

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar to Chair BIMSTEC Secretariat Next Year



BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr Indra Mani Pandey pays a courtesy call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing.

BIMSTEC fosters strong regional cooperation among member states while strictly adhering to a policy of non-interference in internal political affairs.

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC, at the Pres-

idential Palace Reception Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the President stated that the establishment of BIMSTEC will turn 30 in coming year

with the good objectives and it has achieved successful records in its efforts. The BIMSTEC is an organization in which member countries have good cooperation without political interference in

each other's internal affairs. Myanmar has made every effort to ensure that a free and fair multiparty democratic general election was held successfully.

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OPINION

Grow trees to mitigate impacts of climate change

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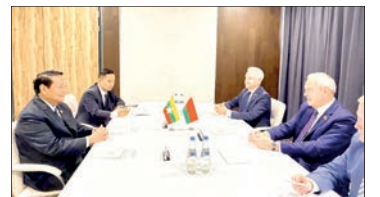
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Myawady reopening facilitates Thai-Myanmar border trade boom

THE reopening of the Myawady border checkpoint is expected to significantly boost bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand, according to Myanmar's commercial attaché in Bangkok. This development is set to re-energize economic activity at the border.

According to Thai-

land's Department of Foreign Trade (DFT), Myanmar reopened the Myawady border checkpoint on 28 May. This checkpoint is located opposite the Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge II in Mae Sot, Tak Province. The border had been closed since August of last year, and this reopening

aims to facilitate the recovery of bilateral trade.

This is a major gateway to Myanmar's main economic zones. The reopening will allow Thai entrepreneurs to resume increased exports of high-demand consumer goods, construction materials, electrical appliances,

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Dala Bridge Crossing Hours Extended to Midnight



Vehicles crossing the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala).

THE operating hours for the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge (Dala) have been extended from the original 10 pm to midnight, according to Dr Myo Thaw, Yangon Region's Minister for Electricity, Energy, Industry, and Transport.

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Indian Embassy organizes International Day of Yoga



The 12th International Day of Yoga celebration is currently taking place.

A ceremony to mark the 12th International Day of Yoga was held on 21 June at the Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

Yoga practices can provide various health benefits, so the public should engage in them, stated the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Shri

Abhay Thakur.

During the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Aung Naing Thu and the Indian Ambassador gave opening speeches.

The ambassador emphasized the benefits of practising yoga regularly, noting that it can help people lead healthier and fitter lives. With guidance from a yoga instructor, the attendees engaged in basic yoga poses, breathing techniques, stretching, and stress-relieving exercises for approximately 40 minutes. — TWA/ZS

Mahamuni Buddha Image launches 24-hour YouTube livestream

TO allow the public to pay homage to the Mandalay Mahamuni Buddha Image online, the pagoda trustee board provides daily 24-hour live streaming on its YouTube channel.

Buddhist devotees in Myanmar and worldwide can worship the pagoda from various perspectives at <https://youtube.com/@mahamunipagoda?si=8iqc8ZSDLJBICYyZ>.

The number of pilgrims visiting the Mahamuni Buddha Image has increased again since the



The Mandalay Mahamuni Buddha Image.

earthquake, according to local residents.

Maintenance and repair work for earthquake damage is ongoing and is supported by public donations from various regions and states. Buddhist dev-

otees in Myanmar and around the world can now worship at the pagoda from different perspectives by visiting <https://youtube.com/@mahamunipagoda?si=8iqc8ZSDLJBICYyZ>. — MT/ZS

YUOE, Chinese Embassy launch joint exhibition celebrating intangible cultural heritage

YANGON University of Education (YUOE) and the Chinese Embassy jointly held a cultural exhibition on 19 June at the YUOE Learning Hub to introduce students to the intangible

cultural heritage of both nations.

The event featured traditional Bagan and Chinese dances performed by YUOE and Yangon University of Foreign Languages

students. It was attended by university officials, teachers, students, and representatives from the Myanmar Anhui Chamber of Commerce and the China-Myanmar Cooperation



Myanmar's Bagan-era dance performance of Yangon University of Education.

Economic Development Association.

YUOE Rector Dr Kay Thwe Hlaing noted that the exhibition highlights the cultural similarities

and differences between the two close neighbours. She emphasized that the experience equips YUOE students – the country's future senior basic educa-

tion teachers – with vital knowledge to promote international friendship and cultural preservation in their own future classrooms. — Bala/MKKS

Yangon marks anti-drug day with 14th Extempore Talk Contest

THE 14th Extempore Talk Contest commemorating the 2026 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held on 21 June at the Kyaukse Dhammayon in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

The contest was organized by the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (Central). It included English and Myanmar extempore talk competitions for both high school and middle school levels, with over 100 students participating across these categories.

First-, second-, and third-place winners in the competition were awarded K300,000, K200,000, and K100,000, respectively. The first-place winners will go on to compete in the central-level extempore talk contest. — ASH/MKKS

Capital upgrade: Nay Pyi Taw parks set for major green and safety transformation



U Kan Myint Than, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, and mayor, inspects the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden and Mingala Theikdhi Park on 18 June.

ACCORDING to the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, upgrading works at the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain

Garden and greening projects at the Mingala Theikdhi Park are currently underway.

During an inspection

tour, U Kan Myint Than – Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, and mayor – stated that, as the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain Garden is located in the heart of the city and serves as an iconic landmark, upgrading works must be carried out using modern techniques to meet high quality standards. He also emphasized the need to ensure the long-term sustainability of completed structures, maintain water cleanliness within the park, and keep the gardens lush

and beautiful. Furthermore, he highlighted that utmost priority must be given to the safety of local and foreign tourists, civil servants, and members of the public who come to relax.

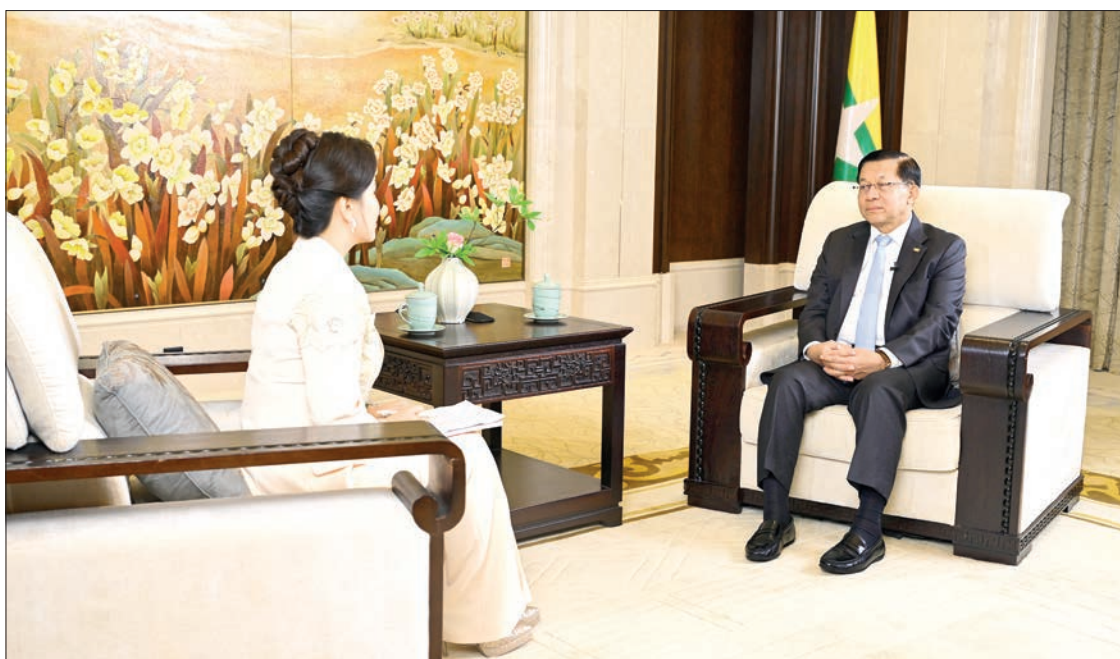
Following this, the Naypyitaw Council Chairman and party proceeded to inspect the Mingala Theikdhi Park in Zabuthiri Township. During the visit, the mayor instructed officials to take proper care to ensure the park remains permanently beautiful and pleasant, given that it is a recreational space for the general public. — TWA/KNN

NATIONAL

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing grants interview to Phoenix

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing paid a State Visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of President Mr Xi Jinping of China. During his State visit, the Myanmar President responded to the questions raised by Ms Liu Meixi of Phoenix TV from Phoenix News Agency on 19 June. The full text of the translated replies of the President is as follows:

Interviewer: First of all, I would like to thank Your Excellency for giving me the opportunity to interview you here in the beautiful city of Hangzhou. I have studied your speeches, remarks, and responses in various international media. My first question is that, regarding what has been said in the media, Your Excellency is described as someone who is deeply devoted to the country and a political figure who prioritizes doing what is best for the nation both in



Phoenix TV correspondent Ms Liu Meixi interviews Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing.

the present and in the future. How do you view this characterization?

President U Min Aung Hlaing: A leader – no matter who the leader is or at what level – if a leader has the mindset of how to improve the work

or department under their responsibility, then those work areas or departments will always progress. It is about cultivating a constructive attitude and a positive mindset. I apply this exact approach myself, having always worked to improve the

performance and culture of every department I have served in. From the lowest level up to senior responsibilities, I have always worked in this way.

In my current role managing state affairs, my focus remains entirely on driving na-

tional progress. We continuously evaluate the long-term impact of potential policies to ensure strategic, effective implementation. In doing so, one must have a firm determination. One cannot simply go along with whatever others say without clear judgment. It is necessary to know exactly what one wants to do, and that intention must also be correct. If it is not correct, it will not bring benefits and may instead lead to problems. Looking at various sectors where issues are occurring, I see the same pattern. That is what I would like to express — that I work with such a sincere and committed mindset.

