather, they are being implemented with clear and firm objectives and goals, making the best use of the experiences gained. Therefore, all responsible persons, including members of the government, have to make concerted efforts to ensure the successful implementation of all assigned duties and responsibilities.

On the other hand, departmental staff should maintain good relations with the public. Staff and local authorities are required to address the difficulties faced by the public in accordance with the laws and procedures in force. However, they should also be careful not to impose unnecessary burdens on the public. They must have a good understanding of the relevant laws and procedures and should also work together collaboratively to implement them effectively.

Civil servants and security personnel are provided with appropriate salary levels and allowances. Therefore, they are required not to engage in financial misuse, nor to improperly exercise authority to obtain or collect money. Abuse of power and corruption not only damage oneself but also harm the reputation of one's organization, the government, and the State.

Business operators are also required not to undermine security personnel or civil servants by offering money or engaging in bribery for their own personal interests. Practices such as bribery, corruption, financial misuse, and the improper exercise of authority damage the image of a strong and effective government and can also undermine the country's peace and stability. Therefore, only through systematic supervision and strict measures to ensure that all civil servants remain free from corruption can a dignified and developed nation be built.

# A Visit to Dagon University Where My Memories Live On

By Maung Maung Aye

Some places fade from memory over time. Others stay in the heart forever. For me, Dagon University is one of those special places. Recently, I had the chance to visit it again. As our car carried me through the western arched gateway, my old memories came back to me.

Our car passed through the arched-way gate of Dagon University. Not far from the entrance on the left side, I espied the buildings (Chummeries) where single lady-teachers once lodged. On the right, wide fields stretched out with one herd of grazing cows. Some tiny houses were tucked away in the midst of the forested area. Everything looked smaller than I remembered. The university had not changed. Perhaps, I had simply grown older.

We drove on. At a junction just before the roundabout, I saw a road lined with Padauk trees. Later, I learned it is called Padauk Road, named after those very trees and the Padauk Hostel at its beginning. During the Thingyan Water Festival or the early periods of the Rainy Season, the Padauk trees burst into full bloom, a golden spectacle that delighted every viewer. Even now, without the flowers, the road whispered of those joyful seasons.

My thoughts were interrupted by cheers from a football stadium opposite Padauk Hostel. I,

from the car window, caught sight of young footballers vying for a trophy. Their energy and excitement reminded me of my own youth. For a moment, I left as if I had returned to my university studenthood.

Soon, our car reached the Dagon University Roundabout, where Tawwin Road meets Bo Hmu Ba Htoo Road. There, a bevy of university girls were having their photos taken among colourful flowers. Shrubs of flowering plants surrounded the junction; butterflies hovered above them, drawing nectar. The atmosphere was pleasant and joyful.

As I watched those girls laugh and pose, my mind drifted back to the campus I once knew. In those days, Dagon University stood among large farmlands. Vast stretches of watercress were studded with clumps of plantain. Endless paddy fields stretched to the horizon. In the rainy season, nature turned the campus into a beautiful painting. Fresh green grass spread everywhere. Rainwater gathered in ponds and puddles, reflecting the changing sky.

Ducks swam peacefully. Cattle and buffaloes walked slowly across the fields. After rain, flocks of white birds appeared suddenly, flying gracefully under dark clouds. A gentle breeze carried the smell of wet grass and soil. It was a peaceful place that calmed



The good reputation of Dagon University has made Dagon Myothit (East) Township busier and more prosperous.

the mind and spirit.

One of the most beautiful sights was the blooming Seinpan and Ngu flowers after rainfall. Their petals held sparkling raindrops like tiny jewels. Walking under those trees on wet roads, I often felt magical. It was a peaceful world far away from everyday worries.

Now, returning in a different season, I saw that the campus had not lost its charm. The grazing cows are still there. The Padauk trees still stand proudly. And the laughter of students still fills the campus.

Our car turned around the

roundabout and proceeded along Tawwin Road towards the convocation building. I espied it ahead — a stately structure built to confer degrees personally upon students. Inside the convocation hall, statues of former rectors such as Sayagyi U Kaung Nyunt stand in honour of their contributions to the university. Today, in addition to graduation ceremonies, the building hosts celebrations, feasts, academic talks, and more — all held with pomp and ceremony. Standing there, I remembered my own graduation day. I remembered the excitement, the pride, and the sadness

of leaving university life behind. These memories returned to me with surprising clarity.

I saw the Science Buildings along Science Road and the Arts Buildings along Arts Road. I also saw the Science Canteen on Science Road and the Arts Canteen on Arts Road. Both were packed with customers because it was a break time. The sight brought back a flood of ordinary moments: Resonant voices of teachers wafting from lecture rooms, the sounds of students' shuffling steps along the corridor after the class, the crowded canteens filled with cheerful conversations, the ex-

citement of meeting friends every morning, the quiet walks across campus at sunset.

The university estate held many academic buildings, hostels, recreational centres, theatres, and more. Packs of students walked about along the roads — just as we once did. I watched them pass and thought of my own friends from the English specialization, who shared the same dreams and hopes. Together, we went to lectures, prepared for exams, shared ideas, and encouraged each other through good times and bad.

The university library was our favourite place. During exam time, its quiet halls were filled with students reading books and notes. But beneath the silence, the library held countless conversations, hopes, and dreams. There, we learned not only from textbooks but from each other. Those days taught us hard work, teamwork, and never giving up. More importantly, they built friendships that still mean everything to us.

