

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Joint Statement of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China on Accelerating the Building of a China-Myanmar Community with a Shared Future

17 June 2026

1. At the invitation of HE Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, HE U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid a state visit to China from 15 to 19 June 2026. During the visit, President Xi Jinping and President U Min Aung Hlaing had a meeting and conducted in-depth exchanges on cementing China-Myanmar "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, advancing comprehensive strategic cooperation and deepening the building of a China-Myanmar community with a shared future, reaching important consensus.

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President U Min Aung Hlaing receives Shanghai Mayor



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Gong Zheng, Mayor of Shanghai at the Fairmont Peace Hotel yesterday during the latter's courtesy call on the former.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing received Mayor of Shanghai Mr Gong Zheng at the Fairmont Peace Hotel yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Shanghai Mayor extended greetings and explained facts about Shanghai City, and building Shanghai city to become the hub of

international economic, monetary, trade, transport and the international science and technologically innovative sectors in pursuit of the guidance of President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping.

The President discussed the promotion of multiple cooperation between the two countries, including the develop-

ment of Myanmar, enhancement of cooperation in restoring durable peace in Myanmar; the purpose of his State Visit to China to increase investment from China and promote bilateral trade, and the good history of relations based on sharing the long border between the two countries. Myanmar, which is rich in underground and aboveground

natural resources, possesses good conditions for successful investments. He invited Chinese entrepreneurs to Myanmar to make investments.

The President and the Shanghai Mayor frankly exchanged views on the potential for increasing trade and investment between Myanmar and Shanghai, China.

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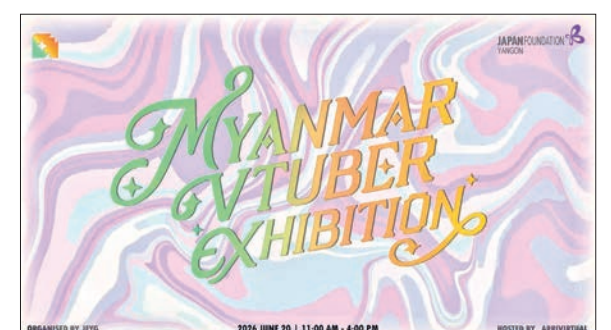
JFYG, ARRI Virtual to host Myanmar VTuber Exhibition on 20 June

THE Japan Foundation, Yangon (JFYG), in collaboration with ARRI Virtual, will host the Myanmar VTuber Exhibition on Saturday, 20 June. The event will run from 11 am to 4 pm at the JFYG Cen-

tre in Yangon.

A Virtual YouTuber, or "VTuber", is a digital entertainer who streams content using a computer-generated, anime-inspired avatar.

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This image displays a poster for the Myanmar VTuber Exhibition.

Disabled Students Eligible for New 5B PWDs Scholarship

THE Shwe Min Tha Foundation launched its "Building Bridges by Breaking Barriers" (5B PWDs) scholarship programme for the 2026-27 academic year on 16 June, aiming to advance educational equity and empower students with disabilities across Myanmar.

Administered along-



This image depicts SMTF's 5B PWDs Scholarship Programme.

side disability advocacy groups, the scholarship

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NATIONAL

Lewe's solar-powered irrigation project inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, inspected the implementation of solar-powered irrigation work in Aukchaing Village, Lewe Township, yesterday.

Lewe Township Department of Rural Development Head U San Yu Hlaing and engineering staff examined the installation of a 2HP solar DC surface pump system supported by a 2.44 kW solar power system for stream water pumping, as well as fencing works being implemented in Auktchoing Village.

He also met local elders and farmers and discussed efforts to ensure

the long-term sustainability of rural development activities, while also coordinating necessary arrangements based on local requirements.

A total project allocation of K9.61 million has been used for the implementation of solar irrigation and related work for the 2026-2027 financial year. The project was launched in the first week of June with technical assistance and close supervision from departmental engineers in cooperation with local villagers, and upon completion by the end of June, the project is expected to benefit a large area of farmland in the village and significantly reduce fuel costs for farmers. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



Officials oversee the implementation of solar-powered irrigation work in Lewe Township.

Mahamuni Pagoda's 98th Waso Chinlone Festival held for 45 days

WITH 900 amateur Chinlone teams, Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda's 98th Waso Chinlone Festival will be celebrated for 45 days, said the pagoda's trustee board.

The event has been started as from 16 June at the Chinlone stadium of the pagoda, and 900 Chinlone teams from different regions and states have been playing in daily matches.



Spectators at the 98th Waso Chinlone Festival.

The Waso Chinlone Festival is a world-famous event that has attracted even foreign Chinlone enthusiasts in the past. From 16 June until 30 July, Chinlone teams will play daily.

It was opened by the pagoda trustee board chair, vice-chair, secretary and the Waso Chinlone Committee patron U Soe Naing at 8:30 am on 16 June. — MT/ZS

YUE opens online applications for PGDip-Eng Course



The Yangon University of Education.

FOR a postgraduate diploma in English (PGDip. Eng) course offered at the Yangon University of Education, online applications are now open from 17 June.

Any graduate under 60 years old is eligible to apply; priority will be given to teachers and staff of the Ministry of Education. For the government staff, the respective de-

partment head's approval is required.

It is classified according to 5 levels: elementary, pre-intermediate, intermediate, upper intermediate and advanced. Each level will last 10 weeks. The diploma will be awarded after the completion of all five levels. The fee is K80,000 for each level.

It will begin on 22 June and run from 7 am to 9 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 12 pm, or from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday and

Sunday, so applicants can choose a preferred time.

Interested applicants can submit an online application at lms.yuoe.edu.mm starting from 9 am, and applications will be accepted until the expected capacity is full. There is an exclusive section for MoE staff only in the application form.

The list of online booking passes will be announced on www.yuoe.edu.mm, and they will need to enrol at the academic affairs department along with the original documents. — TWA/ZS

Yangon to host Myanmar's historic first Clear Aligner Symposium on 26 July

THE "Clear Aligner Symposium in Myanmar 2026," the first and largest event of its kind in Myanmar's dental community, will be held on 26 July at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon, with registration opening on 15 June.

At this major symposium, which will focus primarily on modern dental technologies and clear aligner treatments, international and domes-

tic dental specialists and experts will read research papers and deliver lectures.

During the symposium, speakers will share their experiences in pioneering the use of direct-printed aligner technology in Myanmar and provide essential insights into clear aligner therapy. Participants will also learn about direct-printed aligner workflows, clinical case

studies, and professional troubleshooting approaches from the Philippines and around the world, along with practical clinical tips and techniques to further develop their professional expertise.

In addition, a scientific presentation will demonstrate how the integration of nanotechnology and digital manufacturing through 3D-printing-based align-

er workflows supports the transition to modern digital dentistry, while experts will share strategies and practical experiences in expanding dental practices through the successful implementation of clear aligner workflows in Malaysian dental clinics.

This major symposium is being organized to provide dentists and clinic owners in Myanmar with the opportunity



This photo features the Pan Pacific Yangon, where the Clear Aligner Symposium in Myanmar 2026 is scheduled to be held.

to explore modern digital technologies and elevate the standard of patient care. Interested dentists can now register to attend

by completing and submitting the registration forms, which are currently open for applications. — TWA/TH

NATIONAL

CRCC Visit and High-Speed Rail Transit Highlight President's China Tour

THE high-level Myanmar delegation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing visited China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) in Beijing yesterday morning.

The President and party observed the CRCC exhibition. The Chair of CRCC and officials explained the emergence of CRCC at the railway corps of PLA in 1948 and its progress in successive eras, emphasis of Heads of State on the railway engineering corps, documents on construction of the railways, transformation of the railway corps into CRCC, construction of the bullet trains, machinery used in building the tubes, and construction of CRCC in international community including Myanmar.

China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) was ini-



President U Min Aung Hlaing visits China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) in Beijing yesterday.

tially formed as the Railway Engineering Corps of the People's Liberation Army in 1948. It was reconstituted as CRCC in 1990 under the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council. In 2007, it was reformed as

the modern corporation with shares and listed on the Shanghai and Hong Kong Stock Markets in 2008. CRCC has built more than 130,000 kilometres of railway lines and expressways, more than 50,000 kilometres of highway and expressways, more

than 28,000 kilometres of bridges, more than 26,000 kilometres of tunnels and over 120,000,000 square metres of buildings across the world. It has opened 24 branches in America, 51 in Africa, 15 in Europe, 41 in Asia and 10 in Oceania countries, with employ-

ment of 268,000 workers in 148 foreign countries and regions. It took responsibility for 46 per cent of the construction of the Beijing-Shanghai express railway and 70 per cent in construction of the Qinghai-Tibet railway. Its construction works, including

the Kunming-Vientiane railway linking the railway networks of China and the No 1 Beijing underground railway line, are in use till today. Moreover, CRCC cooperates with the international community in the maintenance of the railways.

At the briefing hall, the Chair of CRCC extended greetings, saying that CRCC wishes to participate in the construction, repair and upgrade of railways, motor roads, underground railways, airports and smart cities in Myanmar, and explained the history of CRCC and its progress.

The President discussed the potential for cooperation between CRCC and Myanmar.

