

The **Global** **NEW LIGHT** of **MYANMAR**

CBM plans lower interest loans for MSMEs

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been arranging to establish a State Reconstruction Fund and provide MSMEs loans for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) battered by the Mandalay Earthquake at cheaper interest rates, CBM announced on 8 July.

The Mandalay Earthquake that hit on 28 March 2025 in Myanmar caused damage and financial loss to MSMEs, including workshops and small factories from Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, Bago and north eastern Shan State areas. CBM has been preparing MSME loans at cheaper rates in order to help them rebuild their businesses after the disaster.

Moreover, the Central Committee for the Development of MSMEs and a working committee were formed to support the MSMEs’ growth, in co-operation with the departments and institutions concerned. CBM also streamlines the digital payment system, facilitates MSME loan disbursement and improves e-payment.

Banking plays a key role in financing the MSMEs. Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) including Myanmar Economic Bank and 18 private banks are disbursing MSME loans at cheaper rate through various programmes (MSME loan, JICA two-step loan, other loan program and COVID-loan) to those engaged in agriculture, livestock, industry, manufacturing, trade, transportation, construction, service and other industries.

Additionally, CBM pushed banks to set up MSME departments to accelerate loan services for MSMEs and facilitate banking services.

CBM has been making efforts to enhance the digital payment system. CBM granted permits to mobile banking, i-banking, mobile wallet and Merchant Acquiring Services.

MSMEs can utilize digital payment methods, with CBM-NET’s ACH function (Bulk, Faster Payment) and domestic card and international card payment.

Furthermore, CBM launched Myanmar Pay (MMQR) in February 2025, connecting various banks and mobile financial service providers through a single QR code, enabling seamless and secure payments across different platforms. — NN/KK



This photo depicts devotees embarking on pilgrimage to pagodas in the Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone on the Full Moon of Waso.

Bagan buzzes with pilgrims for Waso Full Moon

Bagan’s economy flourished during Waso as pilgrims fuelled demand for transport, food, lodging and souvenirs, with hotels and local vendors reporting record crowds.

The Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone drew large crowds of pilgrims and merit-makers from across Myanmar on the auspicious Waso Full Moon Day (Dhammacakka Day), according to officials from the Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees in NyaungU Township.

Although Bagan typically receives a steady flow of visitors even on ordinary days, public holidays and Buddhist holy

days such as Waso often see a significant increase in the number of pilgrims. Families, groups of friends and religious travellers arrived in the early hours to visit pagodas, offer alms and engage in Dhamma practices.

To accommodate the seasonal rise in visitors, pagodas under the cultural heritage zone’s management are open daily from 5 am to 7 pm during the Buddhist Lent. On Waso Full Moon Day, many pil-

grims gathered at the revered Shwezigon Pagoda starting from 4 am to participate in almsgiving, meditation and recitation of protective verses and blessings.

U Than Myint Oo, head of the Shwezigon Pagoda Board of Trustees, explained that eighteen pagodas under the cultural authority remain open throughout the Lenten period, ensuring ample opportunity for devotees to visit and make merit. **SEE PAGE 2**

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School gets disaster preparedness demo from MFSD

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Pathein orphanage receives rice, formula milk donation

OPINION

Prioritize the alleviation of poverty with earnest efforts

NATIONAL

Citizens urged to embrace ‘We Are Myanmar’ spirit for national unity and progress

ALL Myanmar citizens should embody a Myanmar spirit and, with the motto ‘We Are Myanmar’, unite in a national spirit to work together towards peace, prosperity, and development for the country.

(An excerpt from the message sent by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to the ceremony to mark the 77th Independence Day which falls on 4 January 2025)

Bagan buzzes with pilgrims for Waso Full Moon

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The influx of pilgrims also brought bustling activity to the local economy. Horse-cart drivers, e-bike rentals, mini-van operators, local tour guides, food vendors, souvenir artists and guesthouse operators all saw heightened business. Hotels and lodges were reportedly busy with both religious travellers and tourists seeking to mark the special occasion in Bagan. — Dipa Linn/KZL

Pilgrims visit the Bagan-NyaungU Ancient Cultural Heritage Zone on the Waso Full Moon Day. **PHOTO: DIPA LINN**



Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 7 pm MST on 9 July 2025)

ACCORDING to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Chindwin River at Kalewa has exceeded by more than 0.5 foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about three feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

According to the 6:30 pm MST observation today, the water level of the Chindwin River at Minkin has exceeded by about three inches above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about two-and-half feet during the next one day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Kalewa and Minkin Townships, to take precaution measure. — DMH

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Wednesday 9 July 2025)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL Weather: According to the observations at 6:30 pm MST today, the low-pressure area over West Bengal and adjoining Jharkhand, India still persists. It is likely to move slowly west-northwestwards and across Jharkhand and North Chhattisgarh, India during next two days.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF 10 July 2025: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway, and Lower Sagaing Regions, and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Bago, Upper Sagaing Regions and Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and southern Shan States. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds

are developing in Yangon, Bago, and Ayeyawady Regions, and Kayin, Chin, and Mon States. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hail may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 25-30 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-11 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Kayin, Mon, and eastern Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 July 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 July 2025: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 July 2025: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(An excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council, Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Nay Pyi Taw pagodas packed for Waso Full Moon Day

THE pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw were bustling with those who did good deeds on the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day). The Maravijaya Buddha Image was also packed with pilgrims, and the visitors observed around the compound of the Buddha Park peacefully. Similarly, other pagodas such as Latlotetaung and Shwenanthwin in Nay Pyi Taw, Dhatuzaya Dhatpaungsu pagoda in Zabuthiri Township, Yanaungmyin pagoda in Dekkhinathiri Township, Phaungdaw Chetma pagoda in Lawe Township, Thatta Thattar Maha Bodhi pagoda and “Phwa, Pwint, Haw, San” pagoda and other religious sites in Ottarathiri Township were also crowded with pilgrims who do-



Throngs of devotees visit the Maravijaya Buddha Image on the Full Moon of Waso yesterday.

nated Waso robes, flowers, and observed Sabbath. The full moon day of Waso is a public holiday, and the recreational sites in Nay Pyi Taw were packed with people who were having fun and relaxing. The full moon day of Waso is significant for the Buddhists on the day of conceiving the embryo of the Lord Buddha, the day of leaving the society for the jungle, the day of preaching the Dhammacakka Sutta, the day of performing the supernatural miracle, the day of admitting the enlightenment of the Buddha, the day of firstly emerging Dhamma, the day of firstly emerging Sangha and the day of firstly calling Ehi Bhikkhu. — Min Kyaw Swa/KTZH

Devotees flock to Yangon pagodas for Waso Full Moon Day

PAGODAS in Yangon, including Shwedagon Pagoda, were thronged with pilgrims performing good deeds, as yesterday was the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day), which is a sacred day for Buddhists. The board of trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda celebrated the Dhammacakka Day ceremony at the designated places of the pagoda at 5 am yesterday. The pagoda board of trustees, staff and devotees offered meals, flowers, water, candles and fruits to the pagoda. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Soe Thein, relevant

officials, members of religious organizations and the devotees offered golden lotus robes to the Buddha statues of the pagoda before observing the Five Precepts and donating Waso robes and offerings to Sayadaws. Similarly, the Waso robe offering and religious ceremonies were also organized at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Lawka Chantha Abaya Labamuni Buddha Image, Sacred Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), the ancient historic Aparajita Hair Relic Kyaikwyne Pagoda, Maelamu Pagoda, Ngahtetgyi, Chaukhtet-



Devotees and well-wishers throng on the platform of Shwedagon on the Waso Full Moon Day. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

kyee, Koehtetkyee and Tilawka-oakshaung Muniyaya Aungmyay Thatbyinnyu Pahtodawgyi (Yangon) on the same day.

