

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR



This photo shows an ancient monument in ancient Inwa city.

Ancient Inwa city wall in TadaU Township to be re-excavated and studied

THE drum-shaped city wall in the ancient city of Inwa, TadaU Township, Mandalay Region, will be excavated and studied again, according to Dr Than Htike, Director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture.

The ancient city of Inwa is known to have three layers of city walls and three layers of moats namely, the inner-city wall, the drum-shaped city wall (the second wall), and the outer city wall (the third wall) and the remains of these walls and moats are still clearly visible today. Inwa was first founded by King Thadoe Minphya on 26 January 1365. **SEE PAGE 4**

Chinese buyers eye long-term Myanmar maize imports under B2B arrangement

According to the Myanmar Consulate-General in Kunming, Yunnan Province, the China-Kunming ASEAN Association has expressed interest in importing Myanmar-produced maize into China on a long-term monthly basis through a Business-to-Business (B2B) system.

As the association has requested information on current maize prices in Myanmar, the Consulate-General has notified local maize growers and exporters that those interested in exporting maize meeting China's quality and standards requirements may contact the relevant officials for further arrangements.



Female workers are sorting quality maize at their farm at harvest time so as to distribute them to domestic market and to export quality ones.

According to forecasts by the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association, efforts are underway to export more than 1.3 million tonnes of Myanmar maize to international markets

during the 2026-2027 financial year. Currently, Myanmar maize is primarily exported to Thailand, the Philippines, and India.

Entrepreneurs believe that the growing,

long-term demand from the Chinese market could create a significant new market opportunity for Myanmar maize and corn farmers and exporters. — TWA/TH

Myanmar's ready-to-eat Mohinga expands into European markets

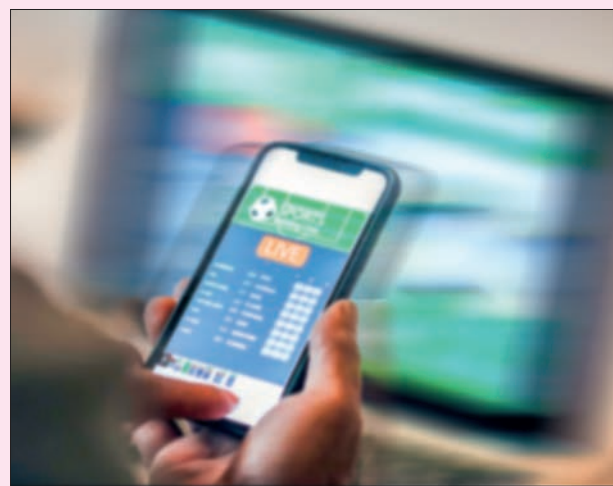
READY-TO-EAT Mohinga, Myanmar's iconic rice noodle dish, is making inroads into European markets, according to information shared at the Mekong Tourism Forum held at Yangon's Pan Pacific Hotel in the third week of June.

The product is manufactured by Cho Cho Industry, based in Nwekhway, Htaukkyant Town, Yangon Region. Using modern food-processing technology, the company has developed a packaged version of Mohinga that can be prepared

in just five minutes, eliminating the need for lengthy cooking while retaining the traditional flavour of the popular dish.

Managing Director Daw Phyoo of Cho Cho Industry said Mohinga is already widely recognized by many foreign visitors who have travelled to Myanmar. Some tourists even ask for the dish immediately upon arrival, reflecting its reputation as one of the country's best-known culinary specialties. **SEE PAGE 4**

Over 100,000 SIM cards cancelled in crackdown on illegal online gambling



A mobile phone is in use to apply applications of illegal online gambling.

AUTHORITIES have permanently cancelled more than 100,000 suspicious SIM cards and tightened monitoring of mobile wallet accounts used in illegal online gambling transac-

tions, Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Communications U Thet Win Aung told the Pyithu Hluttaw on 19 June.

Responding to a question raised by U Nay

Lin Aung from the North Okkalapa Constituency on efforts to identify and shut down digital payment accounts and phone numbers linked to illegal gambling websites and applications, the deputy minister outlined measures taken jointly by the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Between January 2025 and April 2026, authorities blocked access within Myanmar to 102 illegal online gambling websites and applications through IP restrictions. They also shut down 1,120 SIM cards used to operate unlawful financial accounts. **SEE PAGE 3**

NATIONAL

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National Cancer Centre expands services to improve cancer care

NATIONAL

PAGE 10



Uru Creek rises, flooding low-lying areas in Hpakant

NATIONAL

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 57/2026

7th Waxing of First Waso, 1388 ME
21 June 2026

Appointment of Security and Border Affairs Minister

COLONEL Thein Zaw Myint, Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Taninthayi Region Government, has been returned to serve the original military duties, and Colonel Yan Gyi Aung from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) has been appointed as Minister for Security and Border Affairs of the Taninthayi Region Government in accordance with the provisions stated in Clause ii of Sub-section (a), Subsections (b), (e) and (f) of Section 262 and Subsection (c) of Section 264 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 19 (c) and Section 82 (c) of the Union Government Law, and Clause ii of Subsections (a) and Subsections (b), (f) and (g) of Section 8 and and Section 56 (a) of the Region or State Government Law.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar gazette:

Appointment of Heads of Service Organizations transferred, confirmed, appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following individuals as Heads of the Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Win Naing Director-General Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture Ministry of Ethnic Affairs	Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Ethnic Affairs
(b) U Zaw Tun Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Ethnic Affairs	Director-General Department of Ethnic Literature and Culture Ministry of Ethnic Affairs
(c) Professor Dr Ye Myint Director-General Department of Food and Drug Administration Ministry of Health	Director-General Union Minister's Office Ministry of Health
(d) Dr Swe Hset Rector University of Medical Technology (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health	Director-General Department of Food and Drug Administration Ministry of Health

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Aung Myo	Director-General Department of Education and Training Ministry of Border Affairs
(b) U Thant Zin Tun	Director-General Department of Alternative Education and Life Long Learning Ministry of Education

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following individuals as Heads of Service Organizations, as shown against each of their names on one-year probation period from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Sein Hlaing Deputy Director-General Management and Administration Department President's Office	Director-General Management and Administration Department President's Office
(b) Dr Thwe Lin Ko Pro-Rector Yadanabon University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector University of Patheingyi Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(c) Dr Ei Ei Han Pro-Rector Yangon University of Distance Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Yangon University of Distance Education Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

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WORLD DRUG PROBLEM:
PERSISTING ISSUES,
NEW CHALLENGES,
INNOVATIVE RESPONSES

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World drug problem: persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses

စိန်ခေါ်မှု(အသစ်တွေ)ကြားက မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးပြဿနာ၊ ဆန်းသစ်တီထွင်နည်းလမ်းရှာ၊ စုပေါင်းကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက်ပါ။

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 7 am MST on 21 June 2026

ACCORDING to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Nanyin Stream at Mogaung has exceeded by about 1.5 foot above its danger level. It may rise about 0.5 foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 am MST observation today, the water level of the Nankaung Stream at Mogaung has exceeded by about one foot above its danger level. It may rise about 0.5 foot during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the stream banks and low-lying areas in Mogaung Township, to take precaution measure. — DMH

El Niño Conditions

Issued at 21 June 2026

THE Sea Surface Temperature (SST) over the Tropical Pacific Ocean near the equator indicate that weak El Niño conditions continue to persist. According to the forecasts from International Meteorological Agencies based on Numerical Weather Prediction Models, El Niño conditions are likely moderate in July and very strong El Niño conditions at the end of 2026.

Although El Niño is a phenomenon that occurs in the Pacific Ocean, its impacts can generally lead to irregular rainfall patterns, higher day temperatures, abnormal storm activity, drought and other extreme weather events.

Updates regarding the development of El Niño conditions will continue to be issued in a timely manner. — DMH

Gold Market Rate as of 21 June 2026

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

NATIONAL

Union Minister inspects livestock farms and water management facilities in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung, accompanied by Deputy Minister Dr Ye Tun Win, conducted an inspection tour yesterday morning at the Shwemyo Extension Livestock Zone in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the visit, they examined the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department's layer duck breeding operations, the rearing of five regional cattle breeds, efforts to produce and breed native chicken strains as model varieties, and the distribution of ducklings using egg incubators.

While inspecting, the Union Minister gave instructions on further developing layer duck farming, ensuring the distribution of high-quality purebred ducklings, and making regionally suitable cattle breeds available to farmers. He emphasised the need to systematically carry out breed-by-breed measure-



Union Minister U Min Naung views raising of layer ducks at the farm of Shwemyo Extension Livestock Zone yesterday.

ment, record-keeping and evaluation of pedigree data, alongside educational outreach to livestock farmers.

Following this, the team proceeded to inspect the water storage levels at the Kintha Reservoir, located near Kintha Village in Tatkon Township. They also visited the Dairy Cattle Demonstration and Breed Distribution Farm (Nay Pyi Taw), where they reviewed the rearing of Friesian dairy cattle, the cultivation of animal feed crops, and the production of liquid nitrogen at the nitrogen plant, as well as its distribution to regions and states across the country. — MNA/ST

Over 100,000 SIM cards cancelled in crackdown on...

