

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

Myanmar traditional puppet-making course to open in Yangon

The Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust (MCHT) has announced that the Myanmar Traditional Puppet-Making Course Intake 1/2026 will be opened at the State High School of Fine Arts (Yangon) in Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

The 12-month puppet-making course will cover foundational techniques, the crafting of diverse marionette characters, and opportunities for practical field study.

“This is a course where the Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust will issue graduation certificates upon completion. We will teach students to the point where they can produce and sell market-



A craftsman developing a traditional Myanmar marionette.

able marionettes. Furthermore, we will create market connections to help the graduates sell their commercial-grade pieces,”

said course instructor U Aung Than Tun.

The Myanmar Cultural Heritage Trust stated that it will connect stu-

dents with artistes from the Myanmar puppetry community to help secure a market for their marionettes. — ASH/KNN

Shwe Padauk Fish Market Provides over 2,000 Daily Jobs

The Shwe Padauk Fish Market in Hline Township, Yangon, receives and distributes freshwater products nationwide, employing more than 2,000 workers daily.

Every day, workers from surrounding townships, including Hline, Kyimyindine, Dala, Twantay, Insein, Hlinethaya, and Shwepyitha, come to the market to engage in loading, unloading, freezing, packing, transporting, and trading activities.

“At the Shwe Padauk Fish Market, a shop can operate efficiently only if it has between five and eight workers. We employ five general labourers, one broker, and two clerks. For someone who owns ten shops, the required workforce is much larger. Shop owners and workers are mutually dependent. When sales are good, workers earn more and business performs well. Conversely, when sales decline, both owners and workers experience lower incomes. Therefore, shop owners make every effort to retain their workers by looking after their livelihoods and ensuring their well-being. With more than 430 shops in the market, employment opportunities are provided to over 2,000 workers every day,” said U Aye Ko, Vice-Chairman of the Shwe Padauk Market Development Committee.

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Workers seen at Shwe Padauk Fish Market. **PHOTO: ZWE MARN**

SEE PAGE 3

MoEE’s workshop to increase generating solar-energy-based electricity

AS part of efforts to significantly increase the contribution of solar power systems in the country’s electricity consumption sector, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy will organize a workshop on the generation and use of solar energy-based electricity. The workshop will take place in the first week of July 2026. The ministry

has extended invitation to those wishing to participate in discussions.

Myanmar is a country that is rich in solar energy resources; however, according to the ministry’s statement, the current level of electricity generation and utilization from solar energy sources remains low.

As such, the ministry is implementing measures

to increase electricity generation from solar power by integrating an appropriate proportion of solar power systems into the national grid, as well as encouraging and supporting the installation and use of solar systems — whether individually or in groups — based on their own initiatives.

Experts and entrepreneurs from relevant sec-

tors, as well as responsible officials from various organizations, students, and interested members of the public, have been invited to participate in and discuss the workshop, where they may exchange views and provide suggestions on solar technology, battery technology, and solar power systems.

Progress of Mya Sein Yaung Village Project assessed in Monghsat Township



THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a township-level review meeting of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Monghsat Township, Shan State (East), yesterday morning at

SEE PAGE 2

500 life jackets donated to Yangon-Dala and Yangon-Seikkyi-Khanaungto waterway passengers

THE Yangon Region Government and well-wishers donated 500 life jackets on 6 June for commuters using the Yangon-Dala and Yangon-Seikkyi-Khanaungto water routes at a ceremony

held at the Myanma Port Authority (Head Office) in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

Of the 500 life jackets, 400 were handed over to those in charge of the eight

Yangon-Dala sampan jetties, while the remaining 100 were presented to those in charge of the three Yangon-Seikkyi-Khanaungto sampan jetties.

SEE PAGE 2

NATIONAL

2 additional foreigners detained in telecom fraud raid

Authorities have detained two foreign nationals involved in telecom fraud and other criminal activities.

The two detainees included one national from the Russian Federation and one from the Philippines, all of whom had entered the areas around Myawady illegally. They are currently under investigation pending deportation.

To ensure their swift repatriation, a joint departmental team is currently collecting the necessary personal data and records. U Kaung San Linn, Chairman of the Myawady District Management and Administration Committee and District Administrator, alongside other officials, inspected the process and coordinated essential requirements.



Immigration processes are underway for the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

From 30 January 2025 to 7 June 2026, a total of 14,703 illegal foreign entrants were detained in Myawady Township. Of these, 13,521 individuals have been systematically deported to their respective countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures.

A total of 662 individuals have been prosecuted under immigration and drug-related laws, while the remaining 520 are awaiting deportation and are being properly accommodated and managed.

The government continues to cooperate actively with neighbouring coun-

tries, regional partners, and international organizations to combat online scam operations, identify and take action against those involved, and facilitate the repatriation of trafficked and distressed foreign nationals as swiftly as possible. — MNA/KZL

500 life jackets donated to Yangon-Dala and ...

FROM PAGE 1

“Although the Yangon-Dala bridge has been successfully constructed, many commuters continue to rely on sampans for their daily travel due to practical needs. As the life jackets currently used on these sampans are worn out and damaged, commuters are often reluctant to wear them, which has unfortunately resulted in

loss of life when accidents occur. Therefore, the Yangon Region Government and donors have come together to make this donation. We will continue to provide additional life jackets as needed. Furthermore, those in charge are urged to strictly supervise their use to ensure that the donated equipment is utilized effectively,” said Dr Myo Thaw,



This photo shows the Yangon Region Government and donors donating life jackets for use on the Yangon-Dala and Yangon-Seikkyi-Khanaungto water routes.

Yangon Region Minister Industry, and Transport. for Electricity, Energy, — ASH/TH

Progress of Mya Sein Yaung Village Project assessed ...

FROM PAGE 1

the department’s meeting hall with the participation of township-level stakeholders, departmental officials, members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committees.

The meeting aimed to ensure more effective and successful implementation of the project and to exchange experiences gained from project activities.

At the ceremony, U Sai Aung Myo Htet, District Head of the Monghsat District Department of Rural Development, and Township Administrator U Ah Lun of the Township General Administration Department

delivered remarks.

U Sai Soe Htay, Head of the Monghsat Township Department of Rural Development, then explained the objectives of the review meeting and matters related to project activities.

Members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committees attending the review meeting then formed groups and presented discussions on strengths, weaknesses and difficulties encountered during the financial year in relation to the project. District-and township-level project implementation committee members provided necessary assistance. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7 pm Sunday 7 June 2026)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. The weather is partly cloudy over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON ON 8 June 2026: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing Region and Chin State, fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and upper Sagaing regions and Kachin and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

THE CONDITION OF CUMULONIMBUS CLOUD: The cumulonimbus clouds are developing in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kayah, Chin, Rakhine and Shan states. The area along the cumulonimbus clouds movement, the weather phenomena such as strong winds accompanied with rain, thunder, lightning and hails may occur and therefore it is recommended to be aware in advance of these phenomena.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and eastern Shan states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 8 June 2026: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 8 June 2026: One or two times of rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA ON 8 June 2026: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100 per cent. — DMH

EARTHQUAKE

(Issued at 11:55 am MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude 3.9 (M) with its epicentre inside Myanmar (about 24 miles north-northeast of Mawlaik), latitude 23.94°N, longitude 94.59°E, depth 110 kilometres, about 27 miles southeast of the Tamu Seismological Observatory was recorded at 11 hour 42 minutes 27 seconds MST on 7 June 2026. — DMH

NATIONAL

Magway Region Chief Minister fetes returning conscripts with awards and dinner

A ceremony was held at City Hall in Magway on the evening of 6 June to honour citizens from People's Military Service batches 1 and 2 who completed their service and returned home after fulfilling national defence and security duties.

Magway Region Chief Minister U Tin Ko Ko, senior military officers from the local military station, the Chief Justice of the Regional High Court, regional ministers and returning

service members attended the event.

The Chief Minister delivered a speech of honour and, together with officials, presented cash awards of K100,000 each to 316 returning people's military servants from Magway Region.

He hosted a dinner honour of the citizens from the People's Military Service batches 1 and 2. — Maung Khaing Min (IPRD)/KZL



A ceremony to honour the citizens from People's Military Service batches 1 and 2 in progress in Magway.

MoEE's workshop to increase generating ...

FROM PAGE 1

They can send the titles to be discussed to the Department of Electric Power Transmission and System Control, dialing 09-43016690 and 067-3410471.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy launched the operations of two solar power plants in Mandalay Region on 29 April this year. The 40-megawatt Thazi Solar Power Plant located in Thazi Township, Meiktila District was constructed by Leader Power Co Ltd, and the 40-megawatt Thabyaywa Solar Power Plant in Meiktila Township by Hanzar Solar Energy Co Ltd.

