

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## Myanmar's Strategic Location Unlocks Vast Global Markets



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing addresses the opening of the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Networking Summit (MCITP 2026) Shanghai in China yesterday.

To further boost bilateral investment, Myanmar will extend a special invitation to Chinese entrepreneurs to inject capital into multiple key economic sectors.

**C**HINESE entrepreneurs can create a mutually beneficial value chain for both countries by engaging in joint investments in Myanmar's agriculture and livestock sectors, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing at the

opening of the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Networking Summit (MCITP-2026) Shanghai.

Aimed at increasing the largest number of foreign investments from China to Myanmar within the five-year term from 2026 to 2030 and promoting the

trading of Myanmar products to China, the summit took place at the Radisson Collection Lingang Shanghai Hotel in Shanghai yesterday morning.

As the President arrived at the venue where the ceremony was to be held,

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## MAI Sky Connect Takes Flight

MYANMAR Airways International (MAI) has announced the official launch of MAI Sky Connect, the first wireless in-flight entertainment system in Myanmar.

Introduced to provide a superior travel experience for passengers, the MAI Sky Connect system has been available on all of MAI's Airbus aircraft since 17 June.

"The introduction of this system is a significant milestone in MAI's transformation journey. We are constantly striving to provide our passengers with a better travel experience by adhering to innovation, operational excellence, and international standards, demonstrating MAI's commitment to delivering a customer-centric travel experience," said Mr Tanes Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of MAI.

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This image shows the MAI Sky Connect system.

## Myanmar Embassy to Singapore issues visitor dress code

MYANMAR nationals are urged to wear clothing that is appropriate to Myanmar culture when they visiting the embassy to receive passport extensions and consular services, stated the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore in a notice issued on 17 June.

The notice said that visitors are respectfully requested not to wear inappropriate attire such

as low-cut tops, tank tops, short pants, ripped jeans and short skirts when visiting the embassy campus.

The Myanmar Embassy to Singapore has reiterated its request for all individuals visiting for passport services and other consular matters to dress in a manner that is culturally appropriate and respectful. — TWA/ZS



The facade of the Myanmar Embassy to Singapore.

## OPINION

Join hands in ensuring national economic development

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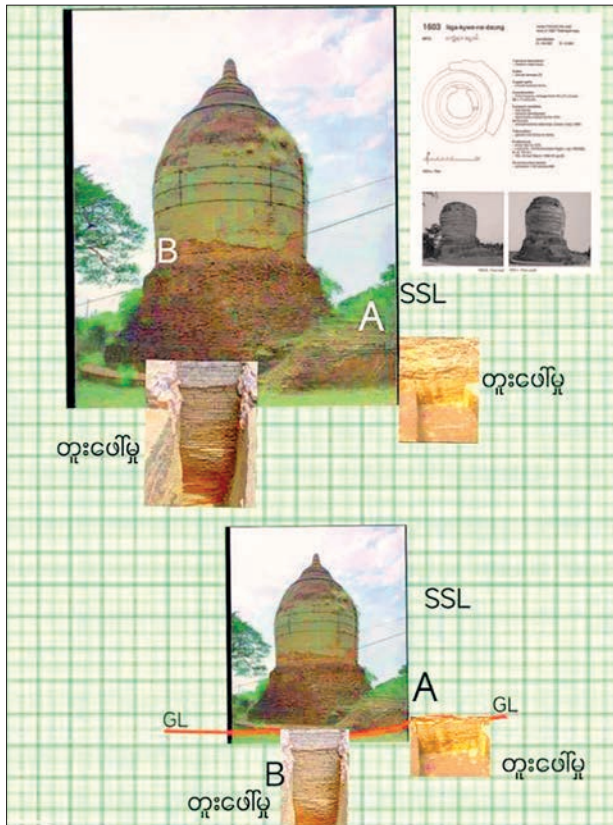
## NATIONAL

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Back-to-school programme triumphs across nation

# NATIONAL



## Ancient Roots of Bagan Pagodas Revealed through Research Work

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan Branch) has launched a study into the structural foundations of the Ngakywe Nadaung Pagoda, Paukpinya Pagoda, and Ancient Building 1905 to safeguard the World Heritage Site's architectural legacy.

While the architectural and artistic features of Bagan's ancient monuments, built over successive periods, can be observed above ground, studies are now underway to gain a better understanding of their foundation systems. The research focuses on three

structures from different periods: Ngakywe Nadaung Pagoda (11<sup>th</sup> Century AD), Paukpinya Pagoda (12<sup>th</sup> Century AD) and Ancient Building 1905 (13<sup>th</sup> Century AD).

The Bagan World Heritage Site contains 3,595 ancient monuments within the property area and a further 242 within the buffer zone, bringing the total to 3,837.

Historical records and archaeological evi-

dence indicate that Bagan was a magnificent city with a highly developed culture between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

The heritage values of the Bagan World Heritage Site remain intact. Its significance lies not only in its individual monuments but also in its preservation as a unified ancient city, recognized internationally for its outstanding cultural heritage. — ASH/MKKS

This photo reveals the Ngakywe Nadaung Pagoda and the porcelain bell-shaped pagoda, and brick layers, foundation layers and soil layers excavated near these pagodas.

## Dawbon seminar tackles violence against women, children

THE Dawbon Township Women's Affairs Committee, Botahtaung District, organized a seminar aimed at protecting women from human trafficking, violence, and child sexual abuse yesterday in the meeting hall of the Township General Administration Department.

Dawbon Township Management and Administration Committee

Chairman U Htoo Htet made an opening speech, Township Police Head Police Major Thein Zaw Hlaing delivered information on human trafficking awareness, while Deputy Law Officer Daw The Myat Noe Swe made a talk on violence against women.

Students attending the event actively asked questions, which were answered and discussed by



The seminar on violence against women and children is underway in Dawbon Township.

the responsible officials.

Dawbon Township Women's Affairs Committee Chair Daw May Zin Phyo presented com-

memorative gifts to the speakers and distributed informational pamphlets to the students. — Chit Su Wai (IPRD)/KTZH

## MAI Sky Connect Takes Flight

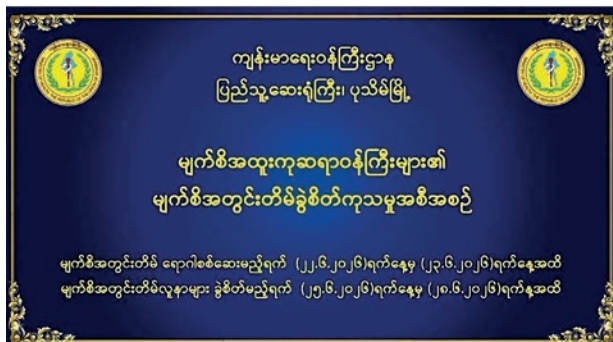
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With this new service, passengers can enjoy their journey by accessing a wide range of movies and TV series, such as Interstellar, The Dark Knight, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2, Sherlock Holmes, The Lord of the Rings, Friends, The Big Bang Theory, and Gossip Girl, along with various games and music, all directly from their own smart

phones, tablets, or laptops.

To use it upon boarding, passengers must first ensure their device is in Airplane Mode. Then, they should connect to the Wi-Fi named "MAISkyConnect" and scan the QR code in front of their seat. With the launch of MAI Sky Connect, the airline ensures that all passengers flying with them can now enjoy an entertaining journey. — MT/ZN

## Pathein Hospital offers free cataract surgery to 150 patients



This image displays the announcement for the Pathein Hospital's free cataract surgery.

FREE cataract surgery will be provided for 150 patients at the Pathein Township Hospital in Ayeyawady

Region.

As part of the Ministry of Health's plan, the hospital will give free cataract

surgery for 150 residents of Pathein and the surrounding area in accordance with the ministry guideline.

Medical examination period has been set on 22 and 23 June and surgery period is from 25 to 28 June. Patients can register at the hospital reception starting from 18 June.