Interviewer: I am satisfied with Your Excellency's response to the question just now. I visited Myanmar in 2023. Myanmar is rich in natural resources and has great potential for development across various sectors.

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Myanmar to Chair BIMSTEC Secretariat Next Year

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The BIMSTEC Secretary-General discussed the prospects of Myanmar and its people to achieve socioeconomic development, peace and stability of the nation under the leadership of the President-led government, the active cooperation of Myanmar with BIMSTEC member states, the plans of BIMSTEC to host meetings and other activities in the near future and to continuously enhance cooperate with Myanmar.

They cordially exchanged views on the full cooperation of Myanmar in BIMSTEC, and needs to participate in development of landlocked Nepal

and Bhutan. Myanmar will serve responsibilities of the BIMSTEC Secretary-General in coming year with utmost efforts. They also discussed the further promotion of relations between BIMSTEC states and peoples.

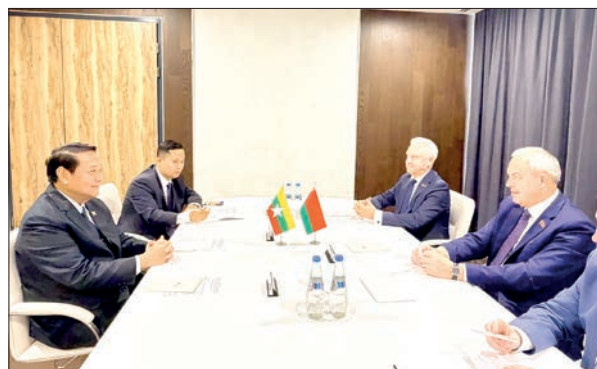
After the meeting, the President and the BIMSTEC Secretary-General exchanged commemorative gifts.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister at the President's Office U Khin Maung Yi, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Tin Maung Swe and officials. The BIMSTEC Secretary-General was accompanied by officials. — MNA/TTA

Hluttaw Speaker addresses 2nd Intl Forum of Union State “Great Heritage – Common Future”

THE Myanmar delegation, led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi, attended the 2nd International Forum of the Union State titled “Great Heritage – Common Future” in Brest, Belarus, yesterday. They were joined by Hluttaw Speakers from 17 countries and other high-level representatives. During the forum, Speaker U Khin Yi delivered a speech.

On the morning of yesterday, the Myanmar delegation attended the



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi holds talks to strengthen inter-parliamentary and sector-wise cooperation.

occasion of the Day of National Remembrance of Victims of the Great Patriotic War and the Genocide

of the Belarusian People at the Brest Hero Fortress Memorial Complex. Over 15,000 participants, in-

cluding representatives from 17 countries, joined the event.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker met Mr Igor Sergeyenko, Belarusian Lower House Speaker and Mr Vyacheslav Volodin, State Duma Chairman of the Russian Federation, separately on the same day, and they exchanged views on sector-wise cooperation among parliaments respecting the laws of the respective countries. — MNA/KTZH

Daily newspapers available online

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Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing grants interview ...

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Among these potentials, I would like to know – in 2026, in which areas or sectors does Your Excellency plan to focus to improve the livelihoods of the people and promote the development of their lives, homes, and economic well-being?

President: We possess two types of natural resources and products, along with a valuable human resource. It's essential for us to strategically utilize these three components. My policy emphasizes that I do not favour selling our natural resources or products merely in their raw form. Instead, we should focus on upgrading them, adding value, and fostering further development. In other words, it is about expanding industries and creating more employment opportunities. We have agricultural products, and we also have mineral resources, both above-ground and underground natural resources.

In the agricultural sector mentioned earlier, we need to support agricultural production.

To achieve this, we must promote micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). If this can be done, it will create many job opportunities for the grassroots population. Another point is that we must also advance in technology – we have no choice but to move forward. In today's era, we cannot be left behind. We need to develop technology-based sectors. For example, agriculture should be technology-driven, livestock farming should also be technology-driven, and industry should likewise be based on technology. This is the direction we must take. If we provide such support, people will have more job opportunities and higher incomes. As their income increases, their wealth and overall socioeconomic conditions will improve, and as a result, the country will also progress. This is the direction I am aiming for.

Interviewer: Thank you for Your Excellency's remarks, in which you stated that agricultural production will be increased in order to improve

the livelihoods of the people. My follow-up question concerns the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor. In 2026, marking 76 years of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations, how will the products you mentioned earlier be promoted and developed through this economic corridor, and what role will it play in this process?

President: We have a long historical relationship. It is the 76 years of diplomatic relations, but in fact our interactions go back many years. We have engaged in trade and commerce since earlier times, and we need to make use of that foundation. The agricultural products, livestock products, and natural resource-based products mentioned earlier should be processed into finished goods in Myanmar and then exported to China. China is a very large market. Your country has a population of over 1.4 billion people, which represents a huge market for us. We need to make effective use of this opportunity.

Selling of goods also must

be essential for users. We need to be able to produce the goods that are in demand. We must be able to produce what you need and sell it to you, and we have to make this a reality. During this visit, the aim is to promote bilateral trade and encourage investment from China in Myanmar. It may also involve producing goods in Myanmar through such investments and then exporting them back to China, or to other countries, or selling them within Myanmar itself. This is the direction we should move toward.

If we do this, the economic corridor will function effectively. We can say it will be successful. However, the route must be smooth; it must be secure and efficient. We must create conditions to ensure that security and smoothness. We need to improve railways and roads, and we must facilitate bilateral trade as well as cross-border trade. Since this is the era of technology, we must also use technology to ensure that interactions and exchanges are secure and robust. It is not just

about ordinary buying and selling. There are many aspects that must be addressed from multiple sectors. It is quite broad in scope. We are working with the objective of making it strong and sustainable.

Interviewer: Thank you. Your Excellency has mentioned that efforts will be made to promote trade and business investment with China. In this regard, my question is: in order to encourage Chinese businesspeople to invest more deeply in Myanmar, what kind of favourable or supportive policies will the Myanmar government introduce for Chinese investors, and how will it raise awareness of the Myanmar market? In addition, regarding access to international and ASEAN markets, what kinds of policies is Myanmar considering in terms of its level of participation and integration in these markets?

President: China is Myanmar's largest trading partner. In terms of investment in Myanmar, China is also the largest investor.

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MoFA Union Minister receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Tin Maung Swe received Mr Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

Both sides exchanged views on cooperation sectors under BIMSTEC Framework especially on Myanmar's active cooperation in areas of agriculture and food security, regional security, counter-terrorism, and connectivity. Furthermore, they also discussed the importance of adhering to the fundamental principles of BIMSTEC in its



Union Minister U Tin Maung Swe meets the BIMSTEC Secretary-General.

relations with external partners, organizing the commemorative events and activities to mark the 30th Anniversary of BIMSTEC, which will fall on 6 June 2027, and ways to further enhance cooperation between Myanmar

and BIMSTEC.

The visit marks the Secretary-General's second official visit to Myanmar. He previously paid an introductory visit to the country in July 2024 in connection with the 4th Meeting of the BIMSTEC

National Security Chiefs (4th BNSCs).

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was established in 1997 and comprises seven Member States, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The main aim of BIMSTEC is to promote economic cooperation among the Member States of the Bay of Bengal region. Out of the seven existing Sectors of BIMSTEC Cooperation, Myanmar is serving as the Lead Country for BIMSTEC "Agriculture and Food Security Sector". — MNA

Indian Ambassador calls on MNPIFER Union Minister



Union Minister U Aung Kyaw Hoe receives the Indian ambassador.

UNION Minister for National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Aung Kyaw Hoe received Mr Abhay Thakur, Ambassador of India to Myanmar at the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

They frankly exchanged views on enhanc-

ing economic and investment relations between Myanmar and India, human resources development and projects being implemented with Indian assistances.

Senior officials from the Ministry of National Planning, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Indian Embassy officials also attended the meeting. — MNA

NATIONAL

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing grants interview ...

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China is the biggest country both in terms of trade and investment for us, and we intend to further expand this cooperation. Just as your country has a huge market, behind us there is India, which has a population of over 1.4 billion and is the most populous country in the world. Then there is Bangladesh with around 160 million people, and Thailand with over 70 million people. There are also ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore, and further east, Cambodia and Laos. If Chinese businesses invest in Myanmar, there is an investment law in place. Internationally, the US dollar is commonly used, but in Myanmar, the yuan is also legally permitted for investment purposes. There are no visa restrictions imposed on incoming investors; everything is facilitated. One-Stop Service centres have been established to avoid difficulties. All necessary legal protections are also provided. This has already been agreed upon by both countries.

By investing in our country, the products that are produced can be exported either to Western markets or to ASEAN markets. To the west, there are India and Bangladesh, and there are also many sea routes that can be used. We will facilitate this in the best possible way, and legal protections are in place as well. However, special or separate protection cannot be given in a discriminatory manner. The law cannot provide preferential protection to a single group or organization; equal rights must be ensured for all. We are dealing with multiple countries in our relations. Therefore, I believe that if we proceed in this way, it

will be successful and will also benefit China.

One point I missed earlier is that, for border trade payments, transactions in yuan and kyat are permitted. Chinese traders can pay in yuan when purchasing goods from Myanmar. Agreements have already been reached between the banks, and this has been officially approved. This was first permitted during my administration.

Interviewer: Yes, this is also an area of interest for me. We are also interested in the fact that direct investment in yuan has been permitted. In this regard, Your Excellency, how do you assess the potential increase in Myanmar's GDP as a result of investment conducted in yuan?