The President and party left the South Railway Station of Beijing for the Hongqiao Railway Station by High-Speed Railway G23.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives excursion group

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi paid homage to an eight-member team led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanapala from the Yamanya Nikaya Monastery in Ye Township in Mon State on their trip to observe the convention of the ninth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw, at the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building yesterday morning.

On the occasion, the Speaker explained in Hluttaw sessions, the issues directly benefiting

the public, such as promoting the interests and welfare of farmers and ensuring price stability are being fully implemented as representative actions on behalf of the people by raising questions to ministries and submitting motions through the Hluttaw.

He added that the Hluttaw has been widely carrying out efforts to raise greater awareness of the Hluttaw by extending invitations and making arrangements in order to enable visits such as Hluttaw study tours, establishing and launch-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi explains Hluttaw affairs to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanapala and party at the Pyithu Hluttaw building yesterday.

ing Hluttaw websites, as well as utilizing other social media platforms.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu

Hluttaw U Maung Maung Ohn and Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mi Myint Than from the Ye Constituency in Mon State. — MNA/TTA

President U Min Aung Hlaing receives ...

FROM PAGE 1

Also present at the meeting were delegation members of the President, Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China U Zaw Win Myint and officials. The Shanghai Mayor was accompanied by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Ms Ma Jia and officials.

After the meeting, the Mayor hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar President and delegation.

In the evening, the President, accompanied by delegation members, visited along the Huangpu River of Shanghai by ship to enjoy the night scenes

of the urban development of Shanghai. On arrival at Huangpu Port of Shanghai, the President and party were warmly welcomed by the person in charge of Shanghai's tallest Oriental Tower and officials.

At the lounge of the Oriental Pearl 2 vessel, the in-charge briefed the President and party on infrastructure development along the Huangpu River. The President observed the urban development and maintenance of the river course along the Huangpu River; recreation taken by residents of Shanghai and social life activities. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Joint Statement of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China on Accelerating the Building of a China-Myanmar Community with a Shared Future

FROM PAGE 1

HE Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council, and HE Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met with President U Min Aung Hlaing, respectively.

2. Both sides emphasized that since the establishment of diplomatic relations 76 years ago, China and Myanmar have been sincere, mutually trusting, and supportive good neighbours, good friends, and good partners. China and Myanmar enjoy a longstanding friendship and close partnership. They have always adhered to equality and mutual benefit and firmly supported each other in safeguarding national sovereignty, security, and development interests. In light of the profound changes taking place in the regional and international landscape, both sides agreed to uphold the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, further carry forward the China-Myanmar "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, deepen practical and mutually beneficial cooperation across various fields on the basis of equality, mutual respect, consultation, and shared benefit, and continue advancing the building of a China-Myanmar community with a shared future and better benefit the people of both countries.

3. Both sides reiterated their continued firm mutual support on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns.

The Chinese side welcomes the general election in Myanmar and reaffirms its support for the efforts of the Myanmar side in advancing sustainable peace, stability, and development in the country.

The Chinese side firmly supports the Myanmar side in following a development path that suits its national conditions and enjoys the support of its people, firmly supports the Myanmar side in safeguarding national sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and national dignity, and firmly supports the Myanmar side in realizing national peace and stability, national reconciliation, social harmony and lasting peace.

The Myanmar side reiterated its commitment to adherence to the one China policy, acknowledging that there is only one China in the world, that Taiwan is an inalienable

part of the territory of the People's Republic of China, and that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate government representing the whole of China. Myanmar opposes any form of "Taiwan independence," will not conduct any form of official exchanges with Taiwan, and firmly supports all efforts made by the Chinese government to achieve national reunification emphasizing that the authority of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 is indisputable. Myanmar considers issues related to Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Xizang as China's internal affairs and firmly supports the Chinese side's just position on the above-mentioned issues.

The Chinese side highly appreciates Myanmar's longstanding, consistent, and principled commitment to the One China Policy. China expressed its appreciation for Myanmar's steadfast support on matters concerning Chinese sovereignty, territorial integrity and national reunification.

Furthermore, both sides reaffirmed that neither country will allow its territories to be used for activities detrimental to the other's security interests.

4. The Myanmar side highly appreciates President Xi Jinping's proposals for building a community with a shared future for mankind, as well as the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative. Myanmar takes note that these frameworks safeguard the collective interests of humanity and contribute significantly to global peace and progress. Both sides agreed to be dedicated to promoting the implementation of the above concepts and initiatives, carrying out cooperation in various fields, and making active contributions to promoting world peace, stability, development, and prosperity.

5. Both sides will work together to build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future based on the aims of mutual benefits, equality and win-win cooperation, featuring political friendship and mutual trust, mutually beneficial development, coordinated and mutually reinforcing security, and integrated

and mutually enriching exchanges. Both sides agreed to continue close engagement at all levels, deepen exchanges on governance experience, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two governments, legislative bodies, and local authorities.

Both sides attached importance and expressed readiness to finalize and sign the "Belt and Road" cooperation plan in a timely manner. The two sides agreed to promote the implementation of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) and steadily promote cooperation on major corridor projects such as the Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port and the Mandalay-Muse Railway. These projects will be guided by the principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit, commercial liability, and financial sustainability, in full alignment with laws, regulations, and national conditions of both countries. Furthermore, both sides will leverage the China-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines, steadily advance power grid interconnection, and explore economically and environmentally sustainable energy partnerships. The Chinese side reiterated its willingness to provide ongoing development support, for which the Myanmar side expressed gratitude.

The two sides also agreed to continue deepening practical cooperation in fields such as mining, the digital economy, and artificial intelligence to maximize economic complementarities.

The two sides agreed to deepen cooperation in the agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry sectors, streamline quarantine access for high-quality products, and explore smart customs initiatives.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in education, cultural tourism, health, youth, media, and human resources training to enhance mutual understanding between the two countries and support local livelihoods on both sides.

Both sides also noted the steady growth of bilateral trade and recognized the considerable potential for further expansion and diversification. They agreed to facilitate trade through the operationalization of the RMB yuan-Myanmar kyat direct settlement mechanism. Both sides

also expressed support for closer trade and investment cooperation in the areas of mutual interest, such as agro-processing, petroleum, and energy.

Both sides will work together to ensure the proper construction and management of memorial facilities for the Chinese Expeditionary Force in Myanmar.

The Chinese side actively supports Myanmar's post-earthquake reconstruction. On the basis of the emergency humanitarian disaster relief assistance previously provided, China is willing to further provide support within its capacity. The two sides will jointly promote the reconstruction of landmark projects such as the Aung San Sports Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar, deepen development cooperation in disaster prevention and mitigation, medical and healthcare services, and implement further community-focused, human resources development, and explore more "small and beautiful" livelihood assistance projects.

The Myanmar side expresses its sincere appreciation for China's continued support for Myanmar's post-earthquake relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, as well as its valuable contribution to the country's socioeconomic development. The Myanmar side further welcomes China's ongoing support through mutually agreed development cooperation projects. Both sides agreed to deepen cooperation in the energy and electricity sectors and to accelerate the timely implementation of mutually agreed infrastructure, public service and capacity-building projects in accordance with Myanmar's development priorities, with a view to advancing sustainable development, improving local livelihoods and contributing to the shared prosperity of both countries.

The two sides will jointly explore ways and means to implement the Global Security Initiative (GSI), remain committed to a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, work towards establishing a China-Myanmar security partnership, enhance dialogue and practical cooperation, and join hands to improve global security governance.

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NATIONAL

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FROM PAGE 4

The two sides support the establishment of an international alliance against telecom cyber fraud. China and Myanmar will strengthen bilateral and multilateral law enforcement cooperation to combat cross-border criminal activities, such as online gambling and telecom fraud, cross-border gambling, human trafficking, illegal border crossing, drug manufacturing and trafficking, counterfeiting, smuggling and financial fraud. The two sides will increase protection for the safety of each other's nationals and institutions within their respective countries and strengthen security cooperation for the construction of the "Belt and Road". The Myanmar side reiterated that it will protect the security of Chinese projects in Myanmar.

The Chinese side supports the Myanmar side in advancing its domestic peace and reconciliation process through political dialogue. The Myanmar side appreciated China's positive and constructive role in this regard, particularly in facilitating peace talks in northern Myanmar. Both sides agreed to strengthen communication and coordination to maintain peace and stability and common development along their shared border areas.

6. The two sides agree to firmly uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms of international relations founded

on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Both sides are committed to promoting an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. Both sides oppose all forms of unilateralism and protectionism and reject practices that undermine regional peace and stability, such as the creation of exclusive "small circles", the instigation of bloc confrontation, and the back of militarism and other practices that endanger regional peace and stability, and will firmly uphold the victory of World War II and the post-war international order. The two sides emphasize the importance of maintaining regional peace, stability and prosperity, as well as advocate for dialogue, mutual respect, and cooperation in addressing regional and global challenges, and underscore the need to avoid actions that may intensify tensions among countries.

The Chinese side appreciates Myanmar's joining the "Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative". Both sides are ready to deepen cooperation under the Global Development Initiative framework to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China appreciates Myanmar's joining of the "Group of Friends of Global Governance" and the "International Organization for Mediation (IOMed)".