For funding of the surgery, the Shweli Jewellery shop from Yangon and the Lai Lai Hotel from Shwethaungyan Beach donated K12 million. — MT/ZS

## Weather Myanmar Daily Weather Report

Issued at 7 pm Thursday, 18 June 2026

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 19 June 2026:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagain Regions and Chin and eastern Shan States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Upper Sagaing Regions and Kachin and Rakhine States. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

**THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD:** The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan States. In the area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied by rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

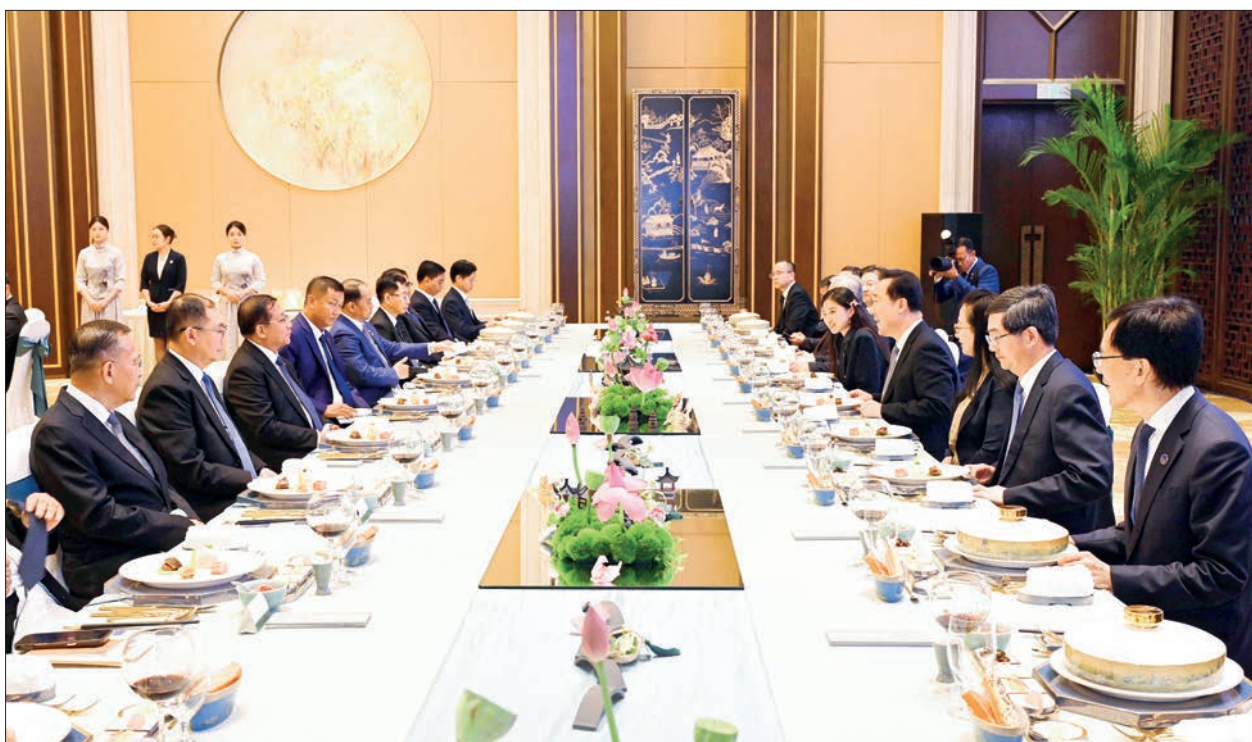
**OUTLOOK FOR THE SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. — DMH

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar President receives Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee Secretary

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is in China on a State Visit at the invitation of the Chinese President, received Mr Wang Hao, Secretary of the Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of China, at the Huajia Shanzhuang Hotel in Hangzhou, where the President is staying.

During the meeting, Mr Wang explained that Zhejiang is a focal region for imports and exports and is home to numerous innovative, high-quality enterprises, making it one of China's economically dynamic regions. The relations and cooperation between China and Myanmar have continued to strengthen and that economic and cultural cooperation between Zhejiang Province and Myanmar



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Secretary Mr Wang Hao of the Zhejiang Provincial Party Committee yesterday in Hangzhou, China.

has become significantly deepened. He further stated that the Zhejiang Provincial Government will work to successfully implement agreements

reached between the two countries and continue to promote exchanges and discussions aimed at increasing trade and investment in Myanmar.

The President noted that regardless of changes in time and circumstances, the friendship between the two countries has continued to grow stronger.

The closer people-to-people relations are essential for building deeper trust in other sectors, and he highlighted the importance of enhancing ex-

changes between the two peoples.

The President and Mr Wang openly exchanged views on strengthening bilateral cooperation, including collaboration in the technology sector, textile industry, agriculture and tea sectors, and energy sector, and the proper ways to increase trade and investment.

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. Mr Wang was accompanied by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Ms Ma Jia and officials.

After the meeting, Mr Wang hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar President and delegation. — MNA/KTZH

## MoI UM inspects Sarso Beikman, Sarpay Beikman in Yangon



Union Minister U Htein Linn looks into the book during his inspection tour of the Sarpay Beikman.

UNION Minister for Information U Htein Linn inspected Sarso Beikman in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

The director-general of the Printing and

Publishing Department briefed him on the Sarso Beikman building, literary exhibits, National Lifetime Literary Award recipients, biographies of award-winning authors, national-level awards, and other liter-

ary development activities.

He then visited the Sarpay Beikman Bookshop and Library on Merchant Road, Kyauktada Township, where he observed book sales and the work of the Sarpay Beikman Award Selection Committee.

The Union minister noted that Sarpay Beikman had previously enjoyed strong support from young people and a growing membership, and stressed the need to further promote membership while ensuring its publications continue to benefit young readers. — MNA/MKKS

## Manuscripts for International Literacy Day called for

THE Literacy and Regional Development Assistance Association will publish a commemorative magazine to honour and welcome the upcoming International Literacy Day on 8 September 2026, and is currently inviting authors to submit manuscripts for inclusion.

The magazine is accepting submissions of poems, short stories, and articles. Manuscripts must be prepared in the following format: poems should not exceed one A4 page, while short stories and articles should not exceed four A4 pages each. Manuscripts, whether computer-typed



This photo captures an International Literacy Day commemorative poster featured in Myanmar.

while contributions from external literary experts will be limited to invited submissions. A manuscript selection committee will systematically review all submitted manuscripts and select those to be featured in the magazine.

Interested writers may submit their manuscripts either in person or by mail to U Aung Kyi (Aung Kyi Nyunt-Tekatho), Joint Secretary of the Myanmar Writers Association, at 173-175, Pansodan Street (Middle Block), Kyauktada Township, Yangon. For further information, interested persons may contact 09 420172113. — TWA/TH

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar President visits Shanghai Lingang Special Area

**P**RESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing, who is in China on a State Visit at the invitation of Chinese President, visited Shanghai Lingang Special Area yesterday afternoon.

On arrival at the Dishui Cloudhall Planning Exhibition Centre in Shanghai Lingang Special Area, the President and party were warmly welcomed by Mr Zhao Yi Huai, Deputy Chair of the Lingang Special Area Party Working Committee, and other officials.

At the Exhibition Centre, they reported on the progresses of Lingang Special Area, and played video clip highlighting its development.

The President and party then toured the Exhibition Centre, observing



President U Min Aung Hlaing is pictured observing the exhibits at the Exhibition Centre of the Lingang Special Area.



displays and scale models illustrating the geographical overview and historical development of the Lingang Special Area, the construction of the deep-water port

and the Lingang Industrial Zone, cooperation projects between Tesla and Shanghai Motor, and aerospace technology equipment. During the visit, the President raised

questions regarding the matters of interest.

The Lingang Special Area is located east of Jinhui Port, and southern area of Xiaoyangshan Island and Pudong Inter-

national Airport, with a total area of 819 square kilometres. The Special Area is an internationally recognized free trade zone that facilitates foreign investment, business

operations, import and export activities, and transportation networks. Within the area, Nanhui New City, the Lingang Equipment Industrial Zone, **SEE PAGE 6**

## Tanai disburses K64M under Mya Sein Yaung Village Project

**T**HE Department of Rural Development held a ceremony to disburse the revolving fund under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Ywathitgon Village, Tanai Township yesterday. The funds were provided with the aim of enabling rural households to expand family income-generating activities and to implement village development projects through the increased revolving fund accumulated under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project.

Tanai Township Department of Rural Development Head U Zaw Myo explained that the revolving fund was being provided to enable rural households to expand



Village representatives receive the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project funds in Tanai Township.

family income-generating activities and to implement village development projects through the increased revolving fund accumulated under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Project staff then briefed participants

on the objectives of the project, interest rates, loan repayment periods, and regulations governing the disbursement of the revolving fund, and afterwards, the revolving fund amounting to K64 million was handed over to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee.

The committee members disbursed K64 million of the revolving fund at low interest rates directly to 80 project members as the tenth cycle of low-interest revolving loans. Of the total amount, K48.9 million was provided to 63 livestock breeders and K15.1 million to 17 traders in Ywathitgon Village. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

## MNREC Union Minister seals International Mangrove Centre deal

**U**NION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hsan Oo inspected plantations and village firewood plantations established by companies in 2025 within the Lower Sinthay Forest Reserve in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

In the afternoon,

he attended the online signing ceremony for the Agreement on the Establishment of the International Mangrove Centre (IMC), held at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The Union minister highlighted the importance of international cooperation in the ef-

fective management of mangrove ecosystems. He noted that Myanmar possesses the seventh-largest mangrove area in the world and the third-largest in South-East Asia. He then signed the Agreement on the Establishment of the International Mangrove Centre (IMC). — MNA/MKKS



Images show Union Minister U Hsan Oo inspecting plantations and the online signing ceremony for the International Mangrove Centre (IMC).

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar's Strategic Location Unlocks Vast Global Markets

### FROM PAGE 1

hotel officials presented flower bouquets, and traditional Chinese lion and dragon dances were performed. Officials and members of the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Promotion Association (MCITP), leaders and representatives of Chinese business organizations, major entrepreneurs, as well as Myanmar-China businesspersons warmly welcomed and greeted him by waving the flags of both countries on either side of the red carpet.

The President launched the Myanmar-China Investment and Trade Networking Summit" (MCITP - 2026) Shanghai and interestingly observed the exhibitions of Myanmar and Chinese companies.

The ceremony was

also attended by the Myanmar Ambassador to China, the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) and officials, officials from MCITP, and businesspersons, totalling some 600.

A total of 35 booths are displayed at the summit to showcase products of both countries in order to expand trade and investment between the two countries.