The two power plants generate about 202 million kilowatt-hours annually and supply electricity to around 130,000 households. Moreover, a 210-megawatt solar power project built by Shwe Swan Inn Company Limited is under construction. —TWA/TTA



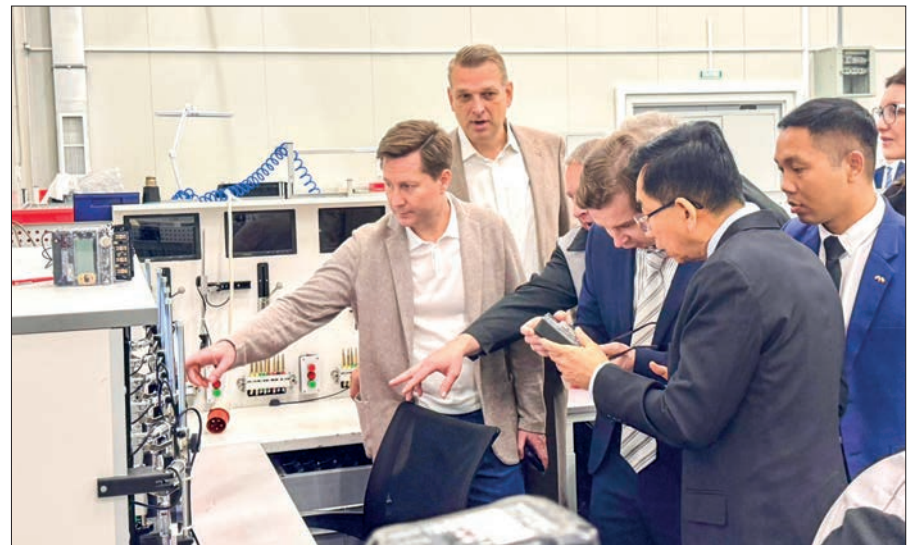
Solar panels are being installed at the power station to generate electricity in Guizhou Province, southwest China. PHOTO: XINHUA

Myanmar welcomes investment interest in smart meter technology cooperation with Russia

THE delegation led by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Ko Ko Lwin, currently on a visit to the Russian Federation, yesterday afternoon visited the smart meter manufacturing factory of Telematic Solution Co Ltd in Moscow, where officials explained the factory's production processes.

In response to the briefings, the Union minister said he welcomed their interest in investing in the integration and upgrading of Myanmar's existing system with Russia's advanced proprietary smart meter technology, and expressed a desire to pursue technical cooperation.

In the afternoon, of-



Union Minister U Ko Ko Lwin visits smart meter factory of Telematic Solution Co Ltd in Moscow, Russia, yesterday.

officials from Inter Rao Co Ltd called on the Union minister and presented processes for rehabilitating and improving the efficiency of gas-fired power

generation turbines. In response, the Union minister invited them to conduct a study visit to explore cooperation in turbine repair, efficiency

enhancement, and technology acquisition, with the aim of reducing natural gas wastage, according to reports. — MNA/TH

Myanmar, Alabuga SEZ hold talks on labour recruitment and MoU

UNION Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe, who is attending the 29th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in Saint Petersburg, the Russian Federation, along with Vice-President U Nyo Saw, received Mr Konstantin Trifonov, a representative of the Alabuga Special Economic Zone in Kazan, the Republic of Tatarstan, at the Welton Hotel yesterday evening local

time.

During the meeting, they cordially and openly exchanged views regarding the recruitment of workers for industrial and construction sectors to attract international investments to the Special Economic Zone, ongoing processes to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on labour affairs, and the working conditions of Myanmar workers. — MNA/TH



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe shakes hands with Mr Konstantin Trifonov of Alabuga Special Economic Zone in the Republic of Tatarstan, the Russian Federation.

New Rainfall Record of June

Issued at 7 June 2026

Sr No	Station	Date of New Record	New Rainfall Record		Date of Old Record	Old Rainfall Record		Past Years of opening station
			(mm)	(inches)		(mm)	(inches)	
1	Loikaw	7-6-2026	35	3.35	18-6-1975	82	3.23	62

NATIONAL

Union Minister meets Indian experts to coordinate Myingyan Steel Mill project



Union Minister Dr Charlie Than speaking at the coordination meeting with officials from No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) in NyaungU, Mandalay Region, yesterday.

DR Charlie Than, Union Minister for Industry and MSME Development, met yesterday morning with Indian experts engaged in the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) project at the office of the Directorate of Industrial Su-

pervision and Inspection in NyaungU, Mandalay Region.

During the meeting, the Union Minister stated that Foundry No 1 of the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) commenced operations on 23 March

2023 and has since produced over 28,000 tonnes of steel billets. He further explained that Indian and factory experts had collaborated to inspect and repair machinery to enable the operation of Foundry No 2, which has

now begun running and producing steel slabs. He expressed his desire for their continued assistance in ensuring the successful completion of the No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) project activities.

Following this, the Union Minister provided necessary instructions in response to briefings by the Indian experts, the Managing Director of No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, and the Mill Manager regarding the inspection and repair of machinery, as well as upcoming operational plans.

A coordination meeting was subsequently held to ensure the successful completion of the project operations.

— MNA/KNN

YGH launches scheme to boost charitable ambulance access

ARRANGEMENTS are underway to enable patients at Yangon General Hospital (YGH) to access ambulance services without fixed charges, according to organizers of the programme.

The initiative is being jointly implemented by the Lanmadaw Township General Administration Department, hospital authorities, and local social welfare organizations.

Under the programme, information boards displaying the names and contact numbers of participating charitable ambulance groups will be installed at

the hospital. Patients and their families will be able to report directly to hospital and township authorities any difficulties, disputes or incidents involving excessive charges.

Organisers said the programme aims to prevent unauthorized operators from overcharging patients while promoting access to ambulance services provided by charitable organizations on a voluntary donation basis.

More than 50 social welfare groups have reportedly registered to participate in the programme.

— ASH/KZL



An ambulance arrives to transport a discharged patient from Yangon General Hospital.

Officials discuss transport of timber for reconstruction work in Chin State



A meeting emphasizes transport of timber to Chin State yesterday.

A coordination meeting was held online yesterday morning to facilitate the transport of 271.185

tonnes of sawn timber from Kalay in Sagaing Region to Chin State for development, rehabili-

tation and reconstruction projects.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe, Chairman of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee, and other officials.

Participants discussed detailed arrangements to ensure the smooth transport of timber required for development and recon-

struction work in Chin State. The shipment includes 190 tonnes for Falam, 30 tonnes for Tiddim and 51.185 tonnes for Tonzang, all of which will be transported via Kale.

Officials focused on coordinating logistics and transport measures to ensure that the timber reaches the respective townships efficiently to support ongoing rebuilding efforts.

— MNA/KZL

Shwe Padauk Fish Market ...

FROM PAGE 1

Spanning more than eight acres, the sprawling commercial facility comprises seven buildings housing 432 shops, as well as dedicated cold storage facilities. With each of the hundreds of wholesale stalls employing five to eight workers, the market consistently supports between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs daily. Daily wages fluctuate depending on the volume of fishery products arriving at the market. Labourers are paid a piece rate of K15 per viss. For example, if a stall processes 5,000 visses of fish in a day, an individual worker can earn around K15,000.

Standard daily earnings for market labourers typically range from K15,000 to K25,000, while specialized positions such as brokers and clerks receive fixed monthly salaries ranging from K500,000 to K700,000. At the Shwe Padauk Fish Market, workers receive a daily allowance of K10,000 from shop owners on days when no goods arrive. — Thitsa (MNA)/TH

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NATIONAL

Bagan heritage sites inspected amid conservation efforts



Union Minister U Maung Myint inspects structures in Bagan cultural heritage zone yesterday.

UNION Minister for Hotels, Tourism and Culture U Maung Myint inspected ancient structures and historic waterway sites in the Bagan cultural heritage zone yesterday and reviewed ongoing preservation work.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, the Union Minister visited the Sinka brick monastery, where restoration is being carried out while preserving its original architectural features. He instructed officials to strictly follow conservation guidelines, procedures and

preservation standards. He also inspected arrangements for visitors at the Bagan Information and Training Centre in Old Bagan, which is operated by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

During a separate inspection tour the previous day, the Union Minister visited Aggatae Temple, Paungkukon Pagoda, the palace sites of King Anawrahta and King Kyansittha, and the reconstructed Bagan Golden Palace. He also examined the eastern moat section of the Bagan city wall, which forms part

of Waterway No 1 near Putalin Pagoda and Tharawut Gate, as well as conservation work at Ananda Temple and Htilominlo Pagoda.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met representatives from the Union of Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Bagan Zone), Myanmar Restaurants Association (Bagan Zone), Bagan Tourist Guides Association, Myanmar Tourism Transport Association (Bagan Zone), the Bagan Plastic Campaign group and officials from state-owned hotels at Heritage Hotel. — MNA/KZL

Income-generating agriculture and livestock activities accelerated in Myitkyina Township

OFFICIALS of the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development conducted a field inspection of agriculture and livestock breeding activities being carried out with the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project funds in Palana (4) Yuzana Myaing Village in Myitkyina, Kachin State, yesterday morning.