Both sides call for the practice of true multilateralism, the promo-

tion of the democratization of international relations, and the joint safeguarding of global fairness and justice to promote the building of a more just and reasonable global governance system.

The Myanmar side welcomes China's proposal to establish a World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) to ensure AI development serves the common good. The Chinese side welcomes the Myanmar side's positive consideration of joining the WAICO to jointly promote global governance and international cooperation on artificial intelligence.

Both sides advocate conducting exchanges and cooperation on human rights issues on the basis of equality and mutual respect. They firmly oppose the politicization, instrumentalization, and double standards of human rights issues, and firmly oppose interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states under the pretext of human rights issues.

7. Both sides agreed to strengthen China-ASEAN cooperation, working together to build a peaceful, safe, secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home, and strive to promote a higher level of regional economic integration and build a closer China-ASEAN community with a shared future based on equality and mutually beneficial cooperation. Both countries reaffirm their commitment to promoting peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development in the region, advanc-

ing regional economic integration, narrowing development gaps, and contributing to an open and inclusive region.

Both sides agreed to strengthen Lancang-Mekong cooperation (LMC), supporting the successful holding of the 5th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Leaders' Meeting, joining hands in developing an upgraded version of the "LMC 2.0" framework, and promoting the building of a community with a shared future of peace and prosperity among Lancang-Mekong countries.

Both sides agreed to intensify mutual support and collaboration across multilateral platforms, including the United Nations, the SCO, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and ACMECS. China supports the full, equal, and constructive participation of Myanmar in all ASEAN mechanisms and processes, as well as at the United Nations, to safeguard Myanmar's legitimate rights and interests.

8. The two sides signed a number of cooperative documents covering transport, science and technology, intellectual property rights, human resources development, public health and media.

9. President U Min Aung Hlaing expressed his sincere appreciation to President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government, and the Chinese people for the warm reception and hospitality extended to his delegation and extended a cordial invitation to President Xi Jinping to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time.



President U Min Aung Hlaing leaves Beijing for Shanghai by the High-Speed Railway G23 train.

CRCC Visit and High-Speed Rail Transit Highlight President's China Tour

FROM PAGE 3

They were seen off at the station by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mrs Hua Chunying and party, officials of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché Office in Beijing. The Guard of Honour of China also saw off the President with the

red carpet.

Along the route from Beijing to Shanghai, the President observed the development of railway transport in China, systematic management of the railway yards, urban development, lifestyle, systematic agricultural activities, use of green energy, construction of infrastructure, and

proper arrangements of growing trees along the railway lines and gave guidance to Union ministers and officials.

The President also discussed the catering services for passengers on the High-Speed Railway G23 and management for convenient trips for passengers to be used as experi-

ences for the development of Myanma Railways.

Arriving at Hongqiao Railway Station in Shanghai, the President and party were welcomed by the Vice-Mayor and officials. They proceeded to the Fairmont Peace Hotel in Shanghai, where they will temporarily stay. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw continues Q&A session, approves formation of Hluttaw committees

THE ninth-day meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw focused on 12 questions and the formation of three committees.

At the question-and-answer session, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Zeya replied to the question raised by U Thein Po of the NyaungU Constituency, saying that the estimated costs for excavating the water inlet channel of Kamma Lake, dredging the sand filtering pond, and removing silt from within the pond in Taungzin Village-tract, NyaungU Township, will be calculated on an annual



The ninth-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw.

budget basis. The project will be submitted for approval under the regional development (capital)

fund for the 2027-2028 financial year and will be implemented accordingly. He also replied to

questions raised by Daw Ohnma Moh Moh Zaw from the Thegon Constituency. He said that the fund

will be demanded from the Bago Region government annually to dredge Inma Lake in Thaegon Township, Bago Region.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Win Moe Khaing answered the questions submitted by Daw Khin Ni Ni Aung from the Kawkaik Constituency, saying that the combined office and staff housing will be built with the Kayin State government fund on the State land opposite the Township Development Committee office in Kawkaik.

Deputy Minister for

Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo responded to the questions raised by Sai Tun San (aka) Sai Hse Han from the Langhko Constituency, saying that the remaining road section linking Langhko and Wamsit village-tract will be built depending on the financial allocation.

He also replied to the questions presented by U Sao Loung of the Mongpying Constituency, stating that the upgrading of the 18-mile Mongpuom-Mongsheng rural production road will be based on the financial allocation.

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Mekong Tourism Forum 2026 launches in Yangon to boost regional, sustainable travel

THE Mekong Tourism Forum 2026 was inaugurated yesterday morning at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon, with Union Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Maung Myint in attendance.

In his opening remarks, the Union Minister said that the forum serves not only as a platform for policy discussions but also

as a valuable network for sharing practical field experience, market strategies, and ideas on sustainable tourism development, with a particular focus on how tourism can benefit local communities.

He also noted that the inclusion of the Greater Mekong Subregion food exhibition would help showcase the cultural heritage,

traditions, and historical backgrounds of participating countries through culinary culture, while further strengthening cross-border cultural exchange.

Remarks were also delivered by Cambodia's Minister of Tourism and the Executive Director of the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office.

During the discussions, representatives from Greater Mekong Subregion member countries, local and international experts, hotel and tourism associations, and students from the National Management Degree College (Yangon) exchanged views on tourism development and regional cooperation. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister U Maung Myint speaks at the Mekong Tourism Forum 2026 in Yangon.

JFYG, ARRI Virtual to host Myanmar VTuber...

FROM PAGE 1

Originating in Japan, this trend is closely tied to Japanese pop culture staples like anime and manga. During the exhibition, representatives from the ARRI

Virtual Team alongside local Myanmar VTubers will lead in-depth knowledge-sharing sessions designed for aspiring creators eager to break into the industry.

Admission to the

exhibition is completely free, though advance registration is required. Interested attendees can secure their spots by registering via the official Microsoft Forms portal. — MT/ZS

Union Info Minister meets Ministry's departmental staff in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information U Htein Linn met personnel from departments under the Ministry of Information, including the Information and Public Relations Department, the Department of Printing and Publishing, the Department of Media Development and Promotion, and the News and Periodical Enterprise, at the Printing and Publishing Department Headquarters on Theinbyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Yangon Region minister for Information, Relief and Religious Affairs, as well as departmental officials and staff members.

The Union minister spoke on the occasion that the Ministry must serve as the "eyes and ears" of the State, keeping the public informed about government activities. He emphasized that news reporting should be based on solid evidence



Union Minister U Htein Linn addresses the meeting with departmental personnel yesterday.

and that, as a State-owned media organization, it should uphold the interests and expectations of the State while working collectively to achieve its objectives.

Earlier in the morning, the Union minister met Myanmar Press Council Chair Dr Tin Tun Oo and council members at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Htein Linn noted that in the digital age, information must be disseminated in a timely manner and stressed the importance

of joint efforts to combat fake news and misinformation. He added that the Myanmar Press Council should provide recommendations in connexion with the forthcoming media law and should also plan to organize media workshops and meetings.

Subsequently, the chairman and members of the Myanmar Press Council discussed the council's ongoing activities and issues related to media development, after which the Union minister delivered concluding remarks. — MNA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Mandalay supply convoy returns triumphantly from northern mission

TATMADAW has been working to restore control over areas that were temporarily occupied by terrorist insurgents and has reopened key transportation routes vital for regional development. In line with the guidance of the government, reconstruction and regional development activities are being carried out. To facilitate the livelihoods of residents, government employees and their families living in remote areas with difficult transportation access, and to ensure the smooth operation of government offices, Tatmadaw also



Vehicles returning from Myitkyina to Mandalay after transporting essential supplies are seen in transit.

transports commodities using military vehicles. The vehicles carrying the third batch of basic foodstuff, commodities, construction materials, medicines and medical supplies, stationery, and fuel to Myitkyina of Kachin State

from Mandalay arrived back in Mandalay yesterday. The convoy departed from Myitkyina on the morning of 16 June carrying local products to be traded in Mandalay, government employees assigned to new duty

stations and their family members, and staff to attend a training course, and arrived back in Mandalay yesterday afternoon.

Due to the collaborative efforts of the government and Tatmadaw, the Mandalay-Myitkyina route was reopened, and the essential materials for regional development are also transported in time, whereas the roads and bridges exploded by the terrorists have been repaired, resulting in passenger vehicles and cargo trucks now operating normally along the route. — MNA/KTZH

Disabled Students Eligible for New 5B PWDs Scholarship

FROM PAGE 1

targets Myanmar students with disabilities facing financial hardship. The fund supports secondary students (Grades 8-12) with K180,000 monthly for nine months. For higher education, regular university students receive K200,000 per month, while distance-learning students receive a total package of

K600,000 paid out in two instalments.

Due to limited availability, eligible students with disabilities are urged to submit their applications promptly. Detailed requirements and criteria are available on the official SMTF social media page.

The application window is open from 16 June through 3 July. — TWA/ZS

Land, apartments allocated to civil servants and fallen soldiers' families

DETAILS regarding the allocation of housing and land to civil servants, military personnel, police force members, and the families of fallen soldiers were presented at the Yangon Region Hluttaw session held on 16 June.

This housing and land allocation includes 1,650 plots of land and 74 low-cost apartments in Shwepyitha Township.