The President met Myanmar and Chinese businesspersons who attended the summit at the Dishui Lake Ballroom.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Myanmar lies between the world's populous countries such as India, China, and Bangladesh. It is situated in a strategically important position with access to a vast market and at the centre of the rapidly developing ASE-

AN region.

He noted that Chinese entrepreneurs are also now more aware of the market conditions in our country, consumer demands, and the relevant standards set by the respective authorities. They can create a mutually beneficial value chain for both countries by engaging in joint investments in Myanmar's agriculture and livestock sectors.

He added that there are many opportunities for investment in medical equipment manufacturing and healthcare services as part of cooperation between the two countries.

The President emphasized that Myanmar is participating in China's Belt and Road Initiative. In particular, Myanmar is involved in both land and maritime routes, including the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor and the China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor. Under these initiatives, the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), which is expected to bring significant benefits to both countries, is being established and implemented. As a key component of CMEC, the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and deep-sea port project is also being carried out.

Along these economic corridors, he continued that there are good investment opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), industrial zones, and logistics hubs.

He underscored that regulatory procedures are being reviewed, and processes are being made simpler and faster through digital transformation. In this regard, the Myanmar Digital Roadmap 2030 is being developed and implemented. At the same time, the Yadanabon Cyber City project is being implemented in the central mountainous region of Myanmar, covering an area of approximately 10,000 acres. Given that China already has strong e-commerce and digital service sectors, there are also good opportunities for business investors to come and invest in these areas.

He recounted that in order to further promote the export and sale of agricultural produce between the two countries, both sides are coordinating and negotiating the signing of SPS protocols. Likewise, to promote trade and ensure the smooth and efficient flow of goods between China and Myanmar, the yuan was officially permitted in 2021 to be traded at licensed banks and currency exchange counters in

Myanmar. In addition, the Myanmar-China border region has been allowed to use and settle transactions directly in both the Myanmar kyat and the Chinese yuan.

Starting from 16 March 2026, the President stressed that Myanmar has begun accepting foreign investment not only in US dollars but also in Chinese yuan. Therefore, he would like to inform that it will be more convenient and easier for Chinese investors to invest in Myanmar.

He spotted that a bilateral agreement on the promotion and protection of investment has been signed between Myanmar and China.

He stated that in order to further promote investment between Myanmar and China, a special invitation will be extended to Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in Myanmar in sectors such as agriculture, livestock-based value-added manufacturing, medical equipment production, electrical equipment manufacturing, power generation, electric vehicle production, oil and petroleum product manufacturing, as well as e-commerce and digital services.

He explained that emphasis is placed on a sustainable ecosystem and balanced economic development when inviting investment, and we will protect responsible Chinese investment in accordance with domestic laws and

regulations. Therefore, Myanmar will also support and facilitate the smooth operation of Chinese investors, while placing importance on promoting trade and investment between the two countries.

He added that Chinese market access and advanced technologies, together with Myanmar's strategic geographic location, natural resource base, and human resources, can be effectively combined in suitable sectors for investment in Myanmar. Through this meeting, he would like to invite investment from China to further enhance bilateral economic cooperation, trade, and investment. Myanmar also has a market that can re-export goods to neighbouring countries and other regions. In addition, through the Kyaukpyu deep-sea port project, trade and investment activities can be further promoted and expanded.

At the separate meetings, the President and businesspersons discussed efforts to boom businesses in trade and investment sectors between Myanmar and China.

After the meetings, the President had luncheon together with businesspersons and enjoyed dancing performances of Myanmar culture.

The President and party who left the summit were seen off by officials from MCITP and Myanmar and Chinese businesspeople. — MNA/TTA

### Key points from the speech delivered by the President at the MCITP-2026 Shanghai

1. Chinese entrepreneurs are also now more aware of the market conditions in our country, consumer demands, and the relevant standards set by the respective authorities.
2. Myanmar has begun accepting foreign investment not only in US dollars but also in Chinese yuan since 16 March 2026.
3. A bilateral agreement on the promotion and protection of investment has been signed between Myanmar and China.

## 270+ residents, civil servants return to Tonzang amid reconstruction

A total of 271 civil servants, family members and displaced residents have returned to Tonzang Township after temporarily relocating due to recent security developments, according to officials.

The group, comprising 221 civil servants and 50 residents, travelled

from Kalay on 17 June, arrived in Tiddim on 18 June, and continued to Tonzang by convoy. The returnees were warmly welcomed in Tiddim by officials from the Chin State Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Committee and relevant departments.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Committee has delivered relief and reconstruction supplies to townships in Chin State. The aid includes cooking oil, rice, cement, corrugated iron sheets, nails and sawn timber. — IPRD/KZL



Returnees and civil servants are pictured being warmly welcomed.

### Daily newspapers available online

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

# NATIONAL

## Myanmar President visits Shanghai Lingang Special Area

### FROM PAGE 4

Xiaoyangshan Island, and the southern area of Pudong Airport will be the pilot areas. Nanhui New City is being developed as a circular city centred around Dishui Lake. The Lingang Equipment Indus-

trial Zone, a state-level industrial zone, is designated for the production of large-scale industrial equipment. Xiaoyangshan Island, supported by the free trade zone, will function as a hub for cross-border logistics, transport, and aviation

services.

The high-level delegation led by the President departed from Hongqiao Railway Station in Shanghai for Hangzhou East Railway Station in Hangzhou aboard the High-Speed Railway G23. Officials, including the

Vice-Mayor of Shanghai and other officials, saw the delegation off at the station.

While travelling by high-speed train from Shanghai to Hangzhou, the President observed the development of the railway transport system,

ongoing urban development and construction projects, agricultural activities, the utilization of green energy, infrastructure development projects aimed at enhancing urban growth, and the scenic beauty along the railway route.

Upon arrival at Hangzhou East Railway Station in Hangzhou, the Myanmar high-level delegation led by the President was welcomed by the Vice-Mayor of Hangzhou and other responsible officials. — MNA/KTZH

## 8 queries answered at 10<sup>th</sup>-day session of Pyithu Hluttaw

THE Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday continued the 10<sup>th</sup>-day session emphasizing the issues on anti-online gambling, taking action against those who spread fake news and misinformation, rule of law, drug eradication, upgrading roads and building bridges.

At the session, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu replied to the questions submitted by U Kyaw Myint Nang from the Nawngkhio Constituency, saying that the Anti-Online Scam and Gambling Supervisory Central Committee has been formed to eradicate these activities. The government cooperates with neighbouring countries, and arrests and extradition of offenders are be-



The 10<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway yesterday.

ing carried out through transnational crime suppression plans in border regions. Moreover, the government is also working to enact legislation to combat online fraud in

order to eliminate online gambling activities.

He also responded to the question raised by U Win Htay from the Lewe Constituency, saying that a total of 24 out of 26 villages

are located in the forest land. For recognition by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council is to provide endorsement and

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## Pyithu Hluttaw establishes information team

ACCORDING to a statement issued by the Pyithu Hluttaw, a six-member Information Team was formed on 18 June to provide systematic briefings to news organizations on the Hluttaw's activities and initiatives.

The team will be led by Dr Nanda Hla Myint, with U Thein Tun Oo serving as deputy leader. Four other Pyithu Hluttaw representatives have been appointed as members.

Dr Nanda Hla Myint said the team was established to keep the public informed about the Hluttaw's work and daily activities, and to

respond promptly to misinformation and false reports relating to the legislature.

To ensure the timely and accurate dissemination of information through the media, two team members will take turns providing daily summaries of Pyithu Hluttaw proceedings to journalists covering parliamentary sessions.

The statement added that media enquiries will be handled in person at the Pyithu Hluttaw Media Corner on sitting days, where regular press briefings will be conducted. — TWA/KNN



A general view of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

## MHTC Dy Minister attends 6<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Forum

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Phyo Zaw Soe attended the 6<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Forum 2026, held from 10 to 14 June at the VDNH Exhibition Centre in Moscow, organized in cooperation with Roscongress and at the invitation of Russian Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov.



The sixth International Tourism Forum 2026 is in progress on 10-14 June 2026 in Moscow.

The Myanmar delegation also took part in discussions on heritage

tourism, marketing strategies, visa facilitation, direct flights, emerging tourism

trends and digital promotion.

On 11 June, they attended a meeting of tourism ministers from several countries and visited the tourism fair, where they promoted Myanmar's destinations and travel safety to visitors. On 13 June, participants visited key Moscow landmarks before the delegation returned on 16 June. — MNA/MKKS

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# NATIONAL

## Amyotha Hluttaw holds seventh day of third session

THE seventh day of the third Amyotha Hluttaw's second regular session convened at 10 am yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe confirmed a quorum with 204 of 209 eligible members present and formally opened the proceedings.

The session began with parliamentary questions covering infrastructure, pensions, agricultural loans, and public works. Shan State Constituency 11 representative U Shar Mwe Lashan asked about upgrading a five-mile dirt road connecting four villages in Kengtung Township. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo replied that the road, transferred to his ministry in 2022-2023, is only twelve feet wide and requires widening before concrete

surfacing can proceed. The project will be implemented based on available state development funds and will benefit 256 households and 1,645 residents.