President: GDP depends on three main sectors: the agricultural, industrial, and service sectors. However, when one initiative is implemented, it also brings about a chain of indirect effects. Our country's GDP is still low. Even at the provincial level in China, the GDP can be higher than that of our entire country. We aim to develop further than this. We are working through investment, and we also need to expand production ourselves. Only by expanding production can GDP increase. With investment, production across various sectors will increase, and job opportunities will expand. Alongside this, the service sector will also grow. Since this is a cumulative process, it is difficult to estimate precisely. However, I think it could roughly double. We expect that the current expansion of investment cooperation with China could lead to GDP increasing by about two times. This is because we have

opportunities for development – we simply need to implement them. To do so, we must work together in cooperation. That is why I am placing strong emphasis on this effort.

Interviewer: As I have seen in news reports, during Your Excellency's visit to China, you visited various factories and industrial sectors. For example, you visited exhibitions related to aerospace and different industrial facilities. Based on China's technological development, in which sectors would you like to enhance cooperation with Myanmar, and in which areas do you intend or wish to further strengthen collaboration?

President: China's high level of technological development covers a very wide range of fields. There is IT and aerospace, industrial development, as well as sectors related to culture and transport, among others. If we are to cooperate, it should be across multiple sectors. We also need to work on creating the right conditions for such cooperation to take place. We need to be able to keep up with China's advanced technologies. China's technological progress is also very rapid. Technologies are constantly changing and evolving in real time.

For example, when I visited China in 2024, I observed some industries. When I visited there in 2025, I observed certain industries again. And when I came to China in 2026, I also looked at some industries. The situation in 2024 and 2025 has already changed significantly. However, we still have a lot of work to do just to reach the level of development seen in 2024. Our people also need preparation.

For this preparation, cooperation with China is also necessary. Technology development must be carried out across all sectors. It is very broad in scope. Therefore, we aim and plan to pursue comprehensive, multi-sector cooperation.

Interviewer: Thank you. Your Excellency has just mentioned that border trade routes must be made secure, smooth, and convenient, and that only then can the two countries develop. In connection with this, my question is: what policies does Your Excellency have regarding border area management for the development of border regions? And in terms of security, what kind of guarantees or arrangements will be made for Chinese investors and businesses operating in Myanmar's border areas?

President: To speak frankly, at present the security and stability of the border areas is still weak. This is an issue that both governments need to coordinate and work together on. Border area management is solely the responsibility of the government. Only the government can carry it out; no other organization is allowed to intervene. Not only border area administration, but also border trade and cross-border trade between the two countries must be handled by the government. We must work to make this possible. We also need to strive to resolve the existing issues in accordance with the law.

Regarding the security of Chinese investors' investments, we are making significant efforts. It is true that there have been difficulties, and we have had to overcome quite a number of them. At present, the situation is relatively better, and politi-

cal adjustments have also been made. Some of the issues are political in nature, while others arise from ethnic affairs. These matters must be resolved in accordance with the law through the parliament. The necessary security protections are provided by the relevant organizations. While it may not be possible to provide individual-level protection, security related to institutions and businesses is being ensured by the relevant authorities. Effective action is also being taken in this regard. Among the current issues, there are online gambling problems in the border areas, and these are being cracked down on. There are also joint operations between China and Myanmar to suppress such activities. Those who have committed offenses have already been handed over to China. We must ensure that those who intend to violate the law are discouraged from coming and prevented from operating. This requires action from both sides; one side alone cannot handle it. This applies to cross-border issues. Internal security is our responsibility, and we are working on it. In addition, we have also allowed the establishment of joint coordination mechanisms related to China's security concerns. In this way, we are ensuring both investment security and the safety of individuals.

Interviewer: Yes, I would like to express my sincere thanks for having the opportunity to ask Your Excellency these questions. We believe that under Your Excellency's leadership, Myanmar's economic activities will continue to develop and grow.

President: OK, Alright.

New regulatory steps outlined for online and TV broadcasters

THE Broadcasting Governing Body (BGB) held its first coordination meeting of 2026 at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Union Minister for Information U Htein Linn emphasized that private television broadcasters

with online media permits must adhere to existing laws, contractual agreements, official directives, and the code of conduct. He emphasized that unauthorized online broadcasters must be registered and scrutinized, adding that legal measures are being

prepared to issue further necessary directives.

Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, who chairs the BGB, explained measures to ensure error-free television broadcasts, followed by updates on broadcasting operations from the Permanent Secretary and the

Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television. The meeting concluded after discussions on finance, management, and technical issues, alongside presentations from private broadcasting and FM radio officials. — MNA/MKKS



Union Minister U Htein Linn addresses the first coordination meeting of the Broadcasting Governing Body (BGB) yesterday.

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives raise transport, motorcycle registration and healthcare issues

THE 12th day of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 June, with Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn presiding.

During the session, Hluttaw representatives raised questions on public transport services, the registration of unlicensed motorcycles, riverbank erosion control and healthcare services.

Dr Aung Gyi from Kyaiklat Constituency asked whether affordable public bus services would be introduced in Nay Pyi Taw. Deputy Minister for

Transport U Aung Myaing replied that several operators were already running routes in the capital, while an EV bus service was being planned.

U Ye Htut Aung from Minhla Constituency and U Saw Hay Thar Gyi from Thantaunggyi Constituency asked whether unlicensed motorcycles could be legally registered. The deputy minister said registration could not be granted because such vehicles lacked the documents required under existing laws.

U Hla Swe from Pobathiri Constituency raised concerns about riverbank



The 12th-day meeting of the Second Regular Session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

erosion in villages in Tatkon Township. Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing said funding had not yet been

allocated for protection projects, but proposals would be resubmitted in the next fiscal year, with technical

assistance to be provided.

On healthcare matters, U Win Swe from Kayan Constituency asked

about shortages of doctors and nurses in local hospitals. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Aye Tun said staffing levels were being strengthened and six newly recruited nurses would be assigned to the township this month.

U Sai Seng Sein from Tangyan Constituency asked whether Tangyan Township Hospital could be upgraded from 25 to 50 beds. Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun said there were currently no plans to do so because patient occupancy rates had not yet met the required level.

SEE PAGE 7

Tatmadaw families launch monsoon drive with historic planting of over 230,000 saplings

TATMADAW grows trees to prevent the ecosystem annually as part of carrying out environmental conservation, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Ye Win Oo at the first monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2026 of families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air).

The ceremony took place near Yezin Dam in Zeyathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, and the General grew a teak sapling on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said that trees are being grown with the noble objectives of con-



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief General Ye Win Oo attends the first monsoon tree-planting ceremony of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) Office family members.

serving the environment, contributing to climate support, providing shade, and making a contribution to the national economy in one way or another.

He continued that military command areas, regiments and units also

hold tree-growing ceremonies while families of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) have held the similar ceremonies 44 times from 2011 to the third ceremony in 2025. They also planted 208,425

saplings. This year's first ceremony will cover 2,400 saplings of teak, ironwood, mahogany and gum-kino.

He stressed the need to maintain the survival and growth of trees and forests in the areas where planting has already been

carried out, depending on the cultivated locations. Only then will all the trees plant each year survive and thrive, thereby making a meaningful contribution to environmental conservation.

The General and his wife planted a teak sapling while attendees at the ceremony participated in the tree-growing activities. The General and party viewed round the participation of Tatmadaw members and families in the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were Daw Nila, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Kyaw Swa Lin and his wife Daw Nang Kue Ku, Union ministers and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Htein Win and his wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tun Win and his wife, senior Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and their wives, and officials.

At the same time, relevant military commands held the tree-growing ceremonies to plant various species of saplings. Yesterday, the whole Tatmadaw planted 235,674 saplings. — MNA/TTA

Myawady reopening facilitates Thai-Myanmar border trade boom

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vehicles and spare parts, and other industrial products to Myanmar, DFT Director-General Ms Arada Fuangtong said.

The reopening will enhance cargo transport efficiency and is anticipated to lower transport and logistics costs. Thai busi-

nesses wishing to import goods into Myanmar must have adequate export earnings to obtain import licence approval.

Consequently, licence application processes might take longer than before. Myanmar's foreign exchange management policies and the private sector's

purchasing power will be key factors in shaping the border trade in the second half of this year.

Currently, Thai-Myanmar border trade from January to April has decreased by 14.4 per cent compared to the same period last year. The Mae Sot border experienced a significant decline

in trade, dropping by 39.8 per cent compared to last year.

The Thai Ministry of Defence has designated Mae Sot as a Controlled Area to prevent and combat cross-border telecom fraud and online scams. The Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) is collaborating with rel-

evant government agencies to streamline procedures for Thai merchants and entrepreneurs. This initiative aims to facilitate trade at the border by reducing obstacles and ensuring the sustainable recovery of Myanmar-Thai cross-border trade in the long term. — NN/KK

NATIONAL

Amyotha Hluttaw continues day-9 meeting

A total of 206 out of 209 Hluttaw representatives attended the ninth-day meeting of the second regular session of the third Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Han Win Aung responded to the queries raised by U Aung Hla Htwe from the Magway Region Constituency 1, saying that to expand the adoption of technology, separate technology-related divisions have been established within the Internal Revenue Department and the Customs Department. The Internal Revenue Department has implemented mobile payment services to enable taxpayers to pay taxes. The Customs Department has also implemented the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) and made arrangements to enable the payment of customs duties and other taxes through Internet Banking



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

and Mobile Banking.