University life was not only about studying. We pilgrimage to the Kyaikityo Pagoda once a year. We enjoyed the cool mountain air, the sight of the Golden Rock shining against the sky and shared happy moments. At the pagoda, we prayed for academic success, good health, and a bright future.

Standing together in that sacred place, we felt hope and purpose.

We also took part in religious and social activities. During the Buddhist rains-retreat period, we volunteered at the University Dhammayon, helped with donation ceremonies, joined blood donation campaigns, and performed other charitable acts. These experiences taught us kindness, generosity and compassion.

As the years passed, university life slowly changed us. We entered as uncertain teenagers and left as confident young adults. Graduation marked the beginning of a new chapter in our lives.

Even today, whenever I think of Dagon University, I can still see the rain-soaked fields shining under grey skies. I can still hear the happy voices of friends gathering after class. I can still feel the young hope that once filled our hearts.

As the years pass, I have come to realize that the value of university life lies not only in academic achievements. It also lies in the simple moments we shared every day.

Nostalgia transforms simple experiences into precious treasures. A familiar song, the scent of rain on earth, the sight of a university campus — any of these can suddenly transport me back to those youthful days.

There is a unique beauty in

university nostalgia because it reminds us of a period when life was filled with dreams and possibilities. We were young, hopeful, and eager to build the future. Although time has carried us in different directions, the friendships we formed, the lessons we learned, and the experiences we shared continue to live within us.

All too soon, our car was prepared to leave. I took one last look at the roundabout, the Padauk trees, the convocation building, and the students still laughing under the midday sun. I realized that a visit to Dagon University is never just a visit. It is a meeting between who I am now and who I once was.

Time has taken us far away from those university days. But their beauty has not faded. Dagon University was more than a place to study. It was a place of friendship, growth, and discovery. Its green fields, blooming flowers, and dear friends created a collection of memories that still make my life brighter.

Looking back, I understand that the greatest gift of university life was not found in great achievements. It was found in the simple moments shared with friends during the most beautiful years of youth. They remain like golden rays of sunlight, shining through the years and reminding me where my journey began.

## Reasons to Smile

By Yin Nwe Ko



Life is not always easy. Every person faces difficulties, disappointments, and moments of sadness. Some people struggle with money, some lose opportunities, and others carry emotional pain that cannot easily be seen. Because of these problems, many people forget how important a simple smile can be. However, even in the middle of hardship, there are still many reasons to smile. A smile is not only an expression of hope, courage, kindness, and inner strength. It has the power to brighten our own hearts and also the lives of others around us.

One important reason to smile is family. Many people work hard every day to support their parents, children, brothers, or sisters. Life becomes meaningful

when we know some people love and care for us. A tired worker returning home after a long day may forget all his stress when he sees his child running towards him with joy. A mother may feel exhausted from her responsibilities, but one loving word from her family can make her smile again. Family members may not be perfect, but their presence gives comfort and emotional support during difficult times.

Friendship is another reason to smile. True friends stand beside us during both success and failure. They encourage us when we lose confidence and help us feel less lonely. Sometimes, a simple conversation with a good friend can remove sadness from the heart. Friends share jokes, memories, dreams, and experiences that make life

more enjoyable. Even when life becomes difficult, friendship reminds us that we are not alone in the world.

Nature also gives us many reasons to smile. Watching a sunrise in the morning can fill the mind with peace and hope. The sound of rain, the beauty of flowers, the singing of birds, and the cool evening breeze can calm our hearts. Modern life is often busy and stressful, so people sometimes forget to appreciate the beauty around them. Yet nature quietly teaches us patience, balance, and renewal. After every storm comes clear weather, and after every dark night comes a new morning. This natural cycle reminds us that difficult times will not last forever.

Another reason to smile is personal growth. Human beings

learn through mistakes and challenges. Failure may feel painful at first, but it often becomes the foundation of future success. A student who studies hard after failing an examination may later become an excellent scholar. An athlete who loses a competition may train even harder and return stronger than before. Difficult experiences teach lessons that success alone cannot teach. When people realize how far they have come in life, they find a reason to smile proudly at their progress.

Acts of kindness also create reasons to smile. In today's world, many people are busy thinking only about themselves. However, small acts of kindness still exist everywhere. A stranger helping an old person cross the road, a teacher encouraging a weak student, or a neighbour sharing

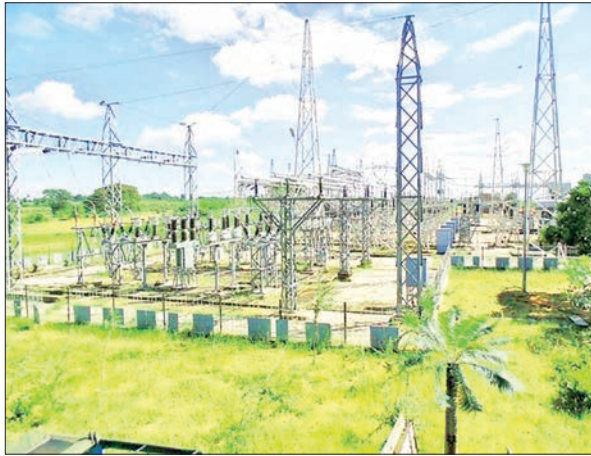
food with a hungry family can restore faith in humanity. Kindness does not always require money or great power. Sometimes, a gentle word, a helping hand, or sincere encouragement can completely change another person's day.