Magway Region Constituency 7 representative U Khin Maung Htay raised concerns about pension withdrawals for retired civil servants in Gangaw, Htilin, and Saw townships. Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Daw Than Than Lin reported that the Myanma Economic Bank's Gangaw branch has disbursed pensions for April and May 2026 via cash and mobile money. While Htilin and Saw branches have not received fresh cash transfers, they have made payments using existing balances. Retirees outside their home areas can withdraw through representatives or



The seventh-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is in progress yesterday.

mobile transfers, and a centralized e-pension system is being considered for future streamlining.

Mandalay Region Constituency 1 representative U Khin Maung Win inquired about raising agricultural loans beyond K500,000 per acre. Deputy Minister Daw Than Than

Lin stated that there is currently no plan to increase the per-acre ceiling beyond the recently raised levels.

Ayeyawady Region Constituency 6 representative U Myo Thant posed two questions on delta transportation. First, he asked about constructing submerged concrete roads

in five flood-prone townships. Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thike Soe explained that such roads require high-grade materials and steel reinforcement to withstand water pressure, making them far costlier than standard roads. The six roads under

consideration would cost an estimated K10.55 billion. No immediate construction is planned; feasibility studies will be conducted first.

Second, U Myo Thant asked whether the Khanweyoe wooden bridge on the Pyakadat-Sinlu road in Hinthada Township could be replaced in 2027-2028. The Deputy Minister noted that the existing 65-foot wooden bridge, built by locals in 1995, has about two years of useful life remaining. A new 100-foot concrete bridge was proposed for 2025-2026 but deferred due to budget priorities. The project, now slated for 2027-2028, is estimated at K1.1 billion and would benefit 23 villages with 5,841 residents, pending final budget approval.

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## 8 queries answered at 10<sup>th</sup>-day ...

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submit it to the President. If approval is obtained, it must be implemented in coordination with the relevant ministries to remove it from forest land. If the order for removal is issued, it must then be carried out in accordance with the procedures for village expansion and formation.

The deputy minister also answered the queries raised by Daw Than Than Aye from the Thingangyun Constituency, stating that the committee for taking preventive and punitive legal action is carrying out countermeasures under the law against the posting of fake news and misinformation on the internet, the sharing of inappropriate content, and politically motivated attacks and statements. These measures include closing telephone numbers and bank account records, as well as initiating prosecutions and legal

action in accordance with existing laws.

Regarding the questions presented by U Win Naing from the Patheingyi Constituency, the deputy minister replied in order to effectively strengthen the rule of law and ensure the safety and security of the lives and property of the public, regular security operations are being carried out in cooperation with the Myanmar Police Force, the People's Militia, public security forces, and counter-terrorism units. This includes collecting information on unusual incidents and suspicious matters, as well as maintaining communication and rescue systems in readiness to enable timely responses to emergency situations that may arise in different areas. Moreover, efforts will be made to beef up the drug eradication plan.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myo Myint responded to the

questions raised by Sai Sein Win from the Laikha Constituency. He said that the 46 miles and six furlongs long road from Mongnawng junction to Laikha will be upgraded in 2026-27 financial year and its expansion work to the 18-foot facility will depend on the annual fund allocation. The urban roads in Laikha and the 12 miles long Laikha-Panglong road will be upgraded on schedules.

He answered the questions submitted by Sai Tun Lin from the Mongnai Constituency and said that Bridge Special Task Forces will submit the plan on construction of the Namtein reinforced concrete bridge in the place of the old one in Mongnai Township to the Shan State government and the project will depend on the fund allocation and local situations.

He also explained matters relate to the questions submitted by Dr

Nanda Hla Myint from the Kalaw Constituency, saying that the road section from Bawsai Village-tract, Kalaw Township to Heho is planned to be upgraded in stages under the 2026-2027 FY State budget. The works will include widening the base layer for asphalt expansion, asphalt road improvement, and repair and maintenance of road shoulders, and will be implemented in designated sections accordingly.

The deputy minister also clarified measures related to questions raised by Daw Kyu Kyu Maw from the Thazi Constituency, stating that feasibility studies will be conducted for construction of a RC bridge in the place of the damaged Nyankan Bridge on Thazi-Nyaungyan road, south of Thazi and the project will depend on the budget allocation.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue its session on 19 June. — MNA/TTA

## Tatkon's village concrete road construction inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection yesterday on the progress of the village concrete road construction project in ShweOodaung Village, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Kan Myint Than observed the ongoing construction works in ShweOodaung Village.

He emphasized the importance of completing the project on schedule in compliance with prescribed standards, strengthening coordinated cooperation, and ensuring long-term sustainability through proper maintenance.

The concrete road, measuring 1,247 feet in length, 12 feet in width, and seven inches in thickness, is being implemented under the 2026-2027 financial year. — Maung Khaing (Rural)



Officials inspect the village concrete road construction project in the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

# OPINION

## Join hands in ensuring national economic development

THE Government is striving to enhance the State economy, which remains a key priority of the country. Without a strong national economy, development cannot be achieved, and it will be difficult to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the people.

The Government and the public must work together to make the country a developed and economically strong nation. In particular, to increase the country's GDP, emphasis should be placed on boosting production and promoting higher exports. Since exports depend on the production of exportable goods, the State is encouraging the development of value-added and quality manufacturing. Therefore, industries based on agriculture and livestock must be established.

In Myanmar, more than 70 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. Around 50 per cent are engaged in agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries, and forestry activities. Only by promoting rural economic development can the gap between rural and urban development be reduced. Agriculture and livestock sectors contribute significantly to the national economy, and even industrialized countries continue to support and promote agriculture and livestock farming.

By successfully implementing agriculture and livestock activities across different regions of the country, people will be able to consume basic food items sufficiently at affordable prices. By making proper and efficient use of the fertile land and other basic resources already available in each region, efforts should be made to promote the development of both the regional economy and the national economy.

In carrying out agricultural activities, rather than expanding the cultivated area, efforts should be focused on achieving target yields in existing farmlands and ensuring full cropping intensity. Rice should be cultivated across all paddy fields to achieve target yields. Efforts should be made not only to ensure domestic food security but also to return to a situation where rice exports from the region were once high.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) play a very important role. From 2021 to 2025, agriculture- and livestock-based MSME businesses were promoted and supported. During these five years, MSME enterprises developed significantly and achieved many successes. Agricultural and livestock products should be integrated with MSME activities to produce value-added goods and export high-quality products.

To enhance the agricultural sector, it is necessary to improve and provide the key fundamental requirements such as seeds, soil, water, and farming techniques, and to transition toward scientific agriculture and mechanized farming systems. Only through such a transformation can domestic needs be better met. As such, all citizens are urged to cooperate and work together in this effort for national economic development.

FORTUNATELY for our country, Myanmar, as a gift of nature, there can be seen three regular seasons circling alternately, unlike other countries all over the world. They are nothing but the summer or the hot season, the rain or the rainy season, and the winter or the cold season, each of which usually lasts four months within the space of a year. The seasons in our country distinctly come and go in turn, that is to say, in Myanmar, the summer is absolutely hot, sometimes as if our heart would have broken; it is almost always raining cats and dogs all four months after summer; and the snow often falls so heavily that nearby roads, paths and houses cannot even be seen sometimes. In the main, the Myanmar summer is actually hot and dry — for instance, Minbu in Sagaing Division has been listed as one of the hottest regions in the world this year (2026), as well as Chauk in Magway and NyaungU in Mandalay, which were among the hottest towns in the world last year (2025), as far as I can remember. Hence, it is natural if we, the Myanmar,

are looking forwards to the early rain as soon as possible. We all strongly believe that this rain will certainly help put out the burning heat in our hearts to some extent, metaphorically speaking. Thus, we, young and old alike, are longing for the rainy season heart and soul.

As soon as the early rain has fallen in our country, especially in May and then to September or so, the whole environment there seems to come alive again. Thanks to a light rain, the entire ground has been wet to the extent that the rain brings the dust down; most dry old leaves due to the summer tend to fall off trees, while wet green leaves look strong in the trees; and all the environment in view appears to be clean and bright. Subsequently, if the rains have come to our country, the weather conditions get perfectly normal, which means that it will have been raining all day; thunder and lightning can be heard very often; and an atmospheric depression or a storm occasionally breaks out inland from the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, except that it can chuck



noisily with the 'doug-din' sound. For their farming, cattle were brought up like their biological children by being fed quite enough. With the rainwater, farmland got soft and gentle and then farmers ploughed fields with the help of bulls or buffalos from dawn to dusk. At that time, the fields were almost full of rainwater and several yellowish holes of crabs were found beside the paddy dykes. While

the farmers were ploughing the earth, the existing ripples struck towards the crabs' holes, then these holes got flooded and overflowed in a moment. However, the crabs rarely went out of their holes at the time. Instead of this, dragonflies with golden fluttering wings came to rest and flew over the blocks of dark ploughed earth. Just at that moment, the short-legged farm hut could be seen standing alone in the

field under the slightly raining dark sky. The wild young grass was growing green and stiff all through the paddy dikes, looking up at the sky. Also, water spinach and other aquatic plants were living in clusters in the paddy fields. In this advanced technological age, many Myanmar farmers prefer tractors to traditional ploughshares for their modern farming methods.

The rainy season in Myanmar was one of our most enjoyable childhood periods as well. But our enjoyment of the rain was completely different from that of our farmers.