The pilgrims from different regions and states visited pagodas in Yangon, doing good deeds, taking sabbath, offering

Waso robes to monks, and the donors donated food to the pilgrims. — Zaw Min Latt (MNA)/KTZH

NATIONAL

Pilgrims throng Mandalay pagodas on Waso Full Moon Day

AS the full moon day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day) is the most sacred day for Buddhists, people flocked to pagodas, temples, and stupas all over the country yesterday, making efforts to worship, recite and offer Waso robes and flowers also at the religious halls in neighbourhoods and streets.

Similarly, at temples, pagodas, stupas, and monasteries in and around Mandalay, Buddhist monks and people gathered for religious merit, including offerings, presenting flowers and robes, donating alms, and releasing animals, starting from early morning.

Moreover, in towns, villages, and neighbourhood religious halls, people were captivated by the sounds of religious chants and engaged in offering



This picture depicts the Buddha image being thronged with pilgrims in Mandalay on the Full Moon of Waso.

Waso robes and food to monks. The Mandalay Region Government organized a Waso robe donation ceremony for 27 monks at Maha Atula Waiyan (Atu Mashi) monastery in Aungmyaythazan township.

The temples and pagodas: Sanda Muni pagoda, Kuthodaw pagoda, Mandalay Hill, Weerawsana Jade pagoda, Aungdawmu pagoda, were crowded with pilgrims.

Similarly, other significant sites of Mandalay, like the Myotaw Garden, Yadanabon Zoological Garden, resorts in Patheingyi, U Bein bridge in Amarapura, and Taungthaman Zal Lwin Pyin resorts, were also packed with visitors from all over the country. — Maung Aye Chan, Min Htet Aung/KTZH

UEC and MNHRC hold coordination meeting



The coordination meeting between the Union Election Commission and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission underway on 8 July 2025 at the UEC Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) held a coordination meeting on 8 July 2025 at the UEC Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by UEC Chairman U Ko Ko, Commission Member U Khin Maung Oo, and Secretary U Ye Yint Lwin, MNHRC Chairman U Paw Lwin Sein, together

with Members U Tin Aung and U Win Hlaing Oo (aka) Cung Zamone.

Both Chairpersons emphasized the importance of ensuring that elections are free, fair, transparent, inclusive, and in full compliance with existing laws and established standards.

Discussions focused on a wide range of topics, including key activities to be undertaken

during the pre-election, election day, and post-election phases; mechanisms for election observation and monitoring; facilitation of voting for persons with disabilities, elderly citizens, and pregnant women; enhancing public awareness and voter education for election; demonstration of the Myanmar Electronic Voting Machine (MEVM). The meeting concluded successfully. — MNHRC

MYANWEN donates aid to MSWRR staff after quake

THE Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN) donated cash, solar-powered lamps, and medical supplies to staff members of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) who were affected by the recent earthquake in Mandalay Region.

Following the damage caused by the quake, temporary container housing was arranged for affected ministry staff. In support of these efforts, MWEN pro-

vided a donation of K12.3 million, 123 solar lamps, and supplies of muscle pain relief ointments. The donation ceremony took place at 1 pm yesterday at the ministry premises.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Soe Win accepted the donation on behalf of the ministry. He expressed his appreciation and returned a certificate of honour in recognition of the support provided. — MNA/KZL



Union Minister Dr Soe Win receives the donation from the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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

Devotees observe Waso Full Moon Day

ON the auspicious Waso Full Moon Day (Dhammacakka Day), Buddhist devotees across various states and regions peacefully visited pagodas, stupas and monasteries to perform meritorious deeds.

The day marks several sacred milestones in Buddhism: the Buddha’s first sermon – the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, the emergence of the Dhamma Jewel and Sangha Jewel, the beginning of monastic ordination through the words “Ehi Bhikkhu”, and the transition of individuals from the mundane path to the noble path. As such, the Waso Full Moon Day is revered for its profound spiritual significance.



To honour the occasion, Buddhist communities across the country offered Waso robes and seasonal flowers, observed the Uposatha precepts, recited protective suttas and teach-

ings, and made charitable donations. These merit-making activities were carried out at prominent religious sites, including the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw, Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Maha Muni Pagoda in Mandalay, and numerous pagodas and monasteries in other regions and states. The monks, nuns, and laypeople gathered peacefully to engage in prayer and reflection.

Public parks and recreational areas in towns and cities across the nation also saw large crowds of visitors enjoying moments of relaxation during the public holiday.

— MNA/KZL



Botahtaung Pagoda.



Shwethalaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bago.



Pilgrims at Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago.



Kyauktawgyi Buddha Image.



Devotees at Shwenanthwin Pagoda.



Pilgrims visit Myathalun Pagoda in Magway.



Myat Mawtinsun Pagoda in Ngaputaw, Ayeyawady Region.



A Buddha image in Paungde, Nattalin District, Bago Region.

NATIONAL

Kayakam Metta Monastery receives dried alms donation

A ceremony for donating dried alms to monks was held at the Kayakam Metta Foundation Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Region, on 8 July.

The ceremony was held with the aim of supporting the monks — who are instrumental in the flourishing of the religion — in spreading the faith, ensuring its longevity, and carrying out religious activities with peace of mind.

“The Kayakam Metta Foundation aims to ensure that monks, who are instrumental in the flourishing of the religion, can live peacefully within the religious community without difficulties. This ceremony also serves to find foster fathers and mothers to support the monks in their religious activities. It is a bi-



This photo showcases the ceremony of offering dried alms to monks at the Kayakam Metta Foundation Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South).

annual festival where donors — referred to as the monks’ foster fathers and mothers — gather to discuss and provide for the needs of religious activities. On 20 July, we will hold a donation ceremony for monks studying in the monasteries, as well as a dried meal offering ceremony,” said Sayadaw Ashin Kusala of the Kayakam Metta Foundation.

The Kayakam Metta Foundation has been carrying out activities to help and care for monks, and has so far connected more than 300 monks with their donors.

In addition, the Kayakam Metta Foundation is conducting ten-day special courses to enhance the monks’ preaching skills, along with cultural and ethical training and free health-care. — ASH/TH

Romantic thriller ‘Cruellest Kiss’ coming to TV

THE Myanmar film titled Cruellest Kiss will be aired as a TV drama on 13 July, according to Academy Award winner Aye Chan Maung, who starred in the film.

The script was written by Ingyin Han, with Academy Award-winning director Mee Pwa serving as the artistic advisor. The drama is based on a novel by writer Lun Hta Hta and directed by Soe Moe Min for Weflex Production.

“This film was originally screened in September 2024. In it, I play the role of a doctor named Zaung. I’m very happy that fans appreciated the film

when it was released. Cruellest Kiss carries a message: what may seem good in your youth can sometimes turn into an unexpected mistake. For fans who didn’t get a chance to watch it then, or for those who’d like to see it again, it will be broadcast on CANAL+ Zat Lenn at 7:30 pm on Sunday, 13 July,” said Academy Aye Chan Maung.