FROM PAGE 1

In addition, a total of 143,409 SIM cards found to be distributing large volumes of identical messages linked to online gambling activities were permanently deactivated between March 2025 and May 2026.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also launched legal action against actors, social media influencers and other individuals in-

involved in producing advertisements for online slot games.

Furthermore, more than 1,000 mobile wallet accounts connected to gambling operations have been permanently closed, while funds held in those accounts are being confiscated and transferred to the State in accordance with legal procedures, the deputy minister said. — TWA/ST

MoLA Union Minister inspects pilot law offices in Mandalay Region

UNION Minister for Legal Affairs and Union Attorney-General Dr Thida Oo inspected the Meiktila Township Law Office in Mandalay Region on 20 June to oversee the progress of initiating a new model pilot law office, as well as existing model pilot law offices, including the PyinOoLwin District Law Office and the Chanayethazan Township Law Office.

Following this, she met with regional, district, and township law officers at the hall of the Region Advocate-General's Office.

During the meeting, she gave instructions, explaining that the establishment of pilot law offices serves as a model initiative to transition office opera-



Union Minister Dr Thida Oo and officials are seen at Pilot Law office in Meiktila District on 20 June.

tions — such as registration, recording, and reporting — from manual systems to digital systems. This enables case law officers

and officers-in-charge to operate more efficiently using technology and allows Pre-Trial Interviews (PTIs) to be conducted at these

pilot law offices. She then inspected the township law offices designated and operated as model pilot law offices. — MNA/TH

Mon State Hluttaw approves unanimous ban on long-standing illegal gambling



Speaker U Thet Htwe is speaking at Mon State Hluttaw on 19 June.

THE Mon State Hluttaw has unanimously approved a motion to ban long-standing gambling operations

that have been operating as if officially permitted in Mon State. It was approved following a vote during the

fifth day of the second regular session of the third Mon State Hluttaw, held on 19 June in Mawlamyine.

The motion was introduced by U Thant Zaw, the State Hluttaw representative from the Kyaikmaraw Township Constituency 2. It received various supportive discussions, including U Aung Ko Win Than (Chaungzon 2), Min Aung Htoo (Kyaikto 2), U Aung Htut (Kyaikmaraw 1), Dr Soe Moe Aung (Thanbyu-

zayat 2), and U Tin Yi (Bilin 2). Additionally, U Tin Zaw Tun, the State Minister for Social Affairs, presented the government's stance on the matter.

Following the discussions, U Thet Htwe, Speaker of the Mon State Hluttaw, sought a final decision from the Hluttaw. As all representatives expressed their agreement, the Speaker declared that the motion had been approved without objection. — TWA/ZN

Kan Thar donates K1 million for children's support

KAN Thar Creative Compound donated K1 million to the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization for an upcoming programme providing education assistance, school supplies and uniforms to children of the organization members.

The donation was made on 17 June and re-

ceived by the organization's vice-chair. The support event is scheduled to be held in July at the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization head office. The initiative will benefit around 130 students from various sectors of the local film industry, including directors, actors, editors, scriptwrit-



U Kyi Soe Tun, Chair of the Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization, accepts the K1 million donation from Kan Thar Creative Compound.

ers and production teams, with cash assistance and essential school materials. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Fuel bowzers monitored and penalized to ensure compliance with designated routes

THE Petroleum Products Supervision and Inspection Department under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy requires fuel bowzers to be equipped with GPS devices and continuously monitors them through its Online Monitoring Centre to ensure compliance with designated routes and prevent the diversion of petroleum products to unauthorized locations.

During routine monitoring, a fuel bowser, which was transporting fuel from Yangon (Thilawa) to Hpa-an, Kayin State, was suspiciously detected stopping near Kyaikto. The information was shared with the Subcommittee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage and Distribution for further investigation, and the bowser was subsequently intercepted at the Ma-yanchaung checkpoint. Investigations revealed that the fuel had been ille-



This photo features the Ministry of Electricity and Energy's Supervisory Committee on Fuel Oil Import, Storage and Distribution monitoring and inspecting fuel tankers to ensure compliance with designated routes.

gally transferred and sold instead of being delivered to its designated destination. As a result, legal action was taken at Kyaikto Myoma Police Station in accordance with Section 5 of the Essential Supplies and Services Act.

Similarly, a fuel bowser transporting fuel from Yangon (Thilawa) to Myeik, Taninthayi Region, was suspiciously detected stopping near Aloedawpyae Pagoda between Kyaikto and Bilin. The infor-

mation was immediately relayed to the relevant authorities for inspection, and the vehicle was later found abandoned without its driver near Doman Village in Mudon Township along the Mawlamyine-Thanyuayay route. The case is currently investigated at Mudon Myoma Police Station.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy issues petroleum and petroleum products transport regulatory certificates only

after fuel bowzers are equipped with GPS and integrated into its technology-driven regulatory inspection system. To date, a total of 5,106 fuel bowzers have been equipped with GPS and integrated into the system.

According to the information released by the ministry, regulatory inspection technologies are being upgraded through the use of AI to enhance the monitoring system, which will automatically trigger warning alerts at the control centre if a fuel bowser deviates from its designated route or remains suspiciously stationary for an extended period. The ministry also stated that vehicles found in violation of regulations will have their operations suspended immediately, and effective legal action will be taken against all responsible parties, including business owners. — MNA/TH

Ancient Inwa city wall in TadaU ...



A religious monument is seen in ancient Inwa city.

FROM PAGE 1

“The Inwa drum-shaped city wall is unlike any other city wall in South-East Asia. Similar structures do not exist elsewhere in Asia. The wall is shaped like a large musical drum, with its structure curving accordingly. It is an exceptionally rare example of craftsmanship. Initially, we will begin clearing the section from the southwest corner of the drum-shaped city wall to Yan Hnein Gate. We will remove all bushes and trees growing on the wall so that the original structure becomes visible. At present, we have begun site-clearing and survey work in preparation for these operations. All planned activities will be carried out within this financial year,” Dr Than Htike said.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum previously conducted archaeological excavations at the Inwa Palace site during the 1994-1995 financial year, at the city wall and moat during the 2014-2015 financial year, and at the city entrance gate during the 2015-2016 financial year. — ASH/TH



Myanmar's ready-to-eat Mohinga expands ...

FROM PAGE 1

She explained, “The company aims to make Mohinga more accessible to people living abroad and in areas where au-

thentic Myanmar food is not readily available. The ready-to-eat product is part of a broader effort to promote Myanmar cuisine internationally and raise

awareness of the country's cultural heritage through food.”

Cho Kitchen, which has been producing food products for 25 years, currently exports mainly to the United States, China and Singapore. The company has also begun penetrating European markets and is seeking opportuni-

ties to expand into neighbouring countries.

According to the company, efforts are underway to further improve production standards and packaging to meet international export requirements and strengthen the global profile of Myanmar's national dish. — Oaktha/ST

A Cambodian Minister tastes Myanmar's Mohinga at the Mekong Tourism Forum held in the third week of June. **PHOTO: KO LWIN**

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

National Cancer Centre expands services to improve cancer care

MYANMAR'S National Cancer Centre (NCC) has expanded cancer treatment services by operating two specialized departments — Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology — to provide more effective care for cancer patients.

The centre offers chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and radiotherapy, with treatment overseen by cancer specialists from Yangon General Hospital. Emergency cancer cases continue to be treated at



The National Cancer Centre (NCC).

Yangon General Hospital, while new and follow-up patients are referred to the NCC.

The NCC accepts patients with most types

of cancer, except blood cancers and related diseases. Outpatient clinics operate on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with regis-

tration required before 11 am.

Since beginning inpatient services in July 2025 following the completion of new hospital buildings, the centre has treated 796 inpatients and 11,529 outpatients as of 10 June, according to healthcare sources.

The NCC is expected to become a leading national cancer treatment hub as it continues to strengthen staffing, facilities and cooperation with Yangon General Hospital. — TWA/ST

MPT plants over 3,700 saplings nationwide under green campaign

MPT planted more than 3,770 saplings across regions and states on 20 June under its nationwide “Moving Forward for Greener Future” programme aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The simultaneous tree-planting campaign was carried out in all regions and states, including Yadanabon new satellite town in PynOoLwin Township, Mandalay Region. The initiative seeks to create a greener environment, improve quality of life and reduce the impact of natural dis-



Employees of MPT are participating in tree-growing ceremony in all regions and states on 20 June. PHOTO: KO LWIN

asters and climate change through lower greenhouse gas emissions.

According to Mr Hiroyuki Okai, Adviser to the Operations Department of MPT Joint Operations, the programme has been held annually since 2017 and

marked its eighth edition this year. Including this year's rainy season campaign, MPT has planted more than 23,000 trees nationwide.

More than 800 MPT employees and volunteers took part in the activity,

planting hardwood and shade tree species. The programme aims to provide shade for local communities, improve air quality and contribute to long-term environmental conservation. — Oktha/KZL

Myanmar students to join 2026 BRIDGE Summer Camp in Japan

A Myanmar student delegation will participate in the BRIDGE Summer Camp 2026, an international summer gathering of students and youths to be held annually in July in Fukuoka City, Japan, organized by the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC), based in Fukuoka.