During the inspection, U Nay Thurein Sein Hla, Head of the Myitkyina Township Department of Rural Development, and officials observed agriculture and livestock breeding activities being undertaken by project members in Palana (4) Yuzana Myaing Village.



Officials of Department of Rural Development inspect livestock farming tastes in Myitkyina Township.

They also checked whether the monthly financial records prepared by project committee members were complete and accurate and coordinated necessary assistance in response to village submissions.

The Mya Sein Yaung Village Project was implemented in Palana (4) Yuzana Myaing Village

in the 2015-2016 financial year, spending a fund of K30 million. At present, the revolving funds totaling K77.6 million have been disbursed at low interest rates to 89 project members in the village, and the project activities are being successfully operated and implemented. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)

Daily newspapers available online

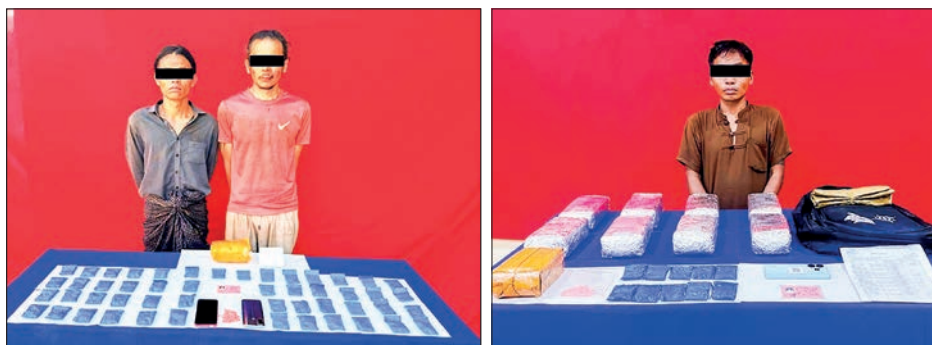
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K140M Narcotics Haul Seized in Thazi and Taunggyi

DRUG enforcement police seized stimulant tablets worth K140 million in Thazi Township and Taunggyi, while another K6 million worth of stimulant tablets were confiscated in Tachilek Township, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team led by the Drug Enforcement Division stopped and searched a passenger bus travelling from Taunggyi to Yangon near Kywetatson Village in Thazi Township at about 9:30 pm on 4 June. Officers found 90,000 stimulant



Images depict drug traffickers arrested together with narcotic drugs in Thazi and Taunggyi.

tablets in the possession of 36-year-old Thet Ko Win from Ward (L), North Okkalapa Township. The tablets were valued at K135 million based on the local market price

of K1,500 per tablet. Police also seized K30,000 in cash.

Following further investigations, officers raided a house in Area 7, Phaya Phyu Ward,

Taunggyi, at about 4 am on 5 June. They arrested 31-year-old Sai Nyunt (aka) Min Nyunt, who allegedly arranged the transport of the drugs, and 41-year-old Aung Ko

Ko (aka) Thar Nge from Area 15, Yayayekwin Ward. During the search, police seized a further 10,000 stimulant tablets valued at K5 million, based on a local market price of K500 per tablet.

Authorities have taken legal action against Thet Ko Win, Sai Nyunt (aka) Min Nyunt, and Aung Ko Ko (aka) Thar Nge under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

In a separate case, a combined anti-narcotics team acting on a tip-off searched a Wave I 110

motorcycle near Par Bee (3) Village in Tachilek Township, at about 1:30 pm on 5 June. The motorcycle was being driven by 33-year-old Law Pi from Kathtike Village, Kengtung Township.

During the search, officers seized 10,000 stimulant tablets valued at K6 million, based on a local market price of K600 per tablet. Authorities have taken legal action against Law Pi under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the report. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Indian Ambassador presents OCI cards to Myanmar monk and business leader



Indian Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur presenting the OCI card to the Venerable Dr Paññasami.

THE Embassy of India to Myanmar announced that it has issued Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards, which

include lifelong multiple-entry visas to India, to a Buddhist monk and a civilian from Myanmar.

The Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Mr Abhay Thakur, presented an OCI card to the Venerable Dr Paññasami during a ceremony held in Mandalay on 4 June 2026.

The event was attended by representatives of the All Myanmar Hindu Central Council, the Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh and the Arya Samaj. During a separate ceremony held in Pyin Oo Lwin, the Ambassador presented another OCI card to U Tin Latt, Chairman of the

Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

Both events were attended by Ambassador Mr Abhay Thakur and Consul-General Sundeep Kaushal. The OCI card serves as a lifelong multiple-entry visa to India, providing recipients with special privileges to engage in business, trade, education and financial activities in India.

The embassy's statement added that detailed information regarding the OCI card application process is available on the Government of India's official OCI Services website. — TWA/KZL

Mya Sein Yaung Village Project fund contributes to rural development in Kongyangon Township

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development loaned K41 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project revolving fund to beneficiaries in Htanpingon Village, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Region, yesterday morning.

Daw Su Thida Lin, Head of the Kungyangon Township Department of Rural Development, explained that the revolving fund was being disbursed with the aims of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes of rural residents in Htanpingon Village, as well as enabling the implementation of village development activities through the growing project fund. Project officials and staff also explained interest rates, loan terms and conditions to be followed by borrowers.

The Township DRD Head and members of the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee disbursed K41 million from the revolving fund to a total of 81 members engaged in agriculture, livestock breeding, trading and fisheries in Htanpingon Village. The loans were provided directly to individual members at a low interest rate. — Sein Lwin (Rural)

Myanmar students to compete in Global Chinese Language Competition in China

MYANMAR students will participate in an upcoming global Chinese language competition to be held in China, according to the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation.

The selection process for Myanmar students to compete in the global competition began in April. The award ceremony for the finalists was held on 5 June at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Pabedan Township, Yangon Region.

"These competitions are held to improve the Chinese language proficiency of students learning the language in My-

anmar. The selected students will travel to China to compete in the main competition," said Daw Phyo Hsu Yee, a Chinese language teacher at ELBC School and Deputy Director of the Confucius Classroom.

The competition is divided into three categories: university, middle school and elementary school levels. Contestants will compete under themes such as "One World, One Family", "Fly High with Chinese", "No Regrets for Youth" and "Chinese, Joy and Fun". The assessment includes speeches in Chinese, knowledge-based quizzes, cultural performanc-



This award ceremony held for the finalists to represent Myanmar in the global Chinese language competition.

es and comprehensive skills assessments. — ASH/KZL

3 additional online scam hubs demolished, bringing total to 42

AUTHORITIES have continued dismantling illegal buildings used for online fraud and illegal gambling activities in Shwe Kokko, according to official reports.

The government said that joint departmental teams are carrying out clearance operations in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas to prevent illegal structures from continuing to be used for online scam activities. Equipment used in such operations has also been systematically destroyed,



Images reveal the update before and after the demolition in Shwe Kokko, Myawady, Kayin State.

while illegal buildings are being completely demolished.

During the latest op-

eration, three three-story residential buildings used for online scam activities were demolished

using heavy machinery. The structures were among 77 buildings identified for removal, includ-

ing 57 to be demolished with machinery and 20 to be destroyed using explosives.

Officials confirmed that a total of 42 buildings have been demolished so far. The remaining 35 illegal structures will be dismantled in subsequent phases.

Authorities also stated that efforts to combat online scam networks are being undertaken as a national responsibility, in cooperation with neighbouring countries and international partners, to prevent such activities from re-establishing themselves in Myanmar. — MNA/KZL

NATIONAL

Minbu district plants over 150,000 trees



Residents of Minbu District participate in tree-growing activities.

THE Dry Zone Greening Department in Minbu District, Magway Region, has planted more than 150,000 trees across the district during the 2026 monsoon season as part of efforts to support rural

development, improve environmental sustainability, mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote



Land plot has been prepared to establish tree plantations.

ecological balance.

Head of District Dry Zone Greening Department U Tin Maung Htwe said the department planted a total of 159,840 trees during the 2026-2027 financial year in Minbu (Sagu), Pwintbyu, Salin

and Ngape townships. The programme included 220 acres of forest plantations, 8,000 trees under special greening projects, 30 acres of village-owned plantations under the “two-acre per village” scheme and 1,000 trees planted along

farm boundaries.

Departmental staff members, in cooperation with residents, have planted various shade and timber species, including eucalyptus, mezali, gum-kino, cherry, river tamarind, neem, ironwood, teak, jujube and mango trees in community forests, hill plantations and other greening sites.