When kindness spreads from one person to another, society becomes warmer and more hopeful. Hope itself is perhaps the greatest reason to smile. Human beings survive difficult situations because they believe tomorrow can be better than today. Hope gives people the strength to continue even when circumstances seem impossible. A patient fighting an illness smiles because he hopes to recover. A poor student studies late at night because she hopes for a brighter future. A farmer plants seeds because he hopes for a successful harvest.

SEE PAGE 11

# NATIONAL

## Power plant upgrades trigger local blackouts



A local power station.

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy claimed that the Mann Power Plant will replace the multifunctional meters of the feeders that transmit electricity.

The Mann Power Plant, located in Minbu

Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, will be linked to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, allowing the National Control Centre (NCC) in Nay Pyi Taw to monitor electricity transmission

in time, improve electricity system control, and ensure electricity stability.

The feeder replacement and installation work will be launched on the 132/33/11 kV 50 MVA transformer at the plant from 8 am to 12 noon on 14 June. 132/66/11 kV 40 MVA transformer will be temporarily shut down from 2 pm to 5 pm.

During this work, power will be cut off in Pwintbyu, Salin, Minbu, Malun, Minhla, Saku, Hsingaung will age of Ngaphe Township, which are distributed by 33 kV and 11 kV power lines from the Mann Power Plant. Factories, plants, and the public in these areas have been notified

in advance.

In addition, to strengthen the Switch Bays of the 33 kV Khanaungto power line and the 33 kV Town Office (1) power line at the 230 kV Kanaung Main Substation and to prevent unnecessary power outages.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has informed that there will be a power outage in Aye village of Seikkyi Khanaungto Township and the villages and wards of Dala Township on 15 June and in the wards of Industrial Zone I, Industrial Zone II, Nyaung village and Daisu on 30 June via the relevant township electrical engineering offices. — TWA/MKKS

## Taninthayi marine exports surging to boost foreign earnings

### FROM PAGE 1

If direct air export routes from Myeik Airport become available, the export sector can gain substantial economic benefits.

“The marine products from Taninthayi Region are exported to China through Thailand. If direct exports to China become possible, foreign income would increase significantly. The President has already arranged for cargo aircraft to land at Myeik Airport and for cargo terminal facilities to be established. However, Myeik Airport would need to become an international airport like Yangon or Mandalay airports so that foreign aircraft can land conveniently. If the marine products have to be transported first to Yangon Airport by Myanmar National Airlines before being shipped to China, transport costs would become much higher. Therefore, if direct exports from Myeik Airport become possible, foreign earnings could more than double compared to current levels,” said U Thet Soe, secretary of the federation.

In saltwater product exports, live seafood shipments generate higher foreign earnings. If Myeik Airport develops into an international airport, Myanmar’s various

marine products can be exported directly, while tax-paid Chinese goods can flow into Taninthayi Region as imports, creating mutual trade benefits for both countries. China Southern Airlines, which currently operates daily flights for the Guangzhou-Yangon route, announced that beginning 15 June, it will add new flights on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, increasing operations to 10 flights per week. If such airlines can also operate flights to Myeik Airport, it can further support bilateral trade development between the two countries.

Among the marine exports of the country, Taninthayi Region earned US\$303.628 million in 2024-2025 financial year, whereas US\$287.971 million in 2025-2026 financial year. The increase in foreign earnings during the 2024-2025 financial year was attributed to higher export volumes, stable fuel prices for offshore fishing operations, and stable export prices for marine products. If seafood products from Taninthayi Region can be directly exported overseas, it will provide major support for the state’s economic growth and increased foreign earnings. — Nyein Thu (MNA)/KTZH

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Monday, 15 June 2026)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF 16 June 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Regions and northern Shan State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah, Chin and (southern and eastern) Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions and Mon, Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in, Yangon, Bago, Magway, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Chin, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan States. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the

weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate to strong monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 June 2026:** One or two rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 June 2026:** One or two rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100%.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 June 2026:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

### Daily newspapers available online

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

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## EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 2:50 pm MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about of 21 miles southeast of Maukmai), latitude 20.00 °N, longitude 97.94 °E, with a depth 10 kilometres, about 63 miles south-southeast of Namsang seismological observatory was recorded at 2 hours 37 minutes 59 seconds M.S.T on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 — DMH

# ARTICLE/HEALTH/ENVIRON WORLD

## Reasons to Smile

FROM PAGE 9

Moreover, smiling can inspire others. Sometimes, people do not realize how much influence they have on those around them. One cheerful person can change the atmosphere of an entire room. For example, in a workplace where everyone feels tired and discouraged, one optimistic employee who smiles

and speaks kindly can improve the mood of the whole team. In schools, positive students often motivate their classmates to work harder and stay hopeful. Smiles spread from person to person like light spreading in darkness.

There are also simple, everyday moments that give us reasons to smile.

Listening to music, reading a good book, eating delicious food, or achieving a small goal can bring happiness. Some people wait for big successes before allowing themselves to feel joyful, but true happiness often comes from appreciating ordinary moments. A peaceful evening with loved ones, a child's laughter, or even a quiet cup of tea after a busy day can become valuable memories. Life does not need to

be perfect before we can smile.

In addition, smiling shows courage. Many people think smiling means a person has no problems, but that is not always true. Some of the strongest people continue smiling even while facing great difficulties. Their smile becomes a sign of resilience and determination. Instead of allowing sadness to control them completely, they choose to continue living

with hope and dignity. Such people inspire admiration because they demonstrate emotional strength in challenging situations.