The programme is coordinated by the Myanmar-Japan Association (MJA), which has selected and trained six Myanmar basic education students since March to serve as Junior Ambassadors for participation in the event.

The selected students are Maung So Pyay from Basic Education High School No 2, Kamayut, Yangon, Maung Aung Phone Myat Ko from Dagon BEHS 1, Yangon, Maung Arnt Phone Maw from Mingaladon BEHS 2, Yangon, Ma Su Su San and Ma Taryar Phone Htet from TTC High School, Kamayut, Yangon, and Maung Lin Let Kyaw Zar Ni from Sangyoung BEHS 2, Yangon.

An awarding ceremony recognizing the selected Junior Ambassadors was held yesterday afternoon at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw during their training and third preparatory trip. Officials from the Myanmar-Japan Association, representatives from the Ministry of Education, parents, and students attended the ceremony, where certificates of recognition and supporting materials for the trip were presented.

The six Junior Ambassadors from Myanmar will travel to Fukuoka in the second week of July and participate in a 10-day camp alongside around 200 Junior Ambassadors and 42 coordinators from 42 Asia-Pacific countries.

During the programme, they will take part in exchange activities, cultural sharing programmes, one-day visits to designated schools in different countries, and homestay arrangements with Japanese host families for five nights. They will also attend local schools together with their host students.

The Myanmar delegation will also perform a traditional dance to the song “Thingyan Moe” at the BRIDGE Festival 2026 on 18 July. — MNA/KZL

UNESCO reopens Youth Hackathon 2026 entries

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced the reopening of registration for its Youth Hackathon 2026, a competition designed to foster innovation among young people

worldwide. The event aims to promote Media and Information Literacy (MIL), and invites participants aged between 18 and 30 from across the globe to take part.

This year's competition will be held under

the theme “Play Your Part: Youth Design the Future of Media and Information Literacy”. The initiative seeks to harness the creative potential of young minds and uncover fresh ideas capable of addressing the challenges posed

by the digital age.

Teams of between two and six members are eligible to enter. Each group is required to submit a proposal outlining the media and information issue they wish to tackle, along with their objectives

and proposed solutions. In addition, they must provide a pitch video of no more than three minutes in length.

The competition will focus on contemporary media and information challenges, including combating disinformation and fake news, addressing the difficulties arising from

the use of AI technology, reducing online hate speech, and advancing digital education.

Winning teams will be awarded the opportunity to travel to Greece, where they will have the chance to connect and collaborate with fellow young innovators from around the world. — ASH/ST

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NATIONAL

Shwe Kokko illicit building demolished

AUTHORITIES have demolished another illegal seven-storey residential building in the Shwe Kokko area, which was reportedly used in online fraud and illegal gambling activities. A coordinated team of relevant departments is continuing the systematic removal of illegal structures linked to online scam operations in the KK Park and Shwe Kokko areas of Myawady Township, Kayin State. Officials said the demolition forms part of ongoing efforts to clear 77 identified buildings used in such activities. Of these,



Images depict before and after exploding buildings used in online scams and gambling in Shwe Kokko of Myawady.

57 are being demolished using machinery, and 20 are being destroyed through controlled explosive demolition. With the latest demolition, a total of 62 buildings have

now been dismantled, while 15 remain pending for further action. Authorities stated that the government is treating the crackdown on online fraud and illegal gambling as a

national priority and is coordinating with neighbouring countries, alongside domestic efforts, to prevent such activities from re-establishing in Myanmar territory. — MNA/KZL

Over K3B worth heroin, stimulant tablets and weapons seized in Kalewa

THE Drug Enforcement Division seized narcotics and weapons valued at over K3 billion in Kalewa, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The seizure was made by a combined team from the Drug Enforcement Division on 7 June at around 10 am at the Chindwin Bridge in Kalewa Township, following a tip-off.

Authorities stopped and searched three Prados and arrested three suspects identified as Goh Shin Mang (alias Shin Mang), Ginkap Khai (alias Khai Khai), and Mung Gint Sam (alias Sam The).

From the vehicles, police seized 5.5 kilogrammes of heroin from one vehicle, 4.4 kilogrammes of hero-



Drug traffickers are seen with seized narcotic drugs and munitions in Kalewa.

in from another, and 1.05 million methamphetamine tablets along with two pistols and 200 rounds of ammunition from the third vehicle.

In total, the operation resulted in the seizure of 9.9 kilogrammes of hero-

in, over 1.05 million stimulant tablets, and weapons and ammunition, with an estimated street value of K3.021 billion.

Further investigations revealed that the drugs and weapons were being transported from Manda-

lay to Tiddim, allegedly under instructions from Tiddim residents Tun Gint Mung (alias Par Mong) and Thang Sawm Hauk (alias Sawm Hauk), who remain at large.

Legal action has been taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and authorities are continuing efforts to identify and arrest remaining suspects. Investigations are also ongoing to trace and confiscate assets obtained through drug trafficking under the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

Officials said confiscated assets linked to drug proceeds will be seized for the State, while further accomplices are being pursued. — MNA/KZL

Security forces seize terrorist camps and weapons in Magway Region

SECURITY forces conducting operations to maintain regional stability and public safety have seized terrorist camps and large quantities of weapons and related equipment in Magway Region, according to official reports.

On 20 June, troops operating in Yenangyoung Township discovered several terrorist locations in and around nearby villages. At a site in Lunpinsho Village, they recovered items including a motorcycle, camouflage uniforms, solar panels, a battery system, ammunition, communication equipment, and identification badges linked to terrorist groups.

Later the same day, security forces uncovered a temporary camp near Nyaungpinkar Village, where they seized

tents and multiple handmade landmines. In a separate operation near Kantha Village, troops found a larger camp containing over 100 handmade grenades, explosive materials, protective gear, radios, and other military-style equipment.

Earlier, on 7 June, a clash in Natmauk Township led to the recovery of a sniper rifle and 1,200 rounds of ammunition after an engagement with insurgents near Aingma Village.

Authorities said such operations are part of ongoing efforts to counter armed groups accused of intimidation, violence, and disruption of local communities, and reaffirmed continued action to support peace and stability in the region. — MNA/ST



This photo shows arms and munitions seized from the terrorist camp near Kantha Village of Yenangyoung Township.

Yaksawk's village concrete road construction inspected

THE Yaksawk Township Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development carried out a field inspection on the progress of paving the village concrete road implemented under the Village Development Project (VDP)

fund in SanyayU Village, Yaksawk Township yesterday. The project was aimed at improving transport for rural residents, and the inspection was conducted in the morning by responsible officials in SanyayU Village.

Yaksawk Township Department of Rural

Development Head U Ye Min Aung and project staff, together with members of the village development committee, inspected the completed village entrance concrete road to SanyayU Village, measuring 400 feet in length, 12 feet in width and seven inches in thick-

ness. He met with village elders and residents and urged them to form a village road committee and jointly maintain the road for long-term sustainability.

The concrete road was built under the 2026-2027 financial year Village Development Project

(VDP) with K15 million VDP fund and K9 million community contribution. The project was implemented with technical assistance and close supervision from departmental engineers, starting from the first week of May, and has now been fully completed. — Karan (Rural)

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NATIONAL



Writer Min Khaik Soe San passes away in San Francisco

Writer Min Khaik Soe San

WRITER Min Khaik Soe San passed away in San Francisco, the United States at 8:07 pm local time on 19 June 2026, according to reports.

Born in Yangon in

1972, his real name was Kyaw Soe. He graduated with an MBBS degree from the University of Medicine 2, Yangon in 2002 and later became a well-known writer. He was 54 years old at the time of his death.

He debuted with the novel “Lwan Loh Thay Thwar Tae Thitpin” and went on to write around

20 novels, including the popular work “Thonn-ya”. He also produced notable works such as “Kaung Kin Nae Ma Lut Tae Taung Pan Ta Sone”, “Kya Naw Hnint Alin Hmyaw Sin”, “Minthag-yi”, “Kyawnawt Ko Amay Thet Khae Tel”, “Thamee Pyaedaza”, and “Zat Thein Khan Ko Thin Ko Taing Phae Swet Yay-

tharpar”.

He won the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Contest’s selected short stories genre in 2021 for “Gyit Kan Kan Short Stories”. He also translated the Harry Potter series into Myanmar and worked in modern poetry, fiction writing, film direction, and screenplay creation. — ASH/KZL

Mandaly Thein Zaw to present golden jubilee theatrical performance show

THE “Mandaly Thein Zaw’s Golden Jubilee Theatrical Performance Festival” marking the 50-year performing arts career of veteran theatrical actor Mandaly Thein Zaw will be held on 27 and 28 June at the National Theatre (Yangon) in Dagon Township, Yangon Region, according to the organizer.

The two-day commemorative performance will feature well-known artistes including Sithu Daw Tin Tin Mya, Academy Cho Pyone, Mandaly Sein Tint Lwin, director Nyein Min, among others.

Veteran theatrical ac-

tor Mandaly Thein Zaw said the event is a tribute marking his long journey in the performing arts industry spanning five decades, expressing gratitude to colleagues and fellow artistes who have supported him throughout his career. He added that he has remained dedicated to preserving traditional theatre and considers himself fully committed to the profession of the performing arts.