The department also plans to plant an additional 1,000 shade trees in Minbu (Sagu) Township as part of the Magway Region-level 2026 monsoon tree-planting ceremony under the public greening campaign. — Maung Maung (Minbu) /KZL

Hopong Township DRD disburses Mya Sein Yaung funds for agricultural expansion

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, held a ceremony yesterday morning in Loitanttan Village of Hopong Township, Shan State (South), to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. The ceremony was attended by the township DRD head and officials.

U Soe Lwin Myint, Head of the Hopong Township Department of Rural Development, explained that the funds were being disbursed with the objectives of enabling rural people in Loitanttan Village to expand systematic

agricultural activities and implementing village development works with the increased project funds.

Project officials and staff clarified project matters, interest rates and loan terms, and regulations to be followed in obtaining loans. Officials handed over K30 million in revolving funds to members of the village Mya Sein Yaung Village Project committee.

Village project committee members then disbursed K30 million in revolving funds at low interest rates to a total of 33 members who will engage in agricultural activities in Loitanttan Village. — Karan (Rural)



The loan allocation for local farmers in progress.

Two vehicles swept away in the current in Natmauk, one missing

TWO cars were swept away in water on 5 June in Magway Region’s Natmauk Township, according to the Myanmar Fire Brigade.

A car was washed away in the current while crossing a creek in Tagundine Village in Natmauk at around 8:14 pm on 5 June and a man was missing. Following this report, rescuers from the township fire station and villagers rushed into the scene



Firefighters were recovering a car which was washed away in water.

at around 7:30 am the next day and carried out a search of the missing, after salvaging the car.

Another similar

incident happened at around 7:45 pm at In-gone Village in the same township, just a few minutes before. Firefighters

from the township fire station recovered the car and no casualty was reported.

In case of fire and natural disasters and sudden onset disasters, people can call the Myanmar Fire Brigade hotline number-191 and 018 666912, 018 666913, and the Magway Region Fire Services Department- 063 2028686 and 09 253109206 for help. — MT/ZS

174 YBS pickpockets arrested over 5 months

IN the first five months of this year, 174 YBS pickpockets were arrested, according to figures released by the Yangon Region Police Force.

As the regional police force has monitored pickpocketing cases on YBS buses and YBS stops, a total of 153 males and 21 females totalling 174 were caught from 1 January to May

2026.

It said that 226 mobile phones and more than K8 million in cash were seized, and that 205 lawsuits were filed.

The police force said they have managed to crack down crimes and thefts in districts through cooperation with combined forces.

Pickpocketing on YBS buses have been



This photo shows some of pickpockets arrested by the regional police force.

seen and passengers wish to see an effective

crackdown on thefts. — MT/ZS

OPINION

ARTICLE FINANCE

Provide special care for the world's oceans

OCEANS cover more than 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and account for about 97 per cent of the world's water resources. More than three billion people globally depend on marine and coastal ecosystem services for their livelihoods. In addition, oceans are crucial for global food security and also play a major role in regulating the Earth's climate.

However, today around 30 per cent of the world's fisheries are being overexploited, and their productivity has declined below levels that can be sustained in the long term. Oceans also absorb about 30 per cent of the carbon dioxide produced by human activities, and according to the United Nations, ocean acidity

has increased by 26 per cent since the pre-industrial era.

The ocean produces at least 50 per cent of the planet's oxygen, it is home to most of Earth's biodiversity, and is the main source of protein for more than a billion people around the world. Not to mention, the ocean is key to our economy with an estimated 40 million people being employed by ocean-based industries by 2030.

These oceans are facing the depletion of 90 per cent of big fish populations and damage to 50 per cent of coral reefs. Hence, it is necessary to replenish the oceans. As such, everyone needs to work together to create a new balance with the ocean that no longer depletes its bounty but instead restores its vibrancy and brings it new life.

Oceans create transport facilities for the shipping of commodities and passengers from one place to another. Those who can control oceans across the world can be defined as conquering the world. Currently, all global countries as well as prominent businesspeople are expanding their businesses so as to thoroughly manage maritime transport, the fishery industry, exploration of

ecotourism, above and underwater natural resources production and so on in the oceans as great bosses in the world economic sector.

World Oceans Day 2026 carries the theme "Reimagine: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean," calling on everyone to transform how we perceive and care for the ocean. For too long, it has been seen as something distant and separate from us, despite being deeply woven into our everyday existence, providing the air we breathe, the food we consume, and the climate balance that sustains life on Earth. Rather than remaining passive users of its resources, we must take responsibility and step forward as true stewards of its future.

May Our Friendship Thrive Like an Evergreen Tree and People-to-People Bonds Stay Forever Solid

By Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Ma Jia

ON 8 June this year, China and Myanmar will celebrate the 76th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Over the past 76 years, the two sides have consistently adhered to the principles of mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. Our millennia-old "Pauk-Phaw" friendship has grown deeper while standing the test of time. From jointly initiating and implementing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence to working hand in hand to build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future, bilateral ties have continuously gained fresh vitality.

China and Myanmar enjoy geographical proximity, close affinity, and cultural integration. People-to-people exchanges between our two nations can be traced back to the 4th century BC. During this period, our ancestors engaged in commodity trade and cultural exchanges along the Southern Silk Road. Myanmar's jewellery, jade ware, agate, and amber were highly sought-after commodities among Chinese merchants. Moreover, people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two nations grew increasingly deep and vibrant. Myanmar was among the first countries with a different social system to recognize the People's Republic of China. Older-generation leaders of the two nations met frequently,

“Amity between peoples holds the key to sound relations between countries, whereas communication between hearts opens the door to deep friendship between peoples.”

just as family members. Late Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai visited Myanmar 9 times, and late Myanmar Leader U Ne Win visited China 12 times, creating great stories of China-Myanmar friendship. In recent years, a growing number of Myanmar's students, artists, athletes, and media reporters have visited China for exchanges, carrying forward the enduring friendship between the two nations. Although struck by the devastating Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar still donated funds to China's Wenchuan earthquake region. The two nations also stood side by side in combating the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to the powerful earthquake in Mandalay, embodying the spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance and sharing weal and woe with concrete actions. With active participation and support

from all sectors in both China and Myanmar, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar last year published the "Voices from the Pauk-Phaw Heart", a collection of stories commemorating the 75th anniversary of China-Myanmar diplomatic relations. The collection records the touching stories of mutual understanding, affinity, and integration between the two peoples over the long course of history. To commemorate the 76th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, we stand poised to compose more chapters of friendship between China and Myanmar.

Amity between peoples holds the key to sound relations between countries, whereas communication between hearts opens the door to deep friendship between peoples. To eliminate estrangement and misunderstanding,

deepen mutual understanding and recognition, and build bridges of people-to-people connectivity, it is essential to gain an accurate perception of each other's true national image in the first place.

China today is a country of justice and responsibility. Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forward major visions and initiatives, including the building of a community with a shared future for humanity, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative. These efforts have contributed Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to addressing humanity's challenges and building a better world, winning growing recognition and support from the international community. China

plays a constructive role in global affairs and earnestly follows its Chinese way to address hotspot issues, encouraging peace talks to help relevant parties resolve differences through dialogue and coordination. Chinese President Xi Jinping recently put forth four propositions on safeguarding and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, including staying committed to the principles of peaceful co-existence, national sovereignty, and international rule of law, along with a balanced approach to development and security. The international community widely recognizes that the four propositions, rooted in the fundamental interests of the people in the Middle East, are pragmatic and impartial, injecting positive energy into regional and even global peace and stability.

China today is a nation with a colourful and splendid culture. Traditional cultural heritage, including Peking Opera, calligraphy, martial arts, traditional Chinese medicine, and tea art, is thriving with renewed vitality in contemporary times. The three emerging cultural staples represented by online literature, online games, and online films and TV dramas vividly showcase China's history and realities in forms well received by overseas users. Animated film Ne Zha and blockbuster AAA video game Black Myth: Wukong have sparked a global

craze for Chinese mythology. Trendy toy IPs such as Labubu and Twinkle Twinkle, alongside social platforms including TikTok and Xiaohongshu (rednote), are gaining phenomenal popularity overseas at an unprecedented pace. Chinese culture is reaching out to the world in a way that is more stylish, diverse, and poised.

China today is an innovation-driven country. Both production and sales of new energy vehicles have exceeded 16 million units. China's output of photovoltaic modules has ranked first globally for more than a decade, providing 70 per cent of wind power equipment and 80 per cent of photovoltaic modules worldwide. China leads the world in waste incineration power generation technology, which has delivered a thorough solution to the long-standing landfill problem plaguing major cities. Drone delivery of takeout food has turned from science fiction into daily reality. AI models, including DeepSeek, Qwen, and GLM-5, are hugely popular among developers worldwide. Within just a few years, toddling humanoid robots have become brisk and agile, even turning into martial arts masters. Intelligent manufacturing in China is marching toward the global market with greater wisdom, confidence, and maturity.