In brief, there are countless reasons to smile in life. Family, friendship, nature, personal growth, kindness, hope, health, and everyday experiences all give meaning to human existence. Problems and hardships will always exist, but they should not take away our ability to

appreciate happiness. A smile may seem small, yet it carries great power. It comforts hearts, strengthens relationships, spreads positivity, and reminds people that life still contains beauty even during difficult times. Therefore, no matter how challenging life becomes, people should always search for a reason to smile, because sometimes a simple smile can change not only one moment, but an entire life.

## Greek fishermen struggle to keep up with pufferfish invaders



Fisherman Giannis Giankakis repairs holes in a fishing net at the port of Ierapetra, on the island of Crete, on 3 June 2026. PHOTO: AFP

ON his fishing boat moored in the Greek port of Ierapetra in southwestern Crete, Alexis Charlambakis pries open the

mouth of a freshly-caught pufferfish to reveal two massive teeth on each jaw.

"If one of these bites you, it will take your finger

clean off," the 43-year-old said. "They are the destruction of the sea. They leave nothing behind."

Proof of the damage is visible on a neighbouring boat deck: a ray, a common seabream and another fish netted that day lie half shredded.

Pufferfish, a warm-water invasive species, were first spotted in Greek waters some 20 years ago and are wreaking havoc with the country's fishing industry, a pillar of the nation's agricultural exports.

Off the coast of Crete, Greece's largest island, fishermen are seeing their

catch dwindle because of the silver-cheeked Lagocephalus sceleratus menace, which typically measures between 40 and 60 centimetres.

"It's an omnivorous fish that eats everything it encounters," said 65-year-old fisherman Giannis Giankakis.

"Nothing seems to bother it, because it has no natural predators among other fish," he added.

The pufferfish explosion in Greek waters is the latest example of how warming oceans are changing ecosystems and upturning their reliant economies. — AFP

## Musical therapy: Classical concerts in New York for dementia sufferers



Attendees participate in "Lincoln Centre Moments", a first-of-its-kind performance-based programme created specifically for people living with dementia and their caregivers at Lincoln Centre in New York on 3 June 2026. PHOTO: AFP

IN his early sixties, Rob Kaufman suffered a medical emergency that caused him to faint and hit his head on a wood floor, resulting in a traumatic brain injury.

He was put in a medically induced coma, his wife Ellen recounted to AFP, and was in intensive care for about a month. Nine weeks of extensive rehabilitation including speech therapy followed, and today he experiences significant short-term memory loss.

Music therapy proved invaluable in the rehab of the onetime studio musician who said he has played for the likes of Jimi Hendrix.

And today, the Kaufmans are regulars at a Manhattan concert programme designed for individuals experiencing dementia symptoms.

The couple recently attended a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance of the programme that featured the Calidore String Quartet.

The musicians closed out the spring season to a packed house of some 100 people.

One audience member closed her eyes and mimed conducting as the artists played Mozart, while another tapped her caregiver's arm as if there were piano keys.

Lincoln Centre, the famed arts complex on New York's Upper West Side, began the series "out of a need", said Miranda Hoffner, the institution's accessibility director. — AFP

## El Niño phenomenon could see prolonged dry weather in Malaysia till early 2027, meteorological department says

THE El Niño weather phenomenon is expected to cause prolonged dry weather and reduced rainfall lasting into early 2027, the Meteorological Department has warned.

Measures are being taken to address the situ-

ation, including strengthening the dissemination of weather information and early warnings to the government and the public, as well as preparing for cloud seeding and fire-fighting operations to combat expected peatland and

forest fires driven by the hot and dry conditions, the department's director-general, Mohd Hisham Mohd Anip, said in a statement on Sunday.

El Niño is a natural climate pattern characterized by unusually warm

ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, resulting in heavy rainfall and floods in some regions while causing severe droughts and increased temperatures in others. — Xinhua

## Indonesia launches national bamboo planting drive to restore degraded land

INDONESIA launched a national bamboo planting movement on Sunday to

help restore 12.4 million hectares of degraded land across the country.

The programme, which forms part of the government's national ecological restoration agenda, began with the planting of around 5,000 bamboo trees in Bogor Regency, West Java.

The government aims to plant millions to tens of millions of bamboo trees across Indonesia through collaboration with environmental groups and local communities. — Xinhua

# ECONOMY WORLD

## Oil plunges, stocks jump on US-Iran peace deal

OIL prices tumbled towards \$80 a barrel and stocks climbed Monday after the United States and Iran reached a deal to end the Middle East war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, sending a wave of relief through global markets.

The strait, through which roughly 20 per cent of the world's crude oil supply normally transits, was effectively closed by Tehran after the US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February, sending energy prices soaring.

The US and Iran confirmed a peace deal



A financial data screen in Tokyo shows the Nikkei stock index closing at a record high above 69,000 on 15 June 2026. **PHOTO: KYODO**

announced by Pakistan, with a signing ceremony to take place in Switzerland on Friday, ending three months of conflict that have revived fears of a prolonged inflation spike.

Crude prices shed about five per cent, having surged above \$110 soon after the conflict began.

European stock markets climbed in midday deals Monday, tracking

gains in Asia, while dollar retreated.