The film Cruellest Kiss stars Tyrone, Academy Aye Chan Maung, Zac Gohan, Academy May Myint Mo, Academy Melody, Academy Min Oo, Academy May Than Nu, along with many supporting actors. — ASH/MKKS



The main characters of the movie ‘Cruellest Kiss’ are seen on the poster.

School gets disaster preparedness demo from MFSD



This photo displays the natural disaster preparedness session at BEHS 1 Thakayta Township conducted on 8 July.

MYANMAR Fire Service Department held an awareness event on Disaster and Emergency Preparedness and a demonstration at BEHS 1 in Thakayta Township on 8 July 2025.

U Kyaw Thu, chair of the Thakayta Township Administration body, delivered an opening remark at the event. Officer U Min Min of the MFSD elaborated on earthquake and natural disaster risks. Deputy fire service officer U Nay Win Tun explained how to stay safe in the face of natural disasters

through a PowerPoint presentation.

“Natural disasters like earthquakes cannot be predicted. This public awareness on disaster preparedness aims to educate prevention measures and emergency preparedness to the school-centered environment to residents in the ward. They demonstrate how to extinguish fire and share fire safety tips and knowledge,” said U Min Min, officer of the township Fire Service Department.

More than 200 students from BEHS 1 conducted an

earthquake drill to react safely during an earthquake, develop a sense of safety in responding to natural disasters, exist buildings and move to the designated safe areas, reduce potential injuries and provide first aids to those injured, together with those from Myanmar Fire Service Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society and Philanthropic associations. Trained professionals also demonstrated rescue operations and carried out hands-on training sessions to operate a fire extinguisher. — ASH/KK

CBM to inject \$30M into fuel oil industry

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced on 8 July that it would sell US\$30 million to fuel oil importers. CBM also sold \$885,100, which was purchased from the CMP companies to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$1.8 million and 1.3 million yuan on 7 July. Furthermore, CBM sold over \$1.87 million to edible oil companies and over \$912,150 to commodities-importing companies on the same day.

CBM sold \$1.75 million to edible oil importing companies and over \$481,540 to commodities importing companies on 4 July, in addition to an injection of \$578,542 and 900,000 yuan into the financial market.

CBM sold \$678,000, 1.24 million yuan and 2.94 million baht on 3 July. CBM sold \$3.346 million to



Vehicles are seen refuelling at the petrol station in Mandalay.

edible oil-importing companies, over \$578,400 to commodities-im-

porting countries on that day.

CBM announced on 2 July

that it would sell 10 million yuan to importers. CBM sold over US\$1.593 million to edible oil-im-

porting companies on that day.

CBM announced on 1 July that it would pump \$33 million into the fuel oil sector. CBM sold over \$1.15 million that purchased

from CMP companies to edible oil-importing companies.

CBM sold \$8.4 million, 13.9 million baht and 5.2 million yuan in June 2025, in addition to an injection of \$14.9 million that was purchased from the CMP enterprises into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate, depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Thet Htar Thuzar shares her rise to success at training event



Thet Htar Thuzar delivering her talk at the "Rebuild and Rise" training.

MYANMAR'S badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar delivered a motivational talk at the "Rebuild and Rise" training programme, jointly organized by the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYANWEN), CCI France Myanmar, and supported by AYA Bank and AYA Pay.

The two-day programme was held on 5 and 6 July 2025 at the Institut Français de Birmanie (IFB) Conference Room. Thet Htar Thuzar participated in the "Local Voices of Resilience" session on the second day, where she spoke about her journey as a Professional Bad-

minton Player, sharing personal insights and experiences under the theme of resilience.

Speaking about the event, Thet Htar elaborated, "As a collaboration between MYANWEN and CCI France Myanmar, I was invited to share my 'Successful Story' in the 'Local Voices of Resilience' session as part of the 'Rebuild and Rise: Strengthening MSMEs for Long Term Resilience' programme".

On the opening day of the training, Daw Su Su Tin, MYANWEN Vice-Chair and Dr Taya Ant Kyi, CCI France Myanmar CEO, warmly welcomed over

40 MSME business owners who attended the programme. They opened the session with encouraging speeches.

The training covered essential themes for MSMEs facing multidimensional challenges, including financial management, access to finance, business continuity planning, sustainable business models, digital transformation, and marketing. Business leaders and domain experts led presentations and interactive discussions to equip participants with practical skills for resilience and growth. — Htun Htun/KZL

MoC approves record 21,000 e-commerce firms in 24 months

THE Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce granted e-commerce registration for 21,088 online sales business operators within two years (between 2 October 2023 and June 2025) after ground inspection.

Those engaged in online sales are subject to legal action if they fail to seek online registration, according to the Trade Department's Notification 11/2024 dated 9 August 2024.

The Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce released Notification 50/2023 dated 21 July 2023 regarding mandatory e-commerce registration through <https://www.ecomreg.gov.mm> starting from 2 October 2023.

The ministry allowed those online sales business operators who registered between 2 October and 31 December 2023 to be exempt from registration fees for six months. Those running online sales businesses who failed to obtain a licence six months after the notification date will face actions under Section 5 of the Essential Supplies

and Services Law.

Registration for owners of e-commerce online shops can be made through www.ecomreg.gov.mm from 17 June by paying the registration fee, according to the export/import bulletin 17/2023 of the Trade Department released on 28 December 2023. The ministry allowed those online sales business operators who registered between 2 October and 31 December 2023 to be exempt from registration fees for six months.

The validity of registration granted starting from 1 January 2024 is two years. The registration fees are set at K70,000 for companies or commercial institutions, with a renewal fee of K70,000 and an amendment fee of K3,000. Those companies or commercial institutions holding the SME certificates have to pay K50,000 for registration, K50,000 for renewal and K3,000 for amendment fees. Individuals will be charged K30,000 for registration, K30,000 for renewal and K3,000 for amendment fees. — NN/KK

Prioritize the alleviation of poverty with earnest efforts

THE government is making efforts to enhance productivity and create more employment opportunities in order to boost production based on agriculture and livestock operations and reduce poverty, aiming to enhance the national economy and improve the socioeconomic lives of the entire population.

Collective efforts have been made to promote the growth and development of domestic production industries, thereby improving socioeconomic conditions. Regarding poverty, two main contributing factors may be the lack of success in economic ventures and the disruption of employment opportunities due to various natural disasters. Therefore, it is essential to create more job opportunities and ensure favourable working conditions.

If the authorities are able to successfully implement agricultural and livestock activities, which are the primary livelihoods of rural communities, it can greatly contribute to poverty alleviation.

To achieve the targeted goals in agriculture, it must begin with systematic planting to ensure the required number of crops is met. Except for situations arising from natural disasters, regions and states need to actively work towards the success of agriculture and related economic activities. In paddy cultivation, the promotion of direct seeding and mechanized transplanting methods has led to greater success in farming operations.

in poverty indicators.

To achieve the targeted goals in agriculture, it must begin with systematic planting to ensure the required number of crops is met. Except for situations arising from natural disasters, regions and states need to actively work towards the success of agriculture and related economic activities. In paddy cultivation, the promotion of direct seeding and mechanized transplanting methods has led to greater success in farming operations.

Although Myanmar possesses favourable basic conditions such as arable land and a capable labour force, there is still a need to create conditions that enable these resources to be used effectively. It is important to establish an environment conducive to productive work. The State is currently providing development funds to regions and states to boost the national economy. Moving forward, as the government will continue to support with the necessary investments and technologies, people genuinely engage in productive work.