China today is an open and inclusive nation. Committed to an opening-up strategy featuring

mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, China has proactively expanded voluntary opening-up and two-way investment cooperation. It has retained the world's largest goods trade volume for nine consecutive years and serves as the world's only country to host an international import expo at the national level. Starting from May 1st this year, China has extended zero-tariff treatment to 53 African countries having diplomatic relations with China across the board. Previously, zero-tariff measures were already applied to countries including Myanmar in 2024. China has also offered unilateral visa exemptions or comprehensive mutual visa-free arrangements to 75 countries and launched the "Lancang-Mekong visa" policy for the five Mekong countries. In 2025, inbound and outbound trips by foreigners hit 82.035 million, marking a year-on-year increase of 26.4 per cent. With greater openness, warmth and amity, China stands ready to welcome friends from all corners of the globe.

Seeing is believing. We sincerely welcome more friends from Myanmar to visit China to behold its magnificent landscapes, rich cultural heritage and remarkable development achievements, and to present a true, multi-dimensional and panoramic image of China, thereby contributing to the deepening of China-Myanmar friendship. My colleagues at

the Chinese Embassy and I stand ready to lay a solid foundation and build greater consensus to enhance mutual understanding and amity between the two peoples through our dedicated efforts. To further advance people-to-people connectivity between China and Myanmar, we are prepared to make greater efforts in the following four areas.

First, view each other with an open and inclusive mindset. Civilizations become richer and more colourful through exchanges and mutual learning. Communication and mutual understanding enable us to pursue harmony in diversity, seek common ground while preserving differences and cement friendship. We will broaden and deepen bilateral people-to-people exchanges, encourage regular mutual visits by social organizations, educational institutions and cultural bodies, and encourage youth from the two countries to engage with each other's daily lives via language learning, study tours, sports events and artistic exchanges. Guided by the vision of civilizations characterized by equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness, we will conduct exchanges to deepen mutual affinity between our peoples and consolidate public support for political mutual trust and economic and trade cooperation.

SEE PAGE 11

World on verge of largest financial market bubble since 19th century: Rosneft CEO

The world is on the verge of a massive financial bubble driven by the growing market share of tech companies.

THE world is on the verge of the largest financial market bubble since the 19th century, driven by the growing market share of technology companies, Russian oil giant Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin said on Saturday.

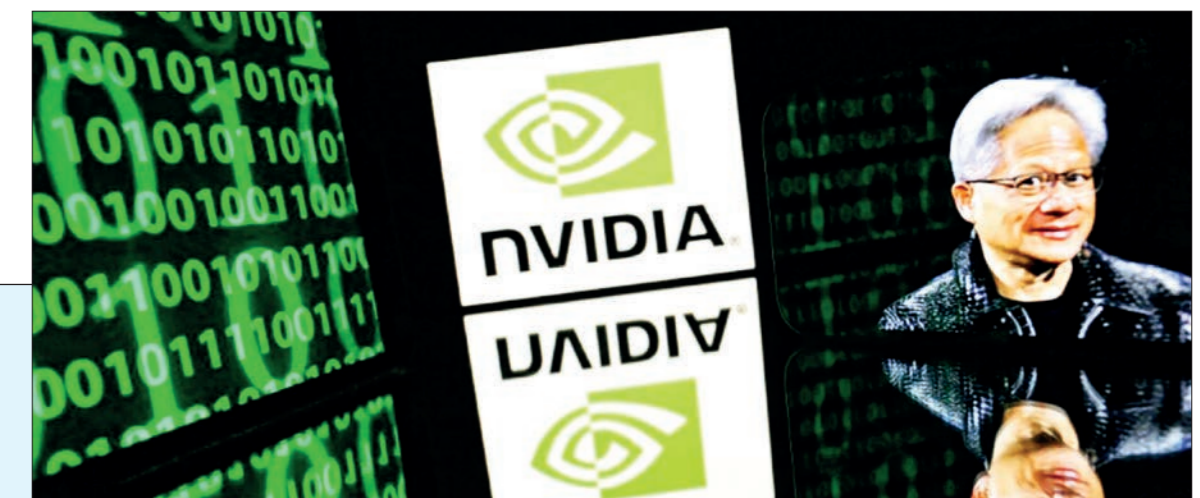
"Over the past ten years, the share of the ten largest technology companies in the US stock market has tripled, exceeding 40 per cent," Sechin said at the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

He added that taking into account the expected launch of such giants as SpaceX, OpenAI, and Anthropic, with a combined valuation of several trillion dollars, this figure will approach 50 per cent. "Clearly, the world is on the

verge of the largest financial market bubble in history since the railroad boom in the United States in the 19th century," the Rosneft CEO pointed out.

SPUTNIK

Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang has insisted that the AI chip powerhouse is committed to a big investment in ChatGPT-maker OpenAI. PHOTO: AFP



DELICACY/LOCAL

Traditional Myanmar Delicacy: Noodle Salad (Khauk Swe Thoke)

People in cities may enjoy eating hamburgers, but those living in rural areas may not necessarily like them. Likewise, while villagers may be fond of Mont Pyitsalat (traditional Myanmar snack assortments), such foods may not be very popular among urban dwellers. However, among Myanmar foods, there is one dish that is exceptionally loved by people from all walks of life, whether in the countryside or in the city. That dish is Khauk Swe Thoke (Myanmar Noodle Salad).

Noodle salad is a favourite food not only among all social classes but also among people of all ages. Therefore, this week, we will present a recipe for making noodle salad along with the accompanying soup that is traditionally served alongside it.

Ingredients

1. Dried noodles – 50 grammes (fresh noodles may be used if available)
2. Roasted chickpea flour – as desired
3. Roasted chilli powder – as desired
4. Turmeric powder – ¼ teaspoon (for seasoned oil)
5. Cooking oil – sufficient amount for seasoned oil
6. Seasoning powder (chicken powder) – a little



7. Ripe tamarind pulp – 2 tablespoons
8. Fish sauce – as required
9. Coriander (cilantro) – as required
10. Fresh green chillies – a few
11. Garlic – 13 cloves
 - 5 cloves for seasoned oil
 - 3 cloves for soup
 - About 5 cloves to serve with the salad
12. Dried shrimp powder – 2 tablespoons
13. Black peppercorns – about 5
14. Cabbage – a small portion (for both soup and salad)
15. Tofu – as desired

Ingredients Needed for Serving the Salad

- Seasoned garlic oil
- Fried tofu
- Fish sauce
- Dried shrimp powder
- Roasted chickpea flour
- Roasted chilli powder
- Chicken powder
- Tamarind pulp
- Thinly sliced cabbage (washed)
- Finely chopped coriander (washed)

Preparing the Noodles

- Bring water to a rolling boil.
 - Add the dried noodles and boil until cooked.
 - Check the texture by taking out a strand and testing it with your fingers.
 - Once the noodles reach your preferred firmness, drain them in a colander, rinse with clean water, and set aside to drain thoroughly.
- (If using ready-made fresh noodles, the above steps are unnecessary.)

Making the Seasoned Garlic Oil

- Peel, wash, and thinly slice 5 cloves of garlic.

Traditional Myanmar Cuisine

- Heat oil in a frying pan.
- Once the oil is hot, add the turmeric powder.
- Add the sliced garlic and fry.
- When the garlic turns golden yellow, remove it from the oil, drain, and allow it to cool.
- Let the oil cool as well.
- When cooled, mix the fried garlic back into the seasoned oil.
- Fry some tofu separately and set aside.

Preparing the Tamarind Dressing

- Pound four lumps of palm jaggery.
 - Soak the tamarind in water, knead it well, discard the fibres and seeds, and strain the liquid.
 - Add a little fish sauce.
 - Crush 3 cloves of garlic into a paste and add it.
 - Add some chopped coriander for extra aroma.
 - Stir in about 5 tablespoons of chilli paste dressing.
- This will produce a pleasantly spicy and tangy sauce.

Making the Soup

- For about two bowls of soup, pound roughly 7 dried shrimps and add them to the water.
- Add ½ teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon chicken powder, then bring to a boil.
- Once boiling, lightly crush 5 peppercorns and 2 cloves of garlic and add them to the pot.
- Add thinly sliced cabbage and continue boiling.
- Taste and adjust the seasoning.

Instead of cabbage, you may use bottle gourd, bean sprouts, pennywort leaves (adaptogen), lotus stems, glass noodles, or other vegetables of your choice.