The pricing rates for these units are based on the internal tax collection rates set for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, with specific benefits provided: 10 per cent for families of fallen soldiers, security force members, and civil servants; 15 per cent for those who sustained disabilities

while on duty; and 20 per cent for currently serving and retired civil servants.

Additionally, 74 remaining apartments from the Shwepyitha Project have been systematically sold to those in need. These apartments were sold under a long-term payment plan spanning from January 2016 to March 2026 to the aforesaid individuals, 74 in total.

«The allocation of these housing units is intended to support the socio-economic well-being of the families of those who sacrificed their lives while faithfully serving the state and the people,” the responsible official explained to the Hluttaw. — TWA/ZN

Tachilek's solar street light installation inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Tachileik District, Shan State (East), conducted field inspections yesterday on the completion of the installation of public solar-powered street lights in 47 villages across Tachileik Township.

Tachileik Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lae Lae Thin and officials from the Township Rural Development Department reviewed the fully completed installa-

tion of solar panels, lighting units, and related accessories for village street lighting systems covering all 47 villages. She met village lighting committees, village development committees, and residents, discussing the importance of ensuring long-term sustainability of the rural electrification projects and coordinating necessary follow-up matters based on local needs.

Alongside the implementation of rural infrastructure projects such as rural road construction, water supply schemes,



This photo shows solar-powered street lights in Tachileik Township.

and income-generation activities under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project revolving fund, a total of 235 sets of solar street lights have been installed in 47 villages. These developments will contrib-

ute to improvements in education, health, social, and economic conditions in rural areas, helping to narrow the development gap between urban and rural communities. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Final 40 trainees selected for Myanmar Film Acting Promotion Course

THE final list of 40 selected trainees out of 264 applicants for the Myanmar Film Acting Promotion Course was announced on 16 June.

“I am involved as a female committee member of this Film Development Centre. Our

centre is also a project under the 100-day plan being implemented by the Ministry of Information. Since we wanted to scout for talent, we first announced it online. A lot of people applied. For our part, we wanted to prioritize fresh talent.

This is because, rather than conventional, rigid acting styles, we want to see a ‘next wave’. Therefore, when making the selection, we focused heavily on features and experiences that were distinct and different,” said Academy Swe Zin

Htaik, who is one of the instructors for the Myanmar Film Acting Promotion Course.

The selection of trainees for the course was carried out by experienced directors and actresses. — ASH/KNN



Allocated low-cost housing apartments in Shwepyitha.

OPINION

Efficiently utilize water resources for the nation

WATER is one of the most essential natural resources for human beings and is directly linked to all aspects of social life. Therefore, in today's world, the conservation of water resources, which are being depleted and degraded due to the impacts of climate change, is crucial for sustainable long-term development.

It is mainly necessary to ensure an adequate supply of water for agricultural activities. Therefore, sufficient irrigation water should be provided through river water pumping systems from major rivers such as the Ayeyawady, Sitoung, Thanlwin, and

Chindwin. Adequate access to both drinking water and irrigation water is essential. Water from rivers, streams, irrigation canals, and rainfall should be conserved and effectively reused.

In Myanmar, more than 800 million acre-feet of freshwater flows annually through rivers and streams, including the four major rivers, as well as natural lakes and wetlands. However, only a small percentage of this available freshwater is utilized for sectors such as agriculture, livestock farming, industry, and domestic use.

Therefore, in order to conserve and utilize freshwater resources effectively, it is necessary to explore potential areas such as the construction of low dams, hydropower generation, urban and rural water supply, irrigation water distribution, and the commercial production

of water-related products. The structural integrity of existing dams should be regularly inspected, along with sedimentation conditions, the state of catchment areas, spillways, and drainage systems. Necessary maintenance and repairs should be continuously carried out.

The potential hydropower generation capacity from rivers and streams across the country exceeds 100,000 megawatts. However, the current installed hydropower capacity is only about 3,500 megawatts, meaning that only around 3.5 per cent of the potential has been developed so far. Therefore, greater emphasis should be placed on the development of hydropower generation.

It is necessary to accelerate year-by-year implementation plans to ensure water availability in villages in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, where drinking water and irrigation water are scarce during the summer season. Some areas in certain regions and states still experience shortages of drinking water before the onset of the rainy season in summer. Preparations should also be made in advance at the ward and village levels to ensure year-round water sufficiency.

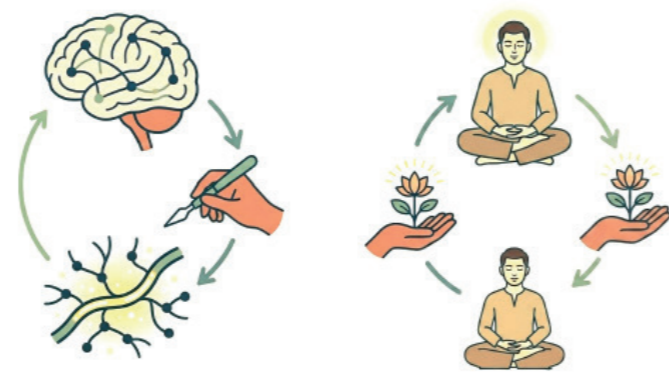
Water resources should be identified and collected not only for agricultural purposes but also to meet the daily water needs of the public. Efforts should be made to improve products derived from water, and at the same time, the country should strive to make effective use of both freshwater and saltwater resources nationwide.

HUMAN behaviour has long been debated through the lens of nature versus nurture. Contemporary neuroscience adds another dimension by demonstrating that the brain is continuously reshaped by experience, while behavioural genetics suggests that certain individuals may inherit vulnerabilities towards addictive or compulsive tendencies. Yet neither biology nor environment alone determines destiny. Between genetic predisposition and environmental influence lies human awareness – the capacity for mindful engagement with one's habits and choices.

Research has identified genetic variants associated with increased susceptibility to dependence. Variations in genes related to dopamine regulation (such as *DRD2* and *DRD4*), alcohol metabolism (*ADH1B* and *ALDH2*), nicotine receptors (*CHRNA5*), and reward processing pathways may contribute to an increased tendency towards alcohol misuse, smoking, compulsive gambling, overeating, or other repet-

Genes, Habits, and Mindfulness: A Philosophical and Buddhist Perspective on Human Behaviour

By Khin Maung Myint



itive behaviours. However, these genes do not dictate behaviour. They represent vulnerabilities rather than certainties. Genetic predisposition loads the gun; experience, environment, and individual choices determine whether it is fired.

Modern neuroscience further demonstrates that the brain possesses remarkable plasticity. Neural circuits strengthen through repeated activation, encapsulated in Hebb's principle that "neurons that fire together wire together". Habits, wheth-

er constructive or destructive, become biologically embedded through repetition. The brain is therefore not merely an organ we inherit but one that we continuously sculpt through our daily actions.

This understanding resonates profoundly with Buddhist philosophy. The Buddha rejected both self-indulgence and severe asceticism, advocating instead the **Middle Way (Majjhima Patipada)**. Having experienced both extremes personally, he recognized that liberation arises neither from rigid abstinence nor unchecked gratification, but from balanced awareness. In this framework, the central issue is not whether one engages in pleasure or restraint, but whether one does so mindfully.

Buddhist psychology identifies craving (*Taṇhā*) as a major

source of suffering. Importantly, craving is not viewed as an immutable trait but as a conditioned mental process that can be observed and transformed. The practice of mindfulness (*Sati*) cultivates awareness of thoughts, emotions, and impulses without automatic reaction. Thus, eating is not inherently problematic; unconscious attachment to food is. Wealth is not the issue; clinging to wealth is. Even virtuous practices can become obstacles when pursued through ego or compulsion.

The concept of conditioning within Buddhism parallels contemporary notions of neuroplasticity. The Buddhist principle of mental cultivation (*Bhāvanā*) emphasizes that repeated wholesome actions strengthen beneficial mental states, while repeated unwholesome actions reinforce

suffering. In both traditions, repeated experiences shape future tendencies. The mind and brain are not static entities but dynamic systems capable of change throughout life.

Philosophical traditions outside Buddhism echo simi-

“*The Buddha rejected both self-indulgence and severe asceticism, advocating instead the Middle Way (Majjhima Patipada).*”

lar themes. Aristotle's doctrine of the Golden Mean proposed that virtue lies between excess and deficiency. Courage exists between recklessness and cow-

ardice; generosity between extravagance and stinginess. Human flourishing depends upon cultivating moderation guided by wisdom rather than rigid adherence to extremes.

Consequently, discussions about "bad habits" require a nuanced perspective. Genetic factors may predispose individuals towards certain behaviours, and environmental influences may either strengthen or weaken these tendencies. Nevertheless, mindful awareness introduces

and philosophical framework for directing that change.

From this perspective, the critical question is not simply whether one should abstain or indulge. Rather, it is whether one engages with habits consciously and intentionally. Each repeated action contributes to the ongoing construction of neural pathways, character traits, and behavioural patterns. We become, to a considerable extent, what we repeatedly practise.

As both neuroscience and Buddhism suggest, predisposition is not predestination. The seeds of vulnerability may exist, but their expression depends upon the conditions in which they develop. Through mindfulness, wise effort, and repeated practice, individuals possess the capacity to reshape both their minds and their brains.