We, children, enjoyed the rainy season just for fun, not for any other particular reasons. The boys were playing football happily together with their buddies in the rain. The girls were playing tag or frog-hopping while the rain was pouring down. Sometimes, we loved wallowing in the muddy cart tracks behind our village due to too much rainwater. But sometimes, we went out to uproot pea seedlings on the village farms, putting on

bamboo helmets each. Strangely enough, those seedlings had white-yellowish colours and long slim stems under the black heaps of pea shells, bundled as natural fertilizers, in the absence of sunlight. And sometimes, we plucked newly-born tamarind leaves, no matter whether they were greenish or reddish, from the trees not far away from the village school for some evening soup at home. Of course, in the early rain, the last mangoes in summer fall out from the trees. At such times, we children tried to pick up mangoes on the ground ahead, which had fallen owing to a strong wind of the rainy season. Speaking honestly, as children, we hardly ever knew if the natural phenomena, such as a thunderbolt in the rainy season, were life-threatening dangers.

Quite frankly, I did not always like the rainy season in my childhood, mainly because the season is wet everywhere and we cannot easily go anywhere outside we wish. But later, I love the rain so much for the possible reason that as long as I am getting older, I would like to stay at

home only, and unlike the winter, the coldness of the rainy season comes out in peace and quiet to me. Whatever is said, to think it back again, our agricultural country, Myanmar, owes much to the rainy season so as to reduce the high cost of crop husbandry. In actual fact, not all people like the rainy season for sure, for various reasons. Despite this, since the rainy season is distinct only in Myanmar, such a season is something very rare to experience even all around the globe. Many moons ago, it took the rainy season about five months to turn up in our country, together with the three-month hot season and the four-month cold season, to my certain knowledge. Here, there must be found diverse perspectives and feelings of poets and composers about the rainy season. Most of the Myanmar poets and composers think of the rain as full of remembrance, sorrow and tragedy rather than joy and happiness. For them, raindrops look like soulful tears dripping from the sky. Whoever says it, I am constantly longing to see the rain again, to say the least.

## Longing For the Rains

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo's Song)

it down or rain non-stop sometimes. No matter what is said, when the rain comes down with any regularity, Myanmar farmers, as well as we children, are very happy and warmly welcome it in our own way. As usual, in the Myanmar rain, not only can thick back rain clouds massing in the sky be seen here and there,

but we could encounter freezing rain, fine rain or even acid rain. Nevertheless, we, the Myanmar, like to enjoy both our country and its rainy season.

In the past, old Myanmar farmers used to prepare for their rice cultivation in the rainy season in that they would always mend their ploughshare

the farmers were ploughing the earth, the existing ripples struck towards the crabs' holes, then these holes got flooded and overflowed in a moment. However, the crabs rarely went out of their holes at the time. Instead of this, dragonflies with golden fluttering wings came to rest and flew over the blocks of dark ploughed earth. Just at that moment, the short-legged farm hut could be seen standing alone in the

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### Introduction

In an era where smartphones have become as commonplace as school textbooks, governments around the world are drawing a bold line: children should not have unrestricted access to social media. On 10 December 2025, Australia made history as the first country to enforce a nationwide ban on social media for children under 16, requiring TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat, and Reddit to block underage users — with fines of up to A\$49.5 million (US\$34.9 million) for non-compliance. That landmark decision triggered a global cascade, with at least 14 countries now implementing or drafting similar bans.

As Myanmar's internet penetration deepens and adolescent mobile phone usage climbs, understanding this global shift is not merely academic — it is a matter of public health, child safety, and national development.

### The Global Picture: A Tidal Wave of Regulation

The scope of the global movement is striking. According to

## Protecting the Future Generation: The Global Wave of Social Media Bans for Children and Lessons for Myanmar

By Dr Aung Tun

CIVICUS Lens (May 2026), four countries have already enforced bans, five more have passed laws awaiting implementation, and approximately 40 additional nations are actively considering legislation. Among the most notable developments:

- Australia (December 2025): The world's first nationwide ban, blocking children under 16 from 10 major platforms.
- United Kingdom (2026): The UK government announced plans to ban social media for those under 16, stating plat-

forms are "designed to be addictive" and "making children unhappy" while enabling bullying and harassment.

- France (January 2026): The National Assembly approved a ban for children under 15, driven by concerns over cyberbullying and mental health.
- Denmark (2026): Ban for under-15s backed by a cross-party coalition, with a digital age-verification app under development.
- Indonesia (March 2026):

Plans to restrict access for users under 16 across YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram.

- Greece: Ban for children under 15, effective 1 January 2027.
- India: Karnataka became the first Indian state to ban social media for under-16s in March 2026.

The UK joins a growing coalition of democratic governments that have concluded voluntary platform measures are insufficient to protect children from harm.

The European Union is also preparing the Digital Fairness Act, targeting addictive design practices across platforms. The

European Parliament has endorsed a resolution calling for an EU-wide ban on social media for under-16s without parental consent, and a total ban for those under 13.

### Health Risks: What the Evidence Shows

The legislative wave is grounded in an expanding body



of medical and psychological research. Below are five of the most well-documented risks identified in recent peer-reviewed literature.

### 1. Depression and Anxiety

A 2025 scoping review in Children (Marano et al.) found consistent links between adolescent social media use and depression,

anxiety, body image disturbance, and impaired emotion regulation. Girls are disproportionately affected — Pew Research (2025) found that 34 per cent of teen girls reported social media made them feel worse about their lives, versus 20 per cent of boys.

### 2. Cyberbullying and Harmful Content Exposure

PMC research (2025) identifies cyberbullying, unrealistic beauty standards, and exposure to harmful content as major platform risks. Cyberbullying is directly linked to self-harm and suicidal ideation in adolescents, with effects spilling into offline life — damaging academic performance, friendships, and long-term emotional health.

### 3. Addictive Behaviour and Problematic Use

A WHO Europe survey (September 2024) of nearly 280,000 young people across 44 countries found that more than 1 in 10 adolescents (11 per cent) showed signs of problematic social media behaviour — up sharply from seven per cent in 2018. These chil-

dren struggled to control their usage and experienced measurable negative consequences in daily life.

### 4. Neurodevelopmental Risks

A large-scale Japanese study found that excessive screen time at age one correlated with increased ASD diagnoses by age three. Yuan et al. (2024) confirmed that heavy screen exposure alters neural development in areas governing social cognition, language, and executive function — risks most acute during early childhood when the brain is most malleable.

### 5. Sleep Disruption and Academic Decline

The AMA (2024) confirmed that evening social media use drives sleep deprivation, leading to impaired decision-making and emotional instability. Sustained poor sleep degrades concentration, mood, and academic outcomes. France's draft legislation specifically cited disrupted sleep patterns as a documented harm warranting regulatory action.

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# NATIONAL

## Amyotha Hluttaw holds seventh day of ...

### FROM PAGE 7

Following the Q&A, the Hluttaw addressed organizational matters. The Speaker announced the formation of Parliamentary Friendship Associations with Russia, Belarus, and

Kazakhstan, which were formally approved. Chairpersons named were U Chit Swe for Myanmar-Russia, Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung for Myanmar-Belarus, and U Rakwi Pung for Myanmar-Kazakhstan, each

with five members and a secretary, all endorsed by the Hluttaw.

The Speaker also introduced three new committees: Farmers' Affairs; Youth, Women, Children, and Elderly Rights; and

Education Promotion. After presentations on each committee's duties and terms by representatives U Khin Zaw Tun, Daw Htar Htar Nu, and U Tint Zaw, the Hluttaw approved all three. The Farmers' Af-

fairs Committee will be chaired by U Chit Wai with U Khin Zaw Tun as secretary; the Rights Committee by Daw Theingi Win Shwe with Daw Htar Htar Nu as secretary; and the Education Promotion

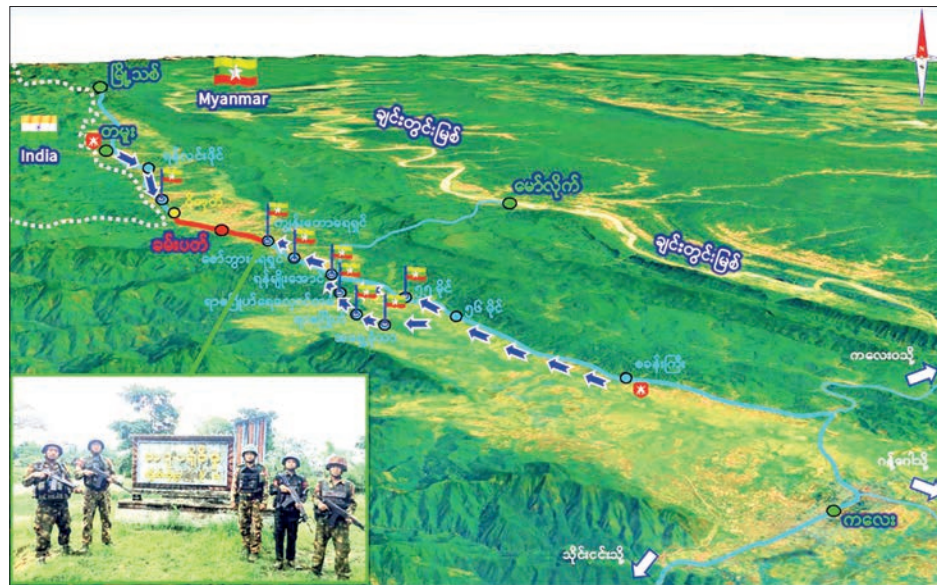
Committee by Dr Kyaw Tun with U Tint Zaw as secretary. Each comprises fifteen members. The seventh-day meeting was then adjourned, with the eighth-day scheduled for 19 June. — MNA/ST

## Tatmadaw beefs up security along Kalay-Tamu link

TATMADAW columns tried to regain control of and reopen the Kalay-Tamu route, an important trade corridor between Myanmar and India.