He is also known for contributions in music, poetry, film and video productions, according to the statement. — MNA/KZL

July JLPT enforces strict no-late-entry rule for all sessions

TIME TABLE FOR JLPT 2026 (July) MYANMAR				
LEVEL	Check-in Time	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary, Grammar & Reading)	Listening	
N1	8:00 AM ~ 8:45 AM	9:00~10:50	11:20~12:15	
		(110 minutes)	(55 minutes)	
N2	8:00 AM ~ 8:45 AM	9:00~10:45	11:15~12:05	
		(105 minutes)	(50 minutes)	
LEVEL	Check-in Time	Language Knowledge (Vocabulary)	Language Knowledge (Grammar & Reading)	Listening
N3	10:00 AM ~ 10:45 AM	11:00~11:30	12:00~13:10	13:40~14:20
		(30 minutes)	(70 minutes)	(40 minutes)
N4	10:00 AM ~ 10:45 AM	11:00~11:25	11:55~12:50	13:20~13:55
		(25 minutes)	(55 minutes)	(35 minutes)
N5	10:00 AM ~ 10:45 AM	11:00~11:20	11:50~12:30	13:00~13:30
		(20 minutes)	(40 minutes)	(30 minutes)

Timetables for JLPT (July) Myanmar.

BEGINNING with the July JLPT (Japanese Language Proficiency Test), all test takers will have to arrive within the check-in time, and the late arrivals won’t be allowed to enter the exam room, said the JLPT organizing committee, the Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

MAJA said that the check-in times are 8 am-8:45 am for N1 and N2 levels, and 10 am-10:45 am for N3, N4, and N5 levels.

In previous tests, those who arrived up to 10 minutes late were allowed to sit for the test (excluding the listening session). However, these rules are removed for all sessions as of the July test, it stated.

Starting with the July test, the late arrivals will no longer be permitted to enter the exam room, according to the JLPT organizing committee. — MT/ZS



Mandaly Thein Zaw (2ndL) is seen with veteran theatrical performers in a group photo.

Public Notice

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

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

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

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

Anti-Corruption Commission

Miss Myanmar to compete in Miss Multicultural World 2026 in Vietnam

MISS Myanmar Soe Myinzu Lwin will compete in the Miss Multicultural World 2026 pageant in Vietnam.

The Miss Multicultural World 2026 will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 20 to 29 June and will feature contestants from Myanmar, India, the USA, the Philippines, Vietnam, Russia, Thailand, China, Mongolia, Morocco, and other countries.

“I’m excited because I will be representing Myanmar for

the first time at the Miss Multicultural World pageant in Vietnam. Through this competition, I will showcase Myanmar’s invaluable cultural heritage. For the National Costume segment, I will wear a costume designed by Myat Theinkha Nge, and I consider it a great responsibility. I will do my best to represent my country, and I would like to ask everyone for their support,” said Soe Myinzu Lwin, Miss Multicultural World Myanmar



This photo features Soe Myinzu Lwin representing Myanmar at the Miss Multicultural World 2026 competition.

2026. The Grand Final of Miss Multicultural World 2026 will be held on 29 June. — ASH/MKKS

OPINION

Seeking passionate and qualified educators for basic education

INVESTMENT in education will yield long-term sustainable benefits and also serve as a fundamental pillar of national development. Therefore, in order to achieve long-term national development and build a high-quality education system, it is necessary to ensure that basic education schools have a sufficient number of qualified teachers.

For the supply of teachers, senior assistant teachers are being trained and produced by Yangon University of Education, Sagaing University of Education, and the University for the Development of the National Races. In addition, 25 Education Degree Colleges are producing junior and primary assistant teachers.

The current new curriculum and teaching methodology include individual, group, and class-level discussion activities, processes for reviewing and deriving conclusions from discussions, and continuous assessment of each student's learning achievements during the learning process. Therefore, teaching and learning will only be effective and successful if teachers can take full responsibility for their assigned classes on a full-time basis.

From the 2018-2019 Academic Year to the 2026-2027 Academic Year, there are a total of 47,853 schools, comprising 6,480 high schools, 15,732 middle schools, and 25,641 primary schools, with a total teaching staff of 307,914 teachers. Since teachers are required to teach students in accordance with the current internationally aligned, standardized basic education curriculum, it is necessary for them to be qualified, certified teachers with a sound understanding of the teaching profession.

The number of teachers is insufficient, as they are required to manage and teach a large number of students. Hence, they are unable to give adequate attention to each individual student, which may lead to a decline in the quality of teaching and assessment due to the heavy workload, as well as the additional burden of school administrative duties.

As a result, teachers may suffer both mental and physical fatigue.

The current new curriculum and teaching methodology include individual, group, and class-level discussion activities, processes for reviewing and deriving conclusions from discussions, and continuous assessment of each student's learning achievements during the learning process. Therefore, teaching and learning will only be effective and successful if teachers can take full responsibility for their assigned classes on a full-time basis.

In addressing the shortage of teachers in basic education schools, the State should ensure that allowances provided to teachers serving in difficult and remote areas are based on actual living costs, so that they can effectively support their daily lives. It is also necessary to further strengthen arrangements for the safety and living conditions of teachers.

To address the shortage of teachers, enabling the teachers who value the teaching profession to attend teacher education programs, and ensuring the timely supply of qualified teachers is a long-term task that cannot be undertaken by the State and the Ministry of Education alone. It requires the cooperation and participation of all parents and the public.

Navigating Interdependence: The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor as a Strategic Pivot in Bilateral Relations

AS a Myanmar scholar who recently finished advanced studies in Beijing, observing the evolution of our bilateral relations from within China offers a unique, split-screen perspective. Walking through the university campuses of Beijing, discussing regional geoeconomics with Chinese academics, and tracking the massive flow of cross-border trade, one reality becomes undeniable: the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) is no longer just a blueprint of roads and pipelines. It has matured into the absolute strategic pivot of our bilateral relations.

This reality was forcefully underscored during the high-stakes state visit to Beijing, where both nations committed to an accelerated roadmap for a 'China-Myanmar Community with a Shared Future'. For Myanmar, CMEC represents a fragile yet indispensable economic lifeline; for China, it remains a critical gateway to the Indian Ocean.

Key Infrastructure Nodes
The institutionalization of long-term bilateral interdependence relies on several interconnected mega-projects designed to establish a permanent Chinese footprint in the eastern Indian Ocean:

Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port & SEZ: Located in western Rakhine State, this deep-water asset offers China direct access to the Indian Ocean, bypassing South-East Asian maritime choke points entirely.

Muse-Mandalay-Kyaukpyu Railway: A proposed high-speed rail network designed to slice logistical delivery times for Chinese goods moving from the mainland border to the western coastline.

Cross-Border Economic Cooperation Zones: Designated zones along the shared frontier aimed at boosting localized manufacturing, agricultural trade, and border security.

The Strategic Imperative: China's Unyielding Geostatistical Drive

Living and studying within China provides a clear view of the "why" behind Beijing's unwavering commitment to Myanmar. In Chinese academic circles, the CMEC is fundamentally discussed through a lens of geostrategic security and macro-regional balancing. The corridor satisfies two critical structural requirements for China:

1. **The Malacca Dilemma Bypass:** China has long identified its extreme reliance on the narrow Strait of Malacca for energy

imports. The CMEC provides a direct land-and-sea bypass. The active twin oil and gas pipelines running from Rakhine State to Yunnan province serve as a direct mainland artery, transforming Myanmar into a shield against maritime blockades.

2. **Yunnan's Maritime Window:** For landlocked southwestern China, CMEC is the fastest route to global markets. The Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port and SEZ, alongside the delayed Muse-Mandalay railway, are designed to turn Yunnan into a bustling hub facing the Bay of Bengal.

This deep strategic need explains why, despite severe security challenges on the ground, China has persistently pushed to advance these mega-projects steadily.

Harnessing the Corridor: Asymmetrical Advantages for Myanmar

For Myanmar, the CMEC represents far more than a collection of transit routes for a neighbouring superpower; it is a foundational blueprint for development, modernization, and regional integration. By transforming geography into capital, the mega-project delivers crucial advantages across Myanmar's economic, structural, and diplo-

matic landscapes.

1. **Catalyzing Trade and Industrialization:** The most immediate commercial advantage of CMEC is the direct, high-capacity land-route access it provides to the world's second-largest economy. Historically, Myanmar's agricultural, livestock, and fisheries sectors have struggled with volatile maritime shipping and informal border trade. The CMEC institutionalizes these trade routes, streamlining customs and logistics to allow domestic producers to securely supply China's massive consumer market.

Parallel to trade expansion is the push for domestic industrialization, anchored by the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ). By pairing a deep-sea port with dedicated manufacturing zones, the project creates an ecosystem capable of attracting foreign direct investment. This shift from a purely extractive economy to a manufacturing hub is essential for localized job creation, vocational skill transfer, and the introduction of modern industrial technologies to the workforce.

2. **Modernizing Infrastructure and Energy Grid:** Decades of insufficient investment have left Myanmar's domestic transport and energy infrastructure severely fragmented. The CMEC

By Shoon Lei Win

directly addresses these structural bottlenecks through transformational infrastructure updates. Projects like the proposed Muse-Mandalay high-speed rail line and major highway upgrades will slash domestic travel times, lowering the prohibitive logistics costs that have long stifled local businesses. Moreover, the corridor incorporates critical power generation and grid-strengthening projects. These initiatives aim to provide the reliable power necessary to run factories and improve daily civilian life.