Ultimately, human freedom may lie not in choosing the hand of cards dealt by genetics and circumstance, but in cultivating the wisdom to play that hand with awareness, balance, and compassion.

the possibility of choice. Neuroplasticity provides the biological mechanism through which change occurs, while mindfulness provides the psychological

THERE was a time when love seemed ordinary. We found it in family dinners, long conversations with friends, warm greetings from neighbours, and small acts of kindness that filled our daily lives. Love was not something we searched for because it was naturally woven into our routines. Today, however, many of us are beginning to feel that genuine love, understanding, and human connection have become surprisingly rare. In a world full of technological advancements, endless communication tools, and growing opportunities, we are somehow finding it harder to connect deeply with one another.

Perhaps that is why love has become one of the greatest luxuries of modern life.

When we hear the word "luxury," we often think of expensive houses, luxury cars, designer clothing, or exotic vacations. Yet the most precious luxury in today's society is not something that can be bought in a store or displayed to impress others. It is something far more valuable and meaningful. It is love.

One of the biggest reasons love has become a luxury is the

lack of time.

Modern life moves at an incredible speed. Every day, millions of people wake up early, rush to work, spend hours dealing with responsibilities, and return home exhausted late at night. Many are constantly striving to earn enough money, support their families, and secure a better future. While these goals are important, they often leave little room for meaningful relationships.

Many families no longer gather regularly around the dinner table. Friends who once met every weekend now struggle to find a few free hours. Neighbours who live only a few steps apart may barely know each other's names. As our schedules become fuller, our opportunities to connect become smaller.

Time has quietly become one of the most valuable resources in our lives. When we give someone our time, we are giving them a part of our lives that we can never get back. That is why spending time with loved ones has become such a powerful expression of care. In many ways, only those who intentionally create time for others are able to experience the true richness of love.

One of the biggest reasons love has become a luxury is the

Rediscovering Love in an Age of Distraction

By Laura Htet (JDE)

Another reason love has become a luxury is the lack of energy.

Even when we manage to find free time, many of us are simply too tired to engage fully with the people around us. Work-related stress consumes a significant portion of our mental and emotional energy. The remaining energy is often spent on daily responsibilities such as commuting, household tasks, and personal needs.

As a result, we may sit beside the people we love while feeling emotionally distant. We may hear their words without truly listening. We may want to be supportive but lack the emotional strength to offer comfort and understanding.

Love requires more than physical presence. It requires patience, empathy, attention, and emotional investment. It asks us to

listen carefully, understand deeply, forgive generously, and care sincerely. These actions demand energy.

Unfortunately, much of our remaining energy is increasingly consumed by technology. Social media feeds, online videos, games, and constant notifications compete for our attention every minute of the day. Hours pass quickly as we scroll through screens, often leaving us mentally exhausted without realizing it.

Technology itself is not the enemy. It has brought countless benefits and connected people across the world. However, when our digital lives begin to replace genuine human interaction, we risk losing the warmth and closeness that make relationships meaningful. The more energy we

spend on virtual connections, the less energy we may have for the real people sitting beside us.

A third reason love has become a luxury lies in the changing priorities of modern society.

Today, success is often measured by material achievements. We admire financial stability, professional accomplishments, social status, and personal possessions. These goals are understandable because everyone wants security

and comfort. However, when these pursuits become our primary focus, relationships can slowly move to the background.

For many people, priorities now revolve around earning more, achieving more, and acquiring more. Building trust, strengthening friendships, and nurturing relationships often become tasks we postpone until later. We tell ourselves that we will spend more time with loved ones after we re-

ceive a promotion, buy a house, or reach a financial goal.

Yet life has a way of reminding us that relationships cannot always wait.

Years pass quickly. Children grow up. Parents grow older. Friendships drift apart. Opportunities to express love do not remain available forever. When relationships are repeatedly placed at the bottom of our priority lists, they gradually weaken.

This is why love, kindness, understanding, and trust increasingly feel like luxuries rather than everyday experiences. Yet despite becoming rare, love remains unlike any other luxury in the world.

Most luxuries lose their value over time. Newer products replace older ones. Trends change. Possessions wear out. However, love grows stronger the more we invest in it. The more time, energy, and attention we give, the more meaningful it becomes.

Money cannot buy genuine trust. Wealth cannot purchase true friendship. Success cannot guarantee emotional support during difficult times. Only love can provide these gifts.

Love comforts us when we feel lost. It gives us strength when

we face challenges. It creates peace during uncertain times and brings meaning to our lives beyond professional achievements or material possessions. People may forget our accomplishments, but they rarely forget how we made them feel.

That is why love remains humanity's most valuable treasure.

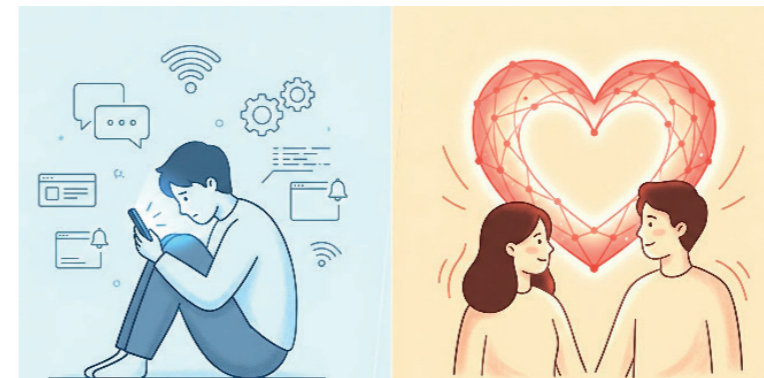
In a world that constantly demands our attention, our energy, and our time, choosing to love is becoming one of the most meaningful decisions we can make. Every moment spent listening, understanding, encouraging, forgiving, and caring for another person is an investment in something truly valuable.

Let us make time for one another. Let us listen more carefully. Let us put down our phones occasionally and look into the eyes of the people we care about. Let us appreciate those who remain beside us through life's challenges.

Because while many luxuries simply make life more comfortable, love makes life meaningful.

And in a world where genuine human connection is becoming increasingly rare, love may be the most precious luxury of all.

ARTICLE



NATIONAL

Frontline Tatmadaw members receive warm welcome home



Triumphant Tatmadaw frontline troops are seen being warmly welcomed back.

A ceremony was held yesterday at a local battalion in Hpa-an Township to warmly welcome back frontline Tatmadaw personnel who had successfully carried out duties in Myawady Township, Kayin State, and surrounding areas.

Officials from the South-East Command, along with departmental personnel, retired ser-

vicemen, military officers, other ranks, and residents, greeted the returning troops with great enthusiasm and appreciation.

The returning members were presented with sprigs of Eugenia and cash prizes as a mark of honour. The event also featured traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/MKKS

GPS and CCTV-equipped YBS buses face rigorous, continuous safety inspections

BUSES under the Yangon Bus Service (YBS) are now equipped with ITS-integrated Telematics GPS systems and CCTV cameras, and the Region Government is continuously conducting vehicle fitness inspections to ensure road safety, said Colonel Win Tint, Yangon's Minister for Security and Border Affairs, during the Second Regular Session of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw, held on 16 June, in response to a question.

Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Min Htet pointed out that poor vehicle maintenance and poor adherence to traffic rules have led to frequent



This image shows YBS buses equipped with CCTV via the YBO (Yangon Bus Operator) Control Centre being monitored.

traffic accidents on Yangon's streets, resulting in fatalities, and he suggested the installation of that equipment. Colonel Win Tint clarified that YBS buses have already been fully equipped with GPS

and CCTV systems.

“Using these systems, we monitor the daily operations, driving behaviour, traffic violations, unusual incidents, and accidents of YBS buses in real-time through

the Control Centre located in the People's Park compound on Ahlon Road, Dagon Township,” he stated, adding that a total of 17,781 cases of traffic violations have been identified and penalized.

The project to install CCTV and GPS systems on YBS buses began with consultations in November 2022 and was completed in December 2024.

Regarding vehicle maintenance, there are currently 21 companies and 135 bus lines operating within Yangon Region, and mandatory, regular vehicle inspections are being carried out, he added. — TWA/ZN

PyinOoLwin's village concrete road inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Mandalay Region, yesterday inspected the completed village road concrete paving work implemented in Kyeekang Village, Inya Village-Tract, PyinOoLwin Township.

PyinOoLwin District Department of Rural Development Head U Set Naing Tun, PyinOoLwin Township Rural Development Department Head Daw Khin Mon Kyaw, and officials, together with the village development committee, reviewed the completed concrete road work. Instructions were

given to local authorities and villagers to ensure the long-term sustainability of the development project by properly maintaining and protecting the infrastructure and coordinating necessary matters on-site.

The village road, measuring 270 feet in length, 10 feet in width, and six inches in thickness, was constructed using State grant funds of K16.8 million with technical assistance and close supervision from township-level engineers. The implementation began in the first week of June and has now been fully completed at 100 per cent. — Karan (Rural)



Officials inspect the completed village road concrete paving work in PyinOoLwin Township.

Pyithu Hluttaw continues Q&A session, approves formation...