Preparing One Serving of Noodle Salad

- Arrange all ingredients needed for mixing.
- Place one serving of noodles in a mixing bowl.
- Add:
 - 2 tablespoons seasoned garlic oil
 - 1 tablespoon fish sauce
 - 1 tablespoon roasted chickpea flour (Too much chickpea flour can make the salad less appetizing.)
 - 1 teaspoon roasted chilli powder
 - Slightly less than ½ teaspoon chicken powder
 - Slightly more than ½ tablespoon tamarind dressing
 - A small amount of fried tofu
 - A little cabbage
 - A little coriander
- Toss everything gently until well combined.
- Taste and adjust the sourness, saltiness, and spiciness as desired.
- Serve the noodle salad garnished with lettuce leaves, fresh green chillies, and garlic cloves.
- Enjoy the delicious sweet-sour-spicy noodle salad together with a bowl of hot soup. — MOON

Kyaukpadaung's concrete road construction inspected

THE Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region, conducted a field inspection of the ongoing concrete road construction project in Paukthit Village on 7 June. The project aims to improve transport for rural residents.

NyaungU District Head of the department U Han Myint Tun, Kyaukpadaung Township Head Daw Aye Aye Thet, and responsible officials, together with members of the Village Development Committee, inspected the progress of the village concrete road construction project measuring 356 feet in length, 12 feet

in width and six inches in thickness.

The district head later met village elders and locals and, with them, discussed the need to complete the road in compliance with prescribed standards to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The concrete road construction project is being implemented with

K15 million from the Village Development Project (VDP) support fund and K6 million contributed by residents, bringing the total project cost to K21 million. Under the close supervision of staff from the Department of Rural Development, villagers began implementing the project in the first week of May this



Officials of Department of Rural Development inspect progress of concrete road in Kyaukpadaung Township on 7 June.

year. The project has now reached about 90 per cent completion. — Maung Khaing (Rural)

Deteriorating Japan castles face high costs, debates over renovation

The historical structure was originally built in the late 16th century.



Photo taken on 31 March 2026, shows Okayama Castle in Okayama, western Japan. The castle underwent large-scale restoration work between 2021 and 2022. **PHOTO: KYODO**

SEVERAL Japanese castles with wooden structures dating back to the feudal era were destroyed during World War II. Although they were later rebuilt using steel-reinforced concrete, they have deteriorated over time and have become

more susceptible to earthquakes.

Some local governments have closed the castle keeps long cherished by locals and are planning either to repair the concrete structures or restore the original wooden constructions.

But the municipalities are facing problems with high costs, while debates over the two options stand in the way.

Hiroshima Castle's five-story keep closed in March due to insufficient earthquake reinforcement. Built in the late 16th

century, the original keep was destroyed in the 1945 atomic bombing and rebuilt with concrete in 1958.

However, a recent survey warned of collapse risks, forcing the city to debate a 1.8 billion yen concrete renovation or a 19.5 billion yen wooden reconstruction lasting until 2049. Other concrete keeps across Japan face similar dilemmas.

Nagoya Castle's keep has been closed since 2018 amid elevator installation disputes, while Wakayama undergoes similar structural debates. Meanwhile, Okayama successfully renovated its concrete keep, drawing 100,000 additional visitors.

Experts emphasize that while costly, authentic wooden reconstructions drastically enhance the intrinsic value of these historic landmarks. — Kyodo

Dubai luxury hotels woo staycationers as tourists flee



The Anantara The Palm Dubai Resort has used aggressive discounts to keep room occupancy rates relatively high despite the Middle East conflict. **PHOTO: AFP**

ONCE reserved for wealthy travellers, Dubai's top-notch hotels have become almost exclusively reliant on resi-

dents, drawn in by dizzying staycation offers as war drives tourists away.

On the Palm, an artificial island that has be-

come synonymous with Dubai opulence, five-star hotels are busy on weekends and holidays once more, despite having

been deserted by tourists.

The clientele is driven by hotels offering residents-only deals that have become a lifeline for Dubai's luxury tourism.

"I had never been in a hotel on the Palm because the prices were crazy," said Fadi Iskandarani, a doctor in his sixties who just spent his first weekend at a luxury resort on the tree-shaped island.

The Lebanese national, who has lived in Dubai for five years, decided to opt for a staycation after he saw that a hotel on the Palm had slashed its rates by a factor of four.

The hotel was not packed, with some floors closed because there were not enough guests. — AFP

May Our Friendship Thrive Like an Evergreen Tree...

FROM PAGE 9

Second, support each other in the spirit of mutual assistance. As the international landscape grows more complex and fluid, we must remain firmly committed to building a China-Myanmar community with a shared future. Upholding the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, China will pursue a friendly policy oriented toward all the people of Myanmar and support Myanmar's efforts to build a peaceful and prosperous homeland. We will sustain the momentum of bilateral engagements, deepen exchanges on governance experience, understand and support each other on issues bearing on core interests and major concerns of either side, and further tighten the emotional bond linking the two peoples.

Third, deliver shared benefits through win-win cooperation. The Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor help Myanmar break development bottlenecks in funding, talent and technology, shifting its development paradigm from aid dependency to true self-reliance and boosting its endogenous drivers and self-reliance capacity for socioeconomic advancement. We will scale up cooperation on post-earthquake reconstruction as well as connectivity, power, oil and gas, trade and investment and emerging industries. More livelihood projects will also be launched to ensure mutually beneficial China-Myanmar cooperation delivers tangible benefits to people on both sides.

Fourth, assist each other in accordance with the principle of common security. Security is the prerequisite and foundation for the development of all countries. Cross-border crimes such as online gambling and telecom fraud endanger people's lives and property, undermine social stability and national image, and cannot be effectively tackled by any single country alone. We will actively advance bilateral and multilateral cooperation, intensify joint law enforcement crackdowns, accelerate implementation of the "Safe Lancang-Mekong Operation", and jointly safeguard people's lives and property as well as the sound order of exchanges and cooperation among regions and countries.

Over the past 76 years, China and Myanmar have stood side by side through trials and hardships. The profound friendship between our peoples serves as the wellspring driving the development of China-Myanmar relations. We will carry forward our time-honoured friendship, elevate people-to-people connectivity to a higher level, write a new chapter in the traditional Pauk-Phaw friendship in the new era, and jointly create a bright future for a China-Myanmar community with a shared future.

(Views expressed in the article belong solely to the author)

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ECONOMY WORLD

India can grow over 8% despite oil shocks, crude impact overblown in narrative: Neelkanth Mishra

On growth, Mishra pointed out India expanded 7.1 per cent in FY25 despite monetary and fiscal headwinds, meaning credit growth was slowing and the government was tightening the fiscal deficit.



India, the world's third-largest oil buyer, normally sources about half of its crude through the Strait of Hormuz. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

INDIA'S growth momentum remains strong and fears that crude price shocks will derail it are a "narrative problem, not reality," said Neelkanth Mishra, India's newly appointed Executive Director at the World Bank.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Mishra

spoke on Indian economy's outlook amid West Asia tensions, he argued that India is better placed than most energy importers to absorb higher oil prices without major damage to growth.

Mishra is also a member of the Prime Minister's Economic

Advisory Council and is widely known for his work as an economist and market expert.

On growth, Mishra pointed out India expanded 7.1 per cent in FY25 despite monetary and fiscal headwinds, meaning credit growth was slowing and the government

was tightening the fiscal deficit.

"If our growth was 7.1 per cent despite fiscal and monetary tightening, it means without that, growth would have been higher," he said. Now, with monetary tailwinds as credit growth accelerates and the budgeted deficit not lower than last year, he estimates the economy was growing at eight per cent + till February-March 2026.

He cited ground indicators: 29 per cent YoY car sales growth in May, strong mall footfalls and sales, and cement demand in high single digits. "You can't build inventory of cement...whatever is being bought is being consumed," he noted, making it hard to justify negative sentiment. — ANI

Mideast conflict reaches 100th day, casting shadow over global economy

THE Middle East conflict is approaching its 100-day mark, with US-Iran talks still seesawing and the outlook for shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remaining uncertain.

Since fighting broke out in late February, the war has spilled far beyond the region, disrupting energy supplies, reigniting inflationary pressures and unsettling financial markets. International institutions are now warning that the conflict is becoming a growing drag on the global economy.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other bodies have recently lowered their forecasts for global growth, citing the prolonged conflict as a major source of uncertainty.

What began as market concern over a short-term spike in oil prices has evolved into broader anxiety over weaker growth, higher inflation and longer-lasting damage to supply chains.

The most immediate impact has come through energy supplies. The blockage of



In the worse-case scenario, global inflation is expected to rise by 0.4 percentage points in 2026, and 1.3 percentage points in 2027. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

the Strait of Hormuz has triggered what the International Energy Agency (IEA) has described as the largest supply dis-

ruption in the history of the global oil market, pushing up oil and gas prices as well as shipping costs. — Xinhua

Quarter of women in Japan news industry see workplace as gender equal: poll

JUST 26 per cent of female employees in the Japanese news media industry say that their workplace is gender equal, compared to 40.7 of male respondents saying the same, results from a recent survey showed.

The Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association's poll on gender awareness and diversity revealed a gap in perceptions of fairness. The poll was conducted with the aim of improving the heavily male-dominated media industry.