LATELY, on social media – especially on TikTok – I’ve been seeing a new trend. Attractive young individuals, often calling themselves “Teachal” or “Teacher”, confidently upload educational content. Though I’m not an active TikTok user, I somehow come across these videos nearly every day. In these clips, they act and speak like professional educators. Some teach phonics and English, while others explain design tools, mobile apps, or social media strategy. With each video, they present themselves as subject experts.

What surprises me is how easily they claim mastery – some mention having less than ten years of experience in the field. Can someone become a master with just ten years of practice? Is it enough to declare oneself a teacher in front of thousands or even millions of viewers? This raises a deeper question: What does it truly take to become a great teacher? What qualifies someone to stand before others and teach, not just with knowledge, but with confidence, skill, and integrity?

Let’s explore the qualities of a real teacher, drawing from both international standards and the traditional values upheld in Myanmar society.

Strong Qualifications and Lifelong Learning

Around the world, the foundation of a professional teaching ca-

reer starts with formal education – usually a bachelor’s degree in a relevant field, followed by certification such as TEFL for English teachers or IB training for international schools. In the US, for instance, teachers aiming for the National Board Certification must complete years of reflective work, rigorous assessments, and teaching evaluations. Only about four per cent of American teachers reach this level, which shows the high expectations involved.

But even after certification, great teachers do not stop learning. They attend workshops, enrol in postgraduate courses, and stay updated on new methods and technologies. Many also pursue master’s degrees or even doctoral studies to refine their skills and take on leadership roles. A commitment to continuous improvement is a mark of true professionalism.

Communication and Classroom Presence

Effective teaching is not just about what you know – it’s about how you share it. Great teachers communicate clearly, using tone, volume, facial expressions, and gestures that hold the students’ attention. Whether they’re explaining complex grammar or guiding a group discussion, skilled teachers know how to make learning interactive and engaging.

Teaching is also about reading the room. Adjusting your pace, asking the right questions, and

Mingalaba, Teachal

By Junior Thin



being aware of student confusion – these are all part of the art of instruction. Communication skills take years to develop and are often refined through classroom experience.

Cultural Sensitivity and Empathy

In international education settings, teachers often deal with students from various cultures

and backgrounds. A successful educator respects these differences, adjusts language and references accordingly, and builds a classroom culture of inclusion.

In Myanmar, as well, where many students come from rural or underprivileged communities, empathy plays a huge role. A good teacher listens, understands each child’s situation, and responds with patience and compassion.

Teaching goes far beyond textbooks – it’s about helping students feel seen, supported, and safe.

Passion, Enthusiasm, and Confidence

True passion for teaching cannot be faked. You can see it in a teacher’s eyes, feel it in their words, and witness it in the way students respond. Enthusiastic teachers inspire curiosity. They prepare lessons thoroughly and deliver them energetically. Over time, this consistent passion builds their confidence, helping them face challenges with creativity and calm. Confidence isn’t loudness or performance – it’s the quiet strength that comes from deep preparation and authentic experience. And it grows over time.

Flexibility and Collaboration

No two classes are the same. Great teachers can pivot quickly when a lesson isn’t working or when a student needs unexpected support. They adjust their strategies on the spot and keep the energy positive and encouraging.

Teaching is also a collaborative profession. Educators thrive when they work together – shar-

ing ideas, leading school projects, mentoring younger teachers, and contributing to the larger school community. This spirit of teamwork enriches their growth and benefits students.

Myanmar’s Traditional View

In Myanmar culture, a teacher is far more than a knowledge provider. Teachers are viewed as second parents – figures of guidance, respect, and moral strength. Therefore, ethical conduct is essential. A good teacher must lead by example, showing honesty, patience, humility, and kindness in both public and private life.

Discipline and integrity are key. Parents entrust teachers with not only their children’s education but also their moral development. The trust that comes with this role is deep and sacred.

Knowledge and Communication

In many parts of Myanmar, where access to self-study resources can be limited, students rely heavily on teachers for clear explanations. This means that a good teacher must truly understand their subject matter and know how to present it in a way

that makes sense to all learners – whether in urban schools with digital tools or in rural villages with chalkboards and textbooks.

Compassion and Community Engagement

Many children in Myanmar face hardships. A compassionate teacher who listens and supports students personally can have a life-changing impact. Moreover, teachers in Myanmar are often community leaders. They take part in religious ceremonies, social work, and cultural preservation. Their role extends far beyond the classroom and touches every part of village or town life.

How Many Years to Become a Great Teacher?

So, back to the original question: Is ten years enough to become a master teacher?

The answer isn’t simple. While ten years may seem like a long time, many educators agree that true teaching mastery often takes fifteen years or more. It’s not just about experience, but how you use that experience.

In the early years, teachers are usually focused on basic skills, like classroom management, lesson planning, and adjusting to different student needs. Around the fifth year, they may begin to feel more confident. But true mastery takes more than just time – it requires ongoing reflection, self-assessment, and the willingness to change.

One teacher might work for ten years but teach the same lessons in the same way, without improvement. Another might grow more in five years than someone else does in twenty, simply because they reflect, adapt, and evolve every day.

A Personal Memory or A Lesson for Life

Let me share a memory that has stayed with me for over fifty years.

In 1973, I passed the matriculation exam with an A List result, alongside only 13 other students from our town. As a reward, the Township Education Officer invited all of us to serve as volunteer teaching assistants in local primary schools for a month. During our orientation, the Education Officer, U Aung Kywel, delivered a speech that I still remember clearly. He said something that left a lasting mark on me.

He told us that when he first earned his degree and started teaching, he was proud and enthusiastic. He believed he had already become a real teacher. But then he paused and added:

“Ah... only now, after seventeen years, do I truly feel that I have become a teacher.”

That one sentence – simple, honest, and profound – has stayed with me all my life. It reminds me that becoming a real teacher is not about a title, a degree, or online followers. It’s about time, growth, and deep self-awareness.

Quality Instruction of a Great Teacher

By Hu Wo (Cuckoo’s Song)

GENERALLY, a teacher is known as a person who teaches students. Many teachers also do instruction, but I am aware that they are not a successful as a teacher. Why on earth does this happen? I am strongly of the opinion that almost all successful teachers tend to carry out quality instruction, where I mean that such instruction is a kind of effective and efficient teaching. Most of all, many characteristics like willingness to teach, lesson preparation, teaching voice, knowledge, power, making use of teaching aids, helping to learn by doing, creating an enjoyable learning environment, arriving

at teaching objectives and educational goals can be seen in quality education of a great teacher.

As far as I know, some teachers teach just for a living. It means that they never want to be a teacher; in other words, they are not the teaching spirits at all, honest to say. But the real teachers are always educationally active as well as passionate about teaching students. Even sometimes, they like to have a finger in every pie regarding teaching so that they may often be called ‘Phoe-thin-chin’, which means a person who is eager for a teaching job every time. A willingness to teach should be

something that a great teacher is willing and able to teach a reasonable amount of subject matter within a proper time, taken in accordance with the students’ learning rate.