FROM PAGE 6

Concerning the questions raised by Sai Wun Sam of the Mongkhat Constituency, the deputy minister answered that the state fund for the development of the border region was allocated in the 2026-27 financial year to construct the four-furlong concrete road section of the Mongkhat-Monghnyin road. Construction of the remaining section will depend on the financial allocation.

He also responded to the question of U Sai

Aung Kham from the Mongyawng Constituency, saying that the 45-foot wooden bridge at the exit of Wambo Village in Mongyawng Township will be proposed for the projects of the Shan State government border region development fund in the 2027-28 FY.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aye Kyaw replied to the questions raised by U Sai Sein Win from the Laikha Constituency. He said that the electricity supply measures will be taken for Wamhai and Wamyain

village-tracts in Laikha Township through the national grid, depending on the financial allocation in the 2029-30 FY.

He also replied to questions raised by U Soe Kyaw Naing from the Kyunhla Constituency, saying that arrangements will be made to electrify Kanbalu and Kyunhla townships through the 33kV Thaphanseik-Kanbalu power cable and the 33 kV Thaphanseik-Leik-sintaung cable to the villages around Thaphanseik hydropower station.

He also responded to questions submitted by U Myo (aka) U Myo Aung from the Pyay Constituency, stating that the power cables in the wards and villages of Pyay Township will be replaced with new ones in the financial years of the Bago region government fund.

Regarding the questions raised by U Tin Tun Lwin from the Kalewa Constituency, the deputy minister explained that terrorists exploded 16 towers of the power cable from the Nyaungbingyi-Gan-

gaw-Kalay national grid to Kalewa and Mawlaik in March 2025. Repairing of the power cables will be carried out depending on local security measures.

The deputy minister also responded to questions raised by U Hla Swe from the Pobbathiri Constituency, saying that the fund will be demanded from the Union budget in the 2027-28 FY to build power lines and one 5 MVA power station for the electrification of 24 villages in Tatkon Township. The budget of the Nay Pyi

Taw Council will be spent on electrification for the remaining villages in the relevant financial years.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sought the approval from the Hluttaw for chairmen, secretaries and member lists of the Economic and Trade Development Committee, the Transport, Digital and Science and Technology Committee and the Rule of Law, Peace and Stability Committee.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue on 18 June. — MNA/TTA

NATIONAL

Security forces clear 20 improvised mines on Kanma-Myaing road

SECURITY forces have cleared and safely removed a total of 20 improvised mines planted near Twinma village in Myaing Township, Magway Region, along the Kanma-Myaing road.

According to reports, PDF-linked armed groups allegedly placed various types of explosive devices along the road linking Pakokku Township, Kanma, and Myaing Township, with the intention of causing casualties, damage, and disruption to transport.

Following information provided by residents, security forces carried out area security measures and continued mine-clearance operations along the route.

On 16 June, personnel discovered and safely cleared 20 improvised explosive devices on both sides of the road near Twinma village. These included eight large vehicle mines made from oil drums, three small vehicle mines made from yellow plastic containers, five improvised directional mines, and four PVC pipe-based devices.

Officials confirmed that all devices were safely rendered inactive and systematically removed.

Authorities added that security operations and legal action are continuing to identify and apprehend those responsible, while ensuring the safety of public transport routes in the area. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar detains 7 undocumented foreign entrants



Immigration processes are underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

MYANMAR detained five Chinese nationals, one Kenyan and one Indonesian, totalling seven individuals, involved in

telecom fraud and other criminal activities in Kayin State.

The relevant officials conducted personal

data collection processes to deport these undocumented foreigners as quickly as possible.

Between 30 January 2025 and 17 June 2026, a total of 14,714 illegal immigrants were identified and detained in Myanmar. Of this number, 13,550 individuals have already been deported through Thailand to their respective countries.

Among the remaining 1,164 individuals to be deported, there are 662 who were charged

under the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency) Provisions Act section 3 (1)/13(1) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and 502 individuals are currently under detention while awaiting repatriation.

The government is strictly cracking down on online scams and online gambling by cooperating with other countries, including neighbouring countries. — MNA/KTZH

Illicit 7-storey building in Shwe Kokko demolished in crackdown

A joint team from relevant departments has carried out the controlled demolition of another illegal seven-storey residential building in the Shwe Kokko area, reportedly used for online scam operations and illegal gambling.

Officials said action is ongoing to remove illegal structures linked to online fraud in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas of Myawaddy Township, Kayin State, through coordinated efforts by de-

partmental teams. A total of 77 buildings in Shwe Kokko have been identified as being used for online gambling and fraud activities. Of these, 57 are being demolished using heavy machinery, while 20 are designated for controlled explosive demolition.

On the day, one seven-storey building was demolished as part of the planned operation. So far, 60 illegal buildings have been removed, with 17 remaining scheduled for



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

demolition.

The government stated that tackling online fraud and illegal gambling is a national responsibility, and it is

cooperating with neighbouring countries alongside domestic efforts to eliminate such activities from Myanmar territory. — MNA/KZL



The map shows sites where removed mines planted by terrorists along the Kanma-Myaing road in Myaing.

Kengtung's RBF pig farming activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Shan State (East), Kengtung District, inspected family income-generating pig farming activities implemented under the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project in Pintauk Village,

Pintauk Village-Tract, Kengtung Township yesterday.

Director Daw Ei Ei Myat of the Kengtung District Department of Rural Development, Kengtung Township Rural Development Department Head U Sai Aung Kham and project staff inspected the raising of

40 pigs under four groups, with 10 pigs per group, as well as the storage of pig feed in Pindaung Village. Daw Ei Ei Myat met RBF members and discussed pig feed prices, livestock production costs and selling prices, and coordinated necessary arrangements based on village require-

ments. Pintauk Village, with 148 households and a population of 784, is implementing family income-generating pig farming activities through a group-based system using K30 million from the RBF Project and contributions from members. — Sein Lwin (Rural)



This photo shows the pig farming implemented by Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project in Pintauk Village, Kengtung Township.

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

NATIONAL LOCAL BUSINESS

CBM sells over US\$24,000 to CMP companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$24,600 to CMP companies on 16 June.

CBM sold over \$3.37 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$6,300 to CMP companies on 15 June, along with over \$10,200 worth of non-trade transactions.

CBM sold over \$1.62 million to edible oil-importing companies and \$8,617 to CMP companies on 12 June, along with over \$2,600 in non-trade transactions.

CBM has been injecting US dollars into

the edible oil-importing companies, with \$286,000 on 11 June, \$1.38 million on 10 June, \$2.6 million on 9 June, \$3.6 million on 8 June, over \$2.9 million on 4 June, over \$2.89 million on 3 June, \$1.79 million on 2 June and over \$646,800 on 1 June, respectively.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market and the edible oil and fuel oil import sector, with a view to curbing the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation and maintaining market sta-



The facade of the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

bility. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws.

CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

MRF joins 10th China-South Asia Commodity Expo in Kunming

MYANMAR Rice Federation's pavilion representing the country's rice industry was jointly presented with Shwe Wah Yang Agriculture Production Co Ltd and Good Brothers' Co Ltd at the 10th China-South Asia Commodity Expo, held in Kunming, Yunnan Province, from 11 to 16 June.

MRF discussed broader and deeper cooperation with China and South Asian countries, particularly in rice seed production, milling operations, mechanized

agricultural services, drying and storage facilities, export and sales of premium Paw San rice and high-grade rice, fertilizer and organic fertilizer production, market trends and modern technology among private enterprises.

Furthermore, MRF exchanged views on investment opportunities and long-term partnerships in Myanmar's rice sector with counterparts from China and South Asian countries. — NN/KK

Indian chilli variety surges in demand

BOTH domestic and foreign demand for the Indian chilli variety is rising, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dried Indian chilli is mostly used as a spice. It is also utilized in food and pharmaceutical industries. The demand for chilli is increasing year over year.

Dried chilli fetches a good price of K35,000-38,000

per viss. Myanmar exports chilli to Thailand, China and India.

Chilli from the Aungban area in southern Shan State is a valuable spice and an economically important crop. Indian chilli variety is primarily grown in Aungban, Heho, Pindaya, Ywangan and Taunggyi areas. Chilli plants thrive under shady trees. — NN/KK



Workers are choosing quality chilli pepper to be sent to market.

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 17 June 2026

| | US\$ | Chinese yuan | Thai baht | India rupee |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Exchange rates | 3,664.60~3,669.00 | 557.90~558.70 | 125.50~125.70 | 43.60 |
| Trading amount in the market | 12,101,631.76 | 588,000.00 | 59,947,342.95 | |
| The amount sold by CBM to the market | | | | |

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, fuel oil, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, packaging

materials, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, electronic equipment, seeds, construction materials, animal feed, paper, and

fertilizers. From the revenue of the CMP sector was contributed US\$1.14 million to the edible oil sector and US\$0.17 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

Public Notice

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has established corruption prevention units within ministries to curb corruption effectively.

The ACC used SMS on mobile phones to ask the public who sought services at an office of the department of the relevant ministries via short code No "1111" for feedback, including the public feedback programme (PFP).

According to the PFP, the proper replies of the citizens via short code No "1111" will provide the quality of services of each department and the requirements for corruption prevention to be fixed.