3. **Diplomatic Insulation and Poverty Alleviation:** Beyond physical infrastructure, the CMEC provides a vital geopolitical buffer. Beijing's deep economic stake in the corridor guarantees Myanmar a level of diplomatic insulation and political coverage on the global stage. China's diplomatic backing at the UN and international arena, as well as its integration of Myanmar into the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) framework, provide critical political coverage. Furthermore, recent bilateral agreements have successfully reoriented CMEC to

place a greater emphasis on human-centric development. By integrating China's proven rural poverty alleviation models, recent corridor initiatives have funnelled funding directly into grassroots projects. These include agricultural technology sharing, medical assistance, and human resource training along border communities, ensuring that the economic dividends of the corridor filter down to vulnerable populations.

The Scholarly Imperative: Balancing the "Pauk-Phaw" Bond

The term "Pauk-Phaw" (fraternal) is frequently used in Chinese diplomatic circles to characterise our 76-year-old relationship. Yet, studying in China reveals that a true partnership cannot rely solely on historical sentiment or top-down government pacts. If CMEC is to truly serve as a sustainable pivot rather than a source of domestic resentment, a shift in implementation is urgently required. **The 18 newly signed Memorandums of Understanding – spanning human resource development, technology sharing, and agri-**

cultural trade – show a welcome acknowledgement that the corridor must benefit everyday citizens, not just state coffers. China has proven it will protect its strategic stakes; Myanmar must become equally adept at leveraging its geographic location to build genuine, resilient interdependence.

Currently, border security and the joint eradication of transnational cyber-scam networks are explicitly tied to CMEC's operational viability. True integration requires moving past concrete and steel toward human capital integration, capitalizing on China's poverty alleviation models. Besides, Myanmar's long-term goal must be to utilize Chinese infrastructure to connect with broader regional frameworks, ensuring the corridor remains an open gateway. While the above advantages present a clear path toward economic revitalization, Myanmar's long-term success depends entirely on implementation. The corridor provides the tools for development, but it is up to Myanmar's policymakers, scholars, and economic planners to ensure these projects are managed with the transparency and fiscal prudence required to build true, equitable interdependence.

In conclusion, the Chi-

na-Myanmar Economic Corridor stands as the defining pivot of contemporary bilateral relations, binding the destinies of both nations through a shared geographical and economic framework. For China, the corridor satisfies a vital geostrategic imperative by securing a direct, overland pathway to the Indian Ocean and mitigating its maritime vulnerabilities. For Myanmar, CMEC offers an indispensable structural lifeline, delivering the infrastructure modernization, industrial investment, and diplomatic insulation required to navigate an era of intense domestic and international pressure. Ultimately, the long-term success of this corridor will depend on the ability of both nations to transform a highly asymmetrical relationship into a resilient, mutually beneficial partnership. If managed with fiscal prudence, environmental transparency, and a genuine commitment to localized development, CMEC can transcend its role as a mere transit corridor. It has the potential to become a true engine of sustainable growth, securing Myanmar's prosperity while permanently redefining the strategic geography of South and South-East Asia.

The Sun may not engulf Earth after all, scientists say

THE Earth may not be engulfed by the expanding fireball of the dying Sun, which has long been assumed to be our home planet's ultimate fate, according to scientists.

Don't worry: this is not expected to happen for another five billion years, long after all life on Earth has been wiped out.

When the Sun burns through all of the hydrogen in its core, it will go through two immense expansion phases: first becoming a red giant, then, when its helium is spent, an "AGB" star.

This fiery death will bring about some significant changes

back here on Earth.

As the Sun grows, increasing gravitational forces will pull the Earth towards it.

For the Earth and the Moon, this force creates the push and pull of the tides in our oceans. The energy from these tides, which dissipates at the bottom of the ocean, slows Earth's rotation and gradually pushes the Moon away from us.

As the Sun expands and its blistering surface approaches Earth, intense tidal waves will stir within the star. When they dissipate, it will pull Earth into its doomed embrace.

However, the growing Sun will also lose a lot of its mass due to stellar wind, which pushes our planet further away.

"Earth's fate depends on a delicate balance between these two effects," explained Mats Esseldeurs, the lead author of a study published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics* on Friday.

"If tidal interactions predominate, Earth is engulfed by the Sun. If the Sun's mass loss predominates, Earth escapes into an orbit larger than the radius of its star," the astrophysicist at Belgium's University of Leuven

said in a statement.

Until now, scientists had favored the first hypothesis. **Catching some Sun**

However their calculations relied on relatively simple descriptions of tidal dissipation within giant stars.

Advances made in modelling these tides over the last 15 years have enabled the study's authors to show that "the dissipation is lower than previously expected", Stephane Mathis, an astrophysicist at the CEA Paris-Saclay centre in France, told AFP.

To estimate how much mass the Sun could lose, the team fo-

cused in particular on a nearby star called L2 Puppis that is like the Sun's "old cousin", the study's co-author said.

"A better understanding of tidal physics and the most advanced constraints we have on mass loss allow us to say that—in the current state of knowledge—Earth could move away from the Sun, contrary to what was predicted before," Mathis said.

According to the new modelling, Mars also escapes a death spiral into the Sun.

But the two planets closest to the Sun, Mercury and Venus, are not so lucky. They will be inex-



rably swallowed by the expanding fireball.

After all this, the Sun will

eventually become an extremely dense star called a white dwarf.

No longer capable of fusion

reactions, it will slowly become dimmer and cooler over time.

SOURCE: AFP

NATIONAL

Uru Creek rises, flooding low-lying areas in Hpakant



This photo shows inundation in low-lying wards in Hpakant yesterday.

CONTINUOUS rainfall in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, with recorded precipitation of 6.89 inches has caused the Uru Creek and local creeks to rise, leading to

flooding in several low-lying wards on the morning of 21 June, according to reports.

Overflow triggered by torrential rains into Mawwun Creek inun-

dated areas 4 and 5 of Mawwun Ward by about one foot and area 6 by about two and a half feet. Floodwaters also reached about three feet in Hngetpyawtaw Ward and Mashi Khtaung Ward and about two feet in Ayemya Thaya Ward.

At the Uru Creek water gauge near Kansee Village in Lonkhin Village-tract, water levels had risen to about three feet, exceeding the designated danger level of about two feet.

Members of the township management

and administration committee inspected the situation and arranged small boats to ensure transport for residents living in flooded areas. Township departments, ward administrative bodies and social welfare organizations have also made preparations to issue early warnings and carry out evacuations and rescue work if water levels continue to rise.

No deaths or injuries to people or animals have been reported, according to locals. — Township IPRD/KZL

Hopong's community-driven development projects inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted field inspections of community-driven rural development projects being implemented under the 2026-2027 financial year for Village Development Project (VDP) with public participation in Hopong Township, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South) on 18 June.

Shan State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Lin Aung Swe, Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Daw Khin Htwe Aung, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone



Officials inspect development undertakings in villages in Hopong Township on 18 June.

Leading Body Chairman U Khun Pho Sein visited Htamsam Village. They inspected the construction of a village hall measuring 40 feet in length, 30 feet in width and 12 feet

in height, built with VDP project funds. Officials also met local residents inside the hall and coordinated the necessary assistance in response to their needs.

Ministers and officials then visited Loilumh Village, where they inspected the completed construction of a village concrete road measuring 400 feet in length, 12 feet in width and six inches in thickness. They held cordial discussions with local residents and coordinated the necessary support in response to the requests raised by the villagers.

The two community-driven rural development projects were implemented directly by local residents with technical assistance from departmental staff. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 21 June 2026)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 22 June 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mandalay Region and Kayah and northern Shan states, fairly widespread in Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi 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 Chin, Rakhine and eastern Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: The squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in Delta, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. The surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. The wave height will be about 7-9 feet in the Delta, off and along the Rakhine Coasts. The sea will be moderate in the Myanmar waters. The wave height will be about 6-8 feet in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along the Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: The increase of rain in upper Saging Region and Kachin and Rakhine states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 June 2026: Some rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 June 2026: Some or two rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 June 2026: The isolated rain or thundershowers. The degree of certainty is 80 per cent. — DMH

Daily newspapers available online

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

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Weather forecast for the Third Dekad of June 2026

Bay of Bengal situation

A low-pressure area may form over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The monsoon will be moderate over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Rain conditions and rainy days

Rain or thundershowers will be above normal in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing

regions and Kachin State and about normal in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states.

The rainy days are expected about 8 to 10 days in Yangon, Bago, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and (southern and eastern) Shan states and about six to eight days in the Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions and Kayah, Chin and northern Shan states. — DMH

India celebrates Intl Yoga Day

INDIA on Sunday celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga.

The main event of the yoga celebration was held in the eastern city of Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi led thousands of people in performing the morning exercises at Kolkata's Red Road.

"Yoga is not merely a form of physical exercise and cannot be confined to any particular age group. It is a source of consciousness, vitality

and inner illumination that enriches every stage of human life," Modi said, adding it offers a pathway to remain healthy, active and energetic even as one grows older.