Tokyo and Seoul stock markets soared around five per cent thanks to another flood into tech firms, fuelled by last week's record-breaking \$75 billion stock listing by Elon Musk's SpaceX.

Shanghai closed up more than one per cent and Hong Kong advanced 0.7 per cent.

Paris and Frankfurt were up around one per cent, while London's gains were capped by declines in energy heavyweights BP and Shell as oil prices fell. — AFP

## Renewed hope for stranded seafarers near Hormuz after US-Iran deal: IMO chief

SECRETARY-GENERAL of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Arsenio Dominguez on Monday welcomed the peace agreement reached between the United States and Iran, saying it would help advance plans to evacuate thousands of seafarers stranded near the Strait of Hormuz.

The IMO was working closely with member states and partners to implement the evacuation plan, Dominguez said in



File photo taken on 8 May 2026, shows ships in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, southern Iran. **PHOTO: KYODO**

a statement provided to Xinhua.

However, he noted that implementation would require time to

ensure that all necessary safety and security guarantees are in place.

Dominguez said the agreement signalled a

crucial return to peace, dialogue, multilateralism and diplomacy. It marked an important step towards restoring safety for ships in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime corridor, and safeguarding the fundamental principle of freedom of navigation.

The IMO, he said, remains committed to maritime safety, the protection of seafarers, freedom of navigation and the continued free flow of global trade. — Xinhua

## Global dairy markets move towards balance as milk production slows: report

GLOBAL dairy markets are moving back towards supply-demand balance as milk production slows following an intense period of growth, an industry report said.

In its Q2 Global Dairy Quarterly released Monday, Rabobank, the agribusiness lender, said global milk output growth eased in Q2 after four consecutive quarters of gains over two per cent, with annual growth peaking at 5.2 per cent in late 2025, one of the steepest increases on record.

Production is forecast to rise 1.5 per cent year-on-year in Q2, flatten in Q3, and decline by 1.6 per cent in Q4, the report said.

"Largely, it is our view that milk production growth will cease and that will bring a return of some semblance of balance within dairy product availability on the supply side," said RaboResearch senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey, the report's co-author.

The bank expects milk production to grow one per cent in 2026, slowing from 3.1 per cent in 2025, with a marginal contraction of 0.2 per cent projected for 2027.

Rabobank said higher input costs, including energy, fertilizer and interest rates, are squeezing farm margins and have contributed to expectations of milk production contraction in future quarters.

The report said demand shifts could drive overall prices, with Middle East tensions and consumer health trends key to global trade moves. It also cited weather risks from a potential El Nino that could impact milk supply in South America, Australia, and New Zealand.

In Australia, milk production is expected to decline 0.3 per cent in the new 2026/27 season amid tighter farm margins and low rainfall concerns, the report said, adding that retail dairy price inflation is re-emerging, while export performance varies across products. — Xinhua

## Macao's foreign exchange reserves rise 1.1% in May

THE Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR)'s foreign exchange reserves amounted to 235.3 billion patacas at the end of May, up 1.1 per cent from the previous month, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) said on Monday.

According to the AMCM, the reserves increased from a revised 232.8 billion patacas recorded at the end of April.

Macao's foreign exchange reserves at the end of May were equivalent to 10

times the currency in circulation and represented 85.8 per cent of the Macao pataca M2 at end-April 2026.

Meanwhile, the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the Macao pataca dropped 0.15 points month-on-month and 2.82 points year-on-year to 99.4 in May 2026, indicating an overall depreciation of the local currency against the currencies of Macao's major trading partners. (1 pataca equals US\$0.12) — Xinhua

## Indonesia proposes 2027 investment target with 13.8% increase

INDONESIA'S Minister of Investment and Downstream Rosan Roeslani has proposed a 2027 investment realization target of 2,322 trillion rupiah (around US\$131 billion), up 13.8 per cent from the 2026 target.

The minister made the remarks during a parliamentary hearing

on Monday.

To support the target, the ministry plans to integrate the Online Single Submission system using artificial intelligence, big data, and blockchain technologies to improve the quality and reliability of investment services.

The government is also working to expand

the integration of regional spatial planning data into the national licensing system to help accelerate investment processes.

In the first quarter of 2026, investment realization reached 24.4 per cent of the annual target, generating employment for more than 706,000 people. — Xinhua

## Vietnam's rice export revenue tops US\$2 bln in first 5 months

VIETNAM exported about 4.5 million tonnes of rice in the first five months of 2026, generating US\$2.09 billion in revenue, local daily VnEconomy reported Monday, citing the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.

The export volume rose 6.6 per cent year on year, while export revenue fell 3.6 per cent from the same period last year, according to the report.

The Philippines remained Vietnam's largest

rice export market during the period, accounting for 46.9 per cent of total rice shipments. China ranked second among Vietnam's rice export destinations, with a market share of 17.8 per cent. — Xinhua

Advertise with us/ Hotline: ☎ 09 454237515, 09 255597511

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited. would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from Topagri Myanmar Co.,Ltd to Myanmar Thet Nay Min Co.,Ltd. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Jet Fighter	Profenofos 50% EC	Provisional	P2022-5600

Myanmar Thet Nay Min Co.,Ltd. Tel: 09-2039285

### Notice for Change of Distributor

Notice is hereby given that official distributor has been changed for the following pesticide produced by Hebei Veyong Bio-Chemical Co., Ltd., China, from Sigma Bio Co., Ltd. to New Asia Crop Science Co., Ltd. Sigma Bio Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of (14) days from the publication of this notice.