He added that to increase tax revenue collection, new taxpayers are being identified by cross-checking business lists from the General Administration Department and the relevant township management and administration committees in regions and states with the lists of companies registered with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. In addition, tax service offices and

electronic service technologies requesting permission to expand the village area to improve living conditions. It will be implemented in accordance with the law, rules, regulations, and established procedures.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Min Thu replied to questions submitted by U Khin Maung Win from the Magway Region Constituency 1, stating that as the population in villages within Kyaukse Township has increased, residents have applied to the relevant author-

ities requesting permission to expand the village area to improve living conditions. It will be implemented in accordance with the law, rules, regulations, and established procedures.

Regarding the questions sent by U Khin Maung Tint from the Yangon Region Constituency 3, the deputy minister said that the seven villages that wish to be converted from forest land into village land are not included in the list of villages officially announced

by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Among these seven villages in Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region, except for Leiklot Village (now Myainghaywun Village), for which the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has not been able to de-gazette from reserved forest land, the remaining six villages must be processed in accordance with Section 54 of the Constitution in order to be converted from reserved forest land into village land.

Deputy Minister for Cooperatives and Rural Development U Thaik Soe responded to the question raised by U Shar Mwe Lashen from the Shan State Constituency 11. He said that the plan to upgrade the suspension bridge to an RC bridge in Shaykhin Village of Mongyawng Township will be earmarked for the 2027-28 financial year, subject to the fund allocation.

He answered the

question raised by U Sein Shwe Min from the Magway Region Constituency 4. He said that the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development will prioritize the construction of a 2.2-mile-long production road in Kaingtawgyi Village of Minbu Township by carrying out preliminary engineering tasks, and the road will be earmarked for the next financial year.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe requested approval for the following: the replacement of a member on the International Relations Committee, the establishment of the Minerals, Natural Resources, and Environmental Conservation Committee, the Construction, Industry, Electricity, and Energy Committee, and the Hotels, Tourism, and Culture Committee.

The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue the 10th-day meeting on 25 June. — MNA/TTA

Dala Bridge Crossing Hours ...

FROM PAGE 1

He announced his decision during the parliamentary session on 22 June, in response to a question from Daw Swe Swe Win, a Hluttaw member representing Dala Township Constituency 1. She enquired about plans to extend the bridge's operational hours to address health emergencies and social issues.

“Regarding the security of Yangon-Dala Korea Friendship Bridge, we are working systematically with local

security forces. Therefore, I would like to convey through the Speaker of the Hluttaw that we are granting the extension of crossing hours until 12:00 midnight to facilitate better travel for the public,” said the minister.

This extension of operating hours is expected to significantly improve convenience for residents in Dala, Twantay, and surrounding areas, particularly for economic, social, and urgent medical needs. — TWA/ZN

YR AG inspects legal training for over 1,300 local administrators

YANGON Region Advocate-General Daw Phyu Mar Wai, along with law officers, inspected training-of-trainers (TOT) legal courses across 14 districts yesterday morning.

Daw Phyu Mar Wai visited training centres in Ahlon, Kamayut, Mayangon, Botahtaung, and Kyauktada districts. During her visits, she evaluated the trainees' understanding of the cur-



The Yangon Region Advocate-General and officials, inspect TOT legal courses yesterday. PHOTO: KO LWIN

riculum, which is being taught three times dai-

ly from June 22 to 26 to 1,364 General Adminis-

tration Department staff and ward/village administrators.

The curriculum covers essential legal topics, including the Constitution, the Ward or Village-tract Administration Law, the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and various public safety, municipal, and civil service regulations. — Oktha/MKKS

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives ...

FROM PAGE 6

U Khin Maung Tun from Phaungpyin Constituency sought additional medical personnel for Phaungpyin Hospital. The deputy minister

said a dentist would be assigned this year, while further nursing and specialist staff would be deployed as needed.

U Htun Htun Naing from Singaing Con-

stituency asked about establishing a station hospital in Shwe Hlan Bo (Kanauk) Village. Deputy Minister Dr Aye Tun said the proposal could not be approved at present be-

cause it did not meet the required criteria.

The session was adjourned and will resume on 23 June. — MNA/ST

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OPINION

Grow trees to mitigate impacts of climate change

MYANMAR possesses abundant forests, rivers, streams, lakes, biodiversity, and natural resources. Its diverse ecosystems, forests, biodiversity, and natural wealth provide a strong foundation for the country's food production capacity, the development of green economic activities, environmental sustainability, and climate balance.

Forests continuously provide essential ecosystem services such as climate regulation, food security, disaster risk prevention, and the conservation of water and soil resources. They also supply forest

products and various environmental services. Since forests are central to natural ecosystems, they must be systematically cultivated, maintained, and managed to ensure long-term sustainability.

Myanmar is the second largest in terms of forest cover among ASEAN member states. Myanmar's forest cover was 42.19 per cent of the country's total land area, and in 2025 it was recorded at 42.15 per cent. In order to leave behind a stable and healthy ecological environment for present and future generations, it is necessary to set a target of increasing forest cover to 50 per cent of the country's total land area and to make concerted efforts towards achieving this goal.

According to the 2026 Climate Risk Index of certain international climate monitoring organizations, Myanmar is among the 10 countries most affected by climate change. Climate change will lead to increasingly severe and intense secondary natural disasters. The central dry zone of Myanmar has been identified as one of the areas with some of the highest temperatures in the world, reaching 44.9° Celsius in 2026. Similarly, 12 major cities in the dry zone have been recorded with temperatures of 41° Celsius and above.

In particular, it is forecast that by the end of this year, a very strong Super El Niño may develop, and it is further predicted that 2026 and 2027 could become among the hottest years in recorded global history. Among the various approaches to addressing the climate change and environmental challenges facing the world, tree planting and forest conservation are considered the simplest, easiest, most cost-effective, and universally achievable measures. At the same time, they are environmentally friendly and among the most beneficial actions that can be undertaken.

Efforts should be made to promote environmental conservation and nature-based economic development models such as the Bio-economy, Green Economy, and Circular Economy. As forests help regulate the climate and preserve a wide range of natural resources, they serve as a fundamental pillar for economic development. In order to increase forest cover across the country, forest conservation activities should be jointly carried out as a national responsibility.

Myanmar's El Niño Threat: Climate and Health Risks

GLOBAL climate monitoring agencies warn that late 2026 to 2027 could bring a Strong El Niño or even a Super El Niño, a phenomenon that threatens to reshape weather patterns worldwide. For Myanmar, a country heavily dependent on monsoon rains, the prospect raises urgent concerns about heat, drought, agriculture, and public health.

El Niño occurs when sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific rise above normal, disrupting rainfall and wind circulation across continents. The name dates back to the 1600s, when Peruvian fishermen noticed warm currents around Christmas that reduced fish catches and triggered heavy rains. They called it El Niño, meaning "The Christ Child".

By the late 19th century, scientists began studying the phenomenon systematically. In

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As the world braces for a possible Super El Niño, Myanmar must prepare for more than just hotter days. The risks span from crop failures to disease outbreaks and power shortages. Yet with foresight, resilience, and community cooperation, the nation can withstand the challenge.

”

the 1920s, British physicist Sir Gilbert Walker identified the Southern Oscillation, a shift in air pressure between the eastern and western Pacific. Later, Norwegian-American meteorologist Jacob Bjerknes proved that ocean warming and pressure changes were linked, forming a global climate cycle now known as ENSO (El Niño – Southern Oscillation).

Myanmar's reliance on monsoon rains makes it particu-

larly exposed to El Niño's impacts. Past events have brought record-breaking heat, delayed rainfall, and severe water shortages.

- 1997-1998 El Niño: One of the hottest and driest years in Myanmar's history. River levels, including the Ayeyawady, dropped dramatically, crippling agriculture.
- 2015-2016 El Niño: Temperatures soared to 45-47°C in Ayeyawady, Magway, Man-

dalay, and Sagaing regions. Thousands of villages faced water scarcity.

- 2023-2024 El Niño: Coincided with a global record event, unleashing intense heat waves and worsening drought across the country. These episodes highlight how climate change is intensifying El Niño, pushing temperatures to new extremes and straining rural communities. If a Super El Niño develops,

By Dr Zeyar Win

Myanmar could face:

- Extreme heat: Higher risk of heatstroke, especially among children and the elderly.
- Water shortages: Hydropower generation may falter as reservoirs dry, leading to nationwide electricity rationing.
- Agricultural losses: Reduced rainfall could lower yields of rice, beans, sesame, and other staples.
- Livestock stress: Animals may suffer from heat and lack of drinking water.
- Wildfires: Dry conditions increase forest fire risks, worsening air pollution and respiratory illness.

Health Risks on the Rise

Doctors warn that El Niño periods often trigger a surge in health problems:

- Heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke.
- Waterborne diseases like diarrhea and intestinal infections from unsafe water.
- Respiratory issues including asthma, lung disease, and eye irritation caused by smoke and dust from wildfires.
- Vector-borne diseases such as dengue, as mosquito breeding patterns shift with climate changes.
- Nutrition challenges as crop failures lead to food shortages and malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant women.
- Mental health strains including stress, anxiety, and insomnia linked to extreme heat and hardship.

Preventive Measures

Health experts urge citizens to prepare:

- Drink plenty of clean water; boil before use.
- Avoid outdoor exposure between 11 am and 3 pm.
- Wear light, breathable clothing.
- Pay special attention to children and the elderly.
- Practice hygiene: handwashing, safe food preparation.
- Use masks in dusty or smoky areas.
- Eat balanced diets with vegetables, fruits, and protein-rich foods.
- Ensure adequate rest and seek family or community support.
- Follow climate warnings and prepare for natural disasters. Public health specialists emphasize that prevention is key. Strengthening Myanmar's health systems, ensuring early

warning mechanisms, and promoting community awareness can reduce the toll of climate shocks. "Prevention is better than cure," experts say, urging collective action to safeguard lives.