According to Modi, the International Day of Yoga provides an opportunity to renew a collective commitment towards making yoga an integral part of everyday life.

In 2014, the United Nations passed a resolution, announcing 21 June as the International Day of Yoga. — Xinhua



Artists perform a dance to celebrate International Day of Yoga in Kathmandu, Nepal, 21 June 2024. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

Japan's men told to clean at home, not just the World Cup

Japanese men spend among the least time on housework internationally.



Japan supporters at the World Cup match against the Netherlands in Arlington, Texas. PHOTO: AFP

IMAGES of Samurai Blue fans cleaning up World Cup stadiums have garnered them widespread praise, but back in Japan, a post has gone viral complaining men rarely do so at home.

FIFA lauded Japanese fans this week on social

media platform X for their "impeccable manners" that saw them tidy up the stands post-game, with pictures of men in blue avidly picking up trash.

Similar images have since proliferated online, but one X post went viral after claiming Japanese

men aren't all that they are cracked up to be.

"Japanese men spend among the least time on housework internationally," read the post, which has been viewed 1.9 million times.

"Please do it at home," the post said, with a satir-

ical illustration showing a fan who proudly cleans up the stadium is, in fact, relaxing on a sofa at home, oblivious to the pile of laundry and his wife or mother doing the dishes.

Japanese men participate notoriously little in household chores, with women spending 5.5 times more time than men taking on "unpaid work" such as shopping, domestic chores and caregiving, the Cabinet Office says, citing 2021 OECD data.

The gap is far greater than in Britain, France and the United States, where women spend 1.8 times, 1.7 times and 1.6 times — respectively — longer than men doing unpaid work.

While supporters describe the act of cleaning up the stadium as proof of Japan's cultural altruism, others have also seen it as slightly performative.

And opinions have been divided on the viral X post. — AFP

Funeral for art giant David Hockney already taken place

THE funeral for David Hockney, the acclaimed British artist who died just over a week ago, has already been held in strict privacy, his publicist said Saturday.

Hockney, a hugely influential figure who helped pioneer the 1960s pop art

movement and whose paintings have been lauded for decades for capturing the world in brilliant colour, passed away on 12 June aged 88.

"The funeral has already taken place," Erica Bolton said in a statement, issued in response to nu-

merous enquiries about the arrangements. "We would like to clarify that it was David's clear wish that his funeral should be attended only by his partner, JP, and his great-nephew Richard; and that their privacy would be respected," she added. — AFP

Jennifer Aniston mourns James Burrows

ACTRESS Jennifer Aniston paid a heartfelt tribute to James Burrows, the beloved Friends director who died at 85. In an Instagram note, she called him "Papa Burrows" and described him as a father figure who made people feel loved.

Aniston recalled that

Burrows called the cast his "kids", pushing them to make jokes land while supporting and celebrating them. She thanked his family for sharing his "unicorn presence" and said he checked in on her, guided her, and held her through the hardest and best times.

Aniston highlighted his lesson in loving and respecting one another, urging mutual care and support. She closed by saying she misses his voice, laugh and brilliance, and hoped someone was still asking, "Where are the kids?" — ANI

Rod Stewart nearly faints during Utah concert

VETERAN British singer Rod Stewart briefly paused his concert in Utah after reportedly feeling unwell and nearly fainting on stage, before returning to complete the performance while seated, as per PEOPLE. As per the publication, footage cited by TMZ, the 81-year-old musician appeared to be in discomfort during his show at the Utah First Credit Union Amphitheatre in West Valley City on Friday, 19 June.

Videos circulating online showed Stewart bending over as staff members brought an oxygen tank backstage to assist him.

After receiving medical assistance, Stewart addressed the audience and told concertgoers that he had nearly fainted, while also making a few light-hearted remarks. He went on to finish the remainder of the show sitting in a chair.

Representatives for the singer had not immediately commented on the incident.

The health scare comes weeks after Stewart announced changes to several performances in his Las Vegas residency and One Last Time Tour. — ANI



Veteran British singer Rod Stewart. PHOTO: ANI

ECONOMY WORLD

AI spending boom may keep US inflation and interest rates elevated

Financial markets are increasingly factoring in the possibility of further rate hikes as inflation remains persistent.

THE ongoing surge in artificial intelligence (AI)-related spending could keep inflation elevated in the United States and force interest rates to remain higher for longer, according to Jefferies' latest Greed & Fear report.

The report said strong spending by major technology companies on AI infrastructure is supporting economic growth but is also adding to inflationary pressures, complicating the outlook for monetary policy.

"One consequence of the stickiness of inflation in America, with headline CPI inflation running at its highest level in three years, is that nominal growth has been running at 5.9 per cent YoY

in 1Q26, driven primarily by the still accelerating AI capex arms race," the report said

According to Jefferies, financial markets are increasingly factoring in the possibility of further rate hikes as inflation remains persistent.

"The same logic, of course, applies to the US where new Fed chairman Kevin Warsh has presided over a more hawkish message than GREED & fear would have expected in his first FOMC meeting this week," the report noted.

The report added that investors are now expecting tighter monetary policy over the coming months.

"As a result, money markets are now expect-



This image displays automated robotic equipment handling silicon wafers within a semiconductor manufacturing cleanroom. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ STOCKCAKE**

ing 36bp of rate hikes by the end of 2026 while importantly, the two-year Treasury yield had its biggest one-day move in 14 months rising by 13bp to 4.18 per cent yesterday," it said. — ANI

Bolivia declares state of emergency, deploys military to quell protests



Indigenous woman holds Wiphala flag at Bolivia's six-week Ponchos Rojos protest meeting in La Paz. **PHOTO: AFP**

BOLIVIA'S president declared a state of emergency on Saturday and deployed soldiers and bulldozers to raze anti-government roadblocks that have paralyzed the Andean nation.

For more than six weeks, unions, Indigenous groups and coca farmers have marched through cities and blocked roads across the country with rubble, logs and debris in protest against the con-

servative government.

Major cities have suffered acute shortages of fuel, food and medicine, the economy has lost billions of dollars, and the protests have threatened to topple Bolivia's first

non-socialist government in two decades.

President Rodrigo Paz appeared in a predawn televised address on Saturday to warn protesters they would face "the full force of the law" as he moved to end the crisis.

He declared a 90-day state of emergency, which curbs the right to protest and allows the military to be deployed domestically.

Hours after his address, AFP reporters in the city of El Alto saw squads of soldiers and armed police moving in a convoy as bulldozers moved in to clear roadblocks. Some residents clapped as they passed. One man handed a bag of bread to a police officer riding in the back of a pickup truck. — AFP

Australian govt extends cut to fuel sales tax

THE Australian government on Sunday announced it will extend a cut to the tax on fuel sales for another month at a lower rate.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Sunday that the fuel excise cut will be rolled back from a discount of 32 cents (about US\$0.22) a litre to 16 cents a litre from 1 July until 2 August when the full tax will be reinstated at a rate of 52.6 cents per litre.

The federal government cut the tax by 26.3 cents per litre for three months from 1 April in response to record-high fuel prices amid the global oil crisis caused by conflict in the Middle East.

Australia's state and territory governments

agreed to contribute a further cut worth 5.7 cents per litre over the same three-month period.

Albanese said in a joint statement with Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Energy Minister Chris Bowen and Transport Minister Catherine King that gradually rolling back the discount would help Australians with cost-of-living pressures.

"The extension to the fuel excise cut we've announced today recognizes that economic and fuel stability recovery will take time," they said.

"Despite the welcome and substantial drop in the price of petrol recently, we recognize people are still under pressure." — Xinhua



A petrol station in Canberra, Australia on 20 March 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Türkiye exports warship to Romania

TÜRKIYE marked its first-ever export of a warship to a member of both NATO and the EU on Saturday, delivering the vessel named CAM Roman to Romania through a sales agreement.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Romanian President Nicusor Dan attended the hand-over ceremony at the Istanbul Shipyard Command.

Speaking at the event broadcast live, Erdogan said the vessel is equipped with domestically-developed combat management systems, search and fire-control radars, sonar systems and close-in defense weapons.

He described the delivery as a milestone in the strategic partnership and long-standing friendship between Türkiye and Romania, and as the allies' shared commitment to strengthening security in the Black Sea and the broader Euro-Atlantic region. — Xinhua

Pakistan's mango exports shrink as ME war impacts linger

BENEATH the scorching sun in Pakistan's southern mango belt, labourers balance on tree branches, working at a swift pace to throw the freshly picked fruit into sacks held ready by farmhands waiting below. Though mango season is well underway, far less of the fruit will be bound for the lucrative export market than usual, with Pakistan's agriculturally dependent economy caught in the crosshairs of the Middle East crisis that its government has helped mediate.

An initial deal between the warring sides

announced by Pakistan this week has come too late for this mango season, which began in June in southern Sindh province.

Mango traders told AFP they expect export sales to fall at least 30 per cent this year due to dampened demand in key markets, including the Gulf, and soaring shipping costs.