Teachers, young and old, have to make lesson preparations. There would be a marked difference between old teachers and young ones: whether lesson preparation is written down on paper. Lesson preparation is the lifeblood of quality instruction simply because this preparation enables a teacher to draw the lesson plan, know what basic facts should be introduced before the lesson, how much subject mat-

ter must be taught with which method during a time allowance of instruction and what expected learning outcomes students can get after the lesson. Nevertheless, most great teachers are such expert instructors that they can think about any lesson preparation beforehand without let or hindrance.

A teacher’s voice plays a huge role in their instruction. Some teachers’ voices are too gentle for students to hear them teaching. There are some teachers I have ever seen who try to at-

tract the attention of students in a low voice, however. Of course, it will also hardly ever be okay for students if their teachers’ voices are too noisy. In my experience, a teacher’s voice may lead to an undesirably noisy classroom for students. A teaching voice must be loud enough for students to hear well. And it would be better if this voice is sweet and pleasant enough to recite a poem and sing a song. Moreover, a great teacher’s voice is so articulate that students can catch whatever they listen to very well.

Needless to say, knowledge is power. Similarly, teachers should have knowledge not only of school subjects but also of how to prepare their related learning material in advance. As far as I see, many teachers have had knowledge and power over their school subjects to a certain extent. Despite this, some teachers cannot tell the facts and figures of the subject matter as well as they know them. If so, they will be unable to make students know their knowledge power to which they have learnt. Either arts teachers or science teachers need to provide the necessary and accurate information about school subjects in any way. As always, knowledge is power in the hands of great teachers, which can arouse students’ curiosity.

See Page 10



ARTICLE/NATIONAL

MMPO cards now cover free drugs in 4 areas



This photo reveals free medical services for MMPO members.

DR Nay La, who was once an actor, has initiated a project that will give free medical services to Myanmar Motion Pictures Organization members.

Some actors need healthcare when they become old or retire, but they have financial difficulties.

Under this plan, MMPO members can receive free medication at Mingala clinics in four townships. “Not only at the university I also studied a profession in the movie industry for a certain time. I’m not in the movie industry



Dr Nay La, also known as actor Khine Htoo Thar.

anymore, but I implemented this plan to provide some help for people in the movie industry,” he said.

Those who hold an MMPO membership card can receive medical services for free of charge at Mingala clinics in Thingangyun, Thanlyin, North Okkalapa and Kamayut townships, by booking to 09

950678123. “I will try to continue this project as much as I can,” said Dr Nay La, who provides healthcare for free clinics only. Dr Nay La, also known as actor Khine Htoo Thar, who played as lead actor in well-known films: OoPaDan and Shin Oo Pa Gotta Ma Htay Myat. — Htet Oo Maung/ZS

Pathein orphanage receives rice, formula milk donation

WITH the public’s contribution, 100 rice bags and 200 cans of formula milk, enough for approximately 200 children, were provided to YGW orphanage in Pathein, said Dr Than Min Htut, also known as Pindaya Mee Eain Shin for his social work.

The donation, worth K13.4 million, was offered just a few days ago to the orphanage, which provides care for over 30 infants and more than 150 children, totalling 200 orphans. “I had been there since I was in Pathein. The orphanage feeds children and

also provides learning, and takes charge of their living. Losing a warm arm is the deepest sorrow in the world. So, I would like to urge you to share our warm arms with these children,” he said on his Facebook page.

Of children, 32 infants need to be fed about two cans of formula milk a day, and nearly a rice bag needs to be cooked for other children a day.

He said he wishes to do such a donation once in three months and invited the public to give as much as they can. — MT/ZS



Rice bags donated to Pathein YGW.

This image captures infants being given care at the Pathein YGW.

500,000 seed balls, 6,000 plants set for PyinOoLwin greening

THE Green Challenge Association is planning to plant about 500,000 seedlings and 6,000 trees in PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region in this rainy season, according to Chairman U Aung Myo Paing.

From the first week of June until September every year, seed balls are thrown by catapults in addition to traditional hand-sown seedlings to grow shade trees and edible plants.

“People cut down the trees, and the climate gets hotter and drier. In the long run, the groundwater can dry up, so we grow trees to protect it. We will plant in each and every corner of PyinOoLwin- villages, roadsides, monasteries, schools, and pagoda compounds. We arrange about 500,000 seed balls and 6,000 plants”, he said.

An average of 300 plants will be grown every week, and seed balls are regularly thrown along cliffs and jungle paths. The Green Challenge has been carrying out this campaign of traditional planting in holes since 2017 and seed ball throwing since 2019, he added.

They continue seed ball throwing and catapulting, but have stopped seed throwing via hot air balloons since last year for various reasons. — MT/ZN

Quality Instruction of a Great Teacher

From page 9

Making good use of teaching aids is also an essential part of great teaching. Rather than whether making teaching aids costs a lot or not, using these aids only relies on teachers’ desire to make use of them. Teaching materials can be too expensive, yet those materials should be kept well to use again and again for the coming academic years. The most widely known teaching aid is nothing but the board. If the blackboard or whiteboard itself can be used well, many students will follow their teachers’ instructions to the letter. Several coloured chalks or markers are used on the boards, and drawings can be done over them. At least, teachers must be able to use pictures and figures in textbooks only as teaching aids. For great teachers, they are highly competent to use effective and efficient teaching aids as and when necessary.

An educational motto says ‘Learning by Doing’. Many educationists are satisfied that this saying is true. Although students may have diverse learning styles, that is, audio, spatial, note-taking, and bodily kinesthetic, most of them can quite easily learn something from doing it all by themselves. Really, learning by doing enables the body to know something by heart even if the brain does not do so, for instance, learning to dance. Thus, teachers with kinesthetic intelligence create as many appropriate learning activities in their teaching as needed in order to learn by doing. Learning activities often give birth to active learners in the classroom, not passive students. Hence, a great teacher is accustomed to making any student get involved in a learning activity which agrees with the needs of a school lesson, individual students’ desires and their likes.

Finally, great teachers’ quality

instruction depends on creating an enjoyable learning environment, then arriving at teaching objectives and educational goals as well. As usual, a nice learning atmosphere is full of fun, laughter and happiness of students in particular. Therefore, a teacher must be capable of teaching. He ought to have also had a sense of humour. Here, I do not mean that class teaching is a type of slapstick comedy. Since the longest potential attention span of a normal student takes just 15 minutes, a well-experienced teacher can make even subject matter burst into laughter so that this span lengthens more than average. Whatever teaching method is used in instruction, it will have to arrive at the assigned teaching objectives and the established long-term educational goals. After all, seasoned teachers can handle their quality instruction as much as they want, upgrading their level year after year.

Dutch art sleuth recovers stolen trove of UNESCO-listed documents

Dutch art sleuth Arthur Brand recovered stolen documents from the 15th to 19th century, including UNESCO-listed archives.

A Dutch art sleuth has recovered a priceless trove of stolen documents from the 15th to the 19th century, including several UNESCO-listed archives from the world’s first multinational corporation.

Arthur Brand, nicknamed the “Indiana Jones of the Art World” for his high-profile recovery of stolen masterpieces, said

the latest discovery was among his most significant.

“In my career, I have been able to return fantastic stolen art, from Picassos to a Van Gogh... yet this find is one of the highlights of my career,” Brand told AFP.

Many of the documents recount the early days of the Dutch East India Company

(VOC), whose globetrotting trading and military operations contributed to the Dutch “Golden Age”, when the Netherlands was a global superpower.