As the world braces for a possible Super El Niño, Myanmar must prepare for more than just hotter days. The risks span from crop failures to disease outbreaks and power shortages. Yet with foresight, resilience, and community cooperation, the nation can withstand the challenge.

The looming climate event is a reminder that health and environment are inseparable. Protecting citizens from heat, hunger, and disease will be as critical as managing rivers and reservoirs. In the face of global climate disruption, Myanmar's path forward lies in preparedness, solidarity, and strong public health systems.

When the Mirror Is Someone Else's Eyes

By Laura Htet (UDE)

THERE is a quote that I have always loved. The first time I read it, it stayed with me for a long time because of its simple but powerful truth:

"If we hurt a child, the child's love for their parents does not become smaller. It is the child's love for themselves that becomes smaller."

At first glance, these words seem surprising. Many of us might assume that when someone is treated badly, they will stop loving the person who hurt them. However, human emotions are often more complicated than that.

From the moment we are born, we naturally have a sense of self-love. It is part of being human. This basic instinct helps us survive. When we are hungry, we look for food. When we are cold, we search for warmth. Every living creature shares this desire to stay alive.

Yet survival is not the same as self-worth.

Learning to value ourselves, appreciate our strengths, and believe that we deserve kindness is

something different. Unlike basic survival instincts, self-worth does not develop on its own. It grows through our experiences, our relationships, and the environment around us.

This is why the people in our lives matter so much.

As children, we learn who we are through the way our families treat us. As adults, we continue to discover ourselves through our friendships, workplaces, communities, and relationships. In many ways, our self-image is like a mirror built from the reflections we receive from others.

When people encourage us, support us, and recognize our efforts, we often feel stronger and more confident. On the other hand, when we are constantly criticized, ignored, or undervalued, it becomes much harder to see our own worth. This process affects everyone.

Many of us have areas in life where we feel secure. These strengths help us face challenges with confidence. However, we also have insecurities – parts of

ourselves that we secretly worry about.

When someone questions something we are confident about, we can usually handle it. We trust ourselves enough not to be shaken. But when someone touches one of our insecurities, the impact can be very different. We may feel hurt, embarrassed, disappointed, or even ashamed.

Some people might ask why adults allow these comments to affect them. Shouldn't we already know our value? The reality is more complicated.

Many women are intelligent, kind, and capable, yet after spending years with people who fail to appreciate them, they begin to doubt whether they deserve love and respect.

Many men work hard, support their families, and fulfill their responsibilities, yet after constantly being treated without respect, they begin to lose respect for themselves as well.

The reason is not weakness. The reason is often love. Love has a unique influence on how we see ourselves. We cannot look directly into our own minds and hearts. Instead, we often understand ourselves through the people closest to us.

When we love someone, their opinions carry great weight. Their words can brighten our day or ruin it. Their approval can make us feel valued, while their criticism can leave lasting scars. Even when someone we love hurts us, our feelings for them do not always disappear immediately.

Sometimes we continue loving them long after they have stopped treating us with kindness. What slowly fades instead is our belief in ourselves. This process rarely happens overnight. It can take months, years, or even decades.

Little by little, repeated negative messages can change how we think. A single comment may

not matter much, but hearing the same criticism repeatedly can eventually become part of our self-image.

This is why healthy boundaries are so important.

People who grow up learning that they have value are often better able to protect themselves from harmful treatment. They understand that love should not require the loss of self-respect. Unfortunately, many of us are still learning this lesson.

We live in a world where comparison is constant. Every day, social media, advertisements, and social expectations remind us of what we do not have. As a result, many people carry hidden insecurities. Because of this, the influence of our daily environment should never be underestimated.

At the same time, positive influences can be equally powerful. This helps explain why some people with ordinary abilities seem remarkably confident. They may have spent their lives surrounded by encouragement and support. They have learned to see them-

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After all, the most important relationship we will ever have is the one we have with ourselves. And perhaps the brightest window through which we can see our worth is not the judgement of others, but the understanding we develop within our own hearts.

”

selves through a healthy and positive window.

Meanwhile, others may be talented, intelligent, and capable, yet struggle with self-doubt. They may have spent years viewing themselves through a much narrower window. The difference is not always ability. Sometimes it is perspective.

This raises an important question. Why do we remain in situations that limit how we see ourselves? One reason is familiarity.

If we have never experienced emotional security, we may not realize that healthier environments exist. The unknown can feel frightening, even when our current situation is painful.

Another reason is love. Some-

times we stay because we care deeply about the people around us. They may be our parents, our friends, our partners, or members of our community. Even when those relationships are difficult, leaving them behind can feel impossible.

As human beings, we often see ourselves through the eyes of the people we love. Because of this, our confidence, self-worth, and sense of identity are influenced not only by who we are but also by the windows through which we choose to view ourselves.

Perhaps this is why self-understanding is one of life's greatest challenges. Many of us believe that we know ourselves well. In reality, we often know far less

than we think. We spend years learning about other people, yet rarely pause to explore our own thoughts, fears, strengths, and dreams.

True self-awareness requires honesty, patience, and courage. It requires us to step away from others' opinions and ask a simple question: Who are we when no one else is defining us?

The answer may not come quickly. But the search itself is worthwhile.

After all, the most important relationship we will ever have is the one we have with ourselves. And perhaps the brightest window through which we can see our worth is not the judgement of others, but the understanding we develop within our own hearts.

NATIONAL

PDFs launch drone-dropped bomb attack on school



PDF terrorists carried out a drone-dropped bomb attack on Basic Education High School (Phulon) in Phulon Village, Yazagyo Township, Magway Region, yesterday afternoon.

The bomb exploded outside the school compound, causing no casualties or damage to school buildings.

Such doings of PDF terrorists targeting non-military spots, and intentionally launching attacks on schools, constitute war crimes according to the Geneva Conventions and international laws. People strongly condemned them, and security forces accelerated the security measures in these areas. — MNA/KTZH

The Phulon Basic Education High School is seen following a PDF drone-dropped bomb attack.

K62B+ worth of meth seized in Waw, Bago Region

AUTHORITIES have seized 1.51 tonnes of crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 6.15 million stimulant tablets with an estimated street value of K62.075 billion in Waw Township, Bago Region, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The seizure occurred around 3:30 pm on 9 June, near Nyaungkhashay Village. A combined task force intercepted a 22-wheeled FAN truck, which was driven by Sai Maung Maung and ac-



Arrestees are pictured alongside confiscated drugs and a lorry. A fugitive drug trafficker who remains at large (inset).

companied by Myat Noe Aung. Preliminary investigations revealed that

the narcotics had been transported from Pynmana and were destined for

Hpa-an for distribution.

The suspects had been hired to transport the consignment by Aung Zeya Phyo (aka) Kyaw Thura, (aka) Thura, (aka) and Kyetgang, a resident of Toungoo Township who remains at large.

Legal action has been taken against the detained individuals under existing laws, and police sources stated that efforts are ongoing to identify and arrest other members of the trafficking network. — MNA/MKKS

Two-bus collision on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway: 3 dead, 4 wounded

A collision between two passenger buses occurred on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 22 June.

At around 3 am on 22 June, near milepost 117/7 on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, a Shwe Mandalay Express bus crashed into the back of a Yadana Phyo Express bus. The accident resulted in the injuries of a novice and three men, while three other men died on the spot.

A fire engine and crew

from the 115th-mile fire station immediately rushed to the scene of the collision to carry out emergency rescue operations.

The injured victims and the bodies of the deceased were transported by ambulance to Pyu Township People's Hospital. — TWA/MKKS



Firefighters from the 115th-mile expressway fire station are conducting rescue operations at the scene of the accident.

59 offenders involved in online gambling arrested



Detained suspects – including 47 men and 10 women – following a crackdown on online scam syndicates in northern Shan State.

THE combined security forces arrested two Chinese nationals, 47 Myanmar males and 10 females, totalling 59 individuals, together with 10 All-in-One computers, five laptops and 10 motorcycles, in Muse of Shan State (North) yes-

terday afternoon.

The offenders will face action in accordance with the existing law after proper examination, and the seized materials will be managed in accordance with the procedures. — MNA/KTZH

Tachilek's village concrete road construction inspected

THE Tachilek District Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held the opening ceremony of a new concrete village road in Old Parnawt Village, Tachilek Township, yesterday.

Tachilek District Management and Administration Committee Chairman U Tint Wai Thone and State Hluttaw Representative U Sai Awn Kham delivered opening remarks.

Tachilek Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Lei Lei Thin first explained the implementation of the village concrete road project in Old Parnawt Village. The village administrator then delivered words of appreciation before State Hluttaw representatives and district and township officials

formally opened the new concrete road by cutting the ceremonial ribbon at the entrance arch and inspected the road.

The concrete road measures 550 feet in length, 10 feet in width and six inches in thickness. The project was implemented for the 2026-2027 financial year, using VDP support funds of K15 million together with public contributions, and village residents themselves began implementation in the first week of May this year with technical support and close supervision from the department, which has now been completed 100 per cent and will enable rural residents to travel conveniently in all seasons while contributing to the socioeconomic development of the community. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Fuel prices show slight decline

FUEL oil reference prices continued their steady decline to K3,785 for Octane 92 and K3,830 for Octane 95, K3,910 for diesel and K4,720 for premium diesel during the week ending 25 June.

The reference prices set last week were K3,880 for Octane 92, K3,915 for Octane 95, K3,995 for diesel and K4,800 for premium diesel. The figures showed a small decrease this week.

The price index set by Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing basis for many refined products in Southeast Asia, influences the domestic fuel prices, according to the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil.