Therefore, the public should reply to the questions of the ACC and corruption prevention units of the ministries via SMS at short code "1111". Such doing is a supportive measure for PFP, and the people are urged to cooperate in the operations.

Anti-Corruption Commission

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Adidas runs out of letter 'V' as German fans snap up World Cup shirts

REPLICA World Cup shirts of several German players were temporarily unavailable due to a shortage of the letter "V" following high demand from fans, Adidas said Wednesday.

The sportswear giant, which supplies kits for the German team, said supporters flocking to snap up shirts of Kai Havertz, Deniz Undav and Aleksandar Pavlovic had drained supplies of the letter.

"There were short-term shortages in the availability of the letter 'V,'" a spokesman told AFP.

But he added that "these were quickly re-

solved" and that football tops with the "letter 'V' will soon be available to order online again".

Earlier Wednesday, an attempt to buy a Havertz shirt on Adidas's online store was unsuccessful, and produced the message: "Sorry, we're currently out of stock of the following characters: V."

But they were available again later in the day, at a cost of 170 euros (\$198).

Adidas supplies kits for 14 of the 48 teams competing at this year's World Cup, and makes huge profits from selling merchandise related to the tournament. — AFP



The sportswear giant said supporters flocking to snap up shirts of Kai Havertz, Deniz Undav and Aleksandar Pavlovic had drained supplies of the letter. **PHOTO: AFP**

India hikes excise duty on exports of diesel

THE Indian government hiked the excise duty on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel effective from Tuesday.

The move was seen as a way to ensure domestic availability of petroleum products. The excise duty on petrol exports remained unchanged.

In an official an-

nouncement, the federal Ministry of Finance's Department of Revenue increased the export duty on diesel to 14 Indian rupees per litre from 13.5 Indian rupees per litre, and that on export of aviation turbine fuel to 12.5 Indian rupees per litre from 9.5 Indian rupees per litre. (1 Indian rupee equals US\$0.01) — Xinhua

China's retail sales of goods, services maintain steady expansion in first 5 months

CHINA'S total retail sales of goods and services, a major indicator of the country's consumption strength, increased by 2.8 per cent year on year in the first five months of 2026, official data showed on Tuesday.

This is the first time that the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has released this data as part of its monthly data package.

"As China's development stage evolves and consumption scenarios become increasingly diverse, demand for servic-



In the first five months, the total retail sales of consumer goods reached 20.6 trillion yuan (about US\$3.02 trillion).

PHOTO: XINHUA

es is being unleashed at a faster pace and has become an important driver of consumption growth,

making retail sales of services an important indicator for observing consumption trends,"

NBS Spokesperson Fu Linghui told the press.

Retail sales of services increased by 5.4 per cent in the January-May period from a year earlier, while that of goods rose 1.2 per cent, the NBS data revealed.

In the first five months, the total retail sales of consumer goods reached 20.6 trillion yuan (about US\$3.02 trillion), up by 1.4 per cent year on year, the data showed.

In May alone, total retail sales of consumer goods fell 0.6 per cent from a year earlier. — Xinhua

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

Recovery of ship traffic in Hormuz limited, but signs emerge

MARITIME traffic in the Strait of Hormuz remains at levels before the Iran-US agreement, says the Kpler maritime tracking platform, but there are signs of recovery ahead of Friday's official reopening.

Eight ships carrying raw materials transited the strait on Monday, and six on Tuesday, according to Kpler data updated Wednesday. The agreement was reached overnight Sunday.

This rate is comparable to the previous week, which saw an average of eight transits per day.

That is well down on the rate of approximately 120 transits per day before the war, according to the maritime information web-



In this picture obtained from Iran's ISNA news agency on 8 June 2026, residents take a dip as cargo and commercial vessels lie at anchor in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas. **PHOTO: AFP**

site Lloyd's List.

A fifth of global hydrocarbon exports passed through the strait, as well as other essential raw materials.

In a sign of a less hostile climate in the

area, several oil tankers in Iran's shadow fleet, all under international sanctions, reactivated their transponders on Tuesday and Wednesday.

They had been switched off for months

to evade maritime surveillance.

The Amber, Diona, Sonia I, Starla, Tour 2 and Hero II, were among the vessels to have turned off the transponders, according to the MarineTraffic platform.

These ships had loaded oil on Kharg Island and left the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz during the conflict, with their transponders switched off, according to Kpler.

Most of them have resumed transmitting AIS signals from the Iranian port of Chabahar, located at the mouth of the Gulf of Oman, about 500 kilometres east of the Strait of Hormuz, near the Afghan border. — AFP

Japan to host Pacific islands summit

JAPAN will host a meeting of leaders from Pacific island countries and territories in Yokohama around the summer of next year, the government said Wednesday, with maritime security and climate change expected to be on the agenda. Speaking at a press conference in Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said Japan hopes to discuss shared challenges with leaders of the countries and territories that "have become increasingly important in recent years as a cornerstone of a free and open Indo-Pacific". — Kyodo

BBC eyes cost-cutting drive

The BBC will axe some programming and may impose compulsory redundancies to deliver hundreds of millions of pounds of previously announced savings, its new Director-General Matt Brittin told staff Wednesday.

The former Google executive, who took the helm at the British Broadcasting Corporation a month ago, said the scale of the planned savings "requires tough choices, careful work and won't all be ready at once".

The broadcaster revealed earlier this year it planned to save £500 million from its roughly £5 billion annual budget over the next three years by cutting up to 2,000 jobs, in its biggest round of redundancies since 2011.

It comes amid severe cost pressures after income from a licence fee used to fund the corporation in large part fell by around a quarter in real terms since 2017. — AFP

Norway crown princess has successful lung transplant

NORWAY'S Crown Princess Mette-Marit, who suffers from a serious lung disease, has undergone a "successful" lung transplant, the palace said Wednesday, after a difficult few months for the Scandinavian royal.

Mette-Marit, 52, was diagnosed in 2018 with pulmonary fibrosis which causes scarring of the

lungs and shortness of breath, and she had been forced to scale back her duties on occasion over the years.

The operation's success comes after a tough time in the spotlight for the wife of Norway's heir to the throne, and just days after her son from a previous relationship was sentenced to prison

for rape in a case that has rocked the country's monarchy.

"In accordance with standard practice... the Crown Princess will remain admitted to Oslo University Hospital Rikshospitalet for several weeks to come," Are Holm, lung specialist at the hospital, said in a palace statement. — AFP

China calls for enhanced Global South voice, representation

CHINESE Vice-Foreign Minister Miao Deyu has called for a stronger voice and greater representation for countries in the Global South, as well as better protection of their rights and interests in global affairs.

"THIS is essential to building a more just and

equitable global governance system," Miao said at a press conference held on Wednesday to present a white paper titled "More Just and Equitable Global Governance: China's Principles, Proposals and Actions." CHINA will remain committed to the right di-

rection of enhancing the representation and voice of developing countries in UN Security Council reform, Miao said, adding that it will also strive for more UN agencies and international organizations establishing their headquarters in developing countries. — Xinhua

Global data declaration targets illegal fishing

FIFTEEN countries signed a global declaration on Wednesday aimed at combatting illegal and destructive fishing with better data.

The "Mombasa Declaration", unveiled at the Our Ocean Conference in the Kenyan port city, commits countries to improved collection and sharing of information on the movement, activity, and ownership of fishing vessels.

The issue is existential for local fishermen just a few kilometres up the Kenyan coast, who accuse large, foreign-crewed trawlers of destroying fish stocks and damaging the marine environment.

"This is making people here poor and dramatically changing the sea ocean bed which has depleted a lot of species in our area," said Awadh

Mbarak, 53, secretary of a "beach management unit" in the coastal town of Kipini.

A retired fisherman from the same town, Twa-ha Yusuf, told AFP he had not seen a Dugong, the beloved manatee-like sea mammals, for 40 years -- and blames the trawlers.

"Maybe my son will not even see sea turtles in the future," he said.

Locals accuse trawl-

ers of illegally trespassing into shallow waters reserved for small, local boats. But without publicly available data, it is impossible to hold them to account.

"Small-scale fishers are unable to feed their families. They're losing their livelihoods," said Maisey Pigeon, of the Coalition for Fisheries Transparency, a Washington-based NGO. — AFP



Activists want more and better data on how fishing trawlers are operating. **PHOTO: AFP**

SPORTS

Deschamps hails 'extraordinary' Mbappe as France win on World Cup bow

FRANCE coach Didier Deschamps toasted "extraordinary" Kylian Mbappe after the France captain scored twice in the team's opening game at the World Cup on Tuesday to become his country's all-time top marksman.

"There are still people out there who will criticize him but he is an extraordinary player. Not everything came off for him, but he can win games in one moment," Deschamps said of the Real Madrid superstar.

Mbappe gave France the lead midway through

the second half of a tough test against Senegal at the MetLife Stadium and wrapped up the 3-1 victory late on. In between, Bradley Barcola got France's second goal and Ibrahim Mbaye pulled one back for Senegal in the Group I encounter.

"As captain, he does a lot for the squad on and off the field even if some people think he is selfish," said Deschamps of Mbappe, who overtook Olivier Giroud to become France's leading scorer with 58 goals from 99 caps. — AFP

Norway coach hails Haaland after World Cup double

NORWAY coach Stale Solbakken said star striker Erling Haaland proved the World Cup "wasn't too big" for him as he scored two goals in the 4-1 win over Iraq on Tuesday.