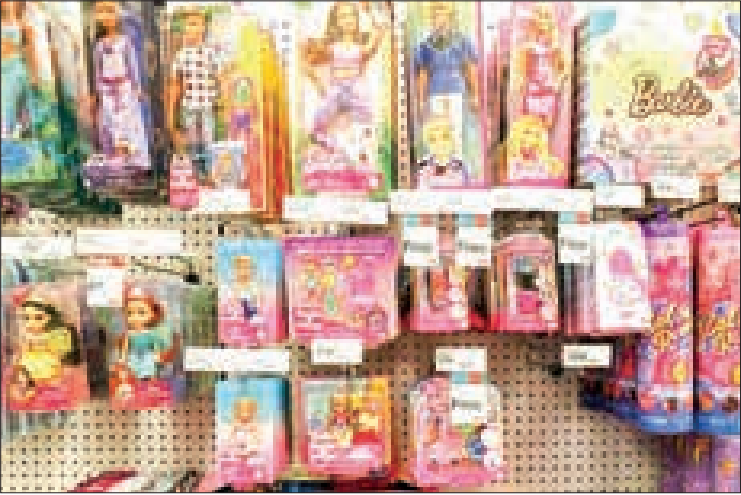
The 17th century VOC documents contain a “fascinating glimpse into the events of that time in places like Europe, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Latin America,” said Brand.



Arthur Brand scores another spectacular find.
PHOTO: ARTHUR BRAND/AFP

One document from 1602 recounts the first meeting of the VOC, during which its famous logo — considered the world’s first corporate logo — was designed. — AFP

Mattel launches Barbie doll with diabetes



In recent years Mattel has diversified its range of dolls from the original blonde prototype. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

MATTEL has launched its first Barbie doll with type 1 diabetes in a bid to foster a greater sense of inclusion and empathy among children, a company vice-president said Tuesday.

The new Barbie has been designed in partnership with the global type 1 diabetes not-for-profit Breakthrough T1D.

“Introducing a Barbie doll with type 1 diabetes marks an important step in our commitment to inclusivity and representation,” said Krista Berger, senior vice-president of Barbie and global head of dolls.

“Barbie helps shape children’s early perceptions of the world, and by reflecting medical conditions like T1D, we ensure more kids can see themselves

in the stories they imagine and the dolls they love.”

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition where the body attacks and destroys the cells in the pancreas that make insulin.

It is often diagnosed in childhood, and patients have to monitor their glucose levels and take insulin every day.

The new doll wears a CGM — a small device that continuously measures a person’s blood sugar — on her arm to help manage her condition.

To keep her CGM in place, she uses a pink heart-shaped medical tape along with a phone that displays an app to help track her blood sugar levels throughout the day. — AFP

Chris Pratt to return as Garfield in sequel to 2024 animated film

THE much-loved orange cat is making a comeback. Actor Chris Pratt is all set to voice Garfield once again in a sequel to 2024’s The Garfield Movie, which made more than \$230 million at the global box office, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Released by Sony Pictures (except in China), the original film reintroduced the iconic comic strip character to a new generation of audiences. Following its success, the team behind the film is now ready for round two.

Alcon Entertainment’s co-CEOs Andrew Kosove and Broderick Johnson will return as producers, along with John Cohen, Steven P Wegner, and Pratt himself. Prime Focus Studios, led by Namit Malhotra, will co-produce the film, while DNEG Animation will again handle the animation work, as it did in the first film.

The rights to Garfield were acquired by Alcon from the character’s creator, Jim Davis, before the first film began. Davis will continue as executive producer for the sequel, alongside Bridget McMeel from Amuse.

A writer and director for the sequel have not yet been announced, and the team is currently



Chris Pratt will reprise his role as Garfield in the animated sequel to 2024’s successful The Garfield Movie. **PHOTO: ANI**

searching for the right people to take on those roles, according to The Hollywood Reporter. — ANI

‘Bridgerton’ star Simone Ashley joins ‘The Devil Wears Prada 2’

‘BRIDGERTON’ actress Simone Ashley has joined the cast of ‘The Devil Wears Prada 2,’ according to Deadline.

The British star will be seen alongside original cast members Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, and Stanley Tucci. Actor Kenneth Branagh has also joined the film.

As per Deadline, the upcoming movie is a sequel to the 2006 hit ‘The Devil Wears Prada,’ which followed the story of a young woman working under a tough fashion editor. In the new film, Meryl Streep’s character Miranda Priestly is now dealing with the fall of print media, while Emily Blunt’s character Emily Charlton has become a top executive in fashion. The two characters are set to clash in the story as they fight for ad business. Branagh will play Miranda’s husband. — ANI

ECONOMY
WORLD

Indian Banks see robust market cap growth in Q2 2025 amid rate cuts and liquidity boost: Report

Indian banks saw significant market cap gains in Q2 2025, driven by falling interest rates and increased liquidity.

INDIAN banks witnessed significant gains in market capitalization during the April-June quarter of 2025, driven by falling interest rates and increased liquidity, which collectively attracted investor confidence.

According to S&P Global Market Intelligence data, 18 of the top 20 Indian lenders, including the nation's three largest, saw their market cap rise.

HDFC Bank Ltd, India's largest bank by market cap, registered a strong 9.70 per cent increase in its market capitalisation. Its private sector counterpart, ICICI Bank Ltd., also posted a healthy gain of 7.43 per cent.

State Bank of India, the country's biggest lender by assets, saw its market cap climb by 6.33 per cent.

The positive sentiment in the banking sector mirrored

broader market trends, with India's benchmark Nifty 50 index rising 8.5 per cent and the Nifty Bank index, comprising the most liquid and largest Indian banks, surging 11.1 per cent over the same period.

Global investor confidence was also buoyed by expectations that planned tariff measures by US President Donald Trump would be less disruptive to global supply chains than initially anticipated. — ANI



ICICI Bank Ltd posted a healthy gain of 7.43 per cent. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ SHUTTERSTOCK



The CCI call centre is located in a brand-new town, Tatu City, on the outskirts of Nairobi. PHOTO: AFP

Can Kenya attract the outsourcing jobs of the AI future?

IN Nairobi, Cloudfactory, a Kenyan firm, is leveraging artificial intelligence to transform the outsourcing market, helping clients track shoplifters, monitor lung damage from COVID-19, and identify whales. Founded in 2014, Cloudfactory initially focused on simple tasks like transcription but has expanded its services significantly since 2024, employing 130 staff and 3,000 freelancers. The firm collaborates with various clients, including US robotics companies,

to train AI systems for specific tasks.

Kenya's educated, English-speaking youth and reliable internet make it a prime candidate for outsourcing, with the potential workforce in the sector projected to grow from 35,000 to 100,000 in a few years. However, challenges remain, including concerns over working conditions and mental health risks associated with content moderation jobs. Critics argue that outsourcing firms often

exploit cheap labour without investing in local economies.

The Outsourcing Association of Kenya is advocating for government support, such as tax breaks and marketing efforts, to enhance the country's appeal as an outsourcing hub.

While AI presents both opportunities and threats to job security, industry leaders emphasize the importance of reskilling workers to adapt to evolving demands in the labour market. — AFP

Long slow death of Norway's wild salmon

WILD salmon in Norway is facing a dramatic decline due to climate change and fish farming practices. Fly fishing enthusiast Christer Kristoffersen recalls a time in the 1980s when rivers were teeming with fish, contrasting sharply with the current situation where only 323,000 wild salmon returned to spawn in 2024, down from one million annually in the 1980s.