No.	Trade Name	Active ingredient	Registration No.
1	Hmo Sone Shin	Azoxystrobin 200 g/L + Difenconazole 125 g/L SC	F2024-4695

Sigma Bio Co., Ltd. Tel: (+95)9 955006789

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

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No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Min Eimar	Hexaconazole 10% SC	Provisional	P2022-5801

Myanmar Thet Nay Min Co.,Ltd. Tel: 09-2039285

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (163W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FORBY VOY.NO. (163W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-6-2026** 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.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2612E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V XO LUCKY VOY.NO. (X2612E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S TI2 LOGISTICS PTE LTD

## Tender Invitation

### GRGI/P&T/018/25-26

GRGI intends to install the new factory with EPC Turnkey basis.

**(1) Scope of Work:** Design, engineering, supply, erection, commissioning, and performance testing including all associated facilities and utilities.

• **Availability of Tender Documents:**

Contact No: +959 256 192 616

• **Tender Clarifications:**

Contact No: +959 505 7046

**(2) Bid Submission Details**

• **Submission Deadline:** 7 July 2026, 2:00 PM

**(3) General Conditions**

- Bids must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in the tender documents.
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, wholly or partially, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Interested companies may request the Tender Documents and obtain further information by contacting the above phone numbers or visiting the company office directly.

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## China issues Level-II emergency response as storms lash multiple regions

CHINA'S Ministry of Transport on Monday activated a Level-II emergency response for heavy rainfall, after the country's weather agency issued an orange alert, which is the second-highest in its four-tier warning system.

From Monday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon, downpours are expected to hit parts of south China's Guangdong, Fujian in east China, Yunnan and Guizhou, both in southwest China, Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang, all in northeast China, and

the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region in north China.

The ministry said it is closely monitoring high-risk areas and has ordered reinforced patrols and traffic control measures.

In areas with red or orange rain alerts, roads that remain open must be inspected at least once every two hours, both day and night. Closed sections will only reopen after a full safety check, the ministry said.

China has a four-tier emergency response sys-



People travel in the rain in Beijing, capital of China, 17 May 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

tem, with Level I being the most severe response, as well as a four-tier colour-coded weather warn-

ing system, with red representing the most severe level, followed by orange, yellow and blue. — Xinhua

## WHO donates lab equipment to strengthen Mongolia's zoonotic disease response

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday donated laboratory equipment to Mongolia to support the country's efforts to strengthen the prevention, detection and response to zoonotic diseases.

Saia Ma'u Piukala,

WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, officially handed over 64 units of eight types of laboratory equipment to the National Centre for Zoonotic Diseases, according to the WHO Mongolia.

The donation was

made possible through funding from the Pandemic Fund under the project "Strengthening Prevention, Preparedness and Response through One Health".

Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can

be transmitted between animals and humans. They remain a significant public health concern in Mongolia, where herding communities often live in close contact with livestock and wildlife across vast rural areas. — Xinhua

## Palestinian factions say submit response to Gaza peace roadmap, seek end to conflict

PALESTINIAN factions and forces said on Monday that they had submitted their official response to the mediators regarding the road map for the second phase presented by Nickolay Mladenov, "high representative for Gaza" of the US-led "Board of Peace".

In a joint statement, the factions said the response was intended to help end the "tragic humanitarian suffering" endured by Gaza residents and halt Israel's military campaign in the Gaza Strip, while ensuring Israel's adherence to the terms of the ceasefire agreement.



Palestinians look on as smoke rises following an Israeli military strike in Khan Yunis, southern Gaza Strip on 14 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

The groups called on mediators and guarantors to ensure Israel fully implements all provisions of the first phase of the agreement "without selec-

tivity or procrastination", including a complete cessation of all military operations and the immediate implementation of the humanitarian protocol to en-

sure the flow of aid and the opening of all crossings to end the siege.

They also called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, the activation of an administrative committee to serve the residents of Gaza, and the immediate launch of the reconstruction plan.

Mladenov unveiled his "Roadmap to Complete the Implementation of President Trump's Gaza Comprehensive Peace Plan" in May on social media. The 15-point roadmap covers issues including security, international stability force and Israeli military withdrawal, and reconstruction. — Xinhua

### NEWS In BRIEF

#### France not to give in to US tariff threats on French wines: Macron

FRANCE will not give in to the latest threats of tariffs on French wines issued by US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday.

France will not give in "because that's not how it works. We have just concluded an agreement between Europe and the United States on tariffs," Macron told TF1. "Now, we need stability," he added.

According to US media report, Trump is threatening France with 100 per cent tariffs on wine, if Paris does not repeal its digital services tax.

"This digital tax was decided by the Europeans; several countries have implemented it; it is part of our law. It is not up to the United States to decide on the laws of Europeans or the French," the French president said. — Xinhua

#### Online scam losses in Malaysia surge to nearly US\$730 mln in 2025

LOSSES from online scams in Malaysia surged to 2.97 billion ringgit (US\$730 million) in 2025, compared to 1.57 billion ringgit in 2024, the country's Inspector-General of Police, Mohd Khalid Ismail, said on Monday.

Non-existent investment scams recorded the highest losses, amounting to 1.47 billion ringgit, Mohd Khalid told a press briefing.

He also said that a total of 66,204 online fraud cases were recorded in 2025, representing an 87 per cent increase from the 35,368 cases recorded in 2024.