On 15 June, the Tatmadaw column marching from Kalay reoccupied Yanmyoang village, whereas Sawbwa Yeshin village on 16 June and Kyundaw Yeshin village on 17 June. Terrorists used religious and public buildings as their camps.

Tatmadaw columns will clear up the damage, conduct mine clearance operations and rehabilitation activities. Moreover, they will beef up se-



Main image and inset detail Tatmadaw forces taking back positions along the strategic Kalay-Tamu trade corridor.

curity measures to region control of and reopen Kalay-Tamu route aiming at promoting socioeconomic status of locals. — MNA/KTZH

## Electrification of 24 villages in Tatkon to be implemented by financial year

U Aye Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, stated that the 24 villages within Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, that do not yet have access to electricity will be provided with power, subject to the availability of funds for each fiscal year.

He made this statement in response to a starred question raised by U Hla Swe, Representative from the Pobbathiri Constituency, during the Pyithu Hluttaw session



The entrance signboard of Tatkon Township.

held on 17 June. The question was about short-term and long-term measures to provide electricity to the remaining Tatkon villages.

According to the deputy minister, subject to the availability of budget funding for the 5,814 households across the 24

remaining villages, the project will be implemented in phases: nine villages in the 2027-2028 financial year, seven villages in the 2028-2029 financial year, and eight villages in the 2029-2030 financial year.

The ministry explained that it will systematically plan and continue to carry out these works, depending on the status of funding, to ensure that locals can gain access to electricity as quickly as possible. — TWA/ZN

## MNHRC and MCEF join forces for landmark rights summit



The seminar on business and human rights is underway yesterday.

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) and the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF) jointly organized and held a seminar on business and human rights on 18 June 2026, at the Federation's premises in Thuwunna Township, Yangon, in a hybrid format.

The event was attended by MNHRC Chairman U Thit Linn Ohn and Commission members, the deputy director-general of the Commission Office and relevant subject-matter officials and staff, as well as MCEF President U Shein Win and 50 entrepreneurs, totalling 50 participants.

At the outset of the seminar, the MNHRC chairman delivered the opening remarks. He stated that this seminar represents the first-ever collaborative effort between the Commission and the Federation, on business and human rights awareness. He emphasized that business operators, including those in the construction sector, must implement preventive measures to ensure that their activities do not infringe upon the environment and human rights. He further noted that respecting human rights is not only a duty but also a crucial factor in building successful and sustainable businesses. Therefore, it is essential for their enterprises to be enduring and prosperous, as this will enable them to contribute to and support the nation's economic development and social welfare.

Following this, MCEF President U Shein Win expressed his gratitude for the successful holding of the seminar.

Subsequently, Commission Member Dr Daw Nu Nu Yee delivered a presentation on the fundamental nature of human rights; Commission Member Dr Daw Tin Htay Ei put forward the presentation of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the relationship between human rights and the environment; and Deputy Director-General Dr Khine Khine Win discussed business and human rights. After the presentations, the speakers responded to and clarified questions raised by the attendees before concluding the seminar. — MNHRC

# NATIONAL

## Security forces retake Lapoh, clear Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa Corridor

SECURITY forces conducting area security operations along the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa road have retaken Lapoh village as part of ongoing efforts to reopen and secure the route, according to official reports.

Authorities said the operations aim to restore full control of the road, which forms part of the Myanmar-India Friendship Corridor, following temporary disruption due to armed activity. Security operations initially

began in the Yinmabin and Pale areas before progressing step by step along the corridor.

Security columns have retaken several locations, including Yelekun, Kyauklongyi Tesu, Chaungma, Aungmingala, Thityapin junction and village, Wingon, Nyaungpinle, and Yakyi villages from 6 to 13 June, before advancing from Kwanyaepin and fully retaking Lapoh village on 18 June.

Officials said clashes occurred during the

operations, with security forces seizing improvised explosive devices, rockets, grenade-type explosives and other materials, as well as temporary base sites. Terrorist groups reportedly suffered casualties and retreated.

Authorities added that operations will continue, with local cooperation, to fully reopen and stabilize the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa road corridor. — MNA/KZL



Tatmadaw troops display confiscated weapons and munitions recovered along the Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa Road.

## Shwegu rocket attack kills, wounds civilians

A rocket attack by KIA and PDF terrorist groups reportedly struck residential areas in Shwegu, Kachin State, causing civilian deaths and injuries, according to official reports.

Authorities said rockets and other explosive devices were fired at around 5:10 pm on 17 June, with projectiles landing and exploding in Khonkham Ward and Ward 1, both residential areas of Shwegu.

The attack killed a woman, Daw Aye Phyu (48), from shrapnel injuries to the chest. Two oth-

ers, Daw Khin Swe Swe Than (22) and a 14-year-old girl, Ma Phu Pwint Wai Wai Khine, were seriously injured and taken to the Shwegu Township Hospital for treatment.

Officials said the attack also damaged religious buildings, homes, schools and government offices, affecting civilian life and property.

Local residents reportedly oppose such attacks, while security forces are continuing necessary security measures in coordination with the public. — MNA/KZL



Wounded civilians receive treatment following a rocket attack by KIA and PDF terrorists in Shwegu.

## 16 detained in Kamayut anti-fraud operation

SECURITY forces have detained 16 offenders involved in telecom fraud and criminal activities with related materials in Kamayut Township, Yangon. The detained offenders included eight male and eight female.

The incident occurred in the parking lot in front of Loi Sam Sip Shan Restaurant, located in Shwetaunggya Ward 2, Bahan Township, Yangon Region. A vehicle, Honda Fit (unregistered), was parked for a long time and suspiciously. The restaurant security staff reported to the security forces, so the security forces went to inspect it at around 3 pm on 16 June. They found three Power Stations with X Power X labels, four laptops, eight USB chargers, two Star Link devices, 175 mobile phones, and one colour printer in the vehicle. Investigations were conducted to identify and arrest the owners of the seized items. The unregistered vehicle was found



Sixteen online scammers arrested in Ward 10, Kamayut Township in Yangon.

to be a Toyota BZ EV type vehicle, located in Ward 10, Kamayut Township. After CCTV footage showed that a house on 1st Aung Min Khaung Street had been raided, security forces searched the house at around 9:30 pm on 17 June and arrested 16 people, including eight Myanmar male and eight female, who were involved in the online fraud. According to the statements of the arrested suspects, the offenders rented a condominium in Alon Township for K7 million from 1 September 2025 to 30 August 2026. One of the arrested suspects provided mobile phones and social media

accounts. They then contacted Chinese nationals and convinced them to sell them cosmetics, consumer goods and jade. If the prospective buyers wanted to buy the items, they had to send photos and the value in Chinese yuan. When the buyer came to question them,

they were convinced that they were sales staff by sending them electronic labour cards that were prepared in advance. The offenders received three per cent of the money transferred for shopping and were not paid a salary. As the business situation was not good, the mobile phones and accessories used in the online fraud were abandoned in the parking lot in front of Loi Sam Sip Shan Restaurant along with the Honda Fit (unregistered) to make it ownerless.

Currently, investigation is underway to take action against those involved. — MNA/MKKS



Confiscated scam-related materials.

# NATIONAL

## Back-to-school programme triumphs across nation

STANDARD placement tests allowing out-of-school youth to re-enter the formal education system at an appropriate grade are being held between 15 and 20 June and results will be out on 1 July 2026.

This initiative is to assist primary (Grade 2-5) and middle school (Grade 6-9) students aged seven to 15 who have been out of school for extended periods from 2021-2022 Academic Year, under various reasons and any circumstances, to be enrolled in the current 2026-2027 Academic Year of the Ministry of Education.

This placement test is administered by the township-level Department of Myanmar Examinations Offices across the country. Registration for the test was done by presenting any of the following documents; past school certificate, household registration, birth certificate, age verification certificate by the relevant Township Public Health Department. Students have to take tests at one grade level below their intended enrolment level. If they fail the test, they can enrol in the grade they failed.

A total of 6,120 students applied for placement test special pro-



Out-of-school youth sit for standard placement exams to re-enter the formal education system.

grammes at 10 Exam Centres in Sagaing Township and 4,912 students are taking the test, as per district IPRD's report. A total of 7,382 students from Grade 4 to Grade 8 are taking exams in five districts of Kachin State, township Education Office stated.

Students participating in the test are registered at 5,159 in Katha District, 2,234 in Shwebo District and 1,088 in Kanbalu Township of Sagaing Region, 1,368 in Thantaggyi Township and 405 in Myawady Township of Kayin State, 357 in Meiktila, 7,624 in Madaya Township, 1,365 in Patheingyi, 26,421 in Thabeikkyin District, 226 in Myittha, 1,185 in NyaungU District, 528 in Chanayethazan Township

of Mandalay Region, 1,421 in Pakokku and 912 in Gangu of Magway Region, 611 in Taninthayi, 428 in Pyu of Bago Region and hundreds of students in other townships across regions and states.