This decline has led to the species being placed on Norway's red list of near-endangered species.

The Norwegian government has responded by suspending fishing in 33 waterways and implementing new restrictions, impacting tourism and the livelihoods of 60,000 to 80,000 sport

anglers.

Fish farming, a \$12 billion industry, has contributed to the decline through issues like sea lice, which harm wild salmon, and genetic mixing from escaped farmed fish.

Calls for reform in the fish farming industry are growing, with demands for sealed enclosures to prevent environmental impact. While the industry acknowledges the need for change, it cites challenges in transitioning to safer practices.

The Norwegian parliament plans to introduce new regulations within two to four years, but concerns remain that without significant action, wild salmon fishing may soon become a thing of the past in Norway. — AFP



Started in the 1970s, farmed salmon has grown into a \$12-billion a year industry. PHOTO: AFP

Volkswagen US deliveries fall as Trump tariffs bite

EUROPE’S largest auto-maker Volkswagen said Wednesday that sales into the United States had taken a hit, underscoring the impact of President Donald Trump’s drastic trade measures.

Total vehicle deliveries into North America fell almost seven percent in the first half of the year, the German group said, even as overall deliveries worldwide notched a rise of 1.3 per cent.

In the three months to June – a period dominated by the fallout of Trump announcing 25-per-cent tariffs on cars in late March and further sweeping duties in April — deliveries to North America plunged 16.2 per cent.

In China, a key market where European carmakers are struggling against

the electric models of local competitors such as BYD, first-half deliveries fell just over two per cent.

Marco Schubert, board member for sales at the firm, said the declines were “expected” and that “gains in South America and Europe more than offset” the impact.

Trump has announced a wide range of duties in a bid to boost US manufacturing, but promptly suspended the implementation of many of them before inviting countries to seek trade deals after markets plunged worldwide.

Though April’s “Liberation Day” tariffs have been paused until August 1, a 25-percent tariff on imported cars that are not largely made within North America remains in force. — AFP



While Volkswagen has manufacturing facilities in the United States, it still imports many vehicles into the US market. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

Lidl owes French rival \$50 mln after ads ruled deceptive

GERMAN supermarket chain Lidl faces a 43-million-euro (\$50 million) payout to a French rival after an appeals court ruled its ads to be deceptive.

The Paris appeals court ordered Lidl to pay the amount to French chain Intermarche after finding hundreds of the television spots that it ran between 2017 and 2023 were likely to deceive consumers and amounted to unfair competition.

While Intermarche lost the original trial in 2022,

the appeals court considered in its 4 July ruling that Lidl’s ads were deceptive as the hard discount retailer had not ensured the items it promoted were available in all of its shops at the advertised price for a period of 15 weeks.

The appeals court judge found that in the more than 370 ads contested by Intermarche that Lidl had prominently featured the products and prices but had used small print or brief off-screen voice mentions to see its website for



A French court found over 370 ads ran by Lidl were deceptive and amounted to unfair competition. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

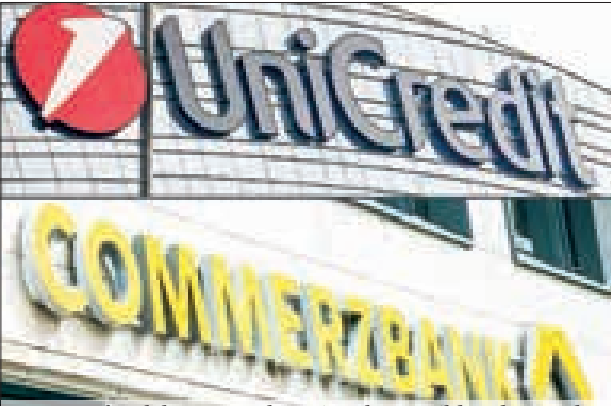
participating stores. The court ruled those mentions were “likely to go unnoticed by the consumer or at the very least be misunderstood.” — AFP

Commerzbank commits to strategy as UniCredit ups direct stake

GERMAN lender Commerzbank said Wednesday it was committed to its strategy after Italian bank UniCredit formally upped its stake in its rival, laying the ground for a potential takeover bid.

UniCredit said late Tuesday it had increased its direct stake in Commerzbank to around 20 per cent from 10 per cent, following all the necessary regulatory approvals.

The Italian group said it intended to convert a further tranche equiv-



Commerzbank has strongly resisted a possible takeover by UniCredit since the Italian bank announced in September it had quietly built up a stake in the German group. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

alent to around nine per cent of Commerzbank’s

stock and held through derivatives into fully

owned shares.

The moves, which made UniCredit the single-largest shareholder in the German bank, were “once again not coordinated with Commerzbank”, the bank said in a statement sent to AFP on Wednesday.

Commerzbank has strongly resisted a possible takeover by UniCredit since the Italian bank announced in September it had quietly built up a stake in the German group. — AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (264N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (264N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM5AS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0QM5AS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (230W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OTANA BHUM VOY.NO. (230W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-7-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Indian PM Modi arrives in Namibia for first-ever visit, to hold bilateral talks with President Nandi-Ndaitwah



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Windhoek, Namibia, marking his first visit and only the third by an Indian Prime Minister. PHOTO: ANI

During his visit, PM Modi will hold bilateral talks with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and pay homage to Namibia's founding father, Dr Sam Nujoma.

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, on Wednesday morning, marking his first-ever visit to the country and only the third-ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Namibia.

PM Modi is in Namibia for a State visit at the invitation of Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Upon his arrival, the Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Hosea Ku-

tako International Airport.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "In the final leg of his visit, at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Prime Minister will embark on a State Visit to Namibia on 9 July 2025. This will be the first visit of the Prime Minister to Namibia and the third-ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Namibia."

"During the visit, the Prime

Minister will hold bilateral talks with President Nandi-Ndaitwah. The Prime Minister will also pay homage to the Founding Father and first President of Namibia, the Late Dr Sam Nujoma. He is also expected to deliver an address at the Parliament of Namibia," the MEA said.

"The visit of the Prime Minister is a reiteration of India's multi-faceted and deep-rooted historical ties with Namibia," it added. — ANI

NEWS IN BRIEF

Spain PM announces anti-graft plan as scandal rocks govt

SPANISH Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Wednesday announced an anti-corruption plan designed with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in a bid to salvage confidence in his scandal-hit government.

The implication of two former Socialist heavyweights and close Sanchez allies in a graft scandal has rocked the minority leftist coalition and thrown its viability into doubt.

The crisis is particularly sensitive for a leader who came to power in 2018 vowing to clean up Spanish politics after the rival conservative Popular Party (PP) was convicted in its own graft affair.

Sanchez announced a 15-point plan drawn up with the Paris-based OECD's division for anti-corruption and integrity in government during an address to parliament. — AFP

Netanyahu says reaffirmed hostages release, Hamas defeat in Trump talks

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he discussed efforts to release hostages held in Gaza and the ongoing military campaign to defeat Hamas during talks at the White House with US President Donald Trump.

The meeting on Tuesday was the second in 24 hours between the two leaders, as Trump intensified pressure on Netanyahu to reach a deal that could end what he called the "tragedy" of the war in Gaza. — AFP

Japan's emperor, empress pay respects at WWII memorial in Mongolia

JAPAN'S Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako on Tuesday paid their respects to Japanese nationals who died in internment camps in Mongolia in the aftermath of World War II, during the first state visit

to the country by a Japanese emperor.