"Phone scams remain the main threat, with 28,388 cases reported in 2025," he said, adding that fraud syndicates are constantly refining their tactics and modus operandi by exploiting technological advances and the sophistication of modern communication platforms. — Xinhua

#### More than 90 dead as cholera spreads in Nigeria

A cholera outbreak in Nigeria has killed more than 90 people and infected thousands since May, with the country's northeastern region bearing the brunt of the disease, local authorities have said.

The northeastern state of Borno recorded more than 85 deaths and 8,457 cases between 1 May and 7 June, according to the state government, with Maiduguri, the state capital, being the hardest-hit area due to high population density and overcrowded displacement camps.

In the central state of Plateau, health officials confirmed on Sunday that five people had died, while 11 confirmed cases and 53 suspected cases were reported.

Saleh Kaza, head of the Borno State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency, described the situation as "a serious public health emergency that has overwhelmed the health infrastructure and emergency response systems".

Health authorities said the outbreak has been fuelled by the onset of the annual rainy season and compromised water infrastructure. — Xinhua

# SPORTS

## Yadanabon signs Myanmar's top striker as captain

YADANABON Women FC, a new team to join the Myanmar Women's League this year, has officially announced the signing of Myanmar national team top striker Win Theingi Tun.

Yadanabon, which is preparing to compete vigorously in this year's Women's League, signed experienced national team striker Win Theingi Tun and appointed her as the team captain.

Win Theingi Tun, who

will wear the No 7 jersey for Yadanabon, is one of the most successful and highest-scoring players in Myanmar women's football and has won the domestic league championship and top scorer awards several times with Myawady Women's Club, a powerful club in the domestic women's league.

In addition, Myanmar women's footballers have played for foreign clubs such as Indian club Gokulam Kerala. She is also

a successful player who has played abroad, having won championships and top scorer awards for the Thai club College of Asian Scholars (CAS).

Win Theingi Tun has also been a long-term main striker for the Myanmar women's national team and is a veteran player who has scored many decisive goals for the Myanmar team in the SEA Games and the ASEAN Women's Championship. — TWA/MKKS



Myanmar's top striker Win Theingi Tun, who was called up as the captain of Yadanabon Women's FC, wears the Yadanabon Women's FC jersey.

## Real Madrid confirm Cucurella signing from Chelsea

REAL Madrid announced the signing of Spanish defender Marc Cucurella from Chelsea on Monday, for a fee reported to be 55 million euros (\$63.8 million).

"Real Madrid and Chelsea have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player Marc Cucurella, who will join our club for the next six seasons, until 30 June 2032," said Los Blancos in a statement.

The 27-year-old left-back joined Chelsea from Brighton in 2022 after coming through La Liga champions Barcelona's academy and moving to Getafe.

Cucurella is at the World Cup with Spain, and becomes the only Real Madrid player in Luis de la Fuente's squad.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez was re-elected earlier in June, following two seasons without winning a major trophy and appointed Jose Mourinho as coach this week.

Los Blancos are set to sign Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate at the end of his contract at Anfield and have been linked with Bernardo Silva and Inter Milan's Denzel Dumfries.

Chelsea finished 10th in the Premier League last season in a disappointing campaign, with Cucurella critical of the decision to sack Enzo Maresca in January. Cucurella had two years left on his deal at Stamford Bridge, where he won the Club World Cup and UEFA Conference League in 2025. — AFP

## Ancelotti says Brazil just getting started

BRAZIL manager Carlo Ancelotti sent a message of hope to the team's fans on Sunday, less than 24 hours after a 1-1 draw with Morocco in their World Cup Group C opener.

Ancelotti called for unity as Brazil prepares for its next match against Haiti in Philadelphia on 19 June.

"Yesterday [Saturday], we took our first step at the World Cup. And we did it with the joy and pride of representing Brazil," the Italian said in a social media post.

"It's only the beginning. We'll keep working and looking ahead. Let's move forward together!"

Five-time champion Brazil is second in the group alongside Morocco, two points behind leader Scotland and one ahead of Haiti.

The top two teams from each group will automatically advance to the round of 32, joined by the eight best third-placed teams across the 12 groups. — Xinhua

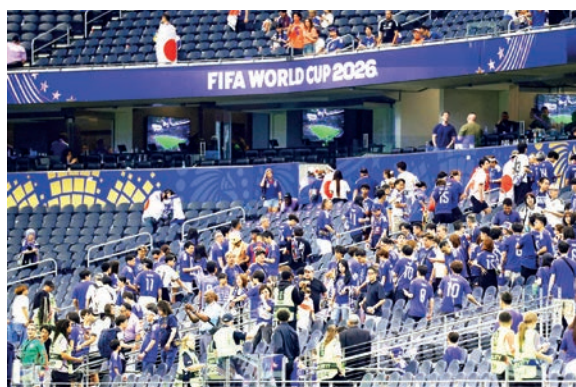
## 'This is our culture': Japan fans clean up World Cup stadium

JAPAN fans left the stands spotless after their World Cup opener against the Netherlands in Texas on Sunday, saying it was "Japanese culture" to tidy up after themselves.

Spectators stayed behind after the 2-2 draw to make sure they left the stadium as they found it, meticulously picking up litter and stuffing it into blue plastic bags.

It is a habit first learned at primary school and Japan fan Eita Tanaka told AFP that "we have to think about everyone".