The committee is governing the market to ensure a stable price and secure supply. Under the guidance of the Supervisory Committee, the Petroleum Products Regulatory Department has been issuing daily reference wholesale prices to ensure price stability for energy consumers.

The committee is inspecting the fuel stations to see whether they are

overcharging. Authorities are taking action against those retailers of fuel stations under the Petroleum and Petroleum Products Law 2017 if they are found overcharging rather than the set reference rate.

As per the statement, 90 per cent of fuel oil in Myanmar is imported, while the remaining 10 per cent is produced locally. Domestic fuel prices are highly correlated with international prices. The State is steering the market to mitigate the loss experienced by the importers, sellers and energy consumers. Consequently, the government is trying to distribute the oil at a reasonable price compared to that of regional countries.

Some countries levied higher tax rates and hiked oil prices than Myanmar's. However, Malaysia's oil sector receives government subsidies, and the prices are about 60 per cent lower than those of Myanmar. Every country lays down different policy patterns to fix oil prices, the Supervisory Committee on Oil Import, Storage and Distribution of Fuel Oil stated. — NN/KK



Vehicles are seen refuelling at a petrol station in Yangon.

AYA Bank to set accounts inactive after one year of dormancy

AYEYAWADY Bank (AYA Bank) has announced that accounts inactive for over one year will be classified as dormant and subject to maintenance fees.

Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, and Call Accounts at various branches that have had no deposits or withdrawals for 365 consecutive days (one year) from the date of the last transaction will be automatically reclassified as Dormant Accounts.

These accounts will lose access to over-the-counter services at branches and will be temporarily suspended from using e-Banking, Mobile Banking, Payment Systems, ATMs, and all card services.

The account holder



AYA Mandalay Branch 7 in Chanayethazan Township open on 3 June 2026. PHOTO CREDIT: AYA BANK

must visit their nearest branch to reactivate accounts personally. Service fees are deducted quarterly, every three months.

If the account holder does not contact the bank within 90 days after the first fee deduction, a second deduction will be

made. The deductions will continue quarterly until the account balance is exhausted. Once the balance reaches zero, the bank will automatically and permanently close the account.

Furthermore, accounts that have re-

mained dormant for seven years or more will be subject to further action in accordance with the policy guidelines issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar under the Financial Institutions Law, AYA announced. — TWA/KK

Business leaders invited for China Study Tour 2026

MYANMAR Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) invites members and fruit entrepreneurs to participate in the China Study Tour 2026 program in September 2026 through Asia Fruit Logistica 2026, Asia's largest fruit trade fair; to extend market potential and conduct on-the-ground field studies in the markets of Hong Kong SAR and China.

The MFVP has announced the China Study Tour 2026 programme, which will allow its members and fruit entrepreneurs who wish to expand into the fruit and fresh produce market to conduct on-the-ground field studies into China's

fruit market.

This study tour will have an opportunity to personally visit world-class wholesale fruit markets, high-end supermarkets, and cold-chain logistics operations in major cities including Hong Kong SAR, Shanghai, and Zhengzhou.

The pre-show study will be conducted on 1 September; ahead of the main trade fair. Participants will then attend the Asia Fruit Logistica exhibition from 2 to 4 September in Hong Kong SAR.

Participants can choose one of two routes in mainland China to continue their studies (Shanghai or Zhengzhou) on 6 and 7 September.

One group of participants

will explore the Huizhan Market, a high-end imported fruit market in the east, and learn about core conglomerate branding strategies, while another group will visit the rapidly growing Wanbang Market in central China and see powerful supply chain operations.

The tour will provide valuable networking opportunities to connect directly with global buyers and investors.

Applications will be carefully screened due to the limited number of spots. Those interested can register through the official website of Asia Fruit Logistica website < <https://www.asiafruitlogistica.com/china-study-tour>. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 22 June 2026

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of edible oil, industrial raw materials, consumer goods, packaging materials, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, car/motorcycle spare parts, tel-

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653.00~3,669.00	557.00~558.70	124.90~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	17,443,020.70	20,695,380.79	128,646,757.35	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

ecomunications equipment, construction equipment, elec-

tronics, fertilizers, paper, and agricultural equipment. The

CMP sector revenue contributed US\$0.90 million to the edible

oil sector and US\$0.13 million to the CMP sector. — MNA

ECONOMY WORLD

Cambodia's 5-month intl visitor count plunges almost 48% to 1.54 mln

CAMBODIA'S international arrivals fell nearly 48 per cent to 1.54 million in the first five months of 2026, down from 2.95 million during the same period last year, according to a Ministry of Tourism's report released Monday.

The report noted that China, Vietnam, and the United States were the top three inbound tourism markets for the South-East Asian country from January to May this year.

Thong Mengdavid, deputy director at the China-ASEAN Studies Centre of the Cambodia University of Technology and Science, said the sharp decline in international tourists to the kingdom reflected regional economic slowdowns, online



Tourists visit the Angkor Wat Temple at the UNESCO-listed Angkor Archaeological Park in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, 29 January 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

scamming issues, and the impact of border disputes with Thailand.

"The significant drop was also fuelled by Middle East conflicts, which sparked flight disruptions and high fuel prices," he

told Xinhua.

Tourism constitutes one of the four pillars of Cambodia's economy, alongside agriculture, construction and real estate, and the export of garments, footwear, and

travel goods.

The kingdom recorded 5.57 million international visitors in 2025, earning a gross revenue of US\$3.87 billion, according to the Ministry of Tourism. — Xinhua

Brazil seeks to use national currencies in payments with Russia — Ambassador



BRAZIL would like to use national currencies in payments with Russia, Brazilian Ambassador to Moscow Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos told Sputnik.

"At the moment, I have no information about the use of national currencies in bilateral payments

between Brazil and Russia, but that is our goal," the ambassador said.

The trade imbalance complicates the issue, and it is necessary to level this out in order to move to trade in national currencies, the diplomat added. — SPUTNIK

One rouble coin with symbols of the Russian rouble. In the background is a Russian five-rouble coin. **PHOTO: SPUTNIK**

New foreign-invested firms up 5.3% in China in first five months

CHINA saw 25,297 newly established foreign-invested firms in the first five months of 2026, a year-on-year increase of 5.3 per cent, according to data released on Monday by the Ministry of Commerce.

During this period, actual foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow totalled 327.29 billion yuan (about US\$48.03 billion), down 8.6 per cent year on year. However, FDI in May alone rose 5.9 per cent year on year, the data showed.

By sector, manufacturing attracted 86.97 billion yuan in actual FDI during the five-month period, while the services sector drew 234.15 billion yuan. Actual FDI in high-tech industries expanded 19.4 per cent year on year to 130.14 billion yuan in this period. — Xinhua

Malaysia's trade surplus hits record high in first 5 months on AI, energy demand

MALAYSIA'S trade surplus reached a record 132.77 billion ringgit (about US\$31.99 billion) in the first five months of 2026, driven by strong demand for semiconductors used in artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and higher energy exports, the country's trade promotion agency said on Monday.

The surplus was nearly three times larger than the 46.93 billion ringgit recorded in the same period a year earlier, the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) said in a statement.

MATRADE Chief Executive Officer Abu Bakar Yusof said electrical

Oil falls on US-Iran progress; pound holds up as Starmer resigns

OIL prices fell Monday on optimism over talks by the US and Iran after mediators flagged a "roadmap" to a final agreement, while major stock markets traded mixed.

The British pound and the London stock market firmed, and the UK's benchmark 10-year bond dipped, after Britain's embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced his widely expected resignation.

Internationally, the main focus remained firmly on the Middle East and the prospects for a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz to tanker and cargo traffic.

Iran's senior envoys left talks in Switzerland on Monday after a marathon negotiating session with the United States, state media reported.

US Vice-President

JD Vance declared that a "very good foundation" had been laid for negotiations towards a final deal with Iran, with mediators also claiming progress.

"The latest developments out of the Middle East have turned more constructive," said Deutsche Bank analyst Jim Reid, adding that a pickup in oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz was "helping to calm markets".

Switzerland said conditions were set for further US-Iran talks that aim to secure a long-term settlement within 60 days.

Last week, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding laying the groundwork for the negotiations, after a 40-day war that was followed by weeks of an inconclusive and oft-breached ceasefire. — AFP



A woman walks past electronic boards displaying the foreign exchange rate of the Japanese yen against the US dollar (L) and a graph showing rate movements over the past year, in Tokyo on 22 June 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan convenience store sales up 0.7% on leisure demand in May

CONVENIENCE store sales in Japan edged up 0.7 per cent from a year earlier in May, up for the 15th consecutive month, driven by leisure demand during the Golden Week holidays and favourable weather conditions, industry data said Monday.

Same-store sales at seven major convenience store operators totalled

988.89 billion yen (\$6.1 billion), according to the Japan Franchise Association.

Average spending per customer grew 0.8 per cent to 745.2 yen, also helped by higher temperatures that boosted sales of cold noodles, over-the-counter food products, soft drinks, ice cream and deodorant items. — Kyodo

Photo taken on 9 March 2026, shows the interior of a Sakura Mikura convenience store in Yokohama's Totsuka Ward. **PHOTO: KYODO**



Chongqing boosts China-Europe freight train capacity to facilitate auto exports

A China-Europe freight train loaded with new 40-foot, 35-tonne general-purpose automobile containers departed from Chongqing in southwest China Monday, marking an innovation that makes rail service transportation of vehicles more efficient.

The containers are carrying 182 automobiles from China Changan Automobile Group Co Ltd, an automaker headquartered in Chongqing, a major automotive manufacturing hub.

With the new containers, Chongqing is boosting the capacity of China-Eu-



The China-Europe Railway Express (Chengdu-Chongqing) Middle Corridor Ultra-Express Block Train awaits departure at Tuanjiecun Station in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, 9 July 2025. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

rope freight train services to meet growing demand for automobile export

transportation.