Welcomed by the country's leader, the imperial couple is on an eight-day trip through Sunday to reaffirm the friendship between the two nations, with

this year marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the war.

In a speech at a banquet hosted by Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh, the emperor expressed hope that Japan and Mongolia will con-

tinue to deepen their friendly relations, saying, "The foundation of the deep friendship and cooperation between my country and Mongolia is based on the ties between people." — Kyodo

France police raid far-right party offices over campaign financing



The party said police seized 'all emails, documents and accounting' records of the party. PHOTO: AFP

THE leader of France's National Rally said police seized documents from the far-right party's headquarters Wednesday, a raid prosecutors said was linked to a French probe into alleged illegal campaign financing.

The party of Marine Le Pen, the longtime standard bearer of the French far right, has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years.

The 56-year-old politician, who has three times run for president, suffered a stunning blow in March when a French court convicted her and other party officials over an EU parliament fake jobs scam.

The ruling, which Le Pen has appealed, banned her from standing for office for five years, effectively scuppering her ambition of running in 2027 presi-

dential elections.

Le Pen has asked her top lieutenant, 29-year-old party leader and member of European Parliament Jordan Bardella, to prepare to campaign in her place. "RN headquarters -- including the offices of its leaders -- are being searched by around 20 police officers from the financial brigade," Bardella said on X on Wednesday morning. — AFP

SPORTS

Myanmar youth badminton stars clinch 3 golds at Asia Championships



The Myanmar U17 team pictured after receiving their gold medals in the team competition.

MYANMAR youth badminton teams have claimed three gold medals in the team events of the Badminton Asia Regional Championships 2025 (Southeast Asia), held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 7 to 12 July.

The Myanmar contingent earned

gold in the U15, U17, and U23 mixed team competitions. The victories highlight the strength and growing potential of the country’s emerging badminton talent across multiple age groups.

Following their success in the

team events, Myanmar youth players are scheduled to take part in the individual contests from 10 to 12 July. These events include men’s singles, women’s singles, men’s doubles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles. — Arkar Linn/KZL

Delighted Maresca hails Joao Pedro after Chelsea reach Club World Cup final



Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca leads the celebrations after his side beat Fluminense to reach the Club World Cup final. **PHOTO: AFP**

CHELSEA coach Enzo Maresca hailed Joao Pedro and expressed his delight at reaching the Club World Cup final after the new signing’s double strike secured a 2-0 win over Fluminense in the last four on Tuesday.

“We are very happy and very proud to be in the final on Sunday because this

is the first edition of the Club World Cup and the best clubs in the world are here,” said Maresca.

Joao Pedro was starting for the first time since arriving from Brighton and Hove Albion for a reported £60 million (\$79 million) last week, fresh from an off-season break.

The Brazilian made an immediate impact in the game at the MetLife Stadium just outside New York.

He produced two superb finishes, either side of half-time, to take Chelsea through to Sunday’s final against Paris Saint-Germain or Real Madrid.

“I am very happy for Joao. He has the quality to decide games like today, but also he was on holiday so is probably a bit more fresh compared to the rest,” Maresca said of the 23-year-old.

“We knew what Joao was like. We brought him in because this season we faced many teams with low blocks and his quality is very good against these kinds of teams”.

The striker did not celebrate his goals out of respect for the club from Rio de Janeiro, with whom he started his career before moving to England with Watford in 2020.

“When I was young they gave everything to me, they showed me to the world,” he said after collecting his award for player of the match. — AFP

Djokovic eyes Wimbledon history, wounded Sinner in spotlight

NOVAK Djokovic can make Wimbledon history in his quarterfinal against Flavio Cobolli, while his title rival Jannik Sinner must banish fears over an elbow injury when he faces Ben Shelton on Wednesday.

Djokovic, the seven-time champion, and world number one Sinner will book a blockbuster semifinal showdown if they win their last eight matches.

But before that heavyweight showdown is secured, both Djokovic and Sinner have pressing issues to resolve.

Djokovic will pass Roger Federer to take sole ownership of the all-time record for most Wimbledon men’s semifinal appearances if he advances to the last four for the 14th time.

The Serb is bidding to become the second man in the Open era to reach the Wimbledon semifinals aged 38 or older after Ken Rosewall, who made that stage aged 39 in 1974.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion is also aiming to reach a record extending 52nd major semifinal.

That would take him within two wins of breaking his tie with Margaret Court for the most Grand Slam singles titles by a man or woman.

Success at Wimbledon has been child’s play for Djokovic, who has reached the final in every one of his appearances since 2018. — AFP



Serbia’s Novak Djokovic is eyeing more Wimbledon history. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indian PM Modi arrives in Namibia for first-ever visit, to hold bilateral talks with President Nandi-Ndaitwah
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WORLD

China urges EU to pursue more positive, pragmatic policy towards China

A Chinese spokesperson urged the EU to adopt a more objective view of China and pursue positive policies, emphasizing the importance of their 50-year diplomatic relationship.



Flags of China and the European Union are seen in this photo. PHOTO: VCG/CHINA DAILY

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Wednesday urged the European Union (EU) to adopt a more objective and rational view of China, and pursue a more positive and pragmatic policy towards the country.

Spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks at a regular press briefing

when responding to the recent remarks made by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen regarding China-EU relations.

Noting that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the EU, Mao said it is an important year for the two sides to build on the

past achievements and forge ahead.

Mao urged the EU to truly establish a more objective and rational understanding of China and pursue a more positive and pragmatic policy towards China.

“China hopes the EU will realize that what needs rebalancing is its own mindset, not the China-EU economic

and trade relations,” Mao said.

“Under the current volatile global situation, it is hoped that the EU will work with China in the same direction, strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation, properly handle differences and frictions, and promote the sustained, healthy and stable development of China-EU relations,” she added. — Xinhua



Zakharova stated that US unilateral tariffs violate free trade rules. The imposition of these tariffs poses risks to the global economy. PHOTO: PIX FOR VISUAL PURPOSE/ DREAMSTIME.COM

Russia is monitoring US actions in framework of trade policy, including possible tariffs

Russia is monitoring US trade policy actions, particularly new tariffs affecting BRICS partners.

MOSCOW is closely monitoring the actions of the United States in the context of trade policy, including the possible introduction of tariffs, Russian Foreign

Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday.

“We are closely monitoring the actions of the United States in the context

of their trade policy, including the introduction of new tariffs against a number of countries, in particular, our BRICS partners,” Zakharova said at a briefing.

US policy of imposing unilateral tariffs grossly violates rules of free trade and carries risks for the global economy, Zakharova added. — SPUTNIK

COMMITMENT TO DIGITAL EDUCATION

Sri Lanka to connect all secondary schools to Internet by 2026

SRI Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya said on Wednesday that all secondary schools in the country will have Internet access by the end of 2026.

Amarasuriya told the parliament that the government recently launched an unlimited data package for schools, which costs just 5,000 rupees (about US\$17) per month.

The government has also planned to provide smartboards and other computer equipment to about 1,500 schools. According to Amarasuriya, these schools will receive a total of 1,900 smartboards, and the cabinet has approved a proposal to distribute smartboards to an additional 1,000 schools.

In addition, the government was setting up a national education management information system to cover all levels of the education sector. The Sri Lankan air force was providing technical support for this initiative under the Clean Sri Lanka programme, Amarasuriya said. — Xinhua