"Japanese people think that when we



Japan supporters leave the tribunes after the 2026 World Cup Group F football match between the Netherlands and Japan at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington on 14 June 2026. PHOTO: AFP

use a certain place, we were told that you have to make that place look tidier when you leave than it was when you arrived," said the 20-year-

old, clasping a beer and a couple of cups, and wearing Japan's blue shirt.

"For example, at school in our classrooms we tidy it up after our-

selves without our teacher telling us."

Japan are appearing at their eighth straight World Cup and their fans' cleanliness has become their international calling card.

NFL quarterback Jameis Winston could even be seen joining in the clean-up after Sunday's game, wearing a blue Japan shirt with his name on the back.

Japan fan Futo Hagiwara said he was proud that the behaviour of his countrymen had been recognized in a positive light. — AFP

## Bellingham can be England's World Cup 'X factor': Henderson

JUDE Bellingham can be England's "X factor" at the World Cup as Thomas Tuchel's men chase a first major trophy for 60 years, Jordan Henderson said on Sunday.

England are among the favourites for the tournament in Canada, Mexico and the United States after a string of near-misses at recent European Championships

and World Cups.

Henderson, speaking at England's Kansas City base, tipped fellow midfielder Bellingham, 22, to have a "big impact" over the next few weeks despite an injury-hit season.

The former Liverpool captain said the Real Madrid star had made huge progress since his international debut as a 17-year-old in 2020.



England's players take part in a training session at Swope Soccer Village in Kansas city on 14 June 2026, on the eve of their 2026 World Cup football tournament Group L football match against Croatia. PHOTO: AFP

"How much he's grown as a player and as a person since then is incredible, really," said Henderson.

"I had a good idea when I first saw him

playing and training and the way he was. But what he's done so far at such a young age, I think everybody forgets how young he is, even me really sometimes". — AFP



## Putin Highlights China's Rising Global Influence in Birthday Message to Xi Jinping

Russian President Vladimir Putin extended heartfelt birthday wishes to Chinese President Xi Jinping, praising China's remarkable progress and expanding influence on the world stage under Xi's leadership, an official statement by the Kremlin noted.

The message spotlighted the commitment of both leaders to maintaining close cooperation in serving their nations' interests and to contributing to a more equitable international order.

It further noted that under Xi's leadership, China has made signifi-



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands as they pose for photos before a tea ceremony following their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

cant progress in economic, social, and scientific-technical development, steadily reinforcing its global standing. — SPUTNIK

## Trump faces G7 as questions swirl on Iran accord

US President Donald Trump on Monday arrived to attend a G7 summit in France, with allies hoping his outline deal with Iran translates into a swift reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Air Force One carrying Trump touched down at the airport in the Swiss city of Geneva, from where Trump was to transfer to the nearby French spa resort of Evian for the summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Flush from celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by watching MMA cage fighting at the White House the previous night, Trump had proclaimed "let the oil flow" after announcing the framework Iran deal — a "memorandum of understanding" — had been clinched.

But allies will have a list of questions for the US leader, notably on whether Iran plans to charge ships for transiting the Strait.

Macron faces a delicate balancing act in hosting the often unpredictable US leader. The New York Post newspaper reported that Trump is threatening to slap a 100-per-cent tariff on French wine and champagne unless Paris removes a digital services tax. — AFP

## IMF chief warns energy recovery to take time after US-Iran ceasefire

THE International Monetary Fund chief on Monday welcomed the ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran, but warned it would take time for energy and other supply disruptions to dissipate.

"As we have said before, much depends on the duration and intensity of the energy supply shock," Kristalina Georgieva wrote in a post on the Fund's website.

"The sooner it is resolved, the better — especially as supply will take time to recover given the significant infrastructure damage — and Sunday's ceasefire announcement is welcome."

The United States and Iran announced a deal on Sunday to end the Middle East war on all fronts and reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz, sparking relief after months of deadly violence and global economic chaos.

Georgieva also announced that the Fund would be releasing an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO) — which includes growth and inflation projections — on 8 July.

At its last WEO update in April, the Fund downgraded global growth projections due to the impact of the war. — AFP

## Africa CDC chief welcomes China's support, urges aligned global action against Ebola outbreak

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Jean Kaseya has welcomed China's "firm commitment" to supporting Africa's public health priorities, as the continent responds to the continued Bundibugyo Ebola virus outbreak.

"Africa CDC welcomes China's continued engagement and its firm commitment to supporting Africa's public health priorities," Kaseya told Xinhua in a recent interview, highlighting the China-Africa partnership in the public health sector, which includes public health infrastructure, capacity building, emergency preparedness, techni-



Staff members prepare meals for people under quarantine in Goma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 4 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

cal exchange, and other areas of cooperation.

Kaseya said the African Union's specialized continental public health agency is currently coordinating all partner support around a single continental response plan to fight against the Ebola outbreak.

"This approach helps align resources, reduce duplication, and direct support to the areas of greatest need," he said.

A five-member Chinese expert team arrived in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 2 June for a three-month

mission to support the DRC's fight against the Ebola outbreak.

"The China-Africa CDC partnership can add value through technical cooperation, training, laboratory strengthening, emergency readiness, supply chain support, and broader health security collaboration," the director general said.

Meanwhile, the Africa CDC chief emphasized that global partners have a "critical role to play" in Africa's continued fight against the outbreak, saying that "the most useful support is fast, coordinated and aligned with the needs identified by affected countries and the continental response plan". — Xinhua