Adding to the financial pain, local households struggling with a spike in inflation emanating from the regional crisis are holding off on buying the fruit, depressing domestic sales. — AFP

Australian trade official hails supply chain innovation, cooperation via China expo



A helium compressor is pictured at the Innovation Chain area of the third China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) in Beijing, capital of China, 17 July 2025. PHOTO: XINUA/FILE

THE China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) plays an important role in strengthening global supply chains as resilient and efficient supply chains are critical to economic growth in an increasingly complex

global environment, a senior official of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) has said. Platforms like CISCE bring together governments, businesses and industry leaders to exchange

ideas, share solutions and build practical partnerships that enhance supply chain stability, said Dominic Trindade, Austrade's general manager for the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan province of China, in a recent written interview with Xinhua.

"Importantly, CISCE focuses on real-world collaboration, connecting companies across the value chain and enabling cooperation on areas such as clean energy, infrastructure and advanced services," said Trindade, who is also commercial minister at the Australian Embassy in Beijing.

"This kind of engagement is essential to improv-

ing transparency, diversification and resilience in global supply networks," he added. Australia has accepted the invitation to be the Guest Country of Honor at the fourth CISCE, which will take place in Beijing from 22 to 26 June. While individual Australian companies have participated in previous years, 2026 marks Australia's first official national-level participation.

Trindade noted that Australia's role as Guest Country of Honor reflects its commitment to working with partners to build more resilient, sustainable and efficient supply chains, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.—Xinhua

Brent crude to stay sticky near-term before softening in 2027

BRENT crude is likely to hold in a \$75-85/bbl band through the second half of 2026 as physical markets remain tight on pent-up demand and inventory replenishment, before shifting to a downside bias in 2027 when supply picks up sharply, ICICI Bank Research said in a research report.

ICICI Bank Research said 2026 is likely to stay supply-deficient, with a net shortfall of 1.6 million barrels per day keeping Brent crude in the \$75-85 range in the second half



Strong pent-up seasonal demand and active inventory replenishment are keeping physical oil supplies constrained. PHOTO: ANI

and averaging about \$85 for the year. The report expects 2027 to flip into a surplus of around two million barrels per day,

which could pull Brent down into the \$65-75 range with a weaker price bias.

The outlook is con-

tingent on no further geopolitical disruptions and global growth holding near three per cent in 2027.

The report said energy prices dropped sharply after the US and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding for a 60-day ceasefire. Brent touched a three-month low of \$79/bbl as the 14-point MoU included re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz with immediate effect, unfreezing of Iranian assets, and waivers to Iran to increase crude exports. — ANI

Afghan, Kazakh enterprises sign 25 MoUs

AFGHAN and Kazakhstani enterprises have signed 25 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in Kabul to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties, the Afghan Ministry of Industry and Commerce announced Saturday evening.

The agreements were inked during a joint business forum, which featured a comprehensive exhibition of products and industrial goods from both countries, accompanied by intensive

business-to-business meetings between private sector representatives.

Spanning key sectors of trade and investment, the MoUs place particular emphasis on expanding import and export activities. They cover collaboration in spices, fresh and dried fruits and vegetables, as well as the supply and exchange of essential commodities, including flour, wheat, edible oil, potatoes, and banking and financial services.—Xinhua

Intruder hit after entering bullet tracks

A person fatally struck by a bullet train in central Japan on Friday entered the tracks through a gap in the platform fencing at JR Hamamatsu Station, according to police.

In the incident on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line, which disrupted travel for about 140,000

people due to delays and cancellations, security camera footage showed the individual climbing down through a gap in the platform fencing and walking toward the out-bound tracks, the police said Saturday.

The person was struck there by a pass-

ing bullet train bound for Hakata in southwestern Japan after departing Tokyo, the footage and other sources showed.

Hamamatsu Station in Shizuoka Prefecture has no platform doors installed for safety.

Central Japan Railway Co said seven of

the Tokaido Shinkansen Line's 17 stations, including Tokyo, Nagoya and Shin-Osaka, are equipped with platform doors and that it is working to install them at the remaining stations. Staff patrol stations without the doors. — Kyodo

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML034)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MOON LIGHT VOY.NO. (ML034)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **22-6-2026** 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 THURIYA SANDAR WIN COMPANY LIMITED

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Israel-Hezbollah conflict top priority for US, Iran in Switzerland talks

That issue will be the first session when the US and Iranian delegations begin their negotiations.

NEGOTIATORS from the US and Iranian side have added an emergency session to address the conflict between Israel and the Lebanon-based group Hezbollah on the first day of peace talks in Switzerland, a diplomat attending the talks told CBS News.

That issue will be the first session when the US and Iranian delegations begin their negotiations.

There have been opposing narratives from both the Iran and US sides on the continued operations in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has claimed control over the waterway in response to what they claim are repeat-



Lebanese people drive vehicles loaded with mattresses as they return to Beirut after Israeli airstrikes targeted villages near Qasmiyeh Bridge in southern Lebanon, 19 June 2026. **PHOTO: CGTN**

ed ceasefire violations by Israel, as they continued to strike Lebanon. The US has denied such claims of Iranian control over the Strait,

with President Donald Trump threatening to impose US tolls in the shipping lane if a deal is not ultimately reached. US Vice-President

JD Vance departed for Switzerland earlier Saturday, while the Iranian delegation has already arrived in the country. — ANI

Trump asks Americans to vote for rebranding 'ICE' to 'NICE'

US President Donald Trump has floated the idea of renaming Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to "NICE", saying the change would be part of a public poll and could

help reshape perceptions of the agency amid ongoing debate over illegal immigration policies by his administration.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said he has long considered the idea

of rebranding the agency by adding an "N", which he said would stand for "National".

"POLL: ICE has been abused by the Fake News Media at levels never seen before. They are

Great Patriots who work hard, and do a fantastic job in a very hostile environment," Trump wrote, adding that much of the criticism is driven by Democrats and media outlets. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 killed in railway tunnel construction accident in Thailand

TWO people were killed and at least two others seriously injured when a heavy installation component fell onto them inside a railway tunnel under construction in northern Thailand on Saturday, local media reported on Sunday.

The accident occurred inside the 3.4-kilometre Doi Luang tunnel in Chiang Rai Province, part of the Den Chai-Chiang Rai-Chiang Khong railway line, when falling equipment resulted in the deaths of two workers and severe injuries to other workers, who were immediately transferred to the local hospital. — Xinhua

Stonehenge revellers ring in summer solstice

A large crowd partied through the night and into the morning, with special managed access to the Stonehenge stone circle extended until 8:30 am on Sunday as people celebrated the summer solstice.

"As the sun rose on the year's longest day, we welcomed more than 20,000 people to celebrate together, with thousands more joining via our livestream from across the world," English Heritage, which administers the Stonehenge site, said on Sunday. On 21 June the Earth's Northern Hemisphere is tilted furthest towards the sun, resulting in the longest day of the year. The reverse is the case in the Southern Hemisphere, which has its longest day on 21 December. — ANI

Spain: PM's wife must face corruption trial

BEGONA Gomez, the wife of Spain's prime minister, Pedro Sanchez, has been ordered to stand trial on corruption charges, a court order released on Saturday said.

Gomez is accused of using her position as the head of government's wife to secure work contracts.

The case is one of several graft cases facing the prime minister's centre-left minority government.

The court in Madrid agreed that there was sufficient evidence to bring Gomez's case to trial in front of a jury.

Investigating judge Juan Carlos Peinado told Gomez to surrender her passport, barred her from leaving the country and ordered her to report to court twice a month.

The court said "instructions shall be issued to all border posts and civilian and military airports" to ensure Gomez remains on home soil. — ANI



This image shows the Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker 50 Let Pobedy (50 Years of Victory). **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

Arctic cooperation impossible without Russia

THE Arctic Council should be restored to its original format, and Russia's participation is essential as it helps advance national interests and defend sovereign rights over Arctic territories and resources,

Irina Strelnikova, director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Arctic Studies at HSE University, told Sputnik. Russia's participation confirms its status as a key Arctic player and provides a legitimate platform to

protect its interests amid global instability and the shift toward multipolarity, Strelnikova said.

Strelnikova said the Arctic Council has been in crisis in recent years, becoming overly politicized

despite originally being created as an environmental cooperation forum. She argued that the structure should not be reformed or transformed, but preserved in its original form. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Olympic Day combat sports events held

MUAY, kickboxing and traditional Lethwei competitions marking the Olympic Day were held at Theinbyu Gymnasium in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon, yesterday. The events were organized by the Department of Sports and Physical Education and the respective sports federations.

In Muay competitions, Naing Aung Htoe defeated Banyar Ye; Tun Lin Aung beat Kaung Khant Kyaw;



Arkar Min and Lin Let Kyel fighting in a baut.

and Shin Htet overcame Ye Naing Tun, all on points.

In kickboxing, Saw Tha Mue defeated Aung Ko Ko Tun on points, Magyi

Pin knocked out Ponnya Pyan in the second round, and Arkar Bo won against Aung Ko Latt on points.

In the Myanmar Fight

traditional boxing contests, the bouts between Arkar Min and Lin Let Kyel, Myint Myat Maung and Sitt Hein, and Pho Khwar Si and Shwe Wun Yay all ended in draws after closely contested fights.