The survey was conducted from November to December and targeted approximately 36,000 people from 99 organizations including newspapers and news agencies,

and garnered 9,630 respondents.

A total of 58.3 per cent of women said they felt that "men are given preferential treatment", including those who answered "somewhat". This figure was nearly double the 29.4 per cent of men who felt the same way.

In a section that allowed for multiple responses, participants were asked to cite situations they found to be unequal. Both men and women cited "more men being appointed to management and executive positions" as the top response. This was followed by instances where "men's opinions are strongly reflected in management policies and editorial content". — Kyodo

Maldives to allocate additional US\$454,000 annually for environmental protection

MALDIVIAN President Mohamed Muizzu announced that US\$454,000 will be allocated annually from the Maldives Green Fund to support environmental protection and conservation initiatives across the archipelago, reported state media PSM News Saturday.

The president made the announcement on Friday, which was World Environment Day. In his address, he said one of the greatest challenges in addressing climate change is

the lack of adequate financial resources.

He said the annual fund is in addition to the budget already allocated to the environment. It will support a variety of programs, including the management of protected areas and their wildlife, conservation initiatives, environmental research, public awareness programs, technical capacity-building efforts, and environmental projects undertaken by civil society organizations and schools. — Xinhua

Oil India discovers natural gas in Andaman offshore basin

OIL India Ltd on Friday reported the presence of natural gas in the Andaman Offshore Basin, marking a significant milestone in its exploration journey and underscoring India's frontier hydrocarbon potential. The discovery came from exploratory well Sri Vijayapuram-3, drilled 15 kilometres off the east coast of the Andaman Islands at a water depth of 355 metres.

Initial production testing of the well at 1900+ metres depth in the Eocene formation established continuous flaring, confirming the presence of natural gas.

Oil India is currently carrying out gas sampling to assess composition and calorific value, along with isotope studies to understand the genesis of the gas. The company noted that hydrocarbon presence has now been reported in two out of three exploratory wells drilled by OIL in the current campaign off the Andaman Basin.

"An ocean of energy opportunities reinforced in the Andaman Sea! Very happy to report the presence of natural gas in Sri Vijayapuram-3 an exploratory well drilled by Oil India Ltd. 15 kilometres off the east coast of the Andaman Islands at a water depth of 355 metres. Initial production testing of the well at the depth of 1900 plus metres in the Eocene formation has established the presence of natural gas through continuous flaring," Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri posted on X.

The minister added that Oil India is carrying out gas sampling to assess composition, calorific value and isotope studies to understand the genesis of the gas. — ANI



Initial production testing of the well at 1900+ metres depth in the Eocene formation established continuous flaring, confirming the presence of natural gas. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE/ ADOBE**

As OPEC+ meets, Iran war hobbles power to shape oil market

OPEC+ ministers meet Sunday to weigh higher production quotas in a bid to cap oil prices that have surged since the Iran war effectively choked off Gulf crude shipments.

But even if the cartel members vow to ramp up output by thousands of barrels per day, analysts say geopolitical realities mean they probably won't move the needle on prices.

With the crucial Strait of Hormuz shut since US

and Israeli attacks on Iran in late February, oil prices have nearly doubled, igniting inflation pressures worldwide.

Ministers from the 21 member states of OPEC+, the main oil producing nations and their allies, are holding their quarterly meeting online. The group is likely to beef up its production quotas by "188,000 barrels a day", said Jorge Leon, analyst at Rystad Energy, similar to recent increases. — AFP

US adds 172,000 jobs in May, unemployment steady at 4.3%

US employers added 172,000 jobs in May while the unemployment rate held steady at 4.3 per cent, indicating continued resilience in the world's largest economy despite signs of slowing growth.

According to the US Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS), "Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 172,000 in May, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.3 per cent."

However, the release noted that hiring remained concentrated in a few sec-

tors. "Job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, local government, and health care. Employment in financial activities declined," the BLS said. The labour market indicators from the household survey showed little change during the month. The BLS said, "The unemployment rate held at 4.3 per cent and has remained in a narrow range of 4.3 per cent to 4.5 per cent since July 2025." The number of unemployed people, at 7.3 million, changed little over the month. — ANI

China's first cruise-to-nowhere voyage sets sail from Shanghai

THE Adora Magic City, China's first homegrown large cruise ship, departed from Shanghai on Saturday, marking the launch of the country's first-ever cruise-



An aerial drone photo taken on 1 January 2024 shows the large cruise ship Adora Magic City at the Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

to-nowhere voyage.

Unlike traditional cruises, the new itinerary involves the ship leaving from and returning to its home port, Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal, without making any stops, cruising solely on the high seas.

The three-day, two-night voyage from Saturday to early Monday offers passengers a relaxed, immersive experience without the need to rush from one port to another. "It feels very relaxing, and I don't have to take extra days off

work. I am really looking forward to experiencing the homegrown large cruise ship," said a tourist surnamed Hu, a white-collar worker from Shanghai, as she stepped on board. The operator has enhanced onboard entertainment, including a stand-up comedy show, magic performances, theme parties and late-night dining. To ensure comfort, the passenger load was capped at 80 per cent, with an average age of 47, lower than the usual 55 on regular routes. — Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (003N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GLS HAIPHONG VOY.NO. (003N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-6-2026** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B81JS1NC)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (0B81JS1NC)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **8-6-2026** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Over 1.2 million people attend Pope's mass in Madrid

Pope Leo urged Spaniards to view religion as a current school of faith.



Organizers said there were more than 1.2 million people attending in the square and the surrounding area. **PHOTO: AFP**

MORE than 1.2 million people filled the streets of Madrid on Sunday for a mass by Pope Leo XIV at which he called for a renewal of

the Catholic faith in Spain. King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia joined throngs of devotees waving Spanish and Vatican

flags in Cibeles Square for a service filled with religious symbolism.

In his homily, Pope Leo said Spaniards should

not look at religion as “a museum of the past to be visited, but a school of faith from which to draw even today”.

The mass comes on day two of Pope Leo's seven-day visit to Spain, a traditional Catholic bastion where religious observance has been declining sharply in recent years as in much of western Europe.

A huge logistical and security operation was in place for the event, after which the pope led a traditional procession along a route lined with white and yellow carnations — the Vatican flag colours.

Organizers said there were more than 1.2 million people attending in the square and the surrounding area. — AFP

Nearly 500 confirmed cases in Central Africa Ebola outbreak: WHO

NEARLY 500 Ebola cases have now been confirmed in the deadly outbreak raging in central Africa, a WHO overview showed Saturday, amid mounting concern over the swelling scale of the epidemic.

In its daily update on the situation, the World Health Organization tallied 452 confirmed cases, including 82 deaths, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the outbreak was declared three

weeks ago.

In neighbouring Uganda, meanwhile, it counted 19 confirmed cases, including two deaths.

The total of 471 cases and 84 deaths, based on numbers reported by the DRC and Ugandan governments, marked a hike of 100 cases and 20 deaths from a day earlier.

The increase came amid warnings that the outbreak, which the WHO has declared an interna-



Sand sculptures and slogans against Ebola on the beach. **PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE**

tional public health emergency, could eventually swell to become the largest on record. — AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bolivia Congress gives Paz power to use troops against crippling protests

BOLIVIA'S legislature on Sunday passed a new law granting US-backed President Rodrigo Paz the power to deploy the military to clear roadblocks that have crippled key cities for weeks.

"This law is hereby passed. Let it be forwarded to the executive branch," the lower-chamber's president, Roberto Castro, declared following an hours-long overnight debate.

A month of heated demonstrations calling for the center-right Paz to step down have paralyzed the Andean nation, with about 100 protest blockades around Bolivia causing severe food and medicine shortages in major cities.

On Saturday, dozens of riot police backed by military vehicles fired tear gas as they attempted to clear a road in the town of San Julian.

The town is in the Santa Cruz region — an agricultural breadbasket supplying food to the country's western areas.

Protesters threw stones and burned tires to try to halt the police's advance, according to an AFP reporter at the scene.

The US-backed, pro-business Paz took office in November promising to resolve the country's worst economic crisis in decades, but his unpopular economic reforms and failure to respond to social demands have roused public ire. — AFP

UNESCO recommends Japan's sites for heritage

A UNESCO advisory body has recommended adding a group of ancient sites in Nara Prefecture that show the formation of Japan's centralized state to the World Cultural Heritage list, the cultural affairs agency said Saturday.

A formal decision on the “Asuka-Fujiwara: Archaeological sites of Japan's Ancient Capitals and Related Properties” is expected to be made at a meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Committee to be held in South Korea from 19 to 29 July.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, whose home constituency is Nara, welcomed the recommendation, saying on X, “I find it extremely delightful that our precious cultural heritage has been highly regarded internationally”. — Kyodo

Pakistan's interior minister arrives in Tehran for peace talks

PAKISTANI Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Tehran on Saturday for a fresh round of negotiations with Iranian officials on behalf of the United States,

with regional tensions remaining high despite months of diplomatic engagement, as reported by CNN.