The 40-foot 35-tonne general-purpose automo-

bile container is an innovative piece of equipment designed for the export of domestically-made passenger cars, according to Guan Yu, manager of the marketing department of the Chengdu branch of China Railway Container Transport Corp Ltd.

Compared with traditional general-purpose containers, which can carry at most three sedans or two SUVs, the new container can hold up to four sedans or four SUVs per unit, reducing the transport cost per vehicle, according to Guan. — Xinhua

Sri Lanka's exports grow 6% in 1st 4 months despite global headwinds

SRI Lanka's exports grew six per cent in the first four months of 2026 compared with the same period in 2025, despite global economic pressures caused by conflicts in the Middle East, a senior Export Development Board official said Sunday.

Export Development Board (EDB) Chairman Mangala Wijesinghe said the current trend could help Sri Lanka exceed last year's export revenue, which was the highest in the country's history.

Wijesinghe said service exports now account for about 22 per cent of Sri Lanka's total export revenue. Sri Lanka earned more than US\$3 billion from service exports in 2025. In the first four months of this year, service exports reached a record US\$1.28 billion, up nearly 10.5 per cent from the same period last year, he said. — Xinhua

Indonesia promotes franchise model to boost local enterprises

INDONESIA'S Minister of Trade Budi Santoso on Monday called for wider adoption of the franchise business model to support the growth of local enterprises and expand the global reach of Indonesian products.

Budi said franchises offer advantages because they already have established management, production, and market systems, allowing businesses

to expand more quickly and efficiently.

However, he stressed that strict quality standards must accompany such expansion to maintain product consistency and ensure operational sustainability.

"Strict standards are very important to provide assurance to franchisees so that they can operate effectively and sustainably," Budi said. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2609N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC SHENGMING VOY.NO. (2609N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

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

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

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.
Address : Golden Key Co., Ltd. No. 258/262, 11th FLOOR, CLASSIC STRAND CONDO, PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. PH: 01371629

Changing Trade Name For Registered Pesticide

The Pesticide manufactured by Zibo NAB Agrochemicals Limited and distributed by Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd is changing trade Name as follow.

No.	Previous Name	New Name	Registration No.
1	NAB-Perfect 24 SL	Shwe Pe Thee 24 SL	F2024-4543

Any Objection regarding to this changing can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within (14) days.

Northern Aung Power Agro Chemical Co.,Ltd. No.CA-316, Cherry 1st, FMI City, Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Division, Myanmar.

Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of pesticide registered by Hanearl Science Ltd. (Korea) is changing from Hanearl Science Ltd. (Myanmar) to Thu Thu Hein Co., Ltd. Any bjection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection division, West Gyoe Gone, Insein within 2 weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type and No.
1	Sorento 1.8 EC	Abamectin 1.8% EC	Full 2022-3976

Hanearl Science Ltd. (Myanmar)
09-944427577

ROLLING UPDATES WORLD

Japan to back disaster safety tech development, eyes 2 tln overseas sales

THE Japanese government plans to support the development of disaster prevention technology, such as the remote operation of heavy machinery, and push for its use both domestically and overseas, officials said Sunday.

Under Japan's growth strategy, to be compiled in the summer, the government hopes to set a target to double the country's overseas sales within the disaster prevention sector to about 2 trillion yen (\$12 billion) by 2030 from 2024.

The move is part of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's drive to achieve strong economic growth through bold investments that can enhance resilience against potential crises, with the government having designated 17 strategic fields including disaster prevention.

A newly established disaster management agency will solicit technologies related to certain themes, while a third-party panel made up of members from the industry, government, academia



This photo shows a heavy machine being remotely operated during a trial in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, in October 2025. **PHOTO: KYODO**

and finance sectors will evaluate the cost and use of the technologies in normal situations.

Those that receive high evaluations will then be catalogued by the government and recommended for use by local governments to accelerate their adoption in the field.

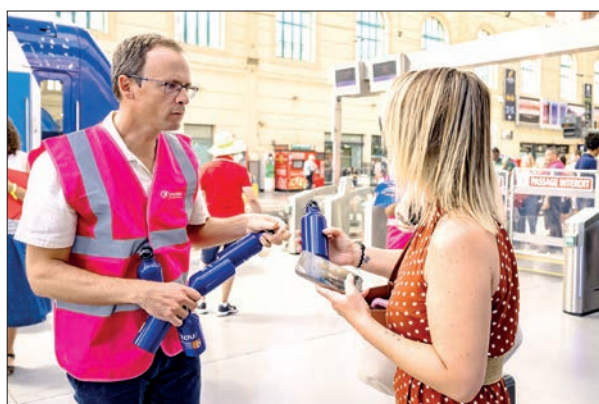
Among the innovations envisioned are the remote operation of heavy machinery necessary during hazardous recovery

work, as well as systems using satellite data to inspect aged roads and water and sewage systems.

Such remote operation has proved useful during past volcanic and earthquake disasters in Japan, including the Noto Peninsula quake in 2024, and demand is growing for new technologies to support disaster-affected people in evacuation centres. But adoption costs have been high.

An outline of the envisioned growth strategy in the field of disaster prevention emphasized a "focus on contributing to solving common global challenges and 'profiting' overseas." Among technologies with potential to be used abroad, it cited monitoring of quake and flood damage, systems to grasp the disaster situation by using satellites, and remote operation of machinery. — Kyodo

Europe scorched by latest heatwave



A staff member hands out flasks to customers as part of a distribution of water bottles, hats and fans organized by the Region Sud - Provence Alpes Cote d'Azur region at the Saint-Charles railway station in Marseille on 22 June 2026, as a heatwave hits France. **PHOTO: AFP**

THIRTEEN people died by drowning in searing temperatures in France over the weekend, with the heatwave set to in-

tensify from Monday across much of Europe, forcing warnings and special measures.

The latest hot spell

that has left the continent sweltering has seen outdoor events cancelled, transport disrupted, schools shut and office workers told to work from home, as the authorities issued health alerts to protect the elderly and vulnerable.

Britain's Met Office on Monday issued a rare red warning for extreme heat — the national weather agency's highest alert level, indicating risk to life and the possibility of major infrastructure such as roads and railways being closed.

The warning runs

from 9:00 am (0800 GMT) on Wednesday to 9:00 pm on Thursday and covers a large area of central and southern England, including London and Birmingham — the UK's two largest cities.

Shade temperatures could rise as high as 38 to 40C in the affected area, the Met Office warned.

Akshay Deoras, a senior researcher at the University of Reading's National Centre for Atmospheric Science, in England, said it was clear what was behind the rash of heat records. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Glass panel falls from EU's tallest skyscraper in Warsaw, no injuries reported

A glass panel fell from Varso Tower, the European Union's highest skyscraper in Warsaw, capital of Poland, around 3 am local time (0100 GMT) Monday, damaging three parked cars on the street.

No injuries were reported. The police have launched an investigation into the incident.

It is the second such incident at the 310-metre, 53-floor tower since September. — Xinhua

Man dies of swine flu in India's Karnataka

A 41-year-old man has died of swine flu (H1N1) at a health facility in India's southwestern state of Karnataka, local media reports said Monday.

The man died on Sunday evening while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mangaluru of Dakshina Kannada district, about 345 kilometre west of Bengaluru, the capital city of Karnataka.

Tests conducted at the Mangaluru hospital confirmed that he had swine flu, a local newspaper quoted a health officer as saying.

Health officials have initiated surveillance among close family members and contacts to identify potential infections and limit transmission. — Xinhua

Japan to provide \$3.5 mln in Ebola aid to Congo, Uganda

JAPAN will provide \$3.5 million in emergency grant aid to help contain Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, the government said Monday.

The assistance, to be delivered through international organizations, will support urgent humanitarian needs in areas including health care, water and sanitation.

"Japan will continue working with the two governments and the international community to bring the outbreaks under control as quickly as possible," Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told a news conference. — Kyodo

Thailand reaffirms full-scale crackdown on transnational crime through AI, data sharing

THAILAND is treating the safety of the public and tourists as a serious priority, alongside efforts to suppress transnational crime, call-centre scam operations, human trafficking, and cybercrime, government spokesperson Ratchada Thanadirek said on Monday.

In a statement, Ratchada said Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has directed all agencies to work in an integrated manner to build security and safety for citizens. She emphasized that because much of this crime is linked through cross-border networks, the government must upgrade its tools and international cooperation to keep pace with evolving criminal methods. — Xinhua

SPORTS

5-day weightlifting referee, coach training course opens in Nay Pyi Taw

THE opening ceremony for the Weightlifting Referee and Coach Training Course 1/2026 was held this morning at the multi-purpose hall of the Gold Camp Sports Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. Jointly organized by the Sports and Physical Education Department and the Myanmar Weightlifting Federation, the course runs under the Ministry of Sports Affairs.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Sports and Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman U Ye Myint Tun, alongside Deputy Minister U Nyi Nyi and federation officials. In his opening address, the Union minister stated that the course aims to raise national weightlifting standards, urging participants to fully engage with both the theoretical and practical lessons.

Four instructors will train 32 participants during the five-day course, which runs from 22 to 26 June. — MNA/MKKS

Four instructors will train 32 participants during the five-day course, which runs from 22 to 26 June. — MNA/MKKS



The opening ceremony for the Weightlifting referee and coach training course is underway in Nay Pyi Taw.

Yamal kickstarts Spain World Cup bid as Cape Verde stun Uruguay

SPAIN got their World Cup campaign back on track with a 4-0 thrashing of Saudi Arabia on Sunday as debutants Cape Verde conjured another memorable performance to snatch a draw with Uruguay.

European champions Spain had been determined to bounce back after a shock 0-0 draw with lowly Cape Verde in their opening game last week, when their much-vaunted

attack drew a blank.

But with teenaged starlet Lamine Yamal making his first start in two months since recovering from a hamstring problem, Spain launched an early onslaught that left the Saudis reeling.

Yamal opened the scoring before Mikel Oyarzabal scored a quick-fire brace to leave Spain 3-0 up after just 24 minutes. — AFP

Man Utd secure land for proposed new 100,000-capacity stadium

MANCHESTER United have secured the majority of the land needed to build their proposed new 100,000-capacity stadium.

United announced on Monday that they had acquired a 25-acre (10 hectare) site close to their current Old Trafford home.

The land purchase is a major step forward in United's plans to build Britain's biggest sporting arena.

The triangular-shaped plot 350 metres to the north west of Old Trafford means adjacent land owned by Freightliner will not be required.

The location of the nearby freight terminal had previously been a complicating factor.

Collette Roche, chief executive of the new stadium development, said: "Today's news highlights the progress we're mak-



An aerial view shows Old Trafford stadium, home ground of Manchester United Football Club, in Manchester, north west England, on 23 May 2025. PHOTO: AFP

ing towards a world-class new home for Manchester United and represents a significant milestone as we move into the next phase of development.

"Being able to build so close to Old Trafford allows us to preserve the heritage, traditions and rituals that are so important to our fans.

"Securing the right land for our new home has been absolutely critical and the land we've acquired gives us the stage to deliver a truly world-class stadium that honours our past and is ready for our future."

United first unveiled plans for their ambitious £2 billion (\$2.6 billion) sta-

dium in 2025.

The venue will be the centre-piece of a wider 370-acre regeneration project featuring 15,000 new homes and creating 48,000 new jobs locally and 90,000 nationally.

A master-plan for the Old Trafford regeneration is scheduled to be unveiled on 9 July. — AFP

Myanmar football legend, MFF Service Award winner U Ba Yi dies at 88



Images of deceased U Ba Yi.

A former player of the Myanmar national football team in the early golden days and the Myanmar Football

Federation (MFF) Service Award winner, U Ba Yi, died at 88 on 22 June, according to the MFF.

U Ba Yi devoted his life to the development of the Myanmar football industry. He competed in international tournaments as a national team player and earned medals for his country.

Even after he retired from player life, U Ba Yi didn't stop working in the Myanmar football sector and served as an international referee, an organizing officer and a disciplinary committee member at MFF.

"MFF will always pay its respects and honour its historical milestones. His death is a huge loss for the Myanmar football industry," MFF said in a condolence letter.

MFF presented the Service Award to U Ba Yi in 2024 for his services for decades. He died at the age of 88, and a lot of social media comments expressed their sadness about his death. — TWA/ZS

Japan's Yamashita wins LPGA Classic in playoff after final-day surge

JAPANESE golfer Miyu Yamashita won the Meijer LPGA Classic in a playoff Sunday following a stunning final-round charge.

The 24-year-old posted the

low round of the tournament, an 8-under-par 64, to make up a five-stroke deficit and force the playoff against England's Lottie Woad at Blythefield Country Club.

The pair returned to the par five, 18th tee for the first playoff hole, where the 2025 Rookie of the Year sealed her third LPGA title and first on US soil with a

birdie.

"My form has finally started to improve this season, so I'm happy it led to a victory," said Yamashita, who finished at 17-un-

der 271 for the tournament.

"I was nervous on the final putt in the playoff. I'm delighted to get my first win in the United States". — Kyodo

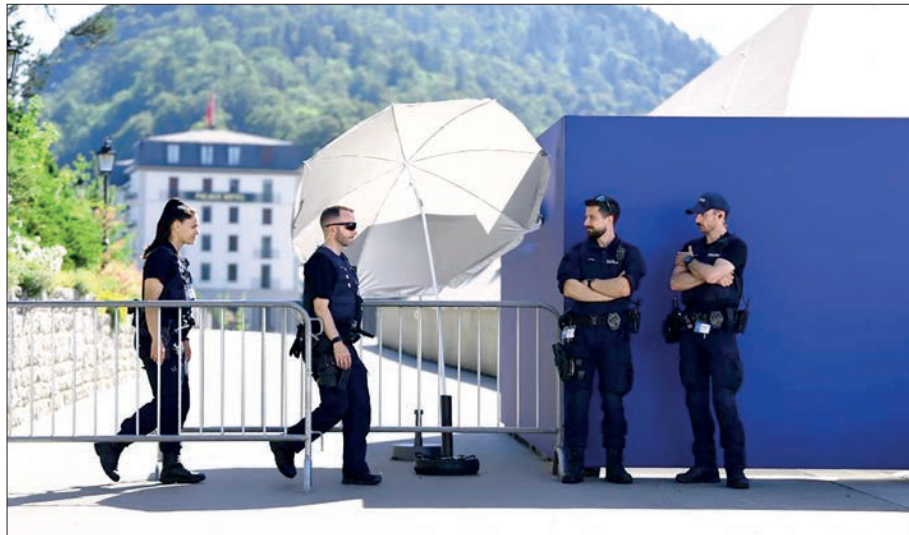


1st session of US-Iran talks conducted in positive, constructive atmosphere — Qatar-Pakistan joint statement

THE first session of US-Iran talks was conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with encouraging progress made, including the creation of a mechanism for further technical talks, according to a joint statement issued by Qatar and Pakistan on Monday.

The parties agreed to establish a High Level Committee to provide political oversight of the mediation process, the statement said.

Chief negotiators will report regularly to the committee and lead working groups on nuclear issues, sanctions, as well as monitoring and dispute resolution to facilitate the implementation



Police officers stand guard in Burgenstock near Lucerne, Switzerland, 21 June 2026. The first session of US-Iran talks was conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere, with encouraging progress made, including the creation of a mechanism for further technical talks, according to a joint statement issued by Qatar and Pakistan on Monday.

PHOTO: XINHUA

of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and address other matters, it said.

The committee also

agreed on a roadmap aimed at reaching a final deal within 60 days and approved the immediate launch of further techni-

cal talks. A communication line was established to avoid incidents and miscommunication and ensure the safe passage

of commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz. They had also agreed to create a de-confliction cell between the parties, Lebanon and facilitated by the mediators, to ensure the implementation of the ceasefire in Lebanon. Technical talks will continue for the rest of the week, while Qatar and Pakistan pledged to continue efforts to help the parties reach a final agreement.

US and Iranian negotiators, under Qatari and Pakistani mediation, held talks on Sunday at the Burgenstock mountain resort in central Switzerland, marking the first direct talks between the two sides since the signing of the Islamabad MoU. — Xinhua

Qatar gas plant blast kills 13, injures dozens: energy minister

A huge blast at a Qatar gas hub killed 13 people and injured 66 others, the Gulf state's energy minister said on Monday, one of the deadliest accidents at a Gulf energy facility.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the incident, which Saad al-Kaabbi said was "an accident and not sabotage or hostile in nature", after Iranian attacks targeted energy facilities in the Gulf during the Middle East war.

He announced "the tragic loss of 13 lives of our people who hold Indian and Pakistani nationalities. 66 people have been reported injured and are receiving medical treatment, none of whom are in life-threatening condition". — AFP

Nearly 1,000 medical workers are fighting Ebola with African people: spokesperson

AFTER the Ebola outbreak, China provided emergency humanitarian assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the African Union, dispatched medical experts and urgently needed medicines and epidemic response supplies to the DRC. Now nearly 1,000 medical personnel are fighting Ebola alongside African people, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a regular press briefing on Monday.

Guo stated that China and Africa have always been brothers and partners who share one future together and have always supported each other in times of difficulty, and China has given African strong aid in fighting Ebola over the years.

"We closely follow the

outbreak in the DRC and Uganda. After arriving in Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC, on 2 June, Chinese medical experts immediately joined the health authorities of the DRC to learn about local needs and provide medical services and advice, whose effort has won acclaim from various sectors," Guo said.

Guo said that given the severity of the outbreak,

the Chinese government has decided to provide additional emergency humanitarian assistance to the DRC, Uganda and the African Union. China will continue working with the international community, closely follow the situation on the ground and provide every possible support in light of Africa's needs for an early victory against the virus, he added. — Xinhua



Medical workers are seen at an Ebola treatment centre in Mongwalu, Ituri province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 20 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

Shenzhou-23 crew conducts first in-orbit medical rescue training

SHENZHOU-23 spaceflight mission's three astronauts have conducted their first in-orbit medical rescue training since arriving at China's Tiangong space station, a video released by the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) has shown.

The training aimed to help the astronauts, Zhu Yangzhu, Zhang Zhiyuan, and Li Jiaying, familiarize themselves with rescue operation techniques and force application characteristics under microgravity conditions, the CMSA said in the video Sunday.

In addition to the medical training, the crew has been engaged in a wide range of scientific experiments. They utilized a space Raman spectrometer to study



This image captured at Beijing Aerospace Control Centre on 25 May 2026 shows the crew of Shenzhou-21 and Shenzhou-23 spaceships talking with each other.

PHOTO: XINHUA

the relationship between gut microbiota and nutritional metabolism under long-duration spaceflight conditions.

Behavioral experiments on visual motion processing and intuitive physics in microgravity were performed, exploring how gravity affects visual information processing and how long-term spaceflight impacts intuitive physics percep-

tion. The crew also conducted in-orbit emotion recognition and emergency decision-making capability assessments.

China launched the Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceship on 24 May. The mission is notable for including a one-year in-orbit stay experiment, which will provide crucial data for future long-duration space exploration. — Xinhua