Prize presentations were made by officials from the Myanmar Muay Sports Federation, Myanmar Kickboxing Sports Federation and Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Sports Federation. — Bala/KZL

Fast start sees World Cup reach 100-goal milestone in record pace

THE World Cup reached a significant milestone on Saturday as Cody Gakpo scored the tournament's 100th goal in the Netherlands' 5-1 win over Sweden.

Gakpo's strike, the Netherlands' third of the match, brought up the century mark in the tournament's 33rd game, at an average of 3.03 goals per match.

It was the fastest the World Cup had reached 100 goals since the 1954 tournament in Switzerland, when the milestone was achieved after just 20 matches.

By comparison, it took 36 matches to reach 100 goals at Brazil 2014 and Spain 1982, while Argentina 1978 and the United States 1994 required 38 matches.

Several explanations have been put forward for the high scoring rate.

One is the official match ball, the Trionda, which some observers believe has made it more difficult for goalkeepers to judge long-range efforts, contributing to 10 goals scored from outside the penalty area.

Others have pointed to the impact of heat, with fatigue potentially leading to defensive lapses, while mandatory three-minute cooling breaks have given coaches additional opportunities to make tactical adjustments during matches.

The tournament's expansion to 48 teams has also been cited as a factor: Germany opened its campaign with a 7-1 victory over Curacao, Can-

ada beat Qatar 6-0, and Tunisia suffered heavy defeats to Sweden (5-1) and Japan (4-0).

However, other results suggest the expanded format has not simply produced a string of one-sided contests. Curacao held Ecuador to a goalless draw, Cabo Verde frustrated Spain in a 0-0 stalemate, and Qatar played much of its loss to Canada with nine men.

Elsewhere, perceived underdogs such as Jordan and Uzbekistan remained competitive despite 3-1 defeats to Austria and Colombia respectively, adding weight to the argument that the expanded format has so far produced a more entertaining and unpredictable World Cup. — Xinhua

Ueda hits brace as Japan thrash Tunisia in historic match

AYASE Ueda bagged a brace, with Daichi Kamada and Junya Ito joining him on the scoresheet, as Japan cruised past Tunisia 4-0 on Saturday in the 1,000th match in World Cup history.

Hajime Moriyasu's 18th-ranked Japan put in a convincing performance against world No. 45 Tunisia in front of 51,243 at Estadio Monterrey in Mexico as they moved up

to four points in Group F after two matches, taking a big step toward a place in the round of 32.

The Samurai Blue also ended their long second-match hoodoo at overseas World Cups, having not won a single game in their past six attempts, with their only previous victory at this stage of the tournament arriving in 2002 when they were co-hosts.



Ayase Ueda celebrates after scoring Japan's second goal in the first half of a World Cup Group F football match against Tunisia at Monterrey Stadium in Guadalupe, Mexico, on 20 June 2026. PHOTO: KYODO

"It was the thousandth World Cup match, a commemorative game watched by people around the world, and I'm glad we

managed to win it," said Moriyasu, who was facing a Tunisia side led by new manager Herve Renard for the first time. — Kyodo



This combination of file pictures created on 21 June 2026 shows England's forward Harry Kane (L) in Dallas on 17 June 2026 and Ghana's forward Antoine Semenyo (R) in Stuttgart on 30 March 2026. PHOTO: AFP

Ghana supporters hopeful ahead of World Cup clash with England

FOOTBALL fans in Ghana have urged the Black Stars to maintain their unbeaten record in second group matches at previous FIFA World Cups when they face England on Tuesday.

Supporters said Ghana could draw confidence from its strong record in second group games, having never lost such a match in its four previous World Cup appearances.

The West African nation beat the Czech Republic 2-0 in 2006 and South Korea 3-2 in 2022, and drew 1-1 with Australia in 2010 and 2-2 with Germany in 2014.

Henry Djangmah, a 50-year-old supporter, said history favours Ghana.

"My instinct tells me Ghana will either beat England or, at worst, draw with them because the team has never lost a second group game at a FIFA World Cup," he said.

Another fan, Christian Frimpong, said Ghana's opening 1-0 victory over Panama had renewed his optimism.

"Even though we don't have a star-studded side like England, I believe our boys are hungry for success, and that is what will make the difference against England," he said.

Ghana captain Jordan Ayew said the squad remained focused on the task ahead.

"We have two important games left. We approach each game individually," Ayew said.

"We are focused on securing the three points in the next match, and thereafter, we will think about the last match. It's always difficult playing at the World Cup. There are no easy games, but we believe in ourselves, and we feel that anything is possible. The next game is equally important, and we are ready for it."

Ghana and England last met in an international friendly at Wembley in March 2011, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

A victory for Ghana on Tuesday would move the Black Stars closer to qualification for the knockout stage, while avoiding defeat would extend their unbeaten record in second matches at the World Cup. — Xinhua



Iran military says Strait of Hormuz closed again, cites deal violations

Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz again, saying the United States broke the ceasefire deal and Israel kept violating the truce in southern Lebanon.



A fishing boat sits anchored off Muscat, Oman, near the Strait of Hormuz, on 20 June 2026.
PHOTO: KYODO

IRAN'S military authorities said Saturday that the Strait of Hormuz has been closed again, citing alleged US and Israeli violations of a

memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington aimed toward ending the war.

The closure was in response to "the explicit

breach of the first clause of the postwar memorandum of understanding by the United States" and Israel's "continuous and ongoing violations of the ceasefire in

southern Lebanon", Iran's central military command said in a statement, according to state media.

The tentative 14-point agreement states in its opening paragraph that the United States, Iran and their allies declare "the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon".

US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the memorandum on Wednesday with a 60-day window to negotiate a final peace deal. Their monthslong war led to the closure of the strait, disrupting global energy supplies. — Kyodo

Pakistani PM, army chief arrive in Switzerland for US-Iran talks

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir arrived at Switzerland's Burgenstock Resort on Sunday for high-level talks on the implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the country's state television reported.

The Pakistani delegation is expected to hold separate bilateral meetings with the US, Iranian and Qatari delegations on the sidelines of the diplomatic engagements, the report said.

Technical-level negotiations are expected to begin shortly and could continue into Monday, with no formal deadline announced for the discussions, according to the report.

The talks will continue for as long as necessary to advance the implementation process and address outstanding issues, the report added.

The talks follow the recently signed MoU between the United States and Iran. — Xinhua

New AI museum opens in LA, reimagining future of art

STEPPING into DATALAND, a new AI art museum in downtown Los Angeles, visitors are immersed in a world of shifting light, sound and data, where the boundary between observer and artwork begins to blur.

Described as the world's first museum of AI arts and digital ecosystem, the museum opened to the public on Saturday, offering an immersive experience that blends machine intelligence, data and artistic expression.

Located in downtown LA's cultural district, DATALAND spans about 2,300 square metres and features five galleries. It was founded by media artists Refik Anadol and cultural researcher Efsun Erkilic.

Inside, visitors are more than observers — they become participants in the artwork. Upon entry, they are given wearable sensors and guided into an environment where visual, auditory and sensory elements shift continuously in response to data streams and human presence.

The museum's inaugural exhibition, "Machine Dreams: Rainforest", explores the relationship between AI and the natural world through immersive visuals, soundscapes, scent and interactive technologies.

The exhibition is powered by the Large Nature Model, an AI system developed by Refik Anadol Studio and trained on ecological datasets obtained through partnerships with scientific and cultural institutions, as well as data collected firsthand from 16 rainforest environments around the world. — Xinhua

Stable fuel prices may boost scooter, premium bike, and car sales

DEMAND for scooters, premium motorcycles and entry-level cars could recover faster if fuel prices remain stable, according to a Goldman Sachs automobiles sector report, which analysed how Indian vehicle demand behaved during past fuel-price inflation cycles.

The report said its analysis of the last six fuel-price inflation episodes over the past decade showed that consumer demand tends to return more quickly in certain vehicle categories once fuel-price pressures ease.

"Based on volume growth and local petrol/diesel price data from the last six fuel price inflation episodes (five per cent to 10 per cent inflation periods) over the past 10 years, we note that once

fuel price hikes subsided, demand came back fastest in Scooters, Premium Motorcycles, Entry Level cars and Premium hatchbacks," Goldman Sachs said in the report.

Commercial vehicle demand has historically taken longer to recover following periods of fuel-price inflation

Goldman Sachs also highlighted weather-related risks for the sector, noting that the southwest monsoon has started on a weak footing this year."As of 17 June 2026 the southwest monsoon, in its first 17 days (out of a usual 110 day annual cycle), has been c38 per cent below normal levels across the country," the report said.

According to the brokerage, a below-normal start to the monsoon



Commercial vehicle demand has historically taken longer to recover following periods of fuel-price inflation.
PHOTO: ANI

could pose risks to rural demand-linked automobile categories in the second half of FY27. "This could put some downside risk on rural exposed categories like tractor demand and entry-level motorcycles as we head into the second half of FY27E," the report noted.

The report also flagged cost pressures facing auto-

mobile manufacturers. It said metal prices are likely to weigh on margins in the June quarter despite price increases undertaken by vehicle makers. "Our analysis also indicates the metal price inflation impact on Gross Margin in 1QFY27E is likely to be in the range of 180bps to 220bps," Goldman Sachs said. — ANI