During his visit, Naqvi is scheduled to meet

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, according to the semi-official Tasnim News Agency.

Separately, the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) reported

that Naqvi is carrying a letter from Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, who has maintained a low public

profile since taking office in March.

This visit marks Pakistan's continued efforts to position itself as a regional mediator amid tensions between the United

States and Iran.

Ahead of the visit, Naqvi met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and briefed him on the planned discussions in Iran. — ANI

SPORTS

Cycling Federation President's Cup races set for 26-28 June



This photo shows cyclists competing in a contest.

THE 64th Myanmar Cycling Federation President's Cup will be held from 26 to 28 June.

On 26 June, the men's Elite category for riders aged 19 and above and the men's Junior category for riders aged 16 to 18 will compete in 100-kilometre road races. The races will

start from Hlegu and run to the Phaunggyi junction and back.

The women's Elite category for riders aged 19 and above will compete in a 60-kilometre road race from Hlegu to milepost 14/1 and back.

On 27 June, an MTB race for men will be held.

Competitors of any age may take part in the open category. The race will start in front of the signboard bearing "We Love Taikkyi" in Taikkyi and finish at the summit of Hmanpya Hill, with riders competing over a one-way course.

On 28 June, Crite-

rium races will be held on the outer circuit road of the Thuwunna Youth Training Centre. The men's Junior category, for riders aged 16 to 18, will cover 15 laps over 20 kilometres. The women's Elite category, for riders aged 19 and above, will race 16 laps over 22 kilometres, while the men's Elite category, for riders aged 19 and above, will compete over 20 laps covering 26 kilometres.

A special men's open-category elimination race over 15 laps will also be held, with competitors of any age eligible to participate.

Participants must register through the online form available on the Myanmar Cycling Federation's Facebook page, according to the Myanmar Cycling Federation. — Bala/KZL

Neymar signals World Cup farewell

BRAZIL forward Neymar has indicated the FIFA World Cup starting Thursday will be the last of his career.

The 34-year-old made the statement in response to a social media post from FIFA showing images of Neymar's career along with the words, "We've watched him grow up".

"The last dance," the Santos attacker replied

in the comments section, using a phrase associated with NBA legend Michael Jordan's final season with the Chicago Bulls in 1997-98.

Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 79 goals in 128 international matches, has not played for Brazil since suffering a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in October 2023. — Xinhua



Brazil's Neymar controls the ball during the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier against Bolivia in Belem, Brazil, on 8 September 2023. PHOTO: LUCIO TAVORA/XINHUA

Los Angeles stadium workers authorize strike days ahead of FIFA World Cup

WORKERS at SoFi Stadium, located in Los Angeles County, California, voted overwhelmingly Friday to authorize a potential strike just days before the venue is set to host FIFA World Cup matches, raising the possibility of a labor disruption at one of the tournament's highest-profile US sites.

The workers, represented by Unite Here Local 11, voted 96 per cent in favor of authorizing a strike, according to the union and multiple news reports. The vote does not guarantee a walkout, but it gives union leaders the authority to call one if con-

tract talks fail to produce an agreement before the first scheduled match at the stadium on 12 June.

About 2,000 hospitality workers — including bartenders, servers, cooks, catering staff and dishwashers — could be affected. The dispute centers on wages, job protections and security concerns. Union leaders say workers want pay reflecting the cost of living in Los Angeles, premium pay for mega-events such as the World Cup and safeguards against subcontracting and automation that could reduce union jobs. — Xinhua

Shan United face Laos side in ASEAN qualifiers

MYANMAR club side Shan United has been drawn against Lao club Ezra FC in the qualifying round of the 2026-2027 ASEAN Club Championship.

The draw ceremony was held in Indonesia on 5 June, with four teams competing in the qualifiers. Shan United will take on Ezra FC, while Philippine club Manila Digger FC will face Brunei's Kasuka FC.

The first leg will be played on 1 September and the second leg on 10 September, with Shan United opening the tie away from home.

The tournament's final stage will feature two groups of seven teams. Should Shan



A ceremony of official draw for settling fixtures of ASEAN Club Championship in progress, Jakarta, Indonesia.

United progress, they will advance to Group B alongside Port FC of Thailand, Johor Darul Ta'zim of Malaysia, Lion City Sailors of Singapore, Cong An Ha Noi of Vietnam, Svay Rieng of Cambodia and Persib

Bandung of Indonesia. Group A comprises Buriram United and Ratchaburi FC of Thailand, Kuching City FC of Malaysia, Tampines Rovers FC of Singapore, the Vietnam Cup champions, Borneo FC of Indonesia

and the winner of the Manila Digger FC-Kasuka FC qualifier.

Shan United have secured a place in the ASEAN Club Championship for a third successive season. — Ko Nyi Lay/KZL

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WORLD

SPIEF Summary: A thousand new contracts, \$90B in deals, and preview of a new world trading order

The global economic center of gravity is undergoing a major structural transformation away from G7 nations toward the BRICS bloc.



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a plenary session of the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 5 June. PHOTO: SPUTNIK

THE Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum wrapped up Saturday. As always, the economic and business event proved a spectacular success, once again busting the myth of Russia's international political, diplomatic and economic "isolation", and offering a blueprint for coming global change.

The four-day event:

- saw 150+ sessions and 300+ business events
- showed off prospective new technologies and innovations
- was attended by 20k guests from 142 coun-

- tries
- saw the inking of 1,084 agreements worth 6.64 trillion rubles (\$90B US)
- previewed the emergence of a major new year-round global trade artery — the Northern Sea Route
- demonstrated what moderator Geeta Mohan characterized as "an alternative voice that counts" to Western hegemony
- and most importantly, featured a speech by President Putin at the event's plenary session offering what commentator George

Galloway dubbed a "masterclass" for world leaders.

In his plenary address and follow-up Q&A session, Putin highlighted the tectonic transformation of the global economic center of gravity from the G7 to BRICS, and the emergence of a new global trade order that's no longer Western-centric.

Putin outlined the "huge, catastrophic, strategic mistake" made by the US in trying to use the dollar as a political weapon, and the West in general with its sanctions policy. — SPUTNIK

US plans using frozen Iranian assets

THE US is planning to use Iran's own frozen wealth to fund reconstruction in Gulf states following the US-Israeli war of aggression, American media reported.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has allegedly directed his team to estimate repair costs in Gulf countries and tap into Iranian funds to cover them.

"Treasury will utilize

all tools available to allow Iranian assets to be made available to our Gulf allies to support rebuilding and repairs for any future damage caused by Iran," a source told American media. The scheme emerges as Iranian officials warn that peace talks remain at a "deadlock" until the US unlocks the \$24 billion in frozen Iranian assets. — SPUTNIK

Nepal, India launch Cross Border Payment transactions

NEPAL Foreign Affairs Minister Shisir Khanal, who arrived in India on 5 June at the invitation of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, held bilateral talks in New Delhi on Saturday.

The ministers jointly launched the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) linkage between Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and National Payments Interface

(NPI) of Nepal for facilitating cross-border personal remittances between India and Nepal, the release further said.

The ministers witnessed the signing of the MoU between Digital India Bhashini and Kathmandu University for co-creating the National Digital Infrastructure for the "Voice First" Language Translation platform.— ANI

Airlines gather in Rio to chart course as horizon darkens



Airlines based in the Middle East have been particularly hard hit by the war. PHOTO: AFP

AIRLINE executives descend on Rio this weekend to weigh the prospects for an industry grappling with geopolitical turbulence, soaring fuel costs and travellers wary of chasing sky-high ticket prices.

The annual gathering of the International Air Transport Association

(IATA) brings together 370 airlines representing 85 per cent of global passenger traffic, just as the Mideast war is roiling the industry.

Carriers were largely enjoying clear skies before the US and Israeli strikes on Iran in February, which resulted in a blockade of Gulf oil ship-

ments that saw jet fuel prices nearly double.

According to the IATA, average prices now stand at around \$142 a barrel, forcing carriers to make hard choices on ticket prices, the number of flights per destination — and their future development plans.

"Airfares are inevi-

tably rising as the price of oil increases, but airlines are having to balance their increased costs against demand," said John Grant of the consulting firm OAG Aviation.

In April, passenger demand fell 3.4 per cent from a year earlier, the IATA said, the first decline since the end of the Covid pandemic.

"Forward schedule data is showing a reduced offering in the coming months, indicating that airlines are balancing high fuel costs and weaker demand," IATA director general Willie Walsh said in a statement.

Mideast airlines in particular have slashed flights as Gulf airports were shut during the latest Mideast conflict, exposing the risk of a "hub" strategy that relies on streams of passengers to and from the Americas, Europe and Asia. — AFP