The Manchester City forward gave Norway the lead in their first appearance at a major tournament in 26 years and put them ahead again late in the first half after Iraq had equalized in Boston.

"You could see that he adapted to the occasion, the occasion wasn't too big for him," said Solbakken.

"I had a good feeling before the game. I had quite a comfortable feel-

ing that he would do it for us today."

Haaland has now scored 57 international goals in just 51 appearances for Norway, and Iraq coach Graham Arnold believes the Norwegians go a "very long way" in this tournament.

"I'm incredibly proud to participate at the World Cup and to help win the first game for Norway in 28 years," said Haaland.

Arnold admitted Iraq paid dearly for their errors but remained hopeful despite two more difficult games coming up against France and Senegal. — AFP

Ayeyawady lead Myanmar Women's League after Round 1

THE 2026-2027 Myanmar Women's League Round 1, organized by the Myanmar National League under the Myanmar Football Federation with main sponsorship from Max Energy, was held from 15 to 17 June in Nay Pyi Taw, with defending champions Ayeyawady topping the table on goal difference.

In Round 1 matches, Ayeyawady defeated Thitsa Arman 4-0, Zwegabin United beat Yangon City 3-0, Yangon United overcame Yadanabon 3-1, Young Lionesses edged Myawady 2-1, and ISPE defeated Shan United 4-1.

The new season sees



A Round 1 match of the 2026-2027 Myanmar Women's League is in action yesterday.

a higher tempo, with an increased number of foreign players compared to the previous season, the debut of Myanmar national team striker May Htet Luu in the domestic league, and the return of veteran strik-

er Win Theingi Tun, who previously played abroad.

For Matchday 1, Player of the Match awards (AYA Pay Player of the Match) were given to Naw Htet Htet Wai (Ayeyawady), Gloria

(Zwegabin United), Zin Moe Pyae (Yangon United), Shin Thant Phyu Sin Pyae (Young Lionesses), and Lin Myint Mor (ISPE), each receiving a commemorative award and a cash prize of K500,000.

After Round 1, Ayeyawady, ISPE, Zwegabin United, Yangon United and Young Lionesses each have three points. Ayeyawady lead the standings on goal difference, while Myawady, Yadanabon, Yangon City, Shan United and Thitsa Arman are yet to earn points.

Round 2 of the competition will be held from 22 to 24 June. — MNA/KZL

Myanmar boxing title: 4 divisions, deadline 29 June



The WBC/OPBF belt featuring the Myanmar national flag.

THE Myanmar Boxing Commission (MBC) has announced four weight divisions for the PBM 12 WBC/OPBF Myanmar International Title Match, which it will stage in November, and said interested boxers must submit their applications no later than 29 June.

The title event is the officially recognized International Myanmar

Belt sanctioned by the World Boxing Council (WBC) and the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF). The commission has set the following divisions for the tournament: Super Flyweight at 51.16 kilograms, Bantamweight at 53.52 kilograms, Super Bantamweight at 55.34 kilograms and Featherweight at 57.15

kilogrammes.

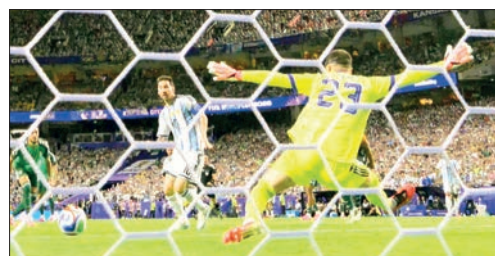
Under the competition rules, boxers must meet the exact weight requirements for their respective divisions in either kilogrammes or pounds. The commission said it would not accept any discrepancy, even as little as 0.1 kilogramme or a slight difference in pound weight.

The PBM 10 tournament scheduled for July and the PBM 11 tournament set for September will include all four divisions. The commission will evaluate the winners of those tournaments and select the two best divisions. Boxers from those divisions will compete in the final bout for the WBC/OPBF Myanmar International Belt at the PBM 12

tournament in November.

Boxers wishing to take part in the competition must submit the required documents together with their applications by 29 June. They can obtain application forms through the Myanmar Boxing Commission Facebook page messenger or by contacting Viber 09 253148277 and 09 255488835.

Applicants can also collect the forms in person at the MBC Boxing Club inside Theinbyu Stadium in Yangon or at the Myanmar Boxing Commission headquarters located at 337/A, Yadana Road, Ward 11, near Kula Pagoda bus stop, on the first floor above KBZ Bank, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon. — ASH/KZL



Argentina captain Lionel Messi scores the second goal of his hat-trick in the champions 3-0 win over Algeria at Kansas City. PHOTO: AFP

Magical Messi equals World Cup goals record as Argentina win

LIONEL Messi opened his record-breaking sixth World Cup with a hat-trick to become the tournament's joint all-time top scorer on Tuesday as holders Argentina launched their bid for back-to-back titles with a dazzling 3-0 rout of Algeria.

On a magical night at Kansas City's 69,045-capacity Arrowhead Stadium, Mes-

si delivered an electrifying individual display to join Miroslav Klose at the top of the World Cup scorers charts with 16 goals.

The 38-year-old had started an unforgettable occasion — his 200th international appearance — by claiming a piece of history, becoming the first man to play in six World Cups as he led Argentina

onto the field for what would become a one-sided Group J clash.

Messi, who first played in the World Cup as a teenager during the 2006 finals in Germany, then emphatically stamped his class on proceedings with a memorable hat-trick — the first of his World Cup career. — AFP



US will strike again if Iran not comply with MoU: Trump

US President Donald Trump threatened on Wednesday that the United States would strike Iran again if Tehran fails to comply with the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between them.

“If they don’t behave, we’ll go right back to dropping bombs right smack in the middle of their head,” Trump said at the G7 summit alongside Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi.

The United States and Iran have electronically signed an MoU aimed at ending the war on Monday

and are scheduled to officially sign it in Switzerland on Friday.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Trump said the United States would make the Strait of Hormuz fully open by Friday.

However, Israel’s Ma’ariv news site reported Monday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear Israel “does not consider itself committed to the Lebanese clause in the US-Iran agreement.” Israel continued its strikes in south Lebanon on Wednesday. — Xinhua



France and the United Kingdom have assembled a coalition of countries to help restore maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. PHOTO: MARINE NATIONALE/AFP

G7 leaders focus on AI, economic imbalances at closing summit talks

Executives of leading AI companies, including US-based Anthropic and OpenAI, are set to take part in the discussions.

LEADERS of the Group of Seven nations are expected to agree on promoting the safe, rapid and efficient deployment of artificial intelligence during Wednesday’s summit talks in France.

Before wrapping up their three-day summit in the French resort town of Evian-les-Bains, the leaders discussed how to address global imbalances, a priority for the host country. The session on economic growth came as major economies grapple with a slew of challenges, including trade tensions and rising debt.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said G7 members and like-minded countries “must work together to reduce uncertainty over the global economy,” according to Japan’s Foreign Ministry. She also called



The G7 leaders have sought to bridge differences. PHOTO: AFP

for rectifying nonmarket policies and practices that contribute to global imbalances and excess production, saying they pose a common challenge for many countries in sustaining growth.

She then expressed hope that the G7 and its partners would continue to lead the global economy through candid discussions and said she looks

forward to further talks at the Group of 20 summit, which will be chaired by US President Donald Trump in December.

A working lunch will focus on AI, with the leaders expected to discuss AI innovation, real-world applications and online child safety.

Executives of leading AI companies, including U.S.-based Anthropic and

OpenAI, are set to take part in the discussions.

Interest in artificial intelligence has surged with the rise of generative AI technologies, prompting governments to explore ways to maximize economic benefits while addressing risks such as misinformation, cybersecurity threats and employment disruptions. — Kyodo

Over 1,000 foreigners got Russian values-visa

THE majority of these visas — 168 — were issued to German citizens, according to Alexei Klimov, Director of the Consular Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, in an interview with Sputnik.

Other countries on the list include:

- France – 140
- United States – 105
- Italy – 100
- Estonia – 63
- Latvia – 60
- Canada – 54
- Lithuania – 46
- Australia – 43

The visas are granted under President Putin’s executive order, “On Providing Humanitarian Support to Persons Sharing Traditional Russian Spiritual and Moral Values”, Klimov explained. — SPUTNIK

CHINA will host the 2026 World Artificial Intelligence (AI) Conference and High-Level Meeting on Global AI Governance in Shanghai this July, a Chinese official said Wednesday. “China looks forward to taking the conference as an opportunity to further strengthen international cooperation on AI with all parties,” said Zhou Haibing, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission, at a press conference.

AI governance bears on the future of humanity and is a common is-

China to host 2026 World AI Conference in Shanghai



China Mobile’s self-developed robot dogs and humanoid robot. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

sue facing all countries, Zhou said. China upholds

multilateralism and the principles of openness

and inclusiveness, and has actively promoted global governance and international cooperation on AI, contributing Chinese solutions to global development in the intelligent era. Going forward, China will coordinate development and security efforts, actively practice multilateralism, and uphold the principle of being people-centred and of developing AI for good. — Xinhua