

# The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

## President of the Republic of Belarus will pay a Working Visit to Myanmar

AT the invitation of His Excellency U Min Aung Hlaing, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, will pay a Working Visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future. — MNA

## Roadside Housing Surge Strains Local Administration



President U Min Aung Hlaing hosts meeting with the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, state and region chief ministers in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Administrative bodies face an immediate mandate to crack down on unauthorized developments and restore public order under prevailing rules and regulations.

IT is necessary to prioritize the improvement of transport and communication links in remote border areas, said President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Min

Aung Hlaing at the meeting with the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman, chief ministers of regions and states at the President's Office yesterday morning.

In his speech, the President stated that the required funds for transport and communication projects are being provided by the State.

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## Yangon drafts land allocation plan for civil servants and retirees

YANGON is drafting a major urban development expansion that will allocate land plots to civil servants and retired staff as soon as Union-level authorities clear the project for execution, according to Regional Development Affairs Minister U Myo Myint Aung.

The minister pro-

vided this response on 29 June during the ninth day of the second regular session of the third Yangon Region Hluttaw, answering a question raised by U Thawda, Representative from the Dagon Myothit (East) Township Constituency 2.

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## Yangon Port handles 347 container vessels in H1



Cargo lorries and shipping containers jam transit lanes at Yangon Port as maritime trade volumes climb.

A total of 347 container vessels arrived at the Yangon Port in the first half of 2026, the Myanmar Port Authority announced.

Yangon Port saw arrivals of 55 container vessels in June, 57 in May, 53 in April, 59 in March, 60 in February and 63 in January 2026.

Yangon Port handled 728 container vessels in 2025, 633 in 2024 and 629 in 2023. Thanks to the draft extension, the international ocean liners can access the inner port for now, according to the Myanmar Port Authority's statement on 22 June 2022.

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### ARTICLE

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Naypyitaw Academy students observe 15<sup>th</sup> day of Pyithu Hluttaw session

# NATIONAL

## 2 special criminal appeal cases, 3 special civil appeal cases passed judgements; 4 special civil appeal cases heard

A special appeal tribunal consisting of the Union Chief Justice U Tha Htay of the Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar, judges of the Supreme Court of the Union: U Thein Ko Ko, Dr Ko Ko Naing, U Win Myint and Daw Soe Khet Khet was convened yesterday morning at Zeyathiri District Court, and passed judgements for a total of five

special appeal cases: two criminal cases: Nos 3/2026 (Taninthayi) and 4/2026 (Yangon), and three special civil appeal cases: Nos 9/2026 (Taninthayi), 16/2026 (Bago) and 17/2026 (Shan).

And also, four special civil appeal cases: Nos 48/2025 (Yangon), 8/2026 (Kachin), 18/2026 (Yangon) and 19/2026 (Yangon) were heard. — MNA

## MTA to award scholarships to matric exam successors

THE Myanmar Theatrical Association (Central) has announced that it will award scholarships to children from Thabin families who passed the 2026 Matriculation Examination and are facing financial difficulties in pursuing university education.

An official from the association

said the scholarships are intended to recognize students' achievements and support their university studies. Applicants should submit their applications through the relevant township, region or state Theatrical Association. Applications are now open and will be accepted until 15 July. — ASH/MKKS

## Ministry announces upcoming short video competition spotlighting tourism and culture



Visitors are seen awaiting to capture sunset in Bagan.

WITH the purpose of promoting Myanmar's tourism destinations and culture and heritage assets, a short video competition under the theme "Tourism Industry and Culture" will be organized, according to the Ministry of Hotels, Tourism and Culture.

As a part of the facilitation of the sustainable development of Myanmar tourism industry, the competition aims to promote Myanmar's tourism destinations, cultural heritages, ethnic groups and their traditions and customs and festivals among the

international community.

Videos can be submitted to the tourism promotion division under the Hotels and Tourism Directorate in Nay Pyi Taw as of 29 June and the acceptance period will be ended at 3 pm on 21 August.

Selected videos will be shown at a ceremony in commemoration of the World Tourism Day to be held on 27 September in Nay Pyi Taw. First prize is K1.5 million, second prize is K1.2 million, third prize is K1 million and each K300,000 will be presented to five consolation prizes. — TWA/ZS



The ceremony of reciting Abhidhamma Pitaka in progress on the first Waso Full Moon Day.

## Abhidhamma Pitaka recitation held on Full Moon of First Waso

THE continuous recitation of seven Abhidhamma books was held at the Botahtaung Pagoda on the First Waso Full Moon Day, 29 June, according to the pagoda's trustee board.

The recitation cer-

emony was led by Padamya Monastery's Sayadaw and Setiyapala Monastery's Sayadaw, and regional Sangha Nayaka Committee Chair Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Aggasami chanted the Five Precepts for the

congregation to observe.

Monks and the audience recited together 24 Patthana conditions and Banaka Sayadaw continued the recitation of the Abhidhamma Pitaka, according to the pagoda's trustees' board. — MT/ZS

## Myanmar beauty queen crowned Miss Multicultural World 2026

MYANMAR'S Soe Myintzu Lwin emerged victorious at the Miss Multicultural World 2026 Grand Finale, held at the iconic Hồ Guom Opera House in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 28 June.

Joining her on the winners' circle are: 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up to Nathaly Salmeron (Honduras), 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up to Tran Ha Linh (Vietnam), 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-Up to Kylah Giganto (Philippines) and 4<sup>th</sup> Runner-Up to Sarah Ortiz (USA).

The competition celebrated the richness of global cultures, bringing together delegates from across the world in an inspiring showcase of diversity, unity, and purpose.

Newly crowned Miss

Multicultural World 2026, Soe Myintzu Lwin, competed in a national costume portraying a royal maiden destined for the throne inside the historic Myanabonsan Hman Yawai hall during the Konbaung dynasty reign of King Bodawphaya.

Her presentation faith-

fully followed historical traditions, featuring a velvet robe adorned with golden embroidery and Mallika floral ornaments, a traditional Gon-thin braided hairstyle with a forehead ornament, gold floral hairpieces, and the royal peacock-feather fan used in the palace. — Bala/KTZH



Myanmar's Soe Myintzu Lwin (C) captures the crown at the Miss Multicultural World 2026 pageant grand finale.

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# NATIONAL

## Roadside Housing Surge Strains Local Administration

### FROM PAGE 1

In the construction sector, he noted that residential houses are being built and inhabited along roadside areas and in locations that are neither classified as village land nor urban land. Such settlements may lead to administrative difficulties. Therefore, relevant administrative bodies are required to strictly supervise and manage these developments in accordance with rules and regulations to ensure proper order.

In the development measures, he stressed the need to make use of the respective strengths of each region and state in carrying out development activities. In doing so, since micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play a key role, efforts should be made to promote MSMEs to develop domestic production

activities further.

Regarding the economy, the President pointed out that if domestic production increases, imports can be reduced and exports can be expanded. By doing so, it would be possible to moderately ease rising commodity prices. It is also noted that higher prices of input materials have led to increased production costs, which in turn have contributed to rising commodity prices.

With regard to generating employment, he underlined that residents prefer to live and work within their own areas, and if job opportunities are abundant, they will choose to stay and work locally. Therefore, it is necessary to promote and create employment opportunities in each respective region.

Regarding increasing

agricultural production, he instructed that it is necessary to improve crop cultivation capacity and enhance multiple cropping systems. Likewise, efforts should be made to develop the livestock sector further. In relation to agricultural and livestock sciences, it is also necessary to provide scholarships where needed and train skilled personnel accordingly. If agricultural activities are carried out through a collective system, the work can be completed more quickly and successfully.

In the education sector, the President underscored that there is a need for primary school teachers, and it is essential that teachers are capable of teaching students in a systematic manner. Therefore, the teachers to be appointed should be continuously provided

with ongoing training in teaching methodologies and educational skills.

Aiming at improving the health sector, he outlined that the government will take steps to ensure that doctors and nurses are continuously available in hospitals by increasing staffing levels. It will also increase state funding to improve the health sector.

For the improvement of the physical and mental well-being of the public, the President emphasized that it is necessary to or-

ganize sports competitions at the regional level. To enable such activities, existing sports grounds must be properly maintained and systematically developed.

Union Ministers U Khin Maung Yi, Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Dr Myo Thein Kyaw, U Min Naung and U Myo Thant, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, region and state chief ministers reported on the release of the matriculation results, raising the pass rate, increase

of enrolment in 2026-27 academic year, appointment of teachers at basic education schools, structuring schools meeting set standards, correct sown acreage and scrutiny for boosting per-acre yield of crops in regions and states, production of quality strains, use of farmlands under the law, construction and repair of roads, bridges and buildings in regions and states on priority, and development of relevant regions. — MNA/TTA

### Further key points from the speech delivered by the President during the meeting with CMs

1. It is necessary to promote and create employment opportunities in each respective region.
2. Efforts should be made to promote MSME businesses to develop domestic production further.
3. Schools must provide incoming teaching staff with continuous training in educational methodologies and skills.
4. It will also increase state funding to improve the health sector.

## Naypyitaw Academy students observe 15<sup>th</sup> day of Pyithu Hluttaw session



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi welcomes the Naypyitaw State Academy teachers and students yesterday.

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi receives more than 400 teachers and students from Naypyitaw State Academy, led by Rector Dr Nu Nu Lwin, after they observed the 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's Second Regular Session.

During the meeting, the Speaker welcomed the visitors and explained

the role of Hluttaw, its legislative responsibilities, the structure of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, role of Hluttaw representatives who serve as bridge between the government and its people in accordance with the motto "The People's Voice, the Hluttaw's Voice; the People's Will, the Hluttaw's Will; the People's Ex-

pectations, implemented by the Hluttaw," and the importance of cooperation among the legislative, executive and judicial pillars for the national development.

Rector Dr Nu Nu Lwin presented gifts to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker gave the commemorative gifts in return.

The students also raised questions regarding the role of Pyithu Hluttaw, the voting system, the steps of legislation, the education sector, and the Speaker replied to them.

After the meeting, the Speaker and party cordially met the Rector, lecturers and students of Naypyitaw State Academy. — MNA/KTZH

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker holds meeting with Hluttaw committees

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe met chairpersons and secretaries of the committees formed under the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, he stated that committee members should not regard their responsibilities as merely routine duties

but should carry them out with genuine goodwill, unwavering diligence and dedication, always keeping the interests of the people as their foremost priority. He stressed that the committees should cooperate closely with one another, demonstrate the important role of committees through practical actions, and earn a place

in history as committees that effectively represent and fulfil the desires of the people. He also urged committee members to perform their respective duties not simply as an obligation but with commitment and sincerity to achieve successful outcomes. The participants then reported on the forming of committees, operations and work plans.

The Speaker concluded the meeting and cordially met with the participants. Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Jeng Phang Naw Taung, committees chairpersons, secretaries, members and relevant officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. — MNA/KTZH



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe meets Amyotha Hluttaw committees' chairpersons and secretaries yesterday.

# NATIONAL

## Anti-Online Scam Bill wins Hluttaw approval amid calls for infrastructure upgrades

THE Pyithu Hluttaw approved the Anti-Online Scam Bill yesterday during the 15<sup>th</sup>-day of its second regular session. Attended by Speaker U Khin Yi, Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn, and representatives, the Hluttaw passed the bill after endorsing 74 amendments adopted by the Amyotha Hluttaw and an additional 41 revisions proposed by the Bill Committee. The motion was tabled by U Thein Tun Oo, Secretary of the Bill Committee and representative from the Amarapura Constituency.

During the session, lawmakers also questioned union ministers



The 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi.

regarding regional road upgrades, retirement housing, civil service employment, and a major bridge project in Kachin

State.

U Tun Tun Naing, representative from the Singaing Constituency, inquired whether the 12-foot-

wide Singaing-Phalanbo-Sawye road would be widened to 18 feet. Union Minister for Construction U Myo Thant replied that

completing the remaining gravel section as an asphalt road would be treated as a priority for the 2027-2028 financial year. He added that widening the rest of the road would depend on future budget allocations from the Mandalay Region Government.

In Kachin State, U Myint Ko, representative from the Tanai Constituency, asked if the 15-mile mountain road connecting Shinwayyan to the Sagaing Region border would be upgraded to a gravel route. Union Minister U Myo Thant stated that improvement works on certain sections are slated to begin during

the 2026-2027 financial year, with the remaining stretches prioritized in the following years pending funds and coordination with the Kachin State Government.

Addressing welfare concerns, U Moe Myint, representative from the Thanlyin Constituency, questioned the government's housing and employment strategy for retired military personnel, police officers, and civil servants.

Union Minister U Myo Thant highlighted that a 520-unit retirement housing complex was completed in Nay Pyi Taw in 2021,

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## Delegation led by UCSB Chairman attends 10<sup>th</sup> Intl Nevsky Forum in St Petersburg



Union Civil Service Board Chair U Tin Maung Win speaks at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Nevsky Forum in St Petersburg.

UNION Civil Service Board Chairman U Tin Maung Win, accompanied by Rector of the Civil Service Academy (Lower Myanmar) U Kyaw Htwe, reportedly attended the 10<sup>th</sup> International Nevsky Forum

held in Saint Petersburg on 26 and 27 June 2026 at the invitation of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) of the Russian Federation and the delegation returned

to Yangon yesterday.

The International Nevsky Forum, organized by the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA) (Saint Petersburg Branch) under the Presidential Executive Office of the Russian Federation, aims at facilitating experience exchange and strengthening cooperation in the fields of international education, economics, and public administration,

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## Yangon drafts land allocation plan for civil servants ...

### FROM PAGE 1

The question was about plans to allocate land plots to civil servants, as some of them with over 30 years of service who endured the pressure of the social punishment during 2021 have never received a land plot or low-cost housing unit.

Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Myo Myint Aung clarified that no active programme exists, noting that the government is instead drafting new urban development initiatives.



This photo captures the convening of the second regular session of the Third Yangon Region Hluttaw.

Furthermore, he explained that under the Constitution, urban land management must follow the directives of the

Union level. Therefore, these plans must be submitted to the Union Government for guidance. — TWA/ZN

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.  
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# NATIONAL

## Amyotha Hluttaw stages Q&A session, forms Parliamentary Friendship Association

NANG Woe Sein from the Shan State Constituency 12 asked about the plan to build a gymnasium in Myoma Stadium behind Peinsam Basic Education High School in Mongping Township at the 11<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Union Minister for Sports U Ye Myint Tun pledged to coordinate with Shan State to demand the budget in the nearest financial year to construct the gymnasium, depending on the land plot settlement.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw replied to the questions raised by U Khin Maung Win from the Mandalay Region Constituency 1, saying that the Department of Agricultural Mechanization is selling agricultural machinery to farmers through a cash sales system at prices lower than market prices,



The 11<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is in progress yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

es, while the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank is providing them through instalment payment schemes, and private agricultural machinery companies are also selling them to farmers under guaranteed instalment payment systems.

The Department of Agricultural Mechanization can't provide sufficient numbers of tractors for land preparation dur-

ing the cultivation period and combine harvesters for the harvesting period in the three townships. Therefore, efforts should be made to organize private agricultural machinery service associations comprising machinery owners from respective areas, and only through the participation and utilization of privately owned machinery can the transition to mechanized farm-

ing be fully implemented. About the questions submitted by U Ye Yint Soe Nyunt from the Yangon Region Constituency 7, the deputy minister stated that the Yangon City Development Committee has conducted a feasibility study on whether it is possible to implement a project to convey 180 million gallons of water through a pipeline system. As the project has been found to

be feasible, plans are being made to proceed with the implementation after submitting a request for funding.

He also responded to one more question that the construction of the Panhlaing Sluice Gate is also a large-scale construction project that requires substantial financial resources, as well as technical requirements. In addition, there are numerous processes that need to be carried out before, during, and after the implementation of the project. Therefore, there are currently no immediate plans to undertake the Panhlaing River dredging works and the construction of the Panhlaing Sluice Gate.

The deputy minister also replied to the queries raised by U Thein Zaw from the Bago Region Constituency 8, stating that the repair work on the Laytu-Hsinlan section of

the Laytu-Kunchan embankment connecting Laytu Village of Thayawady Township and Kungyan Village-tract in Letpadan Township is planned to be carried out in phases, depending on the availability of funds. The project will be implemented by seeking allocations from the 2027-2028 regional budget or other appropriate funding sources.

The Hluttaw approved the replacement of Daw Kyawt Yin Win from the Sagaing Region Constituency 3 with U Thein Hlaing from the Sagaing Region Constituency 7 in the Myanmar-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Friendship Association.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced the list of members for the Myanmar-Laos Parliamentary Friendship Association. The Amyotha Hluttaw will continue its 12<sup>th</sup>-day meeting on 3 July. — MNA/TTA

### Yangon Port handles 347 container vessels ...

FROM PAGE 1

Discovery of the new Kings Bank Channel has fast-tracked crucial draft extension work along the inner Yangon River to boost the region's maritime shipping capacity. The port can now handle larger ships. The container vessel MV SITC Zhaoming (185.99-metre LOA, 35.25-metre Beam, 29,232 GRT and 2,698 TEUs) of Hong Kong-based SITC Shipping Line docked at Asia World Port Terminal for the first time on 22 June, which is the largest ship that AWPT Port handled. — NN/KK

### MoC Dy Minister inspects Tonzang's rehabilitation, reconstruction

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint, together with members of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee in Chin State, inspected Basic Education High School in Tonzang on 27 June.

He met the headteacher and teachers, and coordinated the requirements of the school with relevant officials, and presented gifts to the teachers.

He also observed students

peacefully attending classes and the cleaning activities conducted by town elders to improve the school environment, and provided cash.

There are 44 basic education schools in Tonzang Township, with a total of 3,446 students currently attending classes.

During the meeting with religious leaders, town elders, departmental officials and Ton-

zang Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee members and he called for cooperative efforts in implementing rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in a timely manner. He also urged all the participants to work together for the regional stability and development. He then presented coffee packets.

He toured Tonzang by vehicle. — MNA/KTZH



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint is pictured during his inspection tour of Tonzang.

### Anti-Online Scam Bill wins Hluttaw approval ...

FROM PAGE 4

alongside more than 5,300 rental flats built across Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw between 2021 and 2025. He noted that additional flats are currently under construction and retired staff will maintain priority access. While formal re-employment in government service is not pos-

sible post-retirement, the ministry is actively collaborating to link retirees with private-sector jobs.

U Hsin Sone, representative from the Khaunglanhpu Constituency, sought a progress update on the Ridam Bridge crossing the Maykha River along the PutaO-Magwayza-Khaunglan-

hpu road.

The Union minister reported that the bridge reached 57 per cent completion by the end of the 2025-2026 financial year. He explained that progress has been severely hampered by heavy rainfall, landslides, rapid river fluctuations from melting mountain snow, and a

restricted working window of just three months (January to March) per year. However, the ministry remains committed to stockpiling materials in PutaO to expedite construction.

The Pyithu Hluttaw adjourned the session and will reconvene for its 16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting on 30 June. — MNA/ST

# NATIONAL

## Frontline Tatmadaw members receive warm welcome home



Triumphant Tatmadaw troops are pictured being warmly welcomed back in Shan State (South).

A ceremony was held yesterday at a local battalion in Loilem, Shan State (South) to warmly welcome back Tatmadaw frontline personnel who had successfully carried

out duties in Kayah State. Officials from the Eastern Central Command presented the cash prizes as a mark of honour while departmental personnel and residents

greeted the returning troops with great enthusiasm and appreciation.

The event also featured traditional dance and music performances. — MNA/MKKS

## Delegation led by UCSB Chairman attends 10<sup>th</sup> Intl Nevsky Forum in St Petersburg

### FROM PAGE 4

bringing together heads of civil service organization, scholars, and researchers from Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. The 10<sup>th</sup> International Nevsky Forum was attended by over 1,000 participants, including approximately 100 foreign delegates from 16 countries.

During the forum, Mr Evgeny Grigoriev, Chairman of the Committee on External Relations of the Saint Petersburg Government, delivered the opening address, and the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board delivered a keynote discussion

speech, sharing insights on the importance of cooperation among the government, business and society for Myanmar's sustainable development, the establishment of a citizen-centred governance system, capacity building of civil service personnel, mutual respect and understanding among cultural diversity, the need to address global challenges through collective efforts, and the promotion of international cooperation in public administration. Prior to the forum, the Myanmar delegation visited the Smolny Museum and the Catherine

Palace.

The Union Civil Service Board Chairman met on 25 June 2026 with Mr Vyacheslav Kalganov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on External Relations of the Government of Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, and RANEP Director Mr Andrey Khlutkov and discussed the development of civil service training and the implementation of future collaborative programmes between the Civil Service Academies and the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. — UCSB

## Pindaya's MSY project activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Danu Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), conducted a field

inspection to review the implementation of household income-generating activities financed through the revolving funds of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in

Watara Village yesterday.

Danu Self-Administered Zone Department of Rural Development Head Daw Aye Aye Thein, Pindaya Township Department of Rural Development Head U Aung Kyaw, project staff, and members of the village project committee inspected the implementation of systematic small-scale farming, livestock breeding, and trading activities supported by the project funds.

They also checked whether the monthly records and accounts had been properly main-

tained, and afterwards, the regional director coordinated and addressed the needs raised by the village.

In Watara Village, a total of K124.9 million in revolving funds has been disbursed to 130 project members engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding, and trading as the 13<sup>th</sup> cycle of low-interest revolving loans. The funded activities are being successfully operated with support from the project funds to ensure increased household incomes. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



Officials inspect a village project in Pindaya Township.

## Corrected JLPT certificates available 29 June

CERTIFICATES of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), which were submitted for correction, will be available as of 29 June, said the JLPT organizing committee, Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA).

MAJA said certificates for JLPT, which was held in December, with name and date of birth correction have arrived back. Except public holidays and weekend, the corrected certificates will be available at the JLPT Centre located at Snow

Garden, Thingangyun Township, from 9:30 am to 4 pm as of 29 June.

For Mandalay, corrected certificates will be available at MAJA Mandalay branch located at Mingalar Mandalay, Chanayethazan Township, from 9:30 am to 4

pm on 1 July.

Test taker's original ID and a copy is required. Corrected certificates will be available in a year from the date of issuance and no more correction is allowed, said the JLPT organizing committee. — MT/ZS

## People's Military Service Training 26 begins nationwide



The launching ceremony for the People's Military Service Training 26 is underway in Taikkyi Township.

OPENING ceremonies for People's Military Service Training Batch 26 were held yesterday at training depots across

The ceremonies were attended by military commanders and other officials. They met trainees, presented hon-

orary cash awards, food and essential supplies, and offered words of encouragement.

The People's Military Service Law, enacted on 10 February 2024, provides military training to eligible citizens to support national defence and security. Graduates of previous training batches are now serving in military units across the country. — MNA/MKKS

# NATIONAL

## Insein inmates secure high pass rate in 2025-2026 academic year

by Thitsa (MNA)

IN the 2025-2026 academic year, a total of 36 candidates from Insein Central Prison in Yangon Region — 33 male inmates and three female inmates — sat for the matriculation examination. All 36 candidates passed, achieving a 100 per cent pass rate. Among them, one student earned distinctions in three subjects, one earned distinctions in two subjects, five earned distinctions in one subject, and 29 passed without distinctions, making the achievement a complete success. Although the number of candidates was more than half that of last year, the remarkable success was made possible through the dedication of responsible officials, the loving care and guidance of teachers, and the determination of these young people, who, despite having lost their way in life, managed to find a new path. Their achievement marks a turning point in their lives, and the following are their heartfelt reflections and expressions of joy.

**U Ye Ko Ko Zaw (staff of-**



A learning class in the Insein Central Prison.

### ficier of Insein Central Prison)

One of the initiatives undertaken by Insein Central Prison to create opportunities for young people's future is to ensure that inmates who were students can continue their education. This programme has been implemented under the guidance of the authorities. From the 2021-2022 to the 2025-2026 academic years, the prison has maintained a 100 per cent pass rate for five consecutive years, with students also achieving distinctions. In the 2026 matriculation examination, all 36 candidates — 33 male and three female inmates — passed successfully. Among them,

one student received distinctions in three subjects, one in two subjects, and five in one subject. We prioritize the education sector, as many of these young people were in prison for various reasons and were unable to continue their education outside, and to ensure that their future is not lost and that they can contribute to the nation after their release.

In the 2025-2026 academic year, we coordinated with teachers from the Department of Basic Education and worked together with inmate teachers at Insein Central Prison. Students were taught systematically according to the official curriculum. As the



Staff officer U Ye Ko Ko Zaw.

examination approached, we also paid close attention to students' health and nutrition.

Achieving five consecutive years without a single failure is the result of the goodwill of authorities, the close supervision of the Yangon Region Prison Department, the dedication of prison officers and staff, and the collective commitment to ensuring that every young person's future blossoms. We are sincerely delighted that every student passed the examination. We will continue to work hard to achieve similar success in the 2027 matriculation examination.

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## 3 students achieve top scores in 2025-2026 matric exam



Three outstanding students with the highest scores in respective combinations (from left to right: Ma Thiri Soe, Ma Ni Ni Kyaw, Ma Su Myat Aung)

THREE outstanding students from Mandalay, Yangon and Bago Regions emerged as the top scorers in each combination in the 2025-2026 matriculation examination nationwide.

The outstanding students were Ma Thiri Soe from the CAE Private High School in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, who scored the highest in the science combination, with a total of 562

marks, Ma Ni Ni Kyaw from No 14 Basic Education High School in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, who scored the highest in the arts and science combination, with a total of 530 marks, and Ma Su Myat Aung from the Kyauktaga Basic Education High School in Bago Region, who scored the highest in the arts combination, with a total of 498 marks. — TWA/MKKS

## Bogale holds advanced sewing training graduation ceremony

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development held a graduation ceremony for the Advanced Sewing Training Course in Bogale Township yesterday.

Pyapon District Department of Rural Development Head U Htet Aung first delivered the opening address, and Bogale Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thin Thin Hlaing explained matters relating to the training course. The district head, township head and attending officials then presented awards to outstanding trainees and graduation certificates to the trainees who had suc-

cessfully completed the course. They also viewed garments made by the trainees and had commemorative group photographs taken.

The 45-day free training programme was attended by trainees from Thittochaung Village, Natchaung Village, Meizali Village, Pikesala Village, Wae-gyi Village, and Thabyugon Village, where qualified instructors taught various advanced sewing techniques. Outstanding trainees who genuinely intend to start their own businesses will be eligible to receive loans from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project revolving fund implemented by the department to set up their own businesses. — Karan (Rural)

## Magway's concrete road construction completed

THE Department of Rural Development (DRD), under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, has accomplished the construction of a concrete road in Lelya (South) Village, Magway Township, Magway Region. The project was implemented using Village Development Project (VDP) funds and public contributions. Responsible officials inspected the project's full completion yesterday.

During the inspection, U Kyaw Zaw Hein, Head of the Magway Region Department of Rural



Officials and locals are seen alongside the completed concrete road in Magway Township.

Development, along with officials and members of the Village Project Committee, reviewed the completed concrete road. The regional director urged the committee members

and villagers to collectively maintain the road to ensure its long-term durability.

The newly constructed concrete road measures 1,000 feet in length,

12 feet in width, and six inches in thickness. The project was funded with K15 million from the 2026-2027 financial year VDP budget and K45 million in public contributions, totalling K60 million. With technical assistance from DRD engineers, the villagers began the construction work in the second week of May. The project is now 100 per cent complete, facilitating easier transport and connectivity for 650 people from 150 households in the village, according to U Kyaw Zaw Hein. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

# OPINION

## Beware of flash floods during the monsoon

**I**N Myanmar, there are three seasons: the summer season, the rainy season, and the cold season. Generally, the rainy season occurs from June to October. Every year during the rainy season, flooding is commonly observed. In addition, heavy rainfall can also lead to sudden events such as flash floods, landslides and erosion, which should be carefully anticipated and monitored.

In Myanmar's northern and mountainous regions, when heavy rainfall occurs, these weather conditions often lead to flash floods in areas such as Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway regions. As secondary impacts of flooding, there is also a risk of landslides, river erosion, house collapses, electric shocks, injuries, and dangers from poisonous creatures such as snakes. In addition, health problems such as diarrhoea and intestinal infections may also occur.

At present, flooding has already occurred in affected areas. Therefore, based on the condition of local rivers, creeks, and terrain in residential areas, people are advised to remain alert to the risks of floods and landslides. Residents in flood-prone areas should inspect potential hazards around their homes and assess the structural integrity of their houses before any disaster occurs.

Therefore, people living in urban and rural areas across Myanmar are advised to understand and be aware of the possible risks of strong winds, flooding, and related health problems that may occur in their local areas. They should remain cautious and take preventive measures so that they can safely cope with flood-related natural disasters that commonly occur during the rainy season.

After that, families should make prior arrangements for possible evacuation, including identifying high ground, safe shelters, sturdy buildings, transportation routes, and designated family meeting points. They should store water-sensitive items in dry and elevated places, note the possible flood levels of nearby rivers and streams, and store sufficient drinking water in advance. In low-lying areas, pits, valleys, ravines, drainage channels, and other locations that may be hazardous during flooding should be clearly marked. It is also necessary to prepare emergency supplies and life-saving equipment in advance.

Floods are natural disasters that can be predicted in advance. Therefore, whenever the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issues weather forecasts and warnings, people living in the high-risk areas such as along rivers, creeks, and low-lying regions should closely follow weather updates, natural disaster warnings, and health advisories. By carefully observing and complying with these alerts, the impacts and losses caused by flooding can be minimized.

Therefore, people living in urban and rural areas across Myanmar are advised to understand and be aware of the possible risks of strong winds, flooding, and related health problems that may occur in their local areas. They should remain cautious and take preventive measures so that they can safely cope with flood-related natural disasters that commonly occur during the rainy season.

**T**HE recent official state visit of Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing to China marks a transformative milestone in the deep-rooted bilateral relations between the two nations. As "Pauk-Phaw" neighbours sharing a long geographic border and deep historical ties, the formal establishment of diplomatic relations reaches its historic 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, marking a legacy that began on 8 June 1950. This high-level visit directly translates historical alignment into actionable, modern economic cooperation, opening crucial new frontiers for trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) that will significantly shape Myanmar's economic future.

During the opening address at the Myanmar-China Economic Forum held in Shanghai, the President emphasized Myanmar's irreplaceable geostrategic positioning as a vital link connecting South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China, acting as a crucial maritime gateway to the Indian Ocean. This geographic reality forms the backbone of major cross-border initiatives under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Myanmar

# Myanmar-China Economic Relations: New Frontiers for Strategic FDI and Regional Connectivity

By Dr Kyaw Linn Htun  
(Public Administration)

Economic Corridor (CMEC). By establishing infrastructure links through Myanmar, both nations stand to dramatically optimize supply chains, slash regional transit costs, and build a resilient logistics framework connecting inland Asian markets to deep-sea shipping lanes.

China remains Myanmar's leading source of foreign investment, with capital deeply integrated across core economic pillars such as manufacturing, electric power, mining, construction, transport, and telecommunications. To expand and diversify this investment portfolio, the President formally invited Chinese entrepreneurs to inject strategic capital into high-value sectors tailored to modern development

demands. These emerging areas include modernized agriculture, sustainable livestock farming, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment production, oil refining, renewable energy projects, Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure, and the expanding digital economy. A central focal point of this engagement is the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Deep-Sea Port project, alongside interconnected industrial zones and logistics hubs, which represent multi-generational assets capable of anchoring long-term regional manufacturing value chains.

Attracting high-quality FDI requires a transparent, modern regulatory framework that ensures the ease of doing business

for international partners. To achieve this, Myanmar has proactively instituted concrete policy updates. Notably, the state has formalized the integration and relaxation of payment systems to directly accept the Chinese Yuan (RMB) for trade and investments, successfully mitigating foreign exchange bottlenecks. Furthermore, the full operationalization of comprehensive intellectual property laws now provides robust legal protections to safeguard technology transfers, corporate innovations, and private sector joint ventures.

These domestic economic reforms arrive at a critical time for global capital environments. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2025, global FDI flows contracted by 11 per cent due to macroeconomic uncertainties and shifting supply patterns. However, Southeast Asia remains a stark exception to this global downturn. The ASEAN Investment Report 2024 confirms that ASEAN continues to secure historically strong FDI inflows, driven by structural realignments and intense investor focus on manufacturing, logistics, and digital ecosystems. By aggressively modernizing its investment climate, Myanmar positions itself to capture a significant share of this regional capital momentum.

The structural climax of the state visit occurred at The Great Hall in Beijing, where

President U Min Aung Hlaing and Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed the signing of 18 critical Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and bilateral agreements. These pacts span the entire spectrum of economic and developmental cooperation. Key frameworks were established to jointly advance the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). Crucially for trade expansion, specific phytosanitary agreements were signed to standardize inspection and sanitation rules, directly opening market access for Myanmar's exports to China, explicitly covering fresh bananas, aquatic animals, and traditional Chinese medicinal

plants.

Beyond trade and market access, the 18 agreements lay a solid foundation for human capital and physical infrastructure development. They include collaborative blueprints for the Human Resource Development Cooperation Plan (2026), cross-border transport facilitation within the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), and official reconstruction aid for the new Aung San Stadium. Furthermore, deepened institutional partnerships were forged in science and technology exchanges, intellectual property protections, anti-monopoly and competition cooperation, and multilateral media development.

The future success of Myanmar-China economic relations relies on the ability to merge complementary strengths. By uniting Myanmar's natural resources, strategic geographic real estate, and young workforce with China's immense market capacity and technological expertise, both nations unlock unparalleled mutual benefits. Moving forward, the clear priority remains ensuring

these 18 agreements are translated into streamlined, operational realities. By providing clear structural predictability, robust security, and high returns for forward-looking investors, this high-level engagement establishes a positive, undeniable foundation for regional prosperity and long-term economic development.

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### World Cup 'anomaly'

The Soccer or football World Cup 2026 is now in full-swing. In part, this article comments about a peculiar way of deciding the champion of the World Cup by penalty shootouts, if in the World Cup final, after extra time, the teams are tied (in terms of goals). Then the penalty shootouts from each team will decide who is the champion. I want to make clear that in the knock-out rounds, quarter-finals and semi-finals of the World Cup if the teams are tied after extra time, then penalty shoot outs are the only way to determine which team proceed to the next round. But to determine the world champion if the final of the World Cup by penalty shoot outs at the end of extra time is not that felicitous, I opine. This writer knows FIFA will not review far less revise; the world champions being decided by penalties (if after extra time there is no winner).

'Me thinks' it was not always the case that the World Cup champions were to decide by penalty shots if the goals are tied in the World Cup finals (finals, only). The writer recalls watching the World

# Anomaly of World Cup Champions being decided by penalty kicks after extra time: A comment and an excursus

By Myint Zan

Cup 1982 finals between Italy and West Germany live. I watched it on American television. I recall the commentator stating that IF the 1982 final between Italy and West Germany were tied after extra time, THEN there would be a replay. IF such a replay were to be made, an American television network (as there was less interest in what is called soccer then in the United States) would not be live telecast again. I must state that this is what I recall. If my recall is correct, then up until 1982 (or perhaps only in 1982) there would not have been a penalty shootout IF Italy and West Germany were tied at the end of extra time in the 1982 World Cup final. As it was, Italy beat Germany 3-1 in regulation time.

From 1930 to 2026 there have been have been 23 World Cup competitions (1930, 1934, 1938, 1950, 1954, 1958, 1962, 1966, 1970, 1974,

1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2026). From 1930 to 1990, in 14 World Cup finals the results have been decided in full-time (after 90 minutes of play plus injury time) or extra-time (extra 30 minutes of play plus injury time). For 14 consecutive World Cup finals, the championship was determined at the latest (so to speak) at the end of extra-time. That 'streak' ended in 1994 when Brazil and Italy were tied (0-0) at the end of extra-time and the champion was determined by penalty shoot-outs where Brazil won.

Again, just 12 years later in the World Cup finals between France and Italy in 2006 the winner had to be decided by penalty shoot-outs, where Italy won. Fast forward to 2022- the previous World Cup. As Argentina and France were tied in the final at the end of extra time (again), the

winner had to be decided by penalty kicks again. Consider this: in 14 World Cup finals (between 1930 and 1990) the winner or the champion was decided (at the latest) by the end of extra time. From 1994 to 2022 in 8 World Cup finals, the champion has been decided by penalty kicks in three (3) final matches. Query or curiosity: what are the statistical, sports, indeed football-related anomalies that led to this peculiar, anomalous situation?

Above, I stated that a replay of the final ONLY if the teams were tied at the end of extra-time, is an option. I understand that perhaps in the 1970s, at least one European club final (not European Cup finals) had replayed their championship match after being tied (after extra time). And if my recollection is correct and if the commentator who narrated the 1982 World Cup final stated cor-

rectly, at least in 1982, that if there be a tie after extra-time, then the 1982 final will be replayed. The writer realizes that replaying the World Cup final creates lots of financial and logistical issues, if not problems.

Another alternative is if in the finals the scores are tied after extra-time is to awards both teams as joint champions. In Burma in the 1960s in the yearly states and division championships there was at one occasion when the teams were tied after extra time. In that particular match the two teams were awarded as joint champions.

Again, the 'joint champion' proposal can create further anomalies. The teams may not go all the way and put all their efforts since they would know that they can be joint champions if they tie (in that case there would be no

penalty kicks after extra time). The current football or soccer set-up is 'winner-takes-all', not by hook or by crook but by the lottery indeed the inanity of penalty kicks. And it is unlikely the 'lottery' of penalty kicks would go away. Indeed, it would stay.

The writer's wish which I did express on social media in 2022, is that the 2022 World Cup final would not be decided by penalty kicks. That wish was not fulfilled in 2022 when Argentina beat France through penalty kicks. Would history repeat itself, and the 2026 World Cup final be decided by penalties, making it two consecutive final matches being decided by penalty kicks? If that were to occur it would have been unprecedented in the history of the World Cup.

**Excursus: The anomaly of**

### selecting President of the United States through the Electoral College system

The United States does not elect its presidents by popular vote. According to the United States Constitution adopted in 1787 the president is elected by a group of electors called the Electoral College. Each state has several electors assigned to elect the president. In all but one or two states in the United States the winner of the respective state's popular vote – even if the win is by several hundred votes where about five million voted – 'winner takes all' that particular state's electoral votes.

Currently, there are 538 electoral votes, and the presidential candidate who obtains a minimum of 270 electoral votes is 'selected' by the Electoral College as president of the United States. In the 1876 and 1888 presiden-

tial elections, the winner of the popular vote (both Democrats) did not become president even though they won the plurality of the popular votes. Republican candidates who ran for president won (by 1 electoral vote) in 1876. In 1888, the presidential candidate from the Republican party received fewer popular votes than the Democratic candidate, but he won by a significant plurality of electoral votes.

Fast forward 112 years to the year 1996. The United States had 26 (twenty-six) quadrennial presidential elections from 1892 to 1996. In all the 26 presidential elections the winner of the popular vote also won the electoral vote and thus became president. In the year 2000, that 'streak' ended. George W Bush (Bush Jr) (born 6 July 1946) received about 537,000 popular votes less than Albert A Gore (born 31 March 1948) but Bush Jr received 271 electoral votes to Gore's 269 and thus became president.

In the 2016 presidential election, Hillary Clinton (born 26 October 1947) received nearly 2.8

**SEE PAGE 12**

# NATIONAL

## Central Committee conducts interviews for 24 PR applicants

THE Ministry of Immigration and Population held in-person interviews for 24 applicants seeking Permanent Residency (PR) in Myanmar.

The interview and evaluation ceremony of the Central Committee on Implementation of Permanent Residence System was inaugurated on the morning of 24 June at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Central Committee met the applicants who had already been verified,



The Central Committee is conducting interviews and evaluations for PR applicants.

including one foreign expert, one investor, 15 former Myanmar citizens, and seven foreigners with blood relations to former citizens.

Following the completion of these interview and

evaluation processes, the findings will be submitted to higher authorities. After that, those who receive final approval will be issued residency certificates and cards, in accordance with the department's standard

procedures.

Myanmar grants Permanent Residency to foreign experts, investors and former Myanmar citizens, and foreigners with blood relations to former citizens. — TWA/KK

## TTI to conduct export business startup course on 6-10 July

THE Trade Training Institute (TTI) will kick off a specialized, week-long training programme on Monday, 6 July, aimed at guiding local businesses through the process of launching an export enterprise. The intensive

course, which represents the institute's 23<sup>rd</sup> batch, will run daily from 9 am to 4 pm through 10 July, according to a Ministry of Commerce announcement.

The institute is located at 228/240, the corner

of Strand Road and Shwembontha Street. The maximum number of trainees is 50. Trainees can register at the institute by providing an application form, three licensed photos, a bachelor's degree certificate, a matriculation pass certifi-

cate, a citizenship scrutiny card and other related documents.

Individuals can enquire about details by dialling the Institute's contact numbers: 01 8250871, 09 421948846 and 09 250088436. — NN/KK

## Jivatadana Sangha Hospital holds firefighting training graduation ceremony



Donations of firefighting equipment are underway yesterday.

THE graduation ceremony for the Pre-Basic Firefighting and Emergency Rescue Training Course 1/2026, together with a donation of firefighting equipment, was held at Jivatadana Sangha Hospital in Bahan Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director-General of the Department of Fire Services U Ye Min Thu, Director of the Yangon Region Fire Services Department U Min San Aye, other fire service officers and instructors, hospital administrative board chairman U Aye Maung Than, board members and trainees. The hospital administrative board chairman delivered the graduation address, while the deputy director-general spoke on firefighting and emergency rescue. Prizes were presented to outstanding trainees, and certificates were awarded to all graduates.

The deputy director-general also donated two-kilogramme fire extinguishers, four fire hose reels and two 3D fire hose reels to the hospital. The equipment was received by the chairman and members of the hospital administrative board. — Bala/MKKS

## Insein inmates secure ...

**FROM PAGE 7**  
**Maung Kyaw Min Khant (Three-distinction winner) (24 years old)**

I received distinctions in Geography, History, and Economies. Although we are serving prison sentences, we were given the opportunity to continue our education. On behalf of all the students, I would like to express our deepest gratitude and respect to the Head of State, the ministers, all officials at Insein Central Prison, our teachers, and the inmate teachers who taught us. To achieve this success, I studied for about seven hours a day in addition to attending about nine hours of classes.

I would like to tell young people outside that time is extremely valuable. Time and parents are things that can never be replaced. We only realized this after coming here and

deeply regretted our past. We are sincerely grateful to the government for allowing us to study and to move from darkness into the light. Education is a light. I now have clear goals for my future. I want to become an economist, and I will continue striving toward that dream.

**Maung Thet Phyo Naung (Two-distinction winner) (24 years old)**

I earned distinctions in Geography and Economies. Our classes were from 8 am to noon and continued again from 1 pm to 4 pm. After returning to our dormitories, we studied from 6 pm to 8 pm, again from 9 pm to 11 pm, and once more from 6 am to 7 am. I wanted to pass the examination and fulfil my ambitions. So, I studied lessons while walking and studied late into the night while others were sleeping.

I would like to thank my father and mother for my success. I also sincerely thank the authorities who allowed us to study, as well as all the prison officials and teachers.

I encourage young people to set clear goals. Decide what you want to become. When you have a goal, success becomes possible. I lost my sense of direction in life, which led me here. But thanks to the guidance of my teachers, I found my purpose again and was given another opportunity. Now that I can continue pursuing my dreams, I cannot express how happy I feel. I also thank the Prison Department for guiding young people back onto the right path. I want to encourage all young people to find their purpose and work hard to achieve it. Success is within reach. My dream is to become a good leader

for my country.  
**Ma May Myat Thinzar Kyaw (22 years old)**

I am so happy to have passed the matriculation examination while serving my sentence at Insein Central Prison. I would like to respectfully thank the prison governor, prison officers, and all my teachers. Taking the examination here is much more difficult than taking it outside. Success only comes through perseverance and hard work.

With the support of my teachers and parents, I was able to pass the examination. Even in the worst circumstances, it is important to strive for the best. Outside prison, students have many choices for education, although private schools can be expensive. Here, despite the hardships, we succeeded because we set goals and worked hard. Our success did not come easily. The youths outside should

strive for their goals and never stop pursuing their dreams. Once I leave prison, I intend to continue my university education and build a better future with renewed determination.

**Ma May Zin Su Myat (21 years old)**

While preparing for the examination, I gradually realized what I wanted to do with my future. As my dream became clearer, I became even more motivated to study. When I first came here, I thought that, as a young person, my life was already over. But after being allowed to continue my education, I regained my motivation. I sincerely thank all the officials of the Prison Department, who encouraged us to focus entirely on passing the examination throughout the year and relieved us of other duties so that we could devote ourselves to our education. I also appreciate their support in providing all the learning

materials we needed. Now that we have achieved success, I am deeply grateful to everyone who helped us in a difficult situation.

I also thank them for organizing daily, weekly, and monthly tests and for providing additional guidance to students who needed extra help. When I receive my mark, I will plan to decide my next steps based on my scores. If my marks are sufficient, I hope to enrol at the National University of Arts and Culture and later specialize in Fine Arts. I would like to build a peaceful career in the field of art. On behalf of all 36 students, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Prison Department, Basic Education Middle School No 13 (branch), and Insein Central Prison for giving us the opportunity to continue our education.

Translated by KTZH

# NATIONAL

## 5 dead, 15 missing in Hpakant jade mine collapse



This photo shows bodies of the victims from the Namthmaw waste heap collapse being carried by rescue teams. PHOTO: THINGA SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

At least five people have been confirmed dead, and around 15 remain missing after a waste heap at a disused jade mining site collapsed near Namthmaw village in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, late on the night of 28 June, according to residents and rescue teams.

The collapse occurred after days of heavy rain left old mine waste heaps unstable. Around 20 freelance jade scavengers searching the site under floodlights were buried when the heap suddenly gave way.

Rescue operations involving local authorities, volunteer groups and residents have continued since 29 June despite persistent rain and the risk of further landslides. The bodies recovered so far are being returned to their families, while search teams con-

tinue digging for those still missing.

Hpakant, home to some of the world's finest jade, experiences frequent landslides during the monsoon season. Many residents and migrant workers search abandoned mining sites for leftover jade, despite the significant risks. In July 2020, more than 170 jade scavengers were killed in a massive landslide at Waikhar in the same region.

Rescue workers said continuous rainfall has made operations extremely dangerous, with unstable waste heaps posing a constant threat of further collapses. Local authorities and community organizations have urged people to avoid abandoned mine sites and refrain from searching for jade at night during the rainy season. — TWA/ST

## Myanmar sustains aggressive crackdown on foreign-led online fraud syndicates

THE Myanmar Government is continuing to identify, investigate and deport foreign nationals who entered border areas illegally and were involved in online gambling, online fraud and other criminal activities, in accordance with the law.

Authorities recently detained 12 foreign nationals – five Chinese, two Ethiopians, two Burundians, one Namibian, one Liberian and one Ugandan — who had illegally entered an area near Myawady in Kayin

State after transiting through Thailand and neighbouring countries. They are being processed for deportation.

Between 30 January 2025 and 29 June 2026, authorities detained 14,730 foreign nationals who had entered Myawady Township illegally. Of these, 13,553 have been deported via Thailand. Of the remaining 1,177, 662 are being prosecuted under immigration and drug laws, while the other 515 are awaiting transfer to their respective countries.



Immigration officials oversee the deportation of undocumented foreign immigrants.

According to reports, the Government is also cooperating with neighbouring countries, regional partners and international organizations to combat online

scam networks, prosecute those responsible and facilitate the repatriation of foreign nationals, including victims of human trafficking. — MNA/MKKS

## 66 illegal structures demolished to date in Shwe Kokko anti-fraud blitz

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

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

controlled explosive demolition. Yesterday, one seven-storey building was demolished as part of the planned operation. So far, 66 illicit structures have been removed, with 11 remaining scheduled for demolition. — MNA/KTZH

Images show the update following the demolition of the illicit seven-storey building.



A MSY-fund disbursement ceremony is in progress in Pinlaung Township yesterday.

## Pinlaung disburses K65M under MSY Project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone, Shan State (South), held a ceremony to disburse the revolving fund under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Sintaung Village, Pinlaung Township, yesterday.

Pinlaung Township Department of Rural Development Head U Kyaw Swa first met village elders and project members, explaining the objectives and benefits of providing the revolving funds. The project officer and staff then briefed participants on interest rates, loan periods, and regulations governing

the loan programme. Afterwards, the revolving fund amounting to K65 million was handed over to members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee.

The committee members disbursed K65 million of the revolving fund at low interest rates directly to project members as the tenth cycle of low-inter-

est revolving loans. Of the total amount, K65 million was provided to 174 project members in Sintaung Village who will undertake systematic agricultural activities, all of whom are operating and expanding their income-generating activities with support from the project funds. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

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# ARTICLE/NATIONAL

## Anomaly of World Cup Champions being ...

### FROM PAGE 9

million more votes than Donald J Trump (born 14 June 1946) but lost the electoral vote. Hillary narrowly lost the popular vote (about 77,700 votes) in the swing states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, but under the 'winner takes all' rule (of the electoral votes of a state), Trump won all the electoral votes in those swing states and became president.

To briefly juxtapose with the World Cup anomaly. From 1930 to 1990 in a total of 13 World Cup finals there was no need to decide the champion through penalty kicks after extra-time. But from 1994 to 2022, in eight World Cup finals, three finals had to be decided by penalty kicks after extra-time!

And in 26 (twenty-six) US presidential elections (from 1892 to 1996) the winner of the popular vote also won the electoral votes and became president. But from 2000 to 2024, there were seven presidential elections, and

in two of them, in 2000 and 2016, the winner of the popular vote did not win the electoral vote and failed to become president. At the risk of stating that I am compelling apples and oranges (but not apples and Apple computers) there seems, nay there is (yours truly is paraphrasing Shakespeare's phrase 'seems Madam, nay it is' from Hamlet) a similarity in trend between the World Cup anomaly and Electoral vote anomaly which was non-existent in World Cup for 60 years (from 1930 to 1990) and Electoral votes anomaly which did not occur in US presidential elections for 108 years (from 1892 to 1996).

But from 1994 to 2022, the streak of no need for post extra-time penalties in the World Cup was broken three times (1994, 2006, 2022). Likewise, the 108-year streak of the winner of the popular vote winning the electoral vote and the presidency was broken twice (in the 2000 and 2016 US presidential elections).

Above, I queried

whether in the current 2026 World Cup the champion will be decided by penalty kicks in the final, at the end of the extra time, or not. In the 2028 scheduled presidential elections, will a Republican candidate receive fewer popular votes than its Democratic opponent but win the electoral votes and thus -again- the presidency? IF the 2026 World Cup champion were to be decided by penalty kicks and IF a Republican were to receive less in popular votes but still win the presidency in 2028, the two anomalies of World Cup and Electoral vote in the United States would be a 'double whammy' for this writer and almost certainly for tens of millions, including many in the United States, and worldwide.

It should be mentioned that in 1969 the United States House of Representatives, the lower House in Congress, passed a draft Bill to abolish the Electoral College and to replace it with direct election of the president. If a presidential candidate

received less than 40 per cent of the vote, there would be a run-off election. The Bill was passed by a lopsided majority of 338 to 70 votes in the US House of Representatives, but it failed to even be put to the vote in the US Senate due to the filibuster from conservative Senators and Senators from small states. (The state of Wyoming, with a population less than 590,000, has two Senators and three electoral votes, and California, with a population of more than 39 million, has only two Senators and 54 electoral votes). Since 'selecting' the president by the Electoral College is stated in the US Constitution, even if the Bill passes the Senate (it didn't), to affect a Constitutional amendment 2/3 of the 50 state legislatures have to approve the Bill passed by Congress within five to seven years. The extreme difficulty of abolishing or even reforming the Electoral College should be evident. Several years ago, I posted on social media as to which

event is likely to occur first: the abolition of the Electoral College in the United States or a woman landing on the planet Mars (not on the Moon). One person wrote 'Mars' (first). They may well be right.

### An Augustinian 'take' on the result of the 2026 World Cup final

Enmeshed as I am and millions of football aficionados are in the 'tyranny of the here and the now', let's revert to the 2026 World Cup.

In his book *The Night is Large*, Martin Gardner (21 October 1914-22 May 2010) wrote that the Christian theologian St. Augustine (13 November 354-28 August 430) postulated that 'God stood above Time and God sees/saw/will see at the same time, the past, the present and the future'. (To paraphrase Shakespeare again in *King Lear*) 'if that be the truth, let the truth be proven thus. Does the Augustinian Deity know, as I write on 12 noon Universal Time Coordinate (UTC) on 20 June 2026, the result of the 2026 World Cup final, which is scheduled for 19 July 2026? Does he know

not only the results but also which team will score first, how many goals, who will be the players who score the goals and in what minutes, how many penalties and how many corners during regulation time? Will there be an extra-time? Will the goals be tied, either zero-zero or an equal number of goals, even after extra time? Will there be penalty kicks to determine the champion of the World Cup 2026? What would be the result of the penalty kicks (should the 2026 World Cup final result have to be determined by penalty kicks)...?

In Augustine's time in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries Common Era, the invention of the game of football was more than 15 centuries away in the future. Augustine, if he were to 'come back', would have to be explained in Latin the intricacies of the game of football and the World Cup first. Even then, if Augustine were to ask no later than, say, 21 June 2026 or before the knock-out rounds start, the above query would be the 'reborn' or 'revived' Augustine reply that 'I do not know, but my God knows ...

## Myanmar Embassy to Malaysia restructures passport services

THE Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has announced that it will be adjusting the procedures for passport renewal and replacement for Myanmar workers in Malaysia, effective 1 July.

It will continue to process passport renewals and replacements on a same-day issuance basis. Furthermore, starting 1 July, all previously issued QR appointment codes will be cancelled and it will transition to an appointment system via WhatsApp.

Detailed information and step-by-step instructions for passport applications can be found on the official Facebook page, "Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia," and the official website: <https://myanmarembassykl.org>.



The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

[myanmarembassykl.org](https://myanmarembassykl.org).

The embassy also clarified that as the QR system is only being suspended for passport renewal and replacement processes, those applying for a Certificate of Identity (C of I) may

still attend their appointments according to their existing QR schedules. The embassy will provide a future announcement regarding when the QR system will be reinstated for passport services. — MT/ZN

## Myingyan disburses K24.1M under VRFP Project

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, disbursed Village Revolving Fund Project (VRFP) funds in KyunU Village, Myingyan Township, yesterday. The funds were provided to enable rural residents, smallholder farmers, agricultural and livestock producers, and households engaged in small-scale businesses to further expand their income-generating activities.

Myingyan Township Department of Rural Development Head Daw Thet Thet Nwe first explained the objectives, purposes, and benefits of the VRFP Project. The project officer and staff then briefed participants on interest rates, loan periods, and regulations governing the loan programme. Afterwards, the revolving fund amounting to K24.1 million was handed over to members of the Village Revolving Fund Project Committee.

The committee members disbursed K24.1 million of the revolving fund at low interest rates directly to project members as the seventh cycle of low-interest revolving loans. Of the total amount, K24.1 million was provided to 84 project members in KyunU Village, including 73 beneficiaries engaged in agricultural activities receiving K21.9 million and 11 beneficiaries engaged in livestock farming receiving K2.2 million, all of whom are operating and expanding their income-generating activities with support from the project funds. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

# Toyota global sales drop for 4<sup>th</sup> month in May

TOYOTA Motor Corp said Monday that its global vehicle sales in May dropped 7.2 per cent to 834,279 units from a year earlier, declining for the fourth consecutive month.

Toyota's overseas sales fell 9.6 per cent to 715,898 units, with sales

in the United States edging down 0.6 per cent to 238,800 units, almost flat from the previous year, the company said.

Sales in the Middle East plunged 38.6 per cent to 29,568 cars, while those in China slumped 31.7 per cent to 102,299 vehicles, according to the

world's largest automaker by volume.

Sales in Japan, however, climbed 11.1 per cent to 118,381 units, supported by strong demand for new models such as RAV4 and bZ4X.

Meanwhile, global production fell 5.5 per cent from a year earlier

to 765,470 cars, posting its first decline in three months, Toyota said.

Toyota's overseas output dropped 9.4 per cent to 514,882 vehicles, the first year-on-year decline in three months, while domestic output increased 3.7 per cent to 250,588 units, marking



Toyota Motor Corp Chief Branding Officer Simon Humphries speaks during a media event in Toyota on 7 May 2026, unveiling the Lexus TZ all-electric luxury sport utility vehicle to the world. **PHOTO: KYODO**

its first increase in seven months, helped by the launch of new models. — Xinhua

# Thailand's auto output plunges nearly 18% year-on-year in May

THAILAND'S auto production slumped in May, driven by lower output of export-oriented passenger cars and pickup trucks despite robust domestic sales, data from the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) showed on Monday.

Automakers produced 114,214 vehicles in Thailand last month, down 17.94 per cent from a year earlier, according to the FTI.

The May figure marks the first time that production for domestic sales exceeded that for export, which was affected by the conflict in the Middle East, the country's third-largest automobile market, the FTI said in a statement.

For the first five months of 2026, auto production dipped 1.13 per cent over the previous year to 587,759 units, mainly due

to a notable contraction in fuel-powered passenger cars, said FTI Automotive Industry Club spokesperson Surapong Paisitpattanapong.

Domestic auto sales climbed 10.6 per cent year-on-year to 57,765 units in May, reflecting higher deliveries of electric passenger cars and sport utility vehicles in response to rising fuel prices caused

by the regional geopolitical tensions, Surapong told a news conference.

Despite that, Surapong said pickup truck sales grew only 0.21 per cent over the same period last year, owing to stricter lending standards by financial institutions amid a slowing domestic economy and high household debt, which weakened consumer purchasing power. — Xinhua

# Malaysian food prices expected to rise by 8%, says Malaysian official

FERTILIZER and food-related costs are expected to rise significantly, with fertilizer prices projected to increase by between 15 and 20 per cent, while food costs could rise by around eight per cent, given Malaysia's heavy reliance on imported inputs, Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said on Monday.

This is in part due to 63 per cent of the country's fertilizer being imported, leaving the country's agricultural sector particularly exposed to global disrup-

tions, Akmal told parliament.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have been identified as highly vulnerable due to limited financial buffers, with cash flow pressures expected to intensify as input costs rise sharply, he said, adding that the government is working to ensure the security of essential goods, control the prices of basic goods and improve the efficiency of distribution channels in order to reduce the impact of price increases. — Xinhua



People browse for produce under Malaysian national flags at a fruit market in Kuala Lumpur on 28 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B81VS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B81VS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **30-6-2026** 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 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 CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HOANG ANH 03 VOY.NO. (11/2026)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V HOANG ANH 03 VOY.NO. (11/2026)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **01-7-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MKH** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

**M/S UNI SPRING LOGISTICS HOLDINGS PTE LTD**

### Changing Trade Name of Pesticide

Aventine Limited would like to change the trade name of the following pesticide which is registered by Shandong Zouping Nongyao Co.,Ltd.. And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing trade name within (14) days of the publication of this notice to the Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	Armo Myan Shin	Armo Quick	Diquat 20 % AS	P2025-6827

Aventine Limited (ph: 09-754264630)

### PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **Fully Light Group Co.,Ltd.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, from **Fully Light Trading Co.,Ltd** to **Aomei K Agricultural Technology Co.,Ltd.** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon, from here to next (2) weeks.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Chauk Kan Lin 41 SL	Glyphosate 41% SL	Full	F2020-2853

Aomei K Agricultural Technology Co.,Ltd. Tel: 09-970123666

# ROLLING UPDATES

## WORLD

## Shenzhou-23 crew marks one month in orbit with baked pumpkin, science experiments

THE three astronauts of the Shenzhou-23 spaceflight mission, Zhu Yangzhu, Zhang Zhiyuan and Li Jiaying, have completed their first month aboard China's Tiangong space station, according to a video released by the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

A highlight of the month-long "space business trip" is that the crew has unlocked a new culinary experience in orbit — freshly baked pumpkin. A video released by the CMSA on Sunday shows the astronauts placing sweet pumpkin chunks into a space oven, bringing a touch of home-cooked warmth to life aboard the orbital outpost.

Over the past week, the crew has maintained a busy and productive



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**

schedule conducting scientific experiments. In the field of space medicine, they used an ultrasound diagnostic device to scan one another's necks, wrists and abdomens. The data collected will support research on pan-vascular blood flow spectroscopy, spatiotem-

poral blood flow mapping, and the remodelling of muscle groups sensitive to microgravity. The crew also interacted with the space robot, conducting touch-based tests to collect data to help optimize motion planning for in-orbit robots.

Research into in-or-

bit electroencephalogram (EEG) testing has progressed smoothly, with the astronauts using EEG equipment to conduct experiments on visual-motor processing and behavioural responses under different lighting conditions, the CMSA said. — Xinhua

## Thai airline employee charged over heroin seizure at Melbourne Airport

AN airline employee from Thailand has been arrested and charged after Australian authorities allegedly located heroin in her baggage on arrival at Melbourne Airport.

A statement from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on Monday said that Australian Border Force (ABF) officers screened the 26-year-old Thai national's bags when an

international flight that she was working on landed at Melbourne Airport on Thursday.

During an X-ray examination of the bags, officers identified anomalies and subsequently discovered a white powder concealed within their lining. Presumptive testing returned a positive reading for heroin.

The AFP said that more than

one kilogramme of heroin, with an estimated street value of 500,000 Australian dollars (US\$344,592), was seized. The 26-year-old woman was arrested and charged with one count each of importing a marketable quantity of a border-controlled drug and possessing a marketable quantity of a border-controlled drug. — Xinhua

## Over 1,300 excess deaths linked to Europe heatwave: WHO

MORE than 1,300 excess deaths have been recorded across Europe since June 21 linked to high temperatures, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on social media platform X on Sunday.

"Right now 150 million people are living under extreme heat, hundreds have died, schools are shut, grids are buckling," Tedros said on X.

He warned that "heat stress is often called the 'silent killer' - and European homes, workplaces and schools were not built for these temperatures".

Europe is the fastest-warming continent on Earth, heating at twice the global average, Tedros noted. "Driven by climate change and global warming, the phenomenon of the 'once-in-a-generation' heatwave is now occurring" nearly annually, he said.

The WHO is working with its members and part-

ners to address the health threats posed by extreme heat through focusing on preparedness, prevention and stronger health system responses. Tedros called on European countries to "implement heat health action plans" as part of the broader agenda to protect health against climate change.

Separately, the WHO has published practical tips for keeping cool during extreme heat on its website. The guidance recommends staying out of the heat by avoiding outdoor activity during the hottest time of day, staying in the shade, and spending two to three hours daily in a cool place.

To keep homes cool, the WHO advises using night air to cool down homes after dark, closing windows and covering them with blinds during the day when outdoor temperatures are higher than indoors, and turning off as many electrical devices as possible. — Xinhua



A thermometer shows temperature reaching 37 degrees Celsius outside the European Union headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, 26 June 2026. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Japan's 1<sup>st</sup> pig kidney transplant trial eyed as early as 2028



Photo shows a pig pregnant with genetically modified piglets. (Photo courtesy of PorMedTec) **PHOTO: KYODO**

A Japanese startup said Monday it will conduct clinical trials of pig kidney transplants to humans at two hospitals as early as 2028, which if successful would likely make them the first of their kind in the country.

It is hoped that organ transplants from pigs to humans will address the shortage of organ donors

in Japan. Pig kidney transplants have previously been carried out on a trial basis in the United States and China.

According to the Meiji University venture, PorMedTec, the kidneys, which have been genetically modified to prevent organ rejection, will be transplanted at Hokkaido University Hospital in

Sapporo and Shonan Kamakura General Hospital in Kamakura, Kanagawa Prefecture.

"We want to lay the foundation of xenotransplantation in Japan," Hiroshi Nagashima, a Meiji University professor and representative director of the company, said in a press release, referring to the surgical transfer of

non-human animals' organs to human recipients.

The startup imports genetically modified pig cells developed by US biotechnology company eGenesis Inc and produces pigs with the same features in Japan. The genes of the animal have been modified in 69 areas to prevent organs from being rejected by recipients' bodies. — Kyodo

# SPORTS

## Uruguay's Ugarte faces further tests on injured knee

URUGUAY midfielder Manuel Ugarte will undergo further tests to determine the extent of ligament damage to his left knee, the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) said on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Manchester United player was forced off before halftime in Uruguay's 1-0 loss to Spain on Friday, a result

that sealed La Celeste's World Cup group-stage exit.

"In coordination with his club, Manchester United, initial medical examinations have been carried out and indicate a ligament injury," an AUF statement said.

"We will continue working together throughout the assessment pro-

cess to determine the full extent of the injury."

Ugarte started all three of Uruguay's World Cup matches, which also included a 1-1 draw against Saudi Arabia and a 2-2 draw against Cabo Verde.

Uruguay finished third in Group H behind Spain and Cabo Verde. — Xinhua



Uruguay's midfielder (5) Manuel Ugarte leaves the pitch after being injured during the 2026 World Cup Group H football match between Uruguay and Spain at the Guadalajara Stadium in Zapopan on 26 June 2026. PHOTO: AFP

## Mixed emotions for South Africa coach after World Cup exit

SOUTH Africa coach Hugo Broos said Sunday he was disappointed by his team's World Cup round-of-32 exit but proud of them after reaching the knockout stage for the first time.

South Africa's historic campaign ended in a 1-0 defeat to Canada at Los Angeles Stadium after midfielder Stephen Eustaquio scored a stoppage-time winner.

"It was a difficult game, but I knew beforehand because I analyzed the opponent," Broos said at the post-match press conference. "They have power and speed. We hoped we had an answer for that, but that was not always the case."



Miroslav Koubek (R), head coach of the Czech Republic, shakes hands with Hugo Broos, head coach of South Africa. PHOTO: XINHUA

Broos, aged 74 years and 79 days, became the oldest coach to oversee a team in a FIFA World Cup knockout match.

"You saw situations in the game where we could not keep up, and in the duels, man against man, we lost sometimes,

or most of the time. We have to work on power and speed in South Africa," he said.

"I don't have any complaints about the mentality, but I think we can look back on this tournament with happiness because we reached

the second round. I don't think anybody expected that before the tournament."

South Africa recovered from a 2-0 opening defeat to co-host Mexico to draw 1-1 with Czechia before beating South Korea 1-0, finishing second in Group A to qualify for the World Cup knockout stage for the first time.

"It hurts now because we wanted to win today. It's a disappointment, and it's very quiet in the dressing room at the moment," Broos said.

"But on the other hand, we have to be honest. We did very well in our first World Cup in 16 years. We reached the second round." — Xinhua

## Man City hire Maresca to start new era after Guardiola

MANCHESTER City on Monday hired former Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca to lead the club into a new era after Pep Guardiola stepped down at the end of last season.

Maresca agreed a three-year contract with City after being forced to wait several weeks to seal his move to the Etihad Stadium.

"Manchester City is a club I know very well and to have the chance to manage this team is a brilliant opportunity for me," said Maresca, who previously coached Leicester in the Championship and

Chelsea in the Premier League.

"City is an incredibly well-run football club. Everything they do is innovative, planned and purposeful. For a manager, that is a dream situation. It provides the consistency I need to do my job effectively."

The 46-year-old Maresca had been strongly linked with the City job once reports emerged of Guardiola's potential exit.

But Maresca's arrival in Manchester was held up by Chelsea's demand for a reported £17 million (\$22 million) compensation package

for the Italian, who was still contracted to the Blues until 2029 when he departed in January.

Chelsea took the unusual step of issuing a statement, on the announcement of Maresca's appointment, to explain he had informed them earlier in the season "there might be an opportunity for him to succeed Pep Guardiola at the end of the season".

"In December 2025, our head coach unexpectedly and abruptly resigned from his position," the club added. — AFP

## PSG in talks with Leipzig to buy Ivory Coast star Diomande

PARIS Saint-Germain are in talks with Bundesliga side RB Leipzig to buy Ivory Coast forward Yan Diomande, a source close to the dossier told AFP.

The 19-year-old has told the German club he wants to join the French giants and the two clubs opened negotiations after Diomande, who is under contract with Leipzig until 2030, told PSG management he was "very keen" to sign for the reigning European champions this summer, the source added.

His arrival would also likely involve the departure of Portuguese forward Goncalo Ramos to AC Milan with PSG having not reached a deal with the Italian outfit, the source

said.

Born in Abidjan, Diomande spent a few months in 2025 at Spanish club Leganes, then in La Liga, and has played for Leipzig for one season, scoring 12 goals in the Bundesliga.

The arrival of the forward, who is preparing for the Ivory Coast's World Cup last 32 match with Norway on Tuesday, would mark PSG's first major move of this summer transfer window.

The Ramos deal is estimated at around 74 million euros (\$84 million), the source stated, but could rise to 90 million euros with bonuses. The club did not respond when contacted by AFP. — AFP



Yan Diomande (11) of Cote d'Ivoire runs with the ball during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Group E match between Germany and Cote D'Ivoire at Toronto Stadium on 20 June 2026 in Toronto, Ontario. PHOTO: ALEXANDER HASSENSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Shenzhou-23 crew marks one month in orbit with baked pumpkin, science experiments

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# WORLD

## New Earthquake Recorded on Monday in Venezuela's La Guaira — Seismologists

A new 4.2 magnitude earthquake has been recorded in Venezuela's La Guaira State, which was most affected by the recent earthquakes, local seismologists said on Monday.

The earthquake was recorded at 7:01 am local time [11:01 GMT], 10 kilometres (6.2 Miles) from the city of La Guaira. The epicentre was located at a depth of 2.9 kilometres.

There was no information about possible casualties or damage.

Later in the day, National Assembly Speaker Jorge Rodriguez said on X that a moderate-intensity aftershock had just occurred, with no reports of

additional damage in any part of the country.

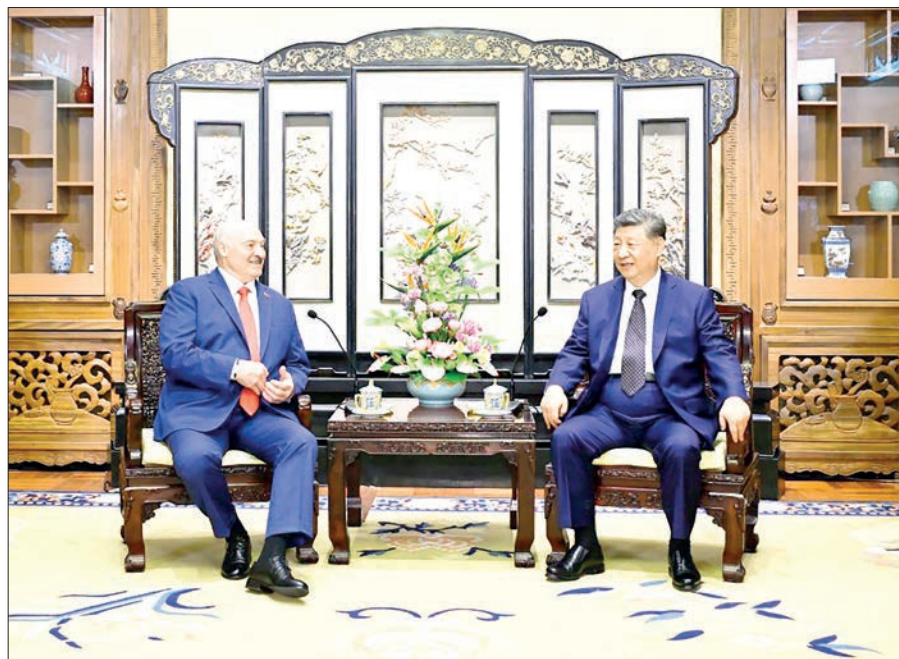
Two powerful tremors struck Venezuela on Wednesday, with magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5, the US Geological Survey said. According to the latest official data, the death toll has risen to 1,450, with more than 3,100 people hospitalized. Nearly 400 residential buildings have been destroyed, and infrastructure and hospitals damaged.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed condolences over the tragic aftermath of the devastating earthquake. Moscow said it was ready to provide assistance to Caracas. — SPUTNIK



Rescuers and volunteers search for victims in Caraballeda, La Guaira State, Venezuela, on 28 June 2026 following twin earthquakes. PHOTO: AFP

## Xi meets Belarusian president



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, capital of China, 29 June 2026. PHOTO: XINHUA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in Beijing on Monday.

China and Belarus should maintain strategic communication, and promote the continuous progress of bilateral re-

lations that are already running at a high level to better benefit the people of the two countries, Xi stressed.

China supports Belarus in safeguarding its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and in pursuing a development

path that suits its own national conditions, Xi said, expressing China's willingness to continue to offer assistance within its capacity for the development of Belarus.

Xi said China and Belarus are true friends who trust and support each other, good partners

for common development and prosperity, and all-weather comprehensive strategic partners.

Having withstood the test of a changing international landscape, the bilateral relationship has made leapfrog development in recent years and has now entered the best period in history, he said.

The two sides have enjoyed solid political mutual trust, achieved fruitful results in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation projects, and conducted productive multilateral coordination, Xi said.

The facts have proven that deepening the all-weather and all-round cooperation between China and Belarus is in line with the trend of the times and serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples, Xi said. — Xinhua

## Ebola outbreak in DR Congo spreads to fourth province

At least one Ebola case has been confirmed in a fourth province in the Democratic Republic of Congo, meaning the coun-

try's entire northeast is now affected by the deadly outbreak, the national laboratory and a health source said Monday.

The case was detected in Haut-Uele, near the borders with South Sudan and the Central African Republic, involving a

person who had travelled from Bunia, in neighbouring Ituri province — the outbreak's epicentre. — AFP

## US, Iran to halt strikes "for now", to meet in Doha over Hormuz Strait: report

THE United States and Iran have agreed to pause mutual attacks "for now" and hold talks on Tuesday in Doha, the capital of Qatar, to work out their dispute over the Strait of Hormuz, US media outlet Axios reported Sunday.

The two sides will stand down "for now" and "vessels can move freely" as technical talks are set to continue, a US official was

quoted as saying.

The Tuesday talks were originally set to be held in Switzerland and focused on Iran's nuclear programme. However, renewed tensions in the Strait of Hormuz prompted the talks to be moved to Doha, shifting the focus to shipping security in the strategic waterway.

During negotiations in Switzerland a week ago,

the US delegation agreed with Iran to establish a "hotline" between the US military and Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps to coordinate traffic in the strait.

However, as of Saturday, the "hotline" still wasn't operational, according to the report.

The United States conducted strikes on Iranian targets on Friday and

Saturday, citing "continued Iranian aggression against commercial shipping" in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran responded by striking US military positions in the region. — Xinhua

This photo provided by the Ministry of Information in Oman on 20 June 2026 shows a view of the Strait of Hormuz. PHOTO: XINHUA