"My daughter dropped out of school for social reasons a couple of years ago. I offered her informal education outside of the traditional classroom. I am so delighted with this opportunity to take a test for school enrollment. She can re-enroll and continue her education at public school," a mother of the student who is taking the Grade 7 placement test in Dagon Myothit (East) Township in Yangon, said.

"I am so happy that I can attend the school

again. Teachers are also taking care of the students taking the exam," said Pan Yamone, who moved from Magway Region to Yangon, taking the test in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon.

"The placement tests assess and determine the student's academic abilities, giving opportunity for out-of-school children to re-enter the formal school education system. I welcome this special programme for children to re-enter basic education," said a teacher from Kawa Township.

Authorities are also ensuring healthcare activities and security measures for students in the school compound while taking placement tests. — IPRD/KK

## CBM injects US\$1.3M to edible oil-importers, CMP firms

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) sold over US\$1.13 million to edible oil-importing companies and over \$170,000 to CMP companies on 17 June.

CBM sold over \$24,600 to CMP companies on 16 June and \$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 to 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 stability. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK



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

### Flood Warning

(Issued at 2 pm MST on 18 June 2026)

ACCORDING to the 1:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Nanyin Stream at Moekaung is observed as about 1½ feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

According to the 1:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of Nankaung Stream at Moekaung is observed as about two feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days.

It is especially alert to the people who settle near the stream banks and low lying areas in Moekaung Township, to take precaution measures and to stay away from the flood-prone areas in time if the water level will rise. — DMH

## Bridges Dept invites bids for new Swa Creek Bridge Lane

THE Department of Bridges seeks tender for the procurement and rental of machinery and vehicles for construction materials needed in the Swa Creek Bridge (outbound lane) construction project, according to the Bridge Special Task Forces (6 & 10) of the department.

The department is

inviting Myanmar citizen entrepreneurs to submit open tenders for the procurement and rental of machinery and vehicles for construction materials costing over K200 million in the Swa Creek Bridge (outbound lane) project on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, to be implemented under the 2026-

2027 Financial Year Union Budget (allocated expenditure for construction)

Tender documents is available for purchase at the Deputy Director's Office in Pyinmana by 25 June. Tender opening will take place at 9:30 am on 29 June at the meeting hall of the Department of Bridges.

Individuals can enquire for further details of tender application, terms and conditions through Bridge Special Task Force 6 at 09 788007031 and 09 254570745; Bridge Special Task Force 10 at 09 5190998 and 09 450005566, according to the Tender Accepting and Evaluation Committee. — NN/KK

# German chemical company to cut 3,200 jobs as crisis worsens

GERMAN chemical company Evonik said Thursday that it would cut 3,200 jobs, or around 10 per cent of its workforce, by 2029 as a crisis battering the energy-intensive industry accelerates.

Chemicals is one of the most important sectors in Europe's biggest economy, but it has been struggling with high costs, exacerbated recently by the energy price shock from the Iran war.

Evonik, which is headquartered in the western city of Essen and makes a range of spe-



Evonik cited uncertainty and a weak economy as it announced job cuts. PHOTO: AFP

cialised chemicals, said the cuts were aimed at advancing the company's transformation.

"The global political

situation remains uncertain, and economic growth is persistently weak," CEO Christian Kullmann said. — AFP

# Apple CEO says AI boom makes price increases 'unavoidable'

OUTGOING Apple CEO Tim Cook warned that demand for memory chips from the artificial intelligence boom will force the tech giant to increase the prices of its products, according to an interview with the Wall Street Jour-

nal published Wednesday. "Unfortunately, price increases are unavoidable," he told the newspaper, adding that his company has been "trying to shield customers from the increases" but that it had become "unsus-

tainable".

He did not specify the timing of the increases, how much or which devices would be impacted.

Apple's next major launch is expected in September, with the iPhone 18 lineup. — AFP

## CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient Name	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Shwe Paung(2)	Bar Ma Hte	Bensulfuron-methyl 10% + Bispyribac-sodium 25% WP	Provisional	P 2022-5094

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address: Golden Key Co., Ltd. No. 258/262, 11<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. PH: 01371629

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT001)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (LOT001)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Agent For:

**M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (287N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (287N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SIMONE VOY.NO. (622W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V AS SIMONE VOY.NO. (622W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Agent For:

**M/S MAERSK A/S.**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (170N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V TC MESSENGER VOY.NO. (170N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Agent For:

**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC ZHI VOY.NO. (2612S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC ZHI VOY. NO. (2612S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Agent For:

**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2611N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC RUIMING VOY.NO. (2611N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Agent For:

**M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD**

# ROLLING UPDATES/ARTICLE

## WORLD

## Israel will keep operating in S Lebanon

THE Israeli military said on Thursday it will continue operating in southern Lebanon and “remove threats” beyond its so-called security zone, after the US and Iran signed an agreement to end the Middle East war, including in Lebanon. The military published a map of its declared “security zone” — which runs some 10 kilometres (six miles) inside Lebanese territory.

It said troops would continue to be deployed there “to remove threats and strengthen the defence of Israel’s northern residents” In a later statement, an Israeli military official said the army “will continue to remove threats to IDF soldiers and the civilians

of the State of Israel that are identified beyond the security zone”.

The announcement came after the United States and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday meant to end the Middle East war, with fighting supposed to be halted on all fronts, including in Lebanon. Hours after the agreement was signed, Lebanese state media reported one person killed in an Israeli drone strike in southern Lebanon.

Israel’s military meanwhile announced the death of one of its soldiers the night before during an incident in south Lebanon that also left seven other troops wounded. — AFP

## US-India trade deal “very close”: PM Modi

*Trump further praised PM Modi’s role in encouraging investment in the United States.*

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the United States and India were “very close” to finalising a long-awaited trade deal and hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his “friend for a long time” during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France.

When asked about the US-India trade deal, Trump said that it is “very close”. He added, “We’ve been there for a little while, and he’s (PM Modi) a very tough negotiator. He’s one of the toughest.

In his opening remarks, the US President said, “We had, in particular, some very good conversa-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: ANI

tions with Prime Minister Modi, India. And we’re doing trade deals, we’re doing a lot of things, a lot of things are happening be-

tween the United States and India,” Trump said.

Trump further praised PM Modi’s role in encouraging investment in the

United States, saying, “Prime Minister is building a lot in the United States. He’s spending a lot of money in the United States. So we appreciate that job.”

Emphasising the personal rapport between the two leaders, Trump added, “He’s been my friend for a long time now, and we’ve always had a great relationship, and it’s great to be with you.”

“So, you look at this man, I’ll give you a lesson. He’s the most beautiful-looking man; he looks so nice, he’s like an angel. But actually, he’s as tough as — they come. I don’t want to — he’s a killer. He’s as tough as they come,” Trump said. — ANI

## Protecting the Future Generation: The Global Wave of ...

FROM PAGE 9

### Voices From Both Sides of the Debate

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, author of *The Anxious Generation* (2024), commended the regulatory direction and praised Australia’s action, predicting other nations would follow — a prediction now proven correct. The UK government echoed this, calling for collective action to free children from platforms built to keep them hooked.

UNICEF cautioned, however, that age-related restrictions alone are insufficient — meaningful child safety online also requires stronger data protection laws, safer platform design, and digital literacy education. Amnesty Tech argued that the most effective protection comes from

regulating platforms for all users, not merely excluding children.

CIVICUS raised additional concerns that in countries with restricted civic space, such bans could become tools for broader state control over online communication.

### Relevance for Myanmar

Myanmar’s digital landscape has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past decade. Affordable smartphones and low-cost data plans have brought millions of young people online, with Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube becoming dominant sources of information, entertainment, and social interaction for adolescents across urban and rural communities alike.

Yet protective frame-

works — age verification tools, digital literacy curricula, child-safe platform standards — remain largely underdeveloped. Awareness among parents about social media health risks is limited, and schools have yet to systematically incorporate digital well-being into their programmes.

The international experience — from Australia’s pioneering law to the wave of legislation now sweeping Europe and Asia — offers concrete lessons for Myanmar policymakers. First, regulation must be paired with education: children and parents alike need guidance on safe digital behaviours, not merely restrictions. Second, tech companies must be held accountable; the burden of child protection cannot fall solely on families. Third, any meaningful

policy response should be grounded in local research into how Myanmar’s children are actually using social media and what specific harms they are experiencing in their own communities.

### Conclusion

From Australia to the United Kingdom, from France to Indonesia, governments are choosing to prioritize child well-being over platform convenience. The evidence of mental health harms, neurodevelopmental risks, cyberbullying, and addictive platform design is no longer easy to dismiss — and world leaders are responding with binding legal action.

For Myanmar, this moment is both a warning and an opportunity: a warning that the same harms are not unique to

wealthy nations, and an opportunity to act before they become irreversible for a generation still growing up.

Protecting the future generation requires more than internet access — it requires thoughtful stewardship of the digital environments in which that generation is coming of age.

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2. Liu, T, et al (2024). The Impact of Social Media on Children’s Mental Health: A Systematic Scoping Review. *Healthcare*,

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# SPORTS

## Football: Injured Kubo misses training ahead of tricky Tunisia test

JAPAN attacker Takefusa Kubo did not train with the team Wednesday after suffering a left knee injury during their World Cup opener against the Netherlands.

Kubo was replaced in the 75<sup>th</sup> minute of Sunday's 2-2 draw at Dallas Stadium and left the pitch in a wheelchair. A Japan Football Association spokesperson said he stayed with a trainer at the team's hotel and was not at their base camp near Nashville, Tennessee.

The Real Sociedad man will remain with Hajime Moriyasu's 26-man squad and continue his recovery and rehabilita-

tion, the JFA said, without providing a timeframe for his return or other details of the injury, which was confirmed after a checkup on Monday.

"I've spoken to him. He had it checked, he's not training here today but I think he's doing what he can ahead of the game against Tunisia," Japan captain Ko Itakura said.

After grabbing a late equalizer against the Netherlands, Japan on Saturday will face a Tunisia side under new manager Herve Renard following the dismissal of Sabri Lamouchi on the back of a 5-1 thumping by Sweden. — Kyodo

## FIFA-MA young referee course opens in Yangon

THE FIFA-MA Potential Young Referee Course 2026, aimed at producing a new generation of professional football referees for Myanmar opened on 17 June at the press conference hall of Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The course forms part of the MFF's ongoing efforts to improve refereeing standards and support the development of Myanmar football.

A total of 35 participants, including 30 male trainees and five female trainees, are attending the course, which runs



This group photo displays officials and trainees at the opening ceremony of the FIFA-MA Potential Young Referee Course 2026.

from 17 to 23 June.

The opening ceremony was attended by MFF Joint General Secretary U Si Thu Win, Myanmar National League Vice-Chairman (1) and Chief Executive Officer U Ko Ko Thein, MFF Ex-

ecutive Committee member Daw Thein Thein Aye, Referees Committee member U Tun Hla Aung, FIFA referee instructors, federation officials and committee members.

During the ceremo-

ny, officials encouraged the trainees to make full use of the knowledge and practical experience gained from the course and strive to become internationally qualified professional referees in the future. — TWA/KZL



Japan manager Hajime Moriyasu watches his team train near Nashville, Tennessee, on 17 June 2026.

PHOTO: KYODO

## Olympic Day bodybuilding and physique contest set for Yangon

THE Myanmar Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation has announced that the 2026 Olympic Day commemorative bodybuilding and physique competition will be held on 27 June at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon.

The competition will feature a total of nine categories, includ-

ing junior men's bodybuilding for athletes under 21, masters men's bodybuilding for those aged 45 and above, men's bodybuilding weight classes of 60 kilogrammes, 70 kilogrammes, and 80 kilogrammes and above, as well as Men's Athletic Physique (open), Men's Sports Physique (open), Women's Athlet-

ic Physique (open), and Women's Model Physique (open) events.

The federation stated that athletes who have not placed first, second or third in international competitions in 2026 are eligible to participate. Cash prizes and medals will be awarded to winners. — Bala/KZL

## Historic World Cup goal brings rare joy to DR Congo Ebola epicentre

THE Democratic Republic of Congo's first ever World Cup point on Wednesday gave their compatriots in Bunia, the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak, a rare chance to celebrate.

Yoane Wissa's goal in Houston — also a first in his nation's short World Cup history — secured a point against a star-studded Portugal side that included all-time great Cristiano Ronaldo. DR Congo's French coach Sebastien Desabre said he was proud of his players "because they represented the Congo in a very positive way and the entire country deserves it".

That was certainly reflected in Bunia, the capital of Ituri Province in the northeast of the country, which has borne the brunt of the DR Congo's 17<sup>th</sup> outbreak of the haemorrhagic fever. The virus has infected 837 people and resulted in 196 deaths in DR Congo and Uganda, according to the latest official figures.

In Bunia there have been 215 confirmed cases, though testing capacity is limited. Watching the World Cup on the few functioning TV sets available provided some respite there. — AFP

## Mexico, Korea eye World Cup knockout berths

MEXICO and South Korea will aim to punch their ticket to the World Cup knockout rounds on Thursday when they meet in Guadalajara knowing that a win would guarantee a last 32 berth.

The Group A rivals head into the fixture at the Estadio Akron fresh from respective victories over South Africa and the Czech Republic in their opening games last week.



The build-up to co-hosts Mexico's clash with South Korea has seen shrouded with intrigue, with a mystery drone spotted over Korea's training ground. PHOTO: AFP

The expanded 48-team format for this year's World Cup — and the fact that the eight best-ranked third-placed teams

will advance from the group stage — means that a win for either Mexico or South Korea would see them advance.

Co-hosts Mexico are bracing for a significantly tougher test against South Korea than South Africa provided.

"We have to be very wary of the opponents' attacking transitions," Mexico coach Javier Aguirre said. — AFP

US-India trade deal  
"very close": PM Modi

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# WORLD

## Next-gen Russian Arctic LNG carrier enters into service

THE solemn naming ceremony, including raising the Russian flag, took place in Russia's Far Eastern town of Bolshoy Kamen.

The Konstantin Posyet will be able to transport liquified natural gas year-round along the Northern Sea Route, including its eastern sector.

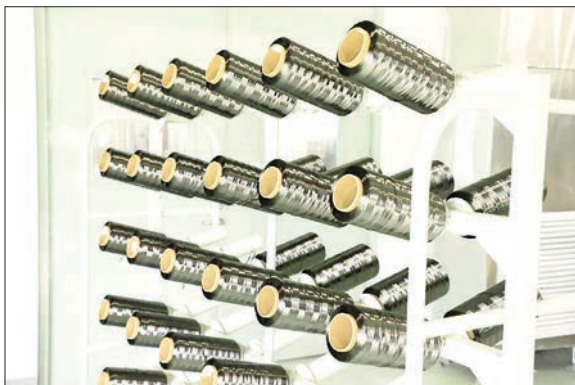
Due to its optimized

design and efficient propulsion system, it features high maneuverability and can move independently though ice fields up to 2.1 metres thick.

Russia is transitioning to serial production of its next-generation Arctic transport fleet after completing the Konstantin Posyet tanker.

— SPUTNIK

## China's aerospace-grade super fibre goes industrial



This undated file photo shows the T1000-grade high-performance carbon fibre being produced at scale by Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical. PHOTO: HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

A new generation of high-performance carbon fibre, often dubbed "black gold", has officially transitioned from laboratory research to large-scale production in China, marking a significant breakthrough in the country's advanced materials sector.

The domestically developed T1000-grade 12K small-tow carbon fibre is now being produced at scale by Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical, a milestone that is set to reshape the landscape of high-end material ap-

plications, China Media Group (CMG) reported on Wednesday.

This new material is as thin as it is strong. Each bundle contains 12,000 individual filaments, with each filament measuring less than five micrometres in diameter, about one-tenth the thickness of a human hair. Despite its slender profile, a single tow boasts a tensile strength exceeding 6.5 gigapascals, enough to pull a medium-sized truck weighing around 10 tonnes. — Xinhua

## G7 summit ends without communique, exposing deepening divisions

*G7 summit ends without a final communique for the second consecutive year.*

THE three-day Group of Seven (G7) summit concluded Wednesday in Evian, France, amid visible divisions among member states, as leaders struggled to bridge differences on major international and economic issues.

Although the summit produced a series of thematic outcomes, it once again failed to deliver a unified final communique, highlighting growing challenges to consensus-building within the bloc.

Chaired by France, the G7 summit concluded without issuing a final communique, marking the second consecutive year that the bloc has failed to produce a unified closing document, following a similar outcome under Cana-



Participants pose for photos during the Group of Seven (G7) summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, 16 June 2026. PHOTO: HANDOUT VIA XINHUA

da's chairmanship in 2025.

Instead, nine thematic deliverables were released, covering areas such as geopolitics, the global economy and public health. Summit organizers had already abandoned the idea of a final communique

during the preparatory phase, opting instead to publish thematic documents to mask differences between the United States and its allies, Kyodo News reported, citing diplomatic sources.

French President Em-

manuel Macron described the summit as "objectively a success", while acknowledging persistent differences between the United States and the other six members on issues such as climate change and the United Nations. — Xinhua

## Pakistan PM signs MoU as mediator in US-Iran peace agreement

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as mediator in the US-Iran peace deal, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

Earlier on Thursday, Sharif announced that the MoU has been signed electronically by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his US counterpart Donald Trump and has entered into force with immediate effect, marking a significant diplomatic devel-

opment between the two countries.

In his post on X, Sha-

rif said that the signing of the agreement at the highest level of the re-

spective governments demonstrates the commitment of both sides to a diplomatic resolution of the conflict.

"The MoU shall enter into force with immediate effect and as a first step, Iran will instantly reopen the Strait of Hormuz and the United States will immediately lift the naval blockade," he added.

The signing of MoU as mediator reflected Pakistan's role in facilitating dialogue and engagement between the two countries and promoting regional stability. — Xinhua



This photo taken on 18 June 2026 shows Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as mediator in the US-Iran peace deal, in Islamabad, Pakistan. PHOTO: HANDOUT VIA